

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2009**  
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### **TOM NIETO NAMED RED WINGS MANAGER**

The Minnesota Twins today named Tom Nieto manager of the Rochester Red Wings. The 49-year-old Nieto was the manager for Double-A New Britain in 2009.

Nieto will enter his 10<sup>th</sup> year as a minor league manager, his second in the Twins organization and his first season in Triple-A. The 2010 season will mark his 19<sup>th</sup> year as a Major League coach, or minor league manager/instructor. Nieto, a catcher, put together a seven-year Major League career (1984-1990), including two seasons with the Twins (1987 & 1988). A 3<sup>rd</sup> round pick of the St. Louis Cardinals in 1981, Nieto spent time with the St. Louis Cardinals (1984 & 1985), Montreal Expos (1986), Minnesota Twins (1987 & 1988) and Philadelphia Phillies (1989 & 1990), batting .205 with five home runs and 69 RBI in 251 Major League games.

The Land O'Lakes, FL resident concluded his playing days with the organization that drafted him (St. Louis Cardinals) playing for the Double-A Louisville Redbirds in 1991 batting .263 in just 17 games.

Nieto began his coaching career with the Cincinnati Reds Double-A affiliate, Chattanooga in 1992. After just one season in Chattanooga, Nieto received his first managerial job at Single-A Charleston in 1993 & 1994. After the 1994 season Nieto was named a coach at Double-A Norwich. He would spend the 1995 & 1996 seasons in Norwich before taking over as manager of Single-A Greensboro, where he spent the 1997 & 1998 seasons. In 1997 he was named Best Managerial Prospect in the South Atlantic League by Baseball America. In 1999 Nieto was named manager at Single-A Tampa where he would spend the 1999 & 2000 seasons. In 2001 Nieto was promoted to the New York Yankees as their Major League catching coach. Nieto would continue as the Yankees Major League catching coach through the 2002 season. In 2003 Nieto went back to the St. Louis Cardinals organization managing Single-A Palm Beach. Nieto would spend the 2003 & 2004 seasons in Palm Beach before becoming the New York Mets' catching instructor from 2005-2007. In 2008 he was the New York Mets first base coach before a managerial change was made in June. In 2009 Nieto managed the Minnesota Twins Double-A affiliate New Britain Rock Cats.

In nine seasons, Nieto has compiled a 642-609 (.513) managerial record, with his teams finishing with a .500 or better record in seven of those nine seasons (three playoff appearances) as a manager.

### **TOM NIETO'S MANAGERIAL RECORD**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>TEAM (CLASS)</b>	<b>LEAGUE</b>	<b>W-L</b>	<b>PCT</b>
1993	Charleston (Single-A)	South Atlantic	76-64	.543
1994	Charleston (Single-A)	South Atlantic	65-75	.464
1997	Greensboro (Single-A)	South Atlantic	75-65	.536
1998	Greensboro (Single-A)	South Atlantic	79-63	.556
1999	Tampa (Single-A)	Florida State	78-58	.573
2000	Tampa (Single-A)	Florida State	70-70	.500
2003	Palm Beach (Single-A)	Florida State	54-84	.391
2004	Palm Beach (Single-A)	Florida State	73-61	.545
2009	New Britain (Double-A)	Eastern	72-69	.511

**MORE**

## TOM NIETO TIDBITS

\*Was member of the Minnesota Twins 1987 World Championship team..

\*Was member of the St. Louis Cardinals 1985 National League Championship team.

\*Tom Nieto is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Red Wings manager during the Twins era, which began in 2003. He becomes the 66<sup>th</sup> man to manage Rochester's professional baseball team in 122 seasons. Here are the records of the last 20 Red Wings managers:

<b>MANAGER</b>	<b>YEARS</b>	<b>W-L</b>	<b>PCT.</b>
Earl Weaver	1966-67	163-125	.566
Billy DeMars	1968	77-69	.527
Cal Ripken Sr.	1969-70	147-133	.525
Joe Altobelli	1971-76	502-350	.589
Ken Boyer	1977-1978	77-81	.484
Frank Robinson	1978	58-64	.475
Doc Edwards	1979-1981	196-221	.470
Lance Nichols	1982-83	137-143	.489
Frank Verdi	1984-1985	70-128	.354
Mark Wiley	1985	40-41	.494
John Hart	1986-87	149-128	.538
Johnny Oates	1988	77-64	.546
Greg Biagini	1989-1991	237-197	.546
Jerry Narron	1992	70-74	.486
Bob Miscik	1993-94	131-131	.500
Dave Machermer	1999	61-83	.424
Marv Foley	1995-98, 2000	363-349	.510
Andy Etchebarren	2001, 2002	115-173	.399
Phil Roof	2003-2005	216-215	.501
Stan Cliburn	2006-2009	305-279	.522

Joining Nieto in the dugout will be Pitching Coach Bobby Cuellar and Hitting Coach Floyd Rayford .

Bobby Cuellar, 57, will return for his fifth season as the Red Wings pitching coach and 25<sup>th</sup> year of instruction. Cuellar played 9 years of pro ball, appearing briefly in the majors with Texas in 1977, going 0-1 with a 1.29 ERA in four games. This is Cuellar's sixth season as the Twins Triple-A pitching coach. Cuellar was the Major League pitching coach for Seattle (1995-1996), Montreal (1997-2000), and Texas (2001).

Floyd Rayford, 52, will begin his first season as the Red Wings hitting coach and his 11<sup>th</sup> year in the Minnesota Twins organization. Rayford, a long time Rochester fan favorite and better known as "Sugar Bear", played for Rochester from 1980-1984, 1986 & 1987.

Tony Leo will return for his sixth season as the Red Wings trainer. Leo will be entering his 13<sup>th</sup> season in the Minnesota Twins organization.

**A date and time for a Meet the Manager Press Conference has not been determined yet.**