

ARIZONA FALL LEAGUE

GAME NOTES ★ SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2022



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AFL Standings

	W-L	GB
Surprise Saguaros*	17-10	—
Peoria Javelinas	13-13-1	3.5
Scottsdale Scorpions	13-13-1	3.5
Glendale Desert Dogs	12-13-2	4.0
Mesa Solar Sox	12-13-2	4.0
Salt River Rafters	11-16	6.0

*Clinched top overall seed

Starting Lineups

American League

#13 Ronny Simon (TB)	SS
#12 Edouard Julien (MIN)	2B
#23 Heston Kjerstad (BAL)	RF
#38 Tyler Hardman (NYY)	1B
#5 Zach Britton (TOR)	LF
#59 T.J. Rumfield (NYY)	3B
#56 Colt Keith (DET)	DH
#12 Jasson Domínguez (NYY)	CF
#30 Stephen Scott (BOS)	C

National League

#13 Zac Veen (COL)	CF
#1 Jackson Merrill (SD)	SS
#25 Andy Pages (LAD)	RF
#11 Jordan Walker (STL)	DH
#27 Matt Mervis (CHC)	1B
#16 Noelvi Marte (CIN)	3B
#9 Rece Hinds (CIN)	LF
#26 Drew Millas (WSH)	C
#13 Nick Gonzales (PIT)	2B
#18 Connor Thomas (STL)	SP

Today's Headlines

Robert Perez Jr. (SEA) won the 2022 AFL Home Run Derby crown on Saturday night. He was one of two competitors to hit 20 or more home runs in the first two combined rounds of competition, and he later bested runner-up Heston Kjerstad (BAL) in the final round.

Edouard Julien (MIN) is the current AFL leader in OPS (1.218) and slugging percentage (.683) among qualified players. He is starting at second base and batting second for the National League this afternoon behind leadoff hitter Ronny Simon (TB).

Connor Thomas (STL) opens today's game on the mound for the National League. The current AFL leader in strikeouts (31), Thomas was named the Fall League's NFP Pitcher of the Week after striking out 10 hitters in a start during AFL Week 3.

For the first time since 2008, the Fall Stars Game will feature teams representing MLB's American League and National League. Today marks the first time Sloan Park has hosted a Fall Stars Game; the contest has previously been held at Surprise Stadium and Salt River Fields at Talking Stick.

Justyn-Henry Malloy (ATL) and **Robert Perez Jr. (SEA)** were named the AFL Final Vote winners on Friday afternoon. Each player received the most online votes out of a list of four players from each league, placing them on the Fall Stars Game rosters.

The Surprise Saguaros have officially clinched the top overall seed in the Fall League and will be the home team in the AFL Championship Game on Saturday, November 12 at Scottsdale Stadium. Three regular season dates remain on the 2022 AFL schedule.

Game Preview and Starting Pitchers

WELCOME TO THE 2022 ARIZONA FALL LEAGUE **FALL STARS GAME**



AMERICAN
LEAGUE
FALL
STARS

VS

NATIONAL
LEAGUE
FALL
STARS



AL Starting Pitcher

RHP Noah Denoyer (BAL)
Scottsdale Scorpions
3-1, 4.74 ERA

NL Starting Pitcher

LHP Connor Thomas (STL)
Salt River Rafters
1-0, 1.53 ERA

Upcoming Events

Monday, November 7

No games scheduled - League-wide off day

Tuesday, November 8

Salt River @ Mesa	12:35 p.m.	TBD vs. TBD
Glendale @ Peoria	12:35 p.m.	TBD vs. TBD
Surprise @ Scottsdale	6:35 p.m.	TBD vs. TBD



J.J. Bleday (Mesa Solar Sox, 2021) was named the MVP of the 2021 Fall Stars Game, going 2-for-3 with a home run and three RBI. The fourth-overall selection in the 2019 MLB Draft, Bleday played collegiately at Vanderbilt University where he helped lead the Commodores to a national championship in 2019. The 24-year-old outfielder made his MLB debut on July 23, 2022 and appeared in 65 games with the Marlins this year. Bleday played in 24 Fall League games last year, posting a .316/.435/.600 batting slash and helping lead his Mesa Solar Sox to an Arizona Fall League championship.

AFL Player Notebook

American League

#13 Ronny Simon - Tampa Bay Rays

Played 109 games in 2022 between High-A Bowling Green (70) and Double-A Montgomery (39), posting a combined .260/.303/.479 slash. Made his organizational debut with the Cubs in 2018, playing in the Dominican Summer League at 18 years old. Later acquired by the Diamondbacks and Rays.

#12 Edouard Julien - Minnesota Twins

Selected in the 18th round of the 2019 MLB Draft out of Auburn University. Played exclusively with Double-A Wichita in 2021, posting a .300/.441/.490 slash. Played two collegiate summer seasons in the Cape Cod Baseball League (Falmouth Commodores, 2018; Hyannis Harbor Hawks, 2019).

#23 Heston Kjerstad - Baltimore Orioles

Selected with the second-overall pick in the 2020 MLB Draft out of the University of Arkansas. Helped lead the Razorbacks to a runner-up finish at the 2019 College World Series. Currently ranks tied for second in the AFL in total home runs (5). Runner-up finish in the 2022 AFL Home Run Derby.

#38 Tyler Hardman - New York Yankees

Played 111 games in 2022 between High-A Hudson Valley (107 games) and Double-A Somerset (4), posting a combined .255/.320/.464 batting slash. Selected in the fifth round of the 2021 MLB Draft out of the University of Oklahoma. Born in Mission Viejo, California.

Today's Starting Pitcher

#25 Noah Denoyer - Baltimore Orioles

Pitched 71 2/3 innings in 2022 between Double-A Bowie (51 2/3), High-A Aberdeen (18) and the Florida Complex League (2), posting a combined 2.89 ERA with 99 strikeouts. Played two collegiate summer seasons in the Northwoods League (Thunder Bay Border Cats, 2017; Eau Claire Express, 2019).

National League

#13 Zac Veen - Colorado Rockies

Top-ranked Colorado Rockies prospect according to MLB Pipeline. Selected with the ninth-overall pick in the 2020 MLB Draft out of Spruce Creek High School (FL). Named the Fall League "NFP Hitter of the Week" for Week 1. Played in the 2022 Futures Game at Dodger Stadium.

#1 Jackson Merrill - San Diego Padres

Played 55 games in 2022 between Single-A Lake Elsinore (45 games) and the Arizona Complex League (10), posting a combined .339/.395/.511 batting slash. Selected with the 27th-overall pick in the 2021 MLB Draft out of Severna Park High School (MD). Born in Baltimore, Maryland.

#25 Andy Pages - Los Angeles Dodgers

Fifth-ranked Dodgers prospect according to MLB Pipeline. Played exclusively with Double-A Tulsa in 2022, posting a .236/.336/.468 slash in 132 games. 86 career home runs in 367 minor league games. Made his organizational debut with the Dodgers at 17 years old. Born in La Habana, Cuba.

#11 Jordan Walker - St. Louis Cardinals

21st-overall selection in the 2020 MLB Draft out of Decatur High School (GA). Played exclusively with Double-A Springfield in 2022, posting a .306/.388/.510 slash in 119 games. Holds a career .913 OPS in the Minors (201 games). Top-ranked prospect in the AFL according to MLB Pipeline.

Today's Starting Pitcher

#18 Connor Thomas - St. Louis Cardinals

Played three collegiate seasons at Georgia Tech (2018 All-ACC First Team). Selected in the fifth round of the 2019 MLB Draft after posting a 3.11 ERA with the Yellow Jackets (113 IP). Pitched exclusively with Triple-A Memphis this year, recording a 5.47 ERA and 1.57 WHIP over 135 innings.

2022 AFL Playoff Bracket

#3 Overall Seed (Visitor)



Friday, November 11

Peoria Sports Complex

6:35 p.m. MST

#2 Overall Seed (Home)



Saturday, November 12

Scottsdale Stadium

6:00 p.m. MST

#1 Surprise Saguaros (Home)

2022 AFL Champion

Arizona Fall League
c/o Salt River Fields
7555 North Pima Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85258

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