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NEWS RELEASE

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BISONS' JHONNY PERALTA NAMED IL MOST VALUABLE PLAYER; BROWN, HENDRICKSON, KUBEL ROUND OUT AWARD WINNERS

The International League today announced its post-season All-Star Team and Award Winners as selected by the League's managers, coaches, media, and club representatives. The Buffalo Bisons, who have already clinched the IL North Division Crown and can spend the last week of the season getting ready for the Governors' Cup playoffs, boast a pair of Special Award winners for just the second time in franchise history. 2004 IL Manager of the Year **Marty Brown** has led the Bisons to the best record in the League and is the third Bisons' skipper to win the loop's Manager-of-the-Year Award in the past five seasons. His job has been made a little easier by the presence of Most Valuable Player **Jhonny Peralta**. The 22-year-old shortstop has excelled for Buffalo this season, setting career-highs in virtually every offensive category. The Indianapolis Indians can claim the IL's Most Valuable Pitcher for the first time since 1963. Right-hander **Ben Hendrickson** has received the award for the League's top moundsman on the heels of an outstanding Triple-A debut campaign. Rounding out the list of Special Award winners is Rochester outfielder **Jason Kubel**, the IL's batting leader, who has been named the IL's Rookie-of-the-Year.

Buffalo infielder Jhonny Peralta has put together one of the best offensive seasons in the history of the Bisons' franchise in leading the team to the North Division Championship. Peralta, 22, has already set Modern Day franchise records with an IL-leading 178 base hits and 44 doubles (2nd in the IL). In addition, he paces the team with a .333 average (2nd in the League), 108 runs scored (1st), 271 total bases and 61 extra-base hits (T-5th) and has set career-highs with 15 HR and 85 RBI (6th in the loop). Peralta, the eighth Buffalo player chosen as the League's Most Valuable Player and first since 1961, spent the second half of the 2003 season filling in for the injured Omar Vizquel as the Cleveland Indians' starting shortstop. Jhonny, who was also selected as the All-Star shortstop, is on pace for 186 hits (which would be the most in the IL since 1963). The native of the Dominican Republic has posted 55 multi-hit games this season.

The IL Manager-of-the-Year Award returns to Buffalo for the third time in the past five years as Marty Brown joins Joel Skinner (2000) and Eric Wedge (2001) as Bisons' honorees. The 41-year-old skipper saw the Bisons clinch the North Division Title on Friday night and sees the team just two wins away from guaranteeing the best record in the IL. Brown's Bisons were 23-28 on June 1st and have since played at a .663 clip (57-29) to turn a 6.5 game deficit in the Division into a 9.5 game lead over second place Scranton/Wilkes-Barre. Marty, currently in his eighth managerial season, led Buffalo to a 73-70 record last year. The Manager-of-the-Year Award is the second of his career, as he was previously honored by the New York-Penn League in 1997.

Most Valuable Pitcher Ben Hendrickson has been a bright spot in what has been an otherwise dismal season for Indianapolis. The 23-year-old right-hander has posted a miniscule 2.02 ERA in 21 starts for the Tribe, which will rank as the lowest for any IL leader since Tidewater's Dave West posted a 1.80 ERA in 1988. In addition, Hendrickson has collected 11 victories to go along with 93 strikeouts (with just 26 walks, he has nearly a 4:1 K/BB ratio). The St. Cloud, MN native is currently in his first Triple-A season and is just the second Indians' pitcher to win the IL Most Valuable Pitcher Award (joining 1963 honoree Fred Ackley). Ben, who started the 2004 Triple-A All-Star Game for the IL squad, was also selected as the Starting Pitcher on the post-season All-Star Team.

Jason Kubel didn't join Rochester until May 21, but needed no time adjusting to Triple-A competition. The Rookie-of-the-Year was hitting .377 for Double-A New Britain upon being promoted to the Red Wings. He continued to swing a hot bat with Rochester, batting .385 in 10 May games. The All-Star outfielder is currently batting a League-leading .343 against IL pitching - and has enough plate appearances to qualify for the crown. The 22-year-old Kubel has also collected 28 doubles, 16 HR, and 71 RBI in 90 games with Rochester. Jason is Rochester's first Rookie-of-the-Year since 1991 (Luis Mercedes) and joins an impressive list of 13 former Red Wings that have received the Award, including Cal Ripken, Jr. (1981), Steve Finley (1988), Rich Dauer (1976), and Al Bumby (1972).

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In addition to Hendrickson, Kubel, and Peralta, nine other International League stars have been selected to the post-season All-Star Team. The Pawtucket Red Sox lead the All-Star parade again, placing three members on the squad for the second consecutive season. Buffalo, Durham, Richmond, and Rochester also have multiple players selected to the team. This season marks the first time since 1994 that the R-Braves and Red Wings have had more than one All-Star selection (Buffalo most recently accomplished the feat in 1998, while Durham did it last year).

- ☆ Rochester first baseman **Justin Morneau** appeared in only 72 games for the Red Wings this season before being promoted to Minnesota, but made enough of an impression to earn All-Star honors. The native Canadian hit .306 with 23 doubles, 22 HR and 63 RBI before joining the Twins for good on July 15. The 23-year-old Morneau has continued to excel for the AL Central Division leaders, hitting at a .266 clip with 14 homers and 39 runs batted in.
 - ☆ Richmond's **Pete Orr** came out of nowhere this season, being selected as the All-Star second baseman in his first Triple-A campaign. Entering the 2004 season, the 25-year-old Orr, who returned to the R-Braves over the weekend after a stint with the Canadian Olympic team, had posted a .244 career batting average in four seasons in the lower levels of the Braves' organization. He has easily topped that in 2004, setting career-highs with a .332 average (3rd in the IL), 140 hits (T-6th), 8 triples (T-5th) and 65 runs scored.
 - ☆ All-Star third baseman **Earl Snyder** has set the tone for the PawSox all season. The 28-year-old has continued his string of six straight 20 HR seasons by blasting a career-high (and IL-best) 33 roundtrippers this season. He also leads the loop with 76 extra-base hits, is tied for first with 95 RBI, and places among the League's top ten with 42 doubles (3rd), 140 hits (T-6th), 80 runs scored (7th) and a .552 slugging percentage (9th). His 33 HR tie him for third on the PawSox' all-time home run list and his 95 RBI are the second-highest total in franchise history.
 - ☆ Durham's **Matt Diaz** and Pawtucket's **Adam Hyzdu** flank Kubel in the IL's All-Star outfield. The 26-year-old Diaz, a Southern League All-Star in 2003, has put together a torrid offensive season for the Bulls in 2004. The former Florida State University star leads the League with a career-high 47 doubles (the most for any IL batter since the Bulls' Steve Cox collected 49 in 1999) and places among the loop's top ten in hits (165 - 2nd), extra-base hits (73 - 2nd), RBI (92 - 3rd), slugging percentage (.571 - 3rd), batting average (.331 - 4th), and runs scored (81 - T-5th).
- Hyzdu, a native of San Jose, CA, has returned to the PawSox with a flourish after spending the past four seasons in the Pittsburgh Pirates' system. Adam, who previously played for Pawtucket in 1997 & 1999, has hit .339 in August to boost his average to .298, tops on the PawSox club. In addition, he leads the IL with a .410 on-base percentage (thanks to 83 walks), is second (behind teammate Snyder) with 29 HR, and places third with 90 runs scored.
- ☆ The third Pawtucket player selected to the All-Star team is catcher **Kelly Shoppach**. The 24-year-old Shoppach, a third-year pro in his first Triple-A season, has hit a career-high 20 HR to go along with 23 doubles and 61 RBI while handling the rigors of catching duties. Defensively, the former Baylor star has made just seven errors behind the dish.
 - ☆ All-Star designated hitter **Ernie Young** has put together several outstanding seasons during a 15-year professional career, but none quite as good as his 2004 output with Buffalo. Young, a Chicago native, is batting .298 (matching the Bisons' IL-leading team mark) with 95 RBI (tying Snyder for the IL lead) and 25 HR (T-6th in the League). In addition, the veteran has set a career-high with 26 doubles and places 10th among IL batters with a .549 slugging percentage. For Young, who entered the 2004 season with 246 career home runs, the All-Star nod is the fourth of his career, as he has previously been selected to the California (1993), Southern (1994), and Pacific Coast (2000) League's post-season squads.
 - ☆ Richmond closer **Matt Whiteside** has been named the League's All-Star relief pitcher after putting together one of the best seasons ever for an IL reliever. The 37-year-old Whiteside enters tonight's game with 37 saves, tying Columbus' Mike Draper (1992) for the most by any IL pitcher in one season. With ten games remaining for the R-Braves, currently leading the IL South Division, it is likely the right-hander will get several more save opportunities. His 37 saves have shattered the R-Braves' single season record of 26, previously held by Bill Taylor & Terry Clark. Matt, who has appeared in 53 games (T-2nd in the IL), is 2-4 with a 3.00 ERA and 54 strikeouts in 60 innings pitched.
 - ☆ The final All-Star spot goes to Durham's **Jorge Cantu**, who has been selected as the League's top Utility Player. Cantu, currently in the Major Leagues with Tampa Bay, received votes at second base, third base, shortstop, and designated hitter. The native of Mexico experienced success with the Bulls during the second half of last season, but no one could have predicted his breakout 2004 campaign. The 22-year-old Cantu, who had just 18 career homers in five seasons entering 2004, blasted 22 in 95 games with Durham. He also set career-highs with 33 doubles, 80 RBI, and a .302 average and currently leads all IL batters with a .576 slugging percentage.



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2004 IL AWARD WINNERS

- Most Valuable Player Jhonny Peralta, Buffalo Bisons
- Most Valuable Pitcher Ben Hendrickson, Indianapolis Indians
- Rookie-of-the-Year Jason Kubel, Rochester Red Wings
- Manager-of-the-Year Marty Brown, Buffalo Bisons

2004 IL ALL-STAR TEAM

- First Baseman Justin Morneau, Rochester Red Wings
- Second Baseman Pete Orr, Richmond Braves
- Shortstop Jhonny Peralta, Buffalo Bisons
- Third Baseman Earl Snyder, Pawtucket Red Sox
- Catcher Kelly Shoppach, Pawtucket Red Sox
- Outfielders Matt Diaz, Durham Bulls
- Adam Hyzdu, Pawtucket Red Sox
- Jason Kubel, Rochester Red Wings
- Designated Hitter Ernie Young, Buffalo Bisons
- Utility Player Jorge Cantu, Durham Bulls
- Starting Pitcher Ben Hendrickson, Indianapolis Indians
- Relief Pitcher Matt Whiteside, Richmond Braves

ALL-STAR STATISTICS

<u>Batters</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>BA</u>	<u>AB</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>2B</u>	<u>3B</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>RBI</u>	<u>SB</u>
Justin Morneau	ROCH	.306	288	51	88	23	0	22	63	1
Pete Orr	RICH	.332	422	65	140	16	8	1	33	23
Jhonny Peralta	BUF	.333	534	108	178	42	2	15	85	8
Earl Snyder	PAW	.273	513	80	140	42	1	33	95	1
Kelly Shoppach	PAW	.228	377	58	86	23	0	20	61	0
Matt Diaz	DUR	.331	499	81	165	47	5	21	92	15
Adam Hyzdu	PAW	.298	459	90	137	32	2	29	77	8
Jason Kubel	ROCH	.343	350	71	120	28	0	16	71	16
Ernie Young	BUF	.298	419	66	125	26	2	25	95	1
Jorge Cantu	DUR	.302	368	57	111	33	1	22	80	3

<u>Pitchers</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>W-L</u>	<u>ERA</u>	<u>SV</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>IP</u>	<u>SO</u>
Ben Hendrickson	IND	11-3	2.02	0	21	125.0	93
Matt Whiteside	RICH	2-4	3.00	37	53	60.0	54