



PLAYER FEATURE - *Trey Gibson*

Trey Gibson was one out away from ending a memorable night in his home state.

Down at The Diamond in Richmond, about an hour from his hometown of Yorktown, Gibson had already fired 6.2 shutout innings in the second game of a doubleheader and needed one more out to secure a Baysox win.

With the count 3-2 on Richmond's Jairo Pomares, Gibson shook off his fastball and opted for his curveball instead. The 6'5", 240-pound right-hander took a deep breath, rocked, and threw.

Foul tip. Strike three. Game over.

It marked the first complete game shutout of his career—just one hit allowed, six strikeouts, and a night he won't forget.



"It was special," Gibson said. "Tons of family and friends there. It's a stadium I've pitched at before in my lifetime, but it was just a special night overall knowing that I had a lot of family there."

It would be the start of a dominant month of July for the Orioles' No. 19 prospect. His performance against the Flying Squirrels earned him Eastern League Pitcher of the Week honors. He won the award again on July 28, after delivering seven shutout innings and eight strikeouts in Altoona three days earlier.

The right-hander finished July with a 1.23 ERA in 22 innings, racking up 28 strikeouts to just six walks.

"The past month or so I've been working with [pitching coach] Jordie Henry on my sinker," Gibson said. "I've been getting several two-pitch outs on that pitch, a lot of ground balls, and many uncomfortable swings from right-handed hitters on it. I feel good about the direction that my sinker is headed."

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RAPPAPORT
CULTIVATING PLACES

Signed by the Orioles as an undrafted free agent out of Liberty in August 2023, Gibson has emerged as a breakthrough performer in the Orioles system this year. His 126 strikeouts between High-A Aberdeen and Double-A Chesapeake lead all Orioles minor league pitchers and rank third in the Minors overall.

Much of that success comes from his deep mix of offspeed pitches. He leans heavily on his curveball, sweeper, and death ball to complement his fastball and cutter. The death ball is a unique slider with more vertical drop than the traditional slider that works more horizontally.

"It's the same grip as my curveball," Gibson said. "I just throw it without turning over my wrist. I'm trying to kick the axis of the ball slightly down, so it gets some downward movement. Luckily, I can throw it decently hard, and I can throw it at any time."

While his teammates and coaches know him as Trey, Gibson's given name is Richard.

"I'm the third Richard in my family," he said. "I've just been called Trey my entire life. I don't really know how or why it started."

Does anyone actually call him Richard?

"No. Unless you're trying to get under my skin," Gibson laughed.

Triple-A Norfolk sits just 40 miles away from his family in Yorktown—but Gibson isn't looking too far ahead just yet.

"I have to look at every day as a new day and try and keep building on the previous day," he said. "You can't think too much into the future because this game can humble you fast."

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