

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE



2007 Governors' Cup Playoff Preview



For Immediate Release

September 5, 2007

Governors' Cup Playoffs Begin Tonight; Four Teams Vie for 2007 International League Championship

The International League postseason begins tonight in the south, with Durham and Richmond the hosts as the quest for the Governors' Cup begins. The Durham Bulls, who won back-to-back championships in 2002 and 2003, return to the playoffs for the first time in three years as winners of the IL South. Their opponent will be the current two-time defending champions, the Toledo Mud Hens. Toledo was the first team to clinch a postseason berth after they knocked off Indianapolis on August 26, but it wasn't until Sunday night that they knew they'd be matched up with the Bulls in the first round. Durham, after trailing Richmond by 10.0 games earlier this year, came all the way back to win the division by 2.0 games over the Braves. The Bulls hold the distinction of being the last team to successfully dispatch of the Mud Hens in a postseason series, having knocked off Toledo in a three-game sweep in 2002. The Mud Hens got back to the playoffs again in 2005, since which time they have gone 13-5 in postseason play. This year, Toledo took seven out of twelve against Durham, although the Bulls won four of the last five games. The series begins tonight at 7:00 p.m. at Durham Bulls Athletic Park.

The other first round matchup will get underway from Richmond, Virginia at the same time tonight. The IL North Division Champions, the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Yankees, will square off against the Richmond Braves, winners of the Wild Card entry. Richmond hopes to follow the 2005 Indianapolis Indians and 2006 Rochester Red Wings as Wild Card teams that were victorious in the first round of the playoffs. Scranton/Wilkes-Barre, the IL's best regular season team at 84-59, hopes to avoid a repeat of last year when their top-regular season effort was followed by a 3-1 first round defeat to the Wild Card club. Richmond and Scranton/Wilkes-Barre haven't played since May 22, when the Yankees finished off a four-game sweep at The Diamond. This series pits the IL's top scoring offense (Scranton/Wilkes-Barre) against the League's stingiest pitching staff (Richmond).

Playoff Participants Look to Climb Governors' Cup List

Only one team can win the 2007 Governors' Cup Championship, giving clubs a rare chance to win the International League's most coveted prize. Scranton/Wilkes-Barre has never won the trophy since joining the IL in 1989, while Richmond, Toledo, and Durham look to climb higher on the following list of the League's all-time playoff champions. The Braves have a chance to become one of just six active franchises with at least five titles, while Durham and Toledo both look to win their third Governors' Cup of the decade.

ALL-TIME GOVERNORS' CUP CHAMPIONSHIPS

10	Rochester (1939, 1952, 1955, 1956, 1964, 1971, 1974, 1988, 1990, 1997)	2	Baltimore (1944, 1950)
8	Syracuse (1935, 1942, 1943, 1947, 1954, 1969, 1970, 1976)	2	Charlotte (1993, 1999)
7	Columbus (1979, 1980, 1981, 1987, 1991, 1992, 1996)	2	Durham (2002, 2003)
7	Montreal (1941, 1946, 1948, 1949, 1951, 1953, 1958)	2	Indianapolis (1963, 2000)
6	Buffalo (1933, 1936, 1957, 1961, 1998, 2004)	2	Pawtucket (1973, 1984)
5	Tidewater (1972, 1975, 1982, 1983, 1985)	1	Atlanta (1962)
4	Newark (1937, 1938, 1940, 1945)	1	Charleston (1977)
4	Richmond (1978, 1986, 1989, 1994)	1	Havana (1959)
4	Toronto (1934, 1960, 1965, 1966)	1	Jacksonville (1968)
3	Toledo (1967, 2005, 2006)	1	Louisville (2001)
		1	Ottawa (1995)



Breaking Down the Contenders



Durham Bulls

The IL South Division Champions enter the postseason with a fearsome pitching staff and possibly the hottest offensive threat in the IL. Manager Charlie Montoyo's rotation includes IL strikeout king J.P. Howell, IL victories leader Mitch Talbot, and reigning IL Pitcher-of-the-Week Jae Seo, not to mention 6'9" top prospect Jeff Niemann. Montoyo's lineup features the Topps IL Player of the Month for August, Justin Ruggiano, who has hit .385 (45-117) with 7 HR, 19 RBI, and 7 SB since August 1. The Bulls led the International League in both home runs (146) and team ERA (3.59). Durham has been on a roll during the second half of the season, going 38-22 (.633) since July 1 to overtake Richmond for the IL South title.



Richmond Braves

After storming out of the gate earlier this season, the Richmond Braves were able to keep their playoff hopes in tact thanks to a tremendous group of reinforcements from the lower levels of the Atlanta farm system. Several key assets, including SS Brent Lillibridge (.287, 10 HR, 47 RBI), OF Brandon Jones (.300, 4 HR, 26 RBI), and RHP Phil Stockman (1-0, 1.72 ERA) have been promoted from Double-A to help manager Dave Brundage. Richmond led the International League with a .271 team batting average, while the club's pitching staff surrendered the fewest runs (554) of any team. The Braves shouldn't mind playing on the road this postseason – their 40-30 record away from home was the IL's best mark this year.



Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Yankees

For the second straight year, Scranton/Wilkes-Barre enters the playoffs after posting the IL's best regular season record. Manager-of-the-Year Dave Miley leads the League's top scoring offense into the postseason for a first round matchup with Richmond. He also brings with him one of the IL's hottest pitchers in righty Matt DeSalvo, who would have finished 2nd in the circuit with his 2.70 ERA, had he not missed the qualifying standard by less than 2.0 innings. Scranton/Wilkes-Barre won 43 of its last 64 games to run away with the IL North Championship, giving the baseball fans of eastern Pennsylvania dreams of the club's first-ever Governors' Cup title.



Toledo Mud Hens

It was once hard to fathom, but the city of Toledo is becoming a regular host to the Governors' Cup Playoffs. The two-time defending champions won the IL West Division by 8.5 games, the largest margin in the League. Manager Mike Rojas, filling in this season while Larry Parrish recovers from ankle surgery, hasn't missed a beat in guiding his club back to the playoffs. The Mud Hens look to make history by joining the 1979-81 Columbus Clippers as the only teams to win the Governors' Cup in three consecutive seasons. Toledo will rely on its strong pitching staff to make that happen. Righty Jordan Tata has posted a 2.29 ERA in his last three starts since returning from Detroit. He'll be joined in the rotation by the impressive Eulogio De La Cruz, who started the 2006 Bricktown Showdown for the Mud Hens.



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2007 Governors' Cup Playoffs Scranton/WB Yankees vs. Richmond Braves Scranton/WB won Season Series 5-3

- Game One:** Wednesday, September 5 @ The Diamond – 7:00 p.m.
 - Game Two:** Thursday, September 6 @ The Diamond – 7:00 p.m.
 - # Game Three:** Friday, September 7 @ PNC Field – 7:00 p.m.
 - # Game Four:** Saturday, September 8 @ PNC Field – 1:30 p.m. *
 - # Game Five:** Sunday, September 9 @ PNC Field – 6:00 p.m. *
- * denotes if necessary / # denotes game can be seen free on MiLB.TV (www.MiLB.com)

Playoff History – Scranton/Wilkes-Barre and Richmond have never met in the Governors' Cup Playoffs

Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Yankees (84-59)

Manager: Dave Miley (1st season SWB/2nd Yankees)
 Affiliate: New York Yankees
 Qualified: North Division Champion (+7.5)
 Last Time in Playoffs: 2006
 Years in Playoffs/Record: 6 yrs. / 16-20 (.444)
 Last Governors' Cup: N/A
 Team Batting Avg.: .263 / Team ERA: 3.64

Probable Starting Pitchers

- G1: RH Steven White (6-4, 3.34)
- G2: LH Kei Igawa (5-4, 3.69)
- G3: RH Matt DeSalvo (9-5, 2.70)
- G4: RH Jeff Karstens (3-0, 1.74)
- G5: *To Be Determined*

Yankees' Leaders:

Batting Avg.: S. Duncan (.295), A. Chavez (.291)
 Home Runs: S. Duncan (25), *3 players with 11*
 Runs Batted In: S. Duncan (79), A. Chavez (66)
 Stolen Bases: K. Thompson (24), B. Gardner (21)
 Victories: M. DeSalvo (9), C. Wright (8)
 Strikeouts: M. DeSalvo (102), B. Kozlowski (80)
 ERA*: M. DeSalvo (2.70), S. White (3.34)
 Saves: J. Brower (21), C. Britton (8)

* among pitchers with 80 IP

Players to Watch:

- INF Angel Chavez – Utility infielder led SWB with 125 hits and 62 runs scored.
- RHP Matt DeSalvo – 2.70 ERA; finished just 1.1 IP shy of finishing 2nd in IL.
- 3B Mike Kinkade – Hitting .323 between Iowa, Trenton, and SWB this year.
- LHP Ben Kozlowski – Reliever has notched 80 strikeouts in 81.0 IP.
- RHP Jeff Karstens – has pitched at six levels of Yankees' system in 2007.

Richmond Braves (77-64)

Manager: Dave Brundage (1st season)
 Affiliate: Atlanta Braves
 Qualified: Wild Card (+1.5)
 Last Time in Playoffs: 2004
 Years in Playoffs: 21 yrs. / 62-70 (.470)
 Last Governors' Cup: 1994
 Team Batting Avg.: .271 / Team ERA: 3.97

Probable Starting Pitchers

- G1: RH Jeff Bennett (3-5, 3.35)
- G2: RH Blaine Boyer (4-3, 4.30)
- G3: LH Francisley Bueno (1-0, 2.79)
- G4: RH Kevin Barry (5-7, 4.14)
- G5: RH Jeff Bennett (3-5, 3.35)

Braves' Leaders:

Batting Avg.: M. Prado (.316), G. Blanco (.282)
 Home Runs: D. Clark (15), *2 players with 10*
 Runs Batted In: D. Clark (69), W. Timmons (52)
 Stolen Bases: B. Lillibridge (28), G. Blanco (23)
 Victories: M. Acosta (9), B. Hernandez (9)
 Strikeouts: K. Barry (83), T. Hodges (81)
 ERA: K. Barry (4.14), T. Hodges (4.72)
 Saves: M. Acosta (12), J. Devine (4)

Players to Watch:

- 1B Barbaro Canizares – hitting .364 with 20 RBI since August 1.
- RHP Phil Stockman – 1.72 ERA in 9 appearances, held opponents to .132 avg.
- OF Brandon Jones – Hit .353 in first full month in Triple-A this August.
- OF Doug Clark – Led Braves in HR (15), RBI (69), and games played (134).
- SS Brent Lillibridge – Speedy shortstop hitting .287 in 87 games.



INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE



2007 Governors' Cup Playoffs Toledo Mud Hens vs. Durham Bulls Toledo won Season Series 7-5

- # **Game One:** Wednesday, September 5 @ Durham Bulls Athletic Park – 7:00 p.m.
 - # **Game Two:** Thursday, September 6 @ Durham Bulls Athletic Park – 7:00 p.m.
 - # **Game Three:** Friday, September 7 @ Fifth Third Field – 7:00 p.m.
 - # **Game Four:** Saturday, September 8 @ Fifth Third Field – 7:00 p.m. *
 - # **Game Five:** Sunday, September 9 @ Fifth Third Field – 7:00 p.m. *
- * denotes if necessary / # denotes game can be seen free on MiLB.TV (www.MiLB.com)

Playoff History – Durham d. Toledo (3-0) in 2002 Governors' Cup Semi-Finals

Toledo Mud Hens (82-61)

Manager: Mike Rojas (1st season)
Affiliate: Detroit Tigers
Qualified: West Division Champion (+8.5)
Last Time in Playoffs: 2006
Years in Playoffs/Record: 8 yrs. / 27-25 (.519)
Last Governors' Cup: 2006
Team Batting Avg.: .258 / Team ERA: 3.62

Probable Starting Pitchers

G1: RH Dennis Tankersley (10-7, 4.41)
G2: RH Jordan Tata (4-5, 3.05)
G3: RH Eulogio De La Cruz (3-0, 3.52)
G4: *To Be Determined*
G5: *To Be Determined*

Mud Hens' Leaders:

Batting Avg.: T. Perez (.309), J. Hannahan (.295)
Home Runs: M. Hessman (31), R. Raburn (17)
Runs Batted In: M. Hessman (101), T. Perez (69)
Stolen Bases: H. Mateo (24), T. Perez (13)
Victories: R. Chiavacci (12), V. Vasquez (12)
Strikeouts: V. Vasquez (127), R. Chiavacci (126)
ERA: R. Chiavacci (3.39), V. Vasquez (3.48)
Saves: A. Lopez (26), J. Karnuth (6)

Players to Watch:

RHP Aquilino Lopez – Posted 2.39 ERA as Toledo's closer; 26-28 in save opp.
RHP Jeremy Johnson – 3-3, 3.44 ERA in 39 g; possible G4 or G5 starter.
RHP Eulogio De La Cruz – 2006 playoff hero returns to starting role.
OF Andres Torres – Hitting .292 in 42 games since promotion from Double-A.
RHP Ron Chiavacci – Staff ace could return from injury to start G4 or G5.

Durham Bulls (80-63)

Manager: Charlie Montoyo (1st season)
Affiliate: Tampa Bay Devil Rays
Qualified: South Division Champion (+2.0)
Last Time in Playoffs: 2004
Years in Playoffs: 6 yrs. / 25-13 (.658)
Last Governors' Cup: 2003
Team Batting Avg.: .262 / Team ERA: 3.59

Probable Starting Pitchers

G1: LH J.P. Howell (7-8, 3.38)
G2: RH Jeff Niemann (12-6, 3.98)
G3: RH Jae Seo (9-4, 3.69)
G4: RH Mitch Talbot (13-9, 4.53)
G5: RH Jae Kuk Ryu (5-4, 4.04)

Bulls' Leaders:

Batting Avg.: J. Ruggiano (.309), C. Richard (.284)
Home Runs: J. Ruggiano (20), J. Guzman (16)
Runs Batted In: J. Ruggiano (73), J. Guzman (64)
Stolen Bases: J. Ruggiano (26), E. Johnson (16)
Victories: M. Talbot (13), J. Niemann (12)
Strikeouts: J. Howell (145), M. Talbot (124)
ERA: J. Howell (3.38), J. Niemann (3.98)
Saves: C. Orvella (20), *2 players with 5*

Players to Watch:

OF Justin Ruggiano – Topps IL Player of the Month for August.
OF Jason Pridie – Hitting .318 with 10 HR and 39 RBI since June 23.
LHP J.P. Howell – G1 starter led IL with 145 strikeouts in 128.0 IP.
RHP Jae Seo – 3-time IL Pitcher-of-the-Week since joining team in mid-June.
RHP Mitch Talbot – Tied for IL lead with 13 W; 3rd with 161.0 IP.

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE GOVERNORS' CUP PLAYOFFS

ACTIVE PLAYER LIST SEPTEMBER 5, 2007

NORTH DIVISION

SCRANTON/WILKES-BARRE

Manager: Dave Miley
 Coaches: Alvaro Espinosa
 Gil Patterson
 Butch Wynegar

1. T.J. Beam	RHP
2. Colter Bean	RHP
3. Anthony Claggett	RHP
4. Matt DeSalvo	RHP
5. Sean Henn	LHP
6. Kei Igawa	LHP
7. Jeff Karstens	RHP
8. Ben Kozlowski	LHP
9. Charlie Manning	LHP
10. Ross Ohlendorf	RHP
11. Scott Patterson	RHP
12. Steven White	RHP
13. Francisco Cervelli	C
14. Raul Chavez	C
15. Wil Nieves	C
16. Andy Cannizaro	INF
17. Angel Chavez	INF
18. Eric Duncan	INF
19. Juan Francia	INF
20. Mike Kinkade	INF
21. Jose Cruz Jr.	OF
22. Brett Gardner	OF
23. Bronson Sardinha	OF
24. Jamal Strong	OF

Regular Disabled List

J. Brent Cox	RHP
Erubiel Durazo	INF
Justin Christian	OF
Kevin Reese	OF

WILD CARD

RICHMOND

Manager: Dave Brundage
 Coaches: Guy Hansen
 Leon Roberts

1. Kevin Barry	RHP
2. Ryan Basner	RHP
3. Jeff Bennett	RHP
4. Blaine Boyer	RHP
5. Francisley Bueno	LHP
6. Joey Devine	RHP
7. Buddy Hernandez	RHP
8. Trey Hodges	RHP
9. Chad Paronto	RHP
10. Zach Schreiber	RHP
11. Dan Smith	LHP
12. Phil Stockman	RHP
13. Iker Franco	C
14. Ray Serrano	C
15. Derrick Arnold	INF
16. Barbaro Canizares	INF
17. Brent Lillibridge	INF
18. Carlos Mendez	INF
19. Mike Rozema	INF
20. Wes Timmons	INF
21. Larry Bigbie	OF
22. Gregor Blanco	OF
23. Doug Clark	OF
24. Brandon Jones	OF

Regular Disabled List

Jonathan Johnson	RHP
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SOUTH DIVISION

DURHAM

Manager: Charlie Montoyo
 Coaches: Gary Gaetti
 Xavier Hernandez

1. Steve Andrade	RHP
2. Shawn Camp	RHP
3. J.P. Howell	LHP
4. Calvin Medlock	RHP
5. Jeff Niemann	RHP
6. Chad Orvella	RHP
7. Jeff Ridgway	LHP
8. Jae Kuk Ryu	RHP
9. Jae Seo	RHP
10. Brian Shackelford	LHP
11. Mitch Talbot	RHP
12. Dale Thayer	RHP
13. Raul Casanova	C
14. Michel Hernandez	C
15. Wes Bankston	INF
16. Brent Butler	INF
17. Elliot Johnson	INF
18. Evan Longoria	INF
19. Jorge Velandia	INF
20. Jeremy Owens	OF
21. Jason Pridie	OF
22. Chris Richard	OF
23. Justin Ruggiano	OF
24. Jon Weber	OF

WEST DIVISION

TOLEDO

Manager: Mike Rojas
 Coaches: Leon Durham
 Greg Sabat

1. Vic Darensbourg	LHP
2. Eulogio De La Cruz	RHP
3. Jeremy Johnson	RHP
4. Jason Karnuth	RHP
5. Chris Lambert	RHP
6. Aquilino Lopez	RHP
7. Anastacio Martinez	RHP
8. Macay McBride	LHP
9. Clay Rapada	LHP
10. Dennis Tankersley	RHP
11. Jordan Tata	RHP
12. Andrew Graham	C
13. Dane Sardinha	C
14. Erick Almonte	INF
15. Michael Hollimon	INF
16. Max Leon	INF
17. Chris Maples	INF
18. Henry Mateo	INF
19. Chris Shelton	INF
20. Brent Clevlen	OF
21. David Espinosa	OF
22. Jason Perry	OF
23. Andres Torres	OF
24.	

Regular Disabled List

Ron Chiavacci	RHP
Preston Larrison	RHP
Kevin Hooper	INF