

Rangers Announce 2012 Crawdads Field Staff

Written by Staff Reports

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The Texas Rangers, Major League parent club of the Hickory Crawdads, have announced the 2012 Field Staff for the 'Dads. Returning at the helm will be third-year Field Manager Bill Richardson, accompanied by returning

Pitching Coach Storm Davis. New to the staff this year will be Hitting Coach Josue Perez, and Coach Humberto Miranda. Last year's training and conditioning tandem will return as well in Athletic Trainer Jacob Newburn and Strength and Conditioning Coach Anthony Miller.

Richardson, 51, returns for his third season in Hickory after leading the Crawdads to a First-Half Northern Division Championship in 2011, the first since 2002, as well as the SAL playoffs for the second consecutive season. The Crawdads also finished with a league-best record of 79-58 during the 2011 campaign. Richardson opens the 2012 season as one of Hickory's most accomplished managers all-time, as he holds the third-best winning percentage (.558) in Crawdads history and is second in overall wins (154). This season, Richardson will overtake Tony Beasley as the winningest manager after just twelve more victories. Overall, he enters his sixth season in the Rangers organization, having spent three years with the Arizona League Rangers (Rookie) prior to taking over the reins in Hickory. Before joining the Rangers system, Richardson spent 20 years coaching in the competitive California High School baseball ranks. He and his wife, Lindy, reside in Carmichael, CA.

Davis, 50, returns for his second season in Hickory after a successful 2011 campaign. The 2011 Crawdads pitching staff combined to lead the SAL with 1199 strike outs and also put together the fifth-lowest team ERA at 3.77. Prior to his time with Hickory, Davis spent time as a coach for baseball powerhouse

Bolles Academy in Jacksonville, FL. Davis pitched extensively in the Major Leagues, posting a 113-96 record and a 4.02 ERA in 442 games / 239 starts with Baltimore (1982-86, 1992), San Diego (1987), Oakland (1987-89, 1993), Kansas City (1990-91) and Detroit (1993-94). He was also a member of three World Series Clubs, including two winners - the 1983 Orioles and 1989 Athletics. Davis is a Jacksonville native and resides with his wife, Angie, and five children: daughters Erin and Stephanie and sons Zach, Caleb, and Justin.

Perez, 35, begins his first year with Hickory after six seasons within the Rangers organization. Most recently, Perez held the hitting coach position for Spokane (Short-A) during the past three seasons. Preceding his time in Spokane, Perez held the same position with the Rookie League Arizona Rangers in 2008. Perez played professionally for eight seasons within the Los Angeles (NL), Philadelphia, and Texas farm systems. A native of Havana, Cuba, Perez resides in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. He has two children, daughter Alannys and son Brian.

Miranda, 23, opens the 2012 season with Hickory after coaching as an infield instructor with the Rangers rookie ball team in Surprise, AZ during the spring of 2011. Before coaching within the Rangers organization, Miranda concluded a stellar playing career at Northwood University where he also served as a student assistant.

Newburn, 30, enters his second season with the Crawdads and seventh overall with Texas. Prior to the 2011 season, Newburn spent the 2009 campaign as the athletic trainer for the Bakersfield Blaze, the Rangers former High-A affiliate, and served in the same capacity in Clinton from 2008-09 and Spokane from 2006-07. He graduated from the University of Tulsa

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with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Athletic Training and currently resides in Richardson, TX. Miller, 28, rejoins the Crawdads and the Rangers system for a second year after serving as strength and conditioning coach with the Yakima Bears, Low-A affiliate of the Arizona Diamondbacks, in 2010. He spent the previous two seasons in the Minnesota Twins organization with the New Britain Rock Cats (AA) in 2009 and the Fort Myers Miracle (High-A) in 2008. Miller earned his CSCS with the NSCA in 2007, after graduating from Wartburg College with a degree in fitness management in 2006.

The Crawdads kick off the 20th Anniversary Season on Thursday, April 5 as they travel to Kannapolis to battle the Intimidators. Don't miss The 'Dads 2012 Home Opener on Thursday, April 12 against the Asheville Tourists at L.P. Frans Stadium, where fun happens!

For more information on the Crawdads 2012 Field Staff, visit Hickorycrawdads.com or call the Front Office at (828) 322-3000

Crawdads Clippings: Join the Crawdads for the 2012 Hot Stove Banquet on Monday, Jan. 30 at Rock Barn Golf and Spa. The evening will kick off with a social at 6:15 p.m., before the program and a delicious dinner starting at 7 p.m. The event will be highlighted by a discussion session, featuring former Crawdads pitcher and pitching coach, Dave Lundquist, former pitcher Neil Ramirez, former infielder Josh Bonifay, and former third baseman Chris Mader. In addition to the excellent panel, the Hot Stove will include season previews from area college and high school coaches, a silent auction, and a great dinner prepared by Rock Barn.

Photo Courtesy: Bill Richardson, Hickory Crawdads