

GAME NOTES

NEW YORK METS MEDIA RELATIONS DEPARTMENT • CITI FIELD • FLUSHING, NY 11368

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NEW YORK METS (5-5) VS. HOUSTON ASTROS (5-3)

MARCH 7, 2023 • 6:05 PM

BALLPARK OF THE PALM BEACHES • WEST PALM BEACH, FL

RHP CARLOS CARRASCO (0-1, 9.00) VS. LHP FRAMBER VALDEZ (0-0, 0.00)



SUNDAY: The Mets enjoyed an off day yesterday... New York defeated the Cardinals, 7-1 on Sunday... Francisco Lindor and Pete Alonso each hit a solo homer... Tim Lincecum was 2-3 with two doubles and two RBI... Brett Baty collected two hits, including a double... RHP Kodai Senga made his first start of the spring and went 2.0 innings, allowing one hit, one run with two strikeouts... RHP Brooks Raley, RHP Drew Smith, RHP Tommy Hunter, RHP Sam Coonrod and RHP Bryce Montes de Oca each tossed 1.0 scoreless frame.

VS HOUSTON: The Mets will play their third of six Grapefruit League games against the Astros tonight... New York is 0-2 vs. Houston this spring... The Mets fell, 4-2, against the Astros on February 25 in their Grapefruit League opener in West Palm Beach and lost 8-4 in Port St. Lucie on February 28... Last season, the Mets were swept by the eventual World Series champs in a pair of two-game series, June 21-22 at Houston and June 28-29 in New York... This season, the Mets take on the Astros in a three-game series from June 19-21 at Minute Maid Park.

SPRING LEADERS: This spring, Ronny Mauricio is tied for second in the majors with three home runs, is tied for 10th in the majors with 15 total bases... Brett Baty is second in the majors with a .471 batting average, fourth with a .526 OBP, fifth with a .706 slugging percentage and fourth with a 1.232 OPS, Lorenzo Cedrola is tied for second in the majors with six runs... Francisco Lindor is fifth in the majors among qualifiers in batting average (.389), fifth with a .500 OBP, ranks third in OPS with a 1.278 and third in slugging (.778)... Mark Vientos is sixth with a .652 slugging percentage and tied for seventh with seven RBI... Tim Lincecum is sixth with a .476 OBP, 10th with a 1.964 OPS, tied for second with four doubles and tied for third with three stolen bases.

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).

ON THE RECORD: The Mets won 101 games in 2022, the fourth season in franchise history with 100 or more wins... The club also recorded 100 or more wins 1986 (108), 1988 (100) and 1969 (100)... The team's 101 wins are the second-most in franchise history... Only the 1986 team (108-54) finished with a better record in franchise history

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: 11 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... LHP José Quintana will pitch for Team Colombia... INF Jonathan Araúz, a non-roster invitee, will compete for Team Panama... Minor leaguers RHP Dominic Hamel (Puerto Rico), RHP Humberto Mejia (Panama), LHP Cam Opp (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 Muckenhiern (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.

SMILE LIKE YOU MEAN IT: Last season, INF Francisco Lindor set a Mets shortstop record for most RBI in a season with a career-high 107 RBI... The 28-year-old has led all shortstops with 184 home runs since he debuted in 2015... Lindor is one of 11 players to hit 150 or more homers and swipe 100 or more bags since 2015.

EXPECTED TO START

RHP CARLOS CARRASCO: Will make his second start of the spring tonight... The 36-year-old returns for his third season with the Mets after 29 starts and a 15-7 record in 2022... Pitched to a 3.97 ERA (67 ER/152.0 IP) and recorded 152 strikeouts last year, and held a career-high 22.2-inning scoreless streak from July 14 to August 4... The 2019 Roberto Clemente and AL Comeback Player of the Year Award-winner ranks sixth all-time in strikeouts by a Venezuelan-born pitcher (1,507) and became the eighth Venezuela native to reach 100 career wins on July 30, 2022 at Miami in a scoreless 7.2-inning appearance... Is one of 14 pitchers with at least five seasons of 150+ strikeouts since 2015... Thus far in his 11-year career with Cleveland and New York, Carrasco has appeared in 283 games (236 starts) and holds a 104-85 record with a 3.87 ERA (623 ER/1448.0 IP) and 1.22 WHIP.

Date/Opp	IP	H	R	ER	BB	K
3/2 vs. ATL	2.0	2	2	2	1	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.

METSCELLANEOUS: The Mets finished the 2022 season with a 101-61 record and finished in second place in the National League East... The club clinched their first playoff berth since 2016 and fell to the Padres in the National League Wild Card Series, 2-1.

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

TONIGHT

6:05 at Houston

METS: RHP Carlos Carrasco, LHP Joey Lucchesi, RHP Tylor Megill, RHP John Curtiss, RHP William Woods

ASTROS: LHP Framber Valdez, LHP Austin Davis, RHP Austin Hanes, RHP Seth Martinez, RHP Rafael Montero, RHP Ryne Stanek

WEDNESDAY

6:10 PM vs. Nicaragua

NICARAGUA: RHP Juan Carlos (JC) Ramírez

METS: RHP Max Scherzer

