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THREE GRIZZLIES EARN POSTSEASON AWARDS

Richards named to Postseason All-Star team, Brook takes home Manager of the Year

Sauget, IL (September 3, 2023) – The Gateway Grizzlies are proud to announce that three members of the organization have won postseason awards as voted on by members of the league’s coaching staffs, front office staffs, and members of the local media. Jairus Richards has been named to the Postseason All-Star team in the outfield, while Steve Brook has been named Frontier League Manager of the Year, and Matt Mooney takes home Frontier League Clubhouse Manager of the Year honors.

Jairus Richards has put together a record-setting season for the Grizzlies at the plate. Entering Sunday’s action, the Gig Harbor, Washington native is batting .340 with a .472 on-base percentage, 16 home runs, 56 RBIs, and 82 runs scored in 89 games. He also has set a new Frontier League single-season record with a league-leading 75 stolen bases, a whopping 25 more than the player currently holding second place, and topping the previous mark of 71 which had stood for over a decade. The speedster ranks third among qualifying hitters in the league in batting average and on-base percentage, while placing fifth in runs scored. Also possessing one of the best outfield arms in the circuit, Richards has recorded 10 outfield assists defensively, and since the all-star break has batted leadoff, setting the table for the Grizzlies’ offense.

The author of the Grizzlies incredible turnaround from 47-49 one season ago to a 58-win season and a West Division Championship in 2023, **Steve Brook** is voted the Roger Hanners Award winner as the Frontier League’s Manager of the Year, the first time in his storied, 12-year managing career that he has won the honor. The longtime Frontier Leaguer as a player, coach, and manager is in his second season with the Grizzlies after a long and successful tenure across town with the River City Rascals, and has skippered the club to its first playoff appearance and division title since 2012 along with their first winning season since 2014 this year. He has also moved into third place all-time in league history in wins by a manager this season, with 647 entering the regular season finale tonight.

One of the most-experienced and hardest-working staff members of any organization across the league, **Matt Mooney** takes home his third Sam Hartsfield Award this year as the Frontier League Clubhouse Manager of the Year. He is completing his 16th season in the circuit as a “clubbie” in 2023, having started with the River City Rascals from 2007-12 before spending 2013-21 as the clubhouse manager for the Southern Illinois Miners, with whom he was voted the 2013 and 2017 Clubhouse Manager of the Year. Like Brook, this is his second season in Sauget with the Grizzlies, taking care of both the Grizzlies and their opponents’ needs at Grizzlies Ballpark before and after games while also coordinating the club’s travel schedule and much more.

The West Division Champion Grizzlies conclude their regular season schedule tonight at Grizzlies Ballpark with a rubber contest against the Lake Erie Crushers at 6:05 p.m. CT with the annual Greatest Night in Baseball celebration featuring 27 giveaways for 27 outs that every fan in the ballpark is eligible to win. **Parker Johnson** will get the start for the Grizzlies on the mound against Lake Erie’s Jonaiker Villalobos before the club enters postseason play for the first time in 11 years this week.

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The Gateway Grizzlies are a professional baseball team, located a mere 10 minutes from downtown St. Louis in Sauget, Illinois. The Grizzlies offer baseball fans affordable, family fun at Grizzlies Ballpark with a great view of the St. Louis skyline. They have also won two Frontier League Organization of the Year Awards, four West Division titles, and the 2003 Frontier League Championship. For tickets or general information, please visit gatewaygrizzlies.com or call (618) 337-3000.

The Frontier League debuted in 1993, and is the largest of the Major League Baseball Partner Leagues, featuring teams stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River, and from the Ohio River to the St. Lawrence Seaway. More information and the complete 2023 schedule can be found at frontierleague.com.