

MISSISSIPPI Braves

GAME INFORMATION

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DOUBLE-A SOUTHERN LEAGUE AFFILIATE OF THE **A**

MISSISSIPPI BRAVES MEDIA RELATIONS DEPARTMENT
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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024 • 7:00 PM CT • REGIONS FIELD • BIRMINGHAM, AL

MISSISSIPPI BRAVES (3-7, 4TH, SL SOUTH, -3.0) AT BIRMINGHAM BARONS (6-4, 1ST, SL NORTH, +0.5)

RHP IAN MEJIA (0-0, 4.70) vs. LHP KY BUSH (0-1, 9.00)

GAME #11 • ROAD GAME #5 • 102.1 THE BOX • BALLY LIVE • MILB.TV

REGULAR SEASON BY THE NUMBERS

Streak	.....L4
All-Time Record (since 2005)	.....1,197-1,266
2024 at Trustmark Park	.....3-3
2024 on the Road	.....0-4
Day Games	.....0-2
Night Games	.....3-5

UPCOMING GAMES & PROBABLE PITCHERS

Date	Opponent	Probable Starters	Time (CT)
Thursday, April 18	at Birmingham	LHP Luis De Avila (0-1, 7.36) vs. RHP Drew Thorpe (2-0, 0.82)	7:00 PM
Friday, April 19	at Birmingham	RHP Hurston Waldrep (0-2, 12.86) vs. RHP Jairo Iriarte (0-0, 0.00)	7:00 PM
Saturday, April 20	at Birmingham	RHP JJ Niekro (1-0, 1.69) vs. LHP Jake Eder (0-1, 7.27)	6:30 PM
Sunday, April 21	at Birmingham	LHP Drew Parrish (1-2, 4.76) vs. RHP Mason Adams (1-1, 3.27)	4:00 PM

TODAY'S GAME: The M-Braves continue their longest road trip of the season on Wednesday night with game two of a six-game series in Birmingham. The road trip will include 12 games: six against the Barons at Regions Field, April 16-21, and six against the Montgomery Biscuits, April 23-28. The M-Braves send Opening Night starter RHP **Ian Mejia** to the mound tonight for his third start of 2024.

ABOUT LAST NIGHT: The Barons and M-Braves combined for 18 hits (17 singles) in Tuesday's series opener with Birmingham hanging on for a 2-1 victory. A season-high four M-Braves recorded two-hit nights, with the club cracking nine in the contest. **Justin Dean** led the way again for Mississippi, finishing the night 2-for-3 with his eighth stolen base and a walk. **Bryson Horne** notched his first multi-hit game and ended the night 2-for-4 with a double and RBI. **Drew Parrish** (L, 1-2) made his third appearance and second start for the M-Braves and suffered a tough loss. Over 4.2 innings, the lefty struck out seven and walked one, giving up just two runs on seven hits to a prospect-heavy Barons lineup.

FINAL TRIP TO BIRMINGHAM: This week's six-game road series marks the Mississippi Braves' final trip to Birmingham. Since 2005, the M-Braves are 134-122 against the White Sox affiliate, including 61-66 in Hoover or Birmingham. The Barons moved from Hoover to downtown Birmingham in 2013.

NEED FOR SPEED: The M-Braves lead all of Double-A baseball with 26 stolen bases through nine games. Midland is second with 25. **Justin Dean** ranks second in the league with eight, and **Cody Milligan** is third with seven. Mississippi had 157 (1.1 per game) stolen bases last season and is on pace for 359 (2.6 per game) in 2024.

AMONG THE LEAGUE LEADERS: **Justin Dean** ranks among the league leaders in stolen bases (2nd, 8), batting average (4th, .348), and OBP (7th, .429). Dean has also reached in seven of his eight games. **Nacho Alvarez Jr.** ranks among the circuit leaders in walks (1st, 8), hits (T-4th, 11), steals (T-5th, 5), and OBP (6th, .432).

THERE'S JUST SOMETHING ABOUT THE NAME NIEKRO: **JJ Niekro**, the son of Joe Niekro and nephew of Phil Niekro, is trying to create his legacy. Our Farm Bureau Pitcher of the Week, Niekro, made his first two Double-A starts during the opening homestand and went 1-0 with a 1.69 ERA (2 ER/10.2), two walks, and eight strikeouts. Niekro won during the home opener on April 9 with 6.0 shutout innings in the 2-0 weather-shortened contest. The Plant City, FL native ranks among the Southern League leaders in innings pitched (T-7th, 10.2), WHIP (9th, 0.84), ERA (10th, 1.69), and opponent's batting average (10th, .179).

GIVE ME FIVE: The M-Braves are 3-0 when their starters go 5+ innings and 0-7 when starters go less than 5.0 innings. In the three games with 5+ innings, they combined for a 0.52 ERA (1 ER/17 IP). In the seven losses, the starter ERA is 8.52 (24 ER/25.1 IP).

FINALLY LEFT THE YARD: **Cal Conley's** solo home run in Sunday's fourth inning was the first home run by an M-Braves batter this season. Entering Sunday's game, Mississippi was one of three teams in minor league baseball without a home run. Atlanta's high-A affiliate, Rome, and Hickory (PIT) also ended the drought Sunday.

OPENING DAY ROSTER FEATURES FOUR TOP-20 ATL PROSPECTS/17 RETURNERS: Mississippi returns 17 players from last season's club and four of the Atlanta Braves' Top 20 prospects. The Top 20 prospects, according to MLB Pipeline, include RHP **Hurston Waldrep** (No. 2), INF **Nacho Alvarez Jr.** (No. 6), C **Drake Baldwin** (No. 11), and LHP **Luis De Avila** (No. 20). RHP **Ian Mejia** (No. 28), and INF **Keshawn Ogan** are part of Baseball America's Top 30 prospects ... The 17 returning players include pitchers De Avila, RHP Domingo Gonzalez, RHP **Patrick Halligan**, LHP **Hayden Harris**, LHP **Jake McSteen**, RHP **Trey Riley**, RHP **Hurston Waldrep**, RHP **Peyton Williams**, and position players Baldwin, C **Tyler Tolve**, C **Javier Valdes**, INF **Cade Bunnell**, INF **Cal Conley**, INF **Bryson Horne**, OF **Justin Dean**, OF **Cody Milligan**, and OF **Brandon Parker**.

COACHING STAFF WITH A NEW FLO: After spending one season as manager of the Braves High-A affiliate Rome Braves (Emperors), **Angel Flores** will take the reins for the first time at the Double-A level, succeeding **Kanekoa Teixeira**. Teixeira was promoted to manager of the Triple-A Gwinnett Stripers after **Matt Tuasosopo** was named to the Braves' Major League coaching staff for 2024. Flores returns to Mississippi, where he served as bench coach in 2022. Flores took over as interim manager from April 26 to May 15, 2022, while Bruce Crabbe took a leave of absence from the club. During the 18-game stretch, the M-Braves went 10-8. During his first season as a full-time manager last year, Flores led the R-Braves to a 34-32 record in the second half and an overall 64-68 mark. Overall, he holds a 74-76 record as a manager.

ABOUT LAST SEASON: The club finished with a 62-75 overall record, 33-35 in the first half and 29-40 in the second half. The M-Braves were 32-36 at Trustmark Park and 30-39 on the road. The M-Braves went 19-32 in July and August but finished with a franchise record nine wins in September.

FINAL SEASON IN MISSISSIPPI: On January 9, it was announced that after 20 years, 2024 will be the M-Braves' final season in Pearl, MS. As of the start of the 2025 season, the Double-A affiliate of the Atlanta Braves will be relocating to Columbus, GA.

M-BRAVES VS BARONS

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
at Trustmark Park	1-5	4-6	7-3	6-5	3-8	7-2	2-3
at Birmingham	4-3	3-2	6-4	4-6	3-6	7-8	0-5
Total	5-8	7-8	13-7	10-11	6-14	14-10	2-8
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
at Trustmark Park	6-2	3-2	5-0	3-2	4-1	4-1	4-1
at Birmingham	5-5	3-7	5-5	2-3	3-2	4-1	3-1
Total	11-7	6-9	10-5	5-5	7-3	8-2	7-2
	2019	2021	2022	2023	2024	Alltime	
at Trustmark Park	2-3	5-1	1-5	2-4	0-0	69-53	
at Birmingham	2-3	4-2	3-2	4-2	0-1	61-66	
Total	4-6	9-3	4-7	6-6	0-1	134-122	

REGULAR SEASON RECORD BREAKDOWN

Score First	.....2-3	Opponents Score First	.....1-4
Leading after 6 innings	.....2-0	Leading after 7 innings	.....1-0
Tied after 6 innings	.....1-1	Tied after 7 innings	.....1-0
Trailing after 6 innings	.....0-6	Trailing after 7 innings	.....0-7
Leading after 8 innings	.....0-0	Score 2 or Fewer Runs	.....2-4
Tied after 8 innings	.....0-0	Score 3 Runs	.....0-1
Trailing after 8 innings	.....0-7	Score 4 or More Runs	.....1-2
First Game of Series	.....1-2	Last Game of Series	.....0-2
First Game of Homestand	.....1-0	Last Game of Homestand	.....0-1
First Game of Road Trip	.....0-2	Last Game of Road Trip	.....0-1
Following an Off Day	.....1-1	1-Run Games	.....1-2
Final At-Bat Decisions (Walk-Offs)	.....0-1	2-Run Games	.....1-1
Errorless Games	.....3-2	3-Run Games	.....1-0
With a Homer	.....0-1	Allow a Homer	.....0-3
With No Homers	.....3-6	Allow No Homers	.....3-4
White Jersey	.....1-1	Vs. Righty Starters	.....2-7
Red Jersey	.....1-5	Vs. Lefty Starters	.....1-0
Navy Blue Jersey	.....0-1	Starter Goes <5 Innings	.....0-7
Gray Jersey	.....0-0	Starter Goes >5 Innings	.....3-0
Special Jersey	.....1-0	In Decision By Starters	.....2-4
Series Breakdown	.....0-1-1	In Decision By Bullpen	.....1-3
Vs. South Division3-6	Extra Innings1-0
Vs. North Division0-1	7-Inning Games2-0

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