



## Arizona Fall League Game Notes - Thursday, October 28, 2021

Website: [mlbfallball.com](http://mlbfallball.com)

Twitter: @MLBazFallLeague

### AFL Standings

#### East Division

GB

Mesa	7-5	—
Salt River	6-5	0.5
Scottsdale	3-10	4.5

#### West Division

GB

Surprise	9-3	—
Glendale	7-5	2.0
Peoria	4-8	5.0

### Today's Games

#### GLENDALE @ PEORIA

##### Glendale

RHP Bobby Miller (LAD)  
0-0, 6.75 ERA

##### Peoria

LHP MacKenzie Gore (SD)  
0-0, 7.11 ERA

#### SALT RIVER @ SURPRISE

##### Salt River

RHP Connor Grey (NYM)  
1-1, 1.50 ERA

##### Surprise

LHP Asa Lacy (KC)  
2-0, 3.86 ERA

#### SCOTTSDALE @ MESA

##### Scottsdale

RHP Caleb Sampen (TB)  
0-1, 5.79 ERA

##### Mesa

LHP Hogan Harris (OAK)  
0-0, 0.00 ERA

### Batting Practice Schedule - Through 10/30

Team	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
Surprise	X	X	X	X*	TBD	TBD
Peoria	Off	X	-	X	-	X
Glendale	X	Off	-	X	-	-
Salt River	Off	Off	X	-*	X	X
Scottsdale	X	-	X	X	-	X
Mesa	X	-	X	X	X	X

**12:35 p.m.** - HINF: 9:10 a.m., HBP: 9:25 a.m., VBP: 10:40 a.m., VIN: 11:40 a.m.

**6:35 p.m.** - HINF: 3:10 p.m., HBP: 3:25 p.m., VBP: 4:40 p.m., VIN: 5:40 p.m.

Teams are REQUIRED to take batting practice and infield every Monday and Thursday

\*Surprise: batting practice at 10 a.m. today (Thursday, Oct. 28). Salt River has approved BP off.

### Fall League Alum of the Day

**Mike Piazza** (Sun Cities Solar Sox, 1992) played in the Arizona Fall League's inaugural season while also winning the first AFL championship. He was named the National League Rookie of the Year in 1993 and would go on to play in 10 consecutive All-Star games. A career .308/.377/.545 MLB hitter, Piazza was the first AFL alum to be inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame (Class of 2016). Piazza was inducted with 83% of votes in his fourth year on the ballot. The catcher amassed 427 home runs, 2,127 hits and 1,335 RBIs in his 16-year MLB career, playing in 32 career postseason games and winning a National League championship with the New York Mets in 2000.

### Upcoming Games and Probable Starters

#### Friday, October 29

Glendale @ Scottsdale	12:35 p.m. RHP Robinson Pina vs. LHP Seth Corry
Salt River @ Peoria	12:35 p.m. RHP Slade Cecconi vs. RHP William Woods
Surprise @ Mesa	12:35 p.m. RHP James Marinan vs. RHP Michael Dominguez

#### Saturday, October 30

Peoria @ Mesa	12:35 p.m. RHP Hans Crouse vs. RHP Connor Loeprich
Surprise @ Scottsdale	12:35 p.m. RHP Cole Henry vs. RHP Connor Seabold
Salt River @ Glendale	6:35 p.m. RHP Shumpei Yoshikawa vs. RHP Angel Macuare

## Fall League Player Profile



### Matt Wallner

Scottsdale Scorpions - OF

**Bats:** Left      **Throws:** Right  
**Height:** 6'5"    **Weight:** 220 lb.

**Born:** December 12, 1997 (23)  
**Birthplace:** Forest Lake, MN  
**Drafted:** 2019 (17th round, MIN)  
**College:** Southern Mississippi

**Favorite Halloween candy:**  
Reese's

**Least favorite Halloween candy:**  
Mounds

**Favorite minor league ballpark he's played in:**  
Northeast Community Credit Union Park (Elizabethton, TN)

**Favorite Arizona Fall League hat (other than the Scorpions):**  
Salt River Rafters



## AFL Player Notebook

### Peoria

**#3 Nick Gonzales (PIT)** - Seventh overall selection in the 2020 draft out of New Mexico State. Fourth-ranked Pirates prospect according to MLB Pipeline. Played exclusively with High-A Greensboro in 2021, posting a .302/.385/.565 slash in 369 at-bats. Played in 128 career games at New Mexico State, posting a career .399/.502/.747 collegiate slash. Played in two summer seasons with the Cotuit Kettleers of the Cape Cod Baseball League, batting a combined .340/.439/.610 slash in 159 at-bats.

**#18 Devin Sweet (SEA)** - Signed with the Mariners as an undrafted free agent in 2018. Played four seasons at North Carolina Central, posting a combined 4.23 ERA in 226.1 combined innings. Played exclusively with Double-A Arkansas in 2021, posting a 4.74 ERA in 79.2 innings. Played for six different Mariners affiliates since 2018.

**#32 Bo Henning (Pitching Coach, ATL)** - Coached with High-A Rome as the pitching coach in 2021. Joined the Atlanta Braves organization in 2020 after working as the pitching coach at Nova Southeastern University in 2019-2020. Coached for three summers in the summer collegiate Northwoods League for the Willmar Stingers, serving as manager from 2018-2019. Finished his playing career in 2013 with the Vallejo Admirals (independent).

### Salt River

**#26 Shumpei Yoshikawa (ARI)** - Born in Suita, Japan. Made his minor league debut in 2019 at the age of 24, pitching 103.1 innings with High-A Visalia. Played with four Diamondbacks affiliates in 2021, pitching 20.1 of his 21.2 innings this year with High-A Hillsboro. Posted a 8.72 ERA in 2021. 153 career minor league strikeouts in 125 career innings.

**#20 Willie MacIver (COL)** - Played in the 2021 Futures Game at Coors Field. Born in Pleasant Hill, California. Played three seasons at the University of Washington before being drafted in the ninth round of the 2018 draft. Played with High-A Spokane, Double-A Hartford and Triple-A Albuquerque in 2021, recording 364 combined at-bats.

**#57 Brian Metoyer (NYM)** - Drafted in the 40th round of the 2018 draft out of Louisiana State University of Alexandria. Pitched 33 innings with High-A Brooklyn in 2021, posting a 2.18 ERA with 46 strikeouts. Finished the season with Double-A Binghamton, allowing one run in three innings. 77 career minor league innings with a 3.97 ERA.

# AFL Player Notebook

## Mesa

**#40 Danis Correa (CHC)** - Made his professional debut in 2017 (17 years old) with the Cubs' Arizona League and Dominican Summer League affiliate. Played 2021 with High-A South Bend and Low-A Myrtle Beach, posting a combined 1.95 ERA in 37 innings of work. 86 minor league strikeouts in 79.2 career innings. Opened his 2021 Fall League campaign with a scoreless 2/3-inning appearance.

**#44 Cre Finfrock (TOR)** - 29th-round draftee in 2018 out of Central Florida, where he played three collegiate seasons. Turned down a 26th-round selection in 2014 (Milwaukee) out of high school. Pitched 3.2 innings in 2021 with five total appearances. Made his Double-A debut in 2021. Opened the 2021 Fall League with one run allowed in his first three appearances (4.1 innings).

**#29 Nick Vespi (BAL)** - 18th-round pick in the 2015 draft out of Palm Beach State College. Made his Double-A and Triple-A debut in 2021, pitching 19 innings for Double-A Bowie and 19.2 frames for Triple-A Norfolk. Posted a combined 4.19 ERA with 51 strikeouts and 17 walks. 137 career minor league appearances; 32 career starts and 105 relief appearances. Four scoreless innings to start the 2021 Fall League with six strikeouts.

## Scottsdale

**#39 Justin Evans (MIA)** - 19th-round selection in the 2018 draft out of Columbus State University. Pitched a career 22 innings at Columbus State; held a 0.77 ERA in his final collegiate season (11.2 IP). Played for Low-A Jupiter, High-A Beloit and Double-A Pensacola in 2021, posting a combined 6.40 ERA in 45 total innings. Played a collegiate summer with the Eau Claire Express of the Northwoods League in 2017, recording three innings on the mound and 188 at-bats at the plate.

**#38 Carlos Garcia (TB)** - Debuted in the Tampa Bay Rays organization in 2018, pitching 33.1 innings in the Dominican Summer League. Pitched exclusively with Double-A Bowling Green in 2021, posting a 4.32 ERA in 66 total innings. Played winter ball for the Perth Heat of the Australian Baseball League in 2019-20, posting a 1.72 ERA in 15.2 total innings, Opened the 2021 Fall League with 4.1 scoreless innings.

**#25 Cole Cottam (BOS)** - Played in 71 games in 2021, 46 with High-A Greenville and 25 with Double-A Portland, posting a combined .278/.371/.500 slash. 4th-round selection in the 2018 draft out of Kentucky. Played three seasons in the SEC, posting a combined .326/.399/.553 slash in 151 NCAA games. Played one collegiate summer with the Willmar Stingers (Northwoods) and Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox (Cape Cod).

## Surprise

**#33 Seuly Matias (KC)** - Made his professional debut in 2016 with the Royals' affiliate in the Arizona League and Dominican Summer League. Played 64 games in 2021 between Double-A Northwest Arkansas, High-A Quad Cities and the Royals' complex affiliate, posting a combined .213/.309/.511 slash. 68 career minor league home runs in 325 career games. Three home runs for the AFL Saguaros in his first eight games.

**#12 Cole Henry (WAS)** - Second-round draft selection to the Nationals in 2021 out of LSU. Pitched two seasons with the Tigers after turning down a 38th-round selection by Detroit in 2018. Pitched 43 innings for High-A Wilmington in 2021, posting a 1.88 ERA. Seventh-ranked Washington prospect according to MLB Pipeline. Allowed one earned run in his first five innings of Fall League work.

**#6 Nathan Eaton (KC)** - 21st-round pick in the 2018 draft out of the Virginia Military Institute. Posted a .243/.344/.371 slash in 70 games with High-A Quad Cities in 2021 with 23 stolen bases. 1,029 career minor league at-bats in three total seasons. Started the 2021 Fall League going 10-for-21 with four doubles and a triple.

## Glendale

**#18 Jair Fernandez (Manager, LAD)** - Managed the 2021 Colombian National Team in the WBSC Baseball Americas Qualifier, a tournament awarding a bid to the Tokyo Olympics. 10 seasons of professional catching experience, peaking at Triple-A for the Astros, Twins and Mariners organization. Managed the Dodgers' Dominican Summer League affiliate in 2021.

**#48 Carson Taylor (LAD)** - Fourth-round selection in the 2020 draft out of Virginia Tech. Played two seasons in the ACC, posting a .332/.436/.495 slash in 53 career games. Played exclusively with High-A Great Lakes in 2021, posting a .278/.371/.433 slash in 29 games. Opened the 2021 Fall League going 2-for-9 with a home run.

**#50 Zack Thompson (STL)** - 19th overall selection in the 2019 draft out of Kentucky. Eighth-ranked Cardinals prospect according to MLB Pipeline. Pitched exclusively for Triple-A Memphis in 2021, posting a 7.06 ERA in 93 innings. Career 6.56 minor league ERA in 108.1 total innings. Opened the 2021 Fall League with six scoreless innings, allowing two hits and collecting 11 strikeouts.

## Today's Fall League Five

1: Elijah Dunham (NYY) posted a two-home-run afternoon on Wednesday, collecting four RBIs as his Surprise Saguaros took down the Peoria Javelinas 5-1. Dunham started the day with a .286/.444/.393 slash; he now holds a .344/.475/.625 slash in 32 total at-bats.

2: In the Wednesday night contest between the Scottsdale Scorpions and Salt River Rafters, there was a combined one run allowed in 11 <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> combined innings of relief pitching. Nine pitchers combined to collect 11 strikeouts while allowing seven hits.

3: The Mesa Solar Sox pitching staff worked a five-hit shutout on Wednesday afternoon en route to a 12-0 victory. Starter Ryan Jensen (CHC) tossed four innings of two-hit baseball, while reliever Caleb Kilian (CHC) tossed three innings of one-hit relief. Both combined for 11 strikeouts.

4: J.J. Bleday (MIA) led an offensive charge for the Solar Sox on Wednesday, driving in five of the team's 12 runs. Bleday went 3-for-5 with a double and a two-run home run, lifting his season average to .350 and his season OPS to 1.055.

5: All three games on today's schedule have 12:35 p.m. MST start times. Five of the next six days of Arizona Fall League action (not including the league-wide Sunday off day) will feature three games with identical afternoon start times.

### Important dates to remember:

- Fall Stars Game: November 13th at Salt River Fields

