



**International League of
Professional Baseball Clubs, Inc.**

55 South High Street,
Suite 202, Dublin, OH 43017
(614) 791-9300 Fax (614) 791-9009
www.ILBaseball.com

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2018 INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FIELD MANAGERS

HALF OF IL CLUBS WELCOMING A NEW SKIPPER TO TOWN THIS SEASON

When the International League's 135th season opens on April 5, seven of the circuit's fourteen teams will have a new manager leading the quest to capture the coveted Governors' Cup trophy. Four of the seven new skippers are making a return to the circuit, while three will be managing their very first season at the Triple-A level.

From last year's postseason field, only Governors' Cup champion **Jared Sandberg** of Durham is back in the League this season. Sandberg guided the Bulls to both the IL and Triple-A national titles in his third season at the helm. Also hoping to hoist the Governors' Cup trophy for a second time are **Kevin Boles**, whose Pawtucket club won it all in 2014, and Columbus manager **Chris Tremie**, who delivered a championship to the Clippers in 2015.

In Norfolk, the IL's longest-tenured manager **Ron Johnson** is back for a seventh campaign with the Tides. Three clubs, however, are bringing back a skipper who debuted in 2017. **Mark Grudzielanek** in Charlotte and **Damon Berryhill** in Gwinnett will both challenge Johnson and Sandberg for supremacy in the IL South Division, while former Buffalo infielder **Bobby Meacham** takes another crack at winning the formidable six-team IL North.

One of the League's new managers in 2018 is no stranger to his new club. **Randy Knorr** managed Syracuse in 2011 before moving into a series of other roles within the Nationals organization, in addition to having played for the Chiefs in the 1990's. The new man at the helm in Rochester is **Joel Skinner**, who has managed in the IL with both Buffalo (where he claimed the 2000 IL Manager of the Year Award) and Charlotte. **Pat Kelly** assumes the reins in Louisville, arriving with a lengthy resume that includes stops in Indianapolis, Ottawa, Syracuse, and Richmond. Former Pawtucket skipper **Gary Jones**, who last managed in the IL in 2001, will pilot the Lehigh Valley IronPigs this year.

Two of last season's division winners will be under the guidance of new managers in 2018. Scranton/Wilkes-Barre welcomes **Bobby Mitchell** to town after he led Double-A Trenton to the 2017 Eastern League championship with honors as the EL Manager of the Year. Meanwhile in the West Division, **Brian Esposito** will try to get Indianapolis back to the playoffs in his debut season as a Triple-A manager. One man trying to stand in his way will be **Doug Mientkiewicz**, new field manager of the Toledo Mud Hens in his first season in the Detroit organization.

The men charged with developing their major league affiliate's top prospects this season bring with them a wealth of experience and knowledge, having combined to win well over 10,000 games in the minors. Four of this year's group – Boles, Johnson, Jones, and Kelly – are among the top twenty winningest managers active in the Minor Leagues. Meanwhile there are also eight IL skippers with fewer than 250 career wins at the Triple-A level, all hoping to be the one destined to have his name etched onto the Governors' Cup trophy when the 2018 season concludes this September.

BUFFALO BISONS

CHARLOTTE KNIGHTS

COLUMBUS CLIPPERS

DURHAM BULLS

GWINNETT STRIPERS

INDIANAPOLIS INDIANS

LEHIGH VALLEY IRONPIGS

LOUISVILLE BATS

NORFOLK TIDES

PAWTUCKET RED SOX

ROCHESTER RED WINGS

SCRANTON/WILKES-BARRE
RAILRIDERS

SYRACUSE CHIEFS

TOLEDO MUD HENS



2018 INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE MANAGER BIOS



DAMON BERRYHILL

GWINNETT STRIPERS

Opening Day Age: 54 *Born:* South Laguna, CA *Season With GWN:* 2nd *Season With Braves:* 2nd

Former big league catcher Damon Berryhill became the sixth manager in Gwinnett franchise history last season when he led the Braves to an even 71-71 mark. He returns in 2018 for the first season with the club branded as the "Stripers". Berryhill came to the Atlanta organization after having spent seven seasons with the L.A. Dodgers (2009-15). He embarks on his tenth season as a minor league manager in 2018 and his fourth at the Triple-A level. He managed the Dodgers' Triple-A affiliate from 2014-15, piloting Albuquerque in 2014 and then Oklahoma City in 2015. He led OKC to a franchise-record 86 wins and claimed the honor of PCL Manager of the Year while making his fifth trip to the postseason as a skipper. He spent five seasons as manager for Rookie-level Ogden, and before joining the Dodgers served one year as manager for Advanced-A Bakersfield of the Rangers organization. He was a minor league catching coordinator with the Rangers (2005-07) and Diamondbacks (2003-04). His coaching career began with High-A Rancho Cucamonga of the L.A. Angels organization (2002). Berryhill was a 1st round draft pick in 1984 and played 10 MLB seasons with the Cubs, Braves, Red Sox, Reds, and Giants.

Record Entering 2018

MINORS	489-458
TRIPLE-A	220-208



BRIAN ESPOSITO

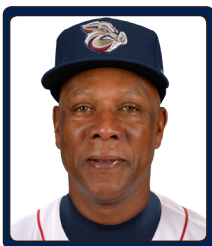
INDIANAPOLIS INDIANS

Opening Day Age: 39 *Born:* Staten Island, NY *Season With IND:* 1st *Season With Pirates:* 6th

The defending West Division champions will be guided this year by Brian Esposito, who was named the 61st manager in Indians franchise history after former skipper Andy Barkett joined the Boston Red Sox as the assistant hitting coach. Esposito spent the 2017 campaign as manager of Short-Season West Virginia (New York-Penn League), compiling a 40-35 record en route to a second-place finish in the New York-Penn League's Pinckney Division. He's won at a .544 clip in four seasons overall as a manager. Esposito was originally selected by the Red Sox in the 5th round of the 2000 draft before logging a 13-year professional career that featured stints with the Boston, Anaheim, Texas, St. Louis, Colorado, Houston and Chicago (NL) organizations. The veteran of three Major League games and over 750 in the Minor Leagues joined the Pirates system as a player/coach in 2013 and served as an additional coach in Indianapolis. He then managed Short-Season Jamestown in 2014 before jumping to Class-A West Virginia (South Atlantic League) for the next two seasons, the first highlighted by a club record 87 wins and .626 winning percentage.

Record Entering 2018

MINORS	233-195
TRIPLE-A	0-0



GARY JONES

LEHIGH VALLEY IRONPIGS

Opening Day Age: 57 *Born:* Henderson, TX *Season With LHV:* 1st *Season With Phillies:* 1st

Attempting to take Lehigh Valley to a third straight postseason appearance will be new skipper Gary Jones, a four-time Manager of the Year in the minors and a member of the 2016 World Series Champion Chicago Cubs staff. He replaces Dusty Wathan, who was named third base coach for the Phillies. Jones spent the previous four seasons as the third-base coach for the Cubs. Overall he has accumulated 27 years of managerial and coaching experience from four organizations. Fifteen of these seasons have been spent as a minor league manager, during which time he's won over 1,000 games and captured four league championships. No stranger to the IL, Jones piloted Pawtucket for three seasons from 1999-2001, a stretch which included a then franchise-record 82 wins in 2000. He also spent three seasons with Edmonton (1995-97) of the Pacific Coast League, where he led the A's top affiliate to back-to-back first-place finishes and PCL titles in 1996 and 1997. He was twice honored as PCL Manager of the Year. Primarily a second baseman in his playing days, Jones spent four seasons in the Cubs system and his final four as an Oakland farmhand, advancing up to Triple-A with Tacoma.

Record Entering 2018

MINORS	1,039-972
TRIPLE-A	450-409



PAT KELLY

LOUISVILLE BATS

Opening Day Age: 62 *Born:* Santa Maria, CA *Season With LOU:* 1st *Season With Reds:* 12th

After leading Double-A Pensacola to a share of the Southern League championship for the first time in franchise history last season, Pat Kelly has been promoted to manager of the Louisville Bats. This marks Kelly's third stint as a manager in the International League, replacing Delino DeShields who is now serving as a roving bunting and baserunning instructor in the Reds system. Kelly began managing in 1986 and has worked for five organizations. His time in Triple-A includes stops in Las Vegas (1990), Indianapolis (1991-92, American Association), Ottawa (1997-98), Syracuse (1999-2000), and Richmond (2003-05). Before Pensacola, Kelly managed Class-A Bakersfield in 2014 and at rookie Billings from 2011-2013, where he earned honors as the 2012 Pioneer League Manager of the Year. In 2010, Kelly was the manager at Class-A Lynchburg and prior to that, he spent the majority of three seasons as manager of the rookie GCL Reds. Kelly was a catcher in his playing days. He reached the Major Leagues in 1980 for a brief, three-game stint with the Blue Jays.

Record Entering 2018

MINORS	1,797-1,864
TRIPLE-A	685-741



2018 INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE MANAGER BIOS



RON JOHNSON

NORFOLK TIDES

Opening Day Age: 62 *Born:* Long Beach, CA *Season With NOR:* 7th *Season With Orioles:* 7th

The longest-tenured manager in the IL is Ron Johnson, who enters his seventh season with the Tides and seventh overall with the Baltimore organization. During his time in Norfolk, Johnson claimed the IL Manager of the Year Award in 2015 when he piloted the club to a South Division title. Before becoming the all-time winningest manager in Tides history, Johnson spent the previous twelve years in the Red Sox organization. He was Boston's first base coach during the 2010-11 seasons, which followed five years as manager of Pawtucket. Johnson managed for nine seasons total in the Boston farm system, piloting Class-A Sarasota (2000-01), Double-A Trenton (2002) and Portland (2003-04). Prior to that, Johnson served as a manager for eight seasons with the same organization that drafted him as a player. In the Kansas City Royals system, Johnson managed Class-A Baseball City (1992) and Wilmington (1993), Double-A Memphis (1994) and Wichita (1995-97), and Triple-A Omaha of the Pacific Coast League (1998-99). His playing career was mostly spent in the minors, though he reached the majors for a total of 22 games with the Royals and Expos.

Record Entering 2018

MINORS 1,683-1,702
TRIPLE-A 939-923



KEVIN BOLES

PAWTUCKET RED SOX

Opening Day Age: 42 *Born:* Chicago, IL *Season With PAW:* 5th *Season With Red Sox:* 11th

Kevin Boles is back for a fifth season in Pawtucket, where he's won over 275 games since assuming the helm in 2014. He delivered a Governors' Cup title in his first season, but Pawtucket hasn't returned to the playoffs since. Boles managed Double-A Portland from 2011-13, prior to which he spent the first ten years of his managerial career at either the Rookie or Class-A level with the Marlins, Royals, Twins, and Red Sox organizations. Boles guided his first club, the Gulf Coast League Marlins, to a division title in 2000 as a 25-year-old skipper. He managed Florida's short-season Utica club in 2001 before joining the Royals. He served as a coach in 2002 prior to managing the Arizona League Royals. Boles next joined Minnesota, managing Class-A Quad Cities in 2004. He took teams to the playoffs each of the following two seasons, Beloit of the Midwest League in 2005 and Ft. Myers of the Florida State League in 2006. Boles later moved on to the Boston organization with Class-A Greenville in 2008-09, going to one South Atlantic League finals. 2010 was spent as manager of Salem of the Carolina League. Kevin is the son of former Marlins manager John Boles.

Record Entering 2018

MINORS 1,076-1,079
TRIPLE-A 279-293



JOEL SKINNER

ROCHESTER RED WINGS

Opening Day Age: 57 *Born:* La Jolla, CA *Season With ROC:* 1st *Season With Twins:* 1st

Joel Skinner is back in the International League as manager of the Rochester Red Wings. He was not in baseball last year, but spent the previous five seasons managing in the White Sox organization, including for Charlotte from 2012-15. Skinner's last position was as manager of Class-A Winston-Salem in 2016. He replaces Mike Quade, who has taken a new position within the Twins organization as a roving outfield instructor. Skinner has managed twelve minor league seasons since 1995 and also served as interim manager of the Cleveland Indians in 2002 after Charlie Manuel was fired in mid-July. He was named Minor League Manager of the Year by Baseball America and The Sporting News while leading Triple-A Buffalo to the International League Governors' Cup Finals in 2000 and by USA Today Baseball Weekly in 1998 with Double-A Akron. He won the 1995 New York-Penn League Championship with Short-A Watertown, earning Manager of the Year that season and in 1997 with Class-A Kinston of the Carolina League. He enjoyed a lengthy playing career from 1983-91, playing 564 MLB games with the White Sox, Yankees and Indians.

Record Entering 2018

MINORS 860-777
TRIPLE-A 371-349



BOBBY MITCHELL

SCRANTON/WB RAILRIDERS

Opening Day Age: 62 *Born:* Salt Lake City, UT *Season With SWB:* 1st *Season With Yankees:* 3rd

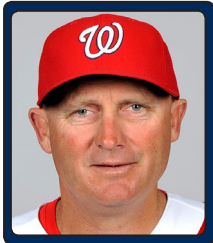
Following the departure of skipper Al Pedrique, who is now the new third base coach of the Oakland A's, the RailRiders will be managed this season by Bobby Mitchell. Mitchell spent the last two seasons managing the Trenton Thunder, the Yankees Double-A affiliate in the Eastern League. He led the Thunder to 87 wins in 2016 and a 92-48 record in 2017, pacing Trenton to the Eastern League Championship Series and earning Manager of the Year honors. He is now in his third campaign as a member of the Yankees organization, having arrived from Atlanta after serving as a roving coach in 2015. His coaching career began in 1992 in the Montreal Expos organization and he has managed professionally for ten seasons, including three for Salt Lake in the Pacific Coast League from 2008 through 2010. A former outfielder, Mitchell was selected in the seventh round of the 1977 draft by the Los Angeles Dodgers out of the University of Southern California. He played professionally for 10 seasons within the Dodgers, Twins, Tigers and Blue Jays organizations, including portions of four years at the Major League level with stops in Toledo (1982, 1984) and Syracuse (1986) along the way.

Record Entering 2018

MINORS 609-508
TRIPLE-A 0-0



2018 INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE MANAGER BIOS



RANDY KNORR

SYRACUSE CHIEFS

Opening Day Age: 49 *Born:* San Gabriel, CA *Season With SYR:* 2nd (2011) *Season With Nationals:* 14th

The Chiefs are getting a new manager for 2018, and an old one at the same time. Randy Knorr managed the team in 2011, posting a 66-74 mark. Since then he has worked in other roles in the Nationals organization, spending the last two seasons as a senior advisor and roving coordinator. He replaces Billy Gardner, Jr., who is now a roving instructor in the system. Knorr brings six seasons of experience as a skipper to Syracuse, beginning with Class-A Savannah in 2005, the first season of existence for the Nationals organization. He piloted Advanced-A Potomac from 2006 to 2008, though his first year was cut short when he was promoted to the major league staff as bullpen coach in June. He next served as manager for a season in 2010 at Double-A Harrisburg before being promoted to Syracuse. Knorr is a former big league catcher who saw action for Toronto, Houston, Florida, Texas, and Montreal between 1991 and 2001. He was a member of the back-to-back World Series champion Blue Jays teams in 1992-93, and also played over 180 games for Syracuse during his career. He also made stops in Charlotte and Ottawa.

Record Entering 2018

MINORS	417-420
TRIPLE-A	66-74



DOUG MIENTKIEWICZ

TOLEDO MUD HENS

Opening Day Age: 43 *Born:* Toledo, OH *Season With TOL:* 1st *Season With Tigers:* 1st

Toledo-native Doug Mientkiewicz is the new Mud Hens manager, replacing Mike Rojas, who joined the Royals organization this season as manager of Double-A Northwest Arkansas. Mientkiewicz joins the Tigers organization after most recently serving as manager of the Fort Myers Miracle, advanced Class-A affiliate of the Minnesota Twins. He has led his teams to the postseason in four of the last five seasons, including capturing the 2015 Southern League Championship with Double-A Chattanooga. The 55th manager in Mud Hens history is in his sixth season overall as a minor league skipper. Mientkiewicz made his coaching debut in 2012 in the Los Angeles Dodgers organization as hitting coach for rookie level Ogden in the Pioneer League. He was hired by Minnesota as manager of Fort Myers in 2013, and the team immediately tied a franchise record by winning its first 14 games. He spent the 2015-16 seasons with Chattanooga before returning to Fort Myers last season. The former first baseman enjoyed a 12-year playing career from 1998 to 2009 with seven MLB teams, including winning the World Series with Boston in 2004.

Record Entering 2018

MINORS	312-239
TRIPLE-A	0-0