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Orioles minor leaguer Ramon Ramirez killed in motorcycle accident in Dominican Republic



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Orioles minor league infielder **Ramon Ramirez** was killed in a motorcycle accident in the Dominican Republic on Saturday, the club announced Sunday.

Ramirez, 23, played for High-A Frederick, short-season Single-A Aberdeen and the Orioles' Gulf Coast League team. He was signed as an undrafted free agent in 2014.

"Our entire organization is deeply saddened by the sudden and tragic death of Ramon Ramirez," Orioles executive vice president **Dan Duquette** said in a statement Sunday. "As a member of the Orioles organization, Ramon worked tirelessly to make the most of his opportunity to play professional baseball.

"Our thoughts are with his family, friends, teammates, and coaches as we mourn this unimaginable loss."

Orioles player development director Brian Graham said he received a call Sunday morning from Manny Lopez, the organization's Latin American medical coordinator, telling him of the accident.

"I was shocked and surprised," Graham said. "You just have a terrible feeling in your stomach because I'm a parent as well. I feel for his family."

Ramirez hit .286/.375/.357 in 32 games with the Orioles' Dominican Summer League team in 2014. This past season, he worked his way up to Frederick after stops in the Gulf Coast League and Aberdeen. He hit .143/.182/.143 in seven games with the Keys in 2015.

"He was a good organizational player," Graham said. "He was a utility infielder who could really catch the ball and one of those kids with great makeup, so he had the opportunity to be around."

Graham said Felipe Alou, Jr., the director of the Orioles' academy in the Dominican Republic, planned to meet with Ramirez's family on Sunday to offer support.

"This is a very tough day for both the Keys and Orioles family," Frederick general manager Dave Ziedelis said

in a statement. “We send our thoughts and prayers to Ramon’s family and loved ones during this challenging time.”

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