

# ARIZONA FALL LEAGUE

## GAME NOTES - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025



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### AFL Standings

|                      |     |     |    |
|----------------------|-----|-----|----|
| Surprise Saguaros    | 4-1 | -   | W1 |
| Peoria Javelinas     | 3-3 | 1.5 | L2 |
| Salt River Rafter    | 3-3 | 1.5 | W2 |
| Scottsdale Scorpions | 3-3 | 1.5 | L1 |
| Glendale Desert Dogs | 2-3 | 2.0 | W1 |
| Mesa Solar Sox       | 2-4 | 2.5 | L1 |

### Wednesday's Top Performers

**ESMERLYN VALDEZ** (SRR/PIT No. 15/OF) homered for the second straight game. He leads the AFL with 4 HR, 10 BB and a 1.969 OPS in five games.

**SEAVER KING** (SCO/WSH No. 7/INF) leads the league in hits (10), doubles (5), extra-base hits (6), total bases (18), and RBI (10) after a 4-for-6 game with 3 2B and 3 RBI.

**JONNY FARMELO** (PEJ/MLB No. 75/OF) reached base four times, including his first home run of the season and a stolen base. He leads the Javelinas in RBI (9), BB (7), and SLG (.688).

**SAM ANTONACCI** (GLD/CWS No.11/ INF) collected his third multi-hit game with his first AFL home run. He leads the Desert Dogs with 7 RBI.

**RYAN LASKO** (MSS/ATH No. 17/OF) gunned down a runner at the plate for an outfield assist in the fifth inning on a double play. The 96.8 mph strike is the hardest thrown outfield assist in the 2025 season.

### Fall League Alumni

**ROAD TO THE FALL CLASSIC:** 30 players on Championship Series rosters are AFL alumni (28.8%) with the Dodgers leading with 12. 2018 Surprise Saguaros **Vladimir Guerrero Jr.** and 2012 Mesa Solar Sox **George Springer** combined to go 7-for-10 with two doubles and a pair of home runs for Toronto on Wednesday while 2013 Mesa Solar Sox **Max Muncy** set the new Dodgers record for postseason home runs with his 14th on Tuesday.

Two-year Fall League alum **Max Scherzer** (2007 & 2008) is set to make his 26th postseason start with his sixth separate team Thursday for Toronto.

**DEBUTS:** 84 AFL alumni made their MLB debut in 2025 including 30 of which from #AFL24.

**FALL STARS:** Forty-one percent of all players named to the 2025 MLB All-Star Game in Atlanta were alum (33 of 80), including 10 out of 20 players in the starting lineups (starting pitchers and DH included).

### The Stars of Tomorrow, Today

**TOP 30:** AFL rosters combine 92 of MLB Pipeline's organizational Top 30 prospects. The Rangers lead all systems with seven.

**THE FUTURE:** Ten players on Arizona Fall League rosters represented their organizations in the 2025 MLB All-Star Futures Game in July.

**STATE 48:** Arizona alum Austin Smith (RHP/SRR/Rockies), Arizona State alum Joe Lampe (OF/SUR/Guardians) and Gateway CC alum Carson Jacobs (RHP/GDD/White Sox) are the local college products. Justin Chambers (LHP/GDD/Dodgers), and Nathan Peterson (LHP/SUR/Brewers) are two Valley natives, with Chambers being a Basha High School alum.

### Media Inquiries

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

### Today's Headlines

**Peoria @ Mesa:** Peoria's **Luis De León** returns to the mound following his AFL Pitcher of the Week award. The southpaw struck out seven batters, including the final four he faced. The No. 21 Orioles prospect has emphasized his slider after stating that "it was one of my worst pitches at the start of the year." The queue of "keeping it fast and short" helped lead to eight or more strikeouts in his final six starts. He racked up 53 strikeouts in his final 31 2/3 IP (15.06 K/9).

He faces Marlins No. 18 prospect RHP **Karson Milbrandt**, who struck out four in a relief appearance on Oct. 8. Across three levels, the 2022 third-round pick made 22 starts, ending with a 3.00 ERA and striking out 113.

**Glendale @ Scottsdale:** The Desert Dogs snagged a win on the road on Wednesday after catcher **Edward Duran** (TOR No.13) gave them the lead with a go-ahead three-run triple in the 5th. All three of Duran's hits this Fall League have gone for extra bases.

They hand the ball off to No. 88 overall prospect **Hagen Smith**, who struck out four in three scoreless innings in his AFL debut. The No. 5 overall pick in the 2024 MLB Draft set an NCAA DI record with 17.25 K/9 in his junior season at Arkansas. He is the third top-five overall pick in Arkansas history and first since 2020, with 2022 Scottsdale Scorpion **Heston Kjerstad**. He faces RHP **Ryan Murphy** (SF), making his second AFL start.

**Surprise @ Salt River:** Helped by seven pitchers, including two shutout innings with five strikeouts from RHP **Jack Dallas** (PHI), the Saguaros have the best ERA in the AFL (4.40) after a 6-2 win over Mesa. They hand the ball to RHP **Trenton Denholm**, who ended the season second amongst Guardians MiLB starters with a 4.15 K/BB ratio.

The Rafterers erased a seven-run deficit Wednesday against Scottsdale behind a pair of grand slams from Rockies prospects **Jared Thomas** (COL No. 8/OF) and **Charlie Condon** (COL No. 2/MLB No. 61/INF). With records dating back to 2005, it is the first time two grand slams have been hit in the same AFL game and just the second time that two were hit in the same day (Sept. 29, 2019). RHP **Jack Mahoney** (COL) toes the slab after 24 starts in Double-A Hartford this year.

### Upcoming Games and Probable Pitchers

#### Thursday, October 16

|                       |      |                                           |
|-----------------------|------|-------------------------------------------|
| Peoria @ Mesa         | 1:30 | LHP Luis De León vs. RHP Karson Milbrandt |
| Glendale @ Scottsdale | 6:30 | LHP Hagen Smith vs. RHP Ryan Murphy       |
| Surprise @ Salt River | 6:30 | RHP Trenton Denholm vs. RHP Jack Mahoney  |

#### Friday, October 17

|                     |      |                                           |
|---------------------|------|-------------------------------------------|
| Glendale @ Surprise | 1:30 | RHP Chen-Wei Lin vs. RHP Logan Martin     |
| Peoria @ Salt River | 1:30 | RHP Maikel Miralles vs. RHP David Hagaman |
| Scottsdale @ Mesa   | 6:30 | RHP Anderson Brito vs. RHP Corey Avant    |

#### Saturday, October 18 - Goodyear Tripleheader

|                         |       |                                             |
|-------------------------|-------|---------------------------------------------|
| Mesa vs. Glendale       | 12:30 | RHP Aiden May vs. TBD                       |
| Salt River vs. Peoria   | 3:30  | RHP Brandon Dufault vs. RHP Rhett Lowder    |
| Surprise vs. Scottsdale | 6:30  | RHP Eiberson Castellano vs. RHP James Hicks |

### Weekly Batting Practice & Infield/Outfield

**Wednesdays** are the current mandatory batting practice and I/O days. The schedule 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.