



2008 SPRING TRAINING CAMP NOTES – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28

DAY 14 OF SPRING TRAINING

1 DAY TO THE FIRST EXHIBITION GAME, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 29 @ CINCINNATI REDS

31 DAYS TO THE SEASON OPENER, TUESDAY, MARCH 31 @ BALTIMORE ORIOLES

39 DAYS TO THE HOME OPENER, TUESDAY, APRIL 8 vs. SEATTLE

NINTH DAY OF FULL SQUAD WORKOUTS

⇒ 55 of 56 players invited to major league camp worked out...status of RHP **Juan Salas** is still uncertain due to visa issues in the Dominican Republic.

LET THE GAMES BEGIN---Rays begin their 11th Grapefruit League season tomorrow afternoon against the Reds in Sarasota, the first of 30 "A" games on the 2008 spring schedule...Rays are 4-6 in GL opening games...Saturday vs. Toronto at 1:05 p.m. Rays begin play in their final spring campaign at Progress Energy Park, home of Al Lang Field...Rays will play 13 home games on the historic site with the finale March 28 vs. the Reds.

JOE MADDON MEDIA AVAILABILITY---

- FRIDAY at Sarasota – Noon in dugout.
- SATURDAY at Progress Energy Park – 9:30 am in the dugout.
- SUNDAY in Bradenton – Noon in dugout.

UPCOMING PROBABLES---

Friday, Feb. 29 vs. Cincinnati Reds - Ed Smith Stadium, Sarasota, Fla. (no radio/TV) - 1:05 p.m.

RAYS – RH **Edwin Jackson**, RH Jason Hammel, RH Andy Sonnanstine, RH Grant Balfour, RH Chad Orvella, LH James Houser
REDS – RH **Homer Bailey**, RH Edinson Volquez, RH Justin Lehr, RH Marcus McBeth, RH Tom Shearn, LH Scott Sauerbeck, LH Adam Pettyjohn

Saturday, March 1 vs. Toronto Blue Jays – Progress Energy Park, St. Petersburg, Fla. (Radio: 1250-AM WHNZ) - 1:05 p.m.

JAYS - RH **Dustin McGowan**, RH Casey Janssen, RH Jeremy Cummings, LH Ryan Ketchner, LH John Parrish, RH Tracy Thorpe, RH Randy Wells, LH Jesse Carlson
RAYS – RH **James Shields**, RH Mitch Talbot, RH Al Reyes, LH Trever Miller, RH Dan Wheeler

Sunday, March 2 at Pittsburgh Pirates, McKechnie Field, Bradenton, Fla. (Radio: 1250-AM WHNZ) – 1:05 p.m.

RAYS – RH **Wade Davis**, RH Jae Kuk Ryu, RH Scott Munter, LH Kurt Birkins, RH Jeff Niemann
PIRATES – LH **Paul Maholm**, RH John Van Benschoten, RH Josh Sharpless, RH Brian Rogers, RH Jaret Wright, LH John Grabow, RH Matt Capps

SEVEN RAYS PROSPECTS AMONG BASEBALL AMERICA'S TOP 100---*Baseball America* released its annual Top 100 Prospects list, featuring seven Rays prospects overall and four among the top 17. The Rays and Boston Red Sox led the majors with seven players listed (seven teams tied for third place with five prospects each). The seven Rays named include 3B **Evan Longoria** (#2, behind Cincinnati OF Jay Bruce), LH **David Price** (#10), LH **Jake McGee** (#15), RH **Wade Davis** (#17), SS **Reid Brignac** (#39), OF **Desmond Jennings** (#59) and RH **Jeff Niemann** (#99). Additionally, RH **Jeremy Hellickson**, C **John Jaso**, RH **Chris Mason** and OF **Ryan Royster** all made the "Best of the Rest" list.

KAZMIR TO HOST CHARITY POKER EVENT TONIGHT---On Thursday, Feb, 28 at the Derby Lane Poker Room, pitcher Scott Kazmir will host his 1ST Annual Poker Charity event to benefit the Children's Dream Fund. Registration with meet & greet starts at 5:30 p.m. and tournament at 7:00 p.m.