



PREGAME NOTES

2008 AL EAST CHAMPIONS | 2008 AL CHAMPIONS | 2010 AL EAST CHAMPIONS | 2011 AL WILD CARD | 2013 AL WILD CARD | 2019 AL WILD CARD

TAMPA BAY RAYS (2-1-1) vs. MINNESOTA TWINS (2-0-2)

LH Blake Snell (0-0, 0.00) vs. LH Devin Smeltzer (1-0, 0.00)

Wednesday, February 26, 2020 • **First Pitch:** 1:05 p.m. • **Location:** Charlotte Sports Park • **TV:** None • **Radio:** MLB.com
Spring Game No.: 5 • **vs. AL Opponents:** 2-1-1 • **vs. NL Opponents:** 0-0-0 • **Home Games:** 1-0-1 • **Road Games:** 1-1-0
Day 14 of Spring Training • 29 Days Until Opening Day—Thursday, March 26 vs. Pittsburgh Pirates at Tropicana Field (4:10 p.m.)

UPCOMING PROBABLE PITCHERS & BROADCAST SCHEDULE

Upcoming Games	Time (ET)	Probable Pitchers (Rays vs. Opp.)	TV & Radio
Wed., 2/26 vs. MIN	1:05 p.m.	TB —LH Blake Snell, LH José Alvarado, LH Ryan Sherriff, LH Colin Poche, LH D.J. Snelten; MIN —LH Devin Smeltzer, RH Sean Poppen, RH Ryan Garton, RH Jorge Alcala, RH Edwar Colina, LH Sam Clay	MLB.com
Thurs., 2/27 vs. DET	1:05 p.m.	TB —RH Tyler Glasnow, RH Oliver Drake, LH Aaron Loup, RH John Curtiss, LH Sean Gilmartin, RH Pete Fairbanks, RH Ryan Thompson, RH Brooks Pounders; DET —RH Jordan Zimmermann, LH Nick Ramirez, RH Zack Godley, LH Tyler Alexander	MLB.com
Thurs., 2/27 at NYY	1:05 p.m.	TB —RH Aaron Slegers, LH Josh Fleming, RH Phoenix Sanders, RH Tyler Zombro, RH Deck McGuire, LH D.J. Snelten, RH Sam McWilliams; NY —LH J.A. Happ, RH Michael King, RH Clarke Schmidt, RH Jonathan Loaisiga	None
Fri., 2/28 at WAS	1:05 p.m.	TB —LH Ryan Yarbrough, RH Trevor Richards, LH Jalen Beeks; WAS —TBD	None

TWO DISTINCT ERAS—Since becoming the Rays in 2008, the Rays have seven 90-win seasons, a number matched by only three other teams in baseball: the Dodgers (8), Red Sox (7) and Yankees (7)...since the start of 2008, their five trips to the Division Series have been matched by only five other clubs and their 1,041-904 (.535) record is 5th-best in baseball.

- ✦ The Rays enter the 2020 season on the heels of a 96-66 (.593) record—their second straight season with 90-plus wins—and a trip to the AL Division Series...they welcome back all three of their 2019 All-Stars—RH **Charlie Morton**, OF **Austin Meadows** and 2B **Brandon Lowe**—as well as three-time Gold Glove Award winner **Kevin Kiermaier** and 2018 AL Cy Young Award winner **Blake Snell**.
- ✦ A retooled offense includes 3B/OF **Yoshi Tsutsugo**, signed as a free agent from the Central League in Japan, and trade acquisitions 1B/DH **José Martínez** and OF **Randy Arozarena** (from St. Louis), and OF **Hunter Renfroe** and OF **Manuel Margot** (from San Diego).

MINOR MATTERS—Baseball America's annual Organizational Talent Rankings of minor league prospects were released earlier this month and the Rays ranked No. 1, holding their ranking from midseason last year...this is the fifth straight season they have improved their preseason standing...this is the fourth time in organizational history the Rays have been ranked first in the preseason rankings, following 2010, 2008 and 2007.

- ✦ From BA's Organizational Talent Rankings announcement: "The Rays have produced a steady stream of productive big leaguers thanks to solid drafting, player development and excellent pro scouting for trades...as impressive as their farm system has been, they haven't had a prospect like **Wander Franco** in quite a while."
- ✦ In January, *Baseball America* ranked a league-high eight Rays prospects among its Top 100 in baseball...five of them are in major league camp: LH/1B **Brendan McKay**, INF **Vidal Bruján**, RH **Brent Honeywell Jr.**, LH **Shane McCann** and RH **Joe Ryan**.
- ✦ Last week, *Baseball America* ranked Double-A Montgomery No. 1 on its list of possible "super teams" for the 2020 season.

SINGLE-GAME TICKETS—Are currently on sale through all outlets, including the MLB Ballpark app, raysbaseball.com, the Rays Republic Team Store at Tropicana Field and 888-FAN-RAYS...tickets may be purchased at the Rays Republic Team Store during the store's regular hours...the Bay-Care Box Office at Tropicana Field will open 3 hours prior to all games.

- ✦ Tickets for all 2020 home games are exclusively available in the Ballpark app on a mobile device...paper tickets, including print-at-home and PDF versions, are not available or accepted.

2020 TICKET PACKS—The Rays have announced three new ticket packs for the 2020 season, available in the MLB Ballpark app and at raysbaseball.com/ticketpacks...the Ballpark Pass, which offers a standing room ticket to any game at Tropicana Field for \$36 per month, is sold out...fans can join the waitlist to be notified if additional passes become available.

- ✦ **Rays Win Pack**—For \$99 per pack, select any four regular season home games...if buyers select and attend four games that the Rays win, they will receive a voucher to choose another home game for free...they can continue to choose games for free until they attend a game that the Rays lose or the end of the regular season...for more information, visit raysbaseball.com/rayswinpack.
- ✦ **Flex Packs**—Includes five lower level tickets for \$99 per pack...for more information, visit raysbaseball.com/flex.

SLICE OF GRAPEFRUIT—The Rays are scheduled for 32 official Grapefruit League games (16 at Charlotte Sports Park, 16 on the road)...in addition, the spring finale is an exhibition game at Tropicana Field against the "Future Rays," a team comprised of prospects from their minor league affiliates...spring training tickets are available at raysbaseball.com/spring, the Charlotte Sports Park Box Office or by calling 888-FAN-RAYS.

- ✦ While early, the Rays offense leads the Grapefruit League with a .288 avg., 24 BB and .400 OBP and ranks 3rd with a .832 OPS.

YESTERDAY'S RECAP—The Rays scored 15 runs, their most in a spring game since March 9, 2019 vs. BAL (17-15 loss) in a 15-2 win over the Orioles in Sarasota...RH **Charlie Morton** made his spring debut, throwing 11

pitches (5 strikes) in a scoreless inning...2B **Brandon Lowe**, LF **Brett Sullivan** and C **Michael Perez** all finished with 3 RBI, Perez's coming on a 3-run homer in the 7th inning.

OUR TURN IN THE SPOTLIGHT—MLB Network visited camp today for their "30 Clubs in 30 Days" tour, with **Fran Charles**, **Carlos Peña** and **Cliff Floyd** on site...interviews (including **Blake Snell**, **Kevin Kiermaier**, **Austin Meadows**, **Kevin Cash** and others) will run throughout the day and on MLB Tonight at 7 p.m. ...the on-field demo featured **Willy Adames** on the "art of the relay throw."

KNUTSON CLASSIC—Today is the first of three meetings between the two clubs this spring (March 1 at home, March 6 in Fort Myers)...the spring series determines the winner of the "Knutson Classic," named for Rays press box attendant and Minnesota native **Dukes Knutson**...the Twins went 2-1-1 last spring to win it for a fourth consecutive year.

- ✦ The Rays went 2-5 against the Twins last season (1-3 at home, 1-2 on the road)...the Rays won a 5-2, 18-inning game on June 27 at MIN, which tied for the longest game by innings in franchise history...the clubs meet six times this season (June 1-3, Aug 28-30).

OPPO ROCCO—Twins Manager **Rocco Baldelli** spent four seasons on **Kevin Cash**'s coaching staff before being hired by the Twins Oct 25, 2018...he was the Rays major league field coordinator in 2018 and the first base coach for the previous three seasons (2015-17)...Rocco and Cash are two of six former Rays players who have gone on to manage major league teams, along with **Mickey Callaway** (Mets), **Gabe Kapler** (Phillies, Giants), **Dave Martinez** (Nationals) and **Ozzie Guillén** (White Sox, Marlins).

CHARITY SOFTBALL—Following Sunday's game, the Rays Wives will play the Twins Wives in a charity softball game...the game will begin on the main field approximately 30 minutes following the conclusion of the major league game...the benefiting charity this year is Girls on the Run Greater Tampa Bay, which inspires girls to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates running...the Rays Baseball Foundation and the Twins are each making a \$5,000 donation...the Rays Wives won the game last year in Fort Myers, and the Twins Wives won in 2018 in Port Charlotte.

TODAY'S STARTER vs. MIN—LH Blake Snell (0-0, 0.00 ERA)

- ✦ **2019 Majors:** 6-8, 4.29 ERA (107-IP, 51-ER) in 23 starts
- ✦ In the season following his AL Cy Young Award, was limited to 23 starts due to two stints on the injured list...missed a start in April with a fractured right fourth toe and nearly two months toward the end of the season after July 29 arthroscopic surgery for loose bodies in his left elbow...reinstated from the IL on Sep 17.
- ✦ Min. 100 IP, his 12.36 SO/9 IP ratio ranked 4th in the majors...17.7 pct. of his pitches were swings-and-misses, highest mark in the majors...his avg. fastball velocity was 95.6 mph, 2nd in the AL.
- ✦ Started Game 2 of the ALDS at HOU and took the loss, but his only run in 3.1 IP was a solo homer...pitched in relief in Games 4 and 5.
- ✦ In Game 4 vs. HOU, entered with 1 out in the 9th inning and the potential game-tying run at the plate, and got a swinging strikeout and groundout for the save...according to Stats LLC, became the second pitcher to have his first career relief appearance (regular season or postseason) end with a save in the postseason, joining ATL **John Smoltz** in Game 2 of the 1999 NLCS vs. NYM.

ON THE AIRWAVES—Today's game will be broadcast on MLB.com, with Rays Radio's **Neil Solondz** and Double-A Montgomery broadcaster **Chris Adams-Wall** on the call...third base coach **Rodney Linares** and SS **Willy Adames** are guests on this week's edition of the Countdown to Opening Day radio show, airing Saturday at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday at 12:30 p.m.

TAMPA BAY RAYS COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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2020 Spring Innings Played ("A" Games)																													
Player	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	LF	CF	RF	DH	Player	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	LF	CF	RF	DH	Player	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	LF	CF	RF	DH
Adames					10					Kiermaier								9		Renfroe									11
Arozarena								13		LaMarre						3		9		Robertson			4		8				
Brosseau		4		8						Lowe, B			9							Smith	5								3
Bruján			8						3	Lowe, N				9					7	Sullivan		3				5			
Choi		10								Margot						11				Tsutsugo						4			6
Cozens						5	3	4		Martínez			9						6	Walls					13				
Díaz				10						Mastrobuoni			4			3	5		2	Wendle			10						
Fox					4			4		Meadows						4		4		Zunino	10								
Gray			4		8					O'Grady							5	3											
Hernández	3									Padlo																			
Herrmann	5								6	Perez	8																		
Kelly			5							Pinto	4								2										

Spring Transactions

FEBRUARY
14 Signed RH **Brooks Pounders** and RH **Deck McGuire** to minor league contracts with invitations to major league spring training.

Rays Spring Training History											
Year	W-L-T	Att.	Year	W-L-T	Att.	Year	W-L-T	Att.	Year	W-L-T	Att.
2020	2-1-1	9,463	2014	16-7-4	78,264	2008	18-8-2	54,960	2002	10-16-1	49,043
2019	13-17-2	74,023	2013	15-17-2	90,935	2007	10-19-2	79,044	2001	12-15-1	57,081
2018	14-16-2	69,731	2012	10-16-6	87,916	2006	13-16-1	70,756	2000	14-17-0	67,089
2017	12-16-5	81,752	2011	15-14-2	95,859	2005	13-16-0	61,261	1999	14-14-1	59,230
2016	12-13-2	68,566	2010	20-8-2	97,971	2004	11-8-0	43,916	1998	12-18-0	66,781
2015	15-13-2	80,406	2009	15-16-1	103,255	2003	8-19-3	51,324		294-319-42	1,598,626

2020 Tampa Bay Rays Spring Training Schedule									
Day	Date	Opponent	Site	R/TV	Time/Score	W-L-T	Winner	Loser	Att.
Sat	Feb 22	@Boston	Fort Myers	W	L, 3-4	0-1-0	Kickham (1-0)	Ryan (0-1)	9,641
Sun	Feb 23	New York-AL	Charlotte County	W/F	W, 9-7	1-1-0	Fleming (1-0)	Lane (0-1)	6,330
Mon	Feb 24	Boston	Charlotte County	M/F	T, 2-2	1-1-1	--	--	3,133
Tues	Feb 25	@Baltimore	Sarasota		W, 15-2	2-1-1	Morton (1-0)	Means (0-1)	3,769
Wed	Feb 26	Minnesota	Charlotte County	M	1:05 p.m.				
Thurs	Feb 27	Detroit	Charlotte County	M	1:05 p.m.				
		@New York-AL	Tampa		1:05 p.m.				
Fri	Feb 28	@Washington	Palm Beach		1:05 p.m.				
Sat	Feb 29	Atlanta	Charlotte County	W	6:05 p.m.				
Sun	March 1	Minnesota	Charlotte County	W/F	1:05 p.m.				
Mon	March 2	@Baltimore	Sarasota		1:05 p.m.				
Tues	March 3	@Atlanta	North Port		1:05 p.m.				
Wed	March 4	Toronto	Charlotte County	M	1:05 p.m.				
Thurs	March 5	Pittsburgh	Charlotte County	M/F	1:05 p.m.				
Fri	March 6	@Minnesota	Lee County		1:05 p.m.				
Sat	March 7	Baltimore	Charlotte County	W/F	1:05 p.m.				
		@Atlanta	North Port		1:05 p.m.				
Sun	March 8	Pittsburgh	Charlotte County	W	1:05 p.m.				
Mon	March 9	@Toronto	Dunedin		1:07 p.m.				
Wed	March 11	Boston	Charlotte County	W/F	6:35 p.m.				
Thurs	March 12	Philadelphia	Charlotte County	M	1:05 p.m.				
Fri	March 13	@Boston	Fort Myers		1:05 p.m.				
Sat	March 14	@Toronto	Dunedin	W	1:07 p.m.				
Sun	March 15	Baltimore	Charlotte County	W	1:05 p.m.				
Mon	March 16	Atlanta	Charlotte County	M/F	1:05 p.m.				
Wed	March 18	@Philadelphia	Clearwater		1:05 p.m.				
Thurs	March 19	Toronto	Charlotte County	M/F	1:05 p.m.				
		@Boston	Fort Myers		1:05 p.m.				
Fri	March 20	Washington	Charlotte County	M/F	1:05 p.m.				
Sat	March 21	@Philadelphia	Clearwater	W	1:05 p.m.				
Sun	March 22	@Pittsburgh	Bradenton	W	1:05 p.m.				
Mon	March 23	@Philadelphia	Clearwater		1:05 p.m.				
Tues	March 24	Prospects	Tropicana Field	M/F	12:35 p.m.				

Home Games shaded gray **RADIO:** WDAE 95.3 FM/620 AM (W), MLB.com (M) **TELEVISION:** FOX Sports Sun (F)