

Arm troubles sideline Hill



SHAWN HILL

The first-ever regular-season pitch in the Washington Nationals' new stadium was supposed to be thrown by Georgetown's Shawn Hill on Sunday night, but recurring arm problems have put him on the disabled list again.

Once slated to be the Opening Night starter at Nationals' Park, the 26-year-old Hill instead watched from the dugout as U.S. President George Bush tossed out the ceremonial first pitch, followed by Washington lefty Odalis Perez's walk to the mound to face the Atlanta Braves.

Hill was placed on the 15-day disabled list retroactive to March 21 due to tightness in his right forearm, and after a couple of minor league appearances, is hopeful of making his first appearance of the year with Washington on April 13 against Atlanta.

"I thought about (pitching the opener) in the off-season," he told the Nationals' website. "It was one of those 'what-ifs,' but I don't think I got to the point where I said, 'Okay, I'm going to set myself up for this day to get lined up.'"

As the only remaining Montreal Expo on the Nats' roster, Hill posted a 4-5 record in 2007 with a 3.42 earned-run average, turning in several quality starts before a shoulder injury to his non-throwing arm shut down his season.

The 6-foot-2, 185-pound righthander underwent elbow reconstruction surgery in 2005 and has shown flashes of being a dominant Major Leaguer, but has been frustrated by throwing

arm problems.

With his latest ailment, Hill's forearm has been examined by doctors, although no damage to nerves or tendons was found. He threw three innings in a minor league game Saturday and said the pain subsided the longer he worked.

"We are still trying to find out what might be wrong," he added. "We are talking to other doctors, but until we find out, I might as well keep throwing, because I'm not doing any damage. If I can tolerate the pain, I'll continue to throw."

The Nationals don't have an Interleague matchup scheduled in Toronto for 2008 as they have in the past couple of years.

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<p>April 12, 2008 Peanut/Paperweight - 8am Tyke - 9am Novice - 10am Peewee - 11am Bantam/Senior - 12pm</p>	<p>April 19, 2008 Peanut/Paperweight - 8am Tyke - 9am Novice - 10am Peewee - 11am Bantam/Senior - 12pm</p>
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April 5th	April 7th	April 8th	April 9th	April 10th	April 11th
11am- 1pm Bantam	6pm-8pm Novice	6pm - Tyke	6pm - Novice	6pm - Tyke	6pm - Tyke
4pm-6pm Midget	9pm-10pm Peewee	7pm - Tyke	7pm - Peewee	7pm - Bantam	7pm - Novice
			8pm - Bantam		8pm - Peewee
			9pm - Midget		9pm - Midget

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