

## EXPRESS: WHERE ARE THEY NOW

### TIM McCLASKEY

By the time he signed with the Houston Astros as a free agent in 2003, Tim McClaskey was considered a veteran of the game. But not for his age.

As a 27-year-old, McClaskey pulled into Round Rock three years ago after mowing down batters in the independent Ozark League. *The Ohioan carried with him a 6-2 record that included three complete-game shutouts and 47 strikeouts on just two walks.*

Placing accuracy over speed – his fastball rarely touched 88-mph – McClaskey instantly became known in the Texas League for his ability to control the strike zone. In his first season with the Express, the right-hander posted a 5-4 record with a 4.66 earned run average. He fanned 56 on 16 walks and went on to appear in 34 games for the 2004 Express.

Now a member of the Double-A Reading Phillies, McClaskey 3-6 with a 5.52 ERA, and accuracy is still his staple. He's set down 58 batters on strikes and walked just 18 over 91 and a third innings.



Averly Holton



## GALLIVANTING WITH: SEAMUS GALLIVAN

# HEART GIFT, EXPRESS HELP KEEP SMILES GOING



Robert German and his mom are greeted at The Dell Diamond by Express pitchers Ezequiel Astacio, Wandy Rodriguez, Roberto Giron, and Fernando Nieve.

## FROM THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC TO THE DELL DIAMOND, GOOD SAMARITANS ARE LINING UP AT ROBERT GERMAN'S DOOR.

*The 9-year-old Dominican native had been suffering from a debilitating heart disorder that cramped his youthful spirit and threatened to shorten his life. That's where the Austin-based HeartGift Foundation stepped in.*

HeartGift describes itself as "a non-profit organization that provides life saving heart surgery to disadvantaged children from developing countries where specialized medical intervention is scarce and nonexistent."

Since 1998, the organization has worked out of the Children's Hospital of Austin, enlisting anonymous and corporate angels, along with host families, to help sponsor up to 12 children a year.

A few years back, word of their work spread to Express season ticket holder and local real estate agent Bobby Galvez, a go-to guy for the Latin players who roll through Round Rock.

*"There was an announcement at church one day about a child HeartGift had brought in who happened to be from my country of Honduras," said Galvez. "I went to visit her, and I've been active with them in any way I can since."*

When Galvez heard that Robert German was the latest to have his life saved by HeartGift, he enlisted Express pitchers Wandy Rodriguez, Ezequiel Astacio, & Roberto Giron, all also Dominican natives, to pay the young boy a visit just days after his surgery.

"He realized who they were," said George Frias, whose team from Citizens Insurance raised over \$8,000 for Robert's surgery. "His eyes were glowing."

But Robert wasn't alone in his excitement.

"He loves baseball and wants to be a baseball player, so it was nice," Giron said. "It was exciting for him and for me, too."

And victory was in the air when Robert threw out the first pitch before the Express' 6-3 win over Sacramento on August 1st as he and his new friends in Round Rock were all smiles.

"He was pretty active before, but with his heart condition, he would tire quickly, and his eating was not as good," said Sonya Keeling, Patient Coordinator at HeartGift. "Now, he's able to walk down the hall without tiring, he's eating great, and his color is much better. It's amazing!"

## On Deck: On the Road

|                                       |                   |                                |           |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| TODAY                                 | AT SALT LAKE CITY | 8:00 pm                        | ESPN 1260 |
| WEDNESDAY                             | AT SALT LAKE CITY | 8:00 pm                        | ESPN 1260 |
| THURSDAY                              | AT SALT LAKE CITY | 8:00 pm                        | ESPN 1260 |
| <b>Back Home at The Dell Diamond!</b> |                   |                                |           |
| FRIDAY                                | OKLAHOMA REDHAWKS | 7:05 pm                        | ESPN 1260 |
| August 11                             | Bud Lite          | <b>Friday Fireworks</b>        |           |
| SATURDAY                              | OKLAHOMA REDHAWKS | 7:05 pm                        | ESPN 1260 |
| August 12                             | State Bank        | <b>Nolan Ryan Bobbleheads*</b> |           |
| SUNDAY                                | OKLAHOMA REDHAWKS | 6:05 pm                        | ESPN 1260 |
| August 13                             | Mrs Baird's       | <b>LUNCH BOXES**</b>           |           |
| MONDAY                                | OKLAHOMA REDHAWKS | 7:05 pm                        | ESPN 1260 |
| TUESDAY                               | IOWA CUBS         | 7:05 pm                        | ESPN 1260 |

\* First 3,000 Fans \*\* Kids Under 12

## EVERY HOLTON: NAME TO KNOW

### RYAN THOMPSON



Ryan Thompson has worked in more than 100 games for the Houston Astros' farm system over the past three seasons, but he's stayed under the radar largely because he hasn't made a start and isn't an everyday closer. But the 6-foot-4, 220-pound right-hander continues to put up numbers that are tough to ignore.



Signed as a free agent in 2004, Thompson struck out 109 batters on 19 walks over 107 2/3 innings between Rookie-level Greeneville and Single-A Lexington between 2004-2005.

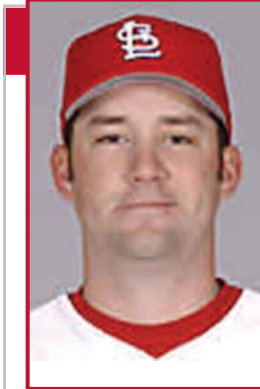
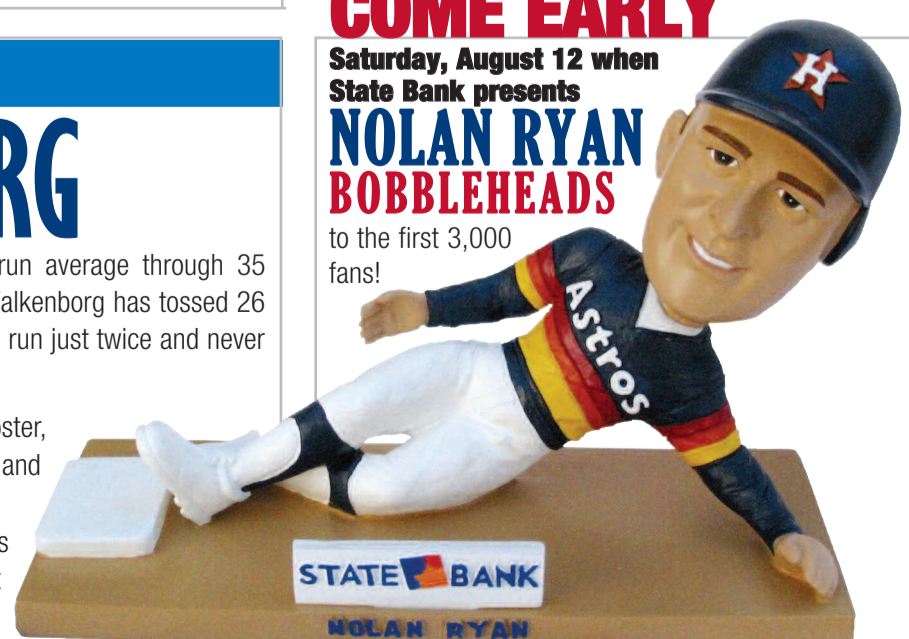
The 24-year-old has proved just as steady with Single-A Salem this year, fanning 54 on 14 walks and trimming a 2.87 earned-run average through 36 relief appearances. By bridging the gap between starter and closer, he's helped the Avalanche to a 25-13 record, which has the team in first place in the Carolina League's Southern Division.

## MIKE CAPPS IN PRINT WILL RETURN NEXT WEEK



## COME EARLY

Saturday, August 12 when State Bank presents **NOLAN RYAN BOBBLEHEADS** to the first 3,000 fans!



## THE PCL SHUFFLE: MICHAEL MADISON

# MEMPHIS REDBIRDS' BRIAN FALKENBORG

Memphis Redbirds' closer Brian Falkenberg is relishing his first season as a full-time closer, leading the Pacific Coast League with 16 saves after being transferred from the starting rotation to the bullpen.

Falkenberg has parts of three different Major League seasons under his belt, including 10 games with the San Diego Padres last season before being traded to the St. Louis Cardinals. The 28-year-old was a starter until the end of the 2004 season, when he was transitioned to the bullpen by the Los Angeles Dodgers – one of five different organizations he has been a part of during his nine-year career.

This season, the right-hander carries a 2.82 earned-run average through 35 appearances, striking out 44 compared to just 10 walks. Falkenberg has tossed 26 scoreless outings for the Redbirds, allowing more than one run just twice and never pitching more than two innings.

During May he got to spend 18 days on the Cardinals roster, pitching in five games to compile a 2.82 ERA with one loss and five strikeouts.

In five games against Round Rock this season Falkenberg is 1-1 with two saves and 6.00 ERA, his worst numbers against any Pacific Coast League other than the Portland Beavers.