

Gastonia Ghost Peppers Make Big Moves as the 2025 Season Approaches

By Hailey Franks

The newly-named Gastonia Ghost Peppers have signed Jake Hoover to a 1-year contract for the 2025 season. The team will continue to announce a returning player every Friday.

Hoover returns after playing for the Ghost Peppers since midway of the 2023 season, where he was a standout of the Atlantic League of Professional Baseball (ALPB), a partner league of the MLB.

“Hoover is the first of many returners we plan on announcing, which we consider a positive considering last years on field success,” said Ghost Peppers General Manager Brady Salisbury. “Hoover plays great defense at multiple positions, which gives him multiple ways of contributing to the squad.”

As one of the most versatile players in the conference, Hoover has experience in playing positions at second base, third base, short stop, left field, right field and center field.

The Michigan native helped lead the Ghost Peppers to 84 wins last season, with his stellar performance in the infield. The team ended the season as the Southern conference title winners, as well as the overall seed in the league.

The team has gone through two previous names before becoming the Gastonia Ghost Peppers. The former Honey Hunters made their debut in May of 2021, but filed for bankruptcy in December of 2023, leading to their termination by the Atlantic League of Professional Baseball.

Later, it was announced in February 2024, that Zoyer Sports and Entertainment was going to take over the team as the Gastonia Baseball Club.

After completing their 2024 season, where they led the league and the south conference with 83 wins, the team felt that it was time to give themselves a proper name with their rebirth of success.

The club held an online voting contest at the end of the 2024 season, allowing their fans to choose which name they thought would suit the team. Some of the names included the Gasolina Astronauts, Gastonia Garden Gnomes and the Gastonia Zombees. The

former, Gastonia Baseball Club, became the Gastonia Ghost Peppers, winning the votes by a landslide.

As the team gears up for its first season as the Ghost Peppers, the office is really looking forward to a fresh start with a new image. “2025 feels like the first season where the foundation is truly strong and we’re able to unite as an organization, and community, under an identity that we plan on having for a long time,” said Salisbury.

The Gastonia Ghost Peppers are set to play their first game of the 2025 season on Friday, April 25, where they will play five consecutive home games. The first three match-ups are against York Revolution, with the last two followed against the High Point Rockets.

All home games are held at CaroMont Health Park in downtown Gastonia. Their family friendly atmosphere makes for the perfect night out for all members of the family. Tickets can be purchased online, or at the box office upon arrival, starting as low as \$2.00.

<https://www.oursportscentral.com/services/releases/jake-hoover-returns-to-ghost-peppers-for-2025-season/n-6188946>