

Hoffmann sent to AAA by L.A.

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By Jim Bastian

"I have been there before," he said Tuesday. "So I am familiar with the place. I am playing games every day and things have been going pretty well."

Hoffmann said that his being sent down to "AAA" happened pretty quick.

"They moved a bunch of players down," he said. "I am disappointed but everyone who gets moved down is. Everyone wants to break camp with the big club. But you just keep working."

Hoffmann said that he was not frustrated with being moved down.

"Hopefully there are plenty of opportunities to get moved up this year," Hoffmann said. "We'll see. I guess that it is just not right now but hopefully it happens soon."

The Dodgers' outfield is bunched up with Xavier Paul, Jay Gibbons, Marcus Thames, Andre Eithier, Gabe Kapler and Matt Kemp.

"They have players in camp who they are going to have to make some decisions on before opening day," Hoffmann said. "Don't know what they are going to do. We'll have to see what happens. They have a lot of outfielders."

Last year Hoffmann had a good year in AAA but was not called up for the September call-ups. The Dodgers did place him on their 40-man roster prior to the Rule 5 draft. They then signed Gibbons and Thames for the outfield.

"I have no control over that," Hoffmann said. "The only thing that I can control over is how I did on the field each game. That is all that I worry about. Whatever they are going to do business-wise or player-wise, they are going to do. I just focus on what I am doing and hopefully things take care of themselves."

He said that it was tough to go down to minor league camp.

"Especially after being in the big league camp," he said. "You are leaving a place that you wanted to be. It is tough but it is part of it. A lot of people have been sent down before but you have to battle through it and get back up again."

Hoffmann and Albuquerque are not strangers. In fact, Baseball Prospectus called Hoffmann almost a cult figure in the outfield with his great defense and hustle that the fans love to see.

"I have been there for a year and a half so I got to know some people there," he said. "Maybe I have been nice to the right people. I really enjoy it there - it is fun to play there. I still get to play baseball every day for a job. I definitely enjoy it."

"It is a great park to play in - great people there and it is a fun atmosphere," Hoffmann said. "It is a good league. I enjoy it. I know that I have to work on some things and I will do that."