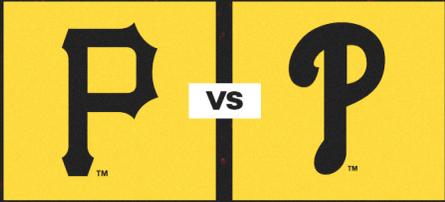




'25
SPRING
TRAINING
BREAKOUT
GAME 

PITTSBURGH PIRATES PROSPECTS - 2025 SPRING BREAKOUT

MARCH 14, 2025 - BAYCARE BALLPARK - CLEARWATER, FLORIDA

AT PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES PROSPECTS - 1:05 P.M. ET - MLB NETWORK

LOOKING BACK AT LAST YEAR: Pittsburgh's prospects beat Baltimore's prospects, 3-1, in the inaugural game on March 14 at LECOM Park...Paul Skenes struck out each of the first two batters he faced while retiring the side in the first inning (his first three pitches clocked in at 101, 101 and 102 miles/hour)...Jack Brannigan's first-inning sacrifice fly gave the Pirates a 1-0 lead (Tsong-Che Cheng led off the game with a walk and came around to score)...Hunter Barco threw 12 of his 16 pitches for strikes across 2.0 scoreless innings...Jase Bowen went 2-for-3...A total of 6,913 fans attended the seven-inning contest.

UNITED NATIONS: Pittsburgh's minor-league system enters 2025 with players from a total of 18 different countries, along with the territory of Puerto Rico...Those 18 countries are Aruba, Australia, the Bahamas, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Curaçao, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mexico, Panamá, San Marino, South Korea, Taiwan, Uganda, the USA and Venezuela.

COACHING 'EM UP: Shawn Bowman will manage Pittsburgh in its Spring Breakout contest against Philadelphia's prospects at BayCare Ballpark...He will be joined on the coaching staff by Jim Horner and Chris Truby (bench coaches), Bart Hanegraaff and Jonathan Johnston (hitting coaches), Josh Hopper and Amaury Telemaco (pitching coaches), Vic Black (bullpen coach), Callix Crabbe (first base coach), Kieran Mattison (third base coach), and Gera Alvarez and Chad Noble (coaches).

BUILDING THE BUCS: Entering 2025, 26 of Pittsburgh's top-30 prospects (per Baseball America) have been acquired by Pirates General Manager Ben Cherington...In addition, nine of the organization's top-10 prospects have been acquired since Cherington was named general manager on November 18, 2019 (the only one who wasn't was Braxton Ashcraft)...Of those 30 prospects, 16 were selected in the draft, 11 were signed as non-drafted free agents and three were acquired via trade.

2024 AT A GLIMPSE: Pittsburgh's seven affiliates combined for a 355-359 (.497) record last season, with four of the seven teams posting a winning record...High-A Greensboro earned a playoff bid after finishing the first half of the season with the best record (39-26) in the South Atlantic League's North Division...The Grasshoppers fell to Hudson Valley in the deciding third game of the SAL divisional round...The Rookie-Florida Complex League Pirates beat the FCL Yankees, 4-3, in a one-game semifinal round of the playoffs before being swept by the FCL Tigers in the best-of-three championship round.

HEY NOW, YOU'RE AN ALL-STAR: In 2024, 12 Pirates prospects were named to league's post-season All-Star teams... Ji Hwan Bae (OF) and Nick Yorke (Utility) were honored at AAA-Indianapolis...Charles McAdoo (3B), Cy Nielson (RP) and Dominic Perachi (SP) were honored at High-A Greensboro...Esmerlyn Valdez (1B) was honored at Low-A Bradenton...Carlos Caro (2B), Yordany De Los Santos (Utility), David Matoma (RP), Zander Mueth (SP) and Jhonny Severino (DH) were honored for the Rookie-FCL Pirates...Cesar Aquino (SP) was honored for the Rookie-DSL Pirates Gold...In addition to that, Isaias Dipre, Edward Florentino, Reinold Navarro and Brandison Polanco represented the Pirates at the DSL's mid-season All-Star Game.

A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE: Last season, Bubba Chandler and Termarr Johnson were selected to participate in the All-Star Futures Game at Globe Life Field in Arlington, TX...Johnson started at second base and went 1-for-2 with a run scored...Chandler pitched the final inning of the National League's 6-1, seven-inning victory (1h, 1k), throwing 14 pitches (nine strikes).

LEAGUE LEADERS: Seven Pirates prospects paced their respective leagues in particular statistical categories in 2024...At High-A Greensboro, Shawn Ross led the South Atlantic League in home runs (23), while Wilber Dotel led the league in winning percentage (.643) and tied for the league lead in wins (nine)...At Low-A Bradenton, Esmerlyn Valdez paced the Florida State League in home runs (22) and OPS (.816)...For the Rookie-FCL Pirates, Yordany De Los Santos led the Florida Complex League in hits (66), Zander Mueth ranked first in the league in ERA (1.58) and was tied for first in both wins (six) and starts (12), and Jhonny Severino paced the league in total bases (103) and tied for the league lead in home runs (10)...For the Rookie-DSL Pirates Gold, Cesar Aquino paced the Dominican Summer League in both ERA (0.98) and WHIP (0.76).

TOP-100 BUCS: Entering 2025, three Pirates prospects are on Baseball America's top-100 list, while four are on MLB Pipeline's list...BA tabbed Bubba Chandler (No. 7), Konnor Griffin (No. 57) and Thomas Harrington (No. 74) as top-100 prospects, while Pipeline recognized Chandler (No. 15), Griffin (No. 43), Harrington (No. 79) and Termarr Johnson (No. 82).

AWARD-WORTHY: Last season, Zander Mueth, who made his professional debut, was recognized as the Florida Complex League's Pitcher of the Year...Two Pirates prospects were named their league's player or pitcher of the month...Yordany De Los Santos was named the Florida Complex League's Player of the Month in May, while Thomas Harrington was honored as the Eastern League's Pitcher of the Month in July...Additionally, Pittsburgh had 15 players or pitchers win weekly league awards, including three who were honored for their efforts multiple times (Bubba Chandler, Mitch Jebb, Carlson Reed).

BEST OF THE BUNCH: Baseball America tabbed the following prospects as having the best tools in the farm system: Braxton Ashcraft (curveball, slider), Tony Blanco Jr. (power), Jack Brannigan (infield arm), Bubba Chandler (fastball), Tsung-Che Cheng (defensive infielder, strike-zone discipline), Billy Cook (outfield arm), Thomas Harrington (control), Mitch Jebb (fastest baserunner), Richard Ramirez (defensive catcher), Sammy Siani (defensive outfielder) and Nick Yorke (hitter for average).



AAA-Indianapolis



AA-Altoona



High A-Greensboro



Low A-Bradenton



Rookie-FCL Pirates, DSL Pirates Black/Gold

ABOUT TODAY'S PIRATES SPRING BREAKOUT PITCHERS

#89 HUNTER BARCO (LEFT-HANDED PITCHER)

*The 24-year-old from Jacksonville, FL, was selected in the second round of the 2022 draft out of the University of Florida.

*Enters the 2025 season rated by MLB Pipeline (No. 7) and Baseball America (No. 10) as one of Pittsburgh's top prospects...Was in Major League camp as a non-roster invitee (reassigned on 3/6).

*In 2024, had a 3.27 ERA (66.0ip/24er) and 83 strikeouts in 18 games (16gs) split between High A-Greensboro and AA-Altoona.

*Went to high school at The Bolles School in Jacksonville, FL.

#57 BUBBA CHANDLER (RIGHT-HANDED PITCHER)

*The 22-year-old from Lawrenceville, GA, was selected in the third round of the 2021 draft out of North Oconee HS in Bogart, GA.

*Enters the 2025 season rated by Baseball America (No. 7) and MLB Pipeline (No. 15) as a top-100 prospect in baseball...Was in Major League camp as a non-roster invitee (reassigned on 3/6).

*In 2024, was selected to pitch in the All-Star Futures Game... Paced all Pirates farmhands with 10 wins and 148 strikeouts while posting a 3.08 ERA (119.2ip/41er) across his 26 games (23 starts) split between AA-Altoona (19g/16gs) and AAA-Indianapolis (7gs).

#45 KHRISTIAN CURTIS (RIGHT-HANDED PITCHER)

*The 22-year-old from Beaumont, TX, was selected in the 12th round of the 2023 draft out of Arizona State University.

*Enters the 2025 season rated by Baseball America (No. 20) and MLB Pipeline (No. 24) as one of Pittsburgh's top prospects.

*In 2024, had a 4.06 ERA (75.1ip/34er) across his 18 games (16 starts) at Low A-Bradenton in his first pro season...Prior to his time at Arizona State, also pitched collegiately at Texas A&M in 2022.

*Went to high school at Port Neches-Groves HS in Port Neches, TX.

#12 NICK DOMBKOWSKI (LEFT-HANDED PITCHER)

*The 26-year-old from West Springfield, MA, was signed as a non-drafted free agent out of the University of Hartford on 7/20/21... Pronounced "dom-COW-ski."

*In 2024, his 81.2 innings between AA-Altoona (48.1ip) and AAA-Indianapolis (33.1ip) were ninth-most among Pirates farmhands.

*In 2023, was named AA-Altoona's "Co-Fireman of the Year" after posting a 3.71 ERA (85.0ip/35er) in his 33 games (eight starts).

*Went to high school at West Springfield HS in W. Springfield, MA.

#25 WILBER DOTEI (RIGHT-HANDED PITCHER)

*The 22-year-old from Santo Domingo Centro, Dominican Republic, was signed as a non-drafted free agent on 10/13/20.

*Enters the 2025 season rated by Baseball America as Pittsburgh's No. 27 prospect...In 2024, tied for the lead among all Pirates farmhands with 25 starts and ranked among leaders with nine wins (second) and 106 strikeouts (sixth), all for High A-Greensboro.

*In 2023, was the Florida State League's July Pitcher of the Month with Low A-Bradenton after posting a 0.35 ERA (25.2ip/1er) in five games (four starts), including a 13.0-inning scoreless streak.

#18 DAVID MATOMA (RIGHT-HANDED PITCHER)

*The 19-year-old from Kasana, Uganda, was signed as a non-drafted free agent on 1/15/23...Pronounced "mah-tho-muh."

*Enters the 2025 season rated by Baseball America (No. 29) and MLB Pipeline (No. 30) as one of Pittsburgh's top prospects.

*In 2024, posted a 0.82 ERA (22.0ip/2er) with 28 strikeouts in 15 appearances, all for the Rookie-FCL Pirates.

*When signed, was the third Ugandan signed into MLB-affiliated baseball (Ben Serunkuma and Umar Male, both with LAD in 2022).

#13 ZANDER MUETH (RIGHT-HANDED PITCHER)

*The 19-year-old from Belleville, IL, was selected in the second round of the 2023 draft out of Belleville East HS in Belleville, IL... Pronounced "Meeth."

*Enters the 2025 season rated by Baseball America (No. 9) and MLB Pipeline (No. 10) as one of Pittsburgh's top prospects.

*In 2024, his first professional season, ranked second among Pirates farmhands with a 2.31 ERA, third with a .179 opp. average, tied for fourth with seven wins, and tied for seventh with 19 starts split between the Rookie-FCL Pirates and Low A-Bradenton.

#50 WILKIN RAMOS (RIGHT-HANDED PITCHER)

*The 24-year-old from Santo Domingo Centro, Dominican Republic, was signed as a minor league free agent on 11/23/24.

*In 2024, led all Mets farmhands with 11 saves and ranked third with 41 appearances split between AA-Binghamton and AAA-Syracuse.

*During the 2022-23 offseason, was selected by New York (NL) from Pittsburgh in the minor league phase of the Rule 5 Draft...In 2018, was traded from Oakland to Pittsburgh on 12/1 to complete a trade for RHP Tanner Anderson from 11/20...In 2017, originally signed with the Athletics as a non-drafted free agent on 7/25.

#75 ANTHONY SOLOMETO (LEFT-HANDED PITCHER)

*The 22-year-old from Voorhees, NJ, was selected in the second round of the 2021 draft out of Bishop Eustace Preparatory School in Pennsauken Township, NJ...Pronounced "saul-o-MEETO."

*Enters the 2025 season rated by MLB Pipeline (No. 14) and Baseball America (No. 15) as one of Pittsburgh's top prospects...Was in Major League camp as a non-roster invitee (reassigned on 3/2).

*Is an avid Eagles fan who attended Philadelphia's 2025 NFC title game victory over Washington...In 2024, pitched 70.1 innings over 23 games (20gs) between Low A-Bradenton and AA-Altoona.

#17 JADEN WOODS (LEFT-HANDED PITCHER)

*The 23-year-old from Macon, GA, was selected in the seventh round of the 2023 draft out of the University of Georgia.

*In 2024, went 4-3 with a 3.75 ERA (60.0ip/25er), 74 strikeouts and four saves over 40 apps (one start) split between High-A Greensboro and AA-Altoona...Was promoted to Altoona on 6/21.

*In 2023, struck out 21 batters and walked just three opposing hitters over 14.1 innings for Low-A Bradenton in his first pro season.

*Went to high school at Houston County HS in Warner Robins, GA.

#70 EDDY YEAN (RIGHT-HANDED PITCHER)

*The 23-year-old from Sabana Grande de Boyá, Dominican Republic, was acquired from Washington for first baseman Josh Bell on 12/24/20...Pronounced "jean."

*Was in Major League camp as a non-roster invitee (reassigned on 3/11)...Pitched 6.0 scoreless innings and recorded two saves across five games during his time in big-league camp (5h, 3bb, 5k).

*In 2024, his 48 apps between AA-Altoona (46g) and AAA-Indianapolis were tied for second-most among Pirates farmhands... Posted a combined 3.36 ERA (75.0ip/28er) and 69 strikeouts.

ABOUT THE FULL-SEASON AFFILIATES



AAA-INDIANAPOLIS INDIANS - INDIANAPOLIS, IN
PIRATES AFFILIATE SINCE 2005 - 360 MILES FROM PNC PARK



AA-ALTOONA CURVE - ALTOONA, PA
PIRATES AFFILIATE SINCE 1999 - 96 MILES FROM PNC PARK



HIGH A-GREENSBORO GRASSHOPPERS - GREENSBORO, NC
PIRATES AFFILIATE SINCE 2019 - 424 MILES FROM PNC PARK



LOW A-BRADENTON MARAUDERS - BRADENTON, FL
PIRATES AFFILIATE SINCE 2010 - 1,064 MILES FROM PNC PARK

ABOUT TODAY'S PIRATES SPRING BREAKOUT PLAYERS

#91 OMAR ALFONZO (CATCHER)

*The 21-year-old from Minneapolis, MN, was signed as a non-drafted free agent on 8/5/19...Is the son of catcher Eliezer Alfonso, who batted .240 in parts of six Major League seasons from 2006-11.

*Enters the 2025 season rated by Baseball America (No. 18) and MLB Pipeline (No. 19) as one of Pittsburgh's top prospects...Was in Major League camp as a non-roster invitee (reassigned on 3/11)...In 2024, hit 13 HR between Low A-Bradenton & High A-Greensboro.

#28 TONY BLANCO JR. (INFIELDER)

*The 19-year-old from Boston, MA, was signed as a non-drafted free agent on 1/15/22...Enters the 2025 season rated by MLB Pipeline (No. 21) and Baseball America (No. 30) as one of Pittsburgh's top prospects...In 2024, hit .305 (29-for-95) with an .890 OPS in 30 games for the Rookie-FCL Pirates...Pronounced "blanck-OH."

*In 2023, was named a Dom. Summer League mid-season All-Star...Is the son of Tony Blanco (played for Washington in 2005).

#83 JACK BRANNIGAN (INFIELDER)

*The 24-year-old from Chicago, IL, was selected in the third round of the 2022 draft out of the University of Notre Dame...Was in Major League camp as a non-roster invitee (reassigned on 3/2).

*Enters the 2025 season rated by MLB Pipeline (No. 11) and Baseball America (No. 14) as one of Pittsburgh's top prospects...In 2024, ranked fifth among all Pirates farmhands with 18 home runs (all for High A-Greensboro)...Attended Marist HS in Chicago, IL.

#71 TSUNG-CHE CHENG (INFIELDER)

*The 23-year-old from Pingtung City, Taiwan, was signed as a non-drafted free agent on 7/9/19...Was in Major League camp as a 40-man player (optioned to AAA on 3/11)...Pronounced "sung-chay."

*Enters the 2025 season rated by MLB Pipeline (No. 17) and Baseball America (No. 19) as one of Pittsburgh's top prospects...In 2024, had 98 hits in 132 games between AA-Altoona and AAA-Indianapolis...In 2022, was a MiLB.com Organization All-Star.

#26 KEINER DELGADO (INFIELDER)

*The 21-year-old from Guarenas, Venezuela, was acquired from New York (AL) on 5/1/24 to complete the trade of pitcher JT Brubaker from 3/29/24...Pronounced "cane-er."

*In 2024, his 27 stolen bases were third-most among Pirates farmhands...In 2023, was recognized as a Florida Complex League post-season All-Star after ranking fifth among Yankees farmhands with an .899 OPS and seventh with a .293 batting average.

#16 YORDANY DE LOS SANTOS (INFIELDER)

*The 20-year-old from Guerra, Dominican Republic, was signed as a non-drafted free agent on 1/15/22...Enters the 2025 season rated by MLB Pipeline (No. 16) and Baseball America (No. 22) as one of Pittsburgh's top prospects...Pronounced "yor-dawn-ee."

*In 2024, his .297 (83-for-279) batting average in 82 games split between the Rookie-FCL Pirates and Low A-Bradenton ranked third among Pirates farmhands (batted .344 across his 57 FCL games).

#19 EDWARD FLORENTINO (OUTFIELDER)

*The 18-year-old from Los Alcarrizos, Dominican Republic, was signed as a non-drafted free agent on 1/19/24...Enters the 2025 season rated by MLB Pipeline (No. 23) and Baseball America (No. 24) as one of Pittsburgh's top prospects.

*In 2024, ranked second among Pirates farmhands with a .432 on-base percentage and third with an .891 OPS...Batted .260 (38-for-146) in his first pro season, all with the Rookie-DSL Pirates Gold.

#85 KONNOR GRIFFIN (OUTFIELDER)

*The 18-year-old from Jackson, MS, was selected in the first round (ninth overall) of the 2024 draft out of Jackson Preparatory School in Flowood, MS...Was in Major League camp as a non-roster invitee (reassigned on 3/2)...Committed to LSU before being signed.

*Enters the 2025 season rated by MLB Pipeline (No. 43) and Baseball America (No. 57) as a top-100 prospect in baseball.

#14 MITCH JEBB (INFIELDER)

*The 22-year-old from Saginaw, MI, was selected in the second round of the 2023 draft out of Michigan State University.

*Enters the 2025 season rated by MLB Pipeline (No. 13) and Baseball America (No. 17) as one of Pittsburgh's top prospects.

*In 2024, led Pirates farmhands with 43 steals and seven triples (fourth w/109 hits)...Attended Swan Valley HS in Saginaw, MI.

#31 AXIEL PLAZ (CATCHER)

*The 19-year-old from San Felix, Venezuela, was signed as a non-drafted free agent on 1/15/22...Pronounced "a-xiel Plass."

*Enters the 2025 season rated by Baseball America and MLB Pipeline as Pittsburgh's No. 28 prospect...In 2024, hit 15 home runs (tied for seventh-most among Pirates farmhands) with 48 RBI in 84 games split between the Rookie-FCL Pirates and Low A-Bradenton...In 2022, was a Dom. Summer League mid-season All-Star.

#27 RICHARD RAMIREZ (CATCHER)

*The 19-year-old from Distrito Sucre, Venezuela, was signed as a non-drafted free agent on 3/28/22.

*In 2024, ranked fifth among Pirates farmhands with a .288 average, sixth with a .464 slugging %, seventh with an .838 OPS and ninth with a .374 on-base percentage (all for Rookie-FCL Pirates).

*Also played for DSL Pirates Black ('22) and DSL Pirates Gold ('23).

#24 WYATT SANFORD (INFIELDER)

*The 19-year-old from Frisco, TX, was selected in the second round of the 2024 draft out of Independence HS in Frisco, TX.

*Enters the 2025 season rated by Baseball America (No. 7) and MLB Pipeline (No. 8) as one of Pittsburgh's top prospects.

*Is one of two Pirates prospects on the Spring Breakout roster who has yet to make his professional debut (also: Konnor Griffin).

#15 JHONNY SEVERINO (INFIELDER)

*The 20-year-old from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, was acquired from Milwaukee for first baseman Carlos Santana on 7/27/23...Enters the 2025 season rated by Baseball America (No. 11) and MLB Pipeline (No. 12) as one of Pittsburgh's top prospects.

*In 2024, ranked tied for second among Pirates farmhands with six triples and tied for third with 40 extra-base hits...In 2022, originally signed with the Brewers as a non-drafted free agent on 1/15.

#5 SAMMY SIANI (OUTFIELDER)

*The 24-year-old from Glenside, PA, was selected in Competitive Balance Round A of the 2019 draft out of William Penn Charter School in Philadelphia, PA...Pronounced "see-ah-knee."

*Is the younger brother of Michael Siani, who has played with Cincinnati (2022-23) & St. Louis (2023-24)...After the Phillies won the 2008 World Series, remembers his parents driving them around while they stuck their heads through the sunroof and cheered.

#23 ESMERLYN VALDEZ (OUTFIELDER)

*The 21-year-old from Baní, Dominican Republic, was signed as a non-drafted free agent on 1/15/21...Pronounced "es-MUR-lynn."

*In 2024, ranked third among Pirates farmhands with 22 home runs, tied for third with 40 extra-base hits, fifth with 59 walks, sixth with 61 RBI and eighth with an .816 OPS, all for Low A-Bradenton.

*Named the FCL's Player of the Month in July 2023 (.410ba, 17rbi).

#10 LONNIE WHITE JR. (OUTFIELDER)

*The 22-year-old from Las Vegas, NV, was selected in Competitive Balance Round B of the 2021 draft out of Malvern Preparatory School in Malvern, PA, approx. 25 miles from Citizens Bank Park.

*In 2024, his 14 home runs were tied for tenth-most among Pirates farmhands...Committed to Penn State as a two-sport athlete (baseball and football) before being signed.