



Arizona Fall League Game Notes - Thursday, October 14, 2021

Website: mlbfallball.com

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AFL Standings

East Division

GB

Salt River	1-0	—
Scottsdale	0-1	1
Mesa	0-1	1

West Division

GB

Surprise	1-0	—
Glendale	1-0	1
Peoria	0-1	1

Today's Games

GLENDALE @ PEORIA

Glendale

RHP Jordan Hicks (STL)

0-0, 0.00 ERA

Peoria

RHP William Woods (ATL)

0-0, 0.00 ERA

SALT RIVER @ SURPRISE

Salt River

RHP Matt Dennis (COL)

0-0, 0.00 ERA

Surprise

RHP Owen White (TEX)

0-0, 0.00 ERA

SCOTTSDALE @ MESA

Scottsdale

RHP Kody Funderburk (MIN)

0-0, 0.00 ERA

Mesa

RHP Ryan Jensen (CHC)

0-0, 0.00 ERA

Batting Practice Schedule - Through 10/16

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

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

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

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

Fall League Alum of the Day

Will Smith (Glendale Desert Dogs, 2017) won a World Series Championship with the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2020, three years removed from the Arizona Fall League. In three big league seasons, Smith has an OPS .892; this is following his 1.017 OPS with the AFL in 2017. He will look to continue his hitting prowess (1.404 OPS, .400 BA, 2 HR, 3 RBI) in tonight's decisive NLDS Game 5 as his Dodgers face the San Francisco Giants at Oracle Park.

Upcoming Games and Probable Starters

Friday, October 15

MESA at SURPRISE	12:35 p.m.	RHP Jeff Criswell vs. RHP Jackson Rutledge
SCOTTSDALE at GLENDALE	12:35 p.m.	RHP Tanner Tully vs. RHP Bobby Miller
SALT RIVER at PEORIA	6:35 p.m.	RHP Connor Grey vs. RHP Hans Crouse

Saturday, October 16

SCOTTSDALE at PEORIA	12:35 p.m.	LHP Seth Corry vs. RHP Juan Then
GLENDALE at SURPRISE	6:35 p.m.	RHP Robinson Pina vs. RHP James Marinar
MESA at SALT RIVER	6:35 p.m.	RHP Michael Dominguez vs. RHP Garrett Hill

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AFL Player Notebook

Peoria

#20 William Woods (ATL) - 23rd-round selection in the 2018 draft out of Dyersburg State Community College (TN), the school's second-ever draftee. Pitched only 10 2/3 innings in 2021 after not pitching in 2020 and tossing 51 innings in 2019. Posted a 4.22 ERA in 2021. 60-grade fastball according to MLB Pipeline.

#7 C.J. Abrams (SD) - MLB Pipeline's sixth-ranked prospect. Drafted by the Padres with the sixth overall pick of the 2019 draft. Played in only 42 games in 2021, all with Double-A San Antonio, posting a .296/.363/.420 slash and stealing 13 bases. Sidelined by knee and leg injuries in early July. 80-grade speed will be monitored in his Fall League performance.

#1 MacKenzie Gore (SD) - Third-overall pick to the Padres in the 2017 draft. Pitched 50 innings in 2021 between four affiliates, 20 of them coming with Triple-A El Paso. Averaged over one strikeout an inning in 2021, posting a 2.18 strikeout-to-walk ratio. Four-pitch mix that plays well up in the zone. Pitched in the 2019 Futures Game in Cleveland.

#4 Shea Langeliers (ATL) - 69th-ranked prospect in baseball according to MLB Pipeline. Spent three seasons at Baylor University, posting a .289/.370/.521 slash from 2017-2019. Played 92 games for Double-A Mississippi in 2021, hitting 22 home runs in 329 at-bats. Made his Triple-A debut this year (Gwinnett) for five games and 11 at-bats.

Salt River

#15 Matt Dennis (COL) - 14th-round selection by the Rockies in 2014 (Bradley University). Pitched exclusively for Double-A Hartford in 2021, posting a 5.81 ERA in 96 innings. Made 17 starts and six relief appearances in 2021, posting a combined 7.4 K/9 and 1.9 BB/9. Holds a minor league career ERA of 4.70 in over 500 innings. Pitched as a closer at Bradley in his first two collegiate seasons.

#8 Spencer Torkelson (DET) - MLB Pipeline's No. 4 overall prospect. First overall pick in the 2020 draft out of Arizona State. Played in 40 games for Triple-A Toledo in his first professional season, posting a .238/.350/.531 slash (.881 OPS). Played 50 games with Double-A Erie, posting a .933 OPS. Went 1-2 in the 2021 Futures Game at Coors Field. Named PAC-12 Freshman of the Year in 2018 and spent two summers in the Cape Cod Baseball League with the Chatham Anglers.

#34 Jordan Sheffield (COL) - Rule 5 selection from the Los Angeles Dodgers following the 2020 season. Pitched in the Fall League for the Glendale Desert Dogs in 2019. Pitched 29.1 innings in the big leagues for the Rockies in 2021, slowed by a lat strain that kept him on the injured list for several months. Attended Vanderbilt University, making 22 starts in 38 college appearances. Brother of Mariners pitcher Justus Sheffield. 70-grade curveball according to FanGraphs.

Mesa

#16 Ryan Jensen (TOR) - First-round selection by the Blue Jays in the 2019 draft. MLB Pipeline's 15th-ranked Cubs prospect. 70-grade fastball per MLB Pipeline. Played three years at Fresno State, posting a 2.88 ERA in an even 100 innings during his junior season. Made 16 starts with High-A South Bend in 2021, posting a 4.50 ERA. Made four starts with Double-A Tennessee in 2021, posting a 3.00 ERA.

#10 J.J. Bleday (MIA) - MLB Pipeline's No. 74 overall prospect. Drafted fourth overall in the 2019 draft out of Vanderbilt. Led all of NCAA Division-I baseball with 27 home runs in 2019. Played exclusively with Double-A Pensacola in 2021 (110 games), hitting 12 home runs in 397 at-bats. Named to the Marlins' 60-man player pool in 2020 and worked exclusively at the club's alternate site.

#13 Kyle Stowers (BAL) - Second-round selection to the Orioles in 2019 out of Stanford. Posted an .897 OPS across three affiliates in 2021, reaching Triple-A Norfolk for 22 games. Co-winner of the Orioles' 2021 Brooks Robinson Award, awarded to the club's best minor leaguer(s) every year. Hit 27 home runs in 2021, the most out of all Baltimore prospects.

#2 Austin Beck (OAK) - Sixth overall pick of the 2017 draft out of North Davidson High School (NC). Made his Triple-A debut for Las Vegas in 2021, posting three home runs in 20 total at-bats. Played 69 games for High-A Lansing, posting a .202/.253/.351 slash. Arm and raw power are his notable tools according to FanGraphs.

AFL Player Notebook

Scottsdale

#59 Kody Funderburk (MIN) - Mesa, Arizona native. Pitched at both Mesa Community College and Dallas Baptist University before being drafted in the 15th round of the 2018 draft. Pitched 80 innings in 2021 between High-A Cedar Rapids and Double-A Wichita, posting a combined 2.55 ERA and collecting 90 strikeouts. 10.1 K/9 and 3.5 BB/9 in 2021.

#17 Triston Casas (BOS) - 60-grade power and arm according to MLB Pipeline. 26th-overall pick in the 2018 draft out of American Heritage High School (FL). Posted a .279/.394/.484 slash in 308 at-bats in 2021, with 77 of his 86 games played with Double-A Port- land. Made his Triple-A debut with Worcester at the end of 2021, posting an .866 OPS in 33 at-bats. Played for the Team USA 18U and 15U teams.

#7 Marco Luciano (SF) - MLB Pipeline's fifth-ranked prospect and the top in the Giants system. Made his professional debut at 17 years old (2019). 18 home runs in 70 games this year with Low-A San Jose. Played 36 games with High-A Eugene; both of Luciano's teams this year won their respective minor league championships. 65-grade power according to MLB Pipeline.

#67 Connor Seabold (BOS) - Third-round selection by the Red Sox in 2017. Turned down a 19th-round selection by the Orioles in 2014. Pitched three seasons at Cal State Fullerton, posting a career 2.89 ERA in a combined 42 starts and 14 relief appearances. Pitched in the College World Series in 2015 and 2017. Made 11 starts for Triple-A Worcester this year (54 innings), recording 52 strikeouts and 19 walks.

Surprise

#23 Owen White (TEX) - Drafted the second round of the 2018 draft out of Carson High School (NC). Pitched 33.1 innings in 2021 for Low-A Down East, posting a 3.24 ERA and collecting 54 strikeouts (14.6 K/9). 60-grade fastball according to MLB Pipeline. 29th-ranked prospect in the Rangers organization according to MLB Pipeline.

#13 Austin Wells (NYY) - 28th overall pick of the 2020 draft and the sixth-ranked prospect in the Yankees system per MLB Pipeline. Big league ETA is projected for 2023. Played two seasons at the University of Arizona, posting a 1.035 OPS in 277 career at-bats. Held a .258/.398/.479 slash with Low-A Tampa in 2021, finishing the year with High-A Hudson Valley.

#2 Justin Foscue (TEX) - Played three seasons at Mississippi State and played in the College World Series in 2018 and 2019. Draft- ed by the Rangers with the 14th overall pick in the 2020 draft. Posted a .960 slash in 2021, his first professional season, splitting time between High-A Hickory and Double-A Frisco. 17 home runs in 62 career minor league games. Fourth-ranked prospect in the Rangers system per MLB Pipeline.

#9 Ezequiel Duran (TEX) - International sign out of the Dominican Republic in 2017. Traded from the Yankees to the Rangers in 2021, playing the full year exclusively in High-A (Hickory and Hudson Valley). Posted a 2021 slash of .267/.342/.486 in 416 at-bats, hitting 19 home runs and 22 doubles.

Glendale

#12 Jordan Hicks (STL) - Routine triple-digit fastball. Third-round selection by the Cardinals in the 2015 draft. Pitched for the Cardinals in 2018, 2019 and 2021, posting a career 3.64 ERA and 111 strikeouts in 116.1 innings. Did not pitch in 2020 following Tommy John surgery in July 2019. Made 10 appearances with the Cardinals in 2021 before being shut down with right elbow inflammation in May.

#16 Nolan Gorman (STL) - MLB Pipeline's 24th-ranked prospect and the No. 1 prospect in the Cardinals organization. Big league ETA is set for 2022 per MLB Pipeline. .822 career OPS in three seasons as a professional. Played in 76 games for Triple-A Memphis in 2021, posting a .274/.333/.481 slash. 25 total home runs in 480 at-bats in 2021. 19th overall selection in the 2018 draft out of Sandra Day O'Connor High School (AZ). Played on the USA 18U team.

#20 Jeremiah Jackson (LAA) - Second-round draft pick in 2018. Played for Low-A Inland Empire in 2021, posting a .263/.352/.527 slash. 28 career stolen bases in 159 minor league games. Baseball America Rookie All-Star and Pioneer League Midseason All-Star in 2019 with rookie-level Orem.

#15 Yoelqui Cespedes (CWS) - Played in the Cuban National Series from 2015-2019. His first season of affiliate ball was 2021 with High-A Winston-Salem and Double-A Birmingham, posting a combined .285/.350/.463 slash in 72 games. Called up to Double-A for his final 27 games of the year. Second-ranked prospect in the White Sox system per MLB Pipeline.

Today's Fall League Five

1: RHP Kody Funderburk toes the rubber for the Scottsdale Scorpions today under the lights. The native of Mesa, Arizona will make his Fall League debut in his hometown. He played collegiately at Mesa Community College and finished his collegiate eligibility at Dallas Baptist University where he was drafted by the Twins in the 15th round of the 2018 draft.

2: The Surprise Saguaros pitching staff combined for 19 strikeouts in their Wednesday contest against the Mesa Solar Sox. Relief pitcher Cole Henry (WAS) led the charge with six strikeouts in 2.2 innings, while reliever Zach Greene (NYY) struck out four in 1.1 frames.

3: Asa Lacy made an AFL Opening Day start against the Mesa Solar Sox on Wednesday afternoon, tossing two scoreless frames and posting one hit, one walk and four strikeouts. The left-hander had not pitched since July 21 in High-A (aside from a few outings in Arizona instructs), and had previously allowed nine runs in his final 11 innings of minor league work with High-A Quad Cities.

4: Fireballer Jordan Hicks will take the mound for the Desert Dogs this afternoon as a starter. He underwent Tommy John surgery in 2019 and did not pitch for the entirety of the 2020 season. Hicks was shut down again in May 2021 with lingering elbow inflammation after pitching 10 innings for the Cardinals with a 5.40 ERA. He worked in triple digits during his Fall League bullpen tune-up last week.

5: Today's Schedule — With two day games hosted by West division teams and the evening game at Sloan Park, it will take a 48 mile drive from Surprise Stadium or a 38 mile drive from the Peoria Sports Complex in order to catch two Fall League games today.

Important dates to remember:

- Fall Stars Game: November 13th at Salt River Fields
- Championship Game: November 20th at Salt River Fields

