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NEW YORK METS (4-2) AT ST. LOUIS CARDINALS (2-3-2) MARCH 1, 2024 - 1:05 PM ROGER DEAN CHEVROLET STADIUM - JUPITER, FL RHP LUIS SEVERINO (0-0, -.-) VS. LHP MATTHEW LIBERATORE (0-0, 9.00)



PREVIOUSLY ON...: Yesterday, the Mets saw their four-game win streak come to an end as they lost to the Houston Astros, 2-1, in West Palm Beach...LHP Jose Quintana made his first start of the spring and allowed two runs over 1.2 inning...RHP Tylor Megill made his second appearance of the spring and threw 3.0 scoreless innings in relief...RHPs Yohan Ramirez, Austin Adams and Cole Sulser each added 1.0 scoreless inning out of the bullpen...INF Luisangel Acuña drove in the only run for the Mets with an RBI single in the ninth...INFs Ji-Man Choi and Zack Short each recorded a double.

ARMS APLENTY: Through six games this spring, Mets pitchers have posted a 2.21 ERA (13 ER/53.0 IP), the best mark in the majors...The staff's 1.13 WHIP is the third-lowest in the majors, while their .215 opponent batting average is the fifth-lowest mark...Mets starting pitchers have pitched to a 2.53 ERA (3 ER/10.2 IP), the fifth-best mark in Grapefruit League play and the ninth-best mark in the majors...Mets relievers have pitched to a 2.13 ERA (10 ER/42.1 IP), the lowest mark in the majors.

ROCCO'S UNCLE: Through three Grapefruit League games, OF Trayce Thompson is 4-7 with two home runs and six RBI...Thompson is tied for third in the majors in RBI and tied for fifth in total bases with 11...Five of Thompson's six RBI came in February 26's win at Washington, as he slugged a grand slam in the third and laced an RBI single in the fifth.

VS. CARDINALS: Today, the Mets will play their third of six Grapefruit League games against the Cardinals...The Mets dropped their Grapefruit League opener against the Cardinals, 10-5, on February 24 at Clover Park...On February 28, the Mets defeated the Cardinals, 3-0, at Clover Park...Last season, the Mets won the season series over St. Louis, 4-3, and outscored the Cardinals 43-26...The Mets will take on the Cardinals from April 26-28 at Citi Field and from May 6-8 at Busch Stadium.

MENDOZA LINES: Carlos Mendoza will begin his first season as the 25th manager in franchise history...The 44-year-old spent the previous 15 seasons with the Yankees organization, including the last four as the club's bench coach...From 2018-2019, Mendoza served as the Yankees' quality control coach...Prior to joining the big league coaching staff, Mendoza served as a manager and coach in the Yankees farm system...A native of Barquisimeto, Venezuela, Mendoza is the second full-time Venezuelan-born manager in big league history, joining Ozzie Guillén.

DOC AND DARRYL: This season the Mets will retire Dwight Gooden's #18 and Darryl Strawberry's #18...Gooden will be honored in a pregame ceremony on April 14, while Strawberry will be honored prior to June 2's game...Gooden won the 1984 NL Rookie of the Year Award while setting a major league rookie record with 276 strikeouts and was the youngest player ever named to an All-Star team at age 19...In 1985 Doc became the youngest pitcher ever to win Cy Young honors when he captured the "Triple Crown" of pitching, leading the majors in wins (24), strikeouts (268) and ERA (1.53)...Gooden was inducted into the Mets Hall of Fame in 2010 and ranks second in franchise history in wins (157) and strikeouts (1,875)...Strawberry was a seven-time All-Star with the Mets and earned National League Rookie of the Year honors in 1983...He is the Mets all-time leader in home runs (252), ranks second in RBI (733) and walks (580), third in extra-base hits (469) and runs (662) and fourth in slugging (.520)...Strawberry was also elected to the Mets Hall of Fame in 2010.

SPEAKING OF STRAW: Darryl Strawberry will be a guest instructor in camp until March 2.

CLOVER PARK: The Mets will call Clover Park home for their 36th season...Opened in 1988, Clover Park seats 7,000 fans and also serves as the regular season home to the Mets Class-A affiliate St. Lucie Mets...The ballpark also donned the name Thomas J. White Stadium (1988-2004), Tradition Field (2004-2009, 2012-2016), Digital Domain Park (2010-2012) and First Data Field (2017-2019).

MR. SMILE: Last season, Francisco Lindor became the Mets' fourth member of the 30-30 club (also, David Wright, Howard Johnson and Darryl Strawberry) as he established a career high with 31 stolen bases to pair with his 31 home runs...He joined Barry Larkin (1996), Alex Rodriguez (1998), Jimmy Rollins (2007), Hanley Ramirez (2008) and Bobby Witt Jr. (2023) as the only shortstops in major league history with a 30-30 season...The 30-year-old was among National League leaders in stolen bases (31, t-seventh), hit by pitches (12, t-13th), RBI, (98, 14th), home runs (31, 14th), extra-base hits (66, t-14th), total bases (283, 15th) and doubles (33, t-16th last season).

POLAR POWER: Pete Alonso finished the 2023 season third in the majors in homers (46) and second in RBI (118)...He became the fifth player in major league history with three or more seasons of 40 or more homers in their first five years, joining Ralph Kiner (four), Ryan Howard, Albert Pujols and Eddie Mathews (three each)...His 192 career home runs are the most in the majors since his MLB debut in 2019 and are the third-most in major league history by a player in their first five major league seasons trailing Kiner (215) and Pujols (201)...Alonso currently ranks tied for fourth with Howard Johnson on the Mets all-time home run list...Mike Piazza is next (220).

INVADER NIM: Last season, Brandon Nimmo established career highs in many offensive categories including, games played (152), hits (162), homers (24), XBH (60) and RBI (68)...Nimmo's six triples were tied for eighth in the NL and his 13 triples since 2022 are tied for the most in the NL during that span...Since 2018, Nimmo has sported a .382 OBP, the fifth-highest mark in the NL and the 10th-highest mark in the majors during that time frame (min. 2000 plate appearances...His 24 home runs from the lead-off spot were the tied with Tommie Agee (1970) for the second-most by a Met in a single season.

ATTABOY ALVAREZ: In his rookie season, Francisco Alvarez slugged 25 home runs, the third-most by a Mets rookie trailing only Pete Alonso (2019) and Darryl Strawberry (1983)...Alvarez's 25 home runs last season were the second-most ever by a catcher age 21 or younger only behind Hall of Famer Johnny Bench (26, 1969)...Research courtesy of Sarah Langs...The Guatire, Venezuela native was named National League Rookie of the month for July.

NEW FACES IN NEW PLACES: The 2024 Mets enter the season with several new players on the roster...These include: free agent signings OF Harrison Bader, LHP Jake Diekmann, RHP Shintaro Fujinami, RHP Jorge López, LHP Sean Manaea, RHP Luis Severino, RHP Michael Tonkin and INF Joey Wendle; trade acquisitions RHP Adrian Houser, RHP Yohan Ramirez and OF Tyrone Taylor; waiver claims RHP Max Kranick and INF Zack Short; and minor league free agents: RHP Austin Adams, C Austin Allen, INF Rylan Bannon, INF Ji-Man Choi, RHP Kyle Crick, OF Ben Gamel, INF Jose Iglesias, OF Taylor Kohlwey, RHP Cam Robinson, INF Yolmer Sánchez, RHP Chad Smith, RHP Cole Sulser, OF Trayce Thompson, INF Luke Voit and LHP Danny Young.

EXPECTED TO START

RHP LUIS SEVERINO: Will make his first start of the spring today...On December 1, 2023, the Mets inked Severino to a one-year contract...The right-hander spent his first eight big league seasons with the Yankees and went 54-37 with a 3.79 ERA (306 ER/727.1 IP) and 788 strikeouts over 141 games (125 starts)...Last season, Severino went 4-8 with a 6.65 ERA (66 ER/89.1 IP) over 19 outings...Severino began the 2023 season on the IL with a right lat strain and returned to the IL on September 9 with a left upper body injury and missed the remainder of the season...From 2019-2021, Severino appeared in seven games as he was limited by injury and missed the entire 2020 season after undergoing Tommy John surgery...In 2017 and 2018, Severino was named an American League All-Star...He finished third in the AL Cy Young vote in 2017 and ninth in 2018...During that time frame, Severino's 450 strikeouts were the eighth-most in the majors, while his 3.18 ERA (136 ER/384.2 IP) was the 11th-lowest in the league...Severino made his major league debut in 2015 and pitched to a 2.89 ERA (20 ER/62.1 IP) over 11 starts that season...A native of Sabana de La Mar, Dominican Republic, Severino was signed by the Yankees as a non-drafted free agent on December 26, 2011.

OUR PROSPECTS ARE GOOD: New York enters the season with four prospects in *MLB Pipeline's* top 100...Three of the four are here in major league camp with the Mets...They are: INF Jett Williams (No. 45), OF Drew Gilbert (No. 53) and INF Luisangel Acuña (No. 66)...The other is OF Ryan Clifford (No. 97)...Williams was a first-round selection (14th overall) by the Mets in 2022 and was named the Mets Player Development Hitter of the Year last season as a 19-year-old...Gilbert, Acuña and Clifford all joined the organization last summer via trade...Acuña was acquired from Texas in exchange for Max Scherzer...Gilbert and Clifford came to New York in the Justin Verlander deal with Houston.

THE CREAM OF THE CROP: Seven of New York's top 10 prospects (according to Baseball America) are in camp with the big league club...In addition to Williams, Gilbert and Acuña, RHP Christian Scott, RHP Mike Vasil and C Kevin Parada are participating in major league Spring Training (INF Ronny Mauricio, on the 60-Day IL recovering from a torn right ACL, is in Port St. Lucie as well).

UPCOMING PITCHING

FRIDAY, MARCH 1
1:05 PM at St. Louis

METS: RHP Luis Severino, RHP Eric Orze, RHP Cam Robinson, RHP Sean Reid-Foley

CARDINALS: LHP Matthew Liberatore, RHP Gordon Graceffo, RHP Andre Pallante, RHP Nick Robertson, RHP Riley O'Brien, RHP Ryan Fernandez

SATURDAY, MARCH 2
1:10 PM at Miami

METS: LHP Sean Manaea, RHP Christian Scott, RHP Mike Vasil, RHP Jorge López, RHP Michael Tonkin

MARLINS: RHP Eury Pérez, RHP Calvin Faucher, LHP Patrick Monteverde, RHP Roddery Muñoz, RHP Sixto Sánchez

SUNDAY, MARCH 3
1:10 PM vs. Houston

METS: TBA

ASTROS: RHP José Urquidy, RHP Brandon Bielak, RHP Luis Contreras, RHP Seth Martinez, RHP Cole McDonald, LHP Parker Mushinski, RHP Oliver Ortega, LHP Bennett Sousa

