

GAME NOTES

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NICARAGUA VS. NEW YORK METS (5-5-1)

MARCH 8, 2023 • 6:10 PM

CLOVER PARK • PORT ST. LUCIE, FL

RHP JC RAMÍREZ (0-0, -.-) VS. RHP MAX SCHERZER (0-1, 1.93)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY: OF Tommy Pham celebrates his 35th birthday today...We wish him well.

YESTERDAY: The Mets and Astros tied, 5-5, in West Palm Beach...RHP Carlos Carrasco made his second start of the spring and allowed one run over 3.0 innings with no walks and two strikeouts...Tyler Megill fired 2.1 scoreless innings out of the bullpen on one hit, two walks and three strikeouts...LHP Joey Lucchesi allowed one run in 1.0 inning in his 2023 Grapefruit League debut...RF Mark Canha put the Mets on the board with an RBI single in the third; his first RBI of the spring...SS Ronny Mauricio drove in a pair with a single in the second...DH Jalyin Davis lined a pinch-hit, solo home run in the eighth.

NICARAGUA: Team Nicaragua will make its World Baseball Classic debut on March 11 when they take on Puerto Rico at 12:00 PM ET in Miami...Nicaragua qualified for the WBC after defeating Brazil, 3-1, in Pool B of the 2022 World Baseball Classic Qualifiers in Panama City...Notable players with MLB experience on Team Nicaragua include INF Alex Blandino, INF Cheslor Cuthbert, RHP Jonathan Loáisiga, RHP Erasmo Ramírez and RHP JC Ramírez.

ON THE WORLD STAGE: INF Jonathan Araúz and minor league RHP Humberto Mejía each played key roles for Team Panama in their victory over Team Chinese Taipei...Mejía started and tossed 2.0 scoreless innings on 38 pitches...Araúz went 2-6 with a two-run single and an RBI double.

ABRAHAMMER: This spring, Abraham Almonte leads the majors among qualifiers in batting average with a .500 clip and leads qualifiers in OBP with a .650 mark...Almonte also ranks fourth in the majors in OPS with a 1.293 mark and ninth in SLG with a .643 clip.

YOUTH MOVEMENT: Several of the Mets top prospects are among the major league leaderboard in several offensive categories this spring...Brett Baty ranks second in batting average (.471), second in OBP (.524), third in hits (9), sixth in OPS (1.208) and seventh in (.684)...Ronny Mauricio is tied for second in the majors with three home runs, tied for seventh in RBI with seven and tied for ninth in total bases with 16...Mark Vientos is tied for seventh in RBI with seven, tied for ninth in total bases with 16 and 10th in OPS with a .615 mark.

T-LO: Tim Lincecum has had an excellent spring and is tied for second in stolen bases with five, tied for second in doubles with four and seventh among qualifiers in OBP with a .485 mark.

WELCOME BACK: Former Mets INF Howard Johnson and INF Mookie Wilson will be in camp until March 10...Johnson was a two-time All-Star and two-time Silver Slugger with the Mets and ranks third in franchise history in stolen bases (202) and fourth in home runs (192)...One of four players in major league history with three or more 30-30 seasons, Johnson will be inducted into the Mets Hall of Fame on June 3 along with LHP Al Leiter and broadcasters Gary Cohen and Howie Rose...Wilson spent 10 years with the Mets and hit .276/.318/.394 with 60 home runs, 342 RBI and 281 steals with New York...Upon his retirement, he led the Mets in stolen bases (281) and triples (62)...He currently works as a team ambassador for the Mets.

THE BUCK STARTS HERE: In his first season as Mets skipper, Buck Showalter took home the NL Manager of the Year Award...He led the club to 101 wins and its first playoff berth since 2016...Showalter was also named Manager of the Year in 1994 with the Yankees, 2004 with the Rangers and 2014 with the Orioles...His four Manager of the Year Awards are tied for the most in the award's history with Bobby Cox and Tony La Russa...Showalter ranks 18th all-time and third among active managers with 1,652 managerial wins...Showalter is the first Mets manager to record 100 or more victories in his first season with the club...He joins Yogi Berra as the only managers to guide both the Mets and Yankees into the playoffs.

THE BATTING CHAMP IS HERE: Last season, INF/OF Jeff McNeil became the first Met ever to win a major league batting title and joined José Reyes (2011) as the only other Met to win a National League batting title...The two-time All-Star owns a .307 career batting average, the second-best clip by a Met through their first five big league seasons behind David Wright's .309 mark (min. 1,500 AB)

YES, THE CLOSER: RHP Edwin Díaz won the 2022 Trevor Hoffman NL Relief Pitcher of the Year Award...The two-time All-Star joined Craig Kimbrel as the only pitchers in major league history to win Reliever of the Year in both leagues...Díaz pitched to a 1.31 ERA (9 ER/62.0 IP) and led all major league relievers with 118 strikeouts...His 50.2 strikeout rate was the third-best in major league history for a single season...The right-hander became the 12th pitcher in major league history to strike out at least 100 batters, record 30 or more saves, and sport a sub-1.50 ERA.

POLAR POWER: Last season, INF Pete Alonso tied for the major league lead with 131 RBI, the most ever by a Met in a single season...Alonso finished third in the majors with 40 home runs in 2022 and became the first Met ever with multiple seasons of 40 or more home runs...His 146 career home runs are the fourth most by a major leaguer through his first four major league seasons trailing Ralph Kiner (168), Albert Pujols (160) and Eddie Mathews (153)...Alonso ranks seventh in franchise history in home runs...He is three home runs behind Carlos Beltrán and trails Dave Kingman by eight long balls.

GLOBAL GAME: 10 players in major league camp with the Mets will compete in the 2023 World Baseball Classic...INF Pete Alonso, INF/OF Jeff McNeil, RHP Adam Ottavino and LHP Brooks Raley will play for Team USA...INF Eduardo Escobar, RHP Elieser Hernandez and C Omar Narváez will compete for Team Venezuela...RHP Edwin Díaz and INF Francisco Lindor will play for Team Puerto Rico...INF Jonathan Araúz, a non-roster invitee, will compete for Team Panama...Minor leaguers RHP Dominic Hamel (Puerto Rico), RHP Humberto Mejía (Panama), LHP Cam Opper (Great Britain) and RHP Claudio Scotti (Italy) will also participate in the 2023 World Baseball Classic...Baseball Hall of Famer & Mets Hall of Famer Mike Piazza will manage Team Italy.

NEW FACES IN NEW PLACES: The 2023 Mets enter Spring Training with several new players on the roster...These include: OF Abraham Almonte (minor league free agent), INF Jonathan Araúz (minor league free agent), RHP Jeff Brigham (trade), OF Lorenzo Cedrola (minor league free agent), RHP Sam Coonrod (waiver claim), RHP Zach Greene (Rule 5 Draft), RHP Elieser Hernández (trade), OF Tim Lincecum (minor league free agent), LHP T.J. McFarland (minor league free agent), INF Danny Mendick (free agent), LHP Zach Muckenhirn (minor league free agent), C Omar Narváez (free agent), INF José Peraza (minor league free agent), OF Tommy Pham (free agent), LHP José Quintana (free agent), LHP Brooks Raley (trade), RHP Denyi Reyes (minor league free agent), RHP Stephen Ridings (waiver claim), RHP David Robertson (free agent), RHP Kodai Senga (free agent), OF DJ Stewart (minor league free agent), RHP William Woods (minor league free agent), RHP Justin Verlander (free agent) and RHP Jimmy Yacabonis (minor league free agent).

HEY NOW, YOU'RE AN ALL-STAR: Last season, INF Pete Alonso, RHP Edwin Díaz, OF Starling Marte and INF/OF Jeff McNeil were selected to play for the National League in the 2022 All-Star Game at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles...The Mets four All-Star selections in 2022 were the most in a season since 2016 (Noah Syndergaard, Yoenis Céspedes, Jeurys Familia and Bartolo Colón)...McNeil started for the National League at second base and was the first Met to start an All-Star Game since David Wright and Matt Harvey both started in the 2013 All-Star Game at Citi Field...McNeil joined Ron Hunt (1964) as the only other Met to start at second base in the All-Star Game.

EXPECTED TO START

RHP MAX SCHERZER: Will make his second spring training start today...Allowed seven unearned runs over 2.2 innings in his last start on March 3 vs. Washington...The three-time Cy-Young Award winner, eight-time All-Star and 2019 World Series Champion made 23 starts with the Mets last season, posting a 11-5 record with a 2.29 ERA (37 ER/145.1 IP) and 173 strikeouts...Ranked sixth in the majors (min. 140.0 innings) with a 2.29 ERA, ninth with a 10.71 K/9 ratio, second with a 0.91 WHIP and third with a 7.21 K/BB ratio...Among pitchers to face 500 or more batters, his .207 opponent average ranked 14th in the majors, while his .574 OPS against ranked eighth...Made five starts in July after being activated from the IL on July 5...He went 1-1 with a 1.39 ERA (5 ER/32.1 IP) while striking out 45 and walking just four...His 1.39 ERA in July ranked seventh in the majors and fourth in the NL, while his 45 punchouts were tied for third in MLB. Reached his 200th career win on September 19, 2022 at Milwaukee after throwing 6.0 perfect innings in his return from the 15-Day IL...Has appeared in 430 career games (421 starts) over a 15-year major league career and owns a lifetime record of 201-102 with 3.11 ERA (927 ER/2692.0 IP)...One of 19 pitchers all-time to accumulate 3,000 career strikeouts...His 3193 career strikeouts are five behind teammate Justin Verlander for the most by an active pitcher.

2/26 vs. WAS	2.0	3	1	1	0	5
3/3 vs. WAS	2.2	5	7	0	0	1

METS TOP PROSPECTS: The Mets have their top four prospects in major league camp...All four cracked MLB Pipeline's list of the top 100 prospects in baseball: C Francisco Álvarez (#3), INF Brett Baty (#21), C Kevin Parada (#36) and OF Alex Ramirez (#96)...Also in big league camp are Mets No. 6 prospect INF Ronny Mauricio and No. 7 prospect INF Mark Vientos.

THAT'S A LOTTA HARDWARE: With Justin Verlander and Max Scherzer, the 2023 Mets are the third team in major league history to boast multiple three-time Cy Young award winners on their roster in the same season, joining the 1986 White Sox (Tom Seaver and Steve Carlton) and the 2021 Dodgers (Scherzer and Clayton Kershaw).

HITTING THE ROAD: New York finished the season going 47-34 on the road last season...Their .580 road winning percentage placed them third in the majors and second in the NL...It was tied for the fourth-highest in team history...It was the highest road-winning percentage since 2007...Overall, they hit .265/.334/.424 away from Citi Field...Their .265 road average was second in the majors

UPCOMING PITCHING

WEDNESDAY

6:10 PM vs. Nicaragua

NICARAGUA: RHP Juan Carlos (JC) Ramírez

METS: RHP Max Scherzer, RHP Jeff Brigham, RHP Sam Coonrod, RHP T.J. McFarland, RHP Eric Orze, LHP Josh Walker, RHP Jimmy Yacabonis

THURSDAY

1:10 PM vs. Venezuela

VENEZUELA: LHP Emmanuel De Jesus

METS: RHP José Butto

