



# PRESS RELEASE

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## NATIONALS MINOR LEAGUE REPORT SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

**NOTHING MINOR ABOUT IT:** Washington Nationals' minor league affiliates posted the 9th-best minor-league record in baseball this year, combining on a 432-405 (.516) mark...it establishes the first winning season for the Nationals' minor league organization since baseball returned to the nation's capital in 2005...including this year, Washington's farm system has improved its finish in the overall organizational standings each of the last four seasons...a closer look:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Win</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>Rank</u>
2008	432	405	.516	9
2007	378	437	.464	25
2006	356	468	.432	28
2005	302	387	.438	30

**AND THE AWARD GOES TO...:** Washington Nationals' minor league prospects earned 17 All-Star selections, garnered 16 Player or Pitcher of the Week citations, and won 3 All-Star Game awards this year...a closer look:

### ALL-STAR SELECTIONS:

<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>TEAM</u>
RHP Garrett Mock	Triple-A Columbus	# OF Michael Burgess	Single-A Hagerstown
RHP Bobby Brownlie	Double- Harrisburg	* INF Bill Rhinehart	Single-A Hagerstown
OF Mike Daniel	Double- Harrisburg	C Sean Rooney	Single-A Hagerstown
RHP Jordan Zimmermann	Double- Harrisburg	RHP P.J. Dean	Short-Season Single-A Vermont
RHP Adrian Alaniz	Single-A Potomac	OF Michael Guerrero	Short-Season Single-A Vermont
* OF Edgardo Baez	Single-A Potomac	C Derek Norris	Short-Season Single-A Vermont
INF Matt Rogelstad	Single-A Potomac	OF Chris Curran	Rookie-level GCL
RHP Craig Stammen	Single-A Potomac	SS Esmailyn Gonzalez	Rookie-level GCL
RHP Josh Wilkie	Single-A Potomac	* - MVP	# - HR Derby Champ

### PLAYERS OF THE WEEK:

<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>PRESENTED BY</u>
OF Michael Burgess	Hagerstown	April 21-27	MILB.com
RHP Jason Bergmann	Columbus	April 28-May 4	MILB.com
RHP J. Zimmermann	Potomac	April 28-May 4	MILB.com
INF Bill Rhinehart	Hagerstown	April 28-May 4	MILB.com
LHP Cory VanAllen	Harrisburg	May 5-11	MILB.com
LHP Cory VanAllen	Harrisburg	May 5-11	BOA Eastern League
INF/OF Kory Casto	Columbus	May 19-25	MILB.com
OF Edgardo Baez	Potomac	June 2-8	MILB.com
OF Leonard Davis	Potomac	June 16-22	MILB.com
INF Steve Souza	Vermont	June 23-29	MILB.com
OF Marvin Lowrance	Potomac	June 30-July 6	MILB.com
OF Michael Guerrero	Vermont	June 30-July 6	MILB.com
RHP Craig Stammen	Harrisburg	July 7-13	MILB.com
RHP Craig Stammen	Harrisburg	July 7-13	BOA Eastern League
RHP Luis Atilano	Potomac	July 21-27	MILB.com
C Derek Norris	Vermont	July 28-August 3	MILB.com

**ON THE FAST TRACK: OF Leonard Davis** was named Nationals Minor League Player of the Year, hitting .310 with 28 doubles, 25 home runs, 76 RBI, a .365 on-base percentage and a .567 slugging percentage in a combined 122 games at the top three levels of the Nationals' player development system...he paced Washington farmhands in home runs and OPS (.932), while ranking fourth in RBI.

**THE ZIM REAPER: RHP Jordan Zimmermann** earned Nationals Minor League Pitcher of the Year honors, going a combined 10-3 with a 2.89 ERA in 25 games (24 starts) with Harrisburg and Potomac of the Single-A Carolina League...Zimmermann, 22, led Washington farmhands in ERA and strikeouts, and finished tied for first in wins.

**ROGER THAT: OF Roger Bernadina** led full-season Washington farmhands in batting (.336), hits (151) and runs (78) while ranking 2nd with 41 stolen bases...the 24-year-old was rated in *Baseball America's* "Best Tools" survey of league managers as the Best Baserunner in the Double-A Eastern League...in a combined 119 games at the minor league level with Triple-A Columbus and Harrisburg, Bernadina collected 24 doubles, 10 triples, 9 homers, 54 RBI and a .400 on-base percentage...the Curacao native was promoted to the big league on June 28, and made his MLB debut the following day vs. Baltimore.

**BURGESS KING: OF Michael Burgess** paced professional baseball with 28 outfield assists...Burgess was rated as possessing the Best Outfield Arm in the Single-A South Atlantic League according to *Baseball America's* annual "Best Tools" survey voted upon by league managers...Burgess, 19, finished 2nd among Nationals minor leaguers with 24 home runs and tied for 2nd with 79 RBI.

**KILLER SMILE(Y): SS Esmailyn "Smiley" Gonzalez** was selected as the GCL MVP and earned season-ending All-Star honors after hitting .343 (62-for-181) to win the batting title...in addition to the batting crown, the 18-year-old also led the league with a .431 OBP, while ranking among the league leaders in hits (2nd, 62), runs (2nd, 42), RBI (T3rd, 33), total bases (T5th, 86) and doubles (T10th, 12).

**WINNING WAYS:** The Potomac Nationals became the first full-season Washington affiliate to win a championship by capturing the Single-A Carolina League crown, while the DSL Nationals 1 claimed the DSL title for the second straight year...including the rookie-level GCL Nationals, each of Washington's three minor league affiliates to participate in postseason play advanced to their respective league's championship series.

**WELCOME TO THE FAMILY:** Earlier this week, the Nationals and the Syracuse Chiefs of the Triple-A International League officially signed a 2-year player development contract that runs through the 2010 season.

**EXTENDED FAMILY:** Last week, the Nationals announced they have signed two-year extensions to their player development contracts with the Hagerstown Suns of the Single-A South Atlantic League and the Vermont Lake Monsters of the short-season Single-A New York-Penn League.

**FALL BALL, BABY:** RHP Adam Carr, INF/OF Leonard Davis, SS Ian Desmond, LHP Ross Detwiler, INF Bill Rhinehart, LHP Cory VanAllen and RHP Zech Zinicola will each play for the Peoria Saguaros in the Arizona Fall League following the season...Washington prospects will join farmhands from the Chicago White Sox, New York Mets, St. Louis Cardinals and San Diego Padres on the Saguaros roster...additionally, Columbus Clippers hitting coach Rick Eckstein will serve as a coach for the Saguaros...the AFL, regarded throughout professional baseball as the "finishing school" for Major League Baseball's top prospects, begins its 17th season on October 7.

**MORE FALL BALL:** A host of other Nationals prospects, including SS Esmailyn Gonzalez, OF Michael Burgess, OF Justin Maxwell, OF Destin Hood, SS Danny Espinosa, RHP Colton Willems, LHP Jack McGeary, LHP Josh Smoker and LHP Graham Hicks will play for Washington's Instructional League club in Viera, FL...the first workout took place September 17, and a 15-game slate begins today, September 24.

**Triple-A Columbus Clippers**  
**International League West Division**  
**69-73, 3rd Place, 18.0 Games Back**

**COLUMBUS CHRONICLES:** In their second and final year as a Washington affiliate, the Columbus Clippers finished in 3rd place with a 69-73 record, 18.5 games behind first place Louisville (Reds) in the International League West Division...the Columbus offense ranked 2nd among Washington affiliates and T4th out of 14 teams in the IL with a .264 batting average...the Clippers pitching staff notched 47 saves, the second-best total in the IL...**OF Roger Bernadina** hit .351 with 13 doubles, 4 triples, 4 home runs, 16 RBI and 15 steals in 47 games in his first taste of the Triple-A level...he hit safely in 16 straight games to close the season, batting .375 (27-for-72) during the tear...Bernadina successfully swiped 15 of 17 bags (88%) with the Clippers...**RHP Collin Balester**, who entered the season as the Nationals' top right-handed pitching prospect according to *Baseball America*, went 9-3 with a 4.00 ERA in 15 starts...**RHP Shairon Martis** entered the year ranked as Washington's No. 18 prospect according to *BA*, and was selected to play for the World Team at the 2008 XM All-Star Futures Game played at Yankee Stadium in July...**RHP Marco Estrada** enjoyed his first action at the Triple-A level, going 3-3 with a 3.58 ERA in 12 starts before his August 19 promotion to the big leagues...**RHP Tyler Clippard** paced the Clippers in games started (27), innings, (143.0) and strikeouts (125)...**LHP Mike O'Connor** went 5-3 with a 2.17 ERA in 16 starting assignments...**1B Larry Broadway**, who was rated as the Best Defensive First Baseman in the IL according to *BA's* annual "Best Tools" survey, led the team with 55 RBI.

**Columbus Mid-Season All-Stars (July 16 vs. Pacific Coast League All-Stars)**

RHP Garrett Mock (allowed one hit in 0.2 scoreless innings)

**League Leaders**

Player	Category	Rank	Total
Tyler Clippard	Games Started	T2nd	27
Tyler Clippard	Strikeouts	7th	125
Pete Orr	Triples	T2nd	11
Brian Sanches	Saves	T10th	13

**Organizational Players and Pitchers of the Month**

April            INF Pete Orr – batted .305 (25-for-81) with 6 doubles and 7 triples in 27 games.  
                   RHP Brian Sanches – posted a 1.17 ERA (2 ER/15.1 IP) with 23 strikeouts in 11 appearances.

May             INF Yurendell de Caster – posted a .354 OBP, hitting 4 HR and 17 RBI in 29 games  
                   RHP Tyler Clippard – went 4-1 with a 1.91 ERA (7 ER/33.0 IP) in 6 starts.

June            INF Larry Broadway – batted .348 (32-for-92) with 6 doubles, 4 homers and 16 RBI in 26 games.  
                   RHP Collin Balester – went 4-0 with a 2.82 ERA (7 ER/22.0 IP) in 4 starts.

July             OF Jorge Padilla – hit .310 (31-for-100) with a homer, 7 RBI and 7 stolen bases.  
                   RHP Garrett Mock – went 2-1 with a 2.52 ERA (7 ER/25.0 IP) and 28K against just 6BB in 4 starts.

August         OF Leonard Davis – batted .277 (28-for-101) with 7 homers and 25 RBI in 29 games.  
                   RHP Levale Speigner – went 1-0 with a 0.00 ERA in 18.1 innings (9 appearances).

**Double-A Harrisburg Senators**  
**Eastern League Southern Division**  
**73-69, 3rd Place, 11.0 Games Back**

**SENATORIAL CAMPAIGN:** The Senators posted a 73-69 record, finishing 3rd in the Southern Division of the Eastern League, 11.0 games behind Bowie (Orioles)...the 73 wins marks an 18-game improvement over the 2007 season total of 55...Harrisburg, the longest-tenured affiliate in the Nationals' system, clinched its first winning season since 2002...the Senators led Washington minor league clubs and ranked 2nd in the Eastern League with 138 home runs...**RHP Jordan Zimmermann** earned mid-season Eastern League All-Star honors, his second All-Star selection in as many years as a professional...the 22-year-old went 7-2 with a 3.21 ERA (38 ER/106.0 IP) in 20 starts with Harrisburg...**OF Roger Bernadina** batted .323 with 11 doubles, 7 triples, 5 homers, 38 RBI and a team-best 26 stolen bases in 73 games...**RHP Marco Estrada**, selected in the 6th round of the 2005 Draft, went 6-3 with a 2.66 ERA in 13 starts with Harrisburg before his promotion to Triple-A...**OF Leonard Davis** hit a stout .488 (20-for-41) with 8 runs, one double, 4 home runs, 10 RBI, a .588 on-base percentage and an .805 slugging percentage during a brief 10-game stint...**LHP Yunior Novoa**, 22, went 2-1 with a 2.44 ERA and a .195 batting average against in 32 appearances...the Dominican Republic native tossed 19.0 consecutive scoreless innings (10 appearances) from July 19-August 21...**C Luke Montz**, selected in the 17th round of the 2003 First-Year Player Draft, batted .282 with 14 doubles, 14 homers and 53 RBI in 63 games before earning a promotion to Columbus...Montz threw out 43 percent of would-be basestealers.

**Harrisburg Mid-Season All-Stars (July 16 vs. North Division All-Stars)**

RHP Bobby Brownlie (entered the game in relief and tossed a perfect inning)  
 OF Mike Daniel (started in right field and went 1-for-3 with a walk)  
 RHP Jordan Zimmermann (did not play due to coach's decision)

**League Leaders**

Player	Category	Rank	Total
Roger Bernadina	Stolen Bases	T2nd	26
Roger Bernadina	Walks	T4th	7
Bobby Brownlie	WHIP	7th	1.29

**Organizational Players and Pitchers of the Month**

April            C Luke Montz – hit .371 (23-for-62) with 5 home runs, 24 RBI in 18 games.  
                   RHP Bobby Brownlie – went 3-0 with a 2.79 ERA (9 ER/29.0 IP) in 5 starts.

May             OF Roger Bernadina – batted .351 (34-for-97) with 7 doubles, 6 triples, and 21 RBI in 28 games.  
                   RHP Marco Estrada – went 4-0 with a 0.94 ERA (3 ER/ 28.2 IP) and 30 strikeouts in 5 starts.

June            OF Mike Daniel – in 27 games, hit .284 (27-for-95) with 4 home runs and 17 RBI.  
                   RHP Jordan Zimmermann – went 1-1 while limiting opposing hitters to a .224 BAA in 6 starts.

July             INF Bill Rhinehart – batted .299 (32-for-107) with 11 doubles, 4 HR and a team-best 19 RBI in 30g.  
                   RHP Jordan Zimmerman – posted a 4-0 record with a 1.82 ERA (8 ER/39.2 IP) and 39K in 6 starts.

August        INF Seth Bynum – hit 9 home runs with 23 RBI in 29 games.  
                   LHP Yunior Novoa – went 2-1 with a 1.89 ERA (4 ER/19.0 IP) and 24 K's in 8 games.

**Single-A Potomac Nationals – Carolina League Champions**  
**Carolina League Northern Division**  
**First Half: 42-28, First Place, 7.0 Games Ahead – Northern Division Champs**  
**Second Half: 37-33, First Place, 3.0 Games Ahead – Northern Division Champs**

**WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!** The Potomac Nationals captured the Single-A Carolina League Championship, defeating the Myrtle Beach Pelicans (Braves), 3-1, in the best-of-five Mills Cup series...the P-Nats went 6-1 in the postseason en route to winning the title...it marks the first championship for a full-season Nationals' affiliate since baseball returned to the nation's capital in 2005...the P-Nats went a combined 79-61, winning both halves of the CL regular season to become the first team in the 29-year history of the franchise to accomplish the feat...Potomac had a franchise-record 69 different players in uniform during the year...**OF Leonard Davis**, 24, batted .332 with 14 doubles, 14 homers and 37 RBI in 63 games with the P-Nats...he earned Single-A Carolina League Topps Player of the Month honors for June, hitting .407 (37-for-91) with 28 runs scored, 6 home runs and 16 RBI in 27 games...**RHP Jordan Zimmermann** dominated the CL, going 3-1 with one save and a 1.65 ERA in 5 games (4 starts) before his promotion to Double-A on May 4...**RHP Adrian Alaniz**, an 8th-round pick from the 2007 Draft, went 9-0 with a 2.62 ERA in 12 starts with the P-Nats...**LHP Ross Detwiler**, Washington's top pick (6th overall) in the 2007 First-Year Player Draft, finished 4th among Washington farmhands with 114 strikeouts...**LHP Cory VanAllen** allowed just 2 earned runs in 27.1 innings (0.66 ERA) en route to going 3-0 in 5 appearances (4 starts)...**RHP Josh Wilkie**, who spent the entire season with the P-Nats, posted a 2.08 ERA in 60.2 innings (46 appearances).

**Potomac Mid-Season All-Stars (June 24 vs. California League All-Stars)**

RHP Adrian Alaniz (did not play due to promotion to Double-A Harrisburg)  
 OF Edgardo Baez (named ASG MVP after hitting a game-winning opposite-field solo home run)  
 INF Matt Rogelstad (started at second base...went 0-for-2)  
 RHP Craig Stammen (did not play due to promotion to Double-A Harrisburg)  
 RHP Josh Wilkie (struck out 2 in a perfect inning of work)

**League Leaders**

Player	Category	Rank	Total
Adrian Alaniz	Wins	T9th	9
Dee Brown	Batting Average	4th	.296
Dee Brown	On-Base Percentage	8th	.370
Ross Detwiler	Strikeouts	7th	114
Michael Martinez	Stolen Bases	7th	25
Michael Martinez	Triples	T7th	6

**Organizational Players and Pitchers of the Month**

April            INF Matt Rogelstad – batted .325 (26-for-80) with 2 homers and 10 RBI in 21 games.  
                     LHP Cory VanAllen – went 3-0 with a 0.66 ERA (2 ER/27.1 IP) and a .186 BAA in 5g (4 starts).

May             INF Chris Marrero – blasted 6 home runs and drove in 17 runs in 28 games.  
                     RHP Adrian Alaniz – went 5-0 with a 2.73 ERA (10 ER/33.0 IP) and a .183 BAA (21-for-115) in 6g.

June            INF Leonard Davis – hit .407 (37-for-91) with 28 runs scored, 6 homers and 16 RBI in 28 games.  
                     RHP Josh Wilkie – fired 11.0 shutout innings in 6 appearances.

July             OF Dee Brown – hit .351 (26-for-74) with a homer and 14 RBI in 21 contests.  
                     RHP Luis Atilano – went 4-0 with a 2.59 ERA (7 ER/24.1 IP) in 5 appearances (4 starts).

August        INF Andrew Lefave – hit .273 (24-for-88) with 7 doubles and 19 RBI in 26 games.  
                     RHP Luis Atilano – posted a 2.22 ERA (6 ER/24.1 IP) over 5 starts.

**Single-A Hagerstown Suns**  
**South Atlantic League Northern Division**  
**First Half: 34-35, 5th Place, 6.5 Games Back**  
**Second Half: 27-43, 6th Place, 18.0 Games Back**

**SOAK UP THE SUNS:** The Hagerstown Suns finished the year with an overall record of 61-78, going 34-35 in the first half and 27-43 in the 2nd half...the Suns batters ranked 3rd in the South Atlantic League with 99 home runs...

**OF Michael Burgess, INF Bill Rhinehart and C Sean Rooney** were selected to play in the Single-A South Atlantic League All-Star Game...**Burgess** had 26 doubles, 18 home runs and 60 RBI in 112 games before an August 11 call-up to Potomac...the 19-year-old won the Home Run Derby at the SAL All-Star Game...he earned MILB.com Player of the Week honors for April 21-27...**Burgess** was rated as possessing the Best Outfield Arm in the South Atlantic League according to *Baseball America's* annual "Best Tools" survey voted upon by league managers...**Rhinehart**, 23, was named the SAL All-Star Game "Star of Stars" (MVP) after going 3-for-3 with a homer and 3 RBI in the contest...he hit .295 with 22 doubles, 9 home runs, 56 RBI and a .490 slugging percentage in 65 games...at the time of his June 20 promotion to Potomac, **Rhinehart** was leading the team in hits (77), doubles and RBI...he was named MILB.com Player of the Week for the period of April 28-May 4, when he hit .474 (9-for-19) with 2 home runs and 9 RBI in 6 games...per *Baseball America's* annual "Best Tools" survey, **Rhinehart** was rated as the Best Defensive First Baseman in the SAL...**Rooney** finished 6th in the league with a .314 batting average...**RHP Dan Leatherman** struck out 60 in 50.1 innings, an average of 11 strikeouts per 9.0 innings...he went 5-for-5 in save opportunities.

**Hagerstown Mid-Season All-Stars (June 16 vs. Southern Division All-Stars)**

OF Michael Burgess (Home Run Derby champion...started in right field...went 0-for-3 with an RBI groundout)  
 INF Bill Rhinehart (started at first base...named ASG MVP after going 3-for-3 with 3 RBI)  
 C Sean Rooney (entered the game as a defensive replacement...went 1-for-1 with a single)

**League Leaders**

Player	Category	Rank	Total
Michael Burgess	Home Runs	T8th	18
Cole Kimball	Starts	T2nd	27
Cole Kimball	Strikeouts	10th	122
Sean Rooney	Batting Average	6th	.314
Boomer Whiting	Stolen Bases	T9th	33

**Organizational Players and Pitchers of the Month**

April           OF Michael Burgess – blasted 8 home runs with 18 RBI in 25 games.  
                   RHP Terrence Engles – went 3-0 with a 1.89 ERA (4 ER/19.0 IP) in 6 games (3 starts).

May            INF Bill Rhinehart – hit .322 (37-for-115) with 5 HR and 30 RBI in 28 games.  
                   RHP Atahualpa Severino – 3-1 with a 2.84 ERA (6 ER/19.0 IP) in 8 appearances.

June           C Sean Rooney – batted .365 (23-for-63) with 13 RBI and a .412 OBP in 17 games.  
                   RHP Kyle Gunderson – went 2-0 with a 1.46 ERA (2 ER/12.1 IP) in 8g...3-for-3 in save chances.

July            INF Tim Pahuta – hit 7 doubles, 4 home runs and had 20 BRI in 29 games.  
                   RHP Brad Meyers – posted a 1.80 ERA (7 ER/35.0 IP) in 6 starts.

August        INF Tim Pahuta – went 31-for-106 (.292) with 4 homers and 21 BRI in 28 games.  
                   RHP Cole Kimball – posted a 3.38 ERA (12 ER/32.0 IP) and a .212 BAA in 6 starts.

**Short-Season Single-A Vermont Lake Monsters**  
**New York-Penn League Stedler Division**  
**33-42, 3rd Place, 8.0 Games Back**

**MONSTER MASH:** Vermont posted a 33-42 record, finishing 3rd in the Stedler Division of the New York-Penn League, 8.0 games behind Lowell...the Lake Monsters ranked 3rd among Washington affiliates with a 3.84 ERA...Vermont's 44 home runs were the 4th most in franchise history...**C Derek Norris**, selected in the 4th round of the 2007 First-Year Player Draft, led the NY-Penn League with a Vermont franchise-record 63 walks and a .444 on-base percentage...the 2nd-best OBP behind Norris' was 41 points lower at .403 (SS Brent Wyatt – Oneonta)...in 3 games, July 28-30, the 19-year-old reached base via hit (6) or walk (10) in 16 of 18 plate appearances...Norris threw out 47% of would-be basestealers...after signing late (August 20), **SS Danny Espinosa**, Washington's 3rd-round pick in the '08 Draft, hit .328 with 4 home runs and 17 RBI in 19 games...**RHP P.J. Dean**, who was a '08 NY-Penn League All-Star, went 4-1 with a 1.57 ERA and a .169 BAA in 10 starts...Dean, 19, allowed 2 earned runs or less in 9 of those 10 starting assignments...**LHP Will Atwood** posted a 2-1 record with a 2.41 ERA in 12 starts...Atwood, a 12th-round pick in this year's Draft, struck out 60 and walked only 9 (6.6 strikeout-to-walk ratio) in 52.1 innings...**LHP Kevin Light** went 2-0 with a 1.80 ERA, while striking out 42 in 40.0 innings of work...Light signed with Washington as a non-drafted free agent out of Bowling Green State University (OH)...**OF Michael Guerrero** earned MILB.com Player of the Week honors for the week of June 30-July 6, when he batted .367 (11-for-30) with 4 runs scored, 4 doubles, 3 homers and 11 RBI in 7 games.

**Vermont Mid-Season All-Stars (August 19 vs. American League All-Stars)**

RHP P.J. Dean (did not play due to coach's decision)  
 OF Michael Guerrero (started in right field...went 0-for-2)  
 C Derek Norris (entered the game as the designated hitter...went 0-for-1 with a walk)

**League Leaders**

Player	Category	Rank	Total
Jake Dugger	Walks	2nd	41
Michael Guerrero	RBI	T9th	41
Derek Norris	Walks	1st	63
Derek Norris	On-Base Percentage	1st	.444
Derek Norris	Home Runs	T6th	10
Derek Norris	Runs	9th	42
Brad Peacock	Innings Pitched	T9th	75.0
David Slovak	Games	10th	24
Steven Souza	Stolen Bases	T9th	14

**Organizational Players and Pitchers of the Month**

July                    C Derek Norris – went 29-for-83 (.349) with 5 homers, 17 RBI, 20 walks and a .486 OBP in 25g.  
                           RHP P.J. Dean – in 4 starts, went 1-0 and did not allow an earned run in 15.0 innings of work.

August                INF Jake Smolinski – hit .320 (24-for-75) with 13 runs, 7 doubles and 6 RBI in 18 games.  
                           LHP Will Atwood – went 2-0 with a 2.22 ERA (6 ER/24.1 IP) and 33 strikeouts in 5 starts.

**Rookie-level Gulf Coast League Nationals**  
**Gulf Coast League East Division**  
**33-22, First Place, 2.5 Games Ahead**

**ENGULFED:** The GCL Nationals won the East Division title, finishing with a 33-22 record...after defeating the GCL Twins in the single-elimination semifinals round, the Nationals clinched the first GCL championship series appearance for a Nationals/Expos affiliate since 1996...the GCL Nationals fell to the GCL Phillies, 2-1, in the best-of-3-series for the championship...**SS Esmailyn "Smiley" Gonzalez** was named the GCL MVP and earned season-ending All-Star honors...the 18-year-old won the GCL batting title, completing his second domestic season with a .343 batting average...in addition to the batting crown, Gonzalez also led the GCL with a .431 OBP, while ranking among the league leaders in hits (2nd, 62), runs (2nd, 42), RBI (T3rd, 33), total bases (T5th, 86) and doubles (T10th, 12)...**LHP Jack McGeary**, 19, led the league with 64 strikeouts...the southpaw posted a 4.9 strikeout-to-walk ratio (64 K/13 BB) in 12 starts...McGeary went 2-1 with a 2.19 ERA (7 ER/28.2 IP) and 35 strikeouts in his final 5 regular season starts...**OF Chris Curran** earned year-end All-Star honors...paced the GCL with 65 hits and 55 runs after being drafted in the 22nd round of this June's Draft out Miami Dade Community College...**RHP Paul Demny**, a 6th-round selection in the '08 Draft, went 3-0 with a 1.70 ERA (5 ER/26.1 IP) in his first 9 games (5 starts) as a professional.

**GCL Season-Ending All-Stars**

OF Chris Curran  
 SS Esmailyn Gonzalez

**League Leaders**

Player	Category	Rank	Total
Chris Curran	Hits	1st	65
Chris Curran	Runs	1st	55
Chris Curran	Walks	T3rd	28
Chris Curran	Stolen Bases	T9th	14
Marcos Frias	Innings Pitched	1st	64.2
Esmailyn Gonzalez	Batting Average	1st	.343
Esmailyn Gonzalez	On-Base Percentage	1st	.431
Esmailyn Gonzalez	Hits	2nd	62
Esmailyn Gonzalez	Runs	2nd	42
Esmailyn Gonzalez	RBI	T3rd	33
Esmailyn Gonzalez	Total Bases	T5th	86
Esmailyn Gonzalez	Doubles	T10th	12
J.R. Higley	Doubles	T10th	12
Daniel Killian	RBI	9th	28
Ronnie Labrie	On-Base Percentage	3rd	.423
Ronnie Labrie	Batting Average	8th	.324
Ronnie Labrie	Runs	T8th	34
Jack McGeary	Strikeouts	1st	64
Jack McGeary	Starts	1st	12
Jack McGeary	Innings Pitched	2nd	59.2
Juan Padron	Walks	T6th	27

**Organizational Players and Pitchers of the Month**

July                    INF Esmailyn Gonzalez – hit .341 (45-for-132) with 25 runs, 10 doubles and 25 RBI in 34 games.  
 RHP Patrick Arnold – went 4-0 with a 1.80 ERA (5 ER/25.0 IP) in 5 games (3 starts).

August                INF Esmailyn Gonzalez – batted .358 (24-for-67) with 2 home runs, 8 RBI and a .469 OBP in 21g.  
 LHP Jack McGeary – in 4 starts, went 2-1 with a 2.28 ERA (6 ER/23.2 IP) with 28 strikeouts.