

2018 Minor League Season Recap

OVERVIEW: The 2018 minor league season has ended with the Cincinnati Reds organization receiving a promising representation from their farm teams and future superstars. In addition to Pensacola, Daytona and Billings earning playoff berths, the entire Reds system boasted a large number of midseason and postseason all-stars. One all-star in particular, OF Taylor Trammell earned most valuable player honors at the prestigious All-Star Futures Game in Washington after he went 2-for-2 with a home run and a triple. Trammell's teammate at Daytona, 1b Ibandel Isabel belted 35 regular-season home runs to break a Florida State League record that stood for 68 years. Reds' first-round draft pick, INF Jonathan India made his professional debut with stops at rookie levels Greeneville and Billings before earning a promotion to Class-A Dayton. The Reds signed 29 of their 41 picks from June's First-Year Player Draft, including each of their first 12 selections.

Reds Minor League Players/Pitchers of the Month

April: Mitch Nay/Tony Santillan

May: Hendrik Clementina/Wennington Romero

June: Nick Senzel & Ibandel Isabel/Seth Varner & Hunter Green

July: Rylan Thomas/Tony Santillan

August: Drew Mount/Packy Naughton

AAA — Louisville Bats (61–76, 4th, -11.0)

Midseason All-Stars: Tanner Rainey, Kevin Quackenbush, Mason Williams

Players of the Week: Kevin Quackenbush (6/25–7/1), Robert Stephenson (7/23-7/29), Steve Selsky (8/27-9/3)

Baseball America's Best Tools Survey, International League: Nick Senzel (Best Defensive Third Baseman), Gabby Guerrero (Best Outfield Arm)

At 61-76, the Bats finished the 2018 season with a 5-win improvement from 2017. Ten games into the season, Louisville replaced manager Pat Kelly with bench coach Dick Schofield after Kelly was promoted to Cincinnati to serve as Reds' interim manager Jim Riggleman's bench coach. Of the 68 players to appear for Louisville this season, over half (35) also appeared in a game for Cincinnati in 2018.

Bats' closer Kevin Quackenbush won the 2018 Mary E. Barney Louisville Bats Most Valuable Player Award. He went 1-2 with a 2.68 ERA and ranked second in the International League with 25 saves.

Cincinnati's top prospect Nick Senzel underwent surgery on June 28 to reduce the fracture in his right index finger after suffering the injury in a game on June 22 while playing for Louisville vs Norfolk. Senzel played in 44 games for the Bats, batting .310 with 12 doubles, 6 home runs, 25 RBI and a .887 OPS. He started 28 games at second base, 14 games at third base and one game at shortstop.

RHP Robert Stephenson ranked among International League leaders in most pitching categories, including ERA (2.87, 6th), Wins (11, 3rd), Strikeouts (135, 2nd), WHIP (1.16, 3rd) and Opponents' Batting Average (.184, 1st).

AA — Pensacola Blue Wahoos (69–68 overall)

Midseason All-Stars: Alex Powers, Keury Mella, Robinson Leyer, Shed Long, Aristides Aquino

Players of the Week: Daniel Wright (4/16–4/22), Taylor Sparks (6/25–7/1)

Baseball America's Best Tools Survey, Southern League: Taylor Sparks (Best Defensive Third Baseman), Aristides Aquino (Best Outfield Arm)

For the fourth consecutive season, the Pensacola Blue Wahoos in 2018 earned their way into the Southern League playoffs. After posting a 30-38 record in the season's first half, the Blue Wahoos tallied a 39-30 second half mark to qualify for the postseason where they were eliminated in the semi-finals by Biloxi.

2b Shed Long led the team with 118 hits while OF Aristides Aquino paced the club with 20 home runs. On the mound, the Blue Wahoos were led by LHP Seth Varner (9-3, 3.39), RHP Vladimir Gutierrez (147ip) and RHP Alex Powers (18 saves).

For the third time in seven years, Pensacola was recognized as the Southern League's Don Mincher Organization of the Year. Additionally, Pensacola's Chief Financial Officer Amber McClure was named the 2018 Southern League Woman of the Year.

Advanced A — Daytona Tortugas (69–66 overall)

Midseason All-Stars: Joel Kuhnel, Tony Santillan, Tyler Stephenson, Mitch Nay, Taylor Trammell, TJ Friedl, Brantley Bell

Full-Season All-Stars: Scott Moss, Ibandel Isabel, Taylor Trammell, Tyler Stephenson, Joel Kuhnel, Ryan Hendrix

Players of the Week: Wennington Romero (4/30–5/6), Ibandel Isabel (5/28–6/3), Ibandel Isabel (8/6-8/12)

Baseball America's Best Tools Survey, Florida State League: Ibandel Isabel (Best Power Prospect), Tony Santillan (Best Pitching Prospect), Ryan Hendrix (Best Breaking Pitch), Ryan Hendrix (Best Reliever), Taylor Trammell (Best Outfield Arm)

The Tortugas clinched a playoff berth by winning the Florida State League North Division First-Half Championship with a 37-29 record. They went 69-66 overall and were defeated by Fort Myers in the Florida State League championship series.

1b Ibandel Isabel joined Daytona in mid-April after he was acquired by the Reds from the Dodgers in exchange for RHP Ariel Hernandez. Isabel belted 35 home runs for the Tortugas to establish a new Florida State League record. He also led the league with a .566 slugging percentage and 213 total bases while ranking second with 75 RBI and 46 extra-base hits.

The 2018 All-Star Futures Game MVP, Taylor Trammell batted .277 with 25 stolen bases and a .375 on-base percentage in 110 games.

On the mound, LHP Scott Moss led the Florida State League with 15 wins and pitched to a respectable 3.68 ERA over 132 innings.

RHP Tony Santillan, one of the Reds top pitching prospects, split time between Daytona and Pensacola in 2018. He went 10-7 overall with a 3.08 ERA, including a 2.70 ERA in 15 starts with the Tortugas.

Following the season, the Reds and Tortugas announced a two-year extension of their Player Development Contract through the 2020 season.

A — Dayton Dragons (58–80 overall)

Midseason All-Stars: Cory Thompson, John Ghyzel, Hendrik Clementina, Montrell Marshall (Midwest League All-Star MVP), Stuart Fairchild

Full-Season All-Stars: Hendrik Clementina, John Ghyzel

Players of the Week: Tyler Mondile (5/14–5/20), Packy Naughton (7/9–7/15), Jose Garcia (8/13-8/19)

Baseball America's Best Tools Survey, Midwest League: Hunter Greene (Best Pitching Prospect), Hunter Greene (Best Fastball), John Ghyzel (Best Reliever)

In one of sports' most amazing records, the Dayton Dragons in 2018 extended their current streak of consecutive sell-outs to 1,316 games, an all-time high for sports in North America. The Dragons have now led all of Single-A baseball in attendance in each of their 19 seasons of operation.

Top Reds pitching prospect, RHP Hunter Greene spent four months with the Dragons. On July 26, he fired a pitch at 102 mph, the fastest ever recorded at Fifth Third Field. Greene also appeared in the All-Star Futures Game in Washington where he pitched 1.1 innings and threw 19 fastballs, all of which clocked at 100mph or faster. One of his fastballs reached 103.1mph.

LHP Packy Naughton became just the third player in Dragons' history to lead the Midwest League in strikeouts, fanning 137 batters in 154 innings.

Tom Nichols, the voice of the Dragons on radio and television over the last 11 years, called his 4,000th career game on August 8, prompting a one-game call-up to Cincinnati to broadcast a Reds game on August 28 at Great American Ball Park.

Rookie Level — Billings Mustangs (40–36 overall)

Players of the Week: Luis Alecis (6/25–7/1), Mariel Bautista (7/30-8/5)

Midseason All-Stars: Jared Solomon, Pabel Manzanero, Eddy Demurias

Full Season All-Stars: Mariel Bautista, Jared Solomon, Luis Alecis

The Mustangs went a Pioneer League-best 25-13 in the season's second half to qualify for the postseason where they were eliminated by Great Falls. The 2018 season marked the second time in 3 years that the Mustangs won 40 or more games.

The Billings pitching staff led the Pioneer League with a 4.26 team ERA.

Among individual league leaders, OF Mariel Bautista ranked eighth with a .330 batting average. OF Drew Mount finished second among all Pioneer League RBI leaders with 58.

The Mustangs were led on the mound by RHP Luis Alecis (67 strikeouts, 14 starts, 59ip), RHP Ricky Salinas (14 starts), Ricardo Smith (59ip) and Ryan Dunne (5 saves).

Following the season, the Mustangs and Reds agreed to extend their Player Development Contract for two more years through the 2020 season.

Mustangs groundskeeper Jeff Limburg was named the 2018 Pioneer League Turf Manager of the Year.

Rookie Level — Greeneville Reds (28–40, 5th, -12.0)

Players of the Week: Josiah Gray (7/2–7/8), Rylan Thomas (7/23-7/29)

Greeneville celebrated its first season as a Cincinnati Reds affiliate in 2018, playing home games at Pioneer Park in beautiful Northeast Tennessee.

The Reds were led on offense by INF Miguel Hernandez (.301), 1b Rylan Thomas (10hr, 34r) and INF Jonathan Willems (39 RBI). On the mound, RHP Miguel Medrano (12 starts, 54ip), RHP Alexis Diaz (67k) and RHP Josiah Gray (12 starts, 2.58 ERA) stood out for the Reds.

INF Claudio Finol and OF Brian Rey both had 14-game hitting streaks during the season, the second-longest such streaks in the Appalachian League in 2018.

Greeneville's play-by-play man Justin Rocke was named the 218 Appalachian League's Radio Broadcaster of the year.

Rookie Level — Arizona League Reds (13–42 overall)

The Reds were highlighted in 2018 by switch-hitting 19 year-old outfielder Danny Lantigua, who led the team and finished among Arizona League leaders in several offensive categories, including home runs (8) and RBI (37) and extra-base hits (26).

Rookie Level — Dominican League Reds (34–38, 5th, -14.0)

All-Stars: Raul Hernandez, Fidel Castro

The Dominican Summer League Reds won 13 of their final 24 games and ended the season on 4-game winning streak.

At the plate, OF Allan Cerda paced the offense with 6 home runs and 34 RBI while reaching base at a .402 clip. All-Star Fidel Castro slugged .516 and posted a .920 OPS.

On the mound, the Reds received encouraging results from LHP Jose Salvador (3-0, 1.18 ERA, 14g/12gs, 72k, 53.1ip) and RHP Raul Hernandez (2-4, 2.29 ERA, 14g/13gs, 77k, 51ip).