



Detroit Tigers Clips

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Detroit Free Press

Tigers closer Francisco Rodriguez not on trade block -- for now (Fenech)
After winter meetings, Tigers still look competitive on paper (Fenech)
AL rookie of the year Michael Fulmer ready to get back to work (Fenech)
Son of Detroit Tigers broadcaster Rod Allen scouting for new career (Sipple)
Detroit Tigers sign Omar Infante, 13 others to minors deal (Fenech)
Detroit Tigers sign MSU product A.J. Achter to minors deal (Fenech)

The Detroit News

Tigers' Michael Fulmer 'itching' to get back to work (McCosky)
Omar Infante rejoins Tigers on minor-league deal (McCosky)

MLive.com

Tigers 2017 bullpen has ample options, even if no winter deals materialize (Woodbery)
After award-winning rookie year, Michael Fulmer gearing up for 2017 (Woodbery)
Tigers bring back veteran infielder Omar Infante on minor-league contract (Woodbery)
Tigers sign former Spartan A.J. Achter to minor-league deal (Woodbery)

MLB.com

Fulmer eager to begin sophomore season (Beck)
Infante returns to Tigers with spring invite (Beck)

Oakland Press

Tigers sign 14 to minor-league deals, including Omar Infante (Mowery)
Pat Caputo - Tigers, Red Wings, Pistons, Lions, District Detroit - and the NEED to win (Caputo)

CBSSports.com

MLB Hot Stove: White Sox, Royals moves help open the door for Tigers in AL Central (Axisa)

The Edmond Sun

Fulmer homers with Wings donation (Coburn)

WBRC.com

Major leaguer Jacoby Jones receives keys to Richton (Curet)

Daily Transactions

Tigers closer Francisco Rodriguez not on trade block -- for now

December 12, 2016

By Anthony Fenech/ Detroit Free Press

Francisco Rodriguez isn't on the trade block this winter.

But if the Detroit Tigers are trailing an American League postseason spot by a sizeable margin next season, the veteran closer could be a prime trade candidate.

"If things were right, if the timing was right, would he be a guy we'd look to trade?" general manager Al Avila said last week at the Major League Baseball winter meetings. "Yeah. A veteran guy in the last year of his contract, there might be a good situation down the road."

As the Tigers have been well aware of in years past, there usually are a plethora of competing teams seeking relief pitching near the trade deadline. A veteran with Rodriguez's credentials – 430 saves, fourth-most of all time – would be a prime target.

Early last month, the Tigers picked up Rodriguez's \$6-million option for 2017. Last season, he notched 44 saves in 49 chances, posting a 3.24 ERA and 1.13 WHIP, all respectable numbers.

"We picked up his option for numerous reasons," Avila said. "One, to be competitive. We still want to win. And knowing we weren't going to be in the market for those other guys – not even close – he brought us the most affordable guy who saved a lot of games for us last year. He was one of the best."

The 15-year veteran was lauded for his presence in the clubhouse last season.

"He did a tremendous job for our young players," Avila said. "And we have other players coming in – Joe Jimenez and Adam Ravenelle, plus the other guys on the team. Sometimes, that stuff is a lot of baloney. This was not baloney. It was real."

After winter meetings, Tigers still look competitive on paper

December 12, 2016

By Anthony Fenech/ Detroit Free Press

Baseball's winter meetings are over, and the Tigers still look like the Tigers.

The team still is very expensive — too expensive, according to MLB's luxury-tax limit. The team still has its pros — a lot of really good players — and cons — too right-handed heavy offensively, not enough bullpen artillery, overall an older bunch — and it looks an awful lot like the team of a season ago, when it finished 2 1/2 games outside the postseason.

So, when the front office left the Gaylord National Convention Center and Resort on Thursday, after making one move — selecting left-handed reliever Daniel Stumpf in the major league portion of the Rule 5 draft — it signaled a most likely scenario of standing pat this off-season.

“Obviously, I can't say it's frustrating or disappointing,” general manager Al Avila said. “We still have a pretty good team moving forward in 2017, so in that sense, I guess it's a positive. The market is what it is, so you can't do anything about that. You just have to do whatever you can within the confines of what you're dealing with and move forward.”

In an ideal world, the Tigers would have left the winter meetings with some financial flexibility — which Avila mentioned as a top goal since the outset of the off-season — perhaps in exchange for a top prospect or cost-controlled player. But as Avila said, the market is what it is, and it isn't in favor of the kinds of players the Tigers have: many of them veterans on long-term, lucrative contracts.

“The idea is if you can make some trades, you can get some talent back to help you with that turnaround,” Avila said. “But that still can happen. You can't say it can't. It still could happen. Just because it doesn't happen this winter — and I think I was very clear when I told you guys that nothing may happen this winter because I had a sneaky suspicion that this could happen, and it did and it has.”

The tipping point of the off-season has passed. Though there is still two months before teams report to spring training, a majority of teams have had two months to prepare its off-season plans, culminating with baseball's biggest off-season event this past week: Front offices from every team were housed together for nearly four full days. During that period, the Tigers had talks, Avila said, but none really came close to reaching the finish line on a deal. If there were a serious suitor for a big-money player, say Ian Kinsler or J.D. Martinez, it probably would have come to light by now.

But crazier stuff has happened. Late last January, the Tigers signed Justin Upton to a six-year, \$132.75 million deal when the belief around baseball was that Upton didn't have longer than a three-year deal in hand.

In the weeks and days leading up to the winter meetings, it became an odds-on favorite the Tigers wouldn't be nearly as active as Avila's words in mid-October led many to believe. Over time, as the team started sensing the returns on some of its most desirable pieces, a backup plan — perhaps secondary to a plan like the Chicago White Sox, who have capitalized on their best assets — needed to be laid out, and that backup plan aligns with bringing back the band. Certainly, manager Brad Ausmus — who is in the final year of a four-year contract — is a fan.

But, like Avila said, just because the Tigers didn't do anything big at the winter meetings doesn't mean they won't do anything at all. The name “Justin Wilson” keeps getting bandied around in trade rumors, and he has become the Tiger most likely to be traded.

From this perspective, with Avila's goal of getting under the luxury tax limit looking unlikely to be achieved, the Tigers should focus on putting the best product on the field next season. If the team trades Martinez now, it likely isn't a postseason contender, minus Martinez and centerfielder Cameron Maybin. There is always next July, at the trade deadline, when prices could be more of Avila's liking.

It's been uneventful, to say the least, from a team that shaped up as one of the most eventful teams of the off-season. That's not the worst thing: With the way the future looks, Tigers fans should enjoy a competitive product in 2017. With the window closing to trade some of these players for future pieces, it could be a few years — or longer — after next season without one.

AL rookie of the year Michael Fulmer ready to get back to work

December 12, 2016

By Anthony Fenech/ Detroit Free Press

Michael Fulmer isn't a stranger to cold weather.

When he left Oklahoma City on Friday evening, it was around 30 degrees.

"A little cold for us, but there's no snow," he said.

Fulmer, the Detroit Tigers right-hander and American League rookie of the year, was in town this afternoon to sign autographs at The D Shop. He was scheduled to leave town before some 6 inches of snow started falling later in the evening.

Fulmer said not much about life has changed since winning the rookie of the year award in mid-November, other than, "I think I found out I had 40 new friends that I didn't know had my phone number," he said. "But that's about it.

"I'm getting all this type of support and I appreciate everything everyone has said to me. Just the support I'm getting from Tigers fans and plus everybody back home, it means a lot to me."

Fulmer posted one of the more memorable rookie seasons in franchise history in 2016, when he went 11-7 with a 3.06 ERA and 1.12 WHIP. He threw 159 innings in 26 starts, successfully staving off any sort of shutdown the team might have had in mind to limit his innings.

Despite starting his off-season workout program, Fulmer has yet to pick up a baseball, he said, though he's getting the itch.

"The best three months of the year are the three months you're not throwing," he said. "It's the most important as far as recovery-wise, just not picking up a ball for three months and letting your body recover from a long season. ... That being said, it's been a good recovery. Now it's time to get back to work."

Fulmer said he has exchanged text messages with Justin Verlander, hoping to keep up the shoulder-strengthening process Verlander taught him during the season in the off-season.

"He says, 'Just trust your body,'" Fulmer said. "He's going to tell me when he's going to throw and I'm going to mimic that."

There was a line of Tigers fans awaiting Fulmer at the team's official team store, and he signed autographs with a healthy beard, one that grew back after he shaved it in the middle of August.

When asked about the beard, Fulmer said, "I still don't know what you're talking about. ... It never left."

Son of Detroit Tigers broadcaster Rod Allen scouting for new career

December 12, 2016

By George Sipple/ Detroit Free Press

He was like hundreds of other job seekers, standing in the lobby of the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center this week's at Major League Baseball's winter meetings. Andrew Allen was ahead of his peers in many respects, though.

Allen was drafted three times as a baseball player and recently completed scout school. While his fellow job seekers scrambled trying to make a 30-second impression with Boston Red Sox president of baseball operations Dave Dombrowski, Allen had the former Detroit Tigers GM listed as one of the contacts on his resume. And it obviously helped Allen that he was standing in the lobby with his father, Rod, the Tigers' TV color commentator who is a former player, coach and scout.

Andrew Allen, 27, said he was impressed by a lot of the younger people he spoke to who are trying to break into the business out of college.

"I was glad to have someone willing to talk to me," Allen said. "A lot of those guys are ahead of me. A lot of them went to great schools, and a lot of them have done internships already. I mean, you had kids from Stanford, Harvard, Duke, Penn State. Dudes that are honestly smarter than me. I have no problem saying that. At the same time, I do have the baseball experience on my side, and obviously my dad."

Andrew Allen is polished in his own right, and he doesn't want to follow his father into a broadcast booth.

"My dad likes to talk," Andrew said, as his father did just that, catching up with various people in the baseball industry -- front-office execs, scouts, agents and media.

"Right now, it's just handing out resumes trying to see what my options are and go from there," Andrew said of why he attended the winter meetings.

"Even if it's an internship. I really don't know that business side of it yet. I've been a player my whole life. I didn't know there's so many options to go into. There's baseball operations, player development, there's analytics. I don't know what my niche will be yet."

Allen said he spoke with people from about 15 clubs and landed two interviews -- with the New York Mets and Arizona Diamondbacks.

Andrew Allen was drafted out of high school by the Diamondbacks in the 43rd round in 2007.

Injuries hindered him throughout his college career. He started at Arizona, then played for Central Arizona College and California-Los Angeles.

The Tigers drafted him in the 45th round in 2011 .

A right-handed-hitting first baseman, Allen dealt with injuries in his two seasons in the Gulf Coast League in 2012-13. He eventually had surgery on his right shoulder, and doctors found a variety of problems.

"I think it's easier for me because I don't regret anything I did," Allen said of playing baseball. "I hated playing hurt. I'm still kind of hurt. My arm's not 100%. I don't want to play hurt again, so it makes it a little bit easier for me to walk away than someone who was told, 'Hey, we don't want you no more.'"

"I haven't played a healthy game since I was like a senior in high school. I wish I could have seen how good I really was. I know how good I think I could be."

Instead, he returned to school and earned a bachelor's degree in communication at Arizona State in December 2015. He has been working as a sales representative at a fitness center in Phoenix.

"That was my off-season job," he said. "It just turned into a full-time job."

Allen doesn't spent much time dwelling on what could have been.

"I always had a little bit of pressure, just because of who my dad is," he said. "But it's never fazed me. I like baseball. I was good at it. I just had to go out and play. Injuries kind of held me back. I got hurt all the time. Since high school, he said he had surgery on both shoulders and had a knee injury.

His right (throwing) shoulder had been hurting him for years.

"I was working out, and it just kind of shut down on me one day," he said. "I probably should have had surgery when I was younger, but I was still playing. One day, I just couldn't throw no more, so finally had surgery on it. And it just never really got better. That's kind of why I'm taking that next step."

That next step included scout school this October in Arizona. Allen was one of two people the Tigers sponsored.

Allen said the week-long crash course in scouting was intense and fun. He quickly learned that how he judged whether a player was good just scratched the surface of what professional scouts look at when judging potential draft picks and future stars.

“Trying to guess what a player’s going to be like, their potential, was a little different than I thought it was,” Allen said. “But I learned a lot. We did the (Arizona) Fall League. Usually about four players a day to watch and hone in on. Then we’d go back and write reports.”

Allen said the day would start with lectures, then scouting and then filling out reports that were then checked over.

“They don’t really give us a grade,” he said. “They just go over it with us and tell us what we did wrong, what we could have do better. Our wording.

“Being a player my whole life, I can tell who the best player on the field is just by looking at him. By the way they act. Putting that into words is a little tough for me. I didn’t know it was so much guessing. I thought you graded the players on how they are now.”

Allen learned that some of his wording was corrected, but he took everything as constructive criticism.

“It’s always been something I wanted to do,” he said. “Once I was done playing, I knew I wanted to go that scouting route.”

Allen said the winter meetings were interesting. He said it was a matter of getting your resume in the right person’s hands.

Rod Allen knows that firsthand. He got his first job as a minor league instructor after attending the winter meetings in 1992, then got hired by the Marlins. Allen eventually went to work in the minors for the Diamondbacks before getting the broadcasting opportunity with the Tigers.

“But I got my start right here,” Allen said standing in the lobby as youngsters tried their best to make impressions with current execs. “I came to the winter meetings and met people and talked to people and ended up getting an opportunity.”

Detroit Tigers sign Omar Infante, 13 others to minors deal

December 12, 2016

By Anthony Fenech/ Detroit Free Press

Among today's minor league signing announcements by the Detroit Tigers: many familiar faces.

But one name was most notable: veteran second baseman Omar Infante.

Infante, who started his career with the Tigers in 2002, is one of 14 players the team signed to a minor league deal, according to the team.

Infante, who turns 35 on Dec. 26, hit .239 in 39 games with the Royals this past season before his release in late June. He finished the season at Triple-A Gwinnett with the Atlanta Braves.

He is one of six players to receive an invitation to major league spring training. Others are right-handed relievers Ruben Alaniz, William Cuevas, Logan Kensing and Dustin Molleken, and catcher Miguel Gonzalez. Molleken pitched in four games for the Tigers this past season. Many of the signings played in the organization's minor leagues in 2016. Not among them is former Michigan State right-hander A.J. Achter, who reportedly agreed to a minor league deal with the team Friday. Many times, the deal is reported before a physical or full paperwork is completed.

The list is rounded out by right-handers Johan Belisario, Endrys Briceno, Jeff Ferrell, Santiago Garrido, Cory Riordan, Arcenio Leon and infielders Argenis Diaz and Gustavo Nunez.

Detroit Tigers sign MSU product A.J. Achter to minors deal

December 12, 2016

By Anthony Fenech/ Detroit Free Press

The Detroit Tigers have added a local flavor to their list of spring training invitees.

The team has signed right-handed reliever A.J. Achter, according to SB Nation's Chris Cotillo. Achter is a Toledo native and played at Michigan State.

The minor-league deal includes an invitation to spring training, according to Cotillo. The Tigers are expected to release a list of their minor league signings in the coming days.

In 2016, Achter posted a 3.11 ERA and 1.46 WHIP in 27 games with the Los Angeles Angels, while getting shuttled back and forth to Triple-A Salt Lake City. He struck out 14 in 37 2/3 big-league innings.

Achter was drafted by the Minnesota Twins in the 46th round of the 2010 MLB draft. He spent two seasons in Minnesota, making 18 appearances in 2014-15.

Achter left MSU to sign with the Twins after his sophomore season.

According to Brooks Baseball, Achter throws four pitches: four-seam fastball, change-up, sinker and slider. His fastball sits in the 92-m.p.h. range.

Tigers' Michael Fulmer 'itching' to get back to work

December 12, 2016

By Chris McCosky/ The Detroit News

Detroit – Yep, same old Michael Fulmer, right down to his jeans, boots and plaid flannel shirt. Winning American League Rookie of the Year honors hasn't much spoiled him.

"I think I found out I had 40 new friends that I didn't know had my phone number, but that's about it," he said Saturday morning before signing autographs at the D Shop inside Comerica Park. "I am getting all this type of support and I appreciate everything everyone has said to me. Just the support I am getting from Tiger fans and plus everybody back home – it means a lot to me.

"But I am itching to get back to spring training."

As the line of autograph seekers snaked through the vast store and out into the street in front of Comerica Park, Fulmer said he hasn't touched a baseball since the season ended and he's starting to get antsy.

"I've been working out for about a month," he said. "I took some time off because it was a longer season than normal for me – which is a good thing. I hope it's a longer one this year. I am ready to get back after it. I've been working hard in the gym and I hope to start throwing in a couple of weeks."

The time off, he said, has been rejuvenating.

"The best three months of the year are the three months you are not throwing," he said. "It's the most important as far as recovery-wise – just not picking up a ball for three months and letting your body recover from a long season.

"That being said, it's been a good recovery. Now it's time to get back to work."

He has been in touch with Justin Verlander, trying as best he can to duplicate Verlander's off-season regimen.

"I've been texting him back and forth, especially during his Cy Young candidacy – which I think obviously he should have won," Fulmer said. "He's been helping me a lot this off-season; when to start the shoulder program, when to start throwing. Just getting feedback from him.

"He says, 'Just trust your body.' He's going to tell me when he's going to throw and I am going to mimic that."

During the Winter Meetings last week, manager Brad Ausmus said he was taking the wraps off his young starting pitchers – Fulmer, Daniel Norris and Matt Boyd. He expects all three, if healthy and productive, to reach 200 innings this season.

And that is welcome news to Fulmer, who had his innings rationed at the end of last season.

"I am going to try and pitch every fifth day," he said. "I want to get as many innings as I can for this club.

Ultimately, we are trying to win a World Series, collectively. That's our only goal."

Fulmer went 11-7 in 26 starts last season, posting a 3.06 ERA and a 1.119 WHIP in 159 innings. Although he was adamant that fatigue was never an issue, his efficiency and production fell off in the latter months of the season.

In his first 13 starts he went 9-2 with a 2.11 ERA, allowing 18 earned runs in 76.2 innings. In his last 13 starts, he was 2-5 with a 3.94 ERA, allowing 36 runs in 82.1 innings.

"Location is a big thing for me," he said when asked what he thought he needed to focus on going into this season. "Just locating pitches better. Tinkering with the change-up and slider, learning how to throw it at different speeds and at different times in the count. Throwing it for strikes and then expanding the strike zone." Same old Michael Fulmer, indeed. Still humble. Still champing at the bit to get back to work. And still he won't spill the beans about why he suddenly shaved off his beard late last season.

"I still don't know what you are talking about," he said, which, accompanied with a wry smile, was his never-changing reply when asked about it during the season.

The beard has grown back in full, by the way.

"What do you mean?" he said. "It never left."

Omar Infante rejoins Tigers on minor-league deal

December 12, 2016

By Chris McCosky/ The Detroit News

Detroit – Welcome back, Omar Infante.

The 15-year veteran infielder was among 14 minor league free agents signed by the Tigers and announced Friday. It will be his third stint with the club. He started his career in Detroit from 2002-2007 and returned for the 2012 and 2013 seasons before signing with the Royals.

Infante, who will turn 35 on Dec. 26, only played in 39 games last season. He has been invited to training camp but presumably, he was signed to fill some gaping roster holes at Triple-A Toledo.

He may have also been signed as insurance in case the Tigers traded second baseman Ian Kinsler.

Infante, who has a .271 career average in 1,507 games, endured a hard-luck couple of seasons in Kansas City.

He was the starting second baseman on the team that lost the World Series in seven games to the Giants in 2014, then was released by the Royals before they made their championship run in 2015.

Besides Infante, the Tigers invited five other free agent signees to spring training:

Right-handed pitcher Ruben Alaniz: The 25-year-old posted a 4-4 record with four saves, a 2.69 ERA with 74 strikeouts in 73.2 innings splitting time between Double-A Erie and Triple-A Toledo.

Right-handed pitcher William Cuevas: He made his big-league debut with the Red Sox last season (0-1, 3.60 ERA in three games). The 26-year-old started 18 games at Triple-A Pawtucket (6-8, 4.19).

Right-handed pitcher Logan Kensing: He made the Tigers' 25-man roster out of spring training last year but spent the majority of the year at Toledo where he went 1-1 with a 3.44 ERA in 52 games. He allowed one run in 4.2 innings with the Tigers.

Right-handed pitcher Dustin Molleken: At age 32, after 12 minor league seasons, he made his big-league debut with the Tigers last season (allowing four runs in 8.1 innings). He was 2-4 with a 3.58 ERA at Toledo.

Catcher Miguel Gonzalez: He was in big league camp with the Tigers last year, as well. He hit .243 at Toledo last season.

The Tigers have also reached an agreement with right-handed pitcher A.J. Achter, but the contract is pending a physical. Achter, the Michigan State product, posted a 3.11 ERA in 27 games with the Angels last season.

Also signed to minor league contracts were right-handed pitchers Johan Belisario, Endrys Briceño, Jeff Ferrell, Santiago Garrido, Arcenio Leon, and Cory Riordan, plus infielders Argenis Diaz and Gustavo Nuñez.

All of those players played in the Tigers' organization last season except for Leon, who pitched in the Mexican League in 2016. He posted 36 saves for Acereros del Norte.

Tigers 2017 bullpen has ample options, even if no winter deals materialize

December 12, 2016

By Evan Woodbery/ MLive.com

DETROIT -- The Detroit Tigers left the Baseball Winter Meetings last week with only one new addition, a left-handed reliever who faces a long road to make the big-league roster.

Daniel Stumpf, selected from the Kansas City Royals in the Rule 5 Draft, will be vying with roughly a dozen other pitchers who have a credible shot at making the Tigers bullpen.

Of the seven or eight spots in the pen, five are fairly secure.

* Francisco Rodriguez: Manager Brad Ausmus emphasized last week that K-Rod was the Tigers closer. End of discussion. The Tigers also seem uninterested in trading him, at least for now.

* Bruce Rondon: The hard-throwing Rondon is no longer a youngster. He's out of option and will make around a million bucks in arbitration this year.

He pitched well at the end of the last year and is the most viable successor to Rodriguez, although Ausmus still seemed skeptical.

"I think he's got the ability to do it. There's a lot of guys with ability. So there's more than that," Ausmus said.

"People love the radar gun. You show me a guy that throws 100 (mph), I can show you a hitter that can hit it."

* Mark Lowe: With a \$5.5 million salary, Lowe is untradeable, so the Tigers are hoping for a bounce-back year.

* Justin Wilson, Alex Wilson (no relation): Justin, a lefty, had a higher strikeout rate in 2016, but right-handed Alex did a better job of keeping the ball in the park, resulting in a lower ERA. Both can be valuable options in the middle or late innings.

What about the rest of the pen?

Shane Greene will be a reliever, not a starter, in 2017, according to Ausmus, and he seems like a good bet to earn a roster spot. He does have an option remaining however, which allows him to be freely transferred from the Tigers to Triple-A Toledo as needed.

Options will be helpful.

It's easy to envision players like Blaine Hardy and Kyle Ryan bouncing back and forth between the Tigers and Mud Hens, much as they did in 2016. Players like Victor Alcantara or Warwick Saupold could be on the same plan.

Stumpf has options available, but because he's a Rule 5 pick, the Tigers won't be able to use them. He has to make the team -- and then stay on the 25-man roster all year.

Then there's Anibal Sanchez and Mike Pelfrey. Barring injuries elsewhere on the staff, they'll probably be competing against Matt Boyd for the fifth spot in the rotation.

If one or both lose out, they could be headed to the bullpen, costing someone else a roster spot.

Trades are still a possibility. The Tigers took calls about Justin Wilson and Greene at the Winter Meetings.

They're more apt to deal Wilson because his salary -- and perhaps his value -- are higher.

Although Stumpf wasn't drafted with the intention of replacing Justin Wilson, there's no doubt that a trade could make Stumpf's path to a roster spot much smoother.

All the potential relievers on the 40-man roster are listed below. There will be other non-roster contenders invited to spring training, including prospects like Joe Jimenez and Adam Ravenelle.

After award-winning rookie year, Michael Fulmer gearing up for 2017

December 12, 2016

By Evan Woodbery/ MLive.com

DETROIT -- Michael Fulmer was back in town on Saturday for an autograph session, just a few steps away from the snow-covered turf at Comerica Park.

He hoped to be back on a plane back to Oklahoma before another round of snow was expected to blanket the area beginning Saturday.

"Right now it's about 30 degrees back home. It's a little cold for us, but there's no snow," he said.

Fulmer was making his first public appearance in Detroit since winning the American League Rookie of the Year Award. He was greeted by a long line of fans in the Tigers team shop.

"I think I found out I had 40 new friends that I didn't know had my phone number," he said. "I am getting all this type of support and I appreciate everything everyone has said to me. The support I'm getting from Tiger fans and family and friends back home means a lot to me right now."

He said he doesn't mind the fact that he's noticed more often and is happy for people to come up and say hello.

"I'm just a regular person," he said.

After two months of rest, Fulmer will start gearing up for spring training in the coming weeks. Tigers ace Justin Verlander has told him the best advice is to "trust his body."

"It's been a good recovery," Fulmer said. "Now it's time to get back to work."

Tigers bring back veteran infielder Omar Infante on minor-league contract

December 12, 2016

By Evan Woodbery/ MLive.com

DETROIT -- The Detroit Tigers signed infielder Omar Infante to a minor-league contract and invited him to spring training, where he will try to make the Tigers big-league team for the third separate time in his career. Infante, who turns 35 this month, played for the Tigers from 2002-2007 and again in 2012-2013.

Infante signed a lucrative four-year deal with the Kansas City Royals after the best offensive season of his career in 2013.

But he struggled in Kansas City and was eventually released in June with a year and a half and more than \$13 million left on his contract.

Infante later signed a minor-league deal with the Atlanta Braves, but was released after struggling in Triple-A Gwinnett.

Infante is a long-shot to make the Tigers roster unless there are injuries. The Tigers have tendered a contract to super-utility player Andrew Romine. Another potential bench player, shortstop Dixon Machado, is out of options and must make the roster or be subject to waiver claims.

The Tigers announced the signing of 13 other players Friday, many of whom were in the organization in 2016. Right-handed pitchers Ruben Alaniz, Johan Belisario, Endrys Briceno, William Cuevas, Jeff Ferrell, Santiago Garrido, Logan Kensing, Arcenio Leon, Dustin Molleken and Cory Riordan; infielders Argenis Diaz, Omar Infante and Gustavo Nunez; and catcher Miguel Gonzalez all signed minor-league deals.

Alaniz, Cuevas, Infante, Kensing, Molleken and Gonzalez received an invitation to Major League spring training camp.

Pitcher A.J. Achter, who reportedly signed a minor-league deal with the Tigers, was not included on the list, although more names could be announced later.

Tigers sign former Spartan A.J. Achter to minor-league deal

December 12, 2016

By Evan Woodbery/ MLive.com

DETROIT -- Former Michigan State pitcher A.J. Achter, a Toledo native, has signed a minor-league contract with the Detroit Tigers and been invited to spring training, according to a Toledo television station.

The Tigers are expected to formally announce several minor-league signings in the next few days.

Achter, 28, pitched in 27 games for the Los Angeles Angels in 2016, going 1-0 with a 3.11 ERA. He struck out 14 and walked 12 in 37 2/3 innings.

Achter was drafted by the Minnesota Twins in 2010. He was claimed on waivers by the Philadelphia Phillies after the 2015 season and then claimed again a few weeks later by the Angels. He elected free agency in October.

A graduate of Clay High School in Oregon, Ohio, Achter pitched for the Spartans from 2008-2010.

Fulmer eager to begin sophomore season

December 12, 2016

By Jason Beck/ MLB.com

DETROIT -- Michael Fulmer rolled into Comerica Park on Saturday with a flannel shirt and a trucker's hat, but no winter coat. He admitted he wasn't quite ready for Michigan weather, though the return of the full beard helped out.

"I still don't know what you're talking about," he said with a wry smile when asked if he could finally admit why he suddenly shaved it at midseason.

Fulmer walked along the concourse on his way to an afternoon autograph session and noted the coating of snow already on the field, with more on the way. However, the reigning American League Rookie of the Year is eager for his sophomore season. He cherishes the award, but he wants to build on what he did on the mound.

"I think I found out I have 40 new friends that I didn't know had my phone number," he said. "I'm getting all types of support. I appreciate everything that everybody's telling me, the support I'm getting from Tigers fans plus family and friends back home. It means a lot to me right now, and I'm itching to get back to Spring Training down in Florida."

When he arrives in Lakeland, a new chapter in his career will begin. In many ways, it already has.

He's no longer the new kid in the clubhouse or the fresh face on the staff. After 159 big league innings, 11 wins, a four-hit shutout and nearly an ERA title (3.06), he's a known commodity. When he ventures out, he gets recognized, certainly around Detroit. He's still young enough, approachable enough, that he enjoys it.

"At home, nothing much has changed. It's usually the same people every other night," he said. "Here, it's a little ... I don't mind it. I mean, I really don't. You have to kind of pick and choose your spots where to go out and stuff, but I encourage it. I like when people come up to me and then talk to me and hold a conversation with me. I'm a down-to-earth guy. I'm just another person."

He's just another guy with a gifted arm, on which the Tigers' hopes of contending rest for next season and beyond. While veterans such as Justin Verlander, Ian Kinsler and J.D. Martinez have endured trade rumors the last few weeks as general manager Al Avila looks for ways to trim payroll, Fulmer is a building block.

After pitching through the stretch run and pushing his workload higher than expected, Fulmer has heeded advice to rest his arm for a while.

"I've been working out for about a month now," he said. "I kind of took some time off because it was a longer season than normal for me, which is a good thing. Hopefully it's longer next year. But I'm ready to get back after it. I'm working hard in the gym and about to start throwing here in a couple weeks. Hopefully, weather permitting, I can get outside a little bit before I head down to the heat down in Florida."

He has sought advice on training from Verlander, whose meticulousness with offseason training goes back to when he was a rookie a decade ago.

"I've been asking when to start my shoulder program, when to start throwing, just kind of getting feedback from him and learning from him a little bit," Fulmer said. "And he basically just says to trust your body. He's telling me when he's going to throw, and I'm kind of going off that a little bit, and hopefully we'll all be ready for Spring Training."

Infante returns to Tigers with spring invite

December 12, 2016

By Jason Beck/ MLB.com

DETROIT -- Omar Infante is back in the Tigers organization. A.J. Achter, who grew up down Interstate 75 from Comerica Park, will soon be joining him.

The Tigers announced their first round of Minor League contracts Friday, a list of 14 players that includes a familiar name in Infante. The former Tigers and Royals second baseman will get a non-roster invitation to Major League Spring Training, where he'll try to win a roster spot 15 years after he made his Major League debut in Detroit.

Among the Minor League deals are Dustin Molleken, who made his Major League debut with the Tigers on July 4 after more than a dozen years in the Minor Leagues, and Jeff Ferrell, released by the Tigers last summer. Fellow pitchers Ruben Alaniz, Johan Belisario, Endrys Briceno, William Cuevas, Santiago Garrido, Logan Kensing, Arcenio Leon and Cory Riordan, along with catcher Miguel Gonzalez and infielders Argenis Diaz and Gustavo Nunez also received contracts.

Not announced yet was an agreement on a Minor League contract and Spring Training invite for Achter, which is expected to be made official shortly. The Toledo native and Michigan State product has agreed to terms according to a source, confirming reports from SB Nation and the Toledo Blade.

Molleken, Alaniz, Cuevas, Kensing and Gonzalez also received invitations to big league camp. The deals provide depth for a Tigers organization that used 22 position players and 22 pitchers in 2016.

For Infante, the homecoming marks his third stint with the organization that signed him out of Venezuela as a teenager in 1999. He made his big league debut with the Tigers three years later, embarking on a six-year stint as a second baseman and later a utility infielder before the Tigers traded him to the Cubs for Jacque Jones following the 2007 season.

The Tigers brought back Infante, then a regular second baseman with an All-Star selection on his resume, at the Trade Deadline in 2012. He played a big role in Detroit's run to the World Series that year, then posted the best offensive season of his career before hitting the free-agent market and signing a four-year, \$30 million contract with Kansas City.

The Royals released him at midseason with a .239 average and 11 home runs in 39 games. He's scheduled to make \$8 million from them this year, the final guaranteed season of his contract. Though starting Tigers second baseman Ian Kinsler has been involved in trade discussions, Infante's return is more about depth for an organization that badly wanted to reinforce its middle-infield ranks.

The 28-year-old Achter grew up in Toledo and won City League Player of the Year honors his senior season at Clay High School. After three seasons at Michigan State, he was a 46th-round pick of the Twins in the 2010 Draft. He climbed the Minnesota farm system with three standout seasons of relief, earning All-Star honors in each respective league along the way, before making his Major League debut in 2014.

After 18 big league appearances over two seasons, Achter jumped to the Angels as a non-roster invite and pitched in 27 games for the big league club over seven stints. Despite bouncing back and forth to Salt Lake, he put up decent numbers, including a 3.11 ERA over 37 2/3 innings with 12 walks and 14 strikeouts. The strikeout rate was much lower than his career mark in both the Majors and Minors.

If Achter makes it to Detroit, he'll be the first Michigan State product to play in the Majors for the Tigers since Kirk Gibson.

Molleken and Kensing both pitched for the Tigers this past season in brief callups. The 32-year-old Molleken allowed four runs on 12 hits over 8 1/3 innings in four appearances, while the 34-year-old Kensing tossed 4 2/3 innings of one-run ball in three games.

Ferrell, 26, was a fast-rising relief prospect with the Tigers two seasons ago, jumping from Double-A Erie to the big leagues before injuries derailed his 2016 season after six appearances for Triple-A Toledo. Detroit released him in August.

Most of the other deals were re-signings. The 29-year-old Diaz has played parts of four seasons in Toledo, batting .241 (78-for-323) with a .597 OPS in 2016, but hasn't played in the Majors since 2010 with Pittsburgh.

Garrido, 27, struggled to a 6.22 ERA in 33 games between Erie and Class A Lakeland this year. Alaniz, 25, had a 4-4 record with four saves, a 2.69 ERA and 74 strikeouts over 73 2/3 innings between Erie and Toledo. Riordan went 6-10 with a 4.86 ERA at the same stops. Belisario went 0-2 with a 5.82 ERA in 17 innings at Lakeland. Nunez batted .279 (97-for-348) for Erie with two homers and 31 RBIs.

Gonzalez, also a Mud Hen last year, gives the Tigers insurance at catcher alongside John Hicks. Gonzalez batted .243 (52-for-214) with two homers and 33 RBIs.

Leon bounced around the Triple-A and Double-A levels across several organizations in recent years before joining the Mexican League, where he put up 36 saves this year. Cuevas made his big league debut this year with the Red Sox, tossing five innings with six walks in three games before posting a 6-8 record and 4.19 ERA in 25 games for Triple-A Pawtucket.

Tigers sign 14 to minor-league deals, including Omar Infante

December 12, 2016

By Matt Mowery/ Oakland Press

DETROIT >> It's probably no coincidence that the Detroit Tigers made zero World Series trips between the time they traded Omar Infante away in the 2007 offseason, and when they reacquired him at the 2012 trade deadline.

With him, they made trips to the 2006 and 2012 Fall Classic.

And now they have him back, so it's logical to assume ...

Well, no, actually probably not.

But the Tigers do have the 34-year-old Infante under contract again, signing him — and 13 others — to minor league deals, they announced Friday afternoon.

Infante and four others received invitations to big-league spring training camp. All the moves are likely just to add depth to a system that's been depleted for years by outgoing trades.

General manager Al Avila noted at his end-of-season press conference that the Tigers would probably dip heavily into the six-year minor-league free-agent market to fortify the team's pitching in the high minors.

"Everybody's looking for pitching. Even the good teams are looking for pitching, so it's going to be a difficult area and we're no different," Avila said. "So that's one area where this winter, I would see us heavily involved in six-year minor league free agent market, trying to sign some pitching depth to help us. Because we'll be able to use it throughout the year."

The full list of signees:

Ruben Alaniz, RHP*

Johan Belisario, RHP

Endrys Briceno, RHP

William Cuevas, RHP*

Jeff Ferrell, RHP

Santiago Garrido, RHP

Logan Kensing, RHP*

Cory Riordan, RHP

Dustin Molleken, RHP*

Arcenio Leon, RHP

Miguel Gonzalez, C*

Argenis Diaz, INF

Omar Infante, INF*

Gustavo Nunez, INF

* — invite to big league spring training camp

Infante, who was allowed to leave in free agency after the 2013 season, will still make the remaining \$8 million on the four-year deal he signed with the Kansas City Royals after departing.

Alaniz (Erie/Toledo in 2016), Belisario (Lakeland), Briceno (Lakeland), Diaz (Toledo), Garrido (Lakeland/Erie), Gonzalez (Toledo), Kensing (Toledo/Detroit), Molleken (Toledo/Detroit), Nunez (Erie) and Riordan (Erie/Toledo) were all with the Detroit organization last season.

The 30-year-old Leon spent last season in the Mexican League after 11 years in the minors, while Cuevas, 26, was in the Boston organization, pitching at both Triple-A Pawtucket and with the Red Sox.

Achter too?

The were reports (SB Nation's Chris Cotillo had it first) that Toledo native and Michigan State product A.J.

Achter would also be signed to a minor-league deal, but he was not on the list. That doesn't mean he won't be signed (and announced) within the next few days.

Pat Caputo - Tigers, Red Wings, Pistons, Lions, District Detroit - and the NEED to win

December 12, 2016

By Pat Caputo/ Oakland Press

“Downtown Detroit” will be defined by “District Detroit,” a 45-block epicenter essentially being built around three sports venues - Comerica Park, Ford Field and Little Caesars Arena - and the Tigers, Lions, Red Wings and Pistons.

That represents roughly 180 guaranteed dates. It is the sports teams first. Everything else - thriving restaurants, businesses, residential areas - are expected to piggy back off the sports venues.

As such, it's imperative the sports teams do well.

Will they?

Certainly, it is encouraging the Lions have emerged as postseason contenders, and may host a playoff game for the first time ever at Ford Field. But the Lions only have 10 home games per season - without the playoffs.

The Tigers, Red Wings and Pistons make up most of the dates, and common sense dictates for “District Detroit” to thrive, they must get better.

The Tigers are the major reason this is happening. When Comerica Park opened in 2000, the area was like a ghost town. And it wasn't particularly enhanced during the ensuing years, even after the completion of Ford Field, until the Tigers started contending. It has changed dramatically in large degree because of big crowds and the wonderful summer nights the public visited the area in massive numbers to see the Tigers. The Tigers have been over two million in home attendance every season since 2005. They have gone over three million four times, and almost reached the milepost another. Even last season, when attendance was the lowest since 2010, the Tigers averaged more than 31,000 per game.

If the Tigers were to shed payroll and go into rebuilding mode for a few years, and suffer the consequences on the field, they would subsequently take a beating at the box office. Such a scenario would be a devastating blow to the concept of “District Detroit.”

The Tigers better hope last season, when they had bounce back campaigns, was a sign Miguel Cabrera and Justin Verlander will retain their skills deep into the future. And that general manager Al Avila has more to offer than just “bringing back the band.” Also, it's time Detroit's minor league system finally thrives.

The Red Wings have struggled the first half of this season. They go up and down like a yo-yo. Their streak of consecutive playoff seasons is very much in jeopardy. It would be a shame, after all the successful years, if the Red Wings finally move into the shiny, sparkling venue they've dreamed about for eons - and the team is flat, boring and unappealing.

Petr Mrazek needs to be an elite goalie. Dylan Larkin and Anthony Mantha must reach star status. Ken Holland has to find puck moving defensemen.

The Pistons rose last season to win 44 games and make the playoffs. They have a young nucleus. Other than the Cavs and Raptors, the Eastern Conference is wide open. Yet, the Pistons have taken one step forward and one step back on a consistent basis this season.

I agree with the Pistons' decision to leave The Palace. It was inevitable - progress. But the Pistons aren't going to be an automatic draw if they are not winning.

Thing about new venues, the luster wears off quickly if the shine from the team isn't bright.

It's not as simple as if, “You build it, they will come.”

So here's my unsolicited advice for the Ilitch family and Tom Gores, and to a lesser degree, the Fords.

Make sure you pay as much attention to the teams as you do to District Detroit.

Don't be penny wise and pound foolish.

Success of teams is the most important facet whether District Detroit takes off as anticipated.

MLB Hot Stove: White Sox, Royals moves help open the door for Tigers in AL Central

December 12, 2016

By Mike Axisa/ CBSSports.com

Very early in the offseason, there were indications the Tigers would try to get younger and more cost effective. Cameron Maybin was traded to the Angels the day after the World Series, and other veterans like Ian Kinsler, Justin Verlander and even Miguel Cabrera popped in trade rumors.

Since the Maybin trade, the Tigers have done nothing aside from signing a few minor league free agents and selecting lefty Daniel Stumpf in the Rule 5 Draft. If general manager Alex Avila was going to tear things down, it would have happened by now. This won't be a total rebuild as some expected.

If Avila is still planning to tear things down, or at least trade one or two more veterans, the offseason activity of other AL Central teams should give him pause. The White Sox are clear sellers after trading Chris Sale and Adam Eaton at last week's Winter Meetings. The Royals aren't full blown sellers, but trading Wade Davis for Jorge Soler is a move made with the future in mind.

The Twins aren't very good and are in the middle of a rebuild. The White Sox have joined them and the Royals might not be as formidable as they were in 2016, when they went 81-81. A slow start to the season could push Kansas City to a massive trade deadline fire sale given all their impending free agents. Everything else going on in the AL Central this winter favors the Tigers.

Then there are the Indians, the defending AL champs who pushed the Cubs to extra innings in Game 7 of the World Series despite not having their best hitter (Michael Brantley) and two of their three best starters (Carlos Carrasco, Danny Salazar). Cleveland has to replace cleanup hitter Mike Napoli, either with someone else or by re-signing Napoli himself. Otherwise they're still set to be a top tier contender in 2017.

The Tigers won 86 games this past season and were 2 1/2 games back of a wild-card spot despite going 4-14 against the Indians. Four wins in 18 games! Realistically, what are the odds of that happening again? Very, very small. The Indians really whopped Detroit in those 18 games -- they outscored them 106-71 and only two of those 14 losses were decided by one run -- but that's a level of dominance we rarely see.

Right now, if you're Avila and the rest of the Tigers brass, you're looking at the state of the AL Central and thinking two things:

The Twins and White Sox won't be very good in 2017 and the Royals are at a crossroads. They're going to be pressured into making a quick decision about their ability to contend or need to rebuild.

There's no possible way we can go 4-14 against the Indians again. That's such an extreme outlier.

The Tigers can contend in 2017, given their roster. If Avila is working under a mandate to get younger and shed salary, that's a different story, but I don't think that's the case. Owner Mike Ilitch has made it very clear he wants to win a World Series during his lifetime. I believe the 87-year-old would support any decision to try to win now. His track record proves it.

The question now is how can the Tigers put themselves in the best possible position to win next season? What moves do they need to make? They traded their starting center fielder a few weeks ago, so that's one obvious opening. Unless they really believe in JaCoby Jones and Anthony Gose, finding a more veteran replacement for Maybin would be a good start.

As it stands, the Tigers are set on the infield (Cabrera, Kinsler, Jose Iglesias, Nick Castellanos), on the outfield corners (Justin Upton, J.D. Martinez), and at DH (Victor Martinez). Three of the five rotation spots are set (Verlander, Michael Fulmer, Jordan Zimmermann) and chances are Daniel Norris has a leg up on one of the other two spots. Let's run down their options at the other positions.

Catcher

James McCann's first season as the starter did not go too well, at least offensively. He hit .221/.272/.358 overall while the league average catcher hit .243/.310/.393 in 2016. McCann did throw out 45 percent of base stealers, which is phenomenal, but he also was a below-average pitch-framer according to StatCorner. There is definitely room for improvement here.

Free agency does offer some decent catchers at the moment. Matt Wieters is the big name and might be a little too pricey for the Tigers, who presumably do not want to bury McCann entirely. Wellington Castillo would

provide more offense without much defensive downgrade, if any. Brayan Pena would be a defensive upgrade and a lateral move offensively. Jason Castro would have been a nice fit, but he signed with the Twins.

Center field

The free-agent market doesn't offer much help in center field. The best available center fielders are Ben Revere, Rajai Davis and Austin Jackson, who is coming off knee surgery. That's not great. Are they better than Jones and Gose? Probably, but they're downgrades over Maybin. Free agency is not the best way to plug a center field hole this offseason.

The most obvious trade candidate, who really is a strong fit for the Tigers, is Brett Gardner. The Yankees are in the middle of their quasi-rebuild and Gardner is very much available. He's a strong defender who always gets on base (.350 OBP in 2016), and since the Tigers have such a strong lineup, Gardner would end up hitting eighth or ninth, not leadoff. There are two years and \$23 million left on his contract, plus a club option for 2019, so he's not going to blow up Detroit's budget.

Other potential trade targets include Jarrod Dyson, Lorenzo Cain, Marcell Ozuna, Juan Lagares, Travis Jankowski, Charlie Blackmon and Billy Hamilton. Obviously some are more available (and desirable) than others.

Starting rotation

The Tigers have three spots accounted for with an odds-on favorite for the fourth spot. Anibal Sanchez and Mike Pelfrey are still around, so they'll be in the mix for the fifth spot thanks to their contracts. Shane Greene and Matt Boyd are possibilities, too. The Tigers don't need another starter. Chances are one of Sanchez, Pelfrey, Greene or Boyd will take the job and run with it. Or at least that's what the team hopes.

Should Avila want more of a sure thing in the rotation, especially with Norris relatively unproven and Zimmermann coming off a poor season, the best the free-agent market has to offer is Ivan Nova and Jason Hammel. Yikes. A Doug Fister reunion or a roll of the dice with Brett Anderson are lower cost alternatives. Rotation depth is important, though I'm not sure free agency offers anything better than what the Tigers already have.

The trade market is a bit more robust. The Diamondbacks have been getting hits on all their young arms. The Dodgers would reportedly like to unload Scott Kazmir and Brandon McCarthy. The Rays have essentially their entire rotation on the trading block. There are starters available. The only question is whether the Tigers are willing to pay to get them. Pitching isn't cheap these days.

Bullpen

The Tigers are in perpetual need of bullpen help, aren't they? Francisco Rodriguez is solid in the ninth inning and the Wilsons, Alex and Justin, are a fine righty-lefty tandem. Greene, Bruce Rondon, Mark Lowe and Kyle Ryan are other members of the 2016 bullpen, a bullpen that ranked 12th in MLB with a +4.3 WAR, according to FanGraphs.

Shopping at the top of the free-agent market for Kenley Jansen isn't necessary, though of course he would make the bullpen better. Brad Ziegler stands out as a free agent who could really help the Tigers in a setup role, though he may get a closer's job elsewhere. Same with Greg Holland. Others like Joe Smith, Sergio Romo and Joe Blanton would improve the middle relief situation at a lower cost. The Tigers may be a bit jaded about the bullpen market after Lowe melted down this summer, though.

As it stands right now, the Tigers can definitely contend in the weakened AL Central, and they'll rely on their veterans to lead the way. Verlander and Cabrera have to be great, Upton and Zimmermann have to rebound, and Castellanos and J.D. Martinez need to stay healthy. If that happens, Detroit will be in the hunt. If not for the AL Central, than at least for a wild-card spot.

Personally, I think trades for Gardner and McCarthy plus Castillo and Ziegler signings would make the most sense for the Tigers. Whether they have the wherewithal to make those moves (prospects to trade, money to spend, etc.) is another matter. They all represent upgrades though, and since the Tigers still have a win now roster and the rest of the AL Central got weaker, any upgrade is worth making.

Fulmer homers with Wings donation

December 12, 2016

By James Coburn/ The Edmond Sun

Professional baseball player Michael Fulmer with Wings board member Sierra Snowden at the Wings A Special Needs Community annual Men's Breakfast Dec. 8. Fulmer, a Major League Baseball Rookie of the Year presented a \$20,000 check, as well as a \$3,900 Foundation baseball card check, to Wings.

A fundraiser to raise awareness of the vision of Wings brought more than 150 men to an Edmond breakfast Thursday.

Wings is an Edmond-based 501c3 nonprofit organization serving to enhance the lives of adults living with special needs through vocational and social and residential communities, said Cheri Weaver, Wings executive director.

Major League baseball player Michael Fulmer of the Detroit Tigers contributed a \$20,000 donation to Wings. Fulmer is a former Deer Creek schools baseball standout. He also donated money on behalf of the Detroit Tigers Foundation.

“Say you ordered one of his baseball cards, the Detroit Tigers would donate \$10 to Michael’s favorite charity and Michael would match it,” Weaver said.

Weaver said she was impressed by Fulmer’s love for adults with special needs and the joy they bring.

“You never have a bad day when you’re around our members,” Weaver said. “They don’t see differences; they just see the person.”

Lieutenant Gov. Todd Lamb is a political champion of Wings, Weaver said. Lamb was outstanding in helping the attendants recognize the need to reach out to adults living with special needs, Weaver said. Lamb conveyed the message that Oklahomans help each other.

“What we’re really striving for is a unique residential community,” Weaver continued. “Right now our members’ parents are looking outside of our state because we don’t have a great private residential community for adults with special needs. It’s just state-run stuff.”

To learn more about Wings, visit wingsok.org or contact Weaver at 242-4646.

Major leaguer Jacoby Jones receives keys to Richton

December 12, 2016

By Taylor Curet/ WBRC.com

RICHTON, MS (WDAM) - Detroit Tiger third baseman Jacoby Jones returned to his hometown of Richton on Friday night to serve as the Grand Marshal in the city's Christmas parade.

Jones knew he would be leading the parade but didn't expect to have his number 23 from Richton High be retired.

"I didn't know that at all," Jones said. "I didn't know any of it. I didn't know I had to go up there, I didn't know I was getting keys to the city. It means a lot to me and my family. It's great any time I can come back here after a long season, see all my friends and see my family, just relax a little while."

Jones returns from his first season with the Detroit Tigers where he tallied six hits and two RBI's in 13 games. After a long journey from LSU up through the minor leagues and now in the MLB, Jones says he's continued to remember where it all started in Richton.

"I've always looked back and looked at my childhood," Jones said. "All the memories I had with my mom and my dad in the backyard. You always come back and think about the little small town you came from, especially since it's been a small town. The population's probably 2,000 right here. I always think about this place a lot, where I came from. It's my roots."

LAST UPDATED: MON, DECEMBER 12, 2016, 01:32 EST

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2016

TEAM	PLAYER	TRANSACTION
Houston Astros	Reid Brignac	Signed to a Minor League Contract

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2016

TEAM	PLAYER	TRANSACTION
Arizona Diamondbacks	Asher Wojciechowski	Signed to a Minor League Contract

Arizona Diamondbacks	Fernando Rodney	Signed as Free Agent, (2017)(one-year contract)
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Arizona Diamondbacks	Jason Pridie	Signed to a Minor League Contract
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Arizona Diamondbacks	Rey Fuentes	Signed to a Minor League Contract
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Atlanta Braves	Emilio Bonifacio	Signed to a Minor League Contract
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Boston Red Sox	Junior Lake	Signed to a Minor League Contract
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Cincinnati Reds	Lucas Luetge	Signed to a Minor League Contract
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Cincinnati Reds	Shawn Zarraga	Signed to a Minor League Contract
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Cincinnati Reds	Rob Brantly	Signed to a Minor League Contract
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[Detroit Tigers](#) [Omar Infante](#) Signed to a Minor League Contract

[Detroit Tigers](#) [A.J. Achter](#) Signed to a Minor League Contract

[Los Angeles Dodgers](#) [Charlie Culberson](#) Outrighted to Minors

[Miami Marlins](#) [Matt den Dekker](#) Signed to a Minor League Contract

[New York Mets](#) [Johnny Monell](#) Signed to Play in Korea, (KT Wiz)

[Philadelphia Phillies](#) [Daniel Nava](#) Signed to a Minor League Contract

[Philadelphia Phillies](#) [Sean Burnett](#) Signed to a Minor League Contract

[Seattle Mariners](#) [Dean Kiekhefer](#) Outrighted to Minors

[St. Louis Cardinals](#) [Dexter Fowler](#) Signed as Free Agent, (2017-2021)(five-year contract)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2016

TEAM	PLAYER	TRANSACTION
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Atlanta Braves	Luke Jackson	Traded From from Rangers, Texas (for RHP Tyrell Jenkins & LHP Brady Feigl)
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Atlanta Braves	Williams Pérez	Released
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Boston Red Sox	Mitch Moreland	Signed as Free Agent, (2017)(one-year contract)
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Boston Red Sox	Josh Rutledge	Drafted Via Rule 5 from Minors
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Detroit Tigers	Daniel Stumpf	Drafted Via Rule 5 from Minors
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Miami Marlins	Nick Maronde	Drafted Via Rule 5 from Minors, (Triple-A phase)
New York Yankees	Aroldis Chapman	Signed as Free Agent, (2017-2021)(five-year contract)
Texas Rangers	Tyrell Jenkins	Traded From from Braves, Atlanta (w/LHP Brady Feigl for RHP Luke Jackson)
Texas Rangers	Jared Hoying	Signed to a Minor League Contract