

# Top-10 Players of the Decade (2000-09)

The first decade of the 21st Century was a great one for the Boise Hawks Baseball Club - two Northwest League championships, four East Division titles, a bevy of future Major League talent that played on the Memorial Stadium grounds. However, after polling Hawks staff, members of the media, and the fans, it is time to reveal the third Top-10 of the Decade...the Top-10 Boise Hawks Position Players from 2000-09

## 10. Chris Walker (2002/2003)

Spent two seasons roaming the Hawks outfield, using his speed to become one of the best fielding centerfielders in franchise history. In his rookie season, the Georgia Southern product hit .247, but stole 25 bases, helping the squad to the NWL Championship. A year later, he returned to learn the art of switch-hitting, hitting .235, but swiping 25 bags. He spent four more seasons in the Cubs organization, earning Florida State League all-star honors in 2005. After spending the 2008 season with the Angels AAA affiliate in Salt Lake City, Walker has spent the last two years with Camden in the independent Atlantic League.



'02/'03 HAWKS	128 G .242	1 HR 32 RBI,	12 2B 2 3B 50 SB
MINORS CAREER	850 G .268	26 HR 295 RBI,	105 2B 51 3B 317 SB
MLB CAREER	*** Has not made his MLB Debut ***		

## 9. J.J. Johnson (2001)



Was an everyday outfielder for the first Hawks team from the Chicago Cubs organization and proved to be a fan favorite. Hit .317 with 15 doubles, five triples, seven home runs, and 61 RBI - stealing 18 bases along the way, helping the Hawks to the East Division pennant. He would slowly rise through the Cubs system, spending two years in Lansing (Low-A) and two years in Daytona (High-A), along with one season in the Phillies system in 2006 (advancing as high as AA), before retiring.

'06 HAWKS	70 G .317	7 HR 61 RBI,	15 2B 7 3B 18 SB
MINORS CAREER	678 G .266	45 HR 378 RBI,	126 2B 35 3B 62 SB
MLB CAREER	*** Did not play in the Major Leagues***		

## 8. Brian Dopirak (2003)

The Florida high-schooler played for one of the worst Hawks teams in franchise history, but had a memorable season in Boise. Though he hit just .240 with 58 strikeouts in 52 games, the slugger hit 13 home runs and had 37 RBI - including a few monster long balls, earning NWL all-star honors. A year later, he was the Cubs Minor League Player of the Year after hitting 39 homers and 120 in Lansing, but was released by the Cubs in 2007. His career was resurrected in the Blue Jays organization, where he had a monster 2009, hitting a combined .317 with 27 homers and 102 RBI at AA New Hampshire and AAA Las Vegas. He is on the Blue Jays 40-man roster and is the starting first-baseman with Las Vegas.



'03 HAWKS	52 G .240	13 HR 37 RBI	4 2B
MINORS CAREER	2819 G .279	148 HR 558 RBI,	188 2B
MLB CAREER	*** Has not made his MLB Debut ***		



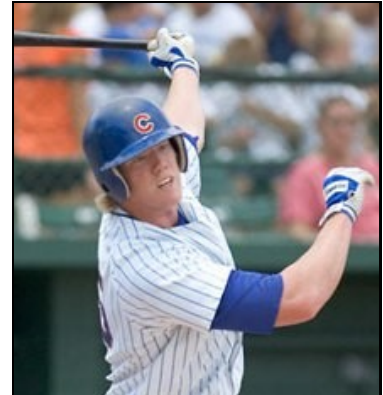
## 7. Lou Montanez (2004)

The former first-round pick of the Cubs in 2000 advanced as high as Advanced-A as an infielder, before the parent club moved the right-handed hitter to the outfield. Learning the craft in Boise, he earned midseason and post-season all-star honors in leading the Hawks to the NWL championship, hitting .297 with 15 doubles, seven triples, eight homers, and 48 RBI. Following the 2006 season, he was signed by the Baltimore Orioles and had a monster 2008, hitting .335 with 26 homers and 97 RBI - making his MLB debut late that summer. He has appeared in 82 games over the last three years with the big league club, hitting four homers with 21 RBI.

'04 HAWKS	72 G	.297	8 HR	48 RBI,	15 2B	7 3B	5 SB
MINORS CAREER	1011 G	.284	85 HR	508 RBI,	217 2B	39 3B	89 SB
MLB CAREER	82 G	.227	4 HR	21 RBI,	11 2B	1 3B	1 SB

## 6. Ryan Harvey (2004)

One of the more imposing players in Hawks history, the five-tool player is still a name that pops up at Memorial Stadium. During the run to the 2004 NWL championship, he hit .264 with 14 home runs and 43 RBI, winning the NWL All-Star Game home run derby. In the NWL championship series against Vancouver, he hit four home runs in the three-game series, while earlier in the season, hit a long ball vs. Everett that cleared the Memorial Stadium scoreboard in left. He spent four more seasons in the Cubs organization, while spending the last two years with AA Tulsa in the Colorado Rockies system. He has hit 110 career minor league homers.



'04 HAWKS	58 G	.264	14 HR	43 RBI,	8 2B	2 SB
MINORS CAREER	597 G	.245	110 HR	414 RBI,	120 2B	8 3B 22 SB
MLB CAREER	*** Has not made his MLB Debut ***					

## 5. Russ Canzler (2006)

After spending two seasons at rookie level Mesa, he had one of the best seasons by a Hawks' player in franchise history, hitting .264 with a club-record 16 home runs and 61 RBI, earning NWL all-star honors as a designated hitter, helping the squad to an East Division pennant. Since that memorable season, he has not reached his homer total in any of his three seasons at a long-season affiliate and begins his second full year as a utility player at AA Tennessee.

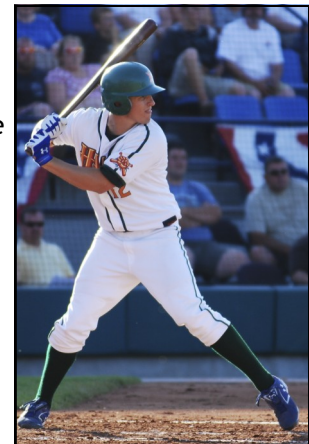


'06 HAWKS	49 G	.264	16 HR	61 RBI,	22 2B	4 3B	7 SB
MINORS CAREER	515 G	.268	46 HR	264 RBI,	109 2B	15 3B	31 SB
MLB CAREER	*** Has not made his MLB Debut ***						

## 4. Josh Vitters (2007/2008)

One of four first-round picks as part of the 2008 Hawks, he lived up to the hype, which has him ranked as one of the top-three prospects in the Cubs farm system. Although he hit just five home runs and knocked in 37, the third-baseman earned NWL All-Star honors by hitting .328 with 25 doubles - while recording a 25-game hitting streak, the second-longest in the history of the NWL. He hit .284 with 18 homers and 68 RBI last year in A-ball and begins 2010 in the Florida State League with Daytona.

'07/08 HAWKS	68 G	.313	5 HR	39 RBI,	25 2B	2 3B	1 SB
MINORS CAREER	227 G	.287	26 HR	122 RBI,	55 2B	5 3B	6 SB
MLB CAREER	*** Has not made his MLB Debut ***						







### 3. Josh Donaldson (2007)

The catcher broke onto the scene in Boise in July of his rookie year, playing quality defense, while hitting .346 with nine home runs and 35 RBI. He did not have long in the Cubs organization, as midway through the 2008, was traded to Oakland as part of a six-player deal that gave Chicago Rich Harden. After an outstanding 2009 season at AA Midland, where he had nine homers and 91 RBI, began the 2010 season at AAA Sacramento, before receiving his first MLB call up earlier this year to the Athletics - where his first big league hit was a home run.

'07 HAWKS	49 G	.346	9 HR	35 RBI,	11 2B	2 3B	2 SB
MINORS CAREER	305 G	.279	37 HR	207 RBI,	81 2B	5 3B	
MLB CAREER	4 G	.091	1 HR	2 RBI			

### 2. Tyler Colvin (2006)

The first-round pick out of Clemson was a big part of the Hawks Eastern Division pennant winning club, hitting .268 with 11 home runs and 53 RBI. He had a torrid August, capped by a stretch of six home runs in five days, including a rare inside-the-park grand slam. After a pair of injury-plagued seasons in his climb through the Cubs system, he hit .300 with 14 homers last year with AA Tennessee - getting a September call-up by the Cubs. After hitting .445 this spring, he made the Opening Day roster for the Cubs and has hit three home runs already in 2010 for Chicago.

'06 HAWKS	64 G	.268	11 HR	53 RBI,	12 2B	6 3B	12 SB
MINORS CAREER	442 G	.277	56 HR	274 RBI,	92 2B	31 3B	44 SB
MLB CAREER	31 G	.254	3 HR	9 RBI,	3 2B	1 3B	



### 1. Micah Hoffpauir (2002)

As part of the middle of a line-up that gave the Hawks the 2002 NWL pennant, he had a breakout season as the designated hitter, hitting .301 with ten homers and 41 RBI, earning NWL all-star honors. By 2004, he made his first appearance at AAA Iowa and has spent part of the next seven years with the I-Cubs, hitting 102 career homers. He made his big league debut in May of 2008 and over the next two seasons hit 12 homers and knocked in 43 runs for the Cubs. Is currently playing at AAA Iowa.

'02 HAWKS	60 G	.301	10 HR	41 RBI,	10 2B	3 3B	2 SB
MINORS CAREER	724 G	.283	102 HR	504 RBI,	165 2B	20 3B	15 SB
MLB CAREER	138 G	.264	12 HR	43 RBI,	20 2B	1 3B	2 SB

Other pitchers that just missed the Top-10 included Brad Bouras, Brad Downing, Syketo Anderson, Kevin Collins, Ryan Norwood, Tony Thomas, Kyler Burke, Ryan Flaherty, Hak-Ju Lee, and Logan Watkins. Special thanks to Julie Takeuchi and Scott McDaniel for the archived photos of Hawks players. Here's to another outstanding decade of Boise Hawks Baseball in HawksTown U.S.A.

