The Grand Opening of AT&T Field was an exhibition game between the Baltimore Orioles and the Cincinnati Reds, which drew some rather distinguished guests, including former President Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush and Cal Ripken.

As part of the festivities for the 2004 Southern League All-Star Game, the Lookouts paid tribute to Dernell Stenson, a Cincinnati Reds outfielder that was murdered on November 5, 2003 at the age of 25. Stenson’s number 26 was retired and is still on the right field wall at AT&T Field.

Perhaps the most exciting win in AT&T Field history – Chattanooga defeated the heavily-favored Jacksonville Suns 7-6 in extra innings of Game 3 of the 2001 Southern League Division Series. The Lookouts took a 2-1 series edge with the win, but fell to Jacksonville in five games.

The Lookouts honored AT&T Field’s 1,000,000th fan on June 27, 2003.

Four years later, on July 1, 2007, the Lookouts celebrated the 2,000,000th fan through the gates at AT&T Field.

On June 1, 2007, Mississippi Braves manager Phillip Wellman earned instant Internet fame – and a three-game suspension – with a meltdown that would make Billy Martin blush. After rushing onto the field to argue the ejection of a Braves player, Wellman pantomimed a military crawl toward the pitcher’s mound, tossed the rosin bag at the home plate umpire as if it was a grenade, carried second and third bases into center field and motioned as if to eject the umpire.

Former Cubs top prospect Hee-Seop Choi blasted three home runs and a double to drive in six runs on August 22, 2000. Choi hit 10 homers in just 36 Southern League games that season.

After 22 seasons as a Cincinnati Reds affiliate, the Lookouts played their first home game as a Los Angeles Dodgers farm club on April 14, 2009.

Cementing his reputation as one of the most creative promoters in the minor leagues, Burke introduced pint-sized mascot Blooie on April 27, 2009. Other than his blue color and short stature, Blooie bears a strong resemblance to well-known Lookouts mascot Looie. Blooie is now famous for singing half of “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” for the “3.5 Inning Stretch” as well as leading fans in a lowercase rendition of “YMCA.”

AT&T Field was the setting for several memorable exhibition games, most notably the Reds vs. Twins on March 29, 2002 and Reds vs. Orioles on April 3, 2004.

The fans are the reason we do this job. Profit is needed to survive, but you don’t do that without the fans.” - Larry Ward, Lookouts broadcaster
**Southern Leagues Saves Leader**

**RHP Matt Peterson** saved his 30th game on August 18 against Carolina, breaking his previous career high of 29, set in 2007 with the Double-A Athsena.  

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**Barons’ Bits**

All season long, the Barons’ (80-40) have battled the Eastern League’s Akron Aeros (73-47) for MiLB’s best record. Since the two dominant teams play in different Double-A leagues and will never be able to settle the score in real life, WhatIfSports.com will stage a seven-game virtual series between the two clubs. The fantasy sports website will insert 25-man rosters from each organization, and using statistical formulas will determine what would happen in a seven-game series between the two teams. The rosters can consist of any players that played with the team during this season, not including players who joined the team on rehabs assignments. The games will be simulated on the following days: Game 1 (Monday, 8/31); Game 2 (Tuesday, 9/1); Game 3 (Thursday, 9/3); Game 4 (Saturday, 9/5); Game 5 (Sunday, 9/6, if necessary); Game 6 (Tuesday, 9/8, if necessary); Game 7 (Wednesday, 9/9, if necessary). Box scores will be distributed after each game.

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**Jacksonville Suns**

**Suns’ Block**

Southern League saves leader **RHP Matt Peterson** saved his 30th game on August 18 against Carolina, breaking his previous career high of 29, set in 2007 with the Double-A Athsena.  

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**Mississippi Braves**

**Pears of Wisdom**

Baseball America pegged OF Jason Heyward as the top prospect in all Minor League Baseball in its midseason review. He was also ranked first on their list of Minor League Player of the Year candidates. With the Braves, Heyward is hitting .348 with 7 HR and 25 RBI in 39 games. In 78 games between Single-A Myrtle Beach and Mississippi, Heyward is batting .318 with 17 HR and 56 RBI. ... LHP Jose Ortegano was phenomenal in his first three Double-A starts, posting a 3-0 record and 0.90 ERA. He earned Pitcher of the Week honors from August 3-9 but struggled in his fourth Double-A start on August 13, allowing six earned runs in 2.1 innings against Montgomery on August 15. ... Celebrities took center stage during pre-game ceremonies on August 17, as Tracy McGrady and Deuce Wallace threw out first pitches and Whitney Duncan sang the National Anthem. The star power didn’t help, and the M-Braves lost to Mobile 4-1, in front of 2,507 fans.

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**Montgomery Biscuits**

**Biscuits’ Bites**

Montgomery was the most exciting team in baseball in early August, as the Biscuits notched four walk-off wins in a span of six home games. The fourth and final last-place finisher came on August 9 against Mobile. A flare single off the bat of SS Pedro Ciriaco scored the game-winning run in the top of the ninth inning for a 2-1 win. Ciriaco had been on base since June 21, adding 28 RBI. He has also stolen 31 bases in 40 attempts. Ciriaco exploded for three hits – including a three-run home run and a triple – and five RBI in a 6-4 win over Chattanooga on July 21. ... The Biscuits pitching staff has surrendered a league-high 102 home runs. Three Mobile hurlers RHP Cody Evans (23), RHP Matt Torra (21) and LHP Barry Enright (13) rank among the league’s top-five in home runs allowed. Torra and Enright, both all-stars, rank first and third in innings pitched respectively. ... RHP Bryan Augenstein returned to Mobile on August 17 after stints with Triple-A Durham and Double-A Reno. Augenstein was dominant in six Southern League starts to open the season, compiling a 5-0 record and 0.78 ERA.

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**Carolina Mudcats**

**Caro-liners**

In a historically dubious evening at Pringles Park on August 7, the Carolina Mudcats allowed a franchise record 20 runs during the longest 8 1/2 inning game in the 19-year history of the organization as Carolina was bludgeoned 20-9 by the West Tenn Diamond Jaxx. The Mudcats received a pair of position players to pitfalls the final 2 1/3 innings. 

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**Chattanooga Lookouts**

**Chattanooga Chatter**

Despite losing star 3B Josh Bell in a deadline deal with Baltimore for reliever George Sherrill, the Lookouts are still in the thick of the Northern Division’s second half race. RHP Jesus Rodriguez and LHP Alberto Bastardo are big reasons why. Bastardo is 2-0 with a 2.43 ERA in two August starts, while Rodriguez has a 1.54 ERA in 11.2 innings this month. He received a no-decision in his only start on August 6 against Jacksonville, a game the Lookouts won 3-1. INF/OF Adam Stern, acquired from Huntsville on August 1, has been spectacular with his new club, batting .414 since joining the Lookouts. 

---

**Huntsville Stars**

**Dancing with the Stars**

The Stars scored five ninth inning runs and held off a bottom of the frame charge by Jacksonville for a 7-6 victory on August 2. In the top of the ninth, a two-out plunk hit single to drive in two runs to break a 4-4 tie. ... 2B Shane Jursik has been hit by 1.5 pitches this season. Even more shocking is the fact that the single-season league record is set, by Charlotte’s Rusty Crckett in 1990. ... OF Adam Stern earned a promotion to Double-A Portland for his efforts. In his first two games with the Sounds, Stern batted 7-for-10, scored five runs, stole two bases and drove in a pair of runs. ... Former Stars southpaw Luis Villarreal – now with West Tenn – retired the first two hitters in the eighth before C Jonathan Lucroy doubled to push his hitting streak to 17 games and establish a new record with a two-base hit in his sixth straight game, a 4-3 Stars win on August 17.

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**Tennessee Smokies**

**Smoke Signals**

OF Tyler Calvin has provided a spark since joining the Smokies on May 30, batting .291 with 10 homers and 31 RBI in 67 games. Calvin captured his second Hitter of the Week honors in two seasons with Mobile on August 3 after batting .577 with eight RBI the previous week. At one point, Calvin hit safely in 11 consecutive at-bats, matching the Southern League record set by Mississippi’s Matt Young last season. ... On July 17, all-star RHP Brian Schlitter watched his ERA expand to 6.10 but not worry. Schlitter has four saves and a perfect 0.00 ERA over his last three games. ... The Smokies travel to West Tenn for a five-game set starting on September 3.
SOUTHERN LEAGUE WEEKLY AWARDS

Week of July 27 - August 2

HITTER OF THE WEEK

Tyler Colvin, OF, Tennessee Smokies

Colvin, a weekly award winner last season, took home his first Hitter of the Week award of 2009 with a blistering performance at the plate. Colvin, a native of Augusta, Ga., led the league in batting (.577), RBI (8), hits (15) and on-base percentage (.577). He teamed up with teammate Wellington Castillo, who hit .500 and drove in six runs, to lead the Smokies to seven straight wins and within a half game of Chattanooga in the North Division. Colvin began the week with a .239 average but raised it nearly 50 points to a solid .286 mark. At one point, Colvin hit safely in 11 consecutive at-bats, matching the Southern League record set by Mississippi’s Matt Young last season.

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7/27 - 8/2

*Season

PITCHER OF THE WEEK

Nic Ungs, RHP, Jacksonville Suns

Ungs helped the Suns remain the league’s hottest team with two dominant starts. In 11 total innings, Ungs struck out a league-high 14 batters and allowed just one earned run. On July 27, Ungs kept the potent Barons lineup at bay and struck out seven in five innings to earn the victory in a 4-3 Suns win. He was even better on August 1, allowing only four hits in six scoreless innings in a 1-0 victory against Huntsville. Since joining the Suns on May 31, Ungs has been one of the best pitchers in the league, and currently owns a 9-2 record and 2.02 ERA over 15 starts. The Dyersville, Iowa native has a 32-20 record in five tours of duty in the Southern League.

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7/27 - 8/2

*Season

Week of August 3-9

HITTER OF THE WEEK

Juan Francisco, 3B, Carolina Mudcats

Francisco recorded five multi-hit games during the week – including four consecutive three-hit efforts – to raise his average 19 points to a .283 mark. The slugging third baseman led the league with three homers and finished third with nine RBI, vaulting him into the league lead with 22 homers and 74 RBI. He also led the league in hits (16), doubles (7), slugging percentage (1.032), extra-base hits (10) and runs (9). Francisco, who recorded a hit in all seven games last week, started his three-hit game streak August 4 at Tennessee. He batted 3-for-5 and added a homer and two RBI. The next day, the Villa Altagracia, Dominican Republic native torched the Smokies again, this time with two home runs and four RBI.

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8/3 - 8/9

*Season

PITCHER OF THE WEEK

Jose Ortega, LHP, Mississippi Braves

After joining the M-Braves on July 28, Ortega won his first three Double-A starts and allowed just two earned runs in 20 innings. In two starts during the week, the 22-year-old lefty struck out 15 in 13 innings and surrendered only one earned run. On August 3 against Montgomery, Ortega struck out seven batters and yielded just four singles in six scoreless innings. He turned in another stellar performance on August 9 at Huntsville, and allowed one earned run on eight hits through seven innings. He struck out eight more batters, and now has 22 strikeouts and six walks in 22.1 Double-A innings. The native of Maracaibo, Venezuela was signed as a nondrafted free agent in 2003.

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8/3 - 8/9

*Season

*stats as of 8/20
SOUTHERN LEAGUE WEEKLY AWARDS

Week of August 10-16

Marshall Hubbard, 1B, West Tenn Diamond Jaxx

In earning his second Hitter of the Week Award of 2009, Hubbard led West Tenn to a four-game sweep over Carolina and a one-game lead over Chattanooga in the tight race for the North Division second-half title. Hubbard led the league with two homers and eight RBI last week, raising his season totals to 13 and 61 respectively. He batted .391 (9-for-23) and had consecutive three-hit games on August 13 and 14. Hubbard also paced the circuit with a .783 slugging percentage and five extra-base hits. The 27-year-old Hubbard has been a Southern League all-star the last two seasons. He is a native of Ashland, Va.

AVG AB R H 2B 3B HR RBI SB OBP SLG
.391 23 4 9 3 0 2 8 0 .417 .783
.272 390 67 106 24 1 13 62 2 .386 .438

Nick Hill, LHP, West Tenn Diamond Jaxx

Hill completed West Tenn’s sweep of the weekly awards with his two longest outings of the season. On August 10 against Carolina, Hill pitched the first complete game of his three-year career, surrendering just one run on three hits. Hill had thrown only 81 pitches entering the ninth inning and at one point retired 23 consecutive batters. Hill also went the distance in his next start in the second game of an August 15 doubleheader with Chattanooga. The native of Bluff City, Tenn. struck out eight batters in seven innings and allowed only two runs on six hits. Hill led the league with two complete games, a pair of victories, 16 innings pitched and 12 strikeouts. He has six starts in 33 appearances this season, and is 5-4 with a 2.75 ERA.

TEAM STATISTICS

**PITCHING**

W-L ERA H SHO SV BB SO AVG R H HR BB SB
Birmingham 82-40 3.20 992 13 37 407 808 .271 .645 1155 122 407 78
Carolina 56-66 4.05 1009 8 24 521 815 .250 505 1051 90 372 76
Chattanooga 56-66 3.82 1003 7 28 439 888 .263 528 1060 79 463 73
Huntsville 58-63 4.27 1086 5 36 401 812 .255 522 1016 60 454 75
Jacksonville 71-52 3.25 975 13 37 390 827 .246 487 944 74 429 113
Mississippi 57-64 3.63 1002 7 32 520 840 .246 446 971 49 437 100
Mobile 59-64 3.89 1079 9 31 369 809 .261 514 1060 48 436 118
Montgomery 57-65 3.25 1051 5 33 387 791 .236 487 944 74 429 113
Tennessee 60-63 4.01 1084 8 35 435 802 .268 500 1089 78 346 75
West Tenn 55-68 4.03 1010 7 30 471 821 .250 543 980 95 488 119

**BATTING**

AVG R H HR BB SB
Birmingham .271 1155 122 407 78
Carolina .250 1051 90 372 76
Chattanooga .263 1060 79 463 73
Huntsville .255 1016 60 454 75
Jacksonville .246 944 74 429 113
Mississippi .246 971 49 437 100
Mobile .261 1060 48 436 118
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West Tenn .250 980 95 488 119

**As of August 20**

SOUTHERN LEAGUE STANDINGS

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West Tenn 55-68 4.03 1010 7 30 471 821 .250 543 980 95 488 119

*stats as of 8/20
FEATURED STATLINE

.348 / .436 / .630

Atlanta Braves top prospect Jason Heyward has hit .348 (48-138) in 39 games with Mississippi. Voted the Southern League Player of the Month for July, Heyward has posted a .436 on-base percentage and a .630 slugging percentage, which would rank second and first in the league respectively. Baseball America’s No. 1 minor league prospect has driven in 25 runs for the M-Braves and has a team-high seven homers. In 78 total games split between Single-A Myrtle Beach and Mississippi, the 6-foot-4, 220-pound outfielder is batting .318 with 17 homers and 56 RBI.

BY THE NUMBERS

2

Birmingham (82-40) and Jacksonville (71-52) are the only two Southern League clubs with overall winning records this season. Tennessee has the third-best overall record at 60-63.

3

Three teams are within two games of the North Division second half lead. West Tenn leads the way at 28-25, clinging to a half-game lead over Tennessee. Chattanooga sits 1.5 games back at an even 26-25.

Sun closer Matt Peterson saved his league and career-best 30th game on August 18, eclipsing his previous high of 29 saves for Double-A Altoona in 2007. He is also tied for the minor league lead this season.

15.7

Mississippi’s Craig Kimbrel leads all minor league pitchers with an average of 15.7 strikeouts per nine innings.

167

West Tenn’s Greg Halman leads all minor leaguers with 167 strikeouts. The center fielder entered the season regarded as Seattle’s top prospect and ranks third in the league with 21 homers.

Check out the Southern League’s official souvenir store online to purchase the 2009 Southern League Media Guide, which features budding MLB stars Clayton Kershaw, Evan Longoria, Cameron Maybin and David Price on the cover.

Also available are Southern League New Era caps, Southern League polo shirts and official Southern League baseballs.

Visit the Southern League souvenir stand today!