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NEWS RELEASE

FOR 3:00 PM EASTERN RELEASE

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INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE ANNOUNCES 2019 AWARDS & POSTSEASON ALL-STAR TEAM

The International League today announced its Postseason All-Star Team and Award Winners as selected by the circuit's managers, coaches, media, and club representatives. Norfolk first baseman **Ryan Mountcastle**, who leads the League with 153 hits, is the 2019 IL Most Valuable Player. Indianapolis hurler **Mitch Keller**, currently in the Major Leagues with Pittsburgh, is the 2019 IL Most Valuable Pitcher. Another player already making noise in the big leagues is Cincinnati's **Aristides Aquino**, who hit 28 home runs for Louisville and is the IL Rookie of the Year. Rounding out the group of special award winners in 2019 is the IL Manager of the Year **Damon Berryhill**, whose Gwinnett Stripers own the League's best winning percentage.

* *Additional All-Star Bios on Page 2; Complete All-Star Team & Award Winners Listing on Page 3*

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER – Ryan Mountcastle (Norfolk)

Norfolk Tides slugger Ryan Mountcastle is the International League Most Valuable Player for 2019 as well as the first baseman on the circuit's Postseason All-Star Team. In his first season playing above the Double-A level, Mountcastle showed why he is ranked among the game's top prospects by MLB.com and Baseball America. He has ten more hits than anyone else in the IL this season, and is also near the top of the League leaderboard in total bases (1st), doubles (4th), RBI (4th), runs scored (5th), slugging (8th), and batting average (9th). The former Baltimore 1st round draft pick played in the Triple-A All-Star Game in July and may be nearing his debut in the Major Leagues. The 22-year-old Mountcastle is the first Tides player to earn League MVP honors since IL Hall of Famer Roberto Petagine in 1997, and the first Norfolk All-Star first baseman since Oscar Salazar in 2008.

MOST VALUABLE PITCHER – Mitch Keller (Indianapolis)

Mitch Keller is widely considered to be one of the top Pirates prospects, and in his first full season playing above the Double-A level the 23-year-old is the International League Most Valuable Pitcher. Keller went 7-5 with a 3.56 ERA for the Indians this season and has already made an impact at the Major League level, where he picked up his first career victory earlier this month for the Pirates. Despite being in the majors since early August, Keller is just one strikeout shy of the International League lead with 123. His ERA would be good enough for 3rd in the League but he fell short of the required number of innings pitched. Keller twice earned honors as the IL Pitcher of the Week this season. He is the second Indianapolis player in the past three seasons to earn honors as IL Most Valuable Pitcher and starting pitcher on the Postseason All-Star squad, following Steven Brault in 2017.

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR – Aristides Aquino (Louisville)

The 2019 International League Rookie of the Year is Louisville's Aristides Aquino, who is also an outfielder on the Postseason All-Star Team. Entering the season with just one career appearance above the Double-A level (pinch running for the Reds), the 24-year-old Aquino clubbed 28 homers for the Bats this season before the end of July. He earned a promotion to Cincinnati, with whom he hit his first ten MLB home runs faster than any player in history. Despite being gone nearly a month, Aquino's total is tied for the 4th-most long balls in the International League this season. Aquino is the first member of the Bats to be honored as IL Rookie of the Year since Joey Votto in 2007 and the franchise's first Postseason All-Star outfielder since Billy Hamilton in 2013.

MANAGER OF THE YEAR – Damon Berryhill (Gwinnett)

In his third season at the helm in Gwinnett, Damon Berryhill has become the franchise's first ever IL Manager of the Year. Berryhill, 55, has led the Stripers to the brink of a postseason berth and could be closing in on Gwinnett's second South Division title. The Stripers own the League's best record so far this season at 76-56. Gwinnett has allowed the fewest runs in the IL while scoring the third-most. The club has played remarkably consistent baseball at home (39-27) and on the road (37-29). Berryhill was also named Manager of the Year in the Triple-A Pacific Coast League in 2015 with Oklahoma City. The last time a Braves affiliate had a skipper honored as IL Manager of the Year was in 1994 (Grady Little, Richmond).



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In addition to Mountcastle (1B), Aquino (OF), and Keller (SP), nine other players have been named to the International League Postseason All-Star Team. In all, nine IL clubs are represented on the All-Star Team. West Division champion Columbus leads the way with three All-Stars.

☆ **ALL-STAR CATCHER – Eric Haase (Columbus)**

Eric Haase, on the strength of 28 home runs, is the IL All-Star catcher. He made his second straight appearance for the IL in the Triple-A All-Star Game in July where he was honored as the League's Top Star. The 26-year-old has seen action in eleven games at the big league level for Cleveland since 2018. His .526 slugging percentage for the Clippers is among the top ten in the entire League this season. Haase is the first Columbus catcher on the IL Postseason All-Star Team since Jorge Posada (1995-96).

☆ **ALL-STAR SECOND BASEMAN – Jake Elmore (Indianapolis)**

The League's leading hitter so far this season is Jake Elmore of Indianapolis, who is batting .340 while serving as one of the League's most versatile players defensively as a second baseman, shortstop, third baseman, left and right fielder. Elmore's .408 on-base percentage is 3rd in the IL and he is 5th in doubles with 31. The 32-year-old veteran gets the honor of being the second consecutive Indians second baseman to be the IL Postseason All-Star second baseman, following Kevin Kramer.

☆ **ALL-STAR SHORTSTOP – Jake Cronenworth (Durham Bulls)**

The starting shortstop for the IL at the Triple-A All-Star Game is also the Postseason All-Star shortstop. Durham's Jake Cronenworth is 2nd in the League with a .336 batting average in his first full season playing above the Double-A level. The 25-year-old leads the IL with a .427 on-base percentage and has even been a valuable contributor pitching, appearing on the hill seven times without allowing an earned run (7.1 IP). Reid Brignac in 2008 was Durham's most recent Postseason All-Star shortstop.

☆ **ALL-STAR THIRD BASEMAN – Kean Wong (Durham)**

Kean Wong is an IL Postseason All-Star for the second consecutive season. A year ago he was honored as the All-Star utility player, and he was equally versatile this season seeing time at second base, third, and shortstop plus all three outfielder positions for the Bulls. Wong is among the top four players in the League this season in batting average, hits, and triples. Wong, 24, is Durham's first Postseason All-Star third baseman since Russ Canzler in 2011.

☆ **ALL-STAR OUTFIELDER – Brandon Barnes (Columbus & Rochester)**

33-year-old Brandon Barnes is also an IL Postseason All-Star for the second consecutive season. He leads the League for 2019 in RBI and is 2nd in home runs and total bases. After starting in his second straight Triple-A All-Star Game as a member of the Clippers, Barnes was traded from Cleveland to Minnesota in early August, hitting five home runs since joining Rochester. Rochester last had a Postseason All-Star outfielder in 2017, Zack Granite.

☆ **ALL-STAR OUTFIELDER – Adam Duvall (Gwinnett)**

Former MLB All-Star Adam Duvall is among the top three players in the League this season in home runs and RBI while pacing the circuit with a .582 slugging percentage. His 29 long balls represent an all-time record for the Gwinnett franchise. The 30-year-old also has six homers in the majors this season for Atlanta, giving him a total of 93 career round trippers for the Giants, Reds, and Braves. Duvall is the first outfielder from Gwinnett on the IL Postseason All-Star team since Joey Terdoslavich in 2013.

☆ **ALL-STAR DESIGNATED HITTER – Bobby Bradley (Columbus)**

In a record-setting season for home runs in the International League, no one has hit more long balls than Columbus slugger Bobby Bradley's 31. The 23-year-old Bradley also hit his first home run in the Major Leagues earlier in the year for Cleveland during his first taste of action at the game's top level. Bradley's .561 slugging percentage is 3rd in the IL, helping the Clippers become the first team to clinch a playoff spot. Bradley is the club's first IL All-Star designated hitter since Jesus Aguilar in 2015.

☆ **ALL-STAR RELIEF PITCHER – Trevor Kelley (Pawtucket)**

With a League-best twelve saves in 2019, Pawtucket's Trevor Kelley is the IL Postseason All-Star relief pitcher. Kelley has appeared in 49 games, tied for most in the League, posting a 1.90 ERA. The 25-year-old has allowed just 49 hits in 61.2 innings of work with 57 strikeouts. He made his Major League debut for the Red Sox in early July. Kelley is the first member of the PawSox to be named the IL Postseason All-Star relief pitcher since Daryl Irvine in 1991.

☆ **ALL-STAR UTILITY PLAYER – Ryan McBroom (Scranton/Wilkes-Barre)**

27-year-old Ryan McBroom has been selected as the utility player on the Postseason All-Star team. He leads the League in OPS (.970) and runs scored (83) and is 3rd in batting average (.319) for the 1st place RailRiders. McBroom received significant support from voters at first base, where he's played 60 games, as an outfielder, where he's played 39, and as a designated hitter, the position he served for the IL at the Triple-A All-Star Game in July. David Doster in 2002 was SWB's most recent IL All-Star utility player.

