



# EXCLUSIVE: NY BOULDERS PLAYERS MEET THE MEDIA

BY: Keith S. Shikowitz, Editor in Chief/Investigative Reporter

The major league baseball season is already a month old, but the Frontier League season is ready to begin. The NY Boulders season is kicking off on May 7 against the Brockton Rox after an exhibition game against the NYPD on Saturday May 2, at 6 pm.



Clover Stadium Field

Today the media had the opportunity to talk to the players at Clover Stadium. I had the honor to speak with four players and the Manager TJ Stanton.

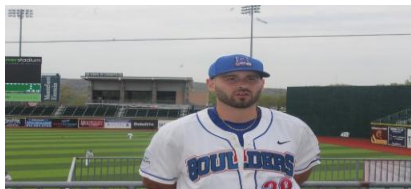
The Boulders are starting the season with 15 pitchers, might go down to 14, 2 catchers, 4 infielders, and 5 outfielders.

Jason Agresti one of the two catchers, also plays first base. He is sort of local, born and raised in Westchester, but lives Stamford Ct. now.

“This was something I wanted to do my whole life, be a baseball player, going back to, kindergarten even pre-K. I played in middle school high school and stuff like that, college and all the way through as a catcher and first baseman and now at the professional level. As I've gotten older I've navigated my way over to first base. I'm about to be 30.”

When people play more than one position, they have their preferred position.

Which position does Agresti prefer, catcher or first base?



Jason Agresti

“I've been playing catch the most. I coach catchers in the offseason, but first base is definitely something that I've done throughout the years and there are a lot of skills from the catcher position that translate very easily to the first base position.” Agresti said.

And what are some of those skills that translate for him?

“First and foremost, catching the ball. Well, and it's a much easier catch over at first base. That's for sure. You don't need to worry about framing it, keeping it a strike. You've just got to secure it and the bat coming around and hopefully not knocking you in the head.” He explained. Yeah, that too, that too, a little bit safer as well.

I related some of my own experiences when I was playing ball as a teen. Yeah, when I was playing, I pitched, I like that part of the battery. I tried to catch it once when the bat knocked me in the back of the head. Luckily I was wearing a helmet. I said that's it. I'm done.

“It's not comfortable, not comfortable, yeah.” He agreed.

He feels it is fantastic playing in the local area. “I've been in the local area for a number of years now. I actually started my career, with the Rockland Boulders, when they were the Rockland Boulders in 2018, and it's special to me because it's nice to see my family in the stands and they're able to come out and support all the time. That's something that continues to drive me. It's one of the more important things to me, so to have that is very special.”

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We always hear about players getting injured. Agresti has been lucky in that area. He has had some injuries, but as he said, nothing crazy. I've had some hand fractures throughout the years, but nothing that was too serious or impactful.

He was very enthusiastic about the fans at Clover Stadium.

<https://youtu.be/o8SsbyQllmw>

His family comes to watch him play when he is home. They don't normally travel with him to away games. They are here in Stamford and they're able to take a nice midweek or weekend trip down here and watch a game.

Being away from home a lot can put a strain on the player and their family. “I'm used to it at this point, you know, my wife and I have been together for a while. My family and I have obviously been together for a while, they know how it goes, and it's just a short trip. It's a business trip.”

TJ Stanton, from Port St. Lucie in Florida, where the Mets do their spring training, and has been living in Canada for the past 10 years, is the manager of the New York Boulders.

You've got a pretty big pitching roster there, 15 pitchers. That's a lot of pitchers.

“Yeah, we have 15 listed in camp right now. We actually are planning on going into season with about 14. We have a lot of quality arms.” Stanton stated.

That means that more than half of the team is pitchers. Are any of the pitchers that you have who are utility players that can play other positions?

No, in fact, we're going into the season with 10 or 11 position players. We have great, great versatility, so our position players can play multiple positions all over the place. It's a lot like constructing it. We do it a lot like Little League All-Stars where the infield is full of shortstops and the outfield is full of center fielders.

"We call the stadium in Port St. Lucie; Little Clover and this one is big Clover."

This is your 6th year as manager, "I took over in 2021. That was the transition, from the Can Am League to the Frontier League, the first year was that year. I managed against the Boulders, prior to that when I was with Trois Riviere in Canada."

What differences do you see in the Can Am League and the Frontier League?



Manager TJ Stanton

"Well, right off the bat, the Can Am League, had different rules for roster construction than the Frontier League, where the Can Am League would say we want about one quarter of our roster under the age of 26 and 3 quarters over the age of 26. The Frontier League switches that and, with 3 quarters of our roster under 26 years old and then we have that big chunk or that smaller chunk of higher experience but the biggest difference that we do that in the Frontier is because that 26 and under is the group that gets signed the most by affiliated baseball so the Frontier League is very focused on producing players that supplement affiliated baseball and we've been very, very successful here and the biggest difference I think is that in the Can Am.

<https://youtu.be/dxhIRe6yvWI>

He lost a third of a 25-man roster. A big chunk of his cell phone contacts that are in high A right now.

With that, what does he see as the team's strengths this season?

"Going into this year we loved where we finished up last year and it was very important that we kept that core together and then supplemented it with more and we managed to do that we, we finished with a great group last year we kept that together and then, we supplemented it with starting pitching, bullpen, and positional players, and, honestly right now we, we like where everything where our rotation is at, where our lineup is at. I rest easy knowing that we have elite defenders. We're going to play fantastic

defense, and we have an out we have a very, very good bullpen. We have a 6-man pitching rotation in a 106-game season.

Are there any areas that might need a little tweaking, a little improvement?

"Well, our philosophy," Stanton said, "is always kind of in that way and what we think what we have right now is very solid. It's impossible to know until we get it out there in the water to see where the leaks are. It, there's no way to know where the leaks are until you get in the water. We do love that we can rest easy knowing we have elite defenders and an elite bullpen. Everything else, you know, we like where it's at and we gotta build up. We love knowing that we have those two things.

He spoke about a number of homegrown talents who I had the honor of interviewing beginning with Jack Scanlon.

Jack Scanlon, a Sloatsburg native is one of the two catchers for the New York Boulders. How does he feel about playing at home?

"Oh man, it's...I played here last year. You take it for granted for me out of high school I went out west and played in Oregon, far away from family, and then I transferred to University of Miami, but there's nothing better than being at home when mom's cooking meals for you, she's helping you do your laundry, and seeing my family in the stands all the time. I mean, they're my support, they're my rocks, and I get to play baseball, the thing I love to do and to see them in the stands, it means the world to me."

How much more of a push does it give him when he knows his family's sitting in the stands watching him?

"Oh, it means everything. They're awesome. They've been to almost every single game they could have made to my college career, and they don't skip a beat here. Luckily it's easy for them. They don't have to get in a plane. They just take a 15-minute car ride, but it means everything to me. They have allowed me to continue to play. They instill confidence in me every day. When I see them in the stands, I give them a look. I give them some love. I'm blessed. I can't say anything but great things. It even chokes me thinking about it."



Jack Scanlon

<https://youtu.be/KyZBDPvLr-4>

What's your Greatest moment the moment that stands out the most in your mind as a catcher?

"Oh man, I'm just going to go, recently, last year we had Mason Olsen, you know, out and threw 9 innings and let up only 1 hit, and to be a part of that. To call the game for him and to see all of his work and his

Preparation come out onto the mound and really be able to execute a plan that was awesome. But also, every time I get to catch these guys it's a privilege. I take it as a blessing. I thank the good Lord and honestly it's a blessing and a privilege to be back there every day."

He added, "I've had injuries, but it comes with the position, comes with the game, and hopefully, you keep yourself in, in tip top shape to, to avoid them, but let's see, hopefully nothing, fingers crossed, you know. It's an honor to play for my, for my hometown and, you know, and just continue to play the game that I love.

The cutest and ruffest interview I had all day was with Conner Godwin, right-handed pitcher, first year with the Boulders and his dog Jerry.



Conner Godwin and Jerry

What are you looking forward to? Oh, just playing, man. I want to get a lot of innings this year, so any baseball is going to be a good time. Last year I was in the Dodgers in single low A ball. I had some good stretches, bit of a rough year. I was coming back from two years of rehab, and I had some command struggles. I had a bone fracture, and then a second surgery to go in and fix what the first surgery didn't really right, so that sucks. It happens. Everybody says his best pitch is probably his slider that grades out. "I would guess probably depends on the hitter though.

<https://youtu.be/mgvsfJm2494>

Dan Tauken local boy, native of Congers, who grew up in Congers. Tell me a little bit about yourself, your background, where you played ball and how you ended up here, and then we'll go from there.



Dan Tauken

"All right, let's, see, I grew up in Congress, New York, went to Rockland Community College. Then, after one year there, I went to University of Albany for a year and then entered the transfer portal, went to Murray State for 2 years and ended up here after we made a run to the College World Series last year and then I played in the draft league and then now I'm here. I play outfield, left and right field and then first base, So this is my first year actually playing professional ball.

<https://youtu.be/ngiC7LcA508>

The Boulders are beginning their 15<sup>th</sup> season here in Rockland County and the fans as are really looking forward to a great season. They are having an exhibition game this Saturday May 2, 2026, against the NYPD game starts at 6:00 pm.