

Player Feature

Domenic Mazza

Augusta, GA-It is always a dream come true for a player to be drafted as it is a major step forward in the path to reaching the Major Leagues. However, when a player is drafted by his favorite team growing up, it can be extra special. Domenic Mazza grew up in the Bay Area as a Giants fan and in 2015, was drafted by his favorite team.

“My family was ecstatic, they were all extremely happy that they did not have to buy new gear for a different team,” said Mazza. “My grandparents have been season ticket holders for a long time so we have a lot of Giants in our family.”

Mazza was immediately successful after signing, he was originally assigned to the Giants AZL Rookie League team where he made eight appearances and was 3-0 with a 1.27 ERA before being called up to the Short Season Salem-Keizer Volcanoes. He did not allow a single run in his two appearances in Salem.

After beginning the 2016 season in Extended Spring Training, he was assigned to the GreenJackets on June 11. He made 14 starts last season and was 8-3 with a 3.93 ERA. He returned to the GreenJackets for the start of the 2017 season and has so far been able to improve his numbers. He is so far 5-6 on the season with a 3.11 ERA.

“Two very different teams but fun both years,” he said when comparing both seasons in Augusta. “It is good to get to know all the guys. I am happy with the way we are playing now. We played pretty well last year. It was fun to be a part of a winning team like that and have a run at the end. We are turning it around in the second half here too so hopefully we can make a fun run at the playoffs this year.”

He made history on Tuesday April 25 when he threw the first ever nine inning perfect game in SAL history in a 9-0 GreenJackets victory over the Lexington Legends. He continued his dominance against the Legends on May 15 when he gave up only one run in seven innings pitched. He followed that up with seven innings of shutout ball against the Rome Braves on May 27. In his following start on June 2, he returned to Whitaker Bank Ballpark in Lexington where he had previously pitched his perfect and went the distance a second time in a 2-1 GreenJackets loss.

His solid performances earned him the opportunity to represent the South Atlantic Southern Division in this year's All-Star Game in Columbia. He was one of two GreenJackets to participate in the game with Kelvin Beltre being the other. He came on in relief to pitch a perfect third inning which included two strikeouts. The game ultimately ended in a 3-3 tie when it was called after the seventh inning due to inclement weather.

“I just kind of looked at it as coming out of the bullpen and having a bullpen session in between one of my starts,” he said on his approach to his inning in the All-Star Game. “It was an honor for me and Kelvin to be invited. “It was awesome to get out there and get to know some guys on other teams and learn about some of the different organizations.”

Since the All-Star Game, he has not allowed an earned run having pitched 16 consecutive scoreless innings in two post-all-star-game starts. On July 2, he threw his third complete game and second complete game shutout when he allowed only two hits in an 11-0 GreenJackets victory over the Charleston RiverDogs.