



ARIZONA FALL LEAGUE

GAME NOTES - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2025



www.mlbfallball.com
@mlbazfallleague



AFL Standings

| | W-L | GB | Streak |
|----------------------|---------|-----|--------|
| Scottsdale Scorpions | 18-8 | - | L1 |
| Surprise Saguaros | 16-8-1 | 1.0 | W2 |
| Mesa Solar Sox | 12-14 | 6.0 | L3 |
| Peoria Javelinas | 11-14-1 | 6.5 | W1 |
| Glendale Desert Dogs | 10-15 | 7.5 | W4 |
| Salt River Rafter | 9-17 | 9.0 | L2 |

Fall Stars MVPs

This is the 15th Fall Stars Game that will be awarding a Most Valuable Player award. Past winners include:

2024: Thayron Liranzo (DET)
2023: Colson Montgomery (CWS)
2022: Matt Mervis (CHC)
2021: JJ Bleday (MIA)
2019: Royce Lewis (MIN)
2018: Buddy Reed (SD)
2017: Victor Robles (WSH)
2016: Willie Calhoun (LAD)
2015: Gary Sanchez (NYY)
2014: Greg Bird (NYY)
2013: Brett Nicholas (TEX)
2012: Brian Goodwin (WSH)
2011: Nick Franklin (SEA)
2010: Leslie Anderson (TB)

Torey Lovullo to Toss First Pitch

Diamondbacks manager **Torey Lovullo** will be throwing out the ceremonial first pitch for the 2025 Arizona Fall League Fall Stars Game.

Receiving the first pitch will be his son, **Nick Lovullo**. Nick is a coach on the Mesa Solar Sox and in 2025 served as the manager for the High-A South Bend Cubs.

MLB Pipeline Top 100 Prospects

2. Kevin McGonigle - SS, Scottsdale Scorpions (DET)
35. Braden Montgomery - OF, Glendale Desert Dogs (CWS)
61. Charlie Condon - 1B/LF, Salt River Rafter (COL)
62. Blake Mitchell - C, Surprise Saguaros (KC)
70. Alfredo Duno - C, Peoria Javelinas (CIN)
75. Jonny Farmelo - OF, Peoria Javelinas (SEA)
80. Rhett Lowder - RHP, Peoria Javelinas (CIN)
88. Hagen Smith - LHP, Glendale Desert Dogs (CWS)
94. Cam Collier - 1B/3B Peoria Javelinas (CIN)

Mascot Mania

The Arizona Fall League announced Monday the inclusion of six of Minor League Baseball's top mascots into the annual "Fall Stars Weekend" at Sloan Park, the spring training home of the Chicago Cubs.

The list includes:

- Homer the Dragon (Charlotte Knights, Triple-A CWS)
- Orion (Sugar Land Space Cowboys, Triple-A HOU)
- Wool E. Bull (Durham Bulls, Triple-A TB)
- Muddy (Toledo Mud Hens, Triple-A DET)
- Johnny TinCap (Fort Wayne TinCaps, High-A SD)

Media Inquiries

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

Today's Headlines

Today wraps up Fall Stars Weekend festivities with the 19th Arizona Fall League Fall Stars Game at 6 p.m. MT/8 p.m. ET from Sloan Park in Mesa Arizona, the spring training home of the Chicago Cubs. The game can be watched live on MLB Network and MLB.com

It is the fourth year of the American League vs National League format with the AL leading 2-1.

Fans can buy tickets for the Jewel Event at brushfire.com/arizonafallleague.

Starting Pitching Matchup

Marlins No. 18 prospect **Karson Millbrandt** (MSS/RHP) gets the ball for the National League. Millbrandt pitched to a 3.00 ERA in 90 innings with 113 strikeouts across three levels in 2025, ending the year in Double-A Pensacola. He struck out 10 in each of his final two starts with High-A Beloit, winning Midwest League Pitcher of the Week on Aug. 24. Among Midwest League pitchers with at least 19 starts, Millbrandt posted the fourth-lowest ERA and the fifth-lowest batting average against.

Millbrandt has made five appearances this fall, a pair being starts. In 13 1/3 innings in the AFL, he is second in the league with 23 strikeouts. The third round selection in 2022 and former Missouri Gatorade High School Player of the Year also ranks second in K/9 with 15.53.

Pitch Mix: Four-Seam Fastball (93-96, T 98), Cutter/Slider (85-87, T 91), Curveball (81-84), Changeup (87)

Orioles No. 21 prospect **Luis De Leon** (PEO/BAL/LHP) has made five starts in the AFL in 2025. In 16 1/3 innings, De Leon is 2-0 with a 2.76 ERA with 22 strikeouts. His 16 1/3 innings rank him third, while his 22 strikeouts are tied for third.

In 2025, he had a 5-3 record with a 3.30 ERA in 87 1/3 innings pitched across three levels for the Orioles organization, ending in Double-A Chesapeake. He was named South Atlantic League Pitcher of the Week on Aug. 17 and was the Opening Week Arizona Fall League Pitcher of the Week after striking out seven in four innings.

Pitch Mix: Sinker (94-96, T 98), Slider (87-89), Split-Change (82-85)

Home Run Derby Results

To kick off Fall Stars festivities, the Arizona Fall League showcased its top sluggers with the fourth annual AFL Home Run Derby. Introducing a new format, Salt River Rafter and Pittsburgh Pirates teammates Esmerlyn Valdez and Tony Blanco Jr. faced off in the Final Round.

The No. 30 Pirates prospect, Blanco Jr., launched a total of 24 home runs across four rounds, with eight home runs going 425 feet or further.

Total Results:

Thomas Sosa: 3 HR Tommy White: 10 HR Parks Harber: 6 HR Esmerlyn Valdez: 16 HR
Luke Adams: 5 HR Ethan Petry: 12 HR Ryan Galanie: 3 HR Tony Blanco Jr.: 24 HR

Arizona Fall League Home Run Derby Champions:

2025: Tony Blanco Jr. (PIT)

2024: Garrett Martin (NYY)

2023: Kalai'i Rosaio (MIN)

2022: Robert Perez Jr. (SEA)

Final 2 Vote

The Arizona Fall League Saturday announced the winners of the Fall Stars Game Final 2 Vote. Following over 5,000 votes cast, Chicago White Sox outfielder **Braden Montgomery** (CWS No. 1/MLB No. 35) and Atlanta Braves outfielder **Patrick Coghly** (ATL) have been added to the 2025 AFL Fall Stars Game rosters.

Upcoming Games and Probable Pitchers

Sunday, November 9

NL Fall Stars vs AL Fall Stars 6:00 RHP Karson Millbrandt vs. LHP Luis De Leon



ARIZONA FALL LEAGUE

FALL STARS NOTES - CONTINUED



www.mlbfallball.com
@mlbazfallleague



Silver Sluggers

8 of the 20 recipients of the 2025 Major League Silver Slugger award are Arizona Fall League alums.

National League:

First Base: NYM, Pete Alonso (SCO, 2018)
Shortstop: ARI, Geraldo Perdomo (SRR, 2019)
Outfield: CHC, Kyle Tucker (MSS, 2017)

American League:

First base: Nick Kurtz (MSS, 2024)
Second base: Jazz Chisholm Jr. (SRR, 2018)
Outfield: Byron Buxton (GDD, 2013/ SRR, 2014)
Outfield: Aaron Judge (SCO, 2014)
Designated Hitter: George Springer (MSS, 2012)

Gold Glovers

10 of the 20 recipients of the 2025 Major League Baseball Rawlings Gold Glove awards are Arizona Fall League alums.

National League:

Catcher: Patrick Bailey (SCO, 2019)
First base: Matt Olson (MSS, 2014)
Second Base: Nico Hoerner (MSS, 2018)
Shortstop: Masyn Winn (SRR, 2022)
Left Field: Ian Happ (MSS, 2016)

American League:

Pitcher: Max Fried (PEO, 2017)
Catcher: Dillion Dingler (SRR, 2022)
Second Base: Marcus Semien (GLD, 2013)
Right Field: Willyer Abreu (SCO, 2022)
Utility: Mauricio Dubon (SUR, 2016)

Of the nine MLB Gold Glove winners, Leonardo Bernal (GLD, 2024), Luis Lara (PEO, 2024, and Tre' Morgan (MSS, 2024) are AFL alums.

Fall League Alumni

FALL LEAGUE TO FALL CLASSIC: In the 2025 World Series, 21 of the 52 active players (40.4%) between the Dodgers and Blue Jays were Arizona Fall League alum. 10 of which on the back-to-back World Series champion Dodgers.

UMPIRES: Six of the seven umpires assigned to the 2025 World Series are AFL alum.

WILL SMITH WINNER: 2017 Glendale Desert Dog **Will Smith** launched the series-clinching home run in the top of the 10th inning of Game 7 of the World Series.

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

MVPs: Before Yamamoto this year, each of the last 10 Willie Mays World Series MVPs played in the Arizona Fall League including two-time MVP **Corey Seager** ('13-'14 Desert Dog).

FEELING GOLDEN: 24 Rawlings Gold Glove Finalists were Arizona Fall League alum (40%).

SILVER SLUGGING: 26 Louisville Slugger Silver Slugger Finalists were Arizona Fall League alum (47.3%).

The Stars of Tomorrow, Today

TOP DAWGS: The AFL features nine MLB Pipeline Top 100 prospects, led by No. 2 Kevin McGonigle (SS/Scottsdale/Tigers). The Cincinnati Reds lead the league sending three Top 100 prospects, while the Chicago White Sox sent two.

TOP ARMS: Two of the AFL's Top 100 prospects are pitchers. No. 80 Rhett Lowder (RHP/Peoria/Reds) has made four starts, while No. 88 Hagen Smith (LHP/Glendale/White Sox) has struck out 21 in five starts.

VALDEZ CRUSHING: Esmerlyn Valez launched the first AFL home run of 2025 going 425 to left-center field with a 108 mph exit velocity. The No. 15 Pirates prospect hit 26 across two levels in 2025. He had eight home runs in his first nine games played.

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

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

FUTURES GAME: Ten players on initial Arizona Fall League rosters represented their organizations in the 2025 MLB All-Star Futures Game in July.

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 line-ups (starting pitchers and DH included).

Manager Bios

As the managers with the best two records in the first half of the Arizona Fall League season, René Rivera (Scottsdale – DET) will manage the American League Fall Stars while Jesús Azuaje (Surprise – KC) will manage the National League.

Under Rivera's guidance, the Scorpions feature the league's top offense and one of its best pitching staffs. Rivera, a former Major League catcher, played for 10 organizations from 2004 to 2021 after being drafted by the Seattle Mariners in the second round of the 2001 MLB Draft. A native of Puerto Rico, he helped his national team capture a silver medal at the 2017 World Baseball Classic. Since retiring in 2023, Rivera has managed the Frederick Keys of the MLB Draft League and in 2025 served as the manager of the Single-A Florida State League Champion Lakeland Tigers.

"It's a great opportunity for myself, doing what I love, and I'm having the chance to be here as a manager with the Tigers and manage this young group of good players," Rivera said regarding the selection. "I'm excited about it. I'm excited for the opportunity and to just spend time a little bit with all those players."

Surprise manager Jesús Azuaje brings more than a decade of coaching experience across multiple organizations. He began his managerial career in 2010 with the AZL Mariners and has compiled a 183–194 record over four full seasons in the Mariners (2010–2011) and Royals (2023–2025) systems. Azuaje is no stranger to the Fall League, having served on the 2021 Surprise Saguaros staff that advanced to the AFL Championship Game. In 2025, he guided the High-A Quad Cities River Bandits, the Royals' Midwest League affiliate, to the second-best regular-season record on the circuit.

"I'm really happy and excited to be a part of it," Azuaje said on the recognition. "You know it is going to have a lot of talented players, so I am looking forward to it. Very excited to be with the guys all the way through the end."

Key Performers

KEVIN MCGONIGLE (SCO/DET No. 1/MLB No. 2/ INF) has reached base in all 17 games. He is on a 7-game hit streak, hitting .444 with 20 H, 16 RBI, and 5 HR since October 19. Earned AFL Hitter of the Week honors in week two.

MAX ANDERSON (SCO/DET No. 9/3B) leads the league in AVG (.465), OBP (.631), and OPS (1.491) while ranking top five in 2B (6), HR (4), SLG (.860), and total bases (37). The 2023 2nd Round Pick played at Nebraska, who will play in the 2026 MLB Desert Invitational. Peoria hitting coach Danny Marcuzzo was a volunteer assistant at Nebraska while Max was there. Both went to Millard West High School in Omaha, Nebraska.

DANIEL VAZQUEZ (SUR/KC No. 16/INF) leads Surprise in H (26), AVG (.342), and SB (11). The second-year AFL member has reached base in 30-straight AFL games dating back to Oct. 19, 2024. It is the second-longest AFL streak since at least 2005.

PARKS HARBER (SCO/SF/OF) is 1st in 2B (9), 4th in OPS (1.216), 6th in OBP (.514), 4th in SLG (.702), and 4th in AVG (.386).

OWEN AYERS (MSS/CHC/C) came into the Arizona Fall League as one of the hottest hitters, winning AFL Opening Week Hitter of the Week. He has kept that up, slashing .365/.529/.587 across 19 games, leading the league in walks (21).

SEAEVER KING (SCO/WSH/MIF) is second in the AFL in RBI (24), while slashing .361/.467/.574 with 8 extra-base hits. He began the season on a seven-game hitting streak, hitting .419.