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PLAYERS TO WATCH

Andy Perez INF

Andy Perez has been one of the Eastern League's best hitters this season. As of July 10, Perez is the only Eastern League batter with 100 or more Double-A hits this season while his .311 average ranks third amongst league hitters. Perez had 13 hits in his first six July games this season.

Connor Staine RHP

Staine has been Hartford's most used pitcher this season. As of July 10, Staine's 79 IP ranks as the second-most in the Eastern League behind Baysox lefty Sebastian Gongora (79.1). Staine's pitched to a 4.22 ERA while leading the Yard Goats in starts (15), wins (5), and strikeouts (79).



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Peyton Graham INF

Graham has paced Erie's offense this season. Graham, a 2nd round pick by Detroit in 2022, leads the Eastern League with a .428 OBP and ranks fifth with a .299 batting average entering the break. Graham has six games of three or more hits this season, including going 6-for-7 in a win against Akron on July 1.

Andrew Sears LHP

Sears has been one of the SeaWolves' best arms since being promoted from High-A West Michigan in mid-June. Sears, the Tigers' No. 8 prospect by MLB Pipeline, posted a 1-1 record and a 2.79 ERA in his first five Double-A starts. Sears, a 2023 10th round pick by Detroit out of UConn, has only given up more than one earned run once in his first 10 outings.

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PLAYER FEATURE

JOSEPH DZIERWA

By Ryan Martin

Barely over a year ago, Baysox left-handed pitcher Joseph Dzierwa had just wrapped up his junior season at Michigan State University, earning 2025 Big Ten Pitcher of the Year honors as he prepared for the MLB Draft. Fast forward to today, Dzierwa is putting together a great first professional season and is, again, bringing in the accolades.

During last week's MLB All-Star Break, Dzierwa was one of two Orioles minor leaguers chosen for the 2026 All-Star Futures Game at Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia, PA.

"It was pretty cool, obviously it's an honor," Dzierwa said of the selection in early July. "I've gotten here by never really worrying about tomorrow; I've learned that if I stack today before tomorrow, I'll get to the places I want to go to."

"He's obviously a special pitcher, he's got some really advanced skills," Baysox pitching coach Jeremy Hileman said of Dzierwa. "It's been really fun having him here, he's someone who can command the baseball and his stuff has continued to tick up since getting drafted last year. That's all a recipe for him to continue controlling the game."

Dzierwa, the No. 3 Orioles' prospect, via MLB Pipeline, has started seven of his nine Double-A appearances this season. The 58th overall pick in last year's draft **has pitched to a 2-1 record with the Baysox and a 2.38 ERA, striking out 56 batters to 11 walks entering the All-Star break.**

Pictured below: Dzierwa's final start before the break, on 7/7, was in Akron. His first time pitching in his home state of Ohio as a pro, in front of extensive local friends and family.



PLAYER FEATURE

Joseph Dzierwa

When adding in his eight starts for High-A Frederick, Dzierwa's first full professional season has included him earning a 7-2 record with a 2.30 ERA, 106 strikeouts, and 21 walks.

Coming out of the break, Dzierwa leads all Orioles minor leaguers in total strikeouts and innings pitched this season. The 6'8" southpaw has conceded two or fewer earned runs in each of his last eight regular season games.

Dzierwa, now 22-years-old, has developed this season with the implementation of two new breaking pitches. Dzierwa's honed a slider and a sweeper since being a second-round draft pick by Baltimore.

"Both of those breaking balls have been huge," Dzierwa said. "I really didn't have a defined breaking ball coming out of college, and now, I have two. So that's been cool because I knew I needed it for batters at the next level."

Last week wasn't the first time Dzierwa starred in a professional showcase. Dzierwa took the mound in a competitive contest as a pro for the first time when he pitched for the Orioles 2026 Spring Breakout team in Sarasota, FL against top prospects from the Red Sox organization. Dzierwa earned the win, pitching three scoreless relief innings and striking out eight. The outing, which Dzierwa earned All-Spring Breakout First Team honors for, was a sign of things to come for the Otsego, OH native.

"We got to watch him pitch on a stage like that which was one of the bigger, more exciting opportunities he'd had to pitch in," Hileman said. "And he still did what he always does: Dominated the zone. It gave you a glimpse of what he can look like."



PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

MICAH ASHMAN

By Ryan Martin

Sticking out in a talented crop of in the Orioles' minor league pitching prospects, Baysox left-handed reliever Micah Ashman is making a name for himself with Chesapeake. Ashman, 23-years-old, **was acquired by Baltimore in a trade last year with Detroit. A former 11th round draft pick by the Tigers out of Utah in 2024, Ashman was received by the Orioles as the return for former major league right-handed starter Charlie Morton.**

Ashman made 13 relief appearances with the Baysox in 2025, earning a 4.80 ERA (eight earned runs in 15 innings) and a 1-1 record while amassing 23 strikeouts to four walks.

Ashman's been awesome this season **with a 1.45 Double-A ERA (5 earned runs across 31.0 innings pitched), the second-best mark by an Orioles' minor leaguer this season with 30+ innings pitched as of July 9.** Ashman only trails Norfolk left-hander Andrew Magno (0.53 ERA across 33.2 innings with Triple-A). The Utah native **has four saves in 20 Baysox appearances this season, impressively striking out 54 batters to just eight walks.**

So, what's the difference for Ashman from his first to second seasons with the Baysox? The lefty's recent surge may have to do with the success he experienced pitching for Team Canada in the 2026 World Baseball Classic.

Ashman, one 17 current or former Baysox who participated in the World Baseball Classic this past March, was eligible to play on the team with his mother, Marina, being from Cranbrook, British Columbia. Ashman made two appearances for Canada and turned heads in his second outing, pitching two scoreless innings in the team's quarterfinal loss to Team USA.

On March 13, Ashman relieved Arizona Diamondbacks right-hander Michael Soroka with two outs and the bases loaded in the third inning. Ashman escaped the jam by getting Red Sox star Roman Anthony to strike out on three straight sliders.

Ashman then struck out Cal Raleigh before forcing Bobby Witt Jr., Bryce Harper, Aaron Judge, and Kyle Schwarber to all ground out consecutively, showing signs of what was to come for Ashman's 2026 season with the Baysox.





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On The Rise *By Ryan Martin*

JT QUINN



With well over a dozen starts under his belt at High-A Frederick, right-hander JT Quinn has caught minor league baseball's attention in his first professional season. Quinn was selected by Baltimore 69th overall with a 2025 MLB Draft competitive balance pick. And, most recently, Quinn was named the Orioles' Minor League Pitcher of the Month for June.

The 6'7" Quinn, who finished last month with the second most innings pitched (26.1) and second lowest WHIP (0.87) amongst MiLB pitchers in the Orioles' system, came alive across five June starts at High-A. In June, Quinn pitched to a 2.73 ERA with the Keys (eight earned runs across 26.1 innings), earning a 1-0 record with 21 strikeouts to just six walks.

Quinn's first career quality start came at Wilmington (High-A, Nationals) on June 25th. In a no-decision against the Blue Rocks, Quinn didn't give up a run across a career-long six and two thirds innings pitched, conceding just two hits and a walk to five strikeouts. Each of Quinn's last two June starts went five or more innings with five or more strikeouts.

"It's just been fun to go out there and throw my stuff," Quinn told MASN's Brendan Mortensen in June after the Wilmington start. "...Honestly, a lot of things have been working, and it's been a fun ride to go out every 5-6 days and pitch."

Quinn's quick professional start shouldn't surprise many. A native of Tampa, FL, Quinn starred in the SEC, pitching his first two collegiate seasons at Ole Miss and spending his junior year at Georgia. Quinn showed versatility as both a starter and reliever with the Rebels and Bulldogs.

The now 22-year-old Quinn started 22 of 45 collegiate appearances, including seven starts in 17 outings for a 2.75 ERA with Georgia last year. Quinn started each of his first 16 professional appearances for a 3.25 ERA, learning what it takes to be an everyday starter.

“It’s comforting knowing the ball is coming back no matter what happens, whether you have a good outing or a bad outing,” Quinn, the Orioles’ No. 19 prospect per MLB Pipeline, said. “Getting the repetition and into a good routine has been really good.”

“There’s a difference with starting compared to relief,” Quinn added. “The strike aspect of it and being cognizant of your pitches, what gets in the zone and stays in the zone.”

Quinn was drafted by Baltimore in the competitive balance portion of the 2025 MLB Draft and signed for \$1.15 million. Quinn’s selection instantly drew comparisons to another college arm Baltimore drafted early in last year’s draft: Baysox left-hander Joseph Dzierwa, who was drafted just 11 picks before Quinn.

Neither Quinn nor Dzierwa (from Michigan State, Orioles’ No. 3 prospect) pitched during their draft years, but both began the season together with the Keys.

“It was really fun to pitch after him and try to throw a little better than him,” Quinn joked of Dzierwa. “We always talk to each other, and I want to be right up there with him (in Double-A), so it always motivates me.”



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Adley RUTSCHMAN

By Ryan Martin

During last week's MLB All-Star Game at Citizen's Bank Park in Philadelphia, PA, one of the most notable recent Baysox alumni was featured in festivities once again. Orioles' catcher Adley Rutschman, a 2021 Baysox alum, played in his third-career MLB All-Star game. Rutschman has made the Midsummer Classic in three of the last four years, becoming the first Oriole to do so since Baysox alum Manny Machado made it in 2015, '16, and '18.

"I feel very fortunate," Rutschman told MASN in July. "I'm surrounded by really good people, great teammates and coaches, and the investment they've taken in me from growing up until now means the world."

"It's awesome, especially for Adley," Orioles manager Craig Albarnaz told MASN in July. "The impact he makes on people around him is his real calling card. It's well deserved on the performance side, but it's even more deserving of the person he is."

By earning his third All-Star nod, the switch-hitting Rutschman joins elite company. The former Baysox backstop became just the third Orioles catcher (since 1954) with three or more All-Star selections while playing for Baltimore, joining Orioles Hall of Famers Gus Triandos (1957, '58, '59) and Matt Wieters (2011, '12, '14, '16). Wieters won Baseball America's Minor League Player of the Year while playing for the Baysox in 2008, becoming the first Orioles minor leaguer to win the award that dates to 1981 (Gunnar Henderson and Jackson Holliday won in 2022 and 2023, respectively, while playing for Triple-A Norfolk).

Rutschman, the Sherwood, OR native who played in Seattle as a 2023 All-Star and Home Run Derby participant, had an accolade-filled tenure with the Baysox. Rutschman debuted with the Baysox on May 4, 2021, a year that culminated in Rutschman being a Futures Game selection, the Eastern League's Top MLB Prospect,





and a Post-Season All-Star. Rutschman ended the season with Triple-A Norfolk where he was awarded the Rawlings MiLB Gold Glove Award, given annually to MiLB's best defensive catcher.

Overall, Rutschman hit .278 with the Baysox. Rutschman made his MLB debut with Baltimore on May 21, 2022, and finished the season second in American League Rookie of the Year voting behind Mariners outfielder Julio Rodríguez.

Rutschman, the No. 1 overall pick by Baltimore in 2019, also became the 16th former top pick to make three or more All-Star Games. The first to accomplish the feat was Orioles and National Baseball Hall of Famer Harold Baines, who was an All-Star from 1985 to 1987. National Baseball Hall of Famers Ken Griffey Jr., Chipper Jones, and Joe Mauer are also among those on the list.



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A photograph of a man with a beard and a woman with long dark hair. The man is wearing a grey t-shirt and has his arms around the woman, who is also wearing a grey t-shirt. They are both looking down with serious expressions. The background is dark blue with light blue geometric shapes and a dotted white circle.

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