



# TRIPLE-A BASEBALL NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 25, 2009

## UMPIRES ANNOUNCED FOR CRICKET WIRELESS TRIPLE-A ALL-STAR GAME

Triple-A Baseball announced today that the Pacific Coast League's Mike Muchlinski and Shawn Rakos and the International League's Mike Estabrook and R.J. Thompson will be the umpires for the Cricket Wireless Triple-A All-Star Game held at PGE Park in Portland, Oregon on July 15.

Behind the plate will be **Mike Muchlinski** of the Pacific Coast League. The Bothell, Washington resident is in his seventh season in the PCL and eleventh season overall as a professional umpire. Before he joined the PCL he worked in the Arizona, Midwest, Northwest, Carolina, Eastern, and Arizona Fall Leagues. Muchlinski has spent time in the Major Leagues each season since 2006 and he worked the 2006 World Baseball Classic.

First base will be manned by **Mike Estabrook** of the International League. The Lambertville, New Jersey resident is in his fourth season in the IL and eleventh season overall as a professional umpire. Before he joined the IL he was assigned to the Gulf Coast, New-York Penn, South Atlantic, Florida State, Southern, and Arizona Fall Leagues. Estabrook has spent time in the Major Leagues each season since 2006.

**Shawn Rakos** of the Pacific Coast League will be at second base. The Orting, Washington resident is in his seventh season with the PCL and 12<sup>th</sup> season overall as a professional umpire. Prior to the PCL, he worked in the Arizona, Northwest, Midwest, Carolina, California, Texas, and Arizona Fall Leagues. He has filled in at the Major League level this year and the past two seasons. Rakos was a member of the umpire crew for the 2007 Triple-A All-Star Game in Albuquerque.

At third base will be **R.J. Thompson** of the International League. He is in his tenth season as a professional umpire and has been with the IL since 2005. Prior to the IL, the Jonesborough, Tennessee resident was in the Gulf Coast, Appalachian, South Atlantic, California, Southern, and Arizona Fall Leagues. He has spent time in the Major Leagues this season and in 2008.

\*\*\*\*\**DID YOU KNOW*\*\*\*\*\*

*24 umpires that have worked the Triple-A All-Star Game have gone on to full time jobs as a Major League umpire. The full list includes: C.B. Bucknor (1998), Gary Cederstrom (1989), Terry Craft (1988), Fieldin Culbreath (1994), Phil Cuzzi (1991), Kerwin Danley (1993), Bruce Dreckman (1997), Doug Eddings (1996), Mike Everitt (1998), Andy Fletcher (1998), Marty Foster (1999), Greg Gibson (1999), Brian Gorman (1992), Angel Hernandez (1991), Ed Hickox (1990), Jerry Meals (1992), Chuck Merriwether (1989), Paul Nauret (1996), Jeff Nelson (1996), Brian O'Nora (1993), Tony Randazzo (1997), Charlie Reliford (1990), Rich Rieker (1991), and Larry Vanover (1990).*

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