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Detroit Free Press

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Daily Transactions

New hitting coaches have familiarity, respect of Detroit Tigers

December 9, 2016

By George Sipple/ Detroit Free Press

Detroit Tigers manager Brad Ausmus said this week that, during the 2016 season, he had a gut feeling Wally Joyner would not return as hitting coach.

Ausmus said during the MLB winter meetings in National Harbor, Md., that Joyner wants to continue coaching in a different capacity. David Newhan, the assistant hitting coach last season for the Tigers, was hired as the assistant hitting coach of the Los Angeles Angels.

Ausmus promoted two familiar faces from Triple-A Toledo to fill those roles. Lloyd McClendon came up at the end of last season to help hitters over the final month of the season after the Mud Hens' season ended.

“In the back of my mind, Mac was the guy, because he has a rapport with some of the veterans,” Ausmus said. “He's been around some of these hitters. He has the respect, and I like that, with our veteran core having someone of that type of stature as the hitting coach.”

McClendon was the hitting coach for the Pittsburgh Pirates until he took over as the club's manager after the 2000 season. He spent five seasons there until he was fired in September 2005.

McClendon was the hitting coach for the Tigers under then-manager Jim Leyland in 2007-13.

Former general manager Dave Dombrowski opted to hire Ausmus, who had no previous managerial experience in the majors, over McClendon to replace Leyland in 2013.

McClendon instead was hired to manage the Seattle Mariners, but was fired in October 2015. He returned to the Tigers organization to manage Toledo after that.

Ausmus brought Leon (Bull) Durham to be the assistant hitting coach in 2017. Durham was a longtime hitting coach at Triple-A Toledo, where he worked with McClendon last season.

“He's seen a lot of our young guys,” Ausmus said of Durham. “He's been in Toledo for 15 years or so and has seen a lot of these guys at some point that are younger and on our team and worked with them. I thought it was a good combination.”

Detroit Tigers select LHP Daniel Stumpf in Rule 5 draft

December 9, 2016

Anthony Fenech/ Detroit Free Press

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. -- The Tigers didn't leave the Major League Baseball winter meetings without a transaction.

On Thursday morning, the team selected left-handed reliever Daniel Stumpf in the major league portion of the Rule 5 draft.

Stumpf, 25, posted a 3.34 ERA and 0.94 WHIP this past season with four minor-league affiliates between Class A and Triple-A with the Royals and Phillies. He will compete with relievers Kyle Ryan and Blaine Hardy for a roster spot in spring training and offers insurance should the team trade Justin Wilson.

Stumpf was added to the Tigers' 25-man roster at a cost of \$100,000 -- up \$50,000 from the previous Collective Bargaining Agreement -- and the Tigers must carry him on their 25-man roster all season or offer him back to the Royals.

If the team removes Stumpf from the 25-man roster, he will be exposed to waivers and offered back to the Royals if he clears. In that scenario, the Tigers would recoup \$50,000.

No reason for Tigers fans, Al Avila to panic

It is the second consecutive year Stumpf has been selected in the major league portion of the Rule 5 draft. He was selected by the Phillies last off-season. Stumpf then made the Opening Day roster before getting suspended for 80 games for performance-enhancing drugs.

According to MLB, Stumpf tested positive for dehydrochloromethyltestosterone, an anabolic steroid.

A second positive test would put him out for 162 games.

Stumpf returned from his suspension in July and was soon designated for assignment and sent back to the Royals.

In seven minor-league seasons, Stumpf has posted a 3.22 ERA and 1.16 WHIP with nearly a strikeout per inning pitched. According to Brooks Baseball, Stumpf's fastballs in 2016 averaged 92 m.p.h. He also throws a slider and changeup.

Stumpf has no extensive experience above Double-A. With an open spot on the 40-man roster, the Tigers took a chance that he can contribute. Stumpf was selected with the No. 20 pick. He was a ninth-round pick of the Royals in the 2012 MLB draft.

The Tigers made two selections in the minor league portion of the Rule 5 draft, taking right-handed reliever Sean Donatello from the Marlins and outfielder Elvis Rubio from the Brewers. The organization lost two players: Lefty Edward Paredes to the Dodgers and catcher Mario Sanjur to the Angels.

Henning: Tigers strike out on deals; tough decisions still on deck

December 9, 2016

By Lynn Henning/ The Detroit News

National Harbor, Md. – Ideally, the Detroit Tigers had hoped to be the past week’s version of the White Sox. There would have been multiple trades. Payroll deflation. Oodles of youth heading into a system starved for skilled kids.

And the Tigers would have danced through Reagan National’s concourse Thursday en route to flights home and to a happy wrap-up of baseball’s Winter Meetings.

They instead headed back to Detroit with as much work ahead as they faced Sunday when they checked into the Gaylord Resort and Convention Center for what amounted to four days of conversations and little else.

The Tigers are still too heavy in 2017 salary obligations – well over \$200 million and facing perhaps upwards of \$10 million in luxury-tax fines for the coming season.

Worse, they learned there is even less market than most big-league analysts imagined for expensive, aging players, even when they’re named Justin Verlander, or Ian Kinsler. There is no hearty appetite for a younger, less costly star such as J.D. Martinez – not when outfielders and right-handed hitters galore are being stacked and largely ignored in baseball’s store aisles.

“I can’t say we’re frustrated, or disappointed – the market is what it is,” Tigers general manager Al Avila said after three full days of dialogue with front-office rivals had produced, essentially, zilch. “I can’t say it’s surprising. Teams are looking at payrolls and making moves as best as they see fit.”

The Tigers, as Avila reminded media, aren’t finished. This year’s offseason flesh-fair looks as if it will run later, well into January or even February, than in past years.

The Tigers could yet move one of their higher-profile people. More likely, they’ll make somewhat smaller deals, perhaps involving two players other teams have been chasing: left-handed reliever Justin Wilson, as well as shortstop Jose Iglesias.

Wilson is somewhat expendable as long as the Tigers get a pair of attractive pieces – or one strong prospect – in return. They have Kyle Ryan and Blaine Hardy as left-handers and Thursday added another potential handyman in Daniel Stumpf, who was snatched from the Royals in baseball’s Rule 5 draft.

Iglesias is a plausible trade chip when the Tigers would replace him in 2017 with Dixon Machado, 24, who is out of minor-league options and whose defense is superb. Machado wouldn’t easily match Iglesias’ 2016 batting average of .255. But Iglesias’ .643 OPS would conceivably be within reach for Machado, who had a .705 OPS in 131 games at Triple A Toledo. He also had four more extra-base hits in 2016 than Iglesias managed with the Tigers.

Avila has other shopping-list priorities that remain unresolved.

The Tigers want an affordable option in center field, apart from Tyler Collins, as they buy time for the man they believe in short time could be their everyday player there: JaCoby Jones.

They need a backup catcher and are looking at price-friendly choices there, which might include one-time regular Alex Avila.

But their over-arching mission, which didn’t come close to being accomplished during baseball’s prime time for trading, is to prune payroll and get fresh talent into a system exhausted by too many past prospects trades, too many forfeited draft picks, and opting for far too many long and expensive contracts.

It’s something of a mess created by earlier appetites and realities that now become Avila’s responsibility.

He is taking a high-road approach. Avila spent much of the week insisting the Tigers would, if nothing dramatic happens, be happy to carry a competitive roster and starting rotation into 2017 and take their chances on winning a Central Division title.

It’s not necessarily a fantasy. The Tigers will have a starting rotation that probably centers on Verlander, Michael Fulmer, Daniel Norris, Jordan Zimmermann, and perhaps Matt Boyd, unless Anibal Sanchez pitches reassuringly during spring camp.

Their bullpen closer is the trustworthy Francisco Rodriguez. Rookie right-hander Joe Jimenez likely will be part of the late-inning mix rather early in 2017 in tandem with the restored flame-thrower, Bruce Rondon, who will be joined by dependable right-hander Alex Wilson.

Miguel Cabrera. Victor Martinez. Kinsler. Nick Castellanos. Justin Upton. J.D. Martinez. All will be lineup staples, as will be catcher James McCann, whose sore ankle has healed and who could develop into a neat hitter in the bottom-third of manager Brad Ausmus' lineup.

Another reality could just as easily evolve in 2017: July's trade deadline.

The Tigers could very well learn in seven months that a fringe playoff team would be better off taking advantage of a market warmer and richer than they confronted in December.

At that time, deals unattainable during an offseason when teams were watching dollars and contract years particularly closely might become doable, as the Tigers learned at 2015's summer sale when David Price and Yoenis Cespedes were gobbled up for big returns.

So many decisions await Avila, not only in the next two months, but during spring camp when players and option expirations beyond Machado will enter the picture.

Steven Moya, likewise, can't be returned to the minors in 2017 minus a ride on the waiver wire. He would be lost, almost certainly, to another club. But where does he play when the Tigers can't find a proper suitor for J.D. Martinez? As a fourth outfielder? Not easily – not when his defense is no plus and when a young hitter, 25, needs to play regularly for that left-handed power to become an asset.

Collins is out of options, although he appears safe, either as a part-time starter in center, or as a left-handed-hitting outfield choice off the bench.

Avila has ample cash leaving the Tigers payroll in coming years, beginning next autumn when Anibal Sanchez (\$16 million, or \$5 million buyout), Mike Pelfrey (\$8 million), and K-Rod (\$6 million) can be jettisoned. A bunch more is lopped in 2018 when Victor Martinez (\$18 million) and Ian Kinsler (\$12 million) presumably depart.

The problem is that Detroit's immediate needs are not only financial. They're competitive. The Tigers had relied on spinning off expensive, high-caliber players (Kinsler, J.D. Martinez, Verlander if necessary, etc.) for that badly needed injection of new blood.

Young players, either as solid prospects or as big-league ready roster pieces, were to help the Tigers stay afloat during years (2018 into the next decade) that otherwise could turn into a hard-labor rebuilding project if Detroit can't make deals Avila desperately wants to pull off.

A general manager only 16 months on the job is staying upbeat. But he also understands reality.

"We had a sneaking suspicion this could happen," he said Wednesday evening as the Tigers assessed a market that had turned upside down on them. "This all has to do with timing."

And calendars.

For the Tigers, a single month could be worth targeting: July. If necessary trades can't be made then, or in the interim, baseball in Detroit will be on the verge of change. Change that could require a few years of patience and pain on the part of Tigers followers who already miss the good old days.

Tigers grab LH reliever Daniel Stumpf in Rule 5 draft

December 9, 2016

By Chris McCosky/ The Detroit News

National Harbor, Md. – The Detroit Tigers won't go home from the Winter Meetings empty-handed after all. On Thursday they selected left-handed reliever Daniel Stumpf from Kansas City in the Rule 5 draft.

“We like him,” general manager Al Avila said. “We feel like he has a chance to make our club as one of the left-handed relievers.”

There has been a lot of trade talk surrounding lefty Justin Wilson, but Avila said that had no impact on the selection of Stumpf.

“No, it had nothing to do with Wilson,” Avila said. “We just liked Stumpf. It wouldn't be bad to have both.”

Rule 5 stipulates that players selected must remain on the club's active roster for a full season. If not, then they will be returned to their previous team. The selection cost the Tigers \$100,000. Half of that would be returned if the Tigers had to send him back to the Royals.

Stumpf, 25, was selected in the Rule 5 draft last season by the Phillies and made their opening day roster. But in April he was suspended for 80 games for using an anabolic steroid.

In seven games with the Phillies, he allowed six runs in five innings. He was returned to the Royals. Pitching in High-A, Double-A and Triple-A last season, Stumpf was 3-0, with a 3.34 ERA in 29.2 innings.

His best pitch is a firmer-than-usual change-up at 86 mph, which he throws off a 92 mph four-seam fastball. He also has a slow, sinking slider.

The Tigers scouted him this winter in the Dominican Winter League, where he is presently 1-0 with a 1.69 ERA (two runs in 10 innings).

He will compete with Wilson, Blaine Hardy and Kyle Ryan for a spot on the 25-man roster.

The Tigers also made two selections in the minor league portion of the Rule 5 draft – right-handed pitcher Sean Donatello, 24, who pitched for the Marlins Double-A team last season, and outfielder Elvis Rubio, 22, who was with the Brewers last season.

“Donatello is a nice looking right-hander with a good arm and good breaking ball,” said David Littlefield, Tigers director of player development. “Our scouts who saw him liked him (scout Jimmy Rough). He adds some minor league depth, and we'll see. He's got enough pitches to pitch in the big leagues.

“But, obviously, being on a Double-A roster, he's going to have to make an adjustment.”

He was 3-1 with a 3.40 ERA and seven saves last season.

Rubio has some speed and is a plus defender, but he hasn't hit much in six minor league seasons (.216, .560 OPS last year in Class A).

“You are always looking for a little bit more, here and there,” Littlefield said. “You kind of hold your breath hoping you don't lose somebody you like, too. It turned out well.”

The Tigers lost two players in the minor league draft: Double-A pitcher Edward Paredes and Class A catcher Mario Sanjur.

After quiet Winter Meetings, Tigers move on to next phase of offseason

December 9, 2016

By Evan Woodbery/ MLive.com

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. -- There were a handful of blockbuster deals this week at the Baseball Winter Meetings, but the Detroit Tigers weren't a part of any of them.

Nor does it appear they even came close to parting with a key player.

As the Tigers packed up and headed back home after the Rule 5 Draft on Thursday, they had to wonder whether this was merely a quiet Winter Meetings or the start of an unexpectedly quiet offseason.

"I can't say it's surprising," said Tigers general manager Al Avila. "It's just a matter of teams really looking at their overall payrolls and making their moves as they see fit."

Many of those fits don't involve expensive veteran players, which is why the Tigers might have been most aggressive in pushing players (like reliever Justin Wilson) unencumbered by big salaries or no-trade clauses. But Avila acknowledged that such trades present difficulties themselves. After all, why trade away the type of young, affordable player you're trying to acquire yourself?

"The market is what it is," Avila said. "You can't do anything about that. You just have to do whatever you can within the confines of what you're able to do."

There are still two months remaining until pitchers and catchers report to Lakeland, Fla., for the start of spring training, so there's still plenty of time to make small complementary moves to bolster the roster.

On the free-agent market, the Tigers aren't looking beyond catcher and center fielder.

Behind the plate, they need a veteran backup for a one-year deal. In center, they'd like a cheap placeholder to compete with internal candidates in spring training.

In both cases, they may be able to wait until just before the start of spring training if they prefer.

The pitching staff seems fairly well settled. There was some chatter about the Tigers dealing veteran Anibal Sanchez, but that deal was apparently never close to materializing. The Tigers would be willing to cover some of Sanchez's \$16 million salary, but at a certain point the cost savings are no longer worth it.

The bullpen is also set, with manager Brad Ausmus reaffirming that Francisco Rodriguez is the team's closer. Avila said the Tigers picked up Rodriguez's contract option planning to keep him, not deal him.

The only new face, left-hander Ryan Stumpf, was acquired in the Rule 5 Draft, and will have to beat out a crowded field to make the team in spring training.

It seems safe to say that, barring a major surprise, most of the big names on the Tigers roster aren't going anywhere. Justin Verlander and Miguel Cabrera, while interesting fodder for hot-stove talk, were never close to being dealt.

Avila even signaled that the likelihood of dealing second baseman Ian Kinsler was dwindling, something that is sure to please Ausmus, who said he's convinced that the team as currently constructed can make the playoffs.

"I don't want those guys traded," he said Wednesday. "Are you kidding me? That's the last thing I want. I just think it's easy to talk about and harder to do."

Then there's Tigers right fielder J.D. Martinez, who was considered all but certain to be traded this offseason -- and perhaps even during these Winter Meetings.

He has only one affordable year left on his contract with no contractual rights to prevent a deal. But as the market for corner outfielders has started to dry up, Martinez is still a Tiger.

The Tigers have been firm in asking for a big return and so far no teams have met the price.

"If there's one positive, it's that we have a good team today going into the season," Avila said. "If we're patient, prudent, and we don't panic, things will fall into place as time allows. It's all timing. It's opportunity. You can't force it."

Tigers take lefty reliever Daniel Stumpf in Rule 5 Draft

December 9, 2016

By Evan Woodbery/ MLive.com

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. -- The Detroit Tigers have added a left-handed bullpen arm in the Rule 5 Draft.

Daniel Stumpf, 25, was taken from the Kansas City Royals on Thursday.

Stumpf was also selected in the 2015 Rule 5 Draft by the Philadelphia Phillies. He was suspended 80 games for a positive steroid test in April and then returned to the Royals in July.

The Royals chose to leave him unprotected again in this year's Rule 5 Draft.

Stumpf appeared in only seven games with the Phillies before his suspension for

dehydrochloromethyltestosterone, an anabolic steroid. After being returned to the Royals, he went 2-0 with a 2.11 ERA at Double-A Northwest Arkansas, striking out 26 in 21 innings.

Stumpf will provide additional left-handed bullpen depth if the Tigers ultimately trade Justin Wilson, who was the only player bandied about in serious trade discussions this week at the Baseball Winter Meetings.

Stumpf essentially takes the place of Joe Mantiplay, another left-handed reliever who was designated for assignment last month. Mantiplay was claimed on waivers by the New York Yankees and then waived two weeks later. When he cleared waivers the Yankees signed him to a minor league contract.

The cost of acquiring Stumpf was \$100,000 (up from \$50,000 in past years). The Tigers must carry him on their 25-man roster all season or offer him back to the Royals.

After the addition of Stumpf, the Tigers 40-man roster is now full. The Tigers did not lose any players in the major league portion of the draft.

In the minor league portion, they added 22-year-old outfielder Elvis Rubio and right-handed pitcher Sean Donatello and lost recently signed pitcher Edward Paredes and catcher Mario Sanjur.

Intrigue remains after Detroit's quiet Meetings

December 9, 2016

By Jason Beck/ MLB.com

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. -- The Tigers rolled into the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center for baseball's Winter Meetings this week as one of the most intriguing teams to watch. Four days later, that intrigue remains.

The potential selloff that many clubs anticipated hasn't happened. The surprise addition some might have hoped to see was never an option. The end result was plenty of talks but no action, and a club that has historically been among the most active Winter Meetings players sat dormant.

"I can't say it's surprising," general manager Al Avila said. "It's just a matter of teams looking at their overall payroll and making their moves as they see fit."

The Tigers remain an offseason enigma, their offseason direction developed little more clarity than before. The front office continued to engage in discussions about trades for their veteran players, but with the goal of receiving young talent in return, not simply to purge payroll. They're also gauging what kind of return they could get by trading lefty reliever Justin Wilson or shortstop Jose Iglesias.

As Avila cautioned, they have plenty of time -- not just this offseason, but during the season. They could wait on deals until the non-waiver Trade Deadline next July, then move more aggressively if they're out of contention. They could let the 2017 season play out, allow their payroll to drop through attrition as several vets hit free agency, then look to deal others.

They're willing to wait. In the meantime, they at least gained some insight this week on where the market stands.

"Obviously the idea is if you can make some trades, you can get some talent back to help you with the turnaround," Avila said. "That still could happen. I think I was very clear when I said nothing may happen this winter, because I had a sneaking suspicion this could happen, and it has. But the winter's not over.

"Things could happen down the road. It might be later this winter. It might be in the summer. It might be next year. If we had to go and play with the team as we have it, I know our skipper's very happy, because I know our division is not as strong. So we might have a better chance to win."

Deals done

None.

Rule 5 Draft

Unlike trade talks, the potential for Rule 5 activity came to fruition. Detroit selected left-hander Daniel Stumpf from the Royals' organization, providing a lefty specialist for the bullpen. [More >](#)

Goals accomplished

As odd as it looks to list talking as a goal, the Tigers needed a venue like this -- and the in-person discussions it fuels -- to get a read on the market. They now have a better idea that a youth movement could be a longer, potentially multiyear, process.

On a smaller level, their Rule 5 selection of Stumpf adds some balance to their bullpen.

Unfinished business

Even if the Tigers decide to keep their core group together for one more run at the playoffs, they have some deals to pursue, including Wilson, Anibal Sanchez, and potentially an outfielder with J.D. Martinez or Justin Upton. They need a center fielder until JaCoby Jones is ready, and they need a backup catcher. Both openings could be filled through trades.

"I knew how difficult this was going to be. We know the dilemma we're in. We know the situation we're in. If there's one positive, it's that we have a good team today going into the season. And if we're patient, and if we're prudent, and if we don't panic, things will fall into place as time allows. It's all timing. It's opportunity. You can't force it." -- Avila

Tigers select lefty Stumpf in Rule 5 Draft

December 9, 2016

By Jason Beck/ MLB.com

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. -- The Tigers selected lefty Daniel Stumpf from the Royals' farm system in Thursday morning's Rule 5 Draft to shore up their bullpen depth.

It's the second Rule 5 selection in as many years for Stumpf, who made the Phillies' bullpen out of Spring Training last year. It's also a potential move for protection in Detroit's bullpen if the Tigers trade Justin Wilson, but general manager Al Avila believes Stumpf could find a role whether Wilson stays or goes.

- Complete Rule 5 Draft coverage

"We liked him and we felt that he has a chance to make our club as a left-handed reliever," Avila said. "It has nothing to do with Wilson. It's more that we just like Stumpf. It's not bad to have both."

The Rule 5 Draft allows teams to draft eligible players who aren't on their club's 40-man roster, generally after five professional seasons. Teams invest \$100,000 to make a selection, who must remain on the Major League roster the entire season or be offered back to their previous club for \$50,000.

Stumpf strikes out Hicks

Stumpf strikes out Hicks

3/6/16: Daniel Stumpf strikes out Aaron Hicks in the 4th inning

Stumpf turns 26 years old next month. He hadn't pitched above Double-A ball when the Phillies selected him in last year's Rule 5 Draft, but he found a spot in Philadelphia with his combination of low-90s fastball, slider and changeup.

Stumpf pitched in seven games for the Phillies, allowing six runs on nine hits over five innings with two walks and two strikeouts. He pitched in three games in the season's opening week, facing a single batter in two of them as a lefty specialist, before he was suspended for 80 games on April 14 following a positive test for an anabolic steroid.

Once Stumpf served his suspension, he returned to the Philadelphia bullpen for four games in July before the Phillies sent him back to the Royals. He finished out the season back in the Royals' system at Double-A Arkansas, posting a 2.11 ERA with 14 hits allowed and 26 strikeouts over 21 1/3 innings.

The Tigers also selected two players in the Minor League portion of the Rule 5 Draft, providing some potential depth at Triple-A Toledo. They selected right-hander Sean Donatello from the Marlins' system along with outfielder Elvis Rubio from the Brewers' organization.

The 26-year-old Donatello posted a 3-1 record with a 3.40 ERA and seven saves in 46 appearances for Double-A Jacksonville. Rubio, a 22-year-old right-handed hitter, batted .223 (102-for-457) with seven home runs and 46 RBIs in 125 games between Class A Wisconsin and Class A Advanced Brevard County.

TigerFest tickets on sale today at 10 a.m.

December 9, 2016

By WDIV.com Staff/ WDIV.com

If you've ever wanted to walk through the Tigers clubhouse at Comerica Park, or sit on the bench in the Tigers dugout, you'll want to check out TigerFest.

Tickets for the January 21st event go on sale today at 10 a.m.

You can get them by calling 866-66-TIGER or by visiting tigers.com/tigerfest.

Tickets are \$28 for adults and \$14 for kids 12-and-under. All fans attending will receive a free TigerFest knit hat, courtesy of Visit Central Florida. A full list of players attending TigerFest will be announced in early January.

Tigers players and coaches will be at photo stations, autograph tables and on three separate stages featuring Q & A sessions, seminars and clinics.

All TigerFest activities include:

- Explore the Tigers Home Clubhouse, including an archival display featuring historic baseball artifacts.
- Visitors' dugout will be open for fans to visit and take photos.
- Self-guided tours, which includes stops in the Ernie Harwell Media Center, a luxury suite, the Jack Daniel's Champions Club, and select Detroit Tigers executive offices.
- Detroit Tigers ice sculptures, including LIVE sculpting demonstrations by Ice Sculptures Ltd.
- David Chandler and the staff from Chandler Bats will operate an authentic bat lathe and provide LIVE baseball bat carving demonstrations throughout the day.
- Learn more about Detroit Tigers season and group ticket plans, fantasy camps and experiences.
- Enjoy the Visit Central Florida display area to learn more about the official Detroit Tigers Spring Training Vacations and the exciting attractions and entertainment destinations throughout Central Florida.
- Detroit Tigers Authentics featuring one-of-a-kind authentic signed items and game-used memorabilia.
- Unique Tigers items at the Detroit Tigers Foundation Collectible Sale.

Event Activities for Children:

- The Detroit Tigers Kids Zone featuring:
 - Kids-only autograph table
 - Kids stage featuring Tigers player book readings, games and interactive activities. Special bleacher seating is available for parents and kids.
 - Free face painting and caricatures
 - Baseball-themed games and activities for kids
 - Official 2017 Kids Club enrollment

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2016

TEAM	PLAYER	TRANSACTION
Atlanta Braves	Williams Perez	Released
Atlanta Braves	Luke Jackson	Traded From from Rangers, Texas (for RHP Tyrell Jenkins & LHP Brady Feigl)
Boston Red Sox	Josh Rutledge	Drafted Via Rule 5 from Minors
Boston Red Sox	Mitch Moreland	Signed as Free Agent, (2017)(one-year contract)
Detroit Tigers	Daniel Stumpf	Drafted Via Rule 5 from Minors
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	Jared Hoying	Signed to a Minor League Contract
Texas Rangers	Tyrell Jenkins	Traded From from Braves, Atlanta (w/LHP Brady Feigl for RHP Luke Jackson)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2016

TEAM	PLAYER	TRANSACTION
Arizona Diamondbacks	Fernando Rodney	Signed as Free Agent, (2017)(one-year contract)
Chicago Cubs	Wade Davis	Traded From from Royals, Kansas City (for OF Jorge Soler)

[Colorado Rockies](#) [Ian Desmond](#) Signed as Free Agent, (2017-2021; Opt 2022)(five-year contract)

[Kansas City Royals](#) [Jorge Soler](#) Traded From from Cubs, Chi. Cubs (for RHP Wade Davis)

[Miami Marlins](#) [Jeff Locke](#) Signed as Free Agent, (2017)(one-year contract)

[Milwaukee Brewers](#) [Steven Geltz](#) Refused Minor League Assignment - Free Agent

[New York Yankees](#) Joe Mantiply Signed to a Minor League Contract

[New York Yankees](#) [Matt Holliday](#) Signed as Free Agent, (2017)(one-year contract)

[San Francisco Giants](#) [Tim Federowicz](#) Signed to a Minor League Contract

[Seattle Mariners](#) [Chris Heston](#) Traded From from Giants, San Francisco (for player to be named)

[Seattle Mariners](#) [Richie Shaffer](#) Designated for Assignment

[Texas Rangers](#) [Carlos Gomez](#) Signed as Free Agent, (2017)(one-year contract)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2016

TEAM	PLAYER	TRANSACTION
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[Atlanta Braves](#) [Eric O'Flaherty](#) Signed to a Minor League Contract

[Chicago White Sox](#) [Yoan Moncada](#) Traded From from Red Sox, Boston (for LHP Chris Sale, five-player deal)

[Houston Astros](#) [C.J. Riefenhauser](#) Signed to a Minor League Contract

[Milwaukee Brewers](#) [Travis Shaw](#) Traded From from Red Sox, Boston (for RHP Tyler Thornburg, 5-player deal)

[Philadelphia Phillies](#) [Michael Mariot](#) Designated for Assignment

[Philadelphia Phillies](#) [Joaquin Benoit](#) Signed as Free Agent, (2017)(one-year contract)

[San Francisco Giants](#) [Bryan Morris](#) Signed to a Minor League Contract