

GAME NOTES

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WASHINGTON NATIONALS (1-0) VS. NEW YORK METS (1-1)

FEBRUARY 26, 2023 - 1:10 P.M.

CLOVER PARK - PORT ST. LUCIE, FL

RHP JOSIAH GRAY (0-0) VS. RHP MAX SCHERZER (0-0)

SNY • WCBS 880 AM



SPLIT-SQUAD SUMMARY: The Mets went 1-1 in yesterday's split squad...The Mets fell in their Grapefruit League opener, 4-2, against the Astros in West Palm Beach...RHP Denyi Reyes started and threw 2.0 perfect innings with two punchouts...3B Brett Baty reached base in all three plate appearances and launched a two-run homer in his first at-bat of the spring...In the nightcap against the Marlins at Clover Park, the Mets won, 5-2...RHP José Butto started and allowed one earned run over 1.2 hitless innings with two walks and four strikeouts...1B Pete Alonso went 3-3 and homered in his first spring at-bat...RF Abraham Almonte went 2-2 with a pair of RBI...DH Daniel Vogelbach went 2-3 with an RBI single in the fifth.

PACE OF PLAY: Yesterday, in their first official day under MLB's new rules for 2023, the Mets completed two split-squad games in a total of five hours and eight minutes (2:33 and 2:35)...New York played 10 doubleheaders last season with the average twinbill lasting over six hours and 21 minutes...Seven of the Mets 10 doubleheaders last year took over six hours to complete, including two with over seven hours of total time between the two games.

VS. WASHINGTON: The Mets will play their first of six Grapefruit League games against the Nationals today...Last season, the Mets went 14-4 against Washington, their most victories against the Nationals in a single season since the team relocated from Montreal...The Mets first regular season series against Washington will take place from April 25-April 27 at Citi Field.

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 or more 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, INF/OF 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 Locastro (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)...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.

SMILE LIKE YOU MEAN IT: Last season, Francisco Lindor set a Mets shortstop record for most RBI in a season with a career-high 107 RBI...The 28-year-old has led all shortstops with 184 home runs since he debuted in 2015...Lindor is one of 11 players to hit 150 or more homers and swipe 100 or more bags since 2015.

EXPECTED TO START

RHP MAX SCHERZER: Will make his first spring training start today...The three-time Cy-Young Award winner, eight-time All-Star and 2019 World Series Champion made 23 starts with the Mets last season, posting a 11-5 record with a 2.29 ERA (37 ER/145.1 IP) and 173 strikeouts...Ranked sixth in the majors (min. 140.0 innings) with a 2.29 ERA, ninth with a 10.71 K/9 ratio, second with a 0.91 WHIP and third with a 7.21 K/BB ratio...Among pitchers to face 500 or more batters, his .207 opponent average ranked 14th in the majors, while his .574 OPS against ranked eighth... Made five starts in July after being activated from the IL on July 5...He went 1-1 with a 1.39 ERA (5 ER/32.1 IP) while striking out 45 and walking just four...His 1.39 ERA in July ranked seventh in the majors and fourth in the NL, while his 45 punchouts were tied for third in MLB. Reached his 200th career win on September 19, 2022 at Milwaukee after throwing 6.0 perfect innings in his return from the 15-Day IL...Has appeared in 430 career games (421 starts) over a 15-year major league career and owns a lifetime record of 201-102 with 3.11 ERA (927 ER/2692.0 IP)...One of 19 pitchers all-time to accumulate 3,000 career strikeouts...His 3193 career strikeouts are five behind teammate Justin Verlander for the most by an active pitcher... Ended the season tied for third all-time with 110 double-digit strikeout games in his career, two more than Pedro Martínez...Roger Clemens also had 110 in his career...Nolan Ryan (215) and Randy Johnson (212) are the top two.

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.

UPCOMING PITCHING

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

NATIONALS: RHP Josiah Gray, RHP Cory Abbott, RHP Paolo Espino, RHP Jackson Rutledge, LHP Francisco Perez, RHP Tommy Romero, RHP Jake Irvin, RHP Anthony Castro
METS: RHP Max Scherzer, RHP Tommy Hunter, RHP Elieser Hernández, RHP John Curtiss, LHP Brooks Raley, RHP Sam Coonrod

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

METS: LHP David Peterson
CARDINALS: LHP Connor Thomas

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28
1:10 p.m. vs. Houston

ASTROS: TBA
METS: LHP José Quintana

