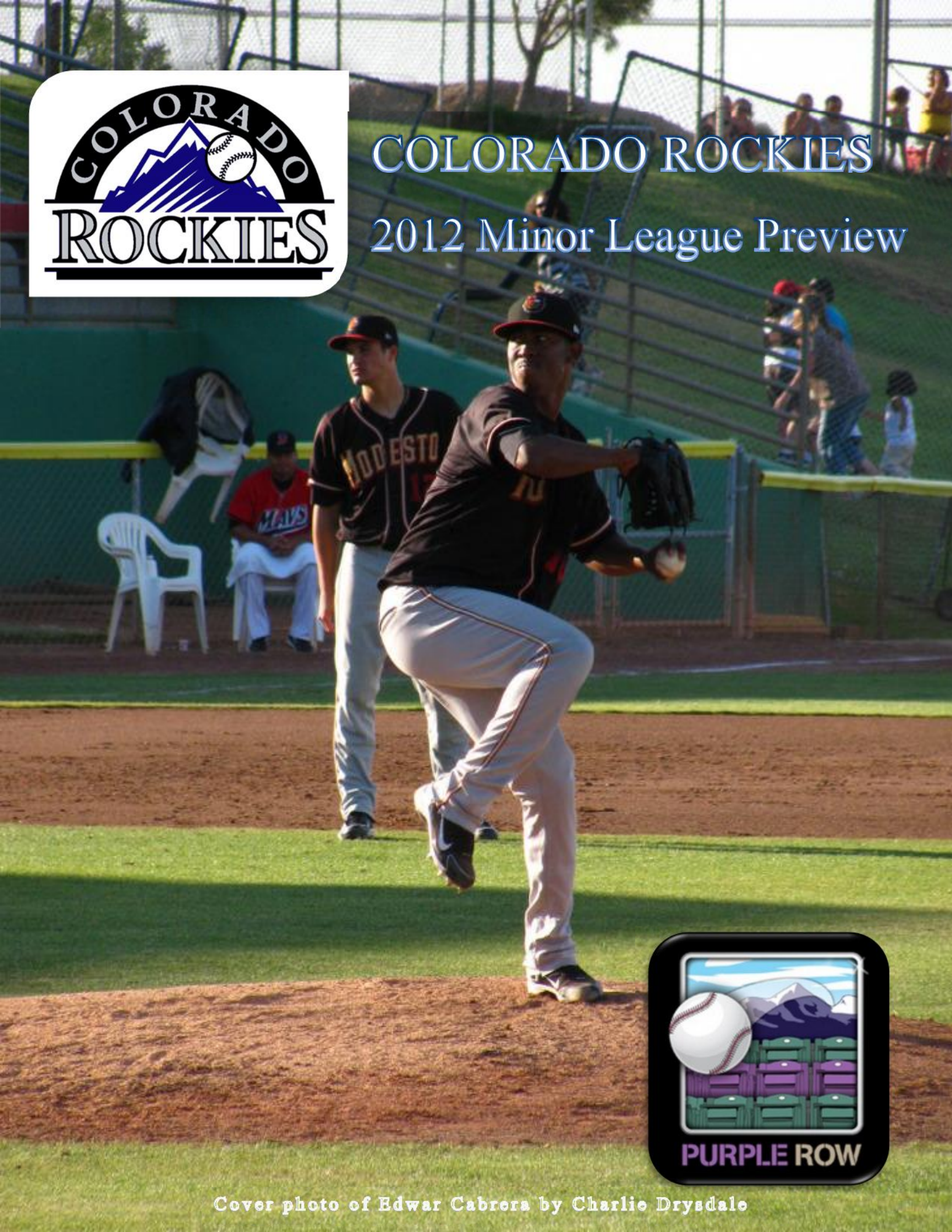


# COLORADO ROCKIES

## 2012 Minor League Preview



Cover photo of Edwar Cabrera by Charlie Drysdale



## Statement/Acknowledgements/Disclaimer

Following a minor league system is endlessly fulfilling. Whether your big league team is competing for a division title or the first overall draft pick, there is always a minor league team and several prospects in every organization worth following. There is always someone to dream on, and in that way, it keeps that often short-lived spring optimism alive year-round. While minor league coverage is increasing constantly, it is still difficult to get involved cold. Here is your preview on all four minor league affiliates and the most notable prospects at each level. Every player in the system is above the Mensa level of baseball talent in the world. It feels insulting to leave out most players or to summarize an impact prospect in three inches of a column. On the other hand, this preview is 21 pages long and nearly 6500 words.

I have not seen every player in this report with my own eyes, but I have seen a few of them. I relied on scouting reports from Baseball Prospectus, Baseball America, John Sickels, and other contacts I have made in prospect dialogue. Some information behind paywalls is alluded to but never excerpted directly. I also need to thank Greg Stanwood and Tim Zappe constructing and maintaining RockiesRoster.com, and to Mike Sjerven and Charlie Drysdale for letting me steal their pictures to provide color. Field diagrams were taken from each affiliate's website, and park factors were taken from StatCorner.com. Team logos featured in this report are the registered trademarks of each featured organization. No claim of endorsement, sponsorship or affiliation is made by their inclusion.

Andrew T. Fisher

### Purple Row Prospects (PuRPs) 10/25/11

- 1 Drew Pomeranz
- 2 Nolan Arenado
- 3 Wilin Rosario
- 4 Chad Bettis
- 5 Tyler Matzek
- 6 Alex White
- 7 Kyle Parker
- 8 Tim Wheeler
- 9 Josh Rutledge
- 10 Charlie Blackmon
- 11 Rosell Herrera
- 12 Trevor Story
- 13 Edwar Cabrera
- 14 Tyler Anderson
- 15 Rafael Ortega
- 16 Peter Tago
- 17 Christian Friedrich
- 18 Joe Gardner
- 19 Corey Dickerson
- 20 Thomas Field
- 21 Will Swanner
- 22 Kent Matthes
- 23 Albert Campos
- 24 Jordan Pacheco
- 25 Cristhian Adames
- 26 Ben Paulsen
- 27 Josh Slaats
- 28 David Kandilas
- 29 Jayson Aquino
- 30 Hector Gomez

HM: Edgmer Escalona,  
Dillon Thomas, Sam Mende,  
Mike Zuanich,  
Dan Houston

### Baseball America 11/30/11

- 1 Drew Pomeranz
- 2 Nolan Arenado
- 3 Chad Bettis
- 4 Wilin Rosario
- 5 Tim Wheeler
- 6 Trevor Story
- 7 Tyler Anderson
- 8 Kent Matthes
- 9 Kyle Parker
- 10 Josh Rutledge

### Baseball Prospectus 01/04/12

- 1 Nolan Arenado
- 2 Drew Pomeranz
- 3 Wilin Rosario
- 4 Chad Bettis
- 5 Tim Wheeler
- 6 Tyler Matzek
- 7 Rosell Herrera
- 8 Trevor Story
- 9 Josh Rutledge
- 10 Tyler Anderson
- 11 Kent Matthes
- 12 Charlie Blackmon
- 13 Cristhian Adames
- 14 Edwar Cabrera
- 15 Kyle Parker
- 16 Christian Friedrich
- 17 Corey Dickerson
- 18 DJ LeMahieu
- 19 Will Swanner
- 20 Rafael Ortega

Sleeper: Albert Campos

### John Sickels 12/30/11

- 1 Nolan Arenado
- 2 Drew Pomeranz
- 3 Chad Bettis
- 4 Trevor Story
- 5 Tim Wheeler
- 6 Tyler Anderson
- 7 Wilin Rosario
- 8 Kyle Parker
- 9 Joe Gardner
- 10 Josh Rutledge
- 11 Kent Matthes
- 12 Charlie Blackmon
- 13 Edwar Cabrera
- 14 Christian Friedrich
- 15 Tyler Matzek
- 16 DJ LeMahieu
- 17 Rosell Herrera
- 18 Rafael Ortega
- 19 Rob Scallill
- 20 Hector Gomez

### Others

Cristhian Adames, Jayson Aquino, Andrew Brown, Albert Campos, Corey Dickerson, Tommy Field, Parker Frazier, Dan Houston, Jordan Pacheco, Ben Paulsen, Josh Slaats, Will Swanner, Peter Tago, Dillon Thomas, Carl Thomore, Dan Winkler





## Colorado Springs Sky Sox (AAA)

Colorado Springs, Colorado

Pacific Coast League

2011: 64-80 (15<sup>th</sup> in PCL)

Manager: Stu Cole (2009-current)

Hitting Coach: Rene Lachmann (2008-current)

Pitching Coach: Bo McLaughlin (2009-current)

Contrary to its geographical and logistical proximity to the big leagues, Colorado Springs hasn't offered much intrigue to prospect watchers of late. Poor drafts in 2006 and 2007 led to a lull in the talent wave.

More importantly, though, Security Service Field is at a higher elevation than any two MLB parks – combined. Its location in a higher area of Colorado Springs leads to Nintendo scores, even well above the offense-heavy Pacific Coast League.

That all changes in 2012. It took nine seasons for a humidor to be installed in Denver – ten years after that, the AAA club gets the benefit. That, plus a legitimate prospect wave, leads to a far more intriguing AAA club.

The 2011 squad was one of the worst in the PCL, but only two players – Edgmer Escalona and Charlie Blackmon – were re-issued Sky Sox uniforms. It is a completely different team, this time with prospects in addition to veterans on minor league contracts. The club features a main chip in the July Ubaldo trade – Alex White – among the three first-round picks populating the rotation.



### PARK FACTORS (LHB/RHB)

K: 92 / 87	GB: 108 / 107
BB: 104 / 99	OF: 110 / 115
1B: 111 / 106	LD: 85 / 87
2B: 119 / 119	IF: 75 / 86
3B: 163 / 193	HBP: 92 / 80
HR: 115 / 111	WOBA: 114 / 113



# Colorado Springs Sky Sox (AAA) Opening Day Roster



## Starting Pitchers (5)

Player	B/T	Pos	Age	Origin	Contract Status	Options
Friedrich, Christian	R/L	SP	24	2008 Draft - 1st round, 25th pick	Pre-Arbitration After 2012	3- pending
Moscoso, Guillermo	R/R	SP, RP	28	2012 Trade with OAK	Pre-Arbitration After 2012	0+- pending
Pomeranz, Drew	R/L	SP	23	2011 Trade from CLE	Pre-Arbitration After 2012	3- pending
Scahill, Rob	L/R	SP	25	2009 Draft - 8th round, 10th pick	MLB - Rule 5 After 2012	3
White, Alex	R/R	SP	23	2011 Trade with CLE	Pre-Arbitration After 2012	3- pending

## Relief Pitchers (8)

Player	B/T	Pos	Age	Origin	Contract Status	Options
Dodson, Stephen	R/R	RP	26	2008 Draft - 10th round, 25th pick	MLB - Rule 5 After 2012	3
Ekstrom, Mike	R/R	RP	28	2011 Free Agent	MLB - Free Agency After 2012	0
Escalona, Edgmer	R/R	RP	25	2004 Amateur Free Agent	Pre-Arbitration After 2012	1- pending
Mollegen, Dustin	L/R	RP, SP	27	2011 Free Agent	MLB - Free Agency After 2012	3
Putnam, Zach	R/R	RP	24	2012 Trade with CLE	Pre-Arbitration After 2012	3- pending
Simons, Zach	R/R	RP, SP	26	2011 Free Agent	MLB - Free Agency After 2012	2
Torres, Carlos	R/R	RP, SP	29	2011 Free Agent	MLB - Free Agency After 2012	1
Wells, Jared	R/R	RP	30	2012 Free Agent	MLB - Free Agency After 2012	0

## Catchers (2)

Player	B/T	Pos	Age	Origin	Contract Status	Options
Castillo, Wilkin	S/R	C, Util	27	2011 Free Agent	MLB - Free Agency After 2012	1
Nieves, Wil	R/R	C, 1B	34	2011 Free Agent	MLB - Free Agency After 2012, See Notes for MLB Details	0

## Infielders (6)

Player	B/T	Pos	Age	Origin	Contract Status	Options
Brown, Andrew	R/R	1B, Util	27	2011 Claimed Off Waivers from STL	MLB - Rule 5 After 2012	2
Field, Tommy	R/R	IF	25	2008 Draft - 24th round, 25th pick	Pre-Arbitration After 2012	2- in use
Harris, Brendan	R/R	IF, DH	31	2011 Free Agent	MLB - Free Agency After 2012	0
LeMahieu, DJ	R/R	IF	23	2011 Trade from CHC	Pre-Arbitration After 2012	2- pending
Tracy, Chad	R/R	1B, Util	26	2012 Trade with TEX	MLB - Free Agency After 2012	3
Wood, Brandon	R/R	3B	27	2011 Free Agent	MLB - Free Agency After 2012, See Notes for MLB Details	0

## Utility Players (2)

Player	B/T	Pos	Age	Origin	Contract Status	Options
Iribarren, Hernan	L/R	Util	27	2012 Free Agent - Minors	MLB - Free Agency After 2012	0
McBride, Matt	R/R	Util	26	2011 Trade with CLE	MLB - Free Agency After 2012	3

## Outfielders (2)

Player	B/T	Pos	Age	Origin	Contract Status	Options
Roberts, Brandon	L/R	OF, DH	27	2011 Free Agent	MLB - Free Agency After 2012	3
Wheeler, Tim	L/R	OF	24	2009 Draft - 1st round, 32th pick	MLB - Rule 5 After 2012	3

## Reserve List (1)

Player	B/T	Pos	Age	Origin	Contract Status	Options
Ottavino, Adam	R/R	SP, RP	26	2012 Waiver Claim from STL	Pre-Arbitration After 2012	2- pending

+ indicates an extra option year has been granted.





## Colorado Springs Sky Sox

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### RH SP Alex White, 23

*(7/30/11 trade with CLE)*

#6 (PR)

**2011 AA/AAA:** 2-1, 1.80 ERA, 40.0 IP, 38 K, 6 BB, 2 HR

**2011 MLB:** 3-4, 7.01 ERA, 51.1 IP, 37 K, 25 BB, 15 HR, 46.1% GB

White technically lost his prospect status with four outs recorded in his final 2011 start, but he begins 2011 back in the minors. The right-hander dominated the minors but struggled with walks and home runs with the Rockies after a three-month layoff from a finger injury. That performance plus a DUI this spring has many selling on him.

White still has a plus splitter and sinking fastball that reaches 94. He could still develop as a mid-rotation starter but may have a future in the pen.

### OF Tim Wheeler, 24

*(2009 1<sup>st</sup> rd)*

#8 (PR), #5 (BA), #5 (BPro), #5 (Sickels)

**2011 AA:** .287/.365/.535, 134 wRC+, 637 PA. 142 K, 59 BB, 33 HR, 21 SB.

**2011 AFL:** .256/.353/.438, 99 wRC+, 141 PA. 26 K, 17 BB, 3 HR, 5 SB.

After a disappointing year in Modesto, Tim Wheeler set the Tulsa Drillers home run record with 33 in 2011. He's a 5-tool player, but none of those tools are plus tools – perhaps not even power (see RF fence in Tulsa). He could develop into a Hawpe-like starter in the outfield with better defense.

Wheeler's defense likely isn't enough to play in center at Coors, and he might be a tweener as a corner OF. He sells out for power, is prone to strikeouts and still needs to prove he can hit left-handed pitching before he can confidently relied upon as a starting outfielder.

### OF Charlie Blackmon, 25

*(2008 2<sup>nd</sup> rd)*

#10, #12, #12

**2011 AAA:** .342/.396/.576, 139 wRC+, 272 PA. 34 K, 19 BB, 10 HR, 12 SB.

**2011 MLB:** .255/.277/.296, 48 wRC+, 102 PA. 8 K, 3 BB, 1 HR, 5 SB.

Blackmon fell just shy of losing his rookie status thanks to a foot injury on the bases last season. He starts 2012 on the DL due to a toe injury and will report to AAA when healthy. Blackmon has a strong contact tool, almost to his detriment against strong pitching, as he can get himself out on pitcher's pitches and does not walk much, which happened in his stint in the majors.

Blackmon has good speed and stole a base in five straight games with the Rockies. He already profiles an ideal fourth outfielder, and he might be able to improve that label to an average starter with a good year in the majors.

### LH SP Christian Friedrich, 24

*(2008 1<sup>st</sup> rd)*

#17, #16, #14

**2011 AA:** 6-10, 5.00 ERA, 133.1 IP, 103 K, 43 BB, 20 HR, 44% GB

Friedrich was Baseball America's #33 overall prospect just two years ago after dominating at Asheville and Modesto. His past two years in AA Tulsa have been uneven at best, as he has posted 5.00+ ERAs both years, saw his strikeouts drop and home runs sky rocket. Several bouts with elbow soreness may be to blame, but Friedrich has become incredibly hittable.

With the extreme depth of rotation candidates, Friedrich is on the outside of the outsiders looking in. He needs a big turn-around in AAA, or he will end up in the bullpen or with another organization a la Greg Reynolds by 2013.



## 2B DJ LeMahieu, 23

(12/8/11 trade)

#18, #16

**2011 AA/AAA:** .302/.354/.423, 135/65 wRC+, 449 PA. 49 K, 25 BB, 5 HR, 9 SB.

**2011 AFL:** .319/.371/.389, 135/65 wRC+, 140 PA. 18 K, 11 BB, 2 HR, 4 SB.

**2011 MLB:** .250/.262/.283, 42 wRC+, 62 PA. 12 K, 1 BB, 0 HR, 0 SB.

The Rockies acquired LeMahieu as the second piece of the Ian Stewart trade. The contact-oriented 2B was rushed from AA to the bigs and predictably struggled with the Cubs. At 6'4", he may be too large for 2B and have too little power for 3B, but with his contact rate and age, he could be a valuable utility man soon.

## RH SP Rob Scahill, 25

(2009 8<sup>th</sup> rd)

#19

**2011 AA:** 12-11, 3.92 ERA, 160.2 IP, 104 K, 60 BB, 12 HR, 50% GB

**2011 AFL:** 2-0, 7.36 ERA, 11.0 IP, 14 K, 3 BB, 0 HR

My dark horse breakout candidate a year ago performed well enough in AA to earn an AFL invite, where he pitched well outside two ERA-killing outings. He doesn't have sexy stuff, but he's a reliable innings-eater, a bulldog worm-killer with a decent slider. He could figure into a rotation battle or bullpen soon.

## IF Tommy Field, 25

(2008 24<sup>th</sup> rd)

#20, HM

**2011 AA:** .271/.357/.439, 114 wRC+, 544 PA. 108 K, 53 BB, 17 HR, 9 SB.

**2011 MLB:** .271/.314/.271, 54 wRC+, 51 PA. 14 K, 3 BB, 0 HR, 0 SB.

Easy to root for, Field is a small late-round pick with a solid glove, even at 2B, with surprising pop. He could follow Clint Barmes' path of wedging his way into a starter role somewhere, but he projects to be a solid all-around bench infielder as is.

## SS Hector Gomez, 24

(2004 Amateur FA, DR)

#30, #20

**2011 AA:** .235/.272/.416, 80 wRC+, 453 PA. 94 K, 19 BB, 14 HR, 16 SB.

**2011 MLB:** .333/.429/.333, 73 wRC+, 7 PA. 2 K, q BB, 0 HR, 0 SB.

It is hard not to dream watching Hector Gomez. He is athletic and has tools to be a 5-tool superstar shortstop, but ever since being named a top 100 prospect by Baseball America, those tools have been thrown off by chronic injuries. Gomez was finally healthy in 2011, but he had significant

contact and on base issues.

Naturally, he starts 2012 on the disabled list. He qualifies for an final option year in 2012, so this year is his final chance to stick with Colorado.

Hector Gomez (Photo by Mike Sjerven)



## OF Andrew Brown, 27

(2011 waivers, STL)

HM

**2011 AA:** .284/.382/.501, 116 wRC+, 428 PA. 105 K, 56 BB, 20 HR, 4 SB.

**2011 MLB:** .182/.182/.227, 6 wRC+, 22 PA. 8 K, 0 BB, 0 HR, 0 SB.

Brown was claimed off waivers from the Cardinals this offseason. His age prevents him from being on anyone's prospect radar other than John Sickels, but his minor league numbers are impressive. He could be corner OF platoon partner for a short time.



## RH RP Edgmer Escalona, 25

(2004 Amateur FA, VZ)

HM

**2011 AAA:** 3-11, 3.18 ERA, 39.2 IP, 40 K, 11 BB, 3 HR, 32% GB

**2011 MLB:** 0-0, 1.75 ERA, 25.2 IP, 14 K, 7 BB, 3 HR, 37% GB

Escalona has a lot going for him. He is part of the growing swell of Venezuelans in the Rockies' organization. He has been dominant every year in the minors since 2008 except his first experience in Colorado Springs (2010), and he has a 1.71 ERA in 30.1 big league innings. Armed with a low-mid 90's fastball and solid slider, he has the resume to have earned a big league bullpen job this season.

Option years was one reason he did not contend, but another is his long history of significant attitude problems. He has attempted to physically attack his pitching coach and displayed hot-headed tempers in the winter league. With a more mature presence, he could be on the mound at Coors soon. Otherwise, the Rockies don't tend to want toxicity with unproven talent.

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### Others

RH SP Guillermo Moscoso

RH RP Zach Putnam

RF/C Matt McBride

PURPLE ROW







# Tulsa Drillers (AA)

Tulsa, Oklahoma

One OK Field

Texas League

2011: 68-72

Manager: Duane Espy (2011-current)

Hitting Coach: Kevin Riggs (2012)

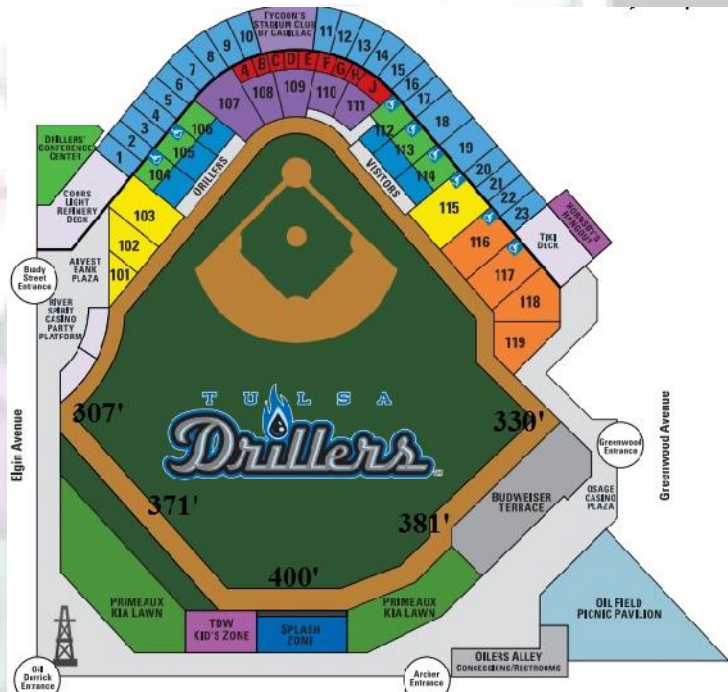
Pitching Coach: Dave Schuler (2011-current)

Take arguably the Rockies' top prospect, add their 2<sup>nd</sup> best pitching prospect, mix in several breakout studs from 2011's Modesto playoff team, and shake well with 10 returning Drillers, and you have the makings of a very interesting team.

In fact, Baseball America listed the Drillers' 2012 Opening Day roster as one of the ten best in the entire minor leagues. More than any other farm team in the Rockies system this year, the Tulsa Drillers demand your attention.

Kevin Riggs, who presided over the breakouts of Nolan Arenado, Kent Matthes and Josh Rutledge in Modesto, earned a promotion to Tulsa and will be advising that trio with the rest of the Drillers' bats.

The rotation is strong, headed by Chad Bettis, Edwar Cabrera and Parker Frazier, giving the Drillers a well-rounded team with a prospect to root for of any fan's taste.



## PARK FACTORS (LHB/RHB)

<b>K:</b> 100 / 101	<b>GB:</b> 100 / 99
<b>BB:</b> 99 / 99	<b>OF:</b> 98 / 98
<b>1B:</b> 99 / 99	<b>LD:</b> 106 / 105
<b>2B:</b> 96 / 99	<b>IF:</b> 97 / 101
<b>3B:</b> 103 / 106	<b>HBP:</b> 100 / 99
<b>HR:</b> 111 / 103	<b>wOBA:</b> 100 / 100





# Tulsa Drillers (AA)

## Opening Day Roster



### Starting Pitchers (6)

Player	B/T	Pos	Age	Origin	Contract Status	Options
Cabrera, Edwar	L/L	SP, RP	24	2008 Amateur Free Agent	Pre-Arbitration After 2012	2- in use
Frazier, Parker	R/R	SP	23	2007 Draft - 8th round, 8th pick	MiLB - Rule 5 After 2012	3
Gardner, Joseph	R/R	SP	24	2011 Trade with CLE	MiLB - Rule 5 After 2012	3
Houston, Dan	R/R	SP	25	2008 Draft - 7th round, 25th pick	MiLB - Rule 5 After 2012	3
Riordan, Cory	R/R	SP, RP	25	2007 Draft - 6th round, 8th pick	MiLB - Rule 5 After 2012	2
Williamson, Joey	R/R	SP, RP	26	2007 Draft - 36th round, 8th pick	MiLB - Rule 5 After 2012	3

### Relief Pitchers (6)

Player	B/T	Pos	Age	Origin	Contract Status	Options
Harris, Will	R/R	RP	27	2006 Draft - 9th round, 2nd pick	MiLB - Free Agency After 2012	3
Marbry, Michael	R/R	RP	27	2007 Free Agent	MiLB - Free Agency After 2012	3
Schmidt, Nick	L/L	RP, SP	26	2011 Trade from SD	MiLB - Rule 5 After 2012	3
Sullivan, Josh	R/R	RP, SP	27	2005 Draft - 5th round, 7th pick, Re-signed Fall 2011	MiLB - Free Agency After 2012	3
Woods, Coty	R/R	RP	24	2009 Draft - 33rd round, 10th pick	MiLB - Rule 5 After 2012	3
Yacko, Kurt	R/R	RP	24	2008 Draft - 8th round, 25th pick	MiLB - Rule 5 After 2012	3

### Catchers (2)

Player	B/T	Pos	Age	Origin	Contract Status	Options
Davis, Lars	L/R	C	26	2007 Draft - 3rd round, 8th pick	MiLB - Rule 5 After 2012	3
Gonzalez, Jose	R/R	C, IF	24	2012 Free Agent	MiLB - Free Agency After 2012	3

### Infielders (8)

Player	B/T	Pos	Age	Origin	Contract Status	Options
Arenado, Nolan	R/R	3B	20	2009 Draft - 2nd round, 10th pick	MiLB - Safe From Rule 5 After 2012 (18)	3
Cesario, James	L/R	IF	26	2008 Draft - 66th round, 25th pick	MiLB - Rule 5 After 2012	3
Nina, Angelys	R/R	IF	23	2007 Amateur Free Agent	MiLB - Rule 5 After 2012	3
Paulsen, Ben	L/R	IF	24	2009 Draft - 3rd round, 10th pick	MiLB - Rule 5 After 2012	3
Rolling, Kiel	R/R	IF	25	2008 Draft - 6th round, 25th pick	MiLB - Rule 5 After 2012	3
Rutledge, Josh	R/R	IF	22	2010 Draft - 3rd round, 25th pick	MiLB - Safe From Rule 5 After 2012	3
Schaeffer, Warren	R/R	IF	27	2007 Draft - 32th round, 8th pick	MiLB - Rule 5 After 2012	3
Torres, Tim	S/R	SS, Util	28	2012 Free Agent	MiLB - Free Agency After 2012	3

### Outfielders (3)

Player	B/T	Pos	Age	Origin	Contract Status	Options
Matthes, Kent	R/R	OF	25	2009 Draft - 4th round, 10th pick	MiLB - Rule 5 After 2012	3
Mitchell, Michael	R/R	OF	26	2007 Draft - 25th round, 8th pick	MiLB - Rule 5 After 2012	3
Zuanich, Mike	R/L	OF, IF	25	2008 Draft - 28th round, 25th pick	MiLB - Rule 5 After 2012	3

### 7-Day Disabled List (1)

Player	B/T	Pos	Age	Origin	Contract Status	Options
Bettis, Chad	R/R	SP	22	2010 Draft - 2nd round, 26th pick	MiLB - Safe From Rule 5 After 2012	3

+ indicates an extra option year has been granted.



## Tulsa Drillers

### LH SP Drew Pomeranz, 23

(7/30/11 trade with CLE)

#1 (PR), #1 (BA), #2 (BPro), #2 (Sickels)

2011 A+/AA: 4-3, 1.78 ERA, 101.0 IP, 119 K, 38 BB, 3 HR

2011 MLB: 2-1, 5.40 ERA, 18.1 IP, 13 K, 5 BB, 0 HR, 47.4% GB

The prize of the Ubaldo Jimenez trade won't be in AA long. In fact, he gets one tune up start April 10 and will head to the majors after that. The southpaw has dominated every level of his life except MLB, where he came off two weeks of down time and an appendectomy, which sapped his effectiveness. He has had some control problems that might cap his ceiling, but if that improves, a mid-90's fastball and filthy curve give him #1 starter potential if he develops his change-up more.

### 3B Nolan Arenado, 20

(2009 2<sup>nd</sup> rd)

#2, #2, #1, #1

2011 A+: .298/.349/.487, 109 wRC+, 583 PA. 53 K, 47 BB, 20 HR, 2 SB.

2011 AFL : 388/.423/.636, 153 wRC+, 130 PA. 14 K, 8 BB, 6 HR, 0 SB.

Arenado has truly elite contact ability (Kevin Goldstein calls it "supernatural") and strike zone awareness, which should assuage fears of him being a bust. At every level in the minors since his debut in 2009, Arenado has compiled more extra base hits than strikeouts.

His tremendous work ethic and confidence transformed his body from very poor third baseman to a win the California Defensive 3B of the Year Award. He has All-Star potential and could hit over .300 with home runs in the 20's when he gets going in the big leagues. While he may be the best 3B in the organization now, it is important to remember his ceiling won't be even close to reached in 2012.

### RH SP Chad Bettis, 22

(2010 2<sup>nd</sup> rd)

#4, #3, #4, #3

2011 A+: 12-5, 3.34 ERA, 169.2 IP, 184 K, 45 BB, 10 HR, 46% GB

Primarily a reliever in college, the Rockies wisely maximized Bettis' potential in a starter role. He has a low-mid 90's fastball that has reached 100mph and a big league wipeout slider that has been thrown in the 90's. The 2011 CAL Pitcher of the Year has good control and maintains his stuff late into games, so there could be future as a mid to top of rotation starter.

As is common with high velocity fastballs, there is not great movement, and his change-up needs work. He starts the season on the DL with worrisome shoulder soreness. His 2012 in AA will likely convince the Rockies whether to keep him as a starter or convert him to a reliever, where he has impact closer potential.

### SS Josh Rutledge, 22

(2010 3<sup>rd</sup> rd)

#9, #10, #9, #10

2011 A+: .346/.412/.513, 142 wRC+, 523 PA. 91 K, 41 BB, 9 HR, 16 SB.

Rutledge struggled in 2010 while injured in Tri-City, but he got the jump to Hi-A Modesto and responded. A solid 1<sup>st</sup> half turned into a mind-blowingly dominant 2<sup>nd</sup> half after a midseason adjustment. Rutledge is a line-drive contact hitter who knows his swing and could wear out the gaps at Coors Field one day.

His defense is adequate at shortstop but should be good enough to play a big league second base. A strong 2012 season in Tulsa would help back out his 2011, where he was arguably the biggest breakout prospect in the system. He will be one to watch, as he could be the favorite for the Rockies' 2B job in 2013 with a strong year.





## RF Kent Matthes, 25

(2009 4<sup>th</sup> rd)

#22, #8, #11, #11

2011 A+: .334/.378/.642, 152 wRC+, 400 PA, 80 K, 22 BB, 23 HR, 7 SB.

Matthes lost most of 2010 in Asheville with a knee injury and struggled mightily when he did play. Despite that, the Rockies advanced him to Modesto in part due to his age, and he rewarded them. He rewarded the Rockies by clobbering the California League and winning the CAL MVP.

Purple Row readers were unsure how much to read into the breakout and voted him #22 in the system last September, but the three most notable prospect publications all placed him in the top 11 on the offseason. He has solid hit and power tools and a great throwing arm. He could become a starter at RF or 1B, but 2012 is an important year to prove 2011 against better pitching.

## LH SP Edwar Cabrera, 24

(2008, DR)

#13, #14, #13

2011 A: 4-2, 3.14 ERA, 86.0 IP, 110 K, 18 BB, 10 HR, 48% GB

2011 A+: 4-1, 3.56 ERA, 81.0 IP, 107 K, 23 BB, 8 HR, 45% GB

Cabrera signed very late for a Latin signee, so his career started relatively late. Due to that, his dominance in Tri City in 2010 was mostly overlooked. He used an outstanding change up and impeccable control to fool hitters in Asheville, then moved on to Modesto and produced a nearly identical line. His first start in 2012 in Tulsa was more of the same.

He has a decent breaking pitch and low-90's fastball but has mostly lived off his change-up. Tulsa will be a proving ground for the small (6'0" 175) southpaw. He could reach the majors this year a la Juan Nicasio, and he could have a future as a reliever if starting doesn't work out.

## RH SP Joe Gardner, 24

(7/30/11 trade with CLE)

#18, #9

2011 AA: 10-11, 4.31 ERA, 133.2 IP, 82 K, 55 BB, 7 HR, 52/71% GB

2011 AFL: 2-2, 5.29 ERA, 17.0 IP, 18 K, 10 BB, 3 HR

Gardner is a largely forgotten prospect. Kevin Goldstein gave him nary a mention in his offseason series. He was the third most notable prospect in the Ubaldo trade. He was ranked the Indians' #9 prospect a year ago and is one of the best groundball pitchers in the minors with low-to-mid 90's on his fastball.

Control has been an issue throughout his career, and his strikeouts dropped significantly in his first year in AA, but he is certainly on the radar as a back end starting pitcher or reliever.



Edwar Cabrera (Photo by Charlie Drysdale)



## 1B Ben Paulsen, 24

(2009 3<sup>rd</sup> rd)

#26, HM

**2011 AA:** .241/.296/.413, 82 wRC+, 597 PA. 132 K, 40 BB, 19 HR, 2 SB.

**2011 AFL:** .267/.327/.378, 74 wRC+, 98 PA. 19 K, 7 BB, 0 HR, 0 SB.

Paulsen began 2011 as a potential answer at 1B if all broke well, but he developed a hitch in his swing and had a horrible season in AA. The Rockies gave him a shot at the AFL, but he wasn't any better there. He is a solid defensive first baseman, but considering his position, he has a lot to prove to get a chance at an MLB future.

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## RH SP Dan Houston, 25

(2008 7<sup>th</sup> rd)

HM, HM

**2011 A+:** 7-1, 2.53 ERA, 85.1 IP, 67 K, 22 BB, 7 HR, 58% GB

**2011 AA:** 4-4, 4.27 ERA, 78.0 IP, 51 K, 18 BB, 6 HR, 51% GB

Houston is a ground-ball and control specialist. That works very well in A-ball, but as his time showed, not as well in AA. He might be a career minor leaguer, but he's a name worth following in Tulsa.

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## 1B/OF Mike Zuanich, 25

(2008 28<sup>th</sup> rd)

HM

**2011 A+:** .366/.455/.674, 180 wRC+, 265 PA. 59 K, 30 BB, 14 HR, 4 SB

**2011 AA:** .261/.353/.500, 122 wRC+, 102 PA. 23 K, 9 BB, 6 HR, 1 SB

Zuanich hit very poorly as a 22 year old in Casper in 2008. Since then, he has OPS'd at least .850 at every stop, often over 1.000. He was a man among boys in Modesto and has, but he will be 26 in two months. He has power but uses an uppercut. His defense does not help his case much, but he could be worth looking at for the video game numbers.

## RH SP Parker Frazier, 23

(2007 8<sup>th</sup> rd)

HM

**2011 A+:** 11-11, 4.50 ERA, 154.0 IP, 105 K, 46 BB, 15 HR, 49% GB

**2011 AFL:** 1-1, 6.10 ERA, 20.2 IP, 15 K, 8 BB, 2 HR

Frazier was drafted nearly five years ago and is just now getting his first taste of the minor leagues above A-ball. The son of the Rockies' TV color man (George) lost a year due to Tommy John surgery and was drafted straight out of high school, so he is still age appropriate for AA.

He did not have a particularly good year in Modesto in 2011, but the Rockies sent him to the AFL, where he was pitched frequently. He is a ground-ball pitcher who has good stuff, and his AA debut was exceptional (6.0 IP, 0 ER, 5 K, 2 BB, 5 H).

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## Others

1B Kiel Roling

2B Angelys Nina

RHP Joey Williamson





# Modesto Nuts (A+)



Modesto, California

John Thurman Field

California League

2011: 74-66

Manager: Lenn Sakata (2012)

Hitting Coach: Jonathan Stone (2012)

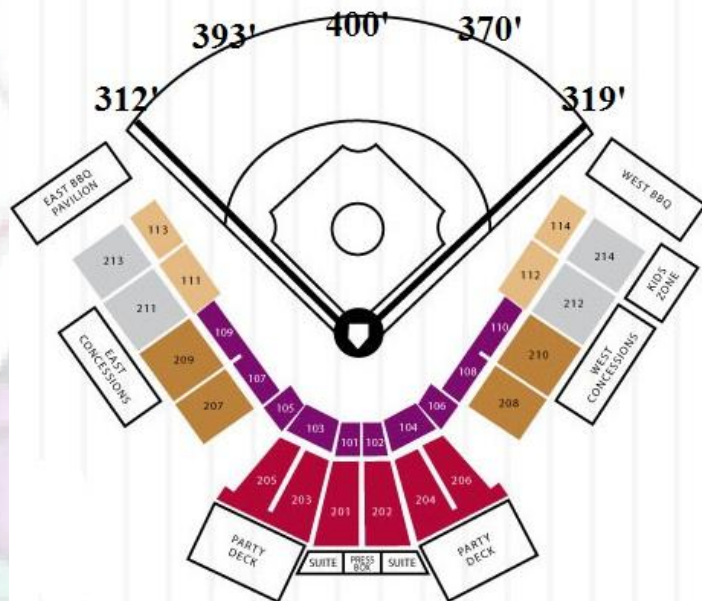
Pitching Coach: Darryl Scott

Modesto was the only full season affiliate that made the postseason in 2011 but as is the case in the minors, all those chiefly responsible have moved up a level. The result is a bag of mixed nuts with a few exotic Nuts but a mostly peanuts otherwise.

Lenn Sakata replaces longtime Modesto manager Jerry Weinstein, who became the big league catching instructor. Sakata inherits a team with only one infielder or catcher under the age 23.

The lineup's strength is in the outfield, where Asheville's starting OF of Corey Dickerson, Kyle Parker and Rafael Ortega resume their positions on the other coast.

The rotation has some interesting names, with Tyler Matzek and Nick Schnaitmann both returning after early 2011 disastrous efforts in Modesto earned them both mid-season demotions to Asheville.



## PARK FACTORS (LHB/RHB)

<b>K:</b> 106 / 93	<b>GB:</b> 89 / 91
<b>BB:</b> 98 / 100	<b>OF:</b> 96 / 100
<b>1B:</b> 104 / 99	<b>LD:</b> 140 / 143
<b>2B:</b> 118 / 110	<b>IF:</b> 101 / 119
<b>3B:</b> 114 / 164	<b>HBP:</b> 93 / 97
<b>HR:</b> 49 / 40	<b>wOBA:</b> 97 / 98



# Modesto Nuts (A+)

## Opening Day Roster



### Starting Pitchers (5)

Player	B/T	Pos	Age	Origin	Contract Status	Options
Bergman, Christian	R/R	SP, RP	23	2010 Draft - 24th round, 25th pick	MiLB - Safe From Rule 5 After 2012	3
Matzek, Tyler	L/L	SP	21	2009 Draft - 1st round, 11th pick	MiLB - Safe From Rule 5 After 2012 (18)	3
Mueller, Joshua	R/R	SP, RP	23	2010 Draft - 13th round, 25th pick	MiLB - Safe From Rule 5 After 2012	3
Schnaitmann, Nick	R/R	SP, RP	22	2008 Draft - 22nd round, 25th pick	MiLB - Rule 5 After 2012	3
Slaats, Josh	R/R	SP, RP	23	2010 Draft - 5th round, 25th pick	MiLB - Safe From Rule 5 After 2012	3

### Relief Pitchers (7)

Player	B/T	Pos	Age	Origin	Contract Status	Options
Froneberger, Isaiah	L/L	RP	22	2007 Draft - 4th round, 8th pick	MiLB - Rule 5 After 2012	3
Gomez, Leuris	R/R	RP, SP	25	2005 Amateur Free Agent	MiLB - Free Agency After 2012	3
Gonzalez, Juan	R/R	RP, SP	22	2006 Amateur Free Agent	MiLB - Free Agency After 2012	3
Hungerman, Josh	L/L	RP	25	2009 Draft - 17th round, 10th pick	MiLB - Rule 5 After 2012	3
Kern, Bruce	R/R	RP, SP	23	2010 Draft - 23rd round, 25th pick	MiLB - Safe From Rule 5 After 2012	3
Rose, Chad	R/R	RP	24	2008 Draft - 16th round, 25th pick	MiLB - Rule 5 After 2012	3
Sifton, Kraig	L/L	RP	23	2010 Draft - 7th round, 25th pick	MiLB - Safe From Rule 5 After 2012	3

### Catchers (3)

Player	B/T	Pos	Age	Origin	Contract Status	Options
Garneau, Dustin	R/R	C	24	2009 Draft - 19th round, 10th pick	MiLB - Rule 5 After 2012	3
Massanari, Bryce	R/R	C, 1B	25	2009 Draft - 30th round, 10th pick	MiLB - Rule 5 After 2012	3
Tarleton, Dallas	L/R	C	24	2009 Draft - 20th round, 10th pick	MiLB - Rule 5 After 2012	3

### Infielders (6)

Player	B/T	Pos	Age	Origin	Contract Status	Options
Adames, Cristhian	S/R	SS, IF	20	2007 Amateur Free Agent	MiLB - Rule 5 After 2012	3
Clark, Jared	R/R	IF	25	2009 Draft - 12th round, 10th pick	MiLB - Rule 5 After 2012	3
Smalling, Timothy	R/R	SS	24	2011 Draft - 15th round, 17th pick	MiLB - Safe From Rule 5 After 2012	3
Tanos, Brett	R/R	3B, 2B	23	2010 Draft - 10th round, 25th pick	MiLB - Safe From Rule 5 After 2012	3
Velazquez, Helder	R/R	IF	23	2006 Draft - 5th round, 2nd pick	MiLB - Free Agency After 2012	3
Wong, Joey	L/R	SS, IF	23	2009 Draft - 24th round, 10th pick	MiLB - Rule 5 After 2012	3

### Outfielders (4)

Player	B/T	Pos	Age	Origin	Contract Status	Options
Dickerson, Corey	L/R	LF, CF	22	2010 Draft - 8th round, 25th pick	MiLB - Safe From Rule 5 After 2012	3
Laurent, Chandler	R/R	OF	24	2009 Draft - 21st round, 10th pick	MiLB - Rule 5 After 2012	3
Parker, Kyle	R/R	RF	22	2010 Draft - 1st round, 26th pick	MiLB - Safe from Rule 5 After 2012	3
Robinson, Scott	R/R	OF	23	2006 Draft - 30th round, 2nd pick	MiLB - Free Agency After 2012	3

### 7-Day Disabled List (1)

Player	B/T	Pos	Age	Origin	Contract Status	Options
Ortega, Rafael	L/R	CF, OF	20	2008 Amateur Free Agent	MiLB - Rule 5 After 2012	3

+ indicates an extra option year has been granted.





## Modesto Nuts

### LH SP Tyler Matzek, 21

(2009 1st rd)

#5 (PR), #6 (BPro), #15 (Sickels)

2011 A+: .0-3, 9.82 ERA, 33.0 IP, 37 K, 46 BB, 5 HR, 38% GB

2011 A : 5-4, 4.36 ERA, 64.0 IP, 74 K, 50 BB, 3 HR, 46% GB

Matzek is an extreme prospect in every way. A departure in drafting strategy earned him the highest bonus in franchise history. His unique high-school “Marshall” training methods did not mesh with the Rockies’ traditional teachings, and he lost all control and confidence. After a disastrous first half in Modesto, the Rockies let him re-train for a month with his amateur coach, and his results were better in Asheville.

He is a difficult prospect to peg, but he was throwing 95mph in his first 2012 start, and his stuff remains the least hittable of any Rockies’ pitcher in the organization. Control is an issue, and 2012 will be a huge year in figuring out what he is.

### RF Kyle Parker, 22

(2010 1st rd)

#7, #9, #15, #8

2011 A: .285/.367/.483, 133 wRC+, 516 PA. 132 K, 48 BB, 21 HR, 2 SB.

After splitting time athletically between football and baseball at Clemson, the powerful right-fielder was a bit raw in 2011. His line was strong but was inflated by a diminutive home park in Asheville. If he is to fulfill his tremendous upside, his numbers in Modesto should start to approach those of Kent Matthes’ in 2011. If last year was a year to get back into baseball, 2012 is the year to mash. Between football, power and body type, he has gotten many (unfair) comparisons to Matt Holliday.

### CF Rafael Ortega, 20

(2008 amateur FA, VZ)

#15, #20, #18

2011 A: .294/.335/.438, 107 wRC+, 519 PA. 90 K, 28 BB, 9 HR, 32 SB.

Ortega is the best center field prospect in the organization, above Wheeler or Blackmon. He can legitimately stick defensively, has good speed and the presence of all five tools despite being listed at 5’11” and 160.

His offensive approach is inconsistent, but at just 20 years old in the California League, he has time to refine his approach to supplement his tools.



Rafael Ortega (photo by Andrew T. Fisher)



## OF Corey Dickerson, 22

(2010, 8<sup>th</sup> rd)

#19, #17, HM

2011 A: .282/.356/.629, 158 wRC+, 435 PA. 99 K, 38 BB, 32 HR, 9 SB.

Dickerson is an athletic left-handed bat that put up ridiculous numbers in Casper in 2010 and in Asheville in 2011. He will catch the eye of many perusing leaderboards, but scouts have yet to buy in. Part of that is his enormous home road splits. He hit .354/.417/.844 at home, taking advantage of a 297' porch in right field while he limped to a .193/.280/.363 road line.

As a left-handed hitter, he still has struggled against left-handed pitching. With the history of Rockies left-handed hitting prospects (Joe Koshansky, Jeff Salazar, Ian Stewart) who used McCormick Field to pad their stat lines, caution is warranted until Dickerson carries numbers at higher levels.

## SS Crithian Adames, 20

(2008 amateur FA, DR)

#25, #13, HM

2011 A: .294/.335/.438, 107 wRC+, 519 PA. 90 K, 28 BB, 9 HR, 32 SB.

Adames is my choice as a break out prospect for 2012. He already possesses the tools to be an asset defensively at shortstop, but his bat has been the question. A year ago, Kevin Goldstein worried pitchers would literally knock the bat out of his hands. He showed up in 2011 larger and even hit 3<sup>rd</sup> in Asheville's batting order at times.

At just 20, there is more physical development happening. If the steps he showed in 2011 continue, his name could be blowing up quite a bit more in 2012.

## RH SP Josh Slaats, 23

(2010, 5<sup>th</sup> rd)

#27, HM

2011 A: 7-3, 4.18 ERA, 125.0 IP, 103 K, 51 BB, 12 HR, 49% GB

The right-hander isn't getting a ton of attention, but he dominated the Northwest League in 2010 and, after early season struggles, became Asheville's best pitcher in the second half.

## RH SP Christian Bergman, 23

(2010, 24<sup>th</sup> rd)

2011 SS A: 7-5, 2.59 ERA, 97.1 IP, 68 K, 11 BB, 4 HR, 52% GB

The Tri City Dust Devils reached the Northwest League Finals in 2011 and led the league by a large margin in staff ERA. The staff ace was Christian Bergman, who leveraged his 2011 into skipping Asheville. He doesn't have great stuff, but he throws strikes consistently.

## RH SP Nick Schnaitmann, 22

(2008, 22<sup>nd</sup> rd)

2011 A+: 3-11, 10.16 ERA, 67.1 IP, 44 K, 45 BB, 17 HR, 38% GB

2011 A: 6-2, 2.70 ERA, 60.0 IP, 32 K, 15 BB, 4 HR, 50% GB

Like Matzek, Schnaitmann was a disaster in Modesto to start but figured things out after a demotion. He has velocity, height (6'6") and age on his side though, and he gets ground balls when he is right.

## Others

LH RP Isaiah Froneberger

C Bryce Massanari





# McCormick Field

2011: 69-70

Hitting Coach: Mike Devereaux (2012)

**Pitching Coach: Joey Eischen (2011-current)**

A diagram of McCormick Field stadium layout. The field is green with a brown infield. The outfield fence is curved. The seating bowl is divided into several sections, each with a color and a set of letters. The dimensions of the outfield are given in feet: 370' (left), 373' (top), 320' (right), and 297' (right). The seating sections are: PEPSI PARTY PAVILION (blue), GA (light blue), KK (light blue), JJ (light blue), HH (light blue), GG (light blue), FF (light blue), EE (light blue), DD (light blue), CC (light blue), BB (light blue), AA (light blue), GA (light blue), KKKK (pink), JJJJ (pink), IIII (pink), HHHH (pink), GGGG (pink), FFFF (pink), EEEE (pink), DDDD (pink), CCCC (pink), BBBBB (pink), AAAAA (pink), KKKKK (purple), JJJJJ (purple), IIIIII (purple), HHHHH (purple), GGGGG (purple), FFFFF (purple), EEEEE (purple), DDDDD (purple), CCCCC (purple), BBBBBB (purple), AAAAAA (purple). The center field area is labeled 'McCormick FIELD 1924' with a logo featuring a baseball and stars. The right field area is labeled 'ANGLES PNC AREA'.

Herrera are arguably top 10 prospects in the system and future stars. Sam Mende, Harold Riggins and Taylor Featherston are all 22 years old, a bit high for the level, but all three had strong debuts in 2011 after being drafted last June. All four get to play in Asheville's McCormick Field, which makes high school fields feel PetCo Park, but only Rosell Herrera can truly take advantage of that right field line.

The two catchers in Asheville are worth watching as well, especially Will Swanner, who has tremendous upside. Ryan Casteel has the tools to be on your radar as well.

<u>PARK FACTORS (LHB/RHB)</u>	
<b>K:</b> 95 / 90	<b>GB:</b> 107 / 109
<b>BB:</b> 104 / 106	<b>OF:</b> 104 / 112
<b>1B:</b> 107 / 105	<b>LD:</b> 79 / 75
<b>2B:</b> 125 / 144	<b>IF:</b> 91 / 89
<b>3B:</b> 37 / 72	<b>HBP:</b> 112 / 90
<b>HR:</b> 142 / 139	<b>wOBA:</b> 112 / 116

# Asheville Tourists (A)

## Opening Day Roster



### Starting Pitchers (5)

Player	B/T	Pos	Age	Origin	Contract Status	Options
Alsup, Ben	R/R	SP, RP	23	2011 Draft - 18th round, 17th pick	MiLB - Safe From Rule 5 After 2012	3
Gillingham, Alex	R/R	SP, RP	22	2011 Draft - 11th round, 17th pick	MiLB - Safe From Rule 5 After 2012	3
Jensen, Chris	R/R	SP, RP	21	2011 Draft - 6th round, 17th pick	MiLB - Safe From Rule 5 After 2012	3
Mayo, Vianney	R/R	SP, RP	22	2007 Amateur Free Agent	MiLB - Rule 5 After 2012	3
Winkler, Daniel	R/R	SP	22	2011 Draft - 20th round, 17th pick	MiLB - Safe From Rule 5 After 2012	3

### Relief Pitchers (8)

Player	B/T	Pos	Age	Origin	Contract Status	Options
Bennigson, Craig	R/L	RP	25	2008 Draft - 9th round, 25th pick	MiLB - Rule 5 After 2012	3
Brewer, Russell	R/R	RP	24	2010 Draft - 31st round, 25th pick	MiLB - Safe From Rule 5 After 2012	3
Gonzalez, Nelson	R/R	RP, SP	22	2007 Amateur Free Agent	MiLB - Rule 5 After 2012	3
Hernandez, Jefri	R/R	RP, SP	20	2008 Amateur Free Agent	MiLB - Rule 5 After 2012	3
Parker, Geoff	R/R	RP, SP	23	2010 Draft - 9th round, 25th pick	MiLB - Safe From Rule 5 After 2012	3
Reid, Taylor	R/R	RP	22	2010 Draft - 14th round, 25th pick	MiLB - Safe From Rule 5 After 2012	3
Roberts, Kenneth	L/L	RP	24	2010 Draft - 25th round, 25th pick	MiLB - Safe From Rule 5 After 2012	3
Suarez, Rafael	R/R	RP, SP	22	2006 Amateur Free Agent	MiLB - Free Agency After 2012	3

### Catchers (2)

Player	B/T	Pos	Age	Origin	Contract Status	Options
Casteel, Ryan	R/R	C, DH	20	2010 Draft - 17th round, 25th pick	MiLB - Safe From Rule 5 After 2012	3
Swanner, William	R/R	C	20	2010 Draft - 15th round, 25th pick	MiLB - Safe From Rule 5 After 2012	3

### Infielders (5)

Player	B/T	Pos	Age	Origin	Contract Status	Options
Featherston, Taylor	R/R	2B, SS	22	2011 Draft - 5th round, 17th pick	MiLB - Safe From Rule 5 After 2012	3
Herrera, Rosell	S/R	SS	19	2009 Amateur Free Agent	MiLB - Safe From Rule 5 After 2012 (18)	3
Mende, Samuel	R/R	3B, SS	22	2011 Draft - 31st round, 17th pick	MiLB - Safe From Rule 5 After 2012	3
Riggins, Harold	R/R	1B	22	2011 Draft - 7th round, 17th pick	MiLB - Safe From Rule 5 After 2012	3
Story, Trevor	R/R	SS	19	2011 Draft - 1st round, 45th pick	MiLB - Safe From Rule 5 After 2012	3

### Outfielders (5)

Player	B/T	Pos	Age	Origin	Contract Status	Options
Cleary Jr., Delta	S/R	OF	22	2008 Draft - 37th round, 25th pick	MiLB - Rule 5 After 2012	3
Humphries, Brian	L/R	CF	22	2011 Draft - 14th round, 17th pick	MiLB - Safe From Rule 5 After 2012	3
Kandilas, David	R/R	OF	21	2009 Amateur Free Agent	MiLB - Safe From Rule 5 After 2012 (18)	3
Massey, Tyler	L/L	OF, 1B	22	2008 Draft - 14th round, 25th pick	MiLB - Rule 5 After 2012	3
Simon, Jared	R/R	RF, LF	23	2010 Draft - 6th round, 25th pick	MiLB - Safe From Rule 5 After 2012	3

+ indicates an extra option year has been granted.



## Asheville Tourists

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### SS Trevor Story, 19

(2011, sandwich rd)

#12 (PR), #6 (BA), #8 (BPro), #4 (Sickels)

2011 Rk: .268/.384/.436, 112 wRC+, 210 PA. 41 K, 26 BB, 6 HR, 13 SB.

Much like Nolan Arenado, Trevor Story created buzz about being the steal outside the first round in his pro debut. (Story's numbers are actually better than Arenado's at Casper in 2009). The Ft. Worth native was named the system's top athlete by Baseball America and is the closest to being a true five-tool player on the farm.

He is an above average runner and fielder at his age, exhibits good fundamentals and repeats his line drive swing well. He remains years away but has all the tools to be a starting middle infielder.

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### SS/3B Rosell Herrera, 19

(2009, amateur FA, DR)

#11, #7, #17

2011 Rk: .284/.361/.449, 104 wRC+, 275 PA. 62 K, 27 BB, 6 HR, 5 SB.

Herrera is the owner of the largest signing bonus in franchise history for an international signee. He also can make a scout drool in seconds. He is switch hitter with projectable power, solid plate discipline, a good work ethic and a strong arm. There is superstar potential all over him.

Due to tough hands and instincts, he is very unlikely to stick at shortstop and may end up at third base, or possibly more likely, right field. His left and right hand swings are different, and he has trouble with left-handed pitching, though that may improve with more experience. While standards are likely very high for him, he has been benched in 2012 for failing to run out a ground ball and in 2011 for being upset with losing playing time at shortstop to Trevor Story.

### LHP Tyler Anderson, 24

(2011, 1<sup>st</sup> rd)

#14, #7, #10, #6

The top pick by the Rockies in 2011 still has not made his pro debut. Signing late in the year last season prevented him from getting a start on his career, and he has yet to be assigned a minor league team to begin 2012. Due to off time, this could be to shorten his season and limit his innings, or it could be due to a minor injury. It is likely he is assigned to Asheville first, but that isn't known right now.

Anderson has a plus change-up and decent fastball, slider and curveball already. That should lead to a quick rise through the minors, potentially even seeing AA this season. His polish now should limit him to a mid-rotation role in the majors.

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### RH SP Peter Tago, 19

(2010, 2<sup>nd</sup> rd)

#16, HM

2011 A: 3-5, 7.07 ERA, 90.1 IP, 58 K, 72 BB, 10 HR, 49% GB

The Rockies had a steal in Tago, who was expected to be a first round pick. At least, that is what we were told a year ago. With a low-mid 90's fastball with plus movement, he was given comps to Pedro Astacio on draft day. Rather than shoot up prospect lists as hoped, he is now mostly forgotten.

As one of the very youngest players in the Southern Atlantic League, Tago was completely overmatched. He started decently, but as he met adversity lost confidence. He posted a 2.45 ERA in his first month, followed by 5.92 in June, 6.41 in July and 11.16 in August. Tago stopped throwing strikes and is being held back in Extended Spring Training to start the year.





## C Will Swanner, 20

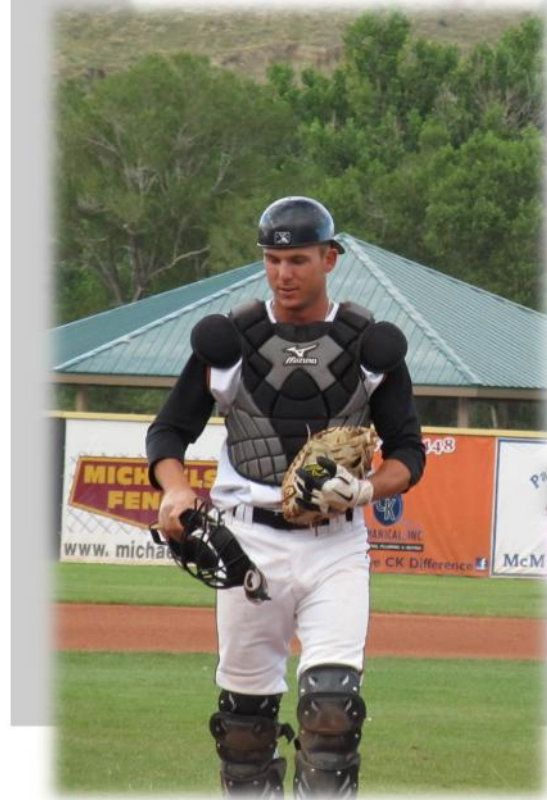
(2010, 15<sup>th</sup> rd)

#21, #19, HM

**2011 Rk:** .264/.357/.553, 120 wRC+, 182 PA. 60 K, 20 BB, 10 HR, 1 SB.

Swanner was the bonus baby in 2010, bought out of a Pepperdine commitment for nearly a half million dollars. He has natural bat speed that translates to exceptional power and has a strong throwing arm. He repeated Casper after showing comically bad plate discipline in 2010 (42.3 K%, 0 BB%) and improved his pitch recognition and discipline considerably, although his power numbers dropped a bit.

He needs to improve his receiving skills to keep that valuable position behind the plate and still needs to improve his plate discipline. Doing so would see him shoot up prospect lists in a hurry with his raw tools.



*Will Swanner (Photo by Andrew T. Fisher)*

## RH SP Albert Campos, 21

(2008, amateur FA, DR)

#23, Sleeper, HM

**2011 A:** 6-4, 5.19 ERA, 86.2 IP, 64 K, 19 BB, 5 HR, 48% GB

**2010 Rk:** 4-4, 2.05 ERA, 88.0 IP, 68 K, 17 BB, 5 HR, 53% GB

I did not bother posting 2010 statistics for any other prospect, but it does tell a story for Campos. Cover the ERA number and his 2010 in Casper and 2011 in Asheville appear nearly identical. He won the Pioneer League Pitcher of the Year Award in 2010, yet his 2011 was largely viewed as a disappointment.

The reason is partly due to McCormick Field, but overall, he had a BABIP of over 80 points higher. A good part of that is likely legitimate in that he faced better hitters, but he doesn't appear to have regressed heavily. He still has the big pro pitcher's body and the stuff. Campos has yet to be assigned a team for 2012.

## RH SP Daniel Winkler, 22

(2011, 20<sup>th</sup> rd)

HM

**2011 Rk:** 4-3, 3.92 ERA, 57.1 IP, 65 K, 19 BB, 6 HR, 52% GB

I saw Winkler pitch once, but I wasn't paying very close attention. No scouting reports have been filed publicly on him, but John Sickels tabbed him as a pitcher to watch. His K/BB and ground ball rates in Casper look good.

## Others

C Ryan Casteel,  
IF Sam Mende,  
1B Harold Riggins,  
IF Taylor Featherston,  
OF David Kandilas  
OF Delta Cleary Jr.,  
OF Tyler Massey



# ELEVEN STORYLINES TO WATCH

- 1) **Nolan Arenado (AA)** – How quickly will he earn the call up?
- 2) **Tyler Matzek (A+)** - Can he recapture his velocity, control and dominance from 2010, or will he be written off as a bust?
- 3) **Chad Bettis (AA)** – Will he continue to silence doubters who expect him to move to the bullpen, or will his lack of offspeed stuff finally force that move in AA?
- 4) **Tyler Anderson (A)** – The 2011 1<sup>st</sup> rounder has yet to make his pro debut.
- 5) **Edwar Cabrera (AA)** - After making A-ball hitters look foolish with his change-up, continued success in AA would help establish stronger prospect value.
- 6) **Kyle Parker (A+)** – If 2011 was Parker’s year to shake off the rust and get used to baseball full-time, 2012 should be the year Parker starts proving he was worth a 1<sup>st</sup> round pick.
- 7) **Josh Rutledge (AA)** – With only one season under his belt, Rutledge is considered a top 10 prospect and possible 2013 starting 2B. 2012 is for backing up that break out.
- 8) **Kent Matthes (AA)** – Like Rutledge, Matthes forced himself into the conversation with a breakout 2011 in Modesto. If he backs up that year in Tulsa, he could be in competition for a 2013 roster spot.
- 9) **Christian Friedrich (AAA)** – After two consecutive poor years at AA, Friedrich needs a very good year to stick in the organization. His second start of the year April 10 was a good start.
- 10) **Hector Gomez (AAA)** – The oft injured toolsy shortstop has no more option year remaining. It is officially this year or never.
- 11) **Trevor Story and Rosell Herrera (A)** – They are 19-year-old shortstops on the same team. How will they do against full season pitching staffs, how will their playing time be split, and how will their youthful bodies change?



*Rosell Herrera (Photo by Andrew T. Fisher)*

