

# GAME NOTES

NEW YORK METS MEDIA RELATIONS DEPARTMENT • CITI FIELD • FLUSHING, NY 11368

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## NEW YORK METS (0-0) VS. HOUSTON ASTROS (0-0)

FEBRUARY 25, 2023 - 1:05 P.M.

THE BALLPARK OF THE PALM BEACHES • WEST PALM BEACH, FL

RHP DENYI REYES (0-0) VS. RHP BRANDON BIELAK (0-0)



## MIAMI MARLINS (0-0) VS. NEW YORK METS (0-0)

FEBRUARY 25, 2023 - 6:10 P.M.

CLOVER PARK • PORT ST. LUCIE, FL

LHP BRAXTON GARRETT (0-0) VS. RHP JOSÉ BUTTO (0-0)

SNY - WCBS 880 AM



**IT'S GRAPE TO BE BACK:** The Mets will begin Grapefruit League Play with a split squad "doubleheader" today... New York kicks off the 2023 Grapefruit League season with a 1:05 p.m. game in West Palm Beach and a 6:10 p.m. game against the Marlins at Clover Park... Last season, the Mets went 7-7-1 in Grapefruit League play.

**VS. HOUSTON:** The Mets will play their first of six Grapefruit League games against the Astros today... Last season, the Mets were swept by the eventual World Series champions in a pair of two-game series, June 21-22 at Houston and June 28-29 in New York... This season, the Mets take on the Astros in a three-game series from June 19-21 at Minute Maid Park.

**VS. MIAMI:** The Mets will play their first of six Grapefruit League games against the Marlins tonight... Last season, the Mets went 13-6 against the Marlins, tied with the 2019 team for the most wins against Miami in a single season... The Mets open the 2023 regular season in Miami with a four-game series from March 30-April 2 in Miami and host the Marlins for their first home series of the year, April 6-9.

**THE BUCK STARTS HERE:** In his first season as Mets skipper, Buck Showalter took home the NL Manager of the Year Award... He led the club to 101 wins and its first playoff berth since 2016... Showalter was also named Manager of the Year in 1994 with the Yankees, 2004 with the Rangers and 2014 with the Orioles... His four Manager of the Year Awards are tied for the most in the award's history with Bobby Cox and Tony La Russa... Showalter ranks 18th all-time and third among active managers with 1,652 managerial wins... Showalter is the first Mets manager to record 100 victories in his first season with the club... He joins Yogi Berra as the only managers to guide both the Mets and Yankees into the playoffs.

**THE BATTING CHAMP IS HERE:** Last season, Jeff McNeil became the first Met ever to win a major league batting title and joined José Reyes (2011) as the only other Met to win a National League batting title... The two-time All-Star owns a .307 career batting average, the second-best clip by a Met through their first five big league seasons behind David Wright's .309 mark (min. 1,500 AB).

**YES, THE CLOSER:** RHP Edwin Díaz won the 2022 Trevor Hoffman NL Relief Pitcher of the Year Award... The two-time All-Star joined Craig Kimbrel as the only pitchers in major league history to win Reliever of the Year in both leagues... Díaz pitched to a 1.31 ERA (9 ER/62.0 IP) and led all major league relievers with 118 strikeouts... His 50.2 strikeout rate was the third-best in major league history for a single season... The right-hander became the 12th pitcher in major league history to strike out at least 100 batters, record 30 or more saves, and sport a sub-1.50 ERA.

**CLOVER PARK:** The Mets will call Clover Park their Spring Training 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 has also donned the names Thomas J. White Stadium (1988-2004), Tradition Field (2004-2009, 2012-2016), Digital Domain Park (2010-2012) and First Data Field (2017-2019).

**POLAR POWER:** Last season, INF Pete Alonso tied for the major league lead with 131 RBI, the most ever by a Met in a single season... Alonso finished third in the majors with 40 home runs in 2022 and became the first Met ever with multiple seasons of 40 or more home runs... His 146 career home runs are the fourth most by a major leaguer through his first four major league seasons trailing Ralph Kiner (168), Albert Pujols (160) and Eddie Mathews (153)... Alonso ranks seventh in franchise history in home runs... He is three home runs behind Carlos Beltrán trails Dave Kingman by eight long balls.

**GLOBAL GAME:** 11 players in major league camp with the Mets will compete in the 2023 World Baseball Classic... INF Pete Alonso, INF/OF Jeff McNeil, RHP Adam Ottavino and LHP Brooks Raley will play for Team USA... INF Eduardo Escobar, RHP Elieser Hernandez and C Omar Narváez will compete for Team Venezuela... RHP Edwin Díaz and INF Francisco Lindor will play for Team Puerto Rico... LHP José Quintana will pitch for Team Colombia... INF Jonathan Araúz, a non-roster invitee, will compete for Team Panama... Minor leaguers RHP Dominic Hamel (Puerto Rico), RHP Humberto Mejía (Panama), LHP Cam Opp (Great Britain) and RHP Claudio Scotti (Italy) will also participate in the 2023 World Baseball Classic... Baseball Hall of Famer & Mets Hall of Famer Mike Piazza will manage Team Italy.

**NEW FACES IN NEW PLACES:** The 2023 Mets enter Spring Training with several new players on the roster... These include: OF Abraham Almonte (minor league free agent), INF Jonathan Araúz (minor league free agent), RHP Jeff Brigham (trade), OF Lorenzo Cedrola (minor league free agent), RHP Sam Coonrod (waiver claim), RHP Zach Greene (Rule 5 Draft), RHP Elieser Hernández (trade), OF Tim Llocastro (minor league free agent), LHP T.J. McFarland (minor league free agent) INF Danny Mendick (free agent), LHP Zach Muckenhirn (minor league free agent), C Omar Narváez (free agent), INF José Peraza (minor league free agent), OF Tommy Pham (free agent), LHP José Quintana (free agent), LHP Brooks Raley (trade), RHP Denyi Reyes (minor league free agent), RHP Stephen Ridings (waiver claim), RHP David Robertson (free agent), RHP Kodai Senga (free agent), OF DJ Stewart (minor league free agent), RHP William Woods (minor league free agent), RHP Justin Verlander (free agent) and RHP Jimmy Yacabonis (minor league free agent).

**THAT'S A LOTTA HARDWARE:** With Justin Verlander and Max Scherzer, the 2023 Mets are the third team in major league history to boast multiple three-time Cy Young award winners on their roster in the same season, joining the 1986 White Sox (Tom Seaver and Steve Carlton) and the 2021 Dodgers (Scherzer and Clayton Kershaw).

**HEY NOW, YOU'RE AN ALL-STAR:** Last season, INF Pete Alonso, RHP Edwin Díaz, OF Starling Marte and INF/OF Jeff McNeil were selected to play for the National League in the 2022 All Star Game at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles... The Mets four All-Star selections in 2022 were the most in a season since 2016 (Noah Syndergaard, Yoenis Céspedes, Jeurys Familia and Bartolo Colón)... Jeff McNeil started for the National League at second base and was the first Met to start an All Star game since David Wright and Matt Harvey both started in the 2013 All-Star game at Citi Field... McNeil joined Ron Hunt (1964) as the only other Met to start at second base in the All Star Game.

**METS TOP PROSPECTS:** The Mets have their top four prospects in major league camp... All four cracked MLB Pipeline's list of the top 100 prospects in baseball: C Francisco Álvarez (#3), INF Brett Baty (#21), C Kevin Parada (#36) and OF Alex Ramirez (#96)... Also in big league camp are Mets No. 6 prospect INF Ronny Mauricio and No. 7 prospect INF Mark Vientos.

**METSCELLANEOUS:** The Mets finished the 2022 season with a 101-61 record and finished in second place in the National League East... The club clinched their first playoff berth since 2016 and fell to the Padres in the National League Wild Card Series, 2-1.

**ON THE RECORD:** The Mets won 101 games in 2022, the fourth season in franchise history with 100 or more wins... The club also recorded 100 or more wins 1986 (108), 1988 (100) and 1969 (100)... The team's 101 wins are the second-most in franchise history... Only the 1986 team (108-54) finished with a better record in franchise history.

### EXPECTED TO START

**RHP DENYI REYES:** Will kick off the Mets spring training exhibition schedule with his start against the Astros... The 26-year-old made his MLB debut last season with Baltimore on May 13 at Detroit and tossed 2.0 perfect innings in relief... Allowed one earned run over 3.2 innings in his first career start on May 28 at Boston (Game 2)... Won a Bronze Medal at the 2020 Summer Olympic Games (Played in 2021) with the Dominican Republic... Owns a 45-28 record with a 3.29 ERA (218 ER/596.1 IP), 526 strikeouts and a 1.09 WHIP in seven minor league seasons in the Red Sox and Orioles organizations... Named a South Atlantic League mid-season All Star and named South Atlantic League Pitcher of the Year in 2018... Named a New York-Penn League mid-season All-Star and named New York-Penn League Player of the Month for August in 2017... Was signed by Boston as an international free agent on July 2, 2014.

**RHP JOSÉ BUTTO:** Will make his first start of spring training tonight... The 24-year-old made his MLB debut in a start last season on August 21 at Philadelphia... He allowed seven runs on nine hits in 4.0 innings with five strikeouts... Enters this season ranked as the No. 15 Mets prospect according to *MLB Pipeline*... Appeared in 28 minor league games (25 starts) in 2022 combined with Binghamton (AA) and Syracuse (AAA) and posted a 7-6 record and a 3.56 ERA (51 ER/129.0 IP) with 138 strikeouts and a 1.21 WHIP... Named International Pitcher of the Week for the week of September 19-25 after a scoreless 7.0-inning start with 11 strikeouts on September 21... Has a career 20-25 record over 102 games (89 starts) in his five-year minor league career in the Mets system... Has a minor league career ERA of 3.44 (172 ER/450.1 IP)... Was signed by the Mets as a non-drafted free agent on December 21, 2016.

### UPCOMING PITCHING

**TODAY, FEBRUARY 25**  
1:05 p.m. at Houston

**METS:** RHP Denyi Reyes, RHP Zach Greene, RHP Grant Hartwig, RHP Eric Orze, RHP Adam Ottavino, LHP Zach Muckenhirn

**ASTROS:** RHP Brandon Bielak, RHP Ronell Blanco, LHP Austin Davis, RHP Enoli Paredes, RHP Devin Conn, RHP Jayden Murray, LHP Austin Davis

**TONIGHT, FEBRUARY 25**  
6:10 p.m. vs. Miami

**MARLINS:** LHP Braxton Garrett, RHP Chi Chi Gonzalez, LHP Daniel Castano, LHP Tanner Scott, RHP JT Chargois, LHP Andrew Nardi, RHP Sean Reynolds, LHP Josh Simpson, RHP George Soriano

**METS:** RHP José Butto, RHP Jeff Brigham, LHP T.J. McFarland, RHP Stephen Nogosek, RHP Jimmy Yacabonis, LHP Josh Walker RHP William Woods

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26**  
1:10 p.m. vs. Washington

**NATIONALS:** RHP Josiah Gray  
**METS:** RHP Max Scherzer

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27**  
1:05 p.m. at St. Louis

**METS:** LHP David Peterson  
**CARDINALS:** LHP Connor Thomas

