

ARIZONA FALL LEAGUE

GAME NOTES - MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2026



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AFL Standings

Surprise Saguaros	2-0	-	W2
Mesa Solar Sox	0-1	1.0	W1
Peoria Javelinas	1-1	1.0	L1
Salt River Rafters	1-0	1.0	L1
Scottsdale Scorpions	0-1	1.0	W1
Glendale Desert Dogs	0-2	2.0	L2

Sunday's Top Performers

ERIC BITONTI (SCO/MIL No. 26/1B) launched his first home run of the fall league with an exit velocity of 110.3 mph after 25 in High-A Wisconsin.

CALEB BONEMER (GLE/MLB No. 27/CWS No.2/DH) went 2-for-4 with a single at 107.2 mph and an RBI double at 106.8 mph.

NAZZAN ZANETELLO (MSS/BOS/2B) went 2-for-3 with a game-tying 401-foot home run at 106.9 mph off the bat.

TUCKER NOVOTNY (MSS/ATH/LHP) struck out 4 of 10 batters faced and allowed one hit in 3.0 scoreless innings.

GRANT RICHARDSON (MSS/ATH/LHP) struck out 5 of 9 batters, allowing 1 run on 2 hits over 3.0 innings in his first appearance since Apr. 22.

DAVIS DIAZ (MSS/ATH No. 19/C) went 2-for-2 with a go-ahead 2-Run HR and a walk.

DEMETRIO CRISANTES (SRR/MLB No. 84/ARI No. 1/2B) recorded his first hit and RBI with an RBI triple, his fifth combined triple of the year.

SEBASTIAN WALCOTT (SUR/MLB No. 8/TEX No. 1/SS) went 2-for-3 with an RBI single, a sacrifice fly and a walk.

ALEJANDRO CHIQUILLO (SUR/TEX/RHP) struck out 4 of 9 batters in 3.0 perfect innings of relief.

DIVISION SERIES: In the 2026 MLB Division Series, 87 of the 208 (41.8%) active players are Arizona Fall League alum. The New York Yankees led teams with 14, including Gerrit Cole, Max Fried, and Giancarlo Stanton.

MLB Pipeline Top 100 Prospects

- Sebastian Walcott - SS, Surprise Saguaros (TEX)
- Eduardo Quintero - OF, Glendale Desert Dogs (LAD)
- Zyhir Hope - OF, Scottsdale Scorpions (DET)
- Caleb Bonemer - OF, Glendale Desert Dogs (CWS)
- Arjun Nimmala - SS, Mesa Solar Sox (LAA)
- Bryce Rainer - SS, Scottsdale Scorpions (DET)
- Tate Southisene - SS, Glendale Desert Dogs (ATL)
- Aidan Miller - SS, Surprise Saguaros (PHI)
- Nathan Flewelling - C, Scottsdale Scorpions (TB)
- Jarlin Susana - RHP, Salt River Rafters (WSH)
- Angeibel Gomez - OF, Surprise Saguaros (KC)
- Dax Kilby - SS, Salt River Rafters (NYY)
- Charles Davalan - OF, Glendale Desert Dogs (LAD)
- Demetrio Crisantes - 2B, Salt River Rafters (ARI)
- Ike Irish - OF, Peoria Javelinas (BAL)

Media Inquiries

For Arizona Fall League media inquiries, please contact Jaden Taylor (Jaden.Taylor@MLB.com).

Today's Headlines

The Arizona Fall League returns for its 34th playing season yesterday. Welcoming hundreds of top Minor League prospects, the Arizona Fall League serves as the "finishing school" for players to reach the Major League level.

Starting Pitchers

Peoria @ Salt River: RHP Luke Holman (CIN No. 26) begins his AFL campaign today. The right-hander was drafted in the 2nd round (71) in 2024 out of LSU. During his time in Baton Rouge, he was named a Golden Spikes Award Semifinalist as a consensus All-American after finishing No. 2 in the SEC in strikeouts (127), and in opponent batting average (.174), No. 3 in ERA (2.75), No. 4 in wins (9), and No. 5 in innings pitched (91.2). Spent the majority of the 2026 season on the injured list, Holman logged a 2.70 ERA with nine strikeouts in four appearances (four starts).

The Rafters will hand the ball to the **LHP Cesar Lares (MIN)**, an International Free Agent signee out of Maracay, Venezuela. Lares has recorded 242 career strikeouts over 202.1 total innings pitched in 53 career games. The left-hander was named Florida State League Pitcher of the Week for the Fort Myers Mighty Mussels on May 5, 2024, after he tossed 6.0 hitless innings to earn his first win of the 2024 season.

Glendale @ Surprise: RHP Brooks Auger (LAD No. 28) was drafted in the 6th round (190) in the 2024 MLB Draft out of Mississippi State. In 2026, Auger made 17 starts for High-A Great Lakes, and tossed 59.2 innings with a 3.62 ERA and a 32/85 BB-K ratio. In his last appearance, with High-A Great Lakes he struck out four batters over four frames against Dayton in the Midwest League semifinals.

On the other side, **RHP Steven Zobac (KC No. 14)** takes the hill for Surprise. Zobac was drafted in the 4th round (115) in 2022 out of California. Zobac has made 35 appearances (34 starts) across the last three seasons in Double-A NW Arkansas going 7-12, with a 4.96 ERA, and 143 strikeouts in 143.1 innings. The right-hander was named the Midwest League Pitcher of the Month for June in 2024: 23.0 IP, 15 H, 3 ER, 24 K.

Scottsdale @ Mesa: RHP Miguel Mendez (SF No. 26) gets the nod for the Scorpions in his return to the AFL after being with Peoria in 2023. He was signed by the San Diego Padres as an International Free Agent on Feb. 5, 2021. In 2025, he posted a 3.22 ERA and 118 strikeouts over a career-high 95 innings in Double-A. Mendez was named a Midwest League Postseason All-Star in 2025. He was traded with INF Joniel Hernandez to San Francisco for LHP Robbie Ray on Aug. 3, 2026.

Mesa will send out **RHP Peyton Olejnik (LAA)**, who was drafted in the 6th round (172) in the 2024 MLB Draft out of Miami (OH). The right-hander was named Northwest League Pitcher of the Week (7/12/2026) and NWL Pitcher of the Month for June 2026. This season, he made 22 starts, a 4.47 ERA with 11 strikeouts in 106.2 innings with High-A Tri-City.

Upcoming Games and Probable Pitchers

Monday, October 5

Peoria @ Salt River	1:30	RHP Luke Holman vs. LHP Cesar Lares
Glendale @ Surprise	6:30	RHP Brooks Auger vs. RHP Steven Zobac
Scottsdale @ Mesa	6:30	RHP Miguel Mendez vs. RHP Peyton Olejnik

Tuesday, October 6

Surprise @ Salt River	1:30	LHP Justin Lamkin vs. RHP RJ Sales
Glendale @ Mesa	3:30	RHP Alex Williams vs. RHP Jake Bloss

Wednesday, October 7

Peoria @ Scottsdale	6:30	RHP Winyer Chourio vs. RHP Drake George
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Batting Practice & Infield/Outfield

The Arizona Fall League is set to have three mandatory batting practice and I/O days on Oct. 8, 15, and 19. Other days are at the discretion of the coaching staffs. The schedule for those days is below:

1:30 - Home I/O: 9:45 a.m., Home BP: 10:10 a.m., Visitor BP: 11:25 p.m., Visitor I/O: 12:35 p.m.
6:30 - Home I/O: 2:45 p.m., Home BP: 3:10 p.m., Visitor BP: 4:25 p.m., Visitor I/O: 5:35 p.m.