

April 6-14

Arizona Diamondbacks

Placed on restricted list: LHP Bayron Zepeda

Recalled: C John Hester

Option transferred: RHP Daniel Stange (Double-A to Triple-A)

Placed on 7-day DL: RHP Jarrod Parker, LHP Clay Zavada, 3B Andrew Fie, 3B Ricardo Sosa, SS Pedro Ciriaco, OF Pete Clifford, OF A.J. Pollock

Atlanta Braves

Released: RHP Deunte Heath, LHP Francisley Bueno, 3B Adam Coe, OF Anthony Feliz

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Cristhian Martinez

Option transferred: RHP Stephen Marek and LHP Lee Hyde (Triple-A to Double-A) and LHP Jose Ortegano (Triple-A to high Class A)

Placed on 7-day DL: RHP Brett Butts, RHP Dustin Evans, RHP Vladimir Nunez, LHP Steve Kent, C Chris Anderson, 1B Riaan Spanjer-Furstenburg, 2B Juan Gonzalez, SS Samuel Sime, OF Luis Sumoza

Placed on 60-day DL: LHP Dimasther Delgado

[Heath](#) attracted a fair amount of national notoriety when Kissimmee, Fla., police arrested and charged the 24-year-old righthander with soliciting a prostitute during Braves' spring training camp. Heath allegedly responded to an online listing for prostitution and became ensnared in the police sting when he arrived at the apartment he had agreed upon with a police decoy. He spent a night in Osceola County jail before being released on a \$10,000 bond. The Braves suspended Heath before cutting ties completely.

The Cuban defector [Bueno](#) (29) played four seasons in the Braves system between AA-AAA. He made the MLB debut in 2008 pitching one game. His minor league track record is 12-10-1 3.90 ERA in 351.1 IP. When defected from Cuba, Bueno was considered a prospect with some aspirations to the National Team.

[Dimasther Delgado](#) suffered a broken femur in an offseason car accident in Panama and is expected to miss the season. He was coming off a strong full-season debut with low Class A Rome a year ago.

The Braves claimed [Martinez](#) on waivers from the Marlins. The righthander is one of the few minor league Rule 5 picks (from the Tigers in '06) to log time in the big leagues. Martinez, 28, made 15 relief appearances for the Marlins last year, showing a deceptive high-80s sinker and a changeup. His peripherals weren't half bad, either—6.2 strikeouts, 2.7 walks and 0.7 home runs per nine innings.

Baltimore Orioles

Released: C Ansony LaPaix, SS Andy Gonzalez

Placed on restricted list: RHP Chris Lambert, RHP Brian Parker

Voluntarily retired: LHP Stephen Procner

Recalled: 2B Justin Turner

Outrighted to Triple-A, removed from 40-man: 1B Michael Aubrey, SS Robert Andino

Placed on 7-day DL: RHP Travis Keating, RHP Luis Lebron, RHP Mick Mattaliano, RHP Josh Perrault, RHP Jake Renshaw, C Michel Hernandez, C Michael Ohlman, C Jordan Wolf, OF Matt Angle, OF Kieron Pope

Boston Red Sox

Released: LHP Brian Shouse

Option transferred: LHP Felix Doubront (Triple-A to Double-A)

Placed on 7-day DL: RHP Travis Beazley, RHP Jordan Flasher, RHP Seth Garrison, RHP Miguel Gonzalez, RHP Devern Hansack, RHP T.J. Large, RHP Kelvin Pichardo, RHP Felix Ventura, C Gustavo Molina, SS Aaron Reza, SS Gil Velazquez, OF Ronald Bermudez, OF Zach Daeges

Placed on temporarily inactive list: C Jon Still

Chicago Cubs

Released: C Garrett Maines, OF Jason James

Placed on suspended list: C Luis Flores

Recalled: RHP Jeff Gray

Placed on 7-day DL: RHP Justin Bristow, RHP Chris Carpenter, RHP Manolin DeLeon, RHP Marcus Hatley, RHP Dylan Johnston, RHP David Patton, LHP Casey Lambert, C Mark Johnson, 1B Rebel Ridling, 3B Scott McClain, SS Matt Matulia, OF Matt Spencer

The Cubs signed both [Maines](#) and [James](#) out of the independent Frontier League in the offseason, but neither will suit up for a Chicago affiliate this spring. James, in particular, has an interesting backstory. Drafted in consecutive years out of Kishwaukee (Ill.) JC, in '03 and '04, he opted to attend NAIA Lindenwood (Mo.) instead of turning pro. James signed on with the Rockford Riverhawks of the Frontier League in July '06 after being passed over in the draft. He then proceeded to string together four remarkable seasons in a row, batting a cumulative .355/.420/.524 in 306 games for Rockford. James' hitting exploits had some calling him the Ted Williams of the Frontier League.

Chicago White Sox

Released: OF Brady Clark

Placed on restricted list: OF Miguel Negrón

Placed on 7-day DL: RHP Scott Elarton, RHP Brandon Hynick, RHP Brian Omogrosso, RHP Derek Rodriguez

Placed on 60-day DL: OF Jared Mitchell

A nasty spring training collision with an outfield wall deprived us all the chance to see [Jared Mitchell](#) play this season. He had surgery to repair a torn tendon in his left ankle and could miss the season.

Cincinnati Reds

Released: RHP Brodie Pullen

Placed on restricted list: LHP Steven Otterness

Optioned to Triple-A: 3B Juan Francisco

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Mike Leake, 2B Miguel Cairo, OF Laynce Nix

Designated for assignment: LHP Pedro Viola

Placed on 7-day DL: RHP Jose Arredondo, RHP James Avery, RHP Jared Burton, RHP Mark Serrano, RHP Sean Watson, LHP Bill Bray

[Pullen](#), a 33rd-round pick in '07, converted from third baseman to pitcher in '08 but then missed all of '09 with injury.

[Leake](#) became the 21st player to go directly from the draft to the big leagues with no minor league stopover in between. The last two pitchers to turn the trick: Ariel Prieto in '95 and Darren Driefort in '94. Leake walked seven over 6 2/3 innings in his big league debut, but he managed to hold the Cubs to one run on four hits, while striking out five.

Cleveland Indians

Outrighted to Triple-A, removed from 40-man: 2B Anderson Hernandez

Outrighted to Double-A, removed from 40-man: C Wyatt Toregas

Option transferred: LHP Kelvin de la Cruz (Double-A to high Class A)

Placed on 7-day DL: RHP Jason Grilli, RHP Jason Knapp, RHP Kyle Landis, RHP Adam Miller, LHP Ryan Morris, LHP Heath Taylor, OF Jordan Brown

Colorado Rockies

Traded: C Robby Hammock to Yankees for future considerations

Voluntarily retired: C Brandon Whitby

Option transferred: RHP Al Alburquerque (Triple-A to Double-A)

Placed on temporarily inactive list: RHP Al Alburquerque, LHP Kurt Birkins

Placed on 7-day DL: RHP Matt Wilhite, LHP Jimmy Gobble, C Paul Lo Duca, 2B Omar Quintanilla, SS Hector Gomez, SS Chris Nelson, SS Eider Torres

Detroit Tigers

Placed on restricted list: RHP Brandon Hamilton, 3B Ronnie Bourquin

Placed on 7-day DL: RHP Scott Green, RHP Cody Satterwhite, LHP Casey Crosby, LHP Austin Wood, SS Audy Ciriaco, SS Brandon Douglas, OF Kyle Peter

A Tigers' supplemental first-rounder in '07, [Brandon Hamilton](#) did not report to spring training and is on a "mission trip," according to the Tigers.

Florida Marlins

Released: RHP Allen Baxter

Acquired: 2B Alejandro Machado from Mets for future considerations

Placed on restricted list: RHP Jeremiah Haar, LHP James Houser, SS Gookie Dawkins

Placed on 7-day DL: RHP Jose Ceda, RHP Kyle Gunderson, RHP Kris Harvey, RHP Dallas Trahern, RHP Nic Ungs, RHP Kyle Winters, LHP Jeff Gogal, LHP Andrew Miller, LHP Graham Taylor, LHP Sean West, C Miguel Fermin, 2B Javier Guzman, OF Greg Burns, OF Chris Dunn, OF Tom Hickman

If the name [Allen Baxter](#) sounds familiar, it's because he once ranked as the Marlins' No. 5 prospect, just behind Josh Beckett, Miguel Cabrera, Denny Bautista and Adrian Gonzalez on the '02 list. His name also pops up on our '06 Prospect Handbook 31st Team, where the '01 third-round pick sounds like a future Cy Young award winner: ". . . Baxter showed a 92-94 mph fastball that topped out at 98 mph. He has great natural movement on both his two- and four-seam fastballs. He has a hard-breaking curve he can throw for strikes . . ." But his addition to Florida's 40-man roster following that '05 season turned out to be his career highlight. He got dumped from the 40-man in March '06 and made just nine relief appearances that season as he battled injuries—an unfortunate turn of events for a pitcher who already had missed a year with Tommy John surgery. At any rate, Baxter would not pitch it all from '07 through '09, spending each season on the restricted list. He has totaled 9 1/3 innings in the past four seasons.

Houston Astros

Placed on restricted list: RHP J.B. MacDonald, OF Mitch Einertson

Recalled: RHP Wilton Lopez

Option transferred: SS Wladimir Sutil (Triple-A to Double-A)

Placed on 7-day DL: RHP Chris Hicks, RHP Brad James, RHP Jose Valdez, LHP Chris Blazek, LHP David Duncan, C Jose Lopez, 1B Brian Pellegrini, 2B Jose Vallejo, SS Oswaldo Navarro

Placed on 60-day DL: C Max Sapp

Kansas City Royals

Placed on restricted list: RHP Bryan Casey, LHP Ray Liotta, LHP Craig Rodriguez, 1B David Wood, 3B Jason Morales, OF Nick Francis

Optioned to Triple-A: SS Mike Aviles

Outrighted to Triple-A, removed from 40-man: RHP Anthony Lerew

Placed on 7-day DL: RHP Jorge Campillo, RHP Edward Cegarra, RHP Luis Cota, RHP Aaron Hartsock, RHP Chris Hayes, RHP Devon Lowery, RHP Julio Pimentel, LHP Adam Bostick, LHP Rowdy Hardy, C Juan Graterol, C Jeff Howell, 3B Mike Moustakas, 3B Eddie Prasch, SS Jeff Bianchi, SS Mario Lisson, SS Ed Lucas, OF Shane Costa, OF Jarrod Dyson

Reinstated from inactive list: RHP Dylan Lindsay

Los Angeles Angels

Placed on restricted list: SS Jean Almanzar

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Bobby Cassevah, RHP Francisco Rodriguez

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Bobby Cassevah, C Ryan Budde, 1B Robb Quinlan

Placed on 7-day DL: RHP Trevor Bell, RHP Brok Butcher, RHP Ryan Chaffee, RHP Michael Davitt, RHP

Bobby Mosebach, RHP Kevin Nabors, RHP Tim Schoeninger, RHP Mason Tobin, RHP Vladimir Veras, LHP Leonardo Calderon, 2B P.J. Phillips

Los Angeles Dodgers

Placed on restricted list: RHP Blake Brannon

Loaned to Mexican League: C Gabriel Gutierrez

Recalled: C A.J. Ellis

Placed on 7-day DL: RHP Jake McCarter, RHP Jordan Pratt, RHP Josh Walter, C Alex Garabedian, C Fumimasa Ishibashi, C Steven Lopez, 2B Ramon Nivar, SS Joe Becker, SS Justin Sellers, OF Alfredo Amezaga, OF Adam Godwin, OF Andres Perez

The Mexican-born [Gutierrez](#) (26) is in his 10th season with the Dodgers (topping AAA). L.A. loaned his contract to Mexico City.

Milwaukee Brewers

Released: LHP Josh Romanski

Placed on restricted list: RHP Jeremy Jeffress

Placed on 7-day DL: RHP Evan Anundsen, RHP Mark DiFelice, RHP Rob Wooten, LHP Bobby Bramhall, LHP Chris Capuano, LHP Mike Ramlow, LHP Brae Wright, OF Adam Stern

Placed on temporarily inactive list: C Angel Salome

The Brewers selected [Romanski](#) out of San Diego—where he was Brian Matusz's wing man—with a fourth-round pick in '08, but he never did take the mound for them. An injury knocked him for the '09 season, and the amateur two-way standout spent four games at DH for Rookie-level Helena in '08.

[Jeffress](#), the 18th overall pick in the 2006 Draft, has twice been suspended for testing positive for "a drug of abuse" and currently is serving a 100-game suspension.

[Wooten](#), who finished his first full pro season in Double-A last year, will miss the season after having Tommy John surgery.

Minnesota Twins

Placed on 7-day DL: RHP Brad Hennessey, RHP Loek Van Mil, RHP Matt Williams, 3B Matt Macri, OF Brandon Roberts

New York Mets

Traded: 2B Alejandro Machado to Marlins for future considerations

Optioned to Triple-A: C Omir Santos, SS Ruben Tejada

Option transferred: RHP Clint Everts, RHP Eddie Kunz and OF Nick Evans (Triple-A to Double-A)

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Jenrry Mejia, LHP Hisanori Takahashi, LHP Raul Valdes, 1B Mike Jacobs, SS Ruben Tejada, OF Frank Catalanotto

Designated for assignment: RHP Clint Everts, 3B Shawn Bowman

Placed on 7-day DL: RHP Sal Aguilar, RHP Nick Carr, RHP Stephen Clyne, RHP Ryan Coultas, RHP Jack Egbert, RHP Emary Frederick, RHP John Holdzkom, RHP Brad Holt, RHP Jeff Kaplan, RHP John Madden, RHP Carlos Muniz, RHP Brant Rustich, RHP Tim Stronach, C Jordan Abruzzo, C Francisco Pena, C Shawn Riggans, 2B Andy Green, 2B Reese Havens, 3B Jefry Marte

Placed on temporarily inactive list: LHP Travis Blackley

The Cuban [Raul Valdes](#) spent the past two seasons playing winter ball in the Dominican League and had not played affiliated ball since '07 with the Mets (St. Lucie/Binghamton). Before (2005-06) he pitched ineffectively for the AA & AAA affiliates of the Cubs and in the CanAm League. The Mets signed him on the recommendation of Ken Oberkfell, manager for their Triple-A Buffalo affiliate and also the Escogido team that Valdes played for last winter. He was named the best starting LHP of the Caribbean Series, in which he pitched for the Dominican team.

New York Yankees

Released: OF Javier Herrera

Acquired: C Robby Hammock from Rockies for future considerations

Placed on restricted list: RHP Ramon Rodriguez, LHP Rony Bautista, SS Joaquin Perez

Voluntarily retired: C Kyle Anson

Optioned to Triple-A: OF Chad Huffman

Option transferred: LHP Wilkin de la Rosa (Triple-A to Double-A)

Placed on 7-day DL: RHP Cory Arbiso, RHP Dellin Betances, RHP Paul Bush, RHP Caleb Cotham, RHP Christian Garcia, RHP Alan Horne, RHP George Kontos, RHP Dickson Marquez, RHP Brett Marshall, RHP Adam Olbrychowski, RHP Brad Rulon, LHP Manuel Banuelos, C Brian Baisley, C Neall French, C P.J. Pilittere, 1B Jorge Vazquez, 2B Matt Cusick, SS Carmen Angelini, OF Edwar Gonzalez

Selected out of Texas State by the Yankees in the 10th round of the 2005 Draft, [Anson](#) (27) hit .227/.374/.319 in 57 games at Trenton (AA) last season.

The Yankees claimed [Huffman](#) on waivers from the Padres. He endured a tough spring in Padres' camp, but he offers New York a strong bat for Triple-A Scranton as well as a righthanded-hitting option if they need corner outfield reinforcements in the Bronx.

Oakland Athletics

Released: RHP Trey Webb, RHP Matt Wright, C Curtis Thigpen

Optioned to Triple-A: OF Jai Miller

Outrighted to Triple-A, removed from 40-man: OF Jack Cust

Option transferred: RHP Fautino de los Santos (Double-A to high Class A)

Placed on 7-day DL: RHP Kristian Bell, RHP Andrew Carignan, RHP Fautino de los Santos, RHP Matt Fitts, RHP Dan Giese, RHP Michael Hart, RHP Brett Hunter, RHP Jason Jennings, RHP Jonathan Joseph, RHP Chad Kerfoot, RHP Mathieu LeBlanc Poirier, RHP Chad Lee, RHP Michael Madsen, RHP Scott Moore, RHP Jamie Richmond, RHP Josue Selenes, RHP James Simmons, RHP Brett Tomko, LHP Julio Ramos, C Joel Galarrraga, C Dusty Napoleon, C Gabriel Ortiz, 1B Sean Doolittle, 1B Matt Whitney, 2B Adrian Cardenas, 3B Jeff Baisley, SS Dusty Coleman, SS Josh Horton, SS Christian Vitters, OF Chris Berroa, OF Toddric Johnson, OF Mitch LeVier

Placed on temporarily inactive list: SS Michael Richard

The A's claimed [Miller](#) on waivers from the Marlins, taking a chance on gifted athlete who has made incremental improvements each season. The 25-year-old batted .289/.360/.510 with 16 homers in 343 at-bats for Triple-A New Orleans last season. Not impressed? Consider that just three years prior, in '06, Miller had batted .209/.308/.267 in 344 at-bats for high Class A Jupiter.

Philadelphia Phillies

Placed on restricted list: SS Travis Mattair

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Drew Carpenter

Placed on 7-day DL: RHP Brandon Duckworth, RHP John Ennis, RHP B.J. Rosenberg, RHP Zack Sterner, RHP Oscar Villarreal, C James Skelton, C John Suomi, 2B Keoni DeRenne, 3B Mike Durant, 2B Harold Garcia, OF Quintin Berry, OF Brian Stavisky

Pittsburgh Pirates

Placed on suspended list: RHP Kevin Hart

Placed on restricted list: RHP Matt McSwain

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Daniel McCutchen

Outrighted to Triple-A, removed from 40-man: OF Brandon Moss

Added to 40-man roster: LHP Brian Burres

Placed on 7-day DL: RHP Ramon Aguero, RHP Jimmy Barthmaier, RHP Craig Hansen, RHP Brett Lorin, RHP Tyler Yates, LHP Neal Cotts, LHP Wil Ledezma, LHP Justin Thomas, C Milver Reyes, 2B Josh Bonifay, 3B Kevin Melillo, SS Doug Bernier

St. Louis Cardinals

Placed on restricted list: C Paul Vasquez, 3B Alan Ahmady, SS Tyler Bighames

Placed on 7-day DL: RHP Scott Bittle, RHP Jason Buursma, RHP Josh Dew, RHP Trey Hearne, RHP Kyle Mura, RHP Francisco Samuel, RHP Miguel Tapia, LHP George Brown, LHP Hector Cardenas, LHP Sam Freeman, 1B Mark Hamilton, 1B Jonathan Rodriguez, 2B Jose Martinez, 3B Jermaine Curtis

Placed on temporarily inactive list: RHP P.J. Walters

San Diego Padres

Recalled: RHP Adam Russell

Option transferred: LHP Aaron Poreda (Triple-A to Double-A)

Placed on 7-day DL: RHP Stephen Faris, RHP Jeremy McBryde, RHP Drew Miller, RHP Jackson Quezada, LHP Steve Garrison, LHP Cory Luebke, C Adam Zornes, 2B Matt Antonelli, SS Beamer Weems, OF Jaff Decker

Placed on 60-day DL: LHP Matt LaChappa

Reinstated from DL: RHP Hayden Beard

San Francisco Giants

Placed on restricted list: OF Shane Jordan

Placed on 7-day DL: RHP Brian Anderson, RHP Santiago Casilla, RHP Shane Kaufman, RHP Osiris Matos, RHP David Newton, RHP Danny Otero, RHP Chris Wilson, LHP Kelvin Marte, LHP Wilmin Rodriguez, C Matt Klimas, C Nestor Rojas, C Jesse Shriver, 1B Andy D'Alessio, 1B Josh Mazzola, 3B Drew Biery, 3B Michael Sandoval, OF Mike Loberg

Signed as an undrafted free agent out of Venezuela by the Twins in 1997, [Sandoval](#) (28) was released during the 2004 season while with Fort Myers (A Adv.). Since then, the right-handed played Indy ball. Last season hit .291/.375/.417 with Newark (Atlantic League).

Seattle Mariners

Placed on restricted list: RHP Victor Duarte, LHP Richard Ortiz, 1B Joe White, OF Robert Rodriguez

Outrighted to Triple-A, removed from 40-man: OF Ryan Langerhans

Option transferred: LHP Ryan Feierabend (Triple-A to high Class A)

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Jesus Colome

Placed on 7-day DL: RHP Pat Bresnehan, RHP Nolan Gallagher, RHP Brent Johnson, RHP Stephen Kahn, RHP Ricky Orta, RHP Kyle Parker, RHP Luis Pena, RHP Yusmeiro Petit, RHP Alfredo Venegas, RHP Tom Wilhelmsen, LHP Donnie Hume, LHP Cesar Jimenez, LHP Derrick Saito, C Ralph Henriquez, 3B Ronnie Prettyman, OF Matt Cerione, OF Jamie McOwen, OF Ryan Royster

Orta had Tommy John surgery this spring, which is a tough break for a relief prospect coming off a breakthrough campaign that landed him on the 40-man roster.

Hume also enjoyed a fine '09 season, taming the High Desert winds enough to go 17-5, 4.81 in 27 starts for the high Class A affiliate, but he's strengthening his shoulder in extended spring training.

Tampa Bay Rays

Released: C Luis Bautista, C David Genao, OF Hunter Pace

Placed on restricted list: C Mike McCormick, 2B Jason Tweedy

Recalled: C John Jaso

Option transferred: LHP Jake McGee and C Jose Lobaton (Triple-A to Double-A)

Placed on 7-day DL: RHP Alex Cobb, RHP Woods Fines, RHP Tyree Hayes, RHP Will Kline, LHP Jason Cromer, LHP R.J. Swindle, 2B J.J. Furmaniak, 3B Chris Nowak, SS Tim Beckham, OF Desmond Jennings

Placed on temporarily inactive list: C Nevin Ashley

Texas Rangers

Placed on restricted list: RHP Danny Gutierrez, OF Steve Murphy

Added to 40-man roster: C Matt Treanor

Placed on 7-day DL: RHP Omar Poveda, RHP Michael Schlact, C Leonel de los Santos, C Toby Hall, 2B Vicente Cafaro, OF Brandon Boggs, OF Endy Chavez

Toronto Blue Jays

Placed on restricted list: 1B Manny Rodriguez

Optioned to high Class A: SS Adeiny Hechavarria

Option transferred: LHP Luis Perez (Triple-A to Double-A)

Added to 40-man roster: OF Jeremy Reed

Placed on 7-day DL: RHP Vince Bongiovanni, RHP Kyle Ginley, RHP Shawn Hill, RHP Kenny Rodriguez, RHP Marcus Walden, RHP Josh Wells, LHP John Anderson, LHP Willie Collazo, LHP Matt Wright, C C.J. Ebarb, C A.J. Jimenez, C Matt Liuzza, C Kyle Phillips, C Al Quintana, 2B Howie Clark, 3B Kevin Ahrens, 3B Scott Campbell, OF Chris Aguila, OF Sean Shoffit, OF Moises Sierra

Placed on 60-day DL: 3B Bryan Kervin

Placed on temporarily inactive list: SS Adeiny Hechavarria

The Blue Jays inked Cuban defector Hechavarria to a four-year, \$10 million deal.

Washington Nationals

Released: RHP Ironel Paez

Placed on suspended list: RHP Justin Phillabaum, LHP Patrick McCoy

Placed on restricted list: LHP Will Atwood, 3B Stephen King, OF Edgardo Baez

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Garrett Mock

Recalled: OF Roger Bernadina

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Livan Hernandez

Placed on 7-day DL: RHP Adrian Alaniz, RHP Juan Jaime, RHP Mike MacDougal, RHP Carlos Martinez, RHP Ryan Mattheus, RHP Brad Meyers, RHP A.J. Morris, RHP Kyle Morrison, LHP Austin Garrett, LHP Ron Villone, C Jamie Burke, 2B Dan Lyons, 3B Luis Ordaz, SS Danny Espinosa, OF J.R. Higley, OF Jerry Owens

Placed on temporarily inactive list: OF Justin Maxwell

Espinosa missed Double-A Harrisburg's Opening Day while out with a hamstring injury.

March 29-April 5

Arizona Diamondbacks

Released: RHP Chase Christianson, RHP Cody Evans, RHP Sean Morgan, RHP Jorge Perez, RHP Ricardo Taveras, C James Skelton, 3B Justin Parker, OF Joey Side

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Rodrigo Lopez

Outrighted to Triple-A, removed from 40-man: RHP Jose Marte

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Billy Buckner, RHP Kevin Mulvey, LHP Zach Kroenke, LHP Clay Zavada, C John Hester, 1B Brandon Allen, 2B Ryan Roberts, OF Cole Gillespie

Selected by the Detroit Tigers in the 14th round of the 2004 First-Year Player Draft, [Skelton](#) was selected by Arizona from Detroit in the Major League phase of the 2008 Rule 5 Draft. The Diamondbacks liked his arm and plate discipline and were able to retain him by dealing 2006 supplemental first-round pitcher Brooks Brown to the Tigers. The left-handed catcher was assigned to AA Mobile and hit .207/.349/.288 between AA and A Adv. levels.

The Diamondbacks retained [Kroenke](#), their major league Rule 5 selection from the Yankees, for no compensation. He remains on the club's 40-man roster, however, in contrast to the other Rule 5 picks who have seen their rights transferred to the drafting club—that's Chuck Lofgren (to the Brewers), Edgar Osuna (Royals), Mike Parisi (Cubs) and Ben Snyder (Rangers). But then Kroenke's situation was unique from the get-go. A Rule 5 pick by the Marlins in '08, he already had been exposed to the waiver process once before. Last year, he cleared waivers and was returned to New York. He cleared waivers again this spring, with a little help from a warning that if the Yankees claimed him, then he would opt for free

agency. This according to Diamondbacks correspondent Jack Magruder. So rather than lose Kroenke as a free agent—his right as a player who has twice cleared waivers—Arizona compromised and kept him on the 40-man.

Atlanta Braves

Signed: OF Alex Romero

Released: RHP Patrick Currin, RHP Rudy Darrow, RHP Mike Mehlich, LHP Kevin Gunderson, C J.R. House, 1B Greg Creek, 2B Michael Fisher, OF C.J. Lee, OF Antoan Richardson, OF Stephen Shults

Placed on restricted list: RHP Luis Valdez

Added to 40-man roster: OF Jason Heyward

Outrighted to high Class A, removed from 40-man: RHP Juan Abreu

Optioned to Triple-A: LHP Jonny Venters, C Clint Sammons

[Valdez](#) did not report to Braves camp because he had trouble getting a visa that would allow him to travel from the Dominican Republic. This forced Atlanta to place him on the restricted list.

The Braves signed [Abreu](#), a minor league free agent, to a big league contract last November. But after the 24-year-old righthander's challenging spring, they decided to remove him from the 40-man and start him with high Class A Myrtle Beach, where his arm strength could serve him well as closer.

Baltimore Orioles

Signed: OF Joey Gathright

Released: RHP Colin Allen, RHP Andrew Barb, RHP Joe Esposito, LHP Chris Salberg, LHP Brian Sisk, C Chad Moeller, C Brendan Monaghan, 1B Elvin Polanco, 3B Mike Costanzo, OF David Cash, OF Richard D'Oleo, OF Joe Nowicki

Acquired: C Steve Lerud from Royals for future considerations

Added to 40-man roster: LHP Will Ohman

Designated for assignment: 1B Michael Aubrey

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Kam Mickolio, RHP Chris Tillman, LHP Alberto Castillo, 2B Justin Turner, OF Lou Montanez

A 2nd round Draft pick by the Phillies in 2005, [Costanzo](#) (26) was traded with Michael Bourn and Geoff Geary to the Astros for Brad Lidge and Eric Bruntlett on Nov. 7, 2007, and traded again with Troy Patton, Matt Albers, Dennis Sarfate and Luke Scott to the Orioles for Miguel Tejada before the 2008 season. Last season, Costanzo hit .202/.304/.316 between Norfolk/AAA & Bowie/AA.

Boston Red Sox

Released: RHP Scott Patterson, RHP Chad Povich, RHP Chad Rhoades, RHP Jorge Sosa, C Ty Weeden, 1B Brett Harper, 1B Michael Jones, 2B Jeff Natale, 3B Christian Colonel, OF Kade Keowen

Added to 40-man roster: LHP Scott Schoeneweis

Optioned to Triple-A: C Dusty Brown, 2B Kevin Frandsen, 2B Tug Hulett, OF Josh Reddick

[Natale](#), 27, was selected by the Red Sox in the 32nd round of the 2005 First-Year Player Draft. Last year, he hit a solid .282/.397/.400 in 58 games at Pawtucket/AAA. With Kevin Frandsen and Tug Hulett on the AAA roster, the Red Sox didn't find a spot for him.

Chicago Cubs

Released: RHP Todd Blackford, RHP Dan McDaniel, RHP Arismendy Mota, RHP Julio Pena, RHP Jake Schmidt, 1B Kevin Millar, 3B Derek Hellenhi

Added to 40-man roster: LHP James Russell, 1B Chad Tracy

Optioned to Triple-A: 1B Micah Hoffpauir, OF Sam Fuld

Option transferred: RHP Rafael Dolis and RHP David Patton (Double-A to high Class A); RHP Marcos Mateo (Triple-A to Double-A)

The Cubs signed [Heleni](#) in December as a nondrafted free agent from Louisiana State, where he played alongside Cubs' second-rounder D.J. Lemahieu.

Chicago White Sox

Released: RHP Ryan Strauss, LHP Wander Perez

Added to 40-man roster: C Donny Lucy

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Dan Hudson, SS Brent Lillibridge, OF Alejandro De Aza

Option transferred: RHP Jhonny Nunez (Triple-A to Double-A)

Voluntarily retired: RHP Levi Maxwell, OF Harold Baines Jr.

Cincinnati Reds

Released: RHP Arshwin Asjes, RHP Josh Beal, RHP Forest Cannon, RHP Ramon Geronimo, RHP Adian Kummet, RHP Luis Montano, RHP Zach Ward, RHP Kip Wells, RHP Jake Wiley, C Jason Bour, 1B Dave Stewart, 2B Yen-Wen Kuo, OF Tony Brown, OF Albert Laboy, OF Kevin West

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Jared Burton, RHP Carlos Fisher, LHP Aroldis Chapman, LHP Matt Maloney, LHP Travis Wood, 2B Drew Sutton

Option transferred: 1B Yonder Alonso (Triple-A to Double-A)

Cleveland Indians

Released: RHP Dallas Cawiezell, RHP Guido Fonseca, RHP Tom Mastny, RHP Mike Pontius, C Rolando Petit, 1B Chris Nash, 2B Lurvin Basabe, 2B Matt Willard, SS Mark Thompson, OF Matt Brown, OF Stephen Head, OF Adam White

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Jamey Wright, 2B Mark Grudzielanek, OF Austin Kearns

Designated for assignment: C Wyatt Toregas

Outrighted to Triple-A, removed from 40-man: LHP Jeremy Sowers

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Carlos Carrasco, C Wyatt Toregas, OF Trevor Crowe

A 2nd round Draft pick by the Indians in 2005 (Signing Bonus: \$605,000), [Head](#) (26) hit a combined .263/.324/.425 in five pro seasons, reaching AAA level in 2009.

Colorado Rockies

Released: RHP Rick Bauer, RHP Austin Chambliss, RHP Chris Gissell, RHP Carlos Guevara, RHP Carlos Luna, RHP Justin Speier, LHP Tommy Baumgardner, LHP Adam Bright, LHP Xavier Cedeno, LHP Josh Muecke, 1B Josh Phelps, 1B Chris Vasami, OF Daniel Carte, OF Kevin Clark, OF Jay Cox, OF Alex Escobar, OF Robert Perry

Recalled: RHP Esmil Rogers

Optioned to Triple-A: 2B Eric Young Jr.

A Rockies second-round pick in '05, [Carte](#) earned second-team All-America honors that season for his play at Winthrop. But the 25-year-old stalled in Double-A, hitting .251/.303/.358 in 674 at-bats over two seasons with Tulsa. His walk-to-strikeout ratio (39-to-181) tells the story, but he's not alone among college outfielder disappointments (Eli Iorg, Brian Pettway, Carte, Ryan Patterson and Sergio Pedroza).

The Aussie [Bright](#), 26, was a minor league free agent following the 2009 season, after spending seven years in the Rockies organization (1-2-1 4.30 ERA in 36 relief app. last season at Tulsa/AA). Colorado re-signed him last February.

Detroit Tigers

Released: RHP Jose Diaz, RHP Drew Graham, RHP Mike LaLuna, RHP Matt Rusch, LHP Chad Linder, LHP Michael Manus, LHP Macay McBride, LHP Sam Narron, LHP Jose Siso, C Joe Bowen, C Keith Hernandez, C Jordan Newton, 1B Ryan Roberson, 1B Devin Thomas, 3B Kory Casto, OF Eddie Rush

Traded: LHP Nate Robertson to Marlins for LHP Jay Voss

Optioned to Triple-A: SS Brent Dlugach, OF Clete Thomas

Option transferred: OF Wilkin Ramirez (Triple-A to Double-A)

Florida Marlins

Released: RHP Seth McClung, RHP Jarrett Santos, C Torre Langley, C Jameson Smith, 1B Ricky Orton, OF Nate Simon

Traded: LHP Jay Voss to Tigers for LHP Nate Robertson

Recalled: RHP Tim Wood

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Clay Hensley, RHP Jose Veras, 3B Brian Barden, 3B Mike Lamb

Designated for assignment: RHP Cristhian Martinez, OF Jai Miller

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Rick VandenHurk, RHP Tim Wood

[Santos](#) was a 34th Round draft pick by the Marlins in 2004. In 2008, he was a Southern League All-Star; last season posted a solid 8-8 3.85 ERA in 40 games (15 starts) between Jacksonville/AA & New Orleans/AAA. He's a control guy: only 17 BB in 117 IP in 2009 (but he didn't strike out much: 55 K).

The Marlins tabbed high school catchers with third-round picks in consecutive drafts, taking [Torre Langley](#) in '06 and [Jameson Smith](#) in '07. Langley made it no higher than low Class A Greensboro, where he played only part time, and batted .222/.250/.337 in four pro seasons. Smith peaked at high Class A Jupiter, but was similarly ineffective as a hitter, batting .233/.331/.297 in three seasons.

Houston Astros

Released: RHP Matt Ginter, RHP Scott Migl, RHP Philip Rummel, RHP Jack Tilghman, LHP Mike Hacker, LHP Chris Salamida, LHP Jon Switzer, C Reinaldo Pestana, 1B Phil Disher, 1B Matt Weston, SS Chris Jackson, OF Steve Brown, OF Russell Dixon

Added to 40-man roster: OF Cory Sullivan

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Wilton Lopez, 2B Edwin Maysonet

With the release of [Dixon](#), a seventh-round pick, the Astros have only one player left to show for the top 10 rounds of their notoriously poor '07 draft. That would be fifth-round outfielder Collin Delome, who for all his faults, at least cracked 20 homers and slugged .465 in the Double-A Texas League last year. Curiously enough, 10th-rounder Matt Cusick and 11th-rounder Robert Bono have been leveraged in trades (for LaTroy Hawkins and Matt Lindstrom, of course), while 12th-rounder Brian Pellegrini cracked 34 home runs last season, good for a third place finish in the minors.

Kansas City Royals

Released: RHP Jason Godin, RHP Matt Kniginyzky, RHP Ryan Morgan, RHP Zach Peterson, RHP Brett Richardson, RHP Francisco Rosario, LHP Gilbert de la Vara, LHP Nelson Payano, C Vance Wilson, OF Eric Shortell

Traded: C Steve Lerud to Orioles for future considerations

Added to 40-man roster: LHP John Parrish

Outrighted to Double-A, removed from 40-man: LHP Edgar Osuna

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Blake Wood, 1B Kila Ka'aihue

Optioned to Rookie ball: RHP Brian Anderson

The Royals placed [Osuna](#) on waivers with the intention of returning him to the Braves. But Atlanta opted not to pay the \$25,000 fee to reacquire the Mexican lefty.

An erstwhile center fielder, [Anderson](#) will stay behind in extended spring training to try his hand at pitching. For Royals fans, it's Tony Pena Jr. all over again. Take an excellent defensive player who can't hit a lick (in Anderson's case: .227/.290/.370 in 355 games) and see if some value can be derived from the mound.

Los Angeles Angels

Released: RHP Travis Chick, C Flint Wipke, 2B Phil Bando, 2B Hector Estrella, 3B Wilberto Ortiz, OF Coby Smith

Added to 40-man roster: 1B Robb Quinlan

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Sean O'Sullivan, 3B Freddy Sandoval, OF Peter Bourjos

Los Angeles Dodgers

Released: LHP Sean Thompson, 1B Doug Mientkiewicz, 2B Adolfo Gonzalez, 2B Argenis Reyes, SS Nick Green, OF Jovanny Rosario

Loaned to Mexican League: RHP Francisco Felix, LHP Thomas Melgarejo

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Ramon Ortiz, RHP Russ Ortiz, RHP Jeff Weaver, OF Garret Anderson

Optioned to Triple-A: C A.J. Ellis, SS Chin-lung Hu, OF Xavier Paul

Option transferred: C Lucas May (Triple-A to Double-A)

Milwaukee Brewers

Released: RHP Mike Burns, RHP Wes Etheridge, RHP Brandon Rapoza, RHP Juan Sandoval, LHP Rafael Lluberes, C Derrick Alfonso, C J.R. Hopf, 2B Shane Justis, OF Tike Redman

Option transferred: OF Lorenzo Cain (Triple-A to Double-A)

Minnesota Twins

Released: RHP Dan Berlind, RHP Blair Erickson, RHP Jason Jones, LHP Kyle Carr, LHP Mark McLemore, C Jeff Lanning, 1B Paul-Michael Klingsberg, 1B Rene Leveret, 1B Jon Waltenbury, 3B Dominic de la Osa, OF Nick Freitas, OF Charlton Jimerson, OF Adan Severino

Recalled: RHP Alex Burnett

Optioned to Triple-A: LHP Glen Perkins, C Wilson Ramos

Selected by the Twins in the 7th round of the 2006 Draft, the Canadian 1B [Jon Waltenbury](#) was an Appalachian League All-Star after batting .319/.382/.540 with 10 HR and 22 doubles in 2008. But league observers just were not convinced he had the bat speed or the ability to pull the ball for power. In fact, in 2009, his first full season, he hit .236/.306/.326 with only 5 homers and 38 RBI in 109 games at Beloit/A.

New York Mets

Signed: LHP Pat Misch (outrighted)

Released: RHP Will Morgan, RHP Phillips Orta, RHP Henry Owens, LHP Neal Musser, 3B Nick Giarraputo, SS Jake Eigsti, OF Evan LeBlanc

Loaned to Mexican League: LHP Arturo Lopez

Outrighted to Triple-A, removed from 40-man: LHP Pat Misch

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Manny Acosta, RHP Bobby Parnell, OF Chris Carter, OF Fernando Martinez

[Misch](#) cleared waivers and decided to stay with the Mets on a minor league deal rather than risk the choppy free agency waters. It's the wrong time of year to be looking for work with a new organization.

The Mets claimed [Acosta](#), an arm strength, fastball/changeup reliever, on waivers after the Braves tried to sneak him right on through to Triple-A Gwinnett.

[Lopez](#) will pitch on loan for Mexico City.

New York Yankees

Released: RHP Jonathan Hovis, RHP Luke Prihoda, RHP Ryan Zink, C Mike Rivera, OF James Cooper

Added to 40-man roster: OF Marcus Thames

Optioned to Triple-A: LHP Boone Logan

Oakland Athletics

Signed: RHP Josh Lansford

Released: RHP Jason Fernandez, RHP Steve Sharpe, RHP Juston Street, LHP Nick Walters

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Tyson Ross

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Henry Rodriguez, LHP Brad Kilby, C Landon Powell, 2B Steven Tolleson

Philadelphia Phillies

Signed: RHP Josh Fogg, RHP Ty Taubenheim, C Jeff Lanning, C James Skelton

Released: RHP Freddy Ballestas, RHP Ryan Bergh, RHP Joe Bisenius, RHP Darren Byrd, RHP Rick Guttormson, RHP Santos Hernandez, RHP Eryk McConnell, RHP Jordan Meaker, RHP Pat Overholt, RHP Todd Van Steensel, RHP Jessie Zuber, LHP Spencer Arroyo, LHP Sean Grieve, LHP Jason Mackintosh, LHP Jason Salers, LHP Jared Simon, C Jorge Guerra, C John Purdom, 1B Jeremy Hamilton, 3B Eric Campbell, 3B Zak Farkes, 3B Yonderman Rodriguez, OF Freddy Guzman, OF Gus Milner, OF Arlon Quiroz, OF Brad Wilkerson

Recalled: RHP Drew Carpenter

Option transferred: RHP J.C. Ramirez (Double-A to high Class A) and OF Quintin Berry (Triple-A to Double-A)

The Phillies made a couple last-minute additions to their organizational stable by scooping up recently released catchers [Lanning](#) (Twins) and [Skelton](#) (Diamondbacks).

A 18th round Draft pick in 2005, [Byrd](#) (23) had a good showing in Puerto Rico last winter pitching for the champions Mayaguez Indios: he was 9th in the League for ERA (3.04), 3rd for Wins (4) and Innings pitched (50.1). Earlier, the right-hander pitched at Clearwater/A Adv. (5-7-1 3.99 ERA in 88 IP).

[Jeremy Hamilton](#) carried a reputation as a pure hitter into the '08 draft. The Phillies bought in and made the Wright State first baseman a fifth-round pick, but in his first taste of low Class A last year, he batted just .255/.344/.357 in 294 at-bats for Lakewood.

Pittsburgh Pirates

Released: RHP Harrison Bishop, RHP Chris Cullen, RHP Rafael de los Santos, RHP Wilson Ortiz, RHP Moises Robles, RHP R.J. Rodriguez, LHP Kyle Bloom, LHP Corey Hamman, LHP Nelson Pereira, C Billy Killian, C Craig Parry, 1B Chris Garcia, 2B Daniel Bombback, 3B Henry Henry, OF Edward Garcia

Traded: RHP Virgil Vasquez to Rays for a player to be named

Added to 40-man roster: RHP D.J. Carrasco, LHP Jack Taschner

Optioned to Triple-A: 1B Steve Pearce

St. Louis Cardinals

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP P.J. Walters

Option transferred: RHP Francisco Samuel and OF Daryl Jones (Triple-A to Double-A)

San Diego Padres

Released: RHP David Erickson, RHP Brett Holland, RHP Eduardo Perez, RHP Robert Woodard, LHP Derrick Loop, 2B Anthony Contreras, OF Cameron Monger

Recalled: LHP Cesar Ramos

Added to 40-man roster: OF Matt Stairs

Designated for assignment: OF Chad Huffman

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Adam Russell, LHP Wade LeBlanc

Nowhere can the Padres' new emphasis on speed and defense be seen better than in their decision to remove [Huffman](#) from the 40-man roster. You'll have to ignore for a moment that they made the move to make room for 42-year-old Matt Stairs, who has played a grand total of 34 games in the field during the past two seasons. He does make for a powerful pinch-hitter, however. As to Huffman, he went an abysmal 1-for-23 in spring training before being sent out. *The Yankees claimed him on waivers*; he could be a key piece in another run to the International League playoffs for Scranton.

San Francisco Giants

Released: C Joel Collins, 1B C.J. Ziegler

Acquired: LHP Edwin Escobar from Rangers as compensation for the rights of Rule 5 pick LHP Ben Snyder

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Guillermo Mota, RHP Todd Wellemeyer

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Kevin Pucetas, RHP Henry Sosa, LHP Alex Hinshaw, C Buster Posey, 2B Matt Downs, 3B Ryan Rohlinger

Seattle Mariners

Released: RHP Brian Cloud, RHP Jason Franzblau, RHP Nelson Germocen, RHP Billy Kitchen, RHP Brooks Mohr, RHP Philip Roy, RHP Christian Staehely, RHP Kenta Suda, LHP Eddy Hernandez, LHP Brandon Pullen, LHP Jose Rios, C Travis Howell, C John Parham, 1B Kris Sanchez, OF Mark Angelo, OF Corey Patterson, OF Greg Waddell

Added to 40-man roster: 1B Mike Sweeney

Optioned to Triple-A: LHP Luke French, LHP Garrett Olson

[Suda](#) (20) pitched in IBAF AAA (Under 18) Championship in Taiwan in 2007 as a member of Japan team. He signed as a non-drafted free agent in November 2007. In his first pro season reached A-ball, but last year things didn't go so well: 3-2 5.06 ERA in 14 G (5 starts) between Arizona & Appalachian Leagues.

[Olson](#) qualifies for a fourth option year, which the Mariners are taking advantage of to send him to Tacoma, because he already has been optioned three times in his young career.

Tampa Bay Rays

Signed: 1B Dan Johnson (outrighted)

Released: RHP Joey Callender, RHP Neal Frontz, RHP Austin Hinkle, C Tyler Hauschild, 3B Jeremy Beckham, OF Jason Corder

Acquired: RHP Virgil Vasquez from Pirates for a player to be named

Outrighted to Triple-A, removed from 40-man: 2B Elliot Johnson

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Dale Thayer

[Dan Johnson](#) batted .215/.30/.462 with 24 home runs and 52 walks in just 325 at-bats last year while playing for Yokohama. The 30-year-old's power outburst in Japan prompted the Rays to sign him to a major league deal and guarantee him a place on the 40-man roster. Johnson fared poorly in spring training (.231/.333/.385) and the organization rethought its plan and sent him outright to the minors. He accepted an assignment with Triple-A Durham, where he spent the '08 season. Tampa Bay wound up carrying Willy Aybar and Pat Burrell as well as 12 pitchers and two backup middle infielders in Reid Brignac and Sean Rodriguez, leaving no room for a part-time first base/DH type like Johnson.

Texas Rangers

Signed: RHP Willie Eyre, 3B Esteban German

Released: RHP Kelvin Arendell, RHP Reinier Bermudez, RHP Keith Campbell, RHP Jose Rafael Diaz, RHP Clayton Hamilton, RHP Jared Hyatt, RHP Chris Matlock, RHP Jorge Quintero, RHP J.K. Ryu, RHP Jared Schrom, RHP John Slusarz, RHP Robert Wilkins, LHP Winston Marquez, LHP Glenn Swanson, C Billy O'Conner, C John Otness, 2B Michael Hollander, SS Denny Duron, OF Santo DeJesus, OF Kyle Rhoad, OF Tim Rodriguez

Traded: LHP Edwin Escobar to Giants as compensation for Rule 5 pick LHP Ben Snyder

Outrighted to Double-A, removed from 40-man: LHP Ben Snyder

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Guillermo Moscoso, C Max Ramirez

Option transferred: RHP Omar Beltre and LHP Michael Kirkman (Double-A to Triple-A)

The Rangers shed [Eyre](#) and [German](#) from their 40-man roster last December. Each player accepted his outright assignment to Triple-A Oklahoma, only now coming to terms on a minor league contract for '10.

The Twins lost two pitchers in the minor league Rule 5 draft last winter. Philadelphia cut right-hander Angelo Sanchez on March 22, while Texas parted ways with lefty [Winston Marquez](#) about a week later.

Toronto Blue Jays

Released: RHP Jonah Bayliss, RHP Chris Holguin, RHP Lance Loftin, RHP Yorman Mayora, RHP Sean Stidfole, LHP Evan Teague, SS Luis Fernandez, OF Nick Zaleski

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Josh Roenicke, LHP Jesse Carlson, LHP Brett Cecil, LHP David Purcey

Washington Nationals

Signed: 3B Josh R. Johnson

Released: RHP Ryan Speier, C Josh N. Johnson, C Scott Thomas, 2B Greg Veloz, 3B Angel Gonzalez, 3B Yeurys Tejeda, SS Dani Arias, OF Carl Loadenthal, OF Pedro Powell, OF Jay Sferra, OF Sean Smith

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Miguel Batista, OF Willy Taveras

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Luis Atilano, RHP J.D. Martin, LHP Scott Olsen, OF Roger Bernadina

Option transferred: LHP Matt Chico (Triple-A to Double-A)

The Nats released [Josh Nels Johnson](#), a catcher who played in the Atlantic League last year.

March 22-28

Arizona Diamondbacks

Released: RHP Matt Elliott, RHP Daniel Vasquez, 2B Eli Rumler

Atlanta Braves

Released: RHP Cody Railsback, LHP Eric Barrett, LHP Derick Himpel, LHP Clayton McMillan

Outrighted to Triple-A, removed from 40-man: RHP Todd Redmond

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Manny Acosta, RHP Luis Valdez, OF Gregor Blanco

Atlanta cleared a path for right fielder Jason Heyward to make the big league team by removing [Redmond](#) from the roster. Because Redmond cleared waivers, the Braves will have him available for emergency situations as he heads back to Triple-A Gwinnett, where last year he went 9-6, 4.41 with 106-47 K-BB in 145 innings.

Baltimore Orioles

Signed: RHP Bob McCrory

Optioned to Triple-A: 1B Michael Aubrey, 1B Rhyne Hughes, 1B Brandon Snyder, 3B Josh Bell

Optioned to Double-A: SS Pedro Florimon

[McCrory](#) signed a minor league deal with the Red Sox last November, only to have the contract rescinded after a failed physical. He's back with the organization that made him a fourth-round pick in '03.

Boston Red Sox

Signed: RHP Wilson Matos, LHP Scott Schoeneweis

Released: RHP Dustin Mercadante, RHP Josh Papelbon, LHP Tyler Wilson, 2B Tom DiBenedetto, OF Reid Engel

Voluntarily retired: RHP Richie Lentz

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Michael Bowden, RHP Ramon A. Ramirez, LHP Fabio Castro, 1B Aaron Bates

[Josh Papelbon](#) is Jonathan's little brother, of course, and with his release, only Jeremy remains on the minor league side. Both Josh and Jeremy (Cubs) entered pro ball as '06 draft picks from North Florida. Even though they're twins, Jeremy is a lefthander.

A fifth-round pick from a Colorado high school in '05, [Engel](#) played for Double-A Portland last season, batting .234/.310/.346 in 214 at-bats.

Chicago Cubs

Released: RHP Diego Encarnacion, RHP Robert Hernandez, RHP Jeff Kennard, RHP Kevin Kreier, RHP Josh Lansford, RHP Dionis Nunez, RHP Greg Reinhard, RHP Josh Whitlock, RHP Hank Williamson, 1B John Contreras, 2B Dwayne Kemp, 3B Jordan Petraitis, SS Robert Bautista, OF Kevin Soto, OF Sean Williams

Outrighted to Triple-A, removed from 40-man: RHP Mike Parisi

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Jeff Gray, RHP Marcos Mateo, LHP John Gaub, OF Jim Adduci

[Lansford](#) converted to pitcher last season at Boise, in the Short-Season Northwest League (1-1 3.51 ERA in 33.1 IP). He was selected by the Cubs in the 6th round of the 2006 Draft.

[Kemp](#), 22, signed with the Cubs in 2007 out of the Netherlands. In two pro seasons, he reached A-short season level; last year he played for the Cubs AZL team (.248/.303/.416). He promptly came back to Holland signing a 2010 contract for the DOOR Neptunus.

The Cubs retained [Parisi](#), a big league Rule 5 pick, for no compensation after he cleared waivers and the Cardinals opted not to fork over the \$25,000 to get him back.

Chicago White Sox

Signed: RHP Scott Elarton, 3B Javier Castillo

Released: RHP Kevin Asselin, RHP Ben Fritz, RHP Brett Graffy, RHP Jacob Marceaux, RHP Orber Moreno, LHP Matt Jernstad, C John Curtis, C Zach Larson, 1B Todd Gossage, 2B Jesus Avila, 3B Jose Fulgencio, OF T.J. Bohn, OF Kent Gerst, OF Sergio Morales, OF Joe Persichina

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Carlos Torres, C Tyler Flowers

[Marceaux](#) was the 29th overall pick of the 2005 draft. In 2009 played just one game in AA.

Cincinnati Reds

Released: RHP Michael Bohana, RHP Enrique Garcia, RHP Hector Santana, LHP Mark Pawelek, LHP Matteo Pizziconi, OF Stephen Chapman

Optioned to Triple-A: OF Chris Heisey

Another first round pick of the 2005 Draft released this week, [Pawelek](#) (20th overall) pitched in Sarasota (A Adv.) in 2009 (0-2 4.67 ERA, with 33 BB in 27 IP).

The Italian-born [Pizziconi](#), 20, lasted only two years in the Reds organization though pitching well in the GCL: 5-2 1.13 ERA with 23 SO, 21 BB and 28 H in 40 IP. He promptly joined Nettuno of the Italian Baseball League.

Cleveland Indians

Signed: RHP Justin Germano (SoftBank (Japan))

Released: RHP Eddie Burns, RHP Gary Campfield, RHP Jonathan Holt, RHP Mike McGuire, RHP Sung-Wei Tseng, LHP Ryan Miller, SS Jose Camargo, OF John Allman, OF Ryan Blair, OF Darling Read

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Jess Todd

[Germano](#), 27, pitched for SoftBank in Japan's Pacific League last year, going 5-4, 4.38 in 14 starts for the Fukuoka-based team.

[Tseng](#), played in the 2006 WBC for Taiwan, and was named the 2006 Taiwanese amateur pitcher of the year. He signed with Cleveland, in 2007, and reached AA, but control problems force the Indians to assign him to their Arizona Rookie League team last season.

Colorado Rockies

Signed: LHP Joe Beimel (re-signed)

Released: RHP Rod Scurry, LHP David Born, LHP Kyle Walker, C Austin Rauch, 3B Patrick Rose
Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Jhoulys Chacin, RHP Samuel Deduno

Detroit Tigers

Released: RHP Nick Cassavechia, RHP Andrew Hess, RHP Gary Perinar, 1B Chris Carlson, 1B Jason Stokes, 3B Joe Tucker, OF Ryan Patterson
Optioned to Triple-A: LHP Daniel Schlereth, OF Wilkin Ramirez

Florida Marlins

Released: RHP Skyler Crawford, RHP Rodolfo Encarnacion, RHP Jesse Foppert, RHP Mike MacDougal, RHP Wilson Matos, RHP Chris Mobley, RHP Sean Teague, RHP Brandon Todd, RHP Jermaine Van Buren, RHP Jared Yecker, LHP Ricardo Hernandez, 2B Jose Nunez, OF Justin Jacobs, OF Brandon McDougall
Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Chris Leroux, LHP Hunter Jones, LHP Andrew Miller, C Brett Hayes

Houston Astros

Released: RHP Casey Hudspeth, RHP Ben Paxton, RHP Jordan Powell, LHP Spencer Hylander, LHP Antonio Noguera, LHP Kirkland Rivers, 2B Craig Corrado, 2B Mike Diaz, 3B Gabriel Suarez, OF Sean Barksdale
Optioned to Triple-A: LHP Wesley Wright

[Hudspeth](#), a fifth-round pick in '06 from South Florida, pitched for Double-A Corpus Christi in each of the past two seasons. In that time he compiled a 5.88 ERA and 65-to-62 strikeout-to-walk ratio.

Kansas City Royals

Signed: RHP Rodolfo Encarnacion, OF Brawlun Gomez
Released: RHP John Bannister, RHP Pernell Halliman, LHP Carlos Rivas, 1B Alberto Espinosa, 3B Antonio Jimenez
Voluntarily retired: 2B Ben Tschepikow
Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Gaby Hernandez

Los Angeles Angels

Released: RHP Juan Mateo, RHP Chad Orvella, RHP Michael Rocco, LHP Daniel Haigwood, C Ben Johnson, C Chris Rosenbaum

Los Angeles Dodgers

Released: RHP K.J. Childs, RHP Eric Gagne, RHP Daigoro Rondon, LHP Graham Miller, SS Angel Berroa, OF Brian Barton, OF Brandon Watson
Option transferred: RHP Kenley Jansen (Triple-A to high Class A)

Milwaukee Brewers

Signed: C Ben Johnson
Released: RHP Joel Morales, RHP Ryan Platt, LHP Donald Brandt, LHP Scott Schoeneweis, LHP David Welch, 3B John Delaney, 3B Jose Duran, SS Yohannis Perez
Traded: C Matt Treanor to Rangers for 3B Ray Olmedo
Traded: 3B Edgar Trejo to Mariners for cash considerations
Voluntarily retired: C Corey Kemp, OF Chris Ellington
Added to 40-man roster: OF Jim Edmonds
Optioned to Triple-A: RHP John Axford, RHP Josh Butler, 3B Adam Heether, SS Luis Cruz

Last season (his fifth with the Brewers), the Aussie [Welch](#), 26, pitched in Huntsville (AA) with a 8-8 4.03 ERA in 118.1 IP record.

The Cuban [Perez](#) signed with Milwaukee in Oct. 2006, after defecting from Cuba, where he played for Matanzas from 1999-2004. Last season, he played in AA Huntsville (.262/.317/.355).

Minnesota Twins

Signed: LHP Ron Mahay (re-signed)

Released: RHP Tom Wright, 2B Matt Gaski, OF Lee Bistagne

Optioned to Triple-A: 2B Matt Tolbert

New York Mets

Released: RHP Travis Babin, RHP Steven Cheney, RHP Serguey Linares, RHP Mike Lynn, RHP Manuel Olivares, RHP Zach Rosenbaum, RHP Jake Ruckle, RHP Tim Smith, RHP Nick Waechter, C Rafael Arroyo, 1B Val Pascucci, 3B Tyler Vaughn, SS Jolbert Cabrera, SS Gered Mochizuki, OF Justin Garber, OF Josh Petersen, OF Caleb Stewart

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Tobi Stoner, OF Nick Evans, OF Jason Pridie

Another Cuban player released: [Linares](#) pitched in the Pirates organization in 2007-2008 (7-9 4.70 ERA overall), reaching A Adv. Level.

New York Yankees

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Jonathan Albaladejo, RHP Mark Melancon, 1B Juan Miranda, 2B Reegie Corona, 2B Kevin Russo, SS Eduardo Nunez, OF Greg Golson

Returned Rule 5 pick: OF Jamie Hoffmann (to Dodgers)

[Miranda](#) qualified for a fourth option year.

Oakland Athletics

Traded: SS Gregorio Petit to Rangers for RHP Edwar Ramirez

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Vin Mazzaro, 1B Chris Carter

Philadelphia Phillies

Released: RHP Mark Doll, RHP Miguel Matos, RHP Angelo Sanchez, RHP Jason Standridge, LHP Walter Tejeda, LHP Bill White, 1B Gaby Martinez, SS Evan Porter, SS Jesus Villegas Andino, OF Jarvis Diaz, OF Carl Uhl

Optioned to Triple-A: LHP Mike Zagurski, OF John Mayberry Jr.

The Phillies tabbed the Twins' [Sanchez](#) in the minor league Rule 5 draft last December. [Standridge](#) was released so he could sign with the Hansin Tigers (Japan). It's a come-back for him, given that he pitched for Softbank in 2007-2008.

Pittsburgh Pirates

Released: RHP Brad Clapp, RHP Diomedes Garcia, RHP Edgar Gutierrez, RHP Papiro Juan, RHP Ricardo Paulino, RHP Rafael Quintero, LHP Andres Santos, C Jesus Aguilera, 3B Carlos Silva, OF Jeff Corsaletti, OF Gemmy Gonzalez, OF Ciro Rosero

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Kevin Hart, RHP Chris Jakubauskas, 3B Neil Walker

St. Louis Cardinals

Released: RHP Jonathan Gonzalez, RHP Marco Gonzalez, RHP Reynier Gonzalez, RHP Tyler Lavigne, RHP Santo Maertz, RHP Yoffri Martinez, RHP Pedro Rodriguez, RHP Andres Rosales, RHP Randy Santos, RHP Adam Veres, RHP Charlie Zink, LHP Justin Fiske, LHP Brad Furnish, C Blake Murphy, 1B Matt Arbur, OF Edwin Gomez, OF Travis Mitchell

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Adam Ottavino, C Matt Pagnozzi, SS Tyler Greene, OF Jon Jay

A second-round pick from Texas Christian in '06, [Furnish](#) was undone by a 6.7 walks per nine innings rate last season. The 25-year-old racked up a combined 6.69 ERA in the high Class A Florida State League and Double-A Texas League.

San Diego Padres

Released: RHP Tyson Bagley, RHP Nick Hall, RHP Sean Heimpel, RHP Tom Porter, LHP Andrew Albers, LHP Allen Harrington, LHP Euclides Vioria, C Dylan Tonneson, C Kurt Wideman, 2B Brett Dowdy, 2B Keoni Ruth, 2B Kevin Winn, OF Chadd Hartman, OF Kyle Loretelli, OF Danny Putnam

Voluntarily retired: 3B Brayden Drake

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Cesar Carrillo, RHP Ernesto Frieri, C Dusty Ryan, 2B Matt Antonelli, OF Aaron Cunningham, OF Luis Durango

[Putnam](#) was selected by the Athletics with the 36th overall pick of the 2004 Draft and played 11 games in MLB in 2007. In July 2009, Oakland traded the outfielder to the Padres to complete an earlier trade for RHP Chad Reineke. He hit .258 with 17 HR and 78 RBI in 126 games from A Adv. to AAA levels (Stockton, Midland, Sacramento, Portland).

San Francisco Giants

Released: RHP Chance Corgan, RHP Geivy Garcia, RHP Daniel Griffin, RHP Mike Loree, RHP Gary Moran, RHP Steve Palazzolo, RHP Ryan Shaver, RHP Donnie Smith, LHP Steve Hammond, LHP Paul Oseguera, C Todd Jennings, C Trent Kline, 2B Vladimir Frias, 3B David Maroul, OF Eroid Andrus, OF Breland Brown, OF Dom Duggan, OF Bobby Felmy, OF Jonathan White

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Joe Martinez, LHP Madison Bumgarner, OF Darren Ford

Optioned to high Class A: OF Francisco Peguero

The Venezuelan [Andrus](#), 24, played in the Yankees/Twins/Rays organizations from 2000-08, reaching AA. Last year, the outfielder hit .302/.371/.454 for Florence (Frontier League).

Seattle Mariners

Released: RHP Colin Buckborough, RHP Brodie Downs, RHP Andres Esquibel, RHP Kyle Haas, RHP Matt Otteman, RHP Brad Reid, RHP Matt Renfree, RHP Kyle Witten, C Enmanuel Familia, C Alexis Fonseca, C Tommy Johnson, C Israel Nunez, C Josh Rodriguez, 3B Edgar Trejo

Acquired: 3B Edgar Trejo from Brewers for cash considerations

Optioned to Triple-A: 1B Mike Carp

The Cuban-born [Fonseca](#), 26, signed last year and hit .314 in 17 games between three stops (peak level A Adv.).

Tampa Bay Rays

Released: RHP Jamie Bagley, RHP Jeff Cinadr, RHP Tyler Oakes, LHP Brian Flores, LHP Ryan Owen, SS Dan Rhault

Outrighted to Triple-A, removed from 40-man: 1B Dan Johnson

Optioned to Triple-A: OF Justin Ruggiano

[Johnson](#) played in Japan last year but signed a big league deal with the Rays last winter. He batted .231/.333/.385 in 26 at-bats this spring and lost his 40-man roster spot.

Texas Rangers

Traded: 3B Ray Olmedo to Brewers for C Matt Treanor

Traded: RHP Edwar Ramirez to Athletics for SS Gregorio Petit

Outrighted to Triple-A, removed from 40-man: 2B Hernan Iribarren

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Brandon McCarthy, RHP Alexi Ogando, RHP Pedro Strop, LHP Derek Holland, LHP Michael Kirkman, OF Brandon Boggs, OF Craig Gentry

At just about the same time as the [Iribarren](#) outright, the Rangers struck a deal for defensive whiz Andres Blanco, who could satisfy the organization's desire for a backup shortstop.

Toronto Blue Jays

Signed: RHP Nick Purdy (NDFA—Hillsborough (Fla.) CC))

Released: RHP Leon Boyd, RHP Celson Polanco, RHP Bob Zimmermann, LHP Edgar Estanga, OF Chris Emanuele, OF Joey Gathright

Drafted once each in '07 and '08, [Purdy](#) won over Toronto in a workout, and he has roots in Canada. He played for St. Mary's Secondary School in Grafton, Ontario.

The Canadian/Dutch [Boyd](#) signed with the Blue Jays last year after the World Baseball Classic, in which he pitched for the Netherlands. He posted a 1-6 record with a 4.77 ERA in two stops (A adv./AA), struggling with his control (49 BB in 64.1 IP, with 51 SO). After the cut, he signed to play the 2010 season for the DOOR Neptunus of the Dutch League, for which he pitched in 2007-2008.

[Estanga](#) signed with Toronto in Nov. 2003 out of Venezuela. Last year (3-4-2 4.23 ERA in 66 IP), he primarily pitched at AA level.

Washington Nationals

Signed: RHP Mike MacDougal

Released: RHP Gary Amato, RHP Chris Lugo, RHP Nick Maness, RHP Carlos Peralta, RHP Osvaldo Rodriguez, LHP Mike Venafo, LHP Mike Wlodarczyk

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Shairon Martis, OF Justin Maxwell

The Nationals made [Wlodarczyk](#) a minor league Rule 5 pick last December, taking him from the Rays.

March 16-21

Arizona Diamondbacks

Signed: RHP Kris Benson

Released: RHP Alex Thieroff, 1B Clayton Conner, 2B David Cooper, OF Tyrell Worthington

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Jose Marte

Optioned to Double-A: RHP Roque Mercedes, RHP Bryan Augenstein

[Worthington](#) entered the organization as a athletic prep football recruit and unrefined baseball player. And that's exactly how he leaves the Diamondbacks, who took a \$220,000 gamble on the outfielder in the fifth round of the '07 draft. Worthington, 20, hit just .175/.258/.232 with one home run and a 36-to-140 walk-to-strikeout ratio in three pro seasons, two of them with Rookie-level Missoula and the third with short-season Yakima.

Atlanta Braves

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Jeff Lyman, LHP Mike Dunn

Baltimore Orioles

Optioned to Double-A: LHP Wilfrido Perez

Boston Red Sox

Signed: RHP Zach Hammes, LHP Alan Embree

Acquired: RHP Miguel Celestino from Mariners as player to be named in trade that sent 1B Casey Kotchman to Mariners for 3B Bill Hall

Optioned to Triple-A: LHP Felix Doubront, LHP Dustin Richardson, C Mark Wagner

The Dodgers selected [Hammes](#), a projectable 6-foot-6 righty from an Iowa high school, in the second round of the '02 draft. They deemed him worthy of a 40-man roster spot following his '06 campaign, when he mixed good (8.8 strikeouts per nine innings) with bad (4.5 walks per nine, 4.32 ERA) while making three starts and 38 relief appearances for high Class A Vero Beach. Hammes improved his walk rate in Double-A, but struck out fewer batters and racked up a 5.26 ERA in two seasons with Jacksonville.

Los Angeles removed him from the 40-man following the '07 season and then lost him to minor league free agency after '08. From what we can tell, Hammes, now 25, did not pitch in '09.

Chicago Cubs

Released: RHP Vince Perkins

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Blake Parker, RHP Jeff Stevens, C Welington Castillo

Optioned to Double-A: RHP Rafael Dolis

Chicago White Sox

Released: RHP Daniel Cabrera, 2B Lee Fischer, 2B Keith Ginter, OF Jason Botts

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Freddy Dolsi, RHP Lucas Harrell, RHP Jeff Marquez, RHP Jhonny Nunez, RHP Brian Omogrosso, RHP Clevelan Santeliz, 3B Dayan Vieda, OF Stefan Gartrell

Optioned to Double-A: RHP Santo Luis

Cincinnati Reds

Released: RHP Greg Dombrowski

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Eneiro Del Rosario, RHP Sam LeCure, LHP Bill Bray, LHP Pedro Viola, 1B Yonder Alonso, SS Chris Valaika

Optioned to Double-A: RHP Jordan Smith, LHP Philippe Valiquette

[Bray](#) qualifies for a fourth option year because, even though he had been optioned to Louisville in '07, '08 and '09, he has not yet accrued five seasons of professional experience. A player is not credited with a "pro season" when he spends fewer than 90 days on the major or minor league active list. This definition rules out short-season experience as well as the time Bray spent pitching for Brevard County after he signed out of the draft in '04.

Cleveland Indians

Acquired: RHP Omar Aguilar from Brewers as compensation for the rights on Rule 5 pick LHP Chuck Lofgren

Outrighted to Triple-A, removed from 40-man: SS Brian Bixler

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Jeanmar Gomez, RHP Hector Rondon, C Carlos Santana, 3B Wes Hodges, SS Jason Donald, OF Jordan Brown

Optioned to Double-A: OF Nick Weglarz, SS Carlos Rivero

The Indians claimed middle infielder Anderson Hernandez on a waiver claim from the Mets, relegating Bixler to non-roster status. Hernandez offers a bit more defense than [Bixler](#), and considerably more contact.

Colorado Rockies

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Esmil Rogers, SS Chris Nelson

Detroit Tigers

Signed: RHP Casey Fien

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Alfredo Figaro, RHP Armando Galarraga, RHP Jay Sborz, 1B Ryan Strieby, OF Brennan Boesch, OF Casper Wells

Optioned to Double-A: SS Audy Ciriaco

Optioned to low Class A: RHP Jacob Turner

[Fien](#) went from the Tigers to the Red Sox to the Blue Jays this March. But what came next was a shock: The Blue Jays, after going through the trouble of claiming him and making room on the 40-man, unexpectedly released him. "This game can be cruel sometimes. Nobody gave me any answers. I asked the Jays why and they told me I was a liability," Fien told the Detroit News after the Tigers signed him to a minor league deal, landing him right back where he started. Detroit originally selected the Cal Poly product in the 20th round of the '06 draft.

Of all the players drafted out of high school last year, [Turner](#) is the only one to report to the minor leagues this season on optional assignment. The reason? Detroit signed him to a big league contract last August, starting his option clock early. Other notable prep draft picks to sign big league deals: Josh Beckett, Delmon Young and the Tigers' own Rick Porcello, whom they selected in the first round in '07. Porcello made 24 starts for high Class A Lakeland in '08, which remains the extent of his minor league apprenticeship.

Florida Marlins

Released: RHP Josh Roberts, RHP Derrick Turnbow, LHP Casey Fry, LHP Brian Schultz, LHP Matt Vieira

Returned Rule 5 selection: 3B Jorge Jimenez (to Red Sox)

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Jay Buente, RHP Cristhian Martinez, RHP Brett Sinkbeil, LHP Taylor Tankersley, OF Scott Cousins, OF Jai Miller

Optioned to Double-A: RHP Kris Harvey

Houston Astros

Released: OF Alex Romero

Outrighted to Triple-A, removed from 40-man: 2B Jose Vallejo

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Evan Englebrook, RHP Jose Valdez, LHP Polin Trinidad, SS Wladimir Sutil, OF Brian Bogusevic, OF Yordany Ramirez

Optioned to Double-A: RHP Matt Nevarez, RHP Henry Villar, LHP Fernando Abad

[Vallejo](#) had surgery to repair severed tendons in his right hand and was expected to miss most of the season. Houston acquired him when they traded Ivan Rodriguez to the Rangers last August.

Kansas City Royals

Released: RHP Jack Adams

Voluntarily retired: SS Scott Lyons

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Victor Marte, RHP Carlos Rosa, OF Jarrod Dyson, OF Jordan Parraz

Optioned to Double-A: RHP Aaron Crow, C Manny Pina

After spending the past three seasons on optional assignment, [Rosa](#) qualifies for a fourth option because he has not yet accrued five years of "pro experience." The 25-year-old righty does not receive credit for any of his seasons between his '02 debut and his '05 loss while recovering from Tommy John surgery. To qualify for a "pro season" a player must spend at least 90 days on the active list for an affiliated club.

Los Angeles Angels

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Trevor Bell, RHP Bobby Mosebach, RHP Fernando Rodriguez, RHP Rafael Rodriguez, RHP Rich Thompson, 1B Mark Trumbo

Los Angeles Dodgers

Released: RHP Brian Akin, RHP Jhonny Caraballo, RHP Justin Dignelli, RHP Matt Smith, LHP Jon Dutton, OF Travis Vettters

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Jon Link, RHP James McDonald, C Lucas May

Optioned to Double-A: RHP Javy Guerra, OF Trayvon Robinson

Selected in the 14th round of June 2004 First-Year Player Draft, [Akin](#), 28, reached AAA level with the Dodgers. He had his best season with Vero Beach (A Adv.: 3-3-7 1.80 ERA, 48 SO in 35 IP) and Jacksonville (AA: 2-1-6 2.95 ERA, 25 hits in 36.2 IP) in 2006. Since then, he hasn't been effective anymore, struggling with his control.

Milwaukee Brewers

Released: LHP John Halama

Traded: RHP Omar Aguilar to Indians as compensation for Rule 5 pick LHP Chuck Lofgren

Outrighted to Triple-A, removed from 40-man: LHP Chuck Lofgren
Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Marco Estrada, C Angel Salome, OF Lorenzo Cain

As it turns out, the Brewers won't have to keep Rule 5 pick [Lofgren](#) on their 25-man active roster all season after all. They traded [Aguilar](#) to Cleveland for his full rights. And now after outrighting Lofgren to Nashville, they won't have to keep him on the 40-man, either. If he pitches well in Triple-A, then he could surface in Milwaukee as a situational reliever. If not, then the club won't have to make a decision on him again until the offseason, when they'll have to re-add him to the 40-man to prevent him from becoming a minor league free agent.

Minnesota Twins

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Alex Burnett, RHP Rob Delaney, RHP Jeff Manship, RHP Anthony Swarzak, 3B Danny Valencia, SS Trevor Plouffe, OF Luke Hughes

New York Mets

Signed: RHP Henry Owens

Released: RHP Josh Fogg, RHP Kyle Snyder

Outrighted to Mexican League: RHP Rolando Valdez, LHP Orlando Lara

A nondrafted free agent signed by the Pirates from Division II Barry (Fla.), [Owens](#) seemed like a revelation after the Mets made him a minor league Rule 5 pick in December '04. He struck out a staggering 12.3 and then 16.6 batters per nine innings as he moved from high Class A St. Lucie in '05 to Double-A Binghamton in '06. The Marlins acquired Owens when they traded Jason Vargas to the Mets following the '06 season, and the hard-throwing reliever shined as a rookie the following year. But then Owens missed the '08 season with a shoulder injury, got dumped from the 40-man that October and then in November received a 50-game suspension for failing a test for performance-enhancing drugs. He returned last season to make 11 wild appearances in the Marlins system, walking 12 batters in 13 2/3 innings but surrendering only one run. Owens last appeared with Double-A Jacksonville on June 28 before being granted free agency at season's end.

[Lara](#) and [Valdez](#) have a few things in common. Each is a native of Mexico who signed with the Padres in '05. They both joined the Mets in last December's minor league Rule 5 draft, and now both have been outrighted to the Mexican League (where Lara had spent the previous two seasons). Because the ML season begins in March, Lara already has pitched for Mexico City and Valdez for Oaxaca.

New York Yankees

Released: RHP Julian Arballo, RHP Griffin Bailey, RHP Paul Heidler, RHP Dan Miller, C Buck Afenir, 1B Mike Lyon, 1B Chris Malec, 2B Issac Harrow, OF Seth Fortenberry

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Romulo Sanchez

Oakland Athletics

Loaned to Mexican League: LHP Bob Cramer

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Justin Souza

Option transferred: RHP Justin Souza (Triple-A to Double-A)

[Cramer](#), 30, was loaned to the Quintana Roo Tigres. The former Mariners farmhand, pitched 62.2 innings between three levels with Oakland in 2009 (from A Adv. to AAA), posting a good 5-5 3.88 ERA record.

Philadelphia Phillies

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Drew Carpenter, SS Brian Bocock

Optioned to Double-A: LHP Sergio Escalona

Pittsburgh Pirates

Optioned to Triple-A: 3B Pedro Alvarez, OF Jose Tabata

St. Louis Cardinals

Returned Rule 5 selection: LHP Ben Jukich (to Reds)

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Josh Kinney

San Diego Padres

Released: RHP Jon Ellis

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Radhames Liz, RHP Luis Perdomo, RHP Ryan Webb, OF Chad Huffman

Selected in the 6th round of the 2004 First-Year Player Draft, [Ellis](#) (29) pitched in a relief role for Portland (AAA) in 2009: 7-3-1 4.13 ERA in 72 IP.

San Francisco Giants

Released: RHP Byung-Hyun Kim, LHP Idelfonso Bohorquez, LHP Ricardo Castro

Returned Rule 5 selection: RHP Steve Johnson (to Orioles)

Optioned to Triple-A: 1B Brett Pill, 3B Conor Gillaspie

[Kim](#) retired one batter during spring training (on a strikeout), but otherwise gave up two hits (one a home run) before asking for his release. He did not pitch in '08 or '09.

Speaking of not pitching in the past two seasons, [Bohorquez](#), 22, spent that entire period on the disabled list. A native of Venezuela, he pitched in the Dominican Summer League for three seasons beginning in '05, compiling a 2.92 ERA over 11 starts and 20 other relief outings.

Seattle Mariners

Signed: RHP Yusmeiro Petit (re-signed)

Released: RHP Luke Burnett, RHP Yusmeiro Petit, SS Erick Monzon

Traded: RHP Miguel Celestino to Red Sox as player to be named in deal that sent 3B Bill Hall to Red Sox for 1B Casey Kotchman

Optioned to Triple-A: OF Ezequiel Carrera, OF Michael Saunders

Optioned to Double-A: RHP Danny Cortes, RHP Ricky Orta, RHP Anthony Varvaro, LHP Edward Paredes, 1B Dustin Ackley

[Burnett](#) generated buzz for the '08 draft based on his strong showing in the Cape Cod League the year before. "He intimidated hitters with his 6-foot-8, 260-pound frame and a fastball that sat at 96 mph," we wrote, adding, "When it's on, his splitter can be devastating." The Mariners, under previous scouting director Bob Fontaine, took a chance on the Louisiana Tech product, signing him for \$200,000 as what constituted a 14th-round gamble. But after racking up big strikeout numbers in his first two college seasons, Burnett turned in an atrocious junior year, going 0-4, 8.41 in eight starts (plus two relief appearances), with 30 strikeouts, 32 walks and eight home runs allowed in 41 innings. His tenure with the Mariners was not much better. In making 14 starts for short-season Everett last season, Burnett went 2-4, 4.66 with 7.1 strikeouts, 5.8 walks and 1.1 home runs allowed per nine innings. A performance that did not exactly qualify as a mark of distinction for a 22-year-old, second-year pro in the Northwest League.

The Puerto-Rican [Monzon](#) hit .248/.315/.392 in six seasons with the Mariners (reaching AAA level).

Tampa Bay Rays

Released: RHP Mike Southern, C Alex Jamieson, C John Mollicone, 1B Lucas Nakandakare

Optioned to Triple-A: C John Jaso, C Jose Lobaton, OF Fernando Perez

Texas Rangers

Optioned to Double-A: RHP Omar Beltre, RHP Omar Poveda, LHP Zach Phillips

Toronto Blue Jays

Signed: 2B Luis Figueroa

Released: RHP Casey Fien, RHP Brian Justice, RHP Chase Liriette, RHP Brandon Magee, RHP Wade Townsend, LHP Davis Romero, LHP Nathan Starner, C Chris House

Returned Rule 5 selection: RHP Zech Zinicola (to Nationals)

Outrighted to Triple-A, removed from 40-man: LHP Sean Henn

Optioned to Triple-A: 1B Brian Dopirak, 2B Jarrett Hoffpauir

The Panamanian [Romero](#) spent ten seasons with the Blue Jays, pitching 16.1 good innings for the Major League club in 2007. Last season, he didn't pitch well in AAA (3-6-1 5.98 ERA in 93.1 IP), then was removed from the 40-man roster in November and elected minor league free agency. The Blue Jays re-signed him later that month.

[Henn](#) had previously been outrighted from a 40-man roster (Padres, June '08), giving him the option to seek free ageny. He opted to re-sign with the Blue Jays instead.

The Blue Jays viewed [Magee](#) as a low-risk senior sign when they made him a fourth-round pick in '06, thinking that at worst he'd make a fine organizational pitcher. It didn't turn out that way. Magee lost effectiveness with each step up the minor league ladder, and his time with Double-A New Hampshire resulted in a record of 11-18, 4.85 with barely more strikeouts (91) than walks (87). He's 26 and still waiting for his first dose of success as a pro. As an amateur, however, he ranks second on Bradley's all-time strikeout list.

Like Magee, [Liriette](#) represents a '06 draft gamble that did not pay off for Toronto. (They selected Travis Snider in the first round that year, but had no second- or third-round pick after signing A.J. Burnett and B.J. Ryan as free agents the previous winter.) Signed to a six-figure bonus as a 16th-rounder out of South Florida, Liriette hasn't been healthy enough to make more than 20 appearances in any one of his four pro seasons. Just as telling, he spent last season as a 24-year-old in low Class A, racking up a 5.70 ERA for Lansing.

Washington Nationals

Signed: C Josh Johnson

Released: LHP Ron Villone

Optioned to Triple-A: LHP Matt Chico

Optioned to Double-A: RHP Stephen Strasburg

March 7-15

Arizona Diamondbacks

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Cesar Valdez, SS Pedro Ciriaco

Optioned to Double-A: RHP Daniel Stange, LHP Leyson Septimo

Atlanta Braves

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Stephen Marek, RHP James Parr, RHP Todd Redmond, LHP Lee Hyde, LHP Jose Ortega

Optioned to Double-A: RHP Juan Abreu, RHP Kyle Cofield

Baltimore Orioles

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Brandon Erbe, LHP Troy Patton

Optioned to Double-A: RHP Luis Lebron, RHP Chorye Spooone

Boston Red Sox

Signed: 1B Nomar Garciaparra

Voluntarily retired: 1B Nomar Garciaparra

Optioned to Double-A: SS Jose Iglesias

Chicago Cubs**Signed:** RHP Juan Serrano**Optioned to Triple-A:** RHP Mitch Atkins**Optioned to Double-A:** RHP David Patton

The Cubs signed Cuban defector [Serrano](#), listed as a 21-year-old, and intend to start him with high Class A Daytona.

A big league Rule 5 pick a year ago who appeared in 20 games for the Cubs and 52 for the disabled list, [Patton](#) is free to resume his career at the Double-A level. Prior to his selection, he had spent two seasons with the Rockies' high Class A Modesto affiliate.

Chicago White Sox**Signed:** RHP Orber Moreno**Outrighted to Triple-A, removed from 40-man:** RHP Brandon Hynick

[Moreno](#), 32, a former Royals top prospect, played in parts of three seasons in the Majors (with Kansas City in '99 and NY Mets in 2003-04), posting a record of 3-1-1 and 4.44 ERA in 47 games and 50.2 IP. He pitched in 14 games for Triple-A Memphis in '06 and in 34 games in the Mexican League last season. Moreno has pitched for his local Caracas club in the Venezuelan League in each of the past four winters, pitching very well each time.

Cincinnati Reds**Released:** RHP Brandon Rice**Reinstated from inactive list:** RHP Brandon Rice

[Rice](#), an 11th-round pick in '06, spent all of last season on the restricted list.

Cleveland Indians**Optioned to Double-A:** LHP Kelvin de la Cruz**Colorado Rockies****Optioned to Triple-A:** RHP Al Albuquerque, Edgmer Escalona, RHP Shane Lindsay, RHP Chaz Roe, C Michael McKenry**Optioned to Double-A:** SS Hector Gomez**Optioned to high Class A:** RHP Juan Nicasio**Florida Marlins****Optioned to Triple-A:** RHP Ryan Tucker, LHP Sean West**Optioned to Double-A:** RHP Jose Ceda**Houston Astros****Released:** LHP Jarred Holloway, OF Jacob Priday**Kansas City Royals****Signed:** LHP Jose Sanchez (NDFA—Montgomery JC-Germantown (Md.))**Released:** RHP Deybi de la Cruz, LHP Aneidy Toribio, 3B Josh Johnson, OF Shawn Griffin**Optioned to Double-A:** SS Jeff Bianchi**Optioned to high Class A:** LHP Noel Arguelles

Hailing from the Juco World Series runner-up, [Sanchez](#) first signed with the Royals last June, but then spent about two weeks on the restricted list before drawing his release. Now he's back.

Los Angeles Angels

Signed: RHP Erik Gregersen (37th round), RHP Jeremy Hill (re-signed)

Released: RHP T.J. Kelly

The signing deadline did not apply to [Gregersen](#), drafted as a Stephen F. Austin State senior, because he had no college eligibility remaining.

Los Angeles Dodgers

Signed: LHP Brandon Mann

Released: RHP Kyle Wilson

Returned Rule 5 selection: LHP Armando Zepa (to Red Sox)

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Kenley Jansen, RHP Travis Schlichting, LHP Scott Elbert, LHP Brent Leach, SS Ivan De Jesus Jr.

Milwaukee Brewers

Optioned to Double-A: RHP Alex Periard, RHP Amaury Rivas, RHP Mark Rogers

Optioned to high Class A: RHP Cody Scarpetta

Reinstated from inactive list: RHP Wes Etheridge, SS Matt Cline

Both '07 draft picks, [Etheridge](#) (12th round) and [Cline](#) (22nd round) missed the '09 season while on the restricted list.

Minnesota Twins

Optioned to Double-A: RHP Deolis Guerra, RHP Loek Van Mil, SS Estarlin de los Santos

New York Mets

Released: LHP Matias Carrillo

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Clint Everts, RHP Eddie Kunz, C Josh Thole

Optioned to Double-A: 3B Shawn Bowman

Signed by the New York Mets as a non-drafted free agent on Jan. 17, 2006 out of Mexico, [Carrillo](#), 23, reached A Advanced level in four seasons. Last year he pitched well for Brooklyn (NYP-League), but was hit hard with St. Lucie (FSL): 9.38 ERA in 10.2 IP.

New York Yankees

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Ivan Nova, LHP Wilkin de la Rosa

Optioned to Double-A: RHP Christian Garcia

Optioned to high Class A: RHP Andrew Brackman, RHP Hector Noesi

Oakland Athletics

Returned Rule 5 selection: RHP Bobby Cassevah (to Angels)

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Clay Mortensen

Optioned to Double-A: RHP Fautino de los Santos, LHP Pedro Figueroa

Philadelphia Phillies

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Scott Mathieson, OF Quintin Berry

Optioned to Double-A: RHP Drew Naylor, RHP J.C. Ramirez, LHP Yohan Flande

Optioned to high Class A: RHP Jesus Sanchez

Pittsburgh Pirates

Signed: OF Jason Cooper (Lancaster (Atlantic))

Released: RHP Gerardo Esparza

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Brad Lincoln, LHP Donald Veal, SS Argenis Diaz, OF Brandon Jones

Optioned to Double-A: RHP Ramon Aguero, RHP Ronald Uviedo, OF Gorkys Hernandez
Optioned to high Class A: RHP Bryan Morris

[Cooper](#), 29, was selected by Cleveland in the 3rd Round of the 2002 Draft. He spent seven seasons with the Indians (parts of five in AAA Buffalo). A minor league free agent after the 2008 season, he played again for Buffalo (this time a Mets affiliate) and for St. Paul (American Association), where he belted 11 HR in 54 games (.543 SLG) and Lancaster in 2009.

St. Louis Cardinals

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Francisco Samuel, LHP Tyler Norrick, C Bryan Anderson, 1B Mark Hamilton, OF Daryl Jones, OF Shane Robinson

San Diego Padres

Optioned to Triple-A: LHP Aaron Poreda, LHP Cesar Ramos

Optioned to Double-A: RHP Craig Italiano, LHP Steve Garrison

San Francisco Giants

Signed: OF Nick Nordgren (NDFA—Creighton)

Seattle Mariners

Released: RHP Jeff Breedlove, RHP Tyler Brundridge, RHP Terry Engles

Optioned to Triple-A: LHP Ryan Feierabend, OF Greg Halman

That didn't take long. Seattle selected [Engles](#) as a minor league Rule 5 pick in December.

Tampa Bay Rays

Signed: 1B Hank Blalock

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Jeremy Hellickson, LHP Jake McGee, OF Desmond Jennings

Optioned to Double-A: LHP Alex Torres

Texas Rangers

Signed: RHP John Slusarz (re-signed)

Toronto Blue Jays

Signed: OF Chris Aguilera (SoftBank (Japan))

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Casey Fien, RHP Rei Gonzalez, RHP Robert Ray, LHP Brad Mills, LHP Luis Perez

Outrighted to Triple-A, removed from 40-man: RHP Casey Fien

Washington Nationals

Signed: 3B Luis Ordez

Released: LHP Shawn Estes, LHP Eddie Guardado, LHP Jeff Ridgway, OF Charlie Fiermain

Optioned to Triple-A: RHP Collin Balester, LHP Atahualpa Severino

Optioned to Double-A: RHP Ryan Mattheus, LHP Aaron Thompson

Optioned to high Class A: RHP Juan Jaime

Feb. 27-March 6

Atlanta Braves

Released: C Mike Payne

Colorado Rockies

Signed: RHP Rick Bauer (LG (Korea)), LHP Scott Rice (Newark (Atlantic))

[Bauer](#), 33, made three appearances in the Atlantic League last spring before signing on to play in Korea Baseball Organization. [Rice](#), 28, struggled to find the strike zone last season, a problem that did not abate when the Padres released him in August. He finished with 6.4 walks per nine in his 34 combined relief appearances for Double-A San Antonio and Newark. Both players were originally drafted by the Orioles, Bauer in 1997 and Rice in 1999.

Detroit Tigers

Released: 3B Michael Hollimon

The switch-hitting [Hollimon](#) (16th Round pick in 2005) seemed destined for, if not stardom, then at least utility when in '07 he batted .282/.371/.478 with 14 homers, 34 doubles and 64 walks as a second baseman in Double-A. Granted, the red flags were present. Hollimon struck out in nearly 26 percent of his at-bats with Erie, and that June he turned 25. With Triple-A Toledo in '08, Hollimon struck out at an even more furious pace (33 percent of at-bats) but also clubbed 15 homers in 91 games. He had dislocated his left shoulder during spring training, at least partially accounting for his failings with the Mud Hens. Hollimon had surgery on his torn labrum in September '08, and his play appeared to be affected last season. In a 29-game spell in Double-A, the 27-year-old, now playing third base, batted just .212/.320/.385 with 35 whiffs and 17 walks. He did not play after June 23.

Houston Astros

Released: RHP Bryan Hallberg

Reinstated from inactive list: OF Jacob Priday

An 11th-round pick in '08, [Priday](#) spent the entirety of last season on the restricted list.

Kansas City Royals

Reinstated from inactive list: C Jin-Ho Shin

Los Angeles Angels

Signed: RHP Chad Orvella

Los Angeles Dodgers

Signed: RHP Rick Rivas (El Paso (American Association)), LHP Sean Thompson (New Jersey (Can-Am)), OF Garret Anderson

You may remember [Thompson](#) from his days as a Padres prospect—he peaked at No. 8 on our '05 list—but of late he's made the indy ball rounds. The 27-year-old went to spring training with the Rockies in '08 and the Phillies a year ago, only to be cut each time. Undeterred, Thompson signed on last year with Evansville (for nine innings), then Windy City (for two more Frontier League innings) and finally New Jersey (for 23 innings). When the dust settled, he had compiled an ugly 22-to-28 strikeout-to-walk ratio in 35 innings.

[Rivas](#), 26, declined to sign either of the times he was drafted out of El Paso CC, instead opting to attend Oklahoma State for the 2005-06 seasons. Undrafted after both those campaigns, he took the indy ball route, playing for Kansas City (Northern) in '08 and then El Paso last year.

Milwaukee Brewers

Released: RHP Ryan DeLaughter

Minnesota Twins

Signed: RHP Brad Hennessey, RHP Yoslan Herrera

[Hennessey](#), 30, spent April and May of last year on the disabled list for Norfolk, the Orioles' top farm club. Baltimore cut him loose in June and he sat out the season. The Giants' first-round pick in '01,

Hennessey overcame two tumors in his back to be a serviceable arm for the big club from 2005-07, logging a 4.22 ERA over 286 innings.

Back in '06, the Pirates heralded [Herrera](#) as their first foray into Cuba in more than 50 years. Perhaps they should have remained on the sidelines. Over the life of his three-year, \$1.92 million contract, Herrera made all of five starts for the big club, going 1-1, 9.82 and allowing 35 hits and 12 walks in 18-odd innings. He barely sniffed Triple-A in that time, instead spending most of his time with Double-A Altoona. There he at least exhibited solid control (2.8 walks per nine innings) if not over powering stuff (5.4 strikeouts per nine). Pittsburgh released Herrera, 28, in October.

New York Mets

Signed: RHP Kiko Calero, RHP Kyle Snyder (re-signed), LHP Arturo Lopez (outrighted)

New York Yankees

Signed: 1B Myron Leslie (New Jersey (Can-Am))

[Leslie](#) had his moments as a member of the Athletics organization, making it to Double-A as a patient, switch-hitting third baseman with modest power. Cut during spring training last year, he spent his age-27 season in the Can-Am League, batting a solid .272/.410/.494 with 18 homers in 92 games. At a hefty 6-foot-3, 225 pounds and probably limited to first base, he'll need to continue to strike the long hits.

Oakland Athletics

Signed: RHP Jason Jennings, RHP Brett Tomko (re-signed), SS Gregorio Petit (outrighted), OF Matt Carson (re-signed)

Philadelphia Phillies

Signed: 2B Keoni DeRenne (York (Atlantic))

Released: RHP Reginal Simon

A 5-foot-7 middle infielder from the University of Arizona by way of Honolulu, [DeRenne](#) spent the last three seasons with York. Last year the 30-year-old batted .289/.378/.381 with a 63-to-47 walk-to-strikeout ratio, showing skills in line with his Triple-A résumé, i.e. lots of contact, singles and walks. The Braves made him a 12th-round pick in 2000.

According to Baseball-Reference, no player born in Haiti ever has made it to the big leagues. And if [Simon](#), the sole Haitian minor leaguer to play in the U.S. last year, is to become the first, he'll have to do so with a new organization.

Pittsburgh Pirates

Released: LHP Chris Aure

[Aure](#) was a 15th-round pick in 2008 out of North Pole High in Alaska, making him the third-highest drafted player ever out of an Alaska high school. He pitched just 33 innings as a pro the last two seasons.

San Diego Padres

Signed: C Eric Munson

San Francisco Giants

Signed: RHP Matt Kinney (re-signed), LHP Andy Sisco, 3B Michael Sandoval (Newark (Atlantic))

A Cubs' second-round pick in '01, [Sisco](#) made steady progress in his first four pro seasons. But then Chicago left the 6-foot-10 lefty off its 40-man roster, and the Royals pounced, making Sisco a big league Rule 5 pick for the '05 season. Not only did he stick all year but the results weren't half bad—3.11 ERA, 76 strikeouts and 42 walks in 75 relief innings. The 22-year-old rookie seemed poised for bigger things.

But alas, poor control undermined his progress, and in his two follow-up seasons in the bigs, Sisco posted a 7.34 ERA and 6.3 walks per nine innings over 84 appearances. He had Tommy John surgery in '08 and then appeared to be on the comeback trail with the A's last March. But his minor league pact was quickly voided and he sat out his second consecutive season.

[Sandoval](#), 28, is the older brother of Giants third baseman Pablo. Though he hasn't played affiliated ball since '04, Michael has remained active on the international scene and in the Venezuelan League. Signed by the Twins in '97, he made it to high Class A Fort Myers before the ride ended. Sandoval batted a respectable .291/.375/.417 in 175 at-bats for Newark last season in his return to U.S. soil.

Seattle Mariners

Signed: RHP Pat Bresnehan, RHP Wes Littleton, RHP Tom Wilhelmson (Tucson (Golden))

Released: 2B Ben Billingsley, 2B Blake Trinkle

[Wilhelmson](#), 26, might be the active record holder for transactions-to-innings pitched ratio. A Brewers' seventh-round pick out of high school in '02, he debuted for low Class A Beloit the following season and went 5-6, 2.76 with 63 strikeouts in 88 innings. To this point, that's the extent of his affiliated ball experience. Wilhelmson failed two drug tests administered by the Brewers and spent '04 on the suspended list. He followed that up by taking a year off in '05—which goes down officially as a visit to the restricted list. He threw in the towel for good and retired on June 21, 2005. But even though Milwaukee still held his rights, they did not prevent Wilhelmson from playing independent ball last summer—nearly six years after he had thrown his last pitch—with his hometown Tucson Toros. At least not initially. Wilhelmson recovered his 97 mph velocity and struck out 13 batters in 11 2/3 innings in the independent Golden League, prompting the Brewers to call him back for a tryout. He subsequently pinched a nerve in his shoulder, though, and drew his release from the Brewers in August. That's where this story picks up, with Mariners general manager Jack Zduriencik, who originally drafted Wilhelmson as Brewers scouting director nearly eight years ago, helping to orchestrate his new contract with Seattle.

Texas Rangers

Signed: C Toby Hall, OF Endy Chavez

Washington Nationals

Signed: RHP Livan Hernandez (re-signed)

Released: OF Aaron Seuss

Reinstated from inactive list: C Gianison Boekhoudt

Boekhoudt, a 26th-rounder last year, has yet to play professionally, having spent his time on the restricted list.

Feb. 19-26

Atlanta Braves

Signed: C J.R. House, SS Edward Salcedo

Released: RHP Rico Reid, 1B Ryohei Shimabukuro

The Braves inked [Salcedo](#), 18, to the richest bonus in franchise history ever handed out to an international amateur—\$1.6 million. They've initially assigned him to the roster of the Gulf Coast League Braves, but Atlanta seems to think he'll be ready for low Class A Rome at some point in the near future.

[Shimabukuro](#) (20), was signed by the Braves out of Japan in 2006. Last season, he played only in 2 games for Danville (Appalachian League/Rookie).

Baltimore Orioles

Signed: RHP Armando Gabino (outrighted), RHP Dennis Sarfate (outrighted)

Boston Red Sox

Released: LHP Jose Capellan

The 23-year-old Dominican-born [Capellan](#) signed with Boston in 2003. Last season, he posted a 6-4-1 record with a 6.34 ERA for Salem (Carolina League/A Adv.). He rebounded during the winter in his homeland, pitching for Toros (1-3, 3.55 ERA in 25.1 IP), but continued to struggle with his control (28 BB).

Chicago Cubs

Signed: C Garrett Maines (Midwest (Frontier))

[Maines](#), 22, batted .185 (10-for-54) in his 22-game stint in the Frontier League, but with a healthy 10-to-17 walk-to-strikeout ratio. A product of the University of Tampa, he played for the Spartans' Division II World Series winners in '07 but also dislocated his ribs four times in three years there. As a redshirt junior last year he hit .340/.389/.689 with eight homers in 103 at-bats.

Chicago White Sox

Released: SS Freddie Bynum

[Bynum](#) appeared to be on the verge of signing with Orix of Japan's Pacific League.

Cleveland Indians

Signed: RHP Tom Mastny (Yokohama (Japan))

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Anthony Reyes

Outrighted to Triple-A, removed from 40-man: C Chris Gimenez

The way it turned out, [Mastny](#), 29, took a leave from the Indians for one year to play for Yokohama of Japan's Central League. He went 1-5, 5.69, notching 43 strikeouts, 25 walks and eight home runs allowed in 15 games.

Colorado Rockies

Signed: RHP Tim Redding, LHP Josh Muecke, 1B Brad Eldred, 3B Travis Metcalf

Florida Marlins

Signed: RHP Mike MacDougal, C Neil Wilson (re-signed)

Houston Astros

Signed: OF Jason Bourgeois

Released: RHP Carlos Gil

Kansas City Royals

Signed: LHP Oswaldo Bravo

Los Angeles Dodgers

Signed: RHP Eric Gagne (Quebec (Can-Am)), 1B Dustin Yount (Tucson (Golden)), 3B Chris Gutierrez, OF Brandon Watson

Montreal native [Gagne](#) pitched as a starter for Quebec last year, going 6-6, 4.65 with 64 strikeouts and 34 walks in 103 innings. The 34-year-old presumably will slide back into a relief role if he lands with Triple-A Albuquerque. One reason for optimism: While not all 17 of Gagne's Can-Am starts were quality, he enjoyed a productive month of August, when he posted a 30-to-12 strikeout-to-walk ratio in 35 innings to go with a 2.80 ERA.

The son of Brewers Hall of Famer Robin, [Dustin Yount](#) helped lead Tucson to the Golden Baseball League finals. The 27-year-old batted .310/.381/.491 with 11 homers and 58 RBIs during the regular season.

Milwaukee Brewers

Released: RHP Garrett Sherrill

Minnesota Twins

Signed: OF Jacques Jones (Newark (Atlantic))

[Jones](#) latched on with Newark in June and July last summer, after the Reds released him in spring training. The Twins, of course, originally drafted him in the second round in 1995 out of Southern California. The 34-year-old proved he had a bit left in the tank by batting .311/.339/.504 in Atlantic League play.

New York Mets

Signed: 2B Rylan Sandoval (NDFA—Long Beach State)

Outrighted to Triple-A, removed from 40-man: LHP Arturo Lopez

Drafted twice out of Chabot (Calif.) JC, in '06 and '07 (including once by the Mets), [Sandoval](#) finally turned pro as a nondrafted free agent. He batted .245 in two years with the Dirtbags and had most recently been scouted in the Arizona Winter League, an instructional outfit run by the independent Golden Baseball League.

The signing of Rod Barajas bumped [Lopez](#) off the roster. The Mets claimed him from the Padres last June, but never bothered to call him up, not even in September.

New York Yankees

Signed: RHP Dustin Moseley, RHP John Van Benschoten

Philadelphia Phillies

Signed: RHP Rick Guttormson (Kia (Korea))

The 33-year-old [Guttormson](#) returns to the U.S. after five years spent playing in the Far East, most recently in Korea. Prior to that he spent two years apiece with Yakult and SoftBank in Japan, amassing a record of 27-29, 3.52 while working as both a starter and reliever. The Padres selected Guttormson in the 22nd round of the '97 draft, only to cut him prior to '02 after he hit a wall in Double-A. He played indy ball for two years before earning a second shot at affiliated ball with the Mariners, but that lasted only one season, 2004, which remains (for now) the last he played on U.S. soil.

Pittsburgh Pirates

Signed: LHP Jack Taschner

San Diego Padres

Signed: RHP Greg Burke (re-signed), 2B Josh Barfield, OF Matt Stairs

San Francisco Giants

Signed: RHP Byung-Hyun Kim, RHP Guillermo Mota

[Kim](#) pitched for the Rockies, Marlins, Diamondbacks and Marlins (again) in '07, his last season in pro ball. Now the 31-year-old will attempt to shake off the rust of two years away from the game.

Tampa Bay Rays

Released: 2B Jacinto Cipriota

Texas Rangers

Signed: 1B Wes Bankston

Toronto Blue Jays

Reinstated from inactive list: RHP Jose Lorenzo

Washington Nationals

Signed: LHP Doug Slaten (outrighted), LHP Ron Villone (re-signed), C Carlos Maldonado, OF Sean Smith (Somerset (Atlantic))

Feb. 12-18**Arizona Diamondbacks**

Released: 2B Manuel Ferrer

Reinstated from inactive list: 2B Manuel Ferrer

Atlanta Braves

Signed: C Ryan Query (NDFA—Catawba (N.C.))

[Query](#) had been ready to embark on his first season as assistant coach at his alma mater when the Braves signed him. As a Catawba (N.C.) senior last year, he batted .384 with 20 homers and 75 RBIs and made the Division II All-America squad on the third team.

Baltimore Orioles

Signed: LHP Will Ohman, OF Zach Moore

Boston Red Sox

Signed: LHP Tyler Wilson, 1B Brett Harper

Outrighted to Triple-A, removed from 40-man: RHP Robert Manuel

[Harper](#), 29, is a 9-year minor league pro, who was selected in the 45th round of the 2001 Draft by the Mets. He played in the organization from 2001 – 2007 reaching AA level (in 2007, he was an **Eastern League All-Star** after hitting .296/.350/.500 with 24 HR and 88 RBI in 131 G for Binghamton). The left-handed continued to hit for above average hitting and power the last two seasons at AAA: .315 with 20 HR (.577 SLG) for Fresno (SF) in 2008; a combined .292, 19 HR, 71 RBI (.508 SLG) for Las Vegas (TOR) and Albuquerque (LAD) last season. His minor league career line is .296/.350/.497 with 136 HR. So he is one of the most prolific hitters in the minors, deserving a look at the Major League level.

Chicago Cubs

Reinstated from inactive list: RHP Jordan Latham

Cincinnati Reds

Signed: RHP Enrique Garcia, RHP Kip Wells (re-signed), LHP Daryl Harang (York (Atlantic))

The younger brother of Reds' workhorse (and fellow San Diego State product) Aaron, [Daryl Harang](#) pitched for York in the Atlantic League last year, going 10-12, 4.08 in 23 starts plus another 10 relief outings. The 27-year-old sported a 85-to-45 strikeout-to-walk ratio over 154 innings. The Blue Jays made Harang a 23rd-round pick in '04 but then released him during spring training last year.

The White Sox, Diamondbacks, Cubs and Reds each drafted [Garcia](#) in the years 2005-08, first out of Potomac State (W.Va.) JC and then Miami. The Reds signed him in the last of those years, only to cut him loose in February '09. He appears to have taken a year off before re-signing with Cincinnati.

Cleveland Indians

Signed: RHP Jamey Wright

Colorado Rockies

Signed: RHP Stuart Pomeranz (New Jersey (Can-Am)), LHP Nick Bierbrodt

The ranks of Rockies signees who did not play professionally in '09 grows with the signing of the 31-year-old [Bierbrodt](#). It's a group that also includes Alex Escobar, Paul Lo Duca, Jay Payton and Bronson Sardinha. Bierbrodt became the Diamondbacks' first-ever draft pick back in '96 when the franchise selected him 30th overall. He made pop-ins in the big leagues in '01, '03 and '04, racking up a 6.66 ERA over 145 innings, but since drawing his release from the Rangers in July '04, he had not found his way back to affiliated ball. Bierbrodt spent four years in indy ball, mostly in the Atlantic League, and a little time pitching in Taiwan before sitting out last season.

Florida Marlins

Signed: 1B Mark Saccomanno, 3B Mike Lamb

Houston Astros

Released: RHP Max Fearnow

Kansas City Royals

Signed: RHP Jose Brazoban, RHP Enrique Franco, OF Rene Oriental, RHP Roque Colon

Los Angeles Angels

Signed: LHP Daniel Davidson (re-signed), 1B Robb Quinlan (re-signed), OF Paul McNulty

Los Angeles Dodgers

Signed: RHP Jeff Weaver (re-signed), OF Andres Perez (re-signed)

Milwaukee Brewers

Signed: C Brent Dean (NDFA—UCLA)

[Dean](#) spent last season as an assistant coach for the Bruins after his college career ended following the '08 season. A transfer from Los Angeles Harbor JC, he didn't play much as a junior at UCLA and batted .278/.362/.329 with one homer in 79 at-bats as a senior.

Minnesota Twins

Signed: OF Charlton Jimerson (Newark (Atlantic))

[Jimerson](#) led the Atlantic League in 2009 in batting average (.335) and slugging percentage (.567). The California native hit 21 homers, 27 doubles, with 62 RBI in 103 games for Newark. The 30-year-old paced the Bears in hits (133) and runs scored (91) and is the favorite to play center field for Triple-A Rochester this season. The Astros drafted Jimerson in the fifth round in '01 after he took home Most Outstanding Player honors at that summer's College World Series. The Miami product showed an all-or-nothing approach in eight pro seasons, batting .249/.303/.444 in affiliated ball. He also stands as the Pacific Coast League's record holder for most strikeouts in a season, which he accomplished when he fanned 183 times with Round Rock in '06.

New York Mets

Signed: LHP Hisanori Takahashi, C Shawn Riggins, 1B Mike Jacobs, 2B Alex Cintron

Along with righty reliever Ryota Igarashi (big league deal), [Takahashi](#) joins the Mets as this offseason's only two Japanese imports. A 10-year veteran of the Yomiuri Giants, Takahashi went 10-6, 2.94 last season, while striking out 126 and walking 36 in 144 innings. He will be 35 on Opening Day.

New York Yankees

Signed: C Brian Baisley (re-signed)

Oakland Athletics

Outrighted to Triple-A, removed from 40-man: SS Gregorio Petit

San Francisco Giants

Signed: RHP Todd Wellemeyer

Seattle Mariners

Signed: RHP Jesus Colome, RHP Luis Munoz (re-signed), 1B Mike Sweeney (re-signed)

Tampa Bay Rays

Signed: RHP Joaquin Benoit, 1B Luis Bautista (Pensacola (American Association))

[Benoit](#)'s run of dominance from 2005-07 may be a distant memory, especially as he's now 32 and is trying to come back from a year-long layoff while recovering from rotator cuff surgery. He sported a nifty rate of 8.8 strikeouts per nine innings in his five seasons as a fixture in the Rangers' pen, and he represents the type of risk that could pay off handsomely for the Rays if he rediscovers the zip on his fastball and the bite on his slider.

The Dominican-born [Bautista](#), 25, was selected by the Cubs in the 32nd Round of the 2007 Draft and released prior the 2009 season. In 2008, he hit .313 with 13 HR and 50 RBI (.515 SLG) in 89 games for Peoria (A). In the American association the right-handed hit .270/.322/.352.

Toronto Blue Jays

Signed: RHP B.J. LaMura (Long Island (Atlantic)), OF Daniel Peralas

Washington Nationals

Signed: RHP Rafael Martin, OF Willy Taveras

Outrighted to Triple-A, removed from 40-man: LHP Doug Slaten

[Martin](#), 25, has spent most of the past three seasons in the bullpen of the Mexican League's Saltillo franchise. Last season, he posted strong ratios over his 63 innings and 54 appearances, including 9.2 strikeouts, 3.1 unintentional walks and 0.9 home runs per nine innings. He continued rolling in the Mexican Pacific League (33 whiffs, 13 walks, zero homers in 35 frames) and capped it off with a four-strikeout, no-run showing in 2 1/3 Caribbean Series innings.

Feb. 1-11**Baltimore Orioles**

Signed: LHP Will Startup

Outrighted to Triple-A, removed from 40-man: RHP Armando Gabino, RHP Dennis Sarfate

Boston Red Sox

Signed: RHP Joe Nelson

Chicago Cubs

Signed: 1B Kevin Millar, OF Jason Dubois

Chicago White Sox

Signed: RHP Ben Fritz (Lancaster (Atlantic))

An Athletics' first-round pick in '02, [Fritz](#) made his way to the Tigers via the '07 Rule 5 draft, minor league edition. His journey through affiliated ball stopped abruptly in August '08 when Detroit released him amid a rough season with Double-A Erie. Fritz, 28, joined the independent ranks and made 34 starts for Lancaster in the past two seasons, compiling a record of 8-10, 4.13.

Cincinnati Reds

Released: RHP Luis Machuca

[Machuca](#), 22, was signed by the Reds as a non-drafted free agent out of Panama in 2005. In five seasons, he didn't pitch above rookie level (8-4, 2.35 ERA last year between DSL and GCL).

Colorado Rockies

Signed: RHP Justin Speier, LHP Adam Bright (re-signed), LHP Jimmy Gobble, 1B Josh Phelps, OF Alex Escobar, OF Bronson Sardinha

Even if he doesn't crack the Rockies' roster, [Speier](#) will be one of Triple-A's highest-paid players. The Angels are still on the hook for the \$5.2 million they committed when they signed the slider specialist for four years following the '06 season.

Neither [Escobar](#) nor [Sardinha](#) played affiliated or independent ball last year, though Escobar did put in time for Magallanes of the Venezuelan League this winter. The 31-year-old batted .273/.359/.394 with four doubles in 17 games. Seeing as the Rockies are swimming in lefty outfield bats, Escobar may provide insurance in case Ryan Spilborghs doesn't bounce back.

Detroit Tigers

Signed: OF Josh Burrus (Lincoln (American Association))

[Burrus](#), a Braves' first-round selection in '01, spent the past two season in independent ball, batting a composite .273/.356/.431 in 722 at-bats. The Rockies cut him in spring training '08, sending Burrus, still just 26, to the Atlantic League and then to the American Association.

Florida Marlins

Signed: RHP Seth McClung, RHP Jermaine Van Buren (La New (Taiwan)), OF Jason Lane

[Van Buren](#) last pitched in the U.S. in '07, suiting up for Triple-A Sacramento in the A's system. From what we gather, he pitched in Taiwan for La New in 2008-09, though records for the CPBL are spotty.

Houston Astros

Signed: LHP Edwin Walker

[Walker](#), 26, was a 9th round pick by the Brewers in the 2002 Draft out a Texas high school. Released in 2004 after pitching in the Pioneer Rookie League (4-2, 5.57 ERA), he spent parts of the last three seasons in Indy ball (United, Frontier and Northern Leagues). Last year, the Yankees acquired his contract from Gary (Northern League), where he was pitching effectively out of the pen (3-0-3, 3.26 ERA in 16 G, with 29 K, 10 BB and 14 hits in 19.1 IP), and assigned him to Charleston (South Atlantic League/A), where he pitched well as a 25-year-old against younger players (2-0-1, 0.78 ERA in 14 G, with 20 K, 4 BB and 14 hits in 23 IP). New York released Walker during the off-season.

Kansas City Royals

Signed: OF Jose Giron

Outrighted to Triple-A, removed from 40-man: SS Mario Lisson

[Lisson](#), 25, was signed by the Royals out of Venezuela in 2002. Baseball America has ranked him as *the best defensive infielder* in the Royals organization entering the 2010 season. He was added to the 40-

man Roster after the 2007 season in which he was a Carolina League All-Star. He spent last year between AA and AAA level hitting .227 with 14 HR and 60 RBI in 131 games. After the season, played with Caracas of the Venezuelan Winter League hitting .232 with 7 HR and 21 RBI in 33 G (.545 SLG).

Los Angeles Angels

Signed: RHP Bobby Korecky, RHP Ryan Woods (NDFA—Lewis-Clark State (Idaho))

Released: C John Rickard, 1B Alibay Barkley

Los Angeles Dodgers

Signed: RHP Seth Etherton, RHP Ramon Ortiz, 3B Corey Smith, OF Alfredo Amezaga, OF Brian Giles

Released: RHP Jean Eusebio

Milwaukee Brewers

Signed: LHP Scott Schoeneweis, LHP Chase Wright (re-signed)

Outrighted to Triple-A, removed from 40-man: RHP Tim Dillard, RHP Chris Smith

Minnesota Twins

Signed: LHP Mike Maroth

[Maroth](#), 32, did not pitch during the regular season, but did a fair imitation of himself in the Puerto Rican League last winter, going 3-0, 2.60 with a 15-to-13 strikeout-to-walk ratio in 35 innings for the league champions Mayaguez Indios.

New York Mets

Signed: RHP Josh Fogg, LHP Travis Blackley, LHP Neal Musser (Lancaster (Atlantic)), OF Frank Catalanotto

Released: LHP Raul Batis

Outrighted to Triple-A, removed from 40-man: RHP Jack Egbert

Reinstated from inactive list LHP Raul Batis

[Egbert](#) lost his place on the 40-man when the Mets claimed former Twins outfielder Jason Pridie on waivers. Elsewhere, [Musser](#) re-joins the organization that made him a second-round pick in '99. Released by the Astros last April, he migrated to the Atlantic League, where the 29-year-old notched 48 strikeouts in 44 innings out of Lancaster's bullpen.

[Blackley](#), 27, was 4-7-3, 4.85 ERA with Reno (D'backs/AAA) last season, then pitched well for Hermosillo of the Mexican-Pacific League during the winter (5-1, 3.62 ERA in 8 GS, with 35 K, 13 BB, 43 H in 49.2 IP), representing Mexico in the Caribbean Series. The southpaw played for Australia in the 2009 World Baseball Classic starting a no-decision vs. Cuba (5.2 IP, 4 K, 2 BB, 5 H, ER). Cuba won that game 5-4.

New York Yankees

Signed: RHP Paul Bush (re-signed), 3B Marcos Vechionacci (re-signed), OF Edwar Gonzalez (re-signed), OF Marcus Thames

Oakland Athletics

Released: C Dante Love

Reinstated from inactive list C Dante Love

Philadelphia Phillies

Signed: RHP Oscar Villarreal, C Zak Farkes, C John Purdom (York (Atlantic)), 1B Gaby Martinez

Yet another recent signee who did not play in '09, [Villarreal](#) drew his release from the Royals after his elbow injury necessitated Tommy John surgery.

Pittsburgh Pirates

Signed: 2B Josh Bonifay

The Pirates continue to re-sign Bonifay, the of former general manage Cam, each spring to serve as an instructor in the organization. He last played minor league ball in '06.

San Diego Padres

Signed: RHP Scott Munter, RHP Mark Worrell (re-signed), 2B Brett Dowdy

Released: 1B Felix Carrasco

Signed by the Padres as a non-drafted free agent out of the Dominican Republic in 2006, [Carrasco](#) (24) played in the California League (A Adv.) last season, his fourth as a pro, hitting .252/.344/.394 with 9 HR and 69 RBI in 115 games.

San Francisco Giants

Released: RHP Robert Grace

Outrighted to Triple-A, removed from 40-man: 1B Jesus Guzman

Reinstated from inactive list RHP Robert Grace

[Grace](#) spent two years on the restricted list and had not played since the '07 season, which he spent mostly with low Class A Augusta.

[Guzman](#) was jettisoned to make way for the re-signing of Bengie Molina. You have to appreciate the symmetry of Guzman's big league line for San Francisco last year: He batted .250/.250/.250 in going 5-for-20 with five singles and no walks.

Seattle Mariners

Released: C Guy Welsh

Outrighted to Triple-A, removed from 40-man: RHP Yusmeiro Petit, 1B Tommy Everidge

No team has out-bustled the Mariners this offseason. So despite being offseason waiver claims themselves, [Petit](#) and [Everidge](#) found themselves back on the waiver wire when Seattle inked big league pacts with Eric Byrnes and Erik Bedard.

Tampa Bay Rays

Signed: 3B Angel Chavez, SS J.J. Furmaniak

Texas Rangers

Signed: RHP J.K. Ryu, C Guy Edmonds

[Ryu](#) did not pitch in '09 after MLB voided the waiver claim that Cleveland made coming out of spring training. Once returned to the Padres, San Diego summarily released him.

A 16-year-old Aussie catcher, [Edmonds](#) reportedly received \$150,000 to sign.

Toronto Blue Jays

Signed: RHP Jonah Bayliss (re-signed)

Washington Nationals

Signed: LHP Mike Venafrro, OF Edgardo Baez (re-signed)

[Venafrro](#) held big league lefthanded batters to a .240/.318/.310 line in parts of seven seasons. The 36-year-old hasn't pitched anywhere (at the professional level) since '07.

[Baez](#), 24, was a 4th round pick by Montreal in the 2003 Draft. In 7 seasons, the Puerto-Rican reached AA level. He had a strong season in the Puerto Rican Winter League playing for Caguas: the right-handed hitter was among the League leaders in hitting (.329 (7th), RBI (23/5th), runs (27/3rd), representing Puerto Rico in the Caribbean Series.

Jan. 25-31

Arizona Diamondbacks

Signed: OF Doug Deeds

[Deeds](#) was a 9th round draft pick by Minnesota in 2002. In 2008, he was an All-Star while playing for Tennessee (AA) in the Cubs system (.325/.389/.514). Last season, he hit .281 with 10 HR and 38 RBI in 113 games between Double and Triple A with the Cubs.

Baltimore Orioles

Signed: RHP Andy Mitchell (re-signed)

Chicago Cubs

Signed: 1B Chad Tracy

Chicago White Sox

Signed: RHP Daniel Cabrera

Cincinnati Reds

Signed: 2B Miguel Cairo

Colorado Rockies

Signed: RHP Chris Gissell, RHP Carlos Guevara, LHP Damian Moss (re-signed), 3B Kenny Perez (re-signed)

Detroit Tigers

Outrighted to Triple-A, removed from 40-man: 1B Jeff Larish

[Larish](#) lost his foothold on a 40-man roster spot when Detroit signed closer Jose Valverde. Larish, the Tigers' fifth-round pick '05, batted .242/.323/.404 in 74 games with the big club during the past two seasons.

Florida Marlins

Signed: RHP Derrick Turnbow

Houston Astros

Signed: C Kevin Cash

Los Angeles Dodgers

Signed: RHP Will Savage (Lancaster (Atlantic)), C Justin Knoedler, OF Timo Perez

Cut by the Tigers in spring training last year, [Perez](#) latched on in the Mexican League before finishing out the slate with New Jersey (Can-Am). With Veracruz, he batted .323/.406/.476 with eight homers and 11 steals in 77 games. The 34-year-old struck out just 19 times in 288 at-bats. Perez has been the best hitter (.356) in the Dominican League this winter playing for Licey; he was fifth in RBI (26), second in OBP (.408), fourth in slugging (.515).

Minnesota Twins

Signed: 2B Matt Gaski

New York Mets

Signed: OF Val Pascucci

[Pascucci](#), 31, will gun for his 200th career home run in the minors this season. (He spent two years in Japan in 2005-06.) He finished the '09 season with 193 bombs, having hit them in nine seasons for clubs like Vermont, Cape Fear, Jupiter, Harrisburg, Edmonton, Albuquerque (two stints), New Orleans, Lehigh Valley and Portland (Ore.). In all likelihood he'll begin '10 with Buffalo.

New York Yankees

Traded: 3B Mitch Hilligoss to Rangers for OF Greg Golson

The Yankees gamble on [Golson](#)'s athleticism, acquiring the '04 first-rounder on the cheap after he had been designated for assignment by the Rangers. As a righthanded hitter, the 24-year-old may find a niche in New York's left-leaning outfield. He'll have to battle past Rule 5 pick Jamie Hoffmann on the depth chart, however. Golson batted just .258/.299/.344 for Triple-A Oklahoma City last year, sporting a 114-to-29 strikeout-to-walk ratio.

Oakland Athletics

Signed: RHP Dan Giese (re-signed), OF Archie Gilbert (re-signed)

Released: RHP Jorge Arriola, RHP Logan Duran, RHP Ronald Ferreras, RHP Jose Oliveros, RHP Luis Reyes, 2B Matt Ray, OF J.D. Pruitt

[Pruitt](#), 24, was signed by the A's as a 23rd draft choice in 2007. In two season in Vancouver (A/short season), he hit .240 in 101 games, but collected 89 BB good for an impressive .470 OBP.

Philadelphia Phillies

Signed: RHP Brian Gordon, LHP Brian Mazon (re-signed), 2B Luis Maza, OF Freddy Guzman

Pittsburgh Pirates

Signed: C Billy Killian, 3B Kevin Melillo, SS Doug Bernier, OF Anthony Norman

Outrighted to Triple-A, removed from 40-man: RHP Anthony Claggett, RHP Steven Jackson

[Claggett](#) and [Jackson](#), both waiver-claim acquisitions from the Yankees last year, were bumped from the roster in favor of Ryan Church and Octavio Dotel. Both righthanders cleared waivers and were assigned to Indianapolis.

St. Louis Cardinals

Signed: RHP Houston Summers

San Diego Padres

Released: RHP Gabe DeHoyos, 3B Justin Baum

[DeHoyos](#), 29, a non drafted free agent out of Eastern New Mexico University in 2002, played in the Northern independent League from 2002 to 2004, then was acquired by Kansas City. He stayed with the Royals throughout the 2007 season and pitched in the Padres system in 2008-2009. In six pro seasons, he reached AAA level. Last season he was 1-4 1.97 ERA in 35 G between Rookie league/AA/AAA with 45 K in 50.1 IP. During the winter, DeHoyos played for Mazatlan resulting the co-leader of the Mexican-Pacific League in saves with 12 (Hector Navarro).

San Francisco Giants

Released: RHP Brian Bowles

[Bowles](#), 33, had been retired since May '07.

Seattle Mariners

Signed: RHP Preston Vancil (Florence (Frontier)), C John Parham (Traverse City (Frontier))

[Vancil](#) signed with Florence in July after he finished his senior season at Abilene Christian (Texas). He went 6-4, 3.26 for the Freedom, striking out 61 and walking 44 in 66 1/3 innings. Though he did not appear in a game for Traverse City, [Parham](#) also has roots in the Frontier League, having signed to play there after finishing at Cal State Northridge last summer.

Tampa Bay Rays

Signed: RHP Matt Bush, LHP Heath Phillips

The No. 1 overall pick in '04, [Bush](#) fizzled out as a shortstop with the Padres but then seemed destined for at least minor league mediocrity when he converted to pitcher in '07. He struck out 16 in 7 1/3 innings in the Arizona League, showing serious heat and a strong breaking ball. Promoted to low Class A, Bush blew out his elbow while facing his second Midwest League batter. He had Tommy John surgery and missed all of '08, then passed through the Blue Jays system without throwing a pitch last year. Bush did manage to make headlines, however, when arrested for suspicion of DUI. Toronto released him prior to the season.

Texas Rangers

Traded: OF Greg Golson to Yankees for 3B Mitch Hilligoss

Toronto Blue Jays

Signed: RHP Wade Townsend, 2B Howie Clark (re-signed)

Washington Nationals

Signed: RHP Nick Maness, LHP Chuck James, 3B Angel Gonzalez, OF Kevin Mench

Placed on restricted list: RHP Randy Matias

[Mench](#) enjoyed a few productive years with the Rangers in his mid-20s, but he hasn't played with any regularity since '06. He signed with the Hanshin Tigers of Japan's Central League for the '09 season, batting .148 (8-for-54) with three doubles.

You may remember [Maness](#) from such prospect lists as the Mets' Top 10 from '01, when we wrote that his "low-90s fastball is the best in the system." Drafted in the 12th round in '97, he ascended to New York's 40-man roster but never did harness his control enough to pitch any meaningful number of innings above Double-A, let alone make it to the big leagues. The Mets cut ties with Maness during the '03 season and he pitched in indy ball for four seasons before taking leave from the game for two years.

Jan. 19-24**Atlanta Braves**

Signed: RHP Chris Resop

[Resop](#) was dealt to the Hansing Tigers during the 2008 season. He didn't pitch effectively in Japan: 0-2 6.75 ERA in 21.1 IP during the first season. Last season, he pitched in the farm system of Hansin, but the outcome wasn't different (1-1 5.21 ERA, with 21 K in 19 IP).

Boston Red Sox

Signed: C Gustavo Molina

Chicago White Sox

Signed: OF Brady Clark

Outrighted to Triple-A, removed from 40-man: C Cole Armstrong

Cincinnati Reds

Signed: RHP Jose Arredondo

After a splendid rookie season with the Angels in '08, [Arredondo](#) appeared poised to take over a high-leverage bullpen role in Anaheim. But then Arredondo slumped badly in '09 as he dealt with elbow discomfort. The club non-tendered him in December, and the Reds signed him even knowing he'll miss 2010 while he recovers from Tommy John surgery.

Cleveland Indians

Signed: 2B Mark Grudzielanek

Colorado Rockies

Signed: C Robby Hammock, C Paul Lo Duca, OF Jay Payton

Detroit Tigers

Signed: RHP Ruddy Lugo, LHP Sam Narron, C Mike Rabelo, 1B Cesar Nicolas

A Diamondbacks' fifth-round pick in '04, [Nicolas](#) spent last season playing indy ball after Arizona released him during spring training. The 27-year-old batted .335 with 14 homers and 103 RBIs in 96 games for Grand Prairie of the American Association. He hit well in 10 games in the Atlantic League to close the year.

Florida Marlins

Signed: RHP Brian Lawrence (re-signed), 3B Lee Mitchell (re-signed), OF Jason Delaney

[Lawrence](#) pitched poorly last season between Portland and New Orleans (7-4, 5.10 ERA), but bounced back pitching well for Carolina in the Puerto Rican Winter League: his 2.23 ERA was 2nd in the league (Levale Speigner, 2.03), and his 33 K were good for 5th.

Houston Astros

Signed: RHP B.J. Hagen, RHP Shane Loux, RHP Jared Wells, OF Cory Sullivan

[Hagen](#), 23, signed his first deal with an affiliated club after playing in the Frontier League last year. The Charlotte product appeared in 29 games for Traverse City, striking out 38 and walking 16 in 40 innings. Opponents hit just .178 as he compiled a 2.48 ERA.

Kansas City Royals

Released: LHP John Flanagan

Los Angeles Angels

Signed: RHP Juan Mateo

Los Angeles Dodgers

Signed: RHP Scott Dohmann, RHP Harvey Garcia (re-signed), RHP Russ Ortiz, LHP John Koronka, SS Nick Green, OF Michael Restovich

Milwaukee Brewers

Released: RHP Mark Holliman, RHP Greg Miller, LHP Jose Romero

Reinstated from inactive list: RHP Greg Miller

[Holliman](#) signed with the Cubs as a 3rd round pick in the 2005 Draft. In 2009, in his fourth pro season, pitched for Huntsville (AA) posting a 7-10, 4.65 ERA in 26 starts.

Minnesota Twins

Signed: LHP Mark McLemore

New York Mets

Released: C Rogelio Del Campo

[Del Campo](#), 23, was signed by New York in march 2006 out of Mexico. In four seasons, the catcher didn't play much and reached AAA Buffalo last season (playing only one game).

New York Yankees

Signed: 3B Fu-Lin Kuo

New York made its second foray into Taiwan to sign 18-year-old [Fu-Lin Kuo](#). Their first was Chien-Ming Wang.

Pittsburgh Pirates

Signed: RHP D.J. Carrasco

St. Louis Cardinals

Signed: 2B Kevin Howard

San Diego Padres

Released: RHP Walter Silva, 1B Brian Joynt

The Padres signed [Silva](#), a veteran of Mexican baseball, before the 2009 season. The right-hander didn't pitch effectively: in 6 ML starts he was 0-2, 8.76 ERA, while posted a 7-5, 6.09 ERA in 81.1 IP for AAA Portland.

San Francisco Giants

Released: RHP Andrew Kerth, LHP Steven Calicut, C Adam Witter, 2B Brooks Lindsley, 3B Evan McArthur, OF Caleb Curry, OF Ryan Mantle

Reinstated from inactive list: RHP Andrew Kerth

Texas Rangers

Signed: 3B Lee Soto, SS Travis Adair

[Soto](#) earned notoriety as a Blue Jays farmhand as a \$600,000 bust. He signed out of the Dominican in April '05 and hit all of .201/.248/.293 in 539 pro plate appearances through '08.

Toronto Blue Jays

Signed: RHP Shawn Hill, RHP Steven Register, RHP Bob Zimmermann, OF Jeremy Reed

A native of Mississauga, Ontario, [Hill](#) returns to his Canadian roots. Injuries have hampered the 28-year-old to the point where the Blue Jays would rejoice if he gave them 97 effective innings, as he did the Nationals in '07.

[Zimmermann](#) returns to affiliated ball after spending his '09 with York of the Atlantic League. The results weren't pretty: 4.43 ERA in 38 games, 61-to-60 strikeout-to-walk ratio and seven homers in 89 innings.

Washington Nationals

Signed: OF Chris Duncan

2010 Jan. 1-18

Arizona Diamondbacks**Signed:** SS Jake Wald**Released:** RHP Tony Barnette

[Barnette](#), 26, was a 10th round pick of the 2006 Draft. In his fourth pro season, posted a 14-8, 5.79 ERA as a starter with Reno (AAA). The D'backs released him so he could sign a contract worth \$535,000 with the Yakult Swallows (Japan).

Atlanta Braves**Signed:** 3B Joe Thurston**Baltimore Orioles****Signed:** C Phillip Britton, SS Andy Gonzalez, OF Jeff Salazar**Boston Red Sox****Signed:** RHP Chad Paronto, RHP Scott Patterson, RHP Kelvin Pichardo, RHP Jorge Sosa, LHP Brian Shouse, 2B Ray Chang, 3B Christian Colonel**Released:** RHP Matt Goodson, SS Zach Borowiak, OF Brad Wilkerson**Reinstated from inactive list:** OF Brad Wilkerson

[Sosa](#) is coming off a solid season in the Dominican Winter League: playing for Licey Tigres, he posted a 3.83 ERA (9th in the circuit).

Chicago Cubs**Signed:** C Mark Johnson (re-signed), 3B Scott McClain

The 37-year-old [McClain](#) embarks on his second go-round with the Cubs as returns from his second tour of duty in Japan. Last year (after being released from his Giants contract), he batted .244/.319/.423 for Hiroshima of the Central League, while popping 18 home runs in 114 games. He bashed 71 homers in four years with Seibu from 2001-04. A prolific slugger here in the U.S., McClain has clubbed 292 home runs in 16 seasons.

Chicago White Sox**Signed:** 3B Jeff Hulett**Cincinnati Reds****Signed:** RHP Jesus Delgado, RHP Justin Lehr (re-signed), RHP Daryl Thompson (re-signed), OF Josh Anderson, OF Luis Terrero

[Terrero](#) enjoyed a huge year in the Mexican League last season, batting .345/.440/.603 with 21 home runs in 103 games for Laguna. Of course, the run-scoring environment in Mexico is elevated, but Terrero still ranked fifth in the ML in slugging (Ruben Rivera finished on top), third with 54 extra-base hits and fourth with 90 RBIs. At the conclusion of the Mexican League season, Terrero played indy ball with Kansas City of the Northern League for 10 games.

Cleveland Indians**Signed:** RHP Adam Miller (re-signed), 2B Mark Grudzielanek, OF Shelley Duncan, OF Austin Kearns**Traded:** LHP Zach Jackson to Blue Jays for a player to be named**Traded:** 3B Jesus Brito to Pirates for SS Brian Bixler**Colorado Rockies****Signed:** SS Eider Torres**Released:** 2B Andy Goff**Voluntarily retired:** RHP Randall Taylor

Florida Marlins

Released: RHP Kenny Fernandez, RHP Brett Harker, RHP Andy Ramirez, LHP Brandon Barrow, C Zach Moore, 1B Matt Lokken, 2B Daniel Garcia

Houston Astros

Signed: RHP Jeremy Johnson (re-signed)

Released: C Pedro Gonzalez

Outrighted to Triple-A, removed from 40-man: OF Jason Bourgeois

Kansas City Royals

Signed: RHP Matt Herges, 1B Wilson Betemit, OF Jamie Romak

Reinstated from inactive list: RHP Roque Colon, LHP John Flanagan

Kansas City goes back to the well for two more former Braves. [Betemit](#), who's coming off a .329/.385/.600 run in the Dominican League (playing for Cibao), originally signed with the Braves back in 1996. [Romak](#)'s lineage may be a bit more obscure, but the Ontario native signed with Atlanta as a fourth-rounder in 2003.

Los Angeles Dodgers

Signed: RHP Jordan Pratt (re-signed), C J.D. Closser (re-signed), 2B Argenis Reyes, OF Sergio Pedroza

A Dodgers third-round pick in 2005, [Pedroza](#) played in the independent Golden League last season after the Rays released him during spring training. Tampa Bay acquired him in 2006, in the trade that sent Julio Lugo to the playoff-bound Dodgers.

Milwaukee Brewers

Signed: OF Norris Hopper

Outrighted to Triple-A, removed from 40-man: RHP Omar Aguilar

Minnesota Twins

Signed: LHP Mike Maroth, 1B Brock Peterson (re-signed)

New York Mets

Signed: RHP Manuel Alvarez (re-signed), LHP Adam Pettyjohn (re-signed)

New York Yankees

Signed: RHP Zach Segovia, LHP Royce Ring, OF David Winfree

[Winfree](#), 24, was selected by the Twins in the 13th round of the 2003 Draft. In seven seasons in the organization the right-handed batter reached AAA level (in 2009) showing average hitting and power abilities. Last season he hit .273 with 14 HR and 61 RBI in 116 games for Rochester.

Oakland Athletics

Signed: LHP Lenny DiNardo

Traded: OF Aaron Cunningham and OF Scott Hairston to Padres for 2B Eric Sogard and 3B Kevin Kouzmanoff

Philadelphia Phillies

Signed: RHP Brandon Duckworth, RHP Jordan Meaker, RHP Jason Standridge, RHP Ryan Vogelsong, RHP Ehren Wassermann, C Dane Sardinha, 1B Tagg Bozied, 3B Brandon Pinckney

This list reads like a who's who for pitching prospects, circa 2001, with Duckworth, Standridge, Vogelsong all seeking redemption as 30-somethings. [Duckworth](#) has made at least seven big league appearances in

each of the past eight seasons (who knew?), and in his three years with the Royals he made 18 spot starts.

The Devil Rays' top pick in 1997 (31st overall), [Standridge](#) ran up a 5.80 ERA in parts of seven big league seasons for the Rays, Rangers, Reds and Royals. He departed Kansas City for Japan to pitch for Fukuoka during 2007-08. He spent a month with the Marlins' Triple-A New Orleans affiliate last year before earning his release and signing on with Somerset of the Atlantic League.

[Vogelsong](#) racked up a 5.86 ERA in parts of six seasons for the Giants and Pirates. But he spent the last three years in Japan, striking out 197 batters in 214 innings to go with a 4.17 ERA pitching for Orix.

Pittsburgh Pirates

Signed: C Luke Carlin

Traded: SS Brian Bixler to Indians for 3B Jesus Brito

Signed as nondrafted free agent by Indians out of the Dominican Republic on Dec. 8, 2005., [Brito](#) (22) hit .353/431/567 with 19 doubles, 10 triples, 3 HR, 43 RBI and 52 R in 60 games played between the Arizona League (BA ranked him the 14th best prospect of the League) and the NYP-League in 2009 (his fourth pro season).

St. Louis Cardinals

Signed: RHP Oneli Perez (re-signed), RHP Charlie Zink, LHP Evan MacLane (re-signed)

Released: RHP Geney Rios, 3B Juan B. Cabrera

Placed on restricted list: RHP Pablo Ortiz

[MacLane](#) is coming off a strong winter season pitching in the Dominican Republic for Estrellas. The southpaw ranked among the league leaders in ERA (2.87/5th), wins (5/2nd), strikeout (41/2nd) and IP (62.2/1st).

San Diego Padres

Released: RHP Colin Lynch, LHP Andrew Bovich, LHP Andrew Morton, LHP Will Startup, 2B Joey Railey, 3B Seth Johnston, OF Julian Alvarez, OF Jason Codioli, OF Angel Mercado

Traded: 2B Eric Sogard and 3B Kevin Kouzmanoff to Athletics for OF Aaron Cunningham and OF Scott Hairston

San Francisco Giants

Signed: RHP Santiago Casilla, RHP Mike MacDonald, RHP Osiris Matos (re-signed), C Todd Jennings (re-signed), OF Breland Brown

Released: RHP Javier Hernandez, C Josh Emmerick

Reinstated from inactive list: C Josh Emmerick

[Emmerick](#) spent the past three seasons on the retired list. In the case of [Brown](#), a product of Northeast Mississippi CC, he spent three games in the Frontier League and another 13 in the Can-Am League last season.

Seattle Mariners

Signed: RHP Chad Cordero (re-signed), C Josh Bard, 1B Brad Nelson (re-signed), SS Chris Woodward

Released: RHP Felix Bautista, RHP Bruno Mercedes, LHP Kyle Brown, OF Joel Mendez, OF Angel Zapata

Tampa Bay Rays

Signed: LHP Stepan Havlicek, C Alvin Colina, OF Rashad Eldridge (re-signed)

The Rays signed [Havlicek](#), a 16-year-old Czech lefty, and will start him on his pro career in the Australian Summer League this season.

Texas Rangers

Signed: RHP Jaiлен Peguero, RHP Elizardo Ramirez (re-signed), LHP Clay Rapada, 1B Matt Brown

Released: RHP Dustin Brader, RHP Jake Geglein, RHP Brock Piper, 2B Dave Berg

Reinstated from inactive list: 2B Dave Berg

This is the same [Dave Berg](#) who served as a utility infielder for the Marlins and Blue Jays from 1998 to 2004. He signed with the Rangers in May 2006, only to retire about a month later.

Toronto Blue Jays

Signed: LHP Willie Collazo, 2B Callix Crabbe, SS Jesus Merchan, OF Jorge Padilla

Acquired: LHP Zach Jackson from Indians for a player to be named

Washington Nationals

Signed: 2B Chase Lambin, SS Pedro Lopez, OF Pedro Powell

Outrighted to Triple-A, removed from 40-man: LHP Victor Garate

A switch-hitting middle infielder with power, [Lambin](#) played in Japan last year but batted .192 in 58 games for Chiba Lotte.

Dec. 21-31**Arizona Diamondbacks**

Signed: 1B Jeff Bailey, SS Ed Rogers (re-signed)

Atlanta Braves

Traded: RHP Javier Vazquez and LHP Boone Logan to Yankees for RHP Arodys Vizcaino, LHP Mike Dunn and OF Melky Cabrera

Baltimore Orioles

Released: RHP Chase Phillips

Chicago Cubs

Signed: RHP Jeff Kennard

Chicago White Sox

Signed: OF Jason Botts, OF Josh Kroeger (re-signed), OF Ozzie Lewis

[Botts](#) left midway through the 2008 season to play for Nippon Ham of Japan's Pacific League. He batted .254/.327/.423 with five homers in 55 games that season and played only in 11 games for the club in '09.

Cleveland Indians

Signed: RHP Anthony Reyes (re-signed), RHP Saul Rivera

Released: RHP Franklin Soto

[Soto](#) was signed in 2007 out of the Dominican Republic. In his third pro season, he reached the Arizona rookie League where posted a 0-1 6.57 ERA in 2009.

Colorado Rockies

Signed: RHP Juan Rincon (re-signed), C Anthony Aguilera (NDFA—San Jose State)

Detroit Tigers

Signed: 1B Jason Stokes

[Stokes](#) in 2004 bashed 24 home runs, mostly with Double-A Carolina in the Marlins system. At the time, the 22-year-old appeared poised to make his mark as a slugger. Consider that he had hit 17 homers in the Florida State League in '03 and a whopping 27 in the Midwest League in '02. But then injuries befell Stokes, Florida's second-rounder in '00, and he missed huge swaths of the '05 through '07 seasons. He didn't play at all in '08 and '09, meaning that in the past five years, Stokes, now 27, has made just 395 plate appearances.

Florida Marlins

Signed: RHP Chris Schroder, 2B Danny Richar, OF Jeff Pruitt, RHP Kasey Olenberger

Houston Astros

Signed: RHP Josh Banks

Kansas City Royals

Signed: LHP John Parrish

Los Angeles Dodgers

Signed: RHP Hyang-Nam Choi (re-signed), C Gabriel Gutierrez (re-signed), 1B Doug Mientkiewicz (re-signed), SS Angel Berroa, OF Brian Barton, OF Jay Gibbons

Milwaukee Brewers

Signed: C Matt Treanor

New York Mets

Signed: RHP R.A. Dickey, C Luke Montz, 2B Andy Green (re-signed)

New York Yankees

Signed: C Mike Rivera, OF Reid Gorecki

Traded: RHP Arodys Vizcaino, LHP Mike Dunn and OF Melky Cabrera to Braves for RHP Javier Vazquez and LHP Boone Logan

Pittsburgh Pirates

Signed: RHP Tyler Yates (re-signed), LHP Brian Burres, LHP Neal Cotts

San Diego Padres

Signed: LHP Derrick Loop

Acquired: C Dusty Ryan from Detroit for a PTBNL.

San Francisco Giants

Signed: RHP Kevin Cameron

Seattle Mariners

Traded: RHP Brandon Morrow to Blue Jays for RHP Brandon League and OF Johermyn Chavez

Tampa Bay Rays

Signed: 1B Ryan Shealy

Toronto Blue Jays

Signed: C Raul Chavez (re-signed), OF Chris Lubanski

Traded: RHP Brandon League and OF Johermyn Chavez to Mariners for RHP Brandon Morrow

Washington Nationals

Signed: LHP Eddie Guardado, 1B Josh Whitesell, SS Eric Bruntlett

Released: RHP Julio Perez, RHP Jose Pinales, LHP Kevin Light, LHP Jose Taveras, SS Valerio Heredia, OF Yhonson Lopez

Dec. 11-20

Arizona Diamondbacks

Signed: RHP Rodrigo Lopez

Atlanta Braves

Released: RHP Adam Bullard, RHP Casey Hodges, LHP Dennis Accomando, C Dan Coury, SS Travis Adair, SS Chais Fuller, SS Chad Lundahl, OF Kuyaunnis Miles, OF Jon Mark Owings

Micah [Owings](#)' younger brother, [Jon Mark](#) went untaken in the recent Rule 5 draft after missing most of the '09 season. Injuries have plagued Owings in his six pro seasons, but he's got considerable power when healthy. He hit .275/.336/.480 with 16 homers for high Class A Myrtle Beach in '08.

Baltimore Orioles

Signed: LHP Chris Lamb

Released: RHP Jason Hallerman, RHP Shane Mathews, RHP Scott Mueller, C Edinho Meyer, 1B Tom Edwards, OF Arthur Bonevacia, OF Jose Kianes, OF Jason Rook

The 19-year-old [Lamb](#) comes to the States via Australia, where he worked with eight-year big league veteran Dave Nilsson.

Boston Red Sox

Signed: RHP Stephen Fox (Sussex (Can-Am)), 2B Nate Spears

Traded: RHP Chris Province to Twins for RHP Boof Bonser

Placed on restricted list: RHP Austin Bailey

[Fox](#) made 19 relief appearances for Sussex, posting a 3.98 ERA and a 42-to-22 strikeout-to-walk ratio over 40 2/3 innings. The 24-year-old went undrafted out of Hofstra last summer but was one of the Top 10 Independent League Prospects this year.

Chicago Cubs

Signed: 3B Derek Helleni (NDFA—Louisiana State)

Released: RHP Erik Hamren, RHP Billy Muldowney, RHP George Pineda, LHP Jayson Ruhlman, LHP Melvin Vasquez

[Heleni](#) played third base for College World Series champion Louisiana State, the same program that produced Cubs' second-rounder D.J. LeMahieu.

Chicago White Sox

Signed: RHP Greg Aquino, LHP Erick Threets

Released: RHP Daniel Albritton

Traded: RHP John Ely and RHP Jon Link to Dodgers for OF Juan Pierre

Cincinnati Reds

Signed: RHP Arshwin Asjes (Midwest (Frontier)), RHP Chad Reineke, OF Sean Danielson, OF Laynce Nix (re-signed)

A native of Curacao, [Asjes](#) went undrafted out of Temple in '08 and signed on to play in the Frontier League. The 24-year-old saved 12 games in 33 appearances this year, notching a 34-to-16 strikeout-to-walk ratio over 36 innings. He later was added to the Dutch roster for the 2009 IBAF World Cup, where he had a 7.71 ERA in five games (4.2 IP, 3 SO, 2BB), taking the loss in relief against Canada. The Dutch pitching coach during this tournament, Jim Stoeckel, also works as a scout for the Reds and brought Asjes into his organization.

Cleveland Indians

Signed: RHP Anthony Reyes (re-signed)

Released: LHP Kaimi Mead, LHP Jose Urena

Colorado Rockies

Signed: RHP Matt Wilhite (re-signed)

Florida Marlins

Signed: RHP Matt DeSalvo (re-signed), RHP Clay Hensley (re-signed), RHP Matt Peterson (re-signed), RHP Scott Strickland, RHP Nic Ungs (re-signed), LHP Robert Zarate, 2B Donnie Murphy

[Zarate](#), 22, was released by the Blue Jays during the 2009 season (his 5th as a pro). After his release he pitched very well for Venezuela in the IBAF World Cup: 1-0-1 0.00 ERA in 4 G, 8.1 IP, 10 K, 3 BB, 3 H. For the performance in the tournament, I included him in the list of 18 players to keep an eye on (see the [international baseball section](#)). This winter he's playing for Lara Cardenales of the Venezuelan Winter League.

Houston Astros

Signed: RHP Matt Ginter, LHP Jon Switzer, OF David Cook

Released: RHP Tio McLean, 1B Kyle Miller, 2B Jeff Hulett, SS Jan Baldee, SS Brandon Wilkerson, OF Nathan Metroka, OF Eric Suttle, OF Marques Williams

Kansas City Royals

Signed: RHP Philip Humber, RHP Devon Lowery (re-signed), RHP Julio Pimentel (re-signed), RHP Francisco Rosario, LHP Adam Bostick, LHP Bruce Chen (re-signed), LHP Nelson Payano (Chunichi (Japan)), C Vance Wilson (re-signed), 1B Ernesto Mejia, OF Shane Costa (re-signed), OF Damon Hollins

[Mejia](#), 24, is showing good power in the Venezuelan Winter League while playing for Zulia: he was the HR leader at the end of the regular season with 14 round-trippers and 4th with .557 SLG. He received the **MVP** and the **Rookie of the year** awards. Signed by the Atlanta Braves as a non-drafted free agent on July 8, 2002 out of Venezuela, was declared a minor league free agent at the end of the 2009 season (in which he reached AA level).

Los Angeles Angels

Signed: LHP Camilo Vazquez, OF Nick Gorneault

Released: RHP Francis Cabrera

Los Angeles Dodgers

Signed: RHP Luis Ayala

Released: RHP Bobby Hernandez

Traded: OF Juan Pierre to White Sox for RHP John Ely and RHP Jon Link

Milwaukee Brewers

Signed: RHP Mark DiFelice (re-signed), RHP Kameron Loe (Softbank (Japan)), LHP Chris Waters, SS Anderson Machado (Lancaster (Atlantic))

Minnesota Twins

Traded: RHP Boof Bonser to Red Sox for RHP Chris Province

A fourth-rounder from Southeastern Louisiana in '07, [Province](#) pitched for Double-A Portland last year, going 2-4, 2.60 in 43 games. He struck out 55 and walked 32 in 79 2/3 innings. He allowed just three home runs and compiled a 3.29 ground-to-fly out ratio.

New York Mets

Signed: RHP Elmer Dessens (re-signed)

New York Yankees

Signed: OF Javier Herrera

Released: RHP Pablo Hernandez, RHP Alejandro Martinez, RHP Paul Patterson, RHP Brett Smith, RHP Jeff Williams, LHP Edwin Walker, 1B Chris Smith, OF Tommy Baldrige, OF Mitch Delaney, OF Chad Gross

[Herrera](#), 24, signed with Oakland as a non-drafted free agent on July 27, 2001 out of Venezuela. The right-handed batter ranked as the Athletics' No. 9 farmhand in the prestigious Baseball America '08 Prospect Handbook, in which he's described as a five-tool player with exceptional bat speed. In 2004, at SS-A Vancouver was named Northwest League Most Valuable Player after batting .331 with 12 home runs and 47 RBI in 65 games... in 2005, at Single-A Kane County he batted .275 with 13 home runs and 62 RBI in 94 games... was named to the Midwest League Post-Season All-Star Team and that year was selected for the Futures Game. In 2006, he was with the A's during spring training and went 2-for-10 with a double and a RBI in six games before he was optioned to Sacramento on March 13... was placed on the disabled list on April 6 with an injury to the ulnar collateral ligament in his right elbow... had "Tommy John" surgery on the elbow and missed the entire season. The 2007 season was shortened by an hamstring injury. He was released by Oakland last May while on the Midland roster (AA). He's hitting .331 with 2 HR and 6 RBI (.511 SLG), but only 2 BB and 13 SO in 22 games for the Lara Cardenales in the Venezuelan Winter League.

Oakland Athletics

Signed: RHP Marcus McBeth, RHP Trey Webb, LHP Cedrick Bowers

Released: RHP Rocky Roquet, 3B Blake Crosby, OF Larry Cobb

Traded: 3B Brett Wallace to Blue Jays for OF Michael Taylor

Philadelphia Phillies

Signed: RHP Nate Bump, RHP John Ennis (re-signed), RHP Santos Hernandez (re-signed), RHP Jay Stephens, LHP Jason Mackintosh (re-signed), LHP Jake Woods (re-signed), C Kevin Nelson (re-signed), C John Suomi, 2B Melvin Dorta, 3B Eric Campbell, 3B Cody Ransom, SS Fidel Hernandez (re-signed), OF Jarvis Diaz (re-signed), OF Kevin Mahar (re-signed), OF Mike Spidale (re-signed), OF Brian Stavisky (re-signed)

Released: RHP Robert Roth, LHP Dan Brauer, LHP Esmelvin Jimenez, C Brendan Akashian, C Phil Aviola, C Francisco Murillo, 1B Cory Wine, OF Vladimir de los Santos, OF David Hissey, OF T.J. Warren

Traded: LHP Cliff Lee to Mariners for RHP Phillippe Aumont, RHP J.C. Ramirez and OF Tyson Gillies

Traded: RHP Kyle Drabek, C Travis d'Arnaud and OF Michael Taylor to Blue Jays for RHP Roy Halladay

[Campbell](#), 24, was selected by the Atlanta Braves in the second round of the 2004 First-Year Player Draft. In 2005, was rated by Baseball America as the overall 9th best prospect in the Braves organization while he dominated the Appy League in power statistics, leading with 26 doubles, 18 home runs, 64 RBIs, 77 runs scored and a .634 slugging percentage. ... His 18 homers were best among all short-season players; was a member of the Appy League All-Star team. In 2006, played first full season at Class A Rome as a third baseman and overcame a midseason back injury to lead the South Atlantic League with 22 home runs (second most among Braves Minor Leaguers) and rank fifth in both slugging percentage (.571) and extra-base hits (52) and was a Sally League All-Star. Was released by the Braves last August while at AA/Mississippi (.241, 5 HR, 38 RBI in 104 G). When healthy, he offers solid power.

Pittsburgh Pirates

Signed: RHP Jeremy Powell (re-signed), LHP Corey Hamman (re-signed), 1B Brian Myrow (re-signed)

Released: 2B Deybis Benitez

St. Louis Cardinals

Released: RHP Mark McCormick

[McCormick](#), 26, was a 1st round choice (43rd overall) of the St. Louis Cardinals in the 2005 Draft. He didn't play last season due to injury. In 2008, he reached Double A level. He's a power pitcher who struggles a lot with his control.

San Diego Padres

Signed: RHP Jackson Quezada (re-signed), C Chris Stewart, OF Chris Denorfia

Reinstated from inactive list: RHP Hayden Beard, LHP Brent Carter

Seattle Mariners

Signed: RHP Mike Koplove (re-signed), RHP David Pauley, C Ralph Henriquez

Traded: RHP Phillippe Aumont, RHP J.C. Ramirez and OF Tyson Gillies to Phillies for LHP Cliff Lee

Tampa Bay Rays

Signed: RHP Jeff Bennett (re-signed), 1B Chris Richard, 2B Chris de la Cruz, 3B Joe Dillon

Texas Rangers

Signed: C Robbie Alcombrack (Traverse City (Frontier)), C John Otness, SS Ray Olmedo

Outrighted to Triple-A and removed from 40-man: LHP Clay Rapada, 3B Esteban German

Toronto Blue Jays

Signed: RHP Lance Broadway, OF Joey Gathright

Traded: RHP Roy Halladay to Phillies for RHP Kyle Drabek, C Travis d'Arnaud and OF Michael Taylor

Washington Nationals

Signed: RHP Joel Peralta

Released: RHP Steven Stewart, RHP Federico Tanco, C Chris Solis, SS James Keithley

Nov. 24-Dec. 10

Arizona Diamondbacks

Signed: RHP T.J. Beam, C Carlos Corporan, OF Drew Macias

Granted free agency: C Luke Carlin

Outrighted to Triple-A and removed from 40-man: RHP Kyler Newby, C Luke Carlin

Rule 5 selection: RHP Hector Ambriz (Indians, MLB)

Atlanta Braves

Signed: LHP Mariano Gomez (re-signed), 1B Gerardo Avila, 1B Mauro Gomez, 2B Luis Bolivar, 2B Juan Gonzalez, 3B Eric Duncan, OF Brent Clevlen

Outrighted to Triple-A and removed from 40-man: 1B Barbaro Canizares

Rule 5 selection: LHP Edgar Osuna (Royals, MLB)

The Braves here sign a pair of players with serious draft pedigree, each of whom has spent the past three years at Triple-A. The 26-year-old [Clevlen](#), a Tigers' second-rounder in '02, stumbled in his first try with Toledo but came on strong in each of the past two seasons, batting a cumulative .272/.343/.468 with 38 home runs. He struck out a lot in that time (nearly 32 percent of at-bats) but has real power (isolated power just shy of .200) and some defensive chops in the outfield.

The Yankees' first-round pick in '03, [Duncan](#) has regressed in each of his three seasons with Scranton as he counted down the days until free agency. The 25-year-old New Jersey native never has shown much feel for hitting (.242 career average) or for the finer points of playing third base. But if you go back far enough you can see the trappings of power that made him a premium draft pick in the first place. Duncan smacked 19 homers with Double-A Trenton in '05.

Baltimore Orioles

Signed: RHP Frank Mata, RHP Alfredo Simon (re-signed), LHP Mike Hinckley, C Chad Moeller (re-signed)

Granted free agency: LHP Chris Waters

Outrighted to Triple-A and removed from 40-man: LHP Chris Waters

Rule 5 selections: RHP Steve Johnson (Giants, MLB), LHP Jake Stevens (Giants, AAA), SS Rodolfo Cardona (Pirates, AAA)

Boston Red Sox

Signed: RHP Fernando Cabrera (re-signed), RHP Devern Hansack (re-signed), RHP Bob McCrory, RHP Edwin Moreno, SS Angel Sanchez, SS Gilbert Velazquez (re-signed), OF Darnell McDonald

Released: RHP Jason Blackey, C John Otness, OF Sean Danielson, OF Jered Stanley

Rule 5 selections: LHP Armando Zerpa (Rays, MLB), 3B Jorge Jimenez (Astros, MLB)

Neither of the players plucked from Boston's minor league ranks stuck with the team that Rule 5'ed them. [Jimenez](#) headed to the Marlins as the player to be named in their Matt Lindstrom trade with the Astros, while the Rays sent Zerpa to the Dodgers for cash considerations.

Chicago Cubs

Traded: 3B Jake Fox and 2B Aaron Miles to Athletics for RHP Jeff Gray, RHP Ronny Morla and OF Matt Spencer

Acquired: RHP Arismendy Mota from Nationals for cash considerations

Rule 5 selection: RHP Miguel Sierra (Rays, AAA)

In a rare trade of a minor league Rule 5 pick, the Nationals drafted [Mota](#) (22) from the White Sox in the Triple-A phase and then sent him to the Cubs. Signed with the White Sox as a non-drafted free agent out of the Dominican Republic in June 2006, he spent his first 4 professional seasons in the Rookie-level Dominican Summer League (last season went 7-2 1.81 ERA in 16 G, 15 starts).

Chicago White Sox

Signed: RHP Dylan Axelrod (re-signed), SS Freddie Bynum, OF T.J. Bohn

Rule 5 selections: RHP John Lujan (Mets, AAA), RHP Arismendy Mota (Nationals, AAA)

Cincinnati Reds

Signed: RHP Jon Adkins (Lotte (Korea)), RHP Federico Baez (re-signed), RHP Po-Cheng Chi, LHP Alexander Smit (re-signed), C Brandon Yarbrough, SS Chris Burke, OF Kevin West (Winnipeg (Northern))

Rule 5 selection: LHP Ben Jukich (Cardinals, MLB)

[Adkins](#) went 3-5, 3.70 last season and led the Korean Baseball Organization with 26 saves. He grew up following the Reds and rejoins the organization for which he last pitched in 2008.

A Twins' 16th-round pick in '99, [West](#) smacked a total of 37 home runs while playing for Winnipeg the past two seasons. In 2009, he batted .285 with 19 bombs and 66 RBIs in 94 games.

Selected by the Oakland Athletics in the 13th round of the 2006 First-Year Player Draft, then dealt to the Reds in 2007, [Jukich](#) had a solid 2009 season at Louisville (AAA) going 9-6 4.10 ERA in 29 G (17 Starts). He followed with a strong showing in the Dominican Winter League playing for Aguilas and resulting one of the best pitcher in the league with 4 wins (3rd), 2.86 ERA (4th), 42 SO (1st), and 56.2 IP (3rd) (Updated 31/12/2009).

Cleveland Indians

Signed: RHP Jason Grilli, LHP Mike Gosling (re-signed), 3B Brian Buscher

Voluntarily retired: LHP Russell Young

Rule 5 selections: LHP Chuck Lofgren (Brewers, MLB), LHP Anillins Martinez (Marlins, AAA), LHP Matt Meyer (Cardinals, AAA)

Colorado Rockies

Signed: OF Ryan Harvey (re-signed)

Detroit Tigers

Signed: RHP Enrique Gonzalez, LHP Macay McBride (re-signed), C Robinson Diaz

Outrighted to Triple-A and removed from 40-man: RHP Zach Simons

Florida Marlins

Signed: RHP Jesse Foppert, RHP Jon Fulton (re-signed), LHP James Houser, 1B Vinny Rottino, 3B Brian Barden, 3B Hector Luna

Traded: RHP Matt Lindstrom to Astros for RHP Robert Bono, 3B Jorge Jimenez and SS Luis Bryan

Rule 5 selections: C Andy Jenkins (Rangers, AAA), OF John Raynor (Pirates, MLB)

[Houser](#) still has to serve a suspension of 25 games before he can suit up for a Marlins' minor league affiliate. As a member of Double-A Montgomery in '07, he failed a test for amphetamines, netting a 50-game penalty. However, Houser served just half the suspension before being added to the Rays' 40-man roster that offseason, thus moving out of minor league baseball's jurisdiction.

Houston Astros

Signed: RHP T.J. Burton (re-signed), RHP Gary Majewski, RHP Ryan Sadowski, LHP Gustavo Chacin, LHP Andy Van Hekken, OF Freddy Parejo, OF Alex Romero

Traded: RHP Robert Bono, 3B Jorge Jimenez and SS Luis Bryan to Marlins for RHP Matt Lindstrom

Outrighted to Triple-A and removed from 40-man: RHP Brad James

Rule 5 selections: RHP Jose Duran (Orioles, AAA), OF Nick Moresi (Nationals, AAA)

Kansas City Royals

Signed: RHP Bryan Bullington, RHP Juan Mora, RHP Josh Rupe, C Edwin Bellorin, C Steve Lerud, OF Jorge Bonifacio, OF Buck Coats

[Bullington](#), the first overall pick in the '02 draft, quietly had a strong season working as a reliever in the Blue Jays' system. Over 38 1/3 innings for Triple-A Las Vegas, he struck out 43, walked seven and allowed just two home runs in a hitter's paradise. The 29-year-old went 3-for-3 with his save opportunities, for what that's worth.

[Coats](#), 27, also played for Vegas last season, batting .302/.361/.416 and showing his usual mix of strike zone judgment (47 walks, 64 strikeouts) and modest speed (25 steals in 32 attempts). A lefthanded batter, he's also a solid center fielder, the type of player who has big league extra written all over him.

Los Angeles Angels

Signed: RHP Travis Chick, SS Gary Patchett (re-signed), OF Cory Aldridge

Rule 5 selections: RHP Bobby Cassevah (Athletics, MLB), RHP David Herndon (Phillies, MLB)

A 30-year-old slugger who began the '08 season playing in the independent Atlantic League, [Aldridge](#) quietly has amassed 166 home runs in the minors. Playing for the Royals' Triple-A Omaha affiliate last year, he struck 22 longballs while batting an impressive .316/.361/.582 in 354 at-bats.

Los Angeles Dodgers

Signed: RHP Tim Corcoran (re-signed), RHP Francisco Felix (re-signed), RHP Justin Miller, RHP Josh Towers, LHP Juan Perez, 1B John Lindsey, 2B Ramon Nivar (re-signed), 3B Cesar Suarez (Lancaster (Atlantic)), OF Prentice Redman, OF James Tomlin (re-signed)

Rule 5 selections: OF Jamie Hoffmann (Nationals, MLB), OF James Tomlin (Rangers, AAA)

Rule 5 curiosity: the Dodgers purchased the rights to (not one, but) two big league picks, who they must carry on their 25-man roster to retain: righthander Carlos Monasterios (taken by the Mets) and lefty Armando Zepa (taken by the Rays), both Venezuelan players.

[Miller](#) had a good 2009 ML season with the Giants, posting a 3-3 3.18 ERA in 44 G and 56.2 IP (36 K 27 BB, 47 H). He was outrighted to the minors after the season and elected free agency.

Milwaukee Brewers

Signed: RHP Ruben Flores (re-signed), LHP Chris Capuano (re-signed), LHP John Halama, LHP A.J. Murray, OF Trent Oeltjen

Minnesota Twins

Rule 5 selections: RHP Angelo Sanchez (Phillies, AAA), LHP Winston Marquez (Rangers, AAA)

New York Mets

Signed: 2B Russ Adams, 2B Alejandro Machado, 3B Mike Cervenak, 3B Mike Hessman, OF Jesus Feliciano (re-signed)

Rule 5 selection: RHP Hayden Beard (Padres, AA)

New York Yankees

Signed: OF Jon Weber

Granted free agency: OF Shelley Duncan

Rule 5 selections: RHP Kanekoa Texeira (Mariners, MLB), LHP Zach Kroenke (Diamondbacks, MLB)

This marks the second time [Kroenke](#) has been taken in the Rule 5 draft. The Marlins took him a year ago but returned him to New York prior to the '09 season. If he does not stick with the Diamondbacks, he will have the right to elect for free agency, as would any player who has twice been outrighted off a 40-man roster.

Oakland Athletics

Signed: RHP Fernando Hernandez, RHP Jose Pina, RHP Matt Wright, 1B Matt Whitney, 3B Dallas McPherson

Traded: RHP Jeff Gray, RHP Ronny Morla and OF Matt Spencer to Cubs for 3B Jake Fox and 2B Aaron Miles

Voluntarily retired: 1B Blake Crosby

Philadelphia Phillies

Signed: LHP Bill White, OF Chris Duffy

Rule 5 selection: RHP Carlos Monasterios (Mets, MLB)

Pittsburgh Pirates

Signed: RHP Vinnie Chulk, C Milver Reyes (re-signed), 1B Chris Garcia (New Jersey (Can-Am))

Outrighted to Triple-A and removed from 40-man: RHP Jeff Karstens, RHP Jeff Sues, LHP Justin Thomas

[Garcia](#), an Angels' 15th-round pick in '07, spent most of the year with Shreveport-Bossier of the American Association, batting .361 with 17 doubles in 296 at-bats.

St. Louis Cardinals

Signed: 3B Ruben Gotay

Rule 5 selection: RHP Mike Parisi (Cubs, MLB)

San Diego Padres

Signed: C Michael Collins (re-signed), 1B Joe Agreste (Gateway (Frontier)), 3B Anthony Contreras (re-

signed)

Rule 5 selections: RHP Rolando Valdez (Mets, AAA), LHP Orlando Lara (Mets, AAA)

[Agreste](#) endured a tough senior year at West Virginia, batting just .264 with five home runs in 55 games. A 6-foot-4, 190 pound lefthanded batter, he went undrafted in June and signed with Gateway. He performed much better in indy ball than he had in the NCAA, batting .303 with 18 doubles and five homers in 46 games. BA ranked him the 7th best Indy prospect in 2009.

San Francisco Giants

Signed: RHP Tony Pena Jr., OF Erol Andrus, OF Joe Borchard (re-signed)

Rule 5 selections: RHP Raul Burgos (Dodgers, AA), LHP Ben Snyder (Orioles, MLB), OF Brian Horwitz (Indians, AAA)

Seattle Mariners

Signed: RHP Levale Speigner, LHP Chris Seddon (re-signed), 2B Travis Denker, SS Josh Wilson (re-signed), OF Corey Patterson

Rule 5 selection: 1B Marshall Hubbard (Mets, AAA)

(UPDATE: 23/01/2010) [Speigner](#), 29, was named the best pitcher in the Puerto Rican Baseball League where he pitched for Arecibo. Speigner's record was 7-0, 2.03 ERA (leading the circuit in both categories).

Tampa Bay Rays

Signed: RHP Winston Abreu (re-signed), RHP Richard de los Santos (re-signed), LHP Jason Cromer (re-signed), LHP Carlos Hernandez (re-signed)

Granted free agency: RHP Jeff Bennett

Outrighted to Triple-A and removed from 40-man: RHP Jeff Bennett

Rule 5 selections: RHP Doug Salinas (Reds, AA), LHP Mike Wlodarczyk (Nationals, AAA)

Texas Rangers

Outrighted to Triple-A and removed from 40-man: RHP Willie Eyre

Rule 5 selection: RHP Beau Vaughan (Athletics, AAA)

Toronto Blue Jays

Granted free agency: RHP Brian Wolfe

Outrighted to Triple-A and removed from 40-man: RHP Brian Wolfe

Washington Nationals

Signed: RHP Andrew Kown, RHP Ryan Speier, LHP Jeff Ridgway, 3B Adam Fox, OF Carl Loadenthal (Newark (Atlantic)), OF Jerry Owens

Traded: RHP Arismendy Mota to Cubs for cash considerations

Rule 5 selections: RHP Ruben de la Rosa (Blue Jays, AAA), RHP Terry Engles (Mariners, AAA), RHP Johan Figuereo (Mets, AA), RHP Zech Zinicola (Blue Jays, MLB)

Nov. 18-23

Arizona Diamondbacks

Traded: LHP Scott Maine and 1B Ryne White to Cubs for RHP Aaron Heilman

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Roque Mercedes, RHP Daniel Stange, LHP Jordan Norberto, OF Cole Gillespie

Atlanta Braves

Signed: RHP Jon Huber, C J.C. Boscan

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Kyle Cofield, RHP Jeff Lyman, LHP Lee Hyde, LHP Jose Ortecano, LHP Jonny Venters

Baltimore Orioles

Signed: RHP Ross Wolf

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Brandon Erbe, RHP Luis Gustavo, 1B Rhyne Hughes, 1B Brandon Snyder, 3B Josh Bell, SS Pedro Florimon

Reinstated from inactive list: C Ansony LaPaix

Chicago Cubs

Signed: RHP Vince Perkins

Traded: RHP Aaron Heilman to Diamondbacks for LHP Scott Maine and 1B Ryne White

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Rafael Dolis, RHP Blake Parker, LHP John Gaub, C Wellington Castillo, OF James Adduci

The Cubs left unprotected Italian RHP [Alessandro Maestri](#) (2008 BA best slider in the Cubs system). Last season, Maestri played with Tennessee (Southern League/AA), pitching 85.1 innings with 73 K, 52 BB, 71 H for a 4-2-3 3.69 ERA. In 4 years in the minors the 24-year-old holds a record of 19-12-16 3.42 ERA.

Chicago White Sox

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Brandon Hynick, RHP Santo Luis, RHP Brian Omogrosso, RHP Sergio Santos, OF Stefan Gartrell

[Santos](#), a converted shortstop averaged nearly 96 mph on his fastball in the Arizona Fall League, which ranked second only to some guy named Stephen Strasburg.

Cincinnati Reds

Signed: OF Albert Laboy

Placed on restricted list: RHP Rafael Gonzalez

Granted free agency: OF Laynce Nix

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Enderio Del Rosario, RHP Logan Ondrusek, RHP Jordan Smith, LHP Philippe Valiquette, LHP Travis Wood, SS Chris Valaika, OF Chris Heisey

Outrighted to Triple-A and removed from 40-man: RHP Daryl Thompson, OF Laynce Nix

Reinstated from inactive list: RHP Rafael Gonzalez

Cleveland Indians

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Jeanmar Gomez, LHP Kelvin de la Cruz, 3B Wes Hodges, SS Jason Donald, SS Carlos Rivero, OF Jordan Brown, OF Nick Weglarz

Colorado Rockies

Signed: C Paul Phillips

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Al Alburquerque, RHP Edgmer Escalona, RHP Juan Nicasio, RHP Chaz Roe, C Michael McKenry

Detroit Tigers

Added to 40-man roster: 2B Scott Sizemore, SS Audy Ciriaco, OF Brennan Boesch, OF Ryan Strieby

Florida Marlins

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Jay Buente, RHP Jose Ceda, RHP Kris Harvey, RHP Brett Sinkbeil, OF Scott Cousins

Reinstated from inactive list: RHP Allen Baxter, RHP Jeremiah Haar

Houston Astros

Signed: RHP Casey Daigle, 2B Drew Meyer

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Evan Englebrook, RHP Matt Nevarez, RHP Henry Villar

Kansas City Royals

Signed: RHP John Bannister, RHP Jorge Campillo, RHP Brad Thompson, C Edwin Bellorin

Granted free agency: RHP Devon Lowery, RHP Doug Waechter

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Blake Wood, C Manny Pina, SS Jeff Bianchi, OF Jarrod Dyson, OF Jordan Parraz

Outrighted to Triple-A and removed from 40-man: RHP Devon Lowery, RHP Doug Waechter

Los Angeles Angels

Added to 40-man roster: OF Peter Bourjos

Los Angeles Dodgers

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Javy Guerra, RHP Kenley Jansen, SS Ivan DeJesus Jr., OF Trayvon Robinson

[Jansen](#) (22) is a converted catcher. He played that position with the Netherlands at the last World Baseball Classic. The Curacao native signed with the Dodgers on Nov. 17, 2004

Milwaukee Brewers

Released: SS David Fonseca

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Amaury Rivas, OF Lorenzo Cain

Minnesota Twins

Released: OF Hyun-wook Choi

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Alex Burnett, RHP Rob Delaney, RHP Deolis Guerra, RHP Loek Van Mil, 3B Danny Valencia, SS Estarling de los Santos

Outrighted to Triple-A and removed from 40-man: 3B Debinson Romero

The 19-year-old [Choi](#) signed out of South Korea in 2007. He played 2 seasons in the GCL. In 2009 hit .215/277/299.

[Deolis Guerra](#) (20) is the once top prospect the Mets gave to the Twins in the Johan Santana trade. In 4 seasons in the minors (peak level AA), the Venezuelan hasn't fulfilled the expectations yet with a record of 32-34 4.43 ERA.

Another Dutch player added to the 40-man roster, [Van Mil](#) (25) played for the Netherlands at the 2008 Olympic Games. In 4 seasons in the minors (peak level AA), the right-hander has a record of 6-7-9 3.04 ERA.

New York Mets

Released: RHP Eric Brown, C Ralph Henriquez

New York Yankees

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Hector Noesi, RHP Ivan Nova, RHP Romulo Sanchez, 2B Reegie Corona, 2B Kevin Russo, SS Eduardo Nunez, OF Austin Jackson

Outrighted to Triple-A and removed from 40-man: OF Shelley Duncan

The Yankees have waited for '06 fourth-rounder [Colin Curtis](#), a left fielder with a career .375 slugging percentage, to increase his power output. The 24-year-old played very well in the Arizona Fall League, batting .397/.472/.731 and leading everybody in slugging. He's Rule 5 eligible now, having not been added to the 40-man roster.

This time the Yankees decided to protect [Nova](#) and [Corona](#), both selected in the Major League phase of the 2008 Rule 5 Draft and offered back at the end of spring training by S. Diego (Nova) and Seattle (Corona). Both are playing very effective winter baseball: Corona is hitting .359/.474/.594 in 25 games

for Magallanes (Venezuela), while Nova is 1-0 1.05 ERA in 5 games (25.2 IP 17 K 4 BB, 17 H) for Escogido (Dominican Republic).

Oakland Athletics

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Fautino de los Santos, RHP Justin Souza, LHP Pedro Figueroa, 1B Chris Carter

Philadelphia Phillies

Signed: RHP Jason Anderson, RHP Alexander Concepcion, 1B Andy Tracy, SS Wilson Valdez, OF Rich Thompson, OF Dewayne Wise

Valdez and Wise, a pair of minor league free agents who had notable big league playing time in '09, signed early and provide quality insurance for the Phillies to stash at Triple-A.

[Wise](#), who will be 32 next season, appeared in a career-high 84 games for the White Sox, batting .225/.262/.366 but serving mostly as a defensive replacement. He single-handedly saved Mark Buehrle's perfect game in July, and in '08 he started three playoff games for Chicago, belting a double and a homer against the Rays.

[Valdez](#), 31, served a similar role for the Mets in '09, garnering playing time mostly as the result of being the only ambulatory shortstop in New York after Jose Reyes and Alex Cora went down with injuries. He batted .256/.326/.337 in 86 at-bats.

Pittsburgh Pirates

Signed: RHP Virgil Vasquez, C Hector Gimenez

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Ramon Aguero, RHP Brad Lincoln, RHP Bryan Morris, OF Gorkys Hernandez

St. Louis Cardinals

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Adam Ottavino, RHP Francisco Samuel, LHP Tyler Norrick, C Bryan Anderson, 1B Mark Hamilton, 3B Allen Craig, OF Jon Jay, OF Daryl Jones

San Diego Padres

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Craig Italiano, LHP Steve Garrison, OF Chad Huffman

A participant in the Pacific Coast League all-star game, [Huffman](#) bounced back with Triple-A Portland after a couple down years in power-suppressing San Antonio. He batted .269/.361/.469 with 20 homers in 135 games.

San Francisco Giants

Placed on restricted list: 1B Angel Villalona

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Kevin Pucetas, 1B Brett Pill, OF Darren Ford, OF Francisco Peguero

Seattle Mariners

Signed: RHP Steve Bray, RHP Steven Shell, C Jose Yopez

Granted free agency: SS Josh Wilson

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Danny Cortes, RHP Ricky Orta, RHP J.C. Ramirez, RHP Anthony Varvaro, LHP Edward Paredes, OF Ezequiel Carrera

Outrighted to Triple-A and removed from 40-man: SS Josh Wilson

Teammates with Double-A West Tenn, [Orta](#) and (in particular) [Vavaro](#) earned their way onto the 40-man with strong showings in the Arizona Fall League. A fourth-round pick from Miami in '06, Orta continued to take to his relief role, striking out eight and walking none in eight AFL innings. Tommy John surgery

wiped out most of Varvaro's '06 season, but the '05 12th-rounder slowly has worked his way back. He walked more than seven batters per nine innings during the regular season, but appeared much sharper in the AFL, boasting an 11-to-3 strikeout-to-walk ratio in 13 1/3 innings. Oh, and the St. John's product averaged nearly 93 mph on his fastball. Both relievers will be 25 next season and are poised to contribute in Seattle.

Tampa Bay Rays

Signed: RHP Joe Bateman, LHP R.J. Swindle

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Jeremy Hellickson, LHP Alex Torres, OF Desmond Jennings

Bateman and Swindle have long track records of success as minor league relievers—not to mention low arm angles—so at worst they'll provide Triple-A Durham with significant tactical weapons.

Texas Rangers

Added to 40-man roster: LHP Michael Kirkman, LHP Zach Phillips

Toronto Blue Jays

Signed: LHP Davis Romero, C Kyle Phillips

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Reidier Gonzalez

The Blue Jays selected the Cuban-born [Gonzalez](#) out of St. Petersburg College in the 19th round of the 2005 Draft. The 24-year-old right-hander pitched well for New Hampshire (Eastern League/AA), with a record of 4-6 2.90 ERA in 17 starts and 93 IP.

Washington Nationals

Signed: RHP Logan Kensing, C Jamie Burke

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Juan Jaime, LHP Atahualpa Severino, LHP Aaron Thompson

Nov. 6-17

Arizona Diamondbacks

Granted free agency: OF Alex Romero

Atlanta Braves

Signed: 3B Wes Timmons (re-signed)

Released: OF Brian Barton

The Braves traded Blaine Boyer to the Cardinals in late April to acquire [Barton](#), who had been a St. Louis big league Rule 5 pick in '08. The Cardinals nabbed him from the Indians, meaning that in the past three years Barton played for three organizations. (Incidentally, the Cards lost Boyer to a waiver claim by the D'backs in June.) In 114 games for Triple-A Gwinnett last year, Barton batted .266/.354/.390 with seven homers and 46 RBIs. He intends to suit up for a fourth organization in '10.

Baltimore Orioles

Signed: LHP Chris George (re-signed), 3B Scott Moore (re-signed)

Boston Red Sox

Released: RHP Michael Lennox, RHP Wang-Yi Lin, OF Juan Bonifacio, OF Roberto Feliz

Granted free agency: RHP Fernando Cabrera, OF Joey Gathright

Outrighted to Triple-A and removed from 40-man: RHP Miguel Gonzalez

Boston tabbed [Miguel Gonzalez](#) as a big league Rule 5 pick a year ago from the Angels, who had signed the Mexico native from nearby Los Angeles Mission JC. Trouble was, Gonzalez was coming off an '08 season wiped out by injury. He endured the same fate in '09. He last pitched for Double-A Arkansas in '07, posting a 3.38 ERA and an 81-to-42 strikeout-to-walk ratio over 131 innings. Now that he's no

longer bound by Rule 5 restrictions (or a member of the 40-man roster), Gonzalez will, in all likelihood, head back to Double-A next season.

Chicago Cubs

Released: 3B Chris Weimer

Chicago White Sox

Released: LHP Enrique Lechuga

Cincinnati Reds

Granted free agency: C Corky Miller, OF Darnell McDonald

Outrighted to Triple-A and removed from 40-man: RHP Justin Lehr, C Wilkin Castillo

Colorado Rockies

Granted free agency: C Paul Phillips

Outrighted to Triple-A and removed from 40-man: C Paul Phillips

Detroit Tigers

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Jay Sborz

Outrighted to Triple-A and removed from 40-man: 2B Michael Hollimon

[Sborz](#) *was a second-round pick back in 2003*, so he's out-last-ed first-rounder Kyle Sleeth, who retired after arm trouble. Sborz has had his share of injury issues and has pitched just 253 innings in seven pro seasons. He advanced past A-ball this year for the first time.

Florida Marlins

Signed: SS Tim Torres (re-signed)

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Hayden Penn

Houston Astros

Signed: C Brian Esposito (re-signed), C Lou Santangelo (re-signed), SS Marcos Cabral (re-signed)

Kansas City Royals

Released: SS Lifete Jose

Granted free agency: RHP Yasuhiko Yabuta, LHP Lenny DiNardo

Outrighted to Triple-A and removed from 40-man: RHP John Bannister, RHP Yasuhiko Yabuta, LHP Lenny DiNardo

Reinstated from inactive list: SS Lifete Jose

Los Angeles Dodgers

Signed: SS Adolfo Gonzalez (re-signed)

Milwaukee Brewers

Added to 40-man roster: 3B Adam Heether

Minnesota Twins

Signed: RHP Henry Arias (re-signed), LHP Jose Lugo (re-signed)

Released: 1B Justin Huber

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Juan Morillo

Outrighted to Triple-A and removed from 40-man: 1B Justin Huber

[Huber](#) gets a deserved chance to strut his stuff in Japan's Central League. *He signed with Hiroshima this week*. The Australia native turned 27 in July and turned in a fine season for Rochester, batting .273/.356/.482 with 22 homers, his highest total at the Triple-A level. His Triple-A tour has taken him

from Norfolk to Omaha to Portland to Rochester, where he's maintained a .474 slugging percentage over nearly 1,600 plate appearances.

Other reports indicate that the hard-throwing [Morillo](#) also was headed to the Far East. He reportedly *signed on with Rakuten* of the Pacific League.

New York Mets

Released: RHP Jimmer Mueses, RHP Johnathan White, C Julio Rivera, C Orlando Rodriguez, 1B Giovanni Ortiz, 2B Matt Gaski, OF Scott Grimes, OF John Servidio

New York Yankees

Outrighted to Triple-A and removed from 40-man: OF Freddy Guzman

Oakland Athletics

Granted free agency: RHP Chad Reineke

Outrighted to Triple-A and removed from 40-man: OF Chris Denorfia

Philadelphia Phillies

Released: C Luis Ramon Arzeno, C Tim Gradoville

Added to 40-man roster: RHP Jesus Sanchez, LHP Yohan Flande, OF Quintin Berry

Granted free agency: RHP Tyler Walker

Outrighted to Triple-A and removed from 40-man: RHP John Ennis, RHP Tyler Walker, C Paul Hoover, 1B Andy Tracy

Pittsburgh Pirates

Signed: RHP Jean Machi (re-signed)

Outrighted to Triple-A and removed from 40-man: RHP Eric Hacker, RHP Virgil Vasquez

Outrighted to Double-A and removed from 40-man: C Steven Lerud

Outrighted to Mexican League: RHP Rodolfo Aguirre

St. Louis Cardinals

Released: RHP Omar Diaz

Granted free agency: 3B Joe Thurston

San Diego Padres

Signed: RHP Nick Hall (Windy City (Frontier))

A Northern Illinois graduate, [Hall](#) originally signed as a nondrafted free agent with the Phillies back in '06. Philadelphia released him the following spring and he then sat out two seasons before latching on with Windy City of the independent Frontier League in '09. Hall, 25, notched 59 strikeouts in 41 innings while serving as closer for the ThunderBolts.

Tampa Bay Rays

Signed: RHP Jairo de la Rosa (re-signed)

Released: OF Jason Perry

[De la Rosa](#) converted to pitching just this year after hitting .236 in five years as a shortstop.

Toronto Blue Jays

Released: RHP Jonas Cuotto, RHP Ryan Koch, RHP Jason Roenicke, RHP David Slovak, LHP Hunter Moody, 1B Kevin Denis-Fortier, 2B Kyle Gilligan

Added to 40-man roster: 1B Brian Dopirak

Outrighted to Triple-A and removed from 40-man: LHP Davis Romero, C Kyle Phillips

Washington Nationals

Voluntarily retired: C John Poppert

Granted free agency: RHP Logan Kensing

Outrighted to Triple-A and removed from 40-man: RHP Logan Kensing, 2B Pete Orr