

This Week In Baseball Debuts: The May Edition

Welcome to the the second issue of the *This Week In Baseball Debuts* newsletter. Inspired by an [episode of Effectively Wild](#), the purpose of this newsletter is to highlight the MLB debuts that have occurred in the past week. Our goal is to not only inform you about the top prospects you already know but give you some insight into some of the lesser know players who may only be up for a single cup of coffee.

This is the second in our two mega newsletters highlighting all debuts that occurred in [April](#) and May. After this week it will just be a weekly update that will be sent to your inbox every Sunday. In addition to this newsletter, a version of these profiles will also appear at [Banished To The Pen](#).

Mike Soroka, SP

Born: August 4th, 1997 (20)

Team: Atlanta Braves **Debut:** May 1, 2018

Throws: Right **Bats:** Right

Soroka made a splash in his major league debut, throwing six solid innings, striking out five, and walking no one. Listed by FanGraphs as the #34 prospect on its Top 100, the 20-year-old righty gets a 55 future grade, with low variance. [Kiley McDaniel](#) lists the Canada native and former first-round draft pick as the Braves' 4th best prospect, with an above-average fastball and slider right now, and the potential to develop an above-average change and above-average command.

Over his four-year minor league career, Soroka has shown a propensity to keep his walks down, and keep runs from scoring. In 22.2 innings at AAA this year, he has struck out better than a batter an inning, and surrender just under two walks per nine, good for a 1.50 ERA and 3.69 FIP. His average fastball velocity in his first start, per FanGraphs, was 93.5.

Debut Game

Pitching: 6 IP | 6 H | 1 ER | 1 HR | 5 K | 0 BB

Player Pages

[Baseball Reference](#)

[Fangraphs](#)

Prospect Rankings (Team / Overall)

MLB Pipeline: 3 / 29

Fangraphs: 4 / 34

Baseball Prospectus: 3 / 33

Wander Suero, RP

Born: September 15, 1991 (26)

Team: Washington Nationals **Debut:** May 1, 2018

Throws: Right **Bats:** Right

The 26-year-old Suero was recalled from AAA Syracuse on Monday, and threw two thirds of an inning in relief, facing four batters, and giving up four hits. He didn't record a strikeout, but also didn't allow a run. The 6'3" Dominican righty has been toiling in the minors since he was 18, and put up decent numbers in 2016 and 2017, most recently pitching to a 1.70 ERA and 2.79 FIP in 42 innings at AAA in 2017, and similar numbers in half as many innings the year before. His average fastball velocity in his debut, according to Fangraphs, was 90.7. He threw his fastball 80% of the time. Suero is not mentioned in Eric Longenhagen's list of top Nationals' prospects.

Random Thought: His name sounds like a character from a Latin American magical realism novel by Carlos Fuentes or Gabriel Garcia Marquez. It's just so lyrical.

Debut Game

Pitching: 0.2 IP | 2 H | 0 ER | 0 K | 0 BB

Player Pages

[Baseball Reference](#)

[Fangraphs](#)

Prospect Rankings (Team / Overall)

MLB Pipeline: 22 / NA

Fangraphs: NA / NA

Baseball Prospectus: NA / NA

Fernando Romero, SP

Born: December 24, 1994 (23)

Team: Minnesota Twins **Debut:** May 2, 2018

Throws: Right **Bats:** Right

Fernando Romero is a 6 foot right handed pitcher from Maguana, Dominican Republic signed by the Twins in 2011 for \$220,000. He signed his first deal on the front cover of a Perfect Game program.

In 2016, after missing almost all of 2014 and 2015 with Tommy John surgery, Romero had a 1.89 ERA in 90 innings between Low-A and High-A with 90/15 K/BB and just 66 hits allowed. His fastball is given a 70-grade by Fangraphs, while his slider is at 55/60. The two biggest concerns about Romero are his control and his durability.

The average velocity of Romero's fastball in his debut was 95.8 mph. According to FanGraphs that is faster than any Twins starter since the team moved to Target Field.

Random Fact: Romero shares his name with the Mexican architect who designed the new Mexico City Airport and who is married to the daughter of multi-billionaire Carlos Slim.

Debut Game

Pitching: 5.2 IP | 4 Hits | 0 ER | 5 K | 3 BB

Player Pages

[Baseball Reference](#)

[Fangraphs](#)

Prospect Rankings (Team / Overall)

MLB Pipeline: 2 / 66

Fangraphs: 4 / NA

Baseball Prospectus: 3 / NA

Javy Guerra, SS

Born: September 25, 1995 (22)

Team: San Diego Padres **Debut:** May 4, 2018

Throws: Right **Bats:** Left

Guerra is generously listed on his Baseball Reference page as a pinch hitter. The less than enthusiastic positional projection probably has something to do with his career performance in the minors, during which he failed to produce an OPS above .650 at any level above A ball prior to this year, when he slashed .244/.296/.511 with an .807 OPS in 98 plate appearances at AAA El Paso.

The fact that he kept getting promoted at all is a bit of a head-scratcher, in that he has shown incredibly poor plate discipline along the way, while striking out nearly all the damn time. His strikeout rate at High-A in 2016 was 32.7%. He improved to a 30.3% mark at the SAME LEVEL in 2017, and this year had been striking out at an impressive 38.8% clip in AAA, which, again, why he was there is really anyone's guess.

He doesn't appear to possess any meaningful speed, and is listed at 5'11" and 155 pounds, which is roughly equivalent to my profile as a scrawny cornerback on the JV football team my sophomore year in high school. As a prospect, he was listed BELOW a long list of "other prospects of note" in Eric Longenhagen's 2016 Padres Top Prospects list, although he remained ahead of "Cistulli's guy." Longenhagen tabs Guerra, whose position was then listed as shortstop, as a "40 runner," who he also somehow describes as "incredibly athletic," with some power on contact. Despite the stratospheric strikeout rate this year, Guerra had managed to post a career best .267 ISO at AAA, with 5 homers in just under 100 plate appearances, which may have had something to do with his surprising promotion. He struck out on six pitches in his pinch-hit debut.

Debut Game

Batting: 1 PA | 0 H | 1 K

Player Pages

[Fangraphs](#)

[Baseball Reference](#)

Prospect Rankings (Team / Overall)

MLB Pipeline: NA / NA

Fangraphs: NA / NA

Baseball Prospectus: NA / NA

Jason Adam, RP

Born: August 4, 1991 (26)

Team: Minnesota Twins **Debut:** May 5, 2018

Throws: Right **Bats:** Right

Jason Adam is a 6'4" right-handed reliever who owns a 4.29 career ERA over 6 minor league seasons who performed well in a small sample in 2018 at AA and AAA, posting a 1.00 ERA and 13 K/9 in 18 innings of work. The 26-year-old, who was selected by the Kansas City Royals in the 5th round of the 2010 Amateur Draft, appeared in the "Others of Note" section of Kiley McDaniel's 2014 Prospect Rankings for the Minnesota Twins.

In his debut, Adam's average fastball, according to Fangraphs, was 96 mph. He seems to have tapped into some new velocity, as he was reportedly clocked at 90 mph in 2013.

[Royals Review](#) compared Adam to Brian Bannister. In perhaps his most noteworthy headline, Adam was traded by the Royals to the Twins in 2014 for outfielder Josh Willingham. After he was released by the Padres in 2017, he was re-signed by the Royals.

In his single-inning debut against the Tigers, Adam struck out one and walked one

Debut Game

Pitching: 1 IP | 1 H | 0 ER | 1 K | 1 BB

Player Pages

[Fangraphs](#)

[Baseball Reference](#)

Prospect Rankings (Team / Overall)

MLB Pipeline: NA / NA

Fangraphs: NA / NA

Baseball Prospectus: NA / NA

Greyson Greiner, C

Born: October 11, 1992 (25)

Team: Detroit Tigers **Debut:** May 6, 2018

Throws: Right **Bats:** Right

The 25-year-old backstop hit 14 homers in 328 plate appearances in 2017, and was most recently hitting a respectable .259/.343/.414 in 67 plate appearances at AAA Toledo. He doesn't appear on most Tigers top prospect lists, although Fangraphs' Eric Longenhagen describes him as a "solid receiver and ball-blocker" in his 2016 Tigers writeup, adding that he profiles as a backup or third catcher with an average contact profile.

Possibly the most interesting thing about Greiner is his listed height of 6'6". At catcher. That's a slightly slimmer Giancarlo Stanton crouching behind the dish! South Carolina's "most honored newspaper," [The State](#), pointed out Greiner tied a record as the tallest player ever to catch a game with two other behemoths, the most recent of which donned the tools of ignorance in 1972.

Over five minor league seasons, Greiner has a .246/.315/.378 line in 1254 plate appearances. He singled in his first at bat of his major league debut.

Greiner was a guest on [Effectively Wild Ep. 1215](#) discussing what it is like to be a tall catcher.

Debut Game

Batting: 4 PA | 1 H

Player Pages

[Fangraphs](#)

[Baseball Reference](#)

Prospect Rankings (Team / Overall)

MLB Pipeline: NA / NA

Fangraphs: NA / NA

Baseball Prospectus: NA / NA

P.J. Conlon, SP

Born: November 11, 1993 (24)

Team: New York Mets **Debut:** May 7, 2018

Throws: Left **Bats:** Left

Prior to his promotion, the 24-year-old lefty had been struggling at AAA Las Vegas, having given up 18 earned runs in 24 innings, while striking out nearly eight batters per nine innings. His track record in the minors prior to this season, though, has been stellar, posting sub 2.00 ERAs at four stops in A ball, and a 3.38 ERA in 2017 at AA with a 7.1 K/9 and 2.5 BB/9.

Conlon appears in the “Other prospects of note” section of Eric Longenhagen’s most recent Mets prospect list, but he doesn’t offer any details about Conlon’s future projections. In 2016, David Laurila compared him to [Jamie Moyer](#).

Conlon went 3.2 innings in his first start, giving up four hits and three runs, walking two and striking out one. He also surrendered a home run. The average velocity on his fastball was 85.6. He was optioned back to AAA the day after his debut.

Debut Game

Pitching: 3.2 IP | 4H | 3 ER | 1 HR | 1 K | 2 BB

Player Pages

[Baseball Reference](#)

[Fangraphs](#)

Prospect Rankings (Team / Overall)

MLB Pipeline: 24 / NA

Fangraphs: NA / NA

Baseball Prospectus: NA / NA

Seranthony Dominguez, RP

Born: November 25, 1994 (23)

Team: Philadelphia Phillies **Debut:** May 7, 2018

Throws: Right **Bats:** Right

Dominguez can boast perhaps the most dominant name among this year's debut prospects, with teammates facing the prospect of calling him... Ser? The Game of Thronesian moniker isn't even the most interesting thing about him, because the knightly right-hander is in possession of a 65 grade fastball, per Fangraphs' Eric Longenhagen, who puts a future value of 45 on Dominguez, and ranks him as the Phillies' 11th best prospect.

Moved from starting to relief this season Rodriguez has already pitched at AA and a short-stint at AAA before getting the the call to the Show.

This year, in 13 innings at AA, Dominguez struck out 12.46 per nine, while walking only 1.38 per nine, pitching to a 2.08 ERA and 1.23 FIP. He was less dominant as a starter in 2017, with 10.83 K/9 and 4.33 BB/9 in 62 innings, with a 3.70 FIP, but it seems his stuff might play up in shorter relief stings. His average fastball in his scoreless, one-inning debut was nearly 98 mph.

Dominguez recorded his first major league save on May 18 versus the Astros. He is the only reliever in Major League history to not allow a hit or walk in his first six appearances to begin a career.

Debut Game

Pitching: 1 IP | 0 H | 0 ER | 1 K | 0 BB

Player Pages

[Fangraphs](#)

[Baseball Reference](#)

Prospect Rankings (Team / Overall)

MLB Pipeline: 11 / NA

Fangraphs: 11 / NA

Baseball Prospectus: NA / NA

Justin Hancock, RP

Born: October 28, 1990 (27)

Team: Chicago Cubs **Debut:** May 9, 2018

Throws: Right **Bats:** Right

Justin Hancock is a right-handed pitcher who was drafted by the San Diego Padres in the 9th round of the 2011 MLB Draft. Hancock attended Lincoln Trail College before being drafted. Hancock was acquired in the May 8, 2017 trade that sent Matt Szczur to the Padres.

In his debut, Hancock showcased strong velocity on his fastball, reaching 97-98 mph, and a good slider, the pitch with which he recorded his two first MLB strikeouts. Those came against Martin Prado and Lewis Brinson. Hancock also was given a taste of the Big Leagues when Miguel Rojas hit a two-run homer into the left-center field bleachers. At the dish, Hancock came up with the bases loaded and was called out on a pitch that appeared to be outside the strike zone with the bases loaded. One notable fact about his plate appearance is that the pitcher's spot, eventually occupied by Hancock, replaced Kris Bryant in a double switch in the 7th inning.

Debut Game

Pitching: 1.2 IP | 1 H | 2 ER | 1 HR | 2 K

Player Pages

[Baseball Reference](#)

[Fangraphs](#)

Prospect Rankings (Team / Overall)

MLB Pipeline: NA / NA

Fangraphs: NA / NA

Baseball Prospectus: NA / NA

Elieser Hernández, RP

Born: May 3, 1995 (23)

Team: Miami Marlins **Debut:** May 10, 2018

Throws: Right **Bats:** Right

Elieser Hernández was signed out of Venezuela as an international amateur free-agent by the Houston Astros. He was taken by the Miami Marlins in the 2017 Rule 5 draft.

In scouting the Rule 5 picks, Eric Longenhagen writes that Hernández has a plus fastball

and exceptional command and projects to a 4/5 starter. Chris Mitchell notes Hernández had a 28% strikeout rate last year in High-A.

He was the highest-rated RHP on Mitchell's 2016 KATOH Deep-sleeper list.

Hernández was on the disabled list since the beginning of the season as the result of a tooth infection. Now that he's on a major league roster hopefully he has better dental insurance.

Debut Game

Pitching: 2 IP | 2 H | 0 ER | 0 K | 0 BB

Player Pages

[Baseball Reference](#)

[Fangraphs](#)

Prospect Rankings (Team / Overall)

MLB Pipeline: NA / NA

Fangraphs: 20 / NA

Baseball Prospectus: NA / NA

Luis Guillorme, 3B

Born: September 27, 1994 (24)

Team: New York Mets **Debut:** May 11, 2018

Throws: Right **Bats:** Left

Luis Guillorme was drafted by the New York Mets in the 10th round of the 2013 MLB Amateur draft. He was born in Venezuela and moved to Florida as a teen.

In 2015 while playing for the Savannah Sand Gnats (Low-A), Guillorme had a .387 OBP with 16 doubles and 18 steals, and he was named the South Atlantic League MVP.

[Eric Longenhagen writes](#), "Guillorme is one of the more remarkable prospects to watch in all of baseball. He's got a catcherly build at 5-foot-9 and is often the most unathletic-looking player on the field. Then Guillorme's hands start to get involved in the game, and you realize you might be watching the person who is more gifted at this one specific aspect of baseball than anyone else on the planet. His hands and actions seem supernatural, and Guillorme convert oddly struck ground balls — ones that most shortstops would just eat — into outs."

[AmazinAvenue](#) writes, "As a hitter, Guillorme would be more at home during the Dead Ball Era than today, as his general approach at the plate is to slash balls away, down the

left field line or past the infielders on the left side of the diamond...It is an atypical approach in today's day and age, but he's made it work at virtually every level he's played at thanks to his excellent barrel control and his good eye at the plate."

In his major league debut, Guillorme pinch-ran for Wilmer Flores in the 9th and scored the game-tying run on Michael Conforto's home run.

Debut Game

Hitting: 0 PA | 0 AB | 0 H

Player Pages

[Baseball Reference](#)

[Fangraphs](#)

Prospect Rankings (Team / Overall)

MLB Pipeline: 10 / NA

Fangraphs: 9 / NA

Baseball Prospectus: 10 / NA

David Hess, SP

Born: July 10, 1993 (24)

Team: Baltimore Orioles **Debut:** May 12, 2018

Throws: Right **Bats:** Right

The 24-year-old right-hander was drafted by the Orioles in the 5th round in 2014 out of Tennessee Tech. Hess made the "Other Prospects of Note" section of Eric Longenhagen's top Orioles' prospects write-up for Fangraphs, under the "Guys Who Throw Hard" heading. Longenhagen calls Hess' fastball "heavy," occasionally touching 97, and he describes Hess' other offerings as "fringe."

Prior to his promotion, Hess had been pitching well over six starts in AAA, averaging 8.8 K/9, 3.64 BB/9, with a 2.12 ERA and 3.52 FIP.

Hess won his major league debut, despite getting off to a rough start. He gave-up four hits including a three-run homer in the first inning, but then he settled down and pitched five scoreless innings, allowing only a pair of singles.

Fun Facts: Hess was a biomolecular chemical engineering major at Tennessee Tech. This was the first major league start by a player from Tennessee Tech.

Hess's family and friends drove-up from West Virginia to catch his debut. Among the group making the trip was his host mother from when he played collegiate summer

baseball. The Baltimore Sun notes that she left at 5:30am to make it to Baltimore for for the start of the game. So if you care what she was doing between 7-8am, she was driving to the game.

Debut Game

Pitching: 6 IP | 6 H | 3 ER | 0 BB | 3 K

Player Pages

[Baseball Reference](#)

[Fangraphs](#)

Prospect Rankings (Team / Overall)

MLB Pipeline: 16 / NA

Fangraphs: NA / NA

Baseball America: NA / NA

Brandon Mann, RP

Born: May 16, 1984 (33)

Team: Texas Rangers **Debut:** May 13, 2008

Throws: Left **Bats:** Left

Brandon Mann was drafted in the out of high school by the Tampa Bay Devil Rays in the 27th round of the 2002 MLB Draft. That's right Mann is so old that when he was drafted the Tampa Bay Rays still had "Devil" in their name.

Mann made his major league debut three days before his 34th birthday. He is about equidistant from being drafted as from being able to join AARP. Players born the year Mann was drafted are now old enough to be singed as international amateur free-agents.

Kyle Boddy of Driveline [tweeted a video](#) of Mann throwing during the off-season. The video helped get the attention of the Texas Rangers who then came out to Driveline and signed him.

In AAA this season Mann had 1.04 ERA with 13 strikeouts and 5 walks in 17 1/3 innings. "As the season progressed, Brandon continued to throw the ball very well," Rangers manager Jeff Banister said. "The command of his fastball, command of his delivery, secondary stuff, how he was handling hitters, all our scouts felt he was a solid option."

Mann has been part of six different MLB organizations. He also pitched for the Yokohama BayStars in Japan, and played for three different independent league teams in

two different leagues. Mann did not pitch at all in either 2007 or 2013 and was suspended for 80 games in 2016 after testing positive for Ostarine.

Fun Fact: The Fangraphs page for Mann doesn't even have his first four years of minor league stats, the earliest season listed in 2006.

Debut Game

Pitching: 1.2 IP | 0 H | 0 ER | 0 K | 0 BB

Player Pages

[Baseball Reference](#)

[Fangraphs](#)

Prospect Rankings (Team / Overall)

MLB Pipeline: NA / NA

Fangraphs: NA / NA

Baseball Prospectus: NA / NA

Freddy Peralta, SP

Born: June 4, 1996 (21)

Team: Milwaukee Brewers **Debut:** May 13, 2018

Throws: Right **Bats:** Right

Freddy Peralta signed with the Seattle Mariners as an international free agent in April 2013. He made his professional debut with the Dominican Summer League Mariners. On December 9, 2015 the Mariners traded Peralta, Daniel Missaki and Carlos Herrera to the Milwaukee Brewers for Adam Lind.

Eric Longhagen [writes](#) “Peralta generates seven feet of extension, which is up in Tim Lincecum territory, and does so with a cross-body delivery that begins on the third-base side of the rubber. He also has a low arm slot and loose, whippy arm action that further adds to hitters’ confusion. The result is death to right-handed hitters, who have to deal not only with Peralta’s delivery but also an above-average slider that he locates away from them.”

Peralta made his debut with the Brewers against the Rockies at Coors Field. He struck out 13 and gave up zero runs in 5.2 innings, which is the Brewers franchise record for strikeouts by a first time starter. Peralta was the fifth pitcher in MLB history to have 13-plus strikeouts in a debut, others include Stephen Strasburg and J. R. Richard.

In a Fangraphs article title [Meet the Extraordinary Freddy Peralta](#) Jeff Sullivan mentions

that Peralta is the 28th pitcher to make his first MLB start at Coors. In the previous 27 debuts, the starters have allowed 6.9 runs per nine innings. The article goes on to breakdown just how dominant Peralta was, including generating 18 swings-and-misses just on his fast ball.

Debut Game

Pitching: 5.2 IP | 1 H | 0 ER | 13 K | 2 BB |

Player Pages

[Fangraphs](#)

[Baseball Reference](#)

Prospect Rankings (Team / Overall)

MLB Pipeline: 9 / NA

Fangraphs: 9/NA

Baseball Prospectus: NA / NA

Franmil Reyes, OF

Born: July 17, 1995 (22)

Team: San Diego Padres **Debut:** May 15, 2018

Throws: Right **Bats:** Right

Franmil Reyes signed with the Padres as an international free agent in November 2011. He was the signed by the Padres, the same day they signed his friend, Franchy Cordero. Reyes made his professional debut in 2012 with the Dominican Summer League Padres. He played 2013 with the Arizona League Padres and Eugene Emeralds and 2014 and 2015 with the Fort Wayne TinCaps.

Reyes played 2016 with the Lake Elsinore Storm then in 2017 with the San Antonio Missions. He started 2018 with the El Paso Chihuahuas (Triple-A) before being called up. He was batting .346/.442/.738 with a minor-league leading 14 home runs and 38 RBIs in 36 games this season at El Paso. The 6-foot-5, 240-pound Dominican slugger has homered seven times in his past 10 games.

Reyes is nicknamed “Fanimal” by teammate Erik Lauer. “He’s got massive legs, massive glutes. He’s just a huge lower-body guy,” says Lauer, “He hits the crap out of the ball.

Debut Game

Hitting: 4 PA | 0 H | 2 K |

Player Pages

[Fangraphs](#)

[Baseball Reference](#)

Prospect Rankings (Team / Overall)

MLB Pipeline: NA / NA

Fangraphs: 27 / NA

Baseball Prospectus: NA / NA

Michael Hermosillo, OF

Born: January 17, 1995 (23)

Team: Los Angeles Angels **Debut:** May 18, 2018

Throws: Right **Bats:** Right

Hermosillo was drafted by the Los Angeles Angels in the 28th round of the 2013 Major League Baseball Draft. He signed with the Angels rather than attend Illinois on a football scholarship. Hermosillo eventually reached AAA Salt Lake in 2017 and opened this season with the Bees.

After a slow first couple weeks he began to emerge and, on May 1, hit for the cycle against the Fresno Grizzlies, a feat that included a grand slam. At the time of his promotion Hermosillo had a triple-slash of .267/.389/.481 with six home runs and seven steals.

[Fabian Ardaya](#) reported, “Hermosillo said he initially didn’t answer the phone call that sent him to the bigs. Said he was firing up ‘MLB The Show’ when his friend passed him the phone.” Now Hermosillo doesn’t have to play “The Show” because he is now part of it.

In his first MLB at-bat, Hermosillo doubled off of Blake Snell.

Debut Game

Hitting: 4 PA | 1 H | 1 2B | 3 K

Player Pages

[Fangraphs](#)

[Baseball Reference](#)

Prospect Rankings (Team / Overall)

MLB Pipeline: 9 / NA

Fangraphs: 11 / NA

Baseball Prospectus: 7 / NA

Austin Meadows, OF

Born: May 3, 1995 (23)

Team: Pittsburgh Pirates **Debut:** May 18, 2018

Throws: Left **Bats:** Left

Austin Meadows grew up in Grayson, Georgia, where he played high school baseball against Clint Frazier. As a senior Meadows was named a preseason First-Team High School All American by Rawlings and Perfect Game, while Frazier won the Perfect Game HS Player of the Year as a junior and the Gatorade Player of the Year award as a senior. Meadows also played football at Grayson, as a running back, wide receiver, and punter.

Meadows was considered as one of the top prospects eligible for the 2013 Major League Baseball draft. He was ultimately selected in the first round, with the ninth overall selection, by the Pittsburgh Pirates. Meadows was committed to attend Clemson University to play baseball, he signed with the Pirates, for the slot value signing bonus of \$3,029,600. Meadows has been a mainstay on Top 100 prospect lists since he was drafted, he was a consensus Top 10 prospect going into the 2017 season. The 2017 season was another injury plagued season for Meadows, he had another hamstring injury (his fourth) and then strained an oblique.

[Eric Longenhagen writes](#), “In parts of five pro seasons, Meadows has played in excess of 100 games just once, but he had always performed despite inconsistent playing time until his stay at Triple-A in 2017...He’s still a plus runner despite the hamstring issues — with a plus hit tool and more power than his raw homer totals suggest.”

He began the 2018 season with Indianapolis and was promoted to the major leagues to make his debut on May 18. He would record his first Major League hit off of Tyson Ross, as well as his first stolen base. Meadows hit his first major league home run on May 20 off of Jordan Lyles.

Debut Game

Hitting: 4 PA | 2 H | 1 SB

Player Pages

[Fangraphs](#)

[Baseball Reference](#)

Prospect Rankings (Team / Overall)

MLB Pipeline: 2 / 42

Fangraphs: 2 / 47

Baseball Prospectus: 2 / 34

Jake Cave, OF

Born: December 4, 1996 (25)

Team: Minnesota Twins **Debut:** May 19, 2018

Throws: Left **Bats:** Left

The Yankees selected Cave in the sixth round, with the 209th overall selection, of the 2011 MLB draft. He signed with the Yankees, receiving a \$825,000 signing bonus.

In his first pro game, Cave fractured his kneecap in a collision at home plate. The injury caused him to miss the rest of the season as well as the entire 2012 season.

The Cincinnati Reds selected Cave in 2015 Rule 5 draft, but returned him to the Yankees in April 2016. The Yankees added Cave to their 40-man roster after the 2017 season but later designated for assignment on March 12, 2018 following the Yankees signing of Neil Walker. The Minnesota Twins acquired Cave on March 16, 2018 for minor league pitcher Luis Gil.

Wayne Cavadi of [Minorleagueball](#) writes, “[Cave] is who he is at this point, although he does appear to be developing a little more power now. Prior to 2017, Cave had never hit more than eight home runs in a single season and launched 20 last year. He continues to make consistent contact and find the gaps. His speed has somewhat diminished, but he is still an asset on the bases and in the field. He has an average arm, so combined with his speed, he fits in all three places, but probably winds up in a corner somewhere...he should be able to eventually stick as a fourth outfielder.

Fun fact: In Cave’s first game he hit his first major league home run. He hit it off of fellow 2018 debutant, Freddy Peralta.

Debut Game

Hitting: 3 PA | 1 H | 1 HR | 2 RBI | 1 SB | 1 K

Player Pages

[Fangraphs](#)

[Baseball Reference](#)

Prospect Rankings (Team / Overall)

MLB Pipeline: 25 / NA

Fangraphs: 19 / NA

Baseball Prospectus: NA / NA

Ariel Jurado, SP

Born: January 30, 1996 (22)

Team: Texas Rangers **Debut:** May 19, 2018

Throws: Right **Bats:** Right

Jurado signed with the Texas Rangers as an international free agent from Panama in December 2012. In 2016, he pitched with both the High Desert Mavericks and the Frisco RoughRiders where he compiled a combined 8-6 record and 3.66 ERA in 24 games, and in 2017, he played with Frisco where he posted a 9-11 record and a 4.59 ERA in 27 starts.

While not currently a ranked prospect by Fangraphs, Jurado was ranked as the third best [Rangers' prospect in 2017](#). Eric Longenhagen wrote, "He sits 88-94 with the fastball and manipulates its shape, adding sink at times, cutting it at others. His upper-70s slider is slurvy but has depth and Jurado can sneak it in the back door to left-handed hitters and bury it beneath the zone for swings and misses...he has plus command projection and is a low risk, innings-eating, ground-ball/command fourth starter for most scouts."

The Rangers added Jurado to their 40-man roster after the 2017 season. He made his Major League debut against the Chicago White Sox. He pitched 4.2 innings, giving up four earned runs on six hits, two walks, and two strikeouts, earning the loss as the White Sox defeated the Rangers 5-3. [The Dallas News](#) reported, "[Jurado] threw the highest percentage of strikes by a Rangers pitcher making his career debut as a starter since Jon Daniels took over as GM for 2006. "I like that he trusted his stuff, that he commanded the baseball," [Manager Jeff] Banister said. "He was willing to attack the strike zone."

Jurado was optioned back to Double A Frisco the day after his MLB debut.

Debut Game

Pitching: 4.2 IP | 6 H | 4 ER | 2 K | 2 BB

Player Pages

[Fangraphs](#)

[Baseball Reference](#)

Prospect Rankings (Team / Overall)

MLB Pipeline: 19 / NA

Fangraphs: NA / NA

Baseball Prospectus: NA / NA

Juan Soto, OF

Born: October 25, 1998 (19)

Team: Washington Nationals **Debut:** May 20, 2018

Throws: Left **Bats:** Left

After rocketing up many prospect lists this past offseason, Soto shattered anybody's expectations for his debut on Sunday when he was called up to the Majors after only 8 games in AA as a 19-year-old. All Soto has done throughout his Minor League career since being signed out of the Dominican Republic at 16 is hit, never having posted a batting average at any level below .320. In his short Minor League time in 2018, Soto added another aspect to his already-impressive skillset by hitting 14 home runs in only 39 games between Hagerstown, Potomac, and Harrisburg. While Soto struck out in his first MLB plate appearance as a pinch-hitter, there is no questioning his upside, as evidenced by the fact that he is in the MLB before even turning 20. Would you like to feel old again, Soto was not born until AFTER the 1998 home run race was concluded, he is the first MLB player with that designation.

Soto was signed as a 2015 July 2nd international amateur free-agent. He was given a \$1.5 million signing bonus.

On May 21, Soto made his first MLB start and did not disappoint, hitting a 3-run homer off of Robbie Erlin. He is first teenager to homer since teammate Bryce Harper did it in 2012. Soto is the youngest player to have a home-run and 3 RBIs in a game since fellow Dominican, Adrian Beltre did it in September 1998, a month before Soto was born.

Debut Game

Hitting: 1 PA | 1 AB | 0 H | 1 K

Player Pages

[Baseball Reference](#)

[Fangraphs](#)

Prospect Rankings (Team / Overall)

MLB Pipeline: 2 / 15

Fangraphs: 3 / 50

Willy Adames, SS

Born: September 2, 1995 (22)

Team: Tampa Bay Rays **Debut:** May 22, 2018

Throws: Right **Bats:** Right

Adames signed with the Detroit Tigers as an international free agent in July 2012. In 2014, Adames was involved in a three team trade that sent him and Drew Smyly from Detroit to Tampa, while the Tigers received David Price from the Rays, also involved were Austin Jackson and Nick Franklin.

The Rays added Adames to their 40-man roster after the 2016 season. While playing for the Doble-A Montgomery Biscuits, Adames was chosen to play for the World Team in the 2016 MLB All-Stars Futures Game.

Fangraphs' [Eric Longenhagen](#) writes, "Adames has a well-rounded offensive skillset, a long track record of above-average offensive performance while being young for his level, and competent shortstop ability. Adames' frame is maxed out and he's not likely to grow into much more power without better incorporating his lower half into his swing, but he'll hit plenty of doubles and reach base at an above-average clip."

Adames started the 2018 season in Durham, and was hitting .311/.387/.466 in 173 at bats. With starting shortstop Adeiny Hechavarria on the disabled list, and with second baseman Joey Wendle taking a three-day paternity leave, the Rays summoned Adames, who, prior to his promotion, seemed likely to remain at Triple-A Durham until after the Super Two arbitration cutoff in June.

He got his first hit, a solo home run off of Chris Sale, that same night. Willy was optioned back to AAA Durham on May 24th.

Debut Game

Hitting: 4 PA | 1 H | 1 HR | 3 K

Player Pages

[Fangraphs](#)

[Baseball Reference](#)

Prospect Rankings (Team / Overall)

MLB Pipeline: 2 / 22

Fangraphs: 1 / 11

Brandon Dixon, IF/OF

Born: January 29, 1992 (26)

Team: Cincinnati Reds **Debut:** May 22, 2018

Throws: Right **Bats:** Right

Dixon was drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers in the third round of the 2013 MLB Draft out of the University of Arizona. He signed and then spent the rest of 2013 with the Single-A Great Lakes Loons. On December 16, 2015, Dixon was traded to the Cincinnati Reds in a three team trade with the Dodgers and the Chicago White Sox that also involved Todd Frazier, Jose Peraza and Scott Schebler. Dixon spent 2016 with the Pensacola Blue Wahoos (Double-A) where he slashed .260/.315/.434 with 16 home runs and 65 RBIs in 118 games, and 2017 with the AAA Louisville Bats where he collected a .264 batting average with 16 home runs, 64 RBIs, and a .783 OPS in 124 games. Dixon is the fourth member of 2012 Arizona national championship team to make the big league. Outfielders Joey Rickard (Orioles) and Johnny Field (Rays), infielders Robert Refsnyder (Rays) and Alex Mejia (Cardinals) are the others.

[The Cincinnati Enquirer](#) writes how Louisville manager Dick Schofield messed with Dixon in telling him about his call-up:

Playing with Triple-A Louisville on Monday, Dixon hit a pop-up to the first baseman in foul territory in his first at-bat. A couple of innings later, he was grabbing his glove when he was met by manager Dick Schofield in the dugout.

Schofield, with a mad look on his face, told him, “Hey, you need to run that ball out.” Dixon was puzzled. The ball was in foul territory so he was surprised his manager was calling him out for it.

When Schofield started to tell Dixon that he was taking him out of the game, the manager started to break into a smile.

“He was like, ‘No, you have somewhere else to be. You’re going to Cincinnati,’ ” Dixon said. “Everyone came up and hugged me and stuff. It was a pretty awesome moment.”

On May 24, Dixon got his first Major League hits, going 3-for-4 with a double.

Debut Game

Hitting: 1 PA | 0 H | 0 BB | 0 K

Player Pages

[Fangraphs](#)

[Baseball Reference](#)

Prospect Rankings (Team / Overall)

MLB Pipeline: NA / NA

Fangraphs: NA / NA

Baseball Prospectus: NA / NA

John Andreoli, OF

Born: June 9, 1990 (27)

Team: Seattle Mariners **Debut:** May 23, 2018

Throws: Right **Bats:** Right

The Chicago Cubs selected Andreoli from University of Connecticut in the 17th round of the 2011 MLB draft. In 2012, he played for the Daytona Cubs of the Class A-Advanced Florida State League (FSL). He was named an FSL All-Star in 2012, and returned to Daytona in 2013. On December 13, 2017, Andreoli signed a minor league contract with the Seattle Mariners. Andreoli played for the Italian national baseball team in the 2017 World Baseball Classic, where he hit 3 home runs. John comes from a family of athletes, Andreoli's father, also named John, played for the New England Patriots. His cousins include Daniel and Luke Bard. Andreoli was called to the big leagues after a rash of injuries hit the Mariners outfield.

Fun Fact: Andreoli is the fourth player from UConn drafted in 2011 to appear in the majors; the others are George Springer, Nick Ahmed, and Matt Barnes.

Debut Game

Hitting: 4 PA | 1 H | 1 BB | 0 K

Player Pages

[Fangraphs](#)

[Baseball Reference](#)

Prospect Rankings (Team / Overall)

MLB Pipeline: NA / NA

Fangraphs: NA / NA

Baseball Prospectus: NA / NA

José Briceno, C

Born: September 19, 1992 (25)

Team: Los Angeles Angels **Debut:** May 26, 2018

Throws: Right **Bats:** Right

Briceno made a splash in his big league debut, cranking a two-run homer off the Yanks' Chasen Shreve to put the Angels up 11-4 in the 7th inning, and prior to that, [received a friendly welcome](#) to the show from home plate umpire Phil Cuzzi.

Briceno was initially signed by the Rockies as an international free-agent in 2009. The Rockies traded him to the Braves for David Hale and Gus Schlosser in January 2015. Less than a year later the Braves traded Briceno and Andrelton Simmons to the Angels for Sean Newcomb, Erick Aybar and minor-leaguer Chris Ellis.

The 25-year-old catcher from Venezuela, isn't listed among the Angels' top prospects, but [Kiley McDaniel](#) ranked him as the Rockies' 11th best prospect in 2014, praising his athleticism, tools, and plus arm, with average raw power.

Prior to his promotion, Briceno was hitting .261/.272/.500 with 6 HR in 88 AB at AAA Salt Lake. He will be the Angels' back-up catcher as long as Rene Rivera is on the DL. Briceno made his debut the same day as another 25 year old Venezuelan catcher, Alfredo Gonzalez of the White Sox.

Debut Game

Hitting: 4 PA | 2 H | 1 BB | 1 K | 1 HR

Player Pages

[Fangraphs](#)

[Baseball Reference](#)

Prospect Rankings (Team / Overall)

MLB Pipeline: NA / NA

Fangraphs: NA / NA

Baseball Prospectus: NA / NA

Alfredo González, C

Born: July 13, 1992 (25)

Team: Chicago White Sox **Debut:** May 26, 2018

Throws: Right **Bats:** Right

González signed with the Houston Astros as an international free agent in July 2008. The Astros added him to their 40-man roster after the 2015 season. In July 2016, he was traded to the White Sox for cash. In 2017, between the Southern League and AA

Birmingham he slashed .208/.306 /.301 with 4 home runs in 71 games.

González was called up from AAA Charlotte to help fill the void left by Welington Castillo's 80-game performance-enhancing drug suspension. He is looked as more defensive catcher than an offensive threat.

González made his debut the same day as another 25 year old Venezuelan catcher, Jose Briceno of the Angels.

Debut Game

Hitting: 4 PA | 0 H | 0 BB | 3 K

Player Pages

[Fangraphs](#)

[Baseball Reference](#)

Prospect Rankings (Team/Overall)

MLB Pipeline: NA / NA

Fangraphs: NA / NA

Baseball Prospectus: NA / NA

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