

With big-league career over, Robertson ready for next step

BY JEFFREY LUTZ

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Nate Robertson wasn't going to act as if this was his decision.

Robertson's former minor-league teammate, right-handed pitcher Scott Richmond, was without a job earlier this season and Robertson, a 25 percent owner of the Wingnuts, believed Wichita was a perfect landing spot.

A 25 percent share of the team

gives Robertson the right to overrule just about everyone else in the organization. If he had demanded that Richmond join the Wingnuts, basically no one could have argued.

Robertson isn't that kind of owner, though. He has his hands on nearly every aspect of the Wingnuts' day-to-day and big-picture operations, but often not deep enough to make an imprint.

He and co-owners Steve Ruud (71 percent) and Gary Austerman (4

percent) delegate and allow everyone in the organization to work to the specifics of their job titles. Richmond joined the Wingnuts last month, but not by demand — only recommendation — from Robertson. Manager Kevin Hooper made the final call.

"There's very few times where I've stepped in, even with (Hooper) and said, 'We are going to do this with

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