

MINOR LEAGUE REPORT

that I would reach this level,” he says. “I just focused on being able to learn from everybody that I was around, despite the time that I was going to be able to spend around them. I focused on every outing.”

Bell looks at his 20-year-old pitcher and sees promise. It’s exciting, the way Garcia’s repertoire conjures memories of Bell’s former Pirates teammate Doug Drabek. Neither was going to flirt with a third digit on the radar gun, but Bell sees a familiar fastball philosophy, and a great shape to his breaking ball and change-up. Most people, certainly unfairly, go to a different pitcher from Bell’s generation, Pedro Martínez. Another slight Dominican pitcher, Garcia leans into the Pedro comps by wearing a No. 45 on his glove. Whatever his pinstriped jersey eventually reads, it’s going to take time for everything to come together.

But, oh, there are signs. People around the Yankees system talk about his fastball like oenophiles discuss wine: It’s all about the deceptive late notes. “He’s got some finish to his fastball,” Phelps says. Yes, his curveball is outstanding, his change-up better than advertised, and the slider he’s



For Scheer [top, in green jacket], being prepared for anything means heading into the stands to interview Feyereisen’s parents, then sitting and waiting while they watch their son pitch. A RailRiders and *Homegrown* veteran, Feyereisen [above] also leads the post-win clubhouse celebrations.

AROUND THE MINORS

SCRANTON/WILKES-BARRE RAILRIDERS — TRIPLE-A

Ryan McBroom? More like McRake. The 27-year-old has been an offensive force for the RailRiders all season, slashing .323/.402/.564 with 26 doubles, 19 home runs and 49 RBI through his first 98 games. McBroom has split time between first base and the corner outfield spots, providing RailRiders manager Jay Bell with plenty of pop and some versatility. “It’s nice to have him in the middle of the lineup,” Bell said. “When he’s on, when he’s right, there’s not too many people in this league that are any better than he is.”

TRENTON THUNDER — DOUBLE-A

Brian Keller took home the Eastern League’s Pitcher of the Week Award for the week ending Aug. 4 after the right-hander threw a seven-inning no-hitter on Aug. 1. The no-no, which came against Altoona in the first game of a doubleheader, was the sixth in Thunder history and the eighth by an Eastern League team this season. Keller allowed only one walk and needed just 70 pitches, striking out six in the 2-0 Trenton win. Shortly after the hitless performance, Keller was promoted to Triple-A.

TAMPA TARPONS — HIGH-A

Kyle Zurak has put together an impressive season out of the Tarpons’ bullpen, registering a 2.89 ERA through his first 36 games. Tampa’s most heavily used reliever walked 16 and struck out 46 through his first 52 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings, while allowing just two home runs. An eighth-round draft pick in 2017 out of Radford University, Zurak has also picked up eight saves.

CHARLESTON RIVERDOGS — LOW-A

Josh Breaux, the Yankees’ second-round pick in 2018, has enjoyed a strong campaign in Charleston. The catcher has put together a .289/.319/.504 slash line to go along with eight homers and 33 RBI. Outfielder Canaan Smith has continued to open eyes with the RiverDogs. As of Aug. 13, he led the team with a .315 average, .889 OPS and 61 RBI to go along with 39 extra-base hits, nine home runs and 11 stolen bases.

STATEN ISLAND YANKEES — SHORT-SEASON A

Ezequiel Duran has shown some power while playing second base in Staten Island this year. Playing in his first full professional season, Duran led the SI Yanks with 11 doubles, four triples, 10 home runs, 32 RBI, 101 total bases and a .526 slugging percentage through his first 50 games. He has also displayed some speed, leading his team with seven stolen bases to go along with a .271 average.

PULASKI YANKEES — ROOKIE ADVANCED

Ryder Green has done a little bit of everything for Pulaski this season. After 47 games, the center fielder led the team with a .274 average, 37 runs scored and 84 total bases. He was also tied with Roberto Chirinos for the team lead in doubles (12) and had seven homers, 20 RBI and five stolen bases.

GULF COAST LEAGUE YANKEES — ROOKIE

Scoring off southpaw Edgar Barclay has been no easy task in 2019. The GCL Yankees East pitcher owned a 1.59 ERA after eight games and 17 innings. A reliever, Barclay walked five, struck out 16 and held opponents to a .231 average over that span.

—Gary Phillips