

Tampa Bay Rays

(90-72 3rd A.L. East)

****2013 last time in the post season.** 4 Times in the post season under Maddon

****The Rays used a team record 23 rookies** last season. They received 604 innings-nearly half the team's innings-from **rookies**.

****Rays were 51-30 at Tropicana Field** last year. Only the Red Sox and Yankees had more home wins in the majors.

Additions: Mike Zunino, Avisail Garcia, Charlie Morton, Yandy Diaz, Emilio Pagan.

Subtractions: Mallex Smith, Romo, Jake Bauers, C.J. Cron, Carlos Gomez.

The Opener: Cy Young winner Blake Snell made 31 starts, no other regular starter pitcher made more than 17. Ryan Stanek, Sergio Romo and Hunter Wood all started games. The Rays ERA decreased after the strategy was employed.

Attendance: Rays averaged 14,259 per game-lowest in the American League.

Payroll: Team with lowest payroll in baseball by far at \$56 million won 90 games. Highest paid player this year is Charlie Morton at \$15 million.

Not much Power: Lost out on Nelson Cruz and Edwin Encarnacion and designated C.J. Cron. Acquired Yandy Diaz but he hasn't hit many homers.

Prospects: Wander Franco ranked among the top prospects in baseball. Shortstop is 18 Yrs

New Ballpark: Last year a proposal for Ybor City ballpark rejected by the club. Financially not feasible. Agreement to explore new park expired at the end of last year. Lease at Trop through 2027.

Four outfielders:-Not only shifting lefties with high pull percentages but they are playing four outfielders leaving the entire left side of the infield empty. They have done it to Chris Davis, Justin Smoak and Bryce Harper this year. **When Maddon managed the Rays** he used 4-man outfield against David Ortiz and Jim Thome. "Get into a hitters head."

Spring Home: Tampa has been the spring home of seven Major League clubs: **Chicago Cubs** (1913-16), **Boston Red Sox** (1919), **Washington Senators** (1920-29), **Detroit Tigers** (1930), **Cincinnati Reds** (1931-42; 1946-87), **Chicago White Sox** (1954-59) and **New York Yankees** (1996-).

Tampa Products

The Tampa Bay area has produced a multitude of Major Leaguers, including Hall of Famers **Al Lopez and Wade Boggs, Lou Piniella, Tony LaRussa, Dwight Gooden, Gary Sheffield, Fred McGriff, Tino Martinez, Howard Johnson, Dave Magadan and Brad Radke.**

Starters: Had a streak of 35 2/3 scoreless innings by starters. Longest streak since Nationals 47 1/3 in 2015

Blake Snell 6-4 215 26 Yrs Seattle, WA

FB (95), CV, CH, SL—Curveball usage way up thin year

Rays first round pick in 2011

Rays renewed him to a contract barely above major league minimum but eleven days later signed him to a **five-year, \$50 million** contract in late March.

Struck out 13 Rockies batters in his 2nd start of the year, tying a career high. Followed that with an 11K performance in a win over CWS

Made 31 starts last year (21-5 1.89) winning the Cy Young Award in a close vote over Justin Verlander (169-154). Also finished 9th in MVP voting.

Won his last 9 straight decisions of 2018. (9-0 1.03)

Lefties hit only .135 against last year. **Changeup** 19% last year. Opponents hit a career low .195 against his changeup last year. Only Marco Gonzalez and David Price threw more changeups last year. **Fastball** reached 98 MPH last year. Averaged 95.8 MPH, third highest in the A.L. behind Severino and Cole.

Threw **more sliders and curveballs** last year making his elevated FB more effective.

Close friends with Chris Archer, spending a lot of time together away from the ballpark. Credits Archer for a lot of his success

Owns 225-250 pairs of shoes. Has over 5000 subscribers on his twitch channel to watch him play video games. (Twitch is an online service that allows you to broadcast video game plays).

As a teen he was 5'6" with a size 13 shoe. His dad Dave, a former minor league pitcher, told him he would grow into his body. By his junior year in HS he was 6'3". Before the 2015 season his dad told him he had to get more serious about his work ethic or he wouldn't make it. He went 15-4 that year 1.41 ERA at three levels and was named Minor League Player of the Year.

Charlie Morton 6'5" 215 35 Yrs Flemington, NJ

FB (94-95) CV, CT, CH

Allowed five runs in the second inning at the Trop (Benny slam) but nothing else over his six innings.

Made 30 starts with the Astros last year (15-3 3.13)

Cora was Astros Bench Coach in 2017 WS. "He got me a World Series ring, and a bunch of playoff cash."

Signed a **two-year \$30 million deal** in December. Makes his offseason home in Bradenton, an hour south of TB so he was interested in signing with the Rays.

Average fastball velocity last year was 95.7, the fourth highest among A.L. starters. (Severino, Cole, Snell).

His 29% **curveball usage** last year was second in the A.L. behind only Jose Berrios.

Became the first pitcher in MLB history to **win two Game 7's** in a post season (ALCS vs NYY and WS vs LAD) in 2017 for the Astros.

Get a lot of **ground balls**. Had the fourth highest ground ball percentage in the A.L. amount starters last year, at 47%.

Pitching coach Kyle Snyder, much like his old pitching coach Brent Strom with the Astros, both rely on information and **analytics**.

Struggled with consistency and injuries over the first 9 years of his career (46-71 4.54). Last two years with Astros (29-10 3.36). Strom?

Was an **All Star last year** for the first time at age 34

Pittsburgh 7 years, PHI and ATL 1 year

Grew up in Trumbull, CT where he played Little League ball with former Red Sox lefty Craig Breslow.

Grew up going to Yankees games and idolized Derek Jeter and Roger Clemens

Tyler Glasnow 6'8" 230 25 Yrs Newhall, CA

FB (97), CV, SL, CH

Shook off a **bad spring: (0-5 10.38)** Opponents hit .321 against this spring.

Attended Hart HS in Santa Clarita, CA. The school has produced James Shields, Trevor Bauer, Kevin Millar, Bob Walk.

Acquired at the deadline last year in the **Chris Archer deal**.

In six minor league seasons, he was (45-21 2.02) with strikeouts per 9 of over 11.

After the trade to the **Rays last July**, was immediately inserted into the rotation and was much better than his 1-5 record. Struck out 64 batters in 55 innings and had a WHIP of just over 1.00

Finished 0-5 10.38 ERA in **Spring Training**. He experimented with a pause in his delivery to help him stay back and a quick step to keep hitters off balance.

Fastball usage of 70% last year. Velocity gained 2 MPH over 2017. Reached triple digits in a start last.

Grew 11 inches between his freshman and senior years in HS. Height has made it difficult on mechanics consistency. Randy Johnson 6'10", Chris Young 6'10", Doug Fister 6'9". Glasnow BB/9IP of 5 for his major league career.

Ryan Yarbrough 6'5" 210 27 Yrs Lakeland, FL

FB (88-89), SL, CT, CH

Went to HS in WinterHaven, FL and college at Old Dominion (Verlander, Daniel Hudson)

Made 38 appearances last year and 6 starts (16-6 3.91). Finished 5th in ROY voting.

Was primarily a starter in the minor leagues and was 10 games over .500 with a 3.22 career ERA.

Was a Rays fan as a kid and still has a Scott Kazmir jersey he received as a kid.

Made his **major league debut** against the Red Sox last March, throwing 73 pitches in relief, the 2nd most by a Rays reliever in his debut (Price 87 in 2008). His first three appearances in the big leagues came against the Red Sox.

Considered a "bulk" guy. The pitcher used to take the ball second and charged with eating enough innings to get the ball to the late finishing relievers.

Acquired from the Mariners in exchange for Drew Smyly.

Cutters: threw 32% cutters last season

Hard hit rate: 31% last year among the lowest for A.L. relievers.

Ryne Stanek 6'4" 225 27 Yrs St. Louis, MO

FB (98-99) SL, SPLT

Named after Cubs Hall of Fame second baseman Ryne Sandberg.

Only the 3rd Ryne in the history of the game, Sandberg and Duren a three time all star. Ryne Harper, reliever for the Twins.

Became the first pitcher to make at least **25 starts and 25 relief appearances** in a season since 1937 (Hugh Mulcahy)

His 29 starts were the second most on the team behind Blake Snell.

Committed to play at Arkansas out of HS despite being selected in the third round by Seattle in 2010. Three years later he was a first round pick of the Rays. Other Razorbacks in the big leagues: Keuchel, James McCann, Benintendi, Forsythe)

Bullpen

****Rays pen lead all of baseball in strikeouts last year with 754**

Chaz Roe 6'5" 190 32 Yrs Steubenville, OH. FB, SL (64%)

- Grew up a pirates fan-great Uncle is Bill Mazeroski (Game 7 of the 1960 WS with a HR vs Ralph Terry-won 8 gold gloves)
- Rays are his 10 organization-Big league time with NY, AZ, BAL, ATL, TB
- Wicked slider, opponents hit only .170 against last year

Jose Alvarado 6'2" 245 23 Yrs Maracaibo, VZ. FB (98) SL (92) CV

- Hunts iguanas in the off season
- Made 70 appearances last year 2.39 ERA
- Strikeouts per nine of over 11 last year
- Hit 100 MPH last April against the Red Sox
- Had a 1.47 ERA against the Red Sox and Yankees last year.

Diego Castillo 6'3" 250 25 Yrs Cabrera, DR. FB (98) SL

- Youngest of 10 children (6 brothers and 3 sisters)
- 43 appearances and 11 starts in 2018 3.18 ERA
- Had a strikeouts per nine of over 10
- WHIP of 0.95 last year

Yonny Chirinos 6'2" 240 25 Yrs VZ. FB (94) SL SPLT

- Made 18 appearances and 7 starts in 2018
- Threw 5 scoreless innings at Fenway last April in his first start of the year

Jalen Beeks 5'11 200 25 Yrs Fayetteville AR. FB (92) CT CV CH

- Acquired from the Red Sox in Nathan Eovaldi trade last year
- 12 round by the Red Sox in 2014
- Ryan Stanek's teammate at Arkansas
- Was 5-0 for the Rays after the trade

Wilmer Font 6'4" 250 28 Yrs VZ. FB (94) SL CV SPLT

—TX, LAD, OAK

—Prone to the HR (12 in 44ip last year)

Jake Faria 6'4" 225 25 Yrs La Palma, CA. FB (92) SL CV CH

—Grew up five minutes from Angels Stadium. In HS modeled his delivery after Jared Weaver

—Gahr HS in Cerritos, CA also produced Chris Devenski, Shane Mack, Kris Medlen

Adam Kolarek 6'3" 215 30 Yrs Baltimore, MD. FB (89) SL CH

—Originally selected by the NYM in the 11th round 2010 out of Maryland

—Has been released twice, a rule 5 pick and twice signed as a free agent

—Dad Frank played professionally in the A's organization in the 70's and 80's

—Played first base for one batter, so he could stay in the game then moved back to the mound to face two left handed hitter

Hunter Wood 6'1" 175 25 Yrs Rogers, AR FB (92) CT CH

—Appeared in a career high 29 games last year 3.73 ERA

—Made 8 starts

—Averaged a strikeout per inning in the big leagues last year

Emilio Pagan 6'3" 205 27 Yrs Simpsonville, SC. FB (96) SL CV—Fairly even split

—Father was born in PR so he played for Puerto Rico in the 2017 WBC

—Acquired from Oakland in a three team trade with Texas in December

—In three stints with the A's he made 55 appearances last year.

—Averaged a strikeout per inning last year

Michael Perez- Cash says he has an elite arm. Adequate framer, block balls well.

