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## **Buffalo to Host 2012 Triple-A All-Star Game** *25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of All-Star Game to be Played at Site of First Ever Game – Coca-Cola Field in Buffalo, NY*

The Buffalo Bisons today announced that they will host the **25<sup>th</sup> Annual Triple-A All-Star Game** at Coca-Cola Field during the 2012 season. The game, which features the best players from the International League and Pacific Coast League, returns to Buffalo, NY and coincides with the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of Coca-Cola Field in 1988.

The Buffalo Bisons also announced that New Era Cap has agreed to be a primary sponsor for the 2012 Triple-A All-Star Game. The exact time and date of the game will be announced at a later date, with the release of the 2012 playing schedule.

The first ever Triple-A All-Star game was also played in Buffalo, NY on July 13, 1988. That game was played before a sellout crowd of 19,500 at then-Pilot Field as the American League affiliates defeated the National League affiliated All-Stars, 2-1. The game was also nationally televised on ESPN.

“We are honored to host the milestone game of what has become a marquee event for Triple-A and baseball fans across the country,” said Mike Buczkowski, Vice President/General Manager of the Buffalo Bisons. “The Triple-A All-Star Game represents the best of the best, and we feel it’s only fitting that the game returns to where it all began in its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.”

In the first 23 years, the Triple-A All-Star Game has featured 72 players that have gone on to become MLB All-Stars. That list includes Mike Piazza, Derek Jeter, Chase Utley, Jim Thome, Pedro Martinez, Bernie Williams and Justin Morneau. The 2008 MLB All-Star Game featured 15 former Triple-A All-Stars Game participants.

“It is with a great deal of pride and excitement that we announce the return of the Triple-A All Star Game to Buffalo,” said Randy Mobley, President of the International League. “Back in 1988, the obvious choice to host that first game was the Buffalo Bisons with their outstanding fan support, top notch organization and wonderful new ballpark.

“With the outstanding fan support, top notch organization and wonderful ballpark still in place, there was only one correct place to go for the 25th annual game in 2012.”

Gerry Matos, Senior VP of Marketing at New Era Cap, stated “New Era, the official on-field cap of all of Minor League Baseball and, of course, our hometown Bisons, is thrilled that the International League has chosen Buffalo to host the 25th Annual Triple-A All-Star Game. We’re excited at the prospect of partnering with the Bisons to help roll out the welcome mat and put on a great show in 2012.”

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The 2010 Triple-A All-Star Game is being played at Coca-Cola Park in Allentown, PA, home of the Lehigh Valley IronPigs. The 2011 game will be played at Spring Mobile Ballpark, home of the Pacific Coast League's Salt Lake Bees.

### **About the Triple-A All-Star Game**

The first ever Triple-A All-Star Game was played on July 13, 1988 at then-Pilot Field in Buffalo, NY. In that game, and for the first 10 years of the event, players of the International League, Pacific Coast League and American Association were divided into American League and National League teams according to the parent clubs of the teams they represented. Bisons representatives OF Benny Distefano, C Tom Prince and trainer Carlos Ledezma played for the N.L. team that lost 2-1 to the A.L. In 1988, after the American Association dissolved and its teams joined the IL and the PCL, the All-Star Game teams were divided by International League and Pacific Coast League membership.

## **Triple-A All-Star Game Facts**

### **Bisons Facts**

\*Buffalo has had more participants (55) than any other team in the game's 23-year history. The Bisons have been represented by 44 players (tied for 1<sup>st</sup>, Albuquerque), 2 managers, 5 coaches, 2 trainers and 2 radio broadcasters.

\*Seven Bisons managers have served on All-Star Game staffs. Marty Brown (2005) and Jeff Datz (1999) were the manager of the International League All-Stars while Terry Collins (1990), Brian Graham (1996), Eric Wedge (2002) Torey Lovullo (2006) and Ken Oberkfell (2009) served as coaches for their teams. While manager of Albuquerque, Collins served as the N.L. manager in the 1988 game in Buffalo, NY.

\*Two Bisons players have been named the "Star of Stars" of the game for their league. DH **Luis Lopez** went 3-5 with a double, a home run and four BRI in the A.L.'s 9-0 victory in the 1995 game. DH **Russell Branyan** hit a home run and a double in a 3-5 effort in the PCL's 9-5 victory over the IL in 1999.

\*RHP **Dorn Taylor** (1989, 1990) and INF/OF **Ernie Young** (2004, 2005) represented the Bisons in the Triple-A All-Star game twice.

\*Famous Bisons alumnus of the game include: RHP **Rick Reed**, INF **Carlos Garcia**, OF **Jeromy Burnitz**, OF **Brian Giles**, 1B **Richie Sexson**, OF **David Roberts**, OF **Alex Ramirez**, INF **Bill Selby**, INF **Jhonny Peralta** and C **Ryan Garko**.

\*Three Bisons have hit home runs in the Triple-A All-Star Game: DH **Luis Lopez** (1995), DH **Russell Branyan** (1999) and INF/OF **Jeff Liefer** (2005).

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# **Triple-A All-Star Game Facts**

## **The Game**

\*A sellout crowd of 19,500 saw the first every Triple-A All-Star Game at Pilot Field on July 13, 1988.

\*Over 900 players have played in the Triple-A All-Star Game.

\*72 players have gone from the Triple-A All-Star Game to the MLB All-Star Game, including Derek Jeter, Todd Helton, Jim Thome, Chase Utley, Pedro Martinez, Justin Morneau, Carl Crawford, Chipper Jones, Bernie Williams, Mike Piazza, Adam Dunn, Kenny Lofton, Tino Martinez, and Alfonso Soriano.

\*The 2008 MLB All-Star Game featured 15 players that played in the Triple-A All-Star Game earlier in their career: Joe Crede, Justin Duchscherer, Dan Haren, Corey Hart, Derek Jeter, Chipper Jones, Ian Kinsler, Ryan Ludwick, Nate McLouth, Justin Morneau, Joe Saunders, George Sherrill, Alfonso Soriano, Geovany Soto & Chase Utley.

\*The game has been played in 16 different states since 1988. This will be the third time the game will be played in New York (Buffalo -1988, Rochester -2000).

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