2026 World Baseball Classic
TEAM CANADA NOTEBOOK

Team Canada Press Officer: Adam Morissette media@baseball.ca

March 10th, 2026
Canada vs Puerto Rico – Hiram Bithorn Stadium, 7PM
RHP Jordan Balazovic vs RHP José De León
TV – Sportsnet | Radio – MLB Audio, SXM

Upcoming Schedule

Tue. 3/10	**Canada @ Puerto Rico**
First Pitch	7:08pm
Interview Room	4:15pm (Whitt & Quantrill)
BP	5-6pm
Wed. 3/11	**Canada @ Cuba**
First Pitch	3:08pm
Interview Room	12:15pm
BP	1-2pm

Roster
1 - Denzel Clarke
2 - Adam Hall
6 - Otto Lopez
7 - Tyler Black
8 – Jacob Robson
9 – Tyler O'Neill
12 – Josh Naylor
14 – Antoine Jean (an-TWAN ZHAHN)
15 – Edouard Julien (ED-ward JOO-lee-EN)
16 – Jordan Balazovic (BAL-uh-ZAH-vick)
21 – Owen Caissie (KAY-see)
22 – Logan Allen
23 – Bo Naylor
24 – Matt Davidson
25 – Noah Skirrow (SKEE-row)
29 – Jared Young
31 – Abraham Toro
34 – Liam Hicks
35 – Matt Wilkinson
37 – Phillippe Aumont (fi-LEEP ah-MOHN)
40 – Michael Soroka (suh-ROW-kuh)
44 – Brock Dykxhoorn (dikes-horn)
47 – Cal Quantrill (quan-trill)
50 – Jameson Taillon (TIE-own)
52 – Idigo Diaz
57 – Micah Ashman
58 – Rob Zastryzny (za-STRIZ-knee)
61 – Eric Cerantola
64 – Adam Macko
65 – James Paxton

Staff
10 – Greg Hamilton
11 – Stubby Clapp
26 – Ernie Whitt (WITT)
27 – Jordan Procyshen (pro-SESH-ehn)
32 – Kellin Deglan (DEG-lin)
33 – Justin Morneau (MOER-noh)
36 – Denis Boucher (duh-NEE boo-shay)
45 – Paul Quantrill (quan-trill)
55 – Russell Martin

TODAY'S STARTER
- Team Canada is sending 27-year-old Jordan Balzovic to the mound against Puerto Rico. Drafted by the Minnesota Twins in the 5th round of the 2016 Amateur Draft, Balazovic participated in the 2019 All-Star Futures game before making his big-league debut with the Twins on June 18th, 2023, appearing in 18 games. He spent the 2024 season with Doosan of the KBO before making his return to North America in 2025 spending the season in the Detroit Tigers organization. He is currently a member of the Uni-President Lions of the Chinese Professional Baseball League (CPBL) where he is signed for the 2026 season. **International:** Balazovic helped Canada win a silver medal at the 2019 Pan Am Games and played with Canada's U-18 program as an amateur.
- Balazovic on representing Canada in the WBC: *"This is a big tournament, and I've always wanted to pitch in this, even before I was in pro ball, watching the older guys play," said Balazovic. "I always rooted for the guys, but of course you want to be one of the guys on the field and help do what you can."*

LOOKING TO REBOUND
- After opening the WBC with a convincing 8-2 win over Colombia on Saturday, Canada suffered their first loss of Pool A on Sunday falling to Panama, 4-3. Leading 2-1 in the sixth, a pair of costly errors led to three Panama runs and they held off Canada the rest of the way. The game started one hour late due to rain before rains hit again with two out in the top of the ninth causing a 33-minute delay. Chicago Cubs hurler Jameson Taillon started for Canada and allowed one earned run over 3.1 innings on the mound with three strikeouts while Abraham Toro, Owen Caisie and Denzel Clarke each drove in a run.

WHAT'S AT STAKE
- The path is straightforward for Canada to move onto the quarterfinal round in Houston: Wins over remaining Pool A opponents, Puerto Rico and Cuba would give Canada first place in the pool. Canada can also clinch a spot in the quarterfinal round with a win over Cuba on Wednesday.

LAST TIME WE MET
- Today's match-up will be the first time that Canada and Puerto Rico have met in the history of the World Baseball Classic.
- The last time that Canada and Puerto Rico met in international competition took place during the gold medal game of the 2019 Pan Am Games in Lima, Peru with Puerto Rico earning a 6-1 win. Current Team Canada members Edouard Julien, Jordan Balazovic, Phillippe Aumont and Eric Cerantola were members of the silver medalists while Ernie Whitt was the manager.

BY THE NUMBERS
- With his three RBIs at this year's WBC, Owen Caissie now has seven RBIs in WBC play. That ties him with Michael Saunders (2013) for most total RBIs by a Canadian in WBC play.
- With his four walks at this year's WBC, Tyler O'Neill now has 10 walks in WBC play. With that, he has passed Jason Bay (2006, 2009), who had eight walks, for the most walks by a Canadian in WBC play.
- With his appearance against Colombia on Saturday, right-hander Phillippe Aumont has now made six pitching appearances for Canada in WBC play. That ties him with Scott Mathieson (2006, 2013, 2017, 2023) for most total pitching appearances by a Canadian in WBC play. The 37-year-old Aumont is competing in his fourth WBC.

CAPTAIN CANADA
- Seattle Mariners slugger Josh Naylor of Mississauga, Ontario is wearing the captain's "C" on his jersey during the World Baseball Classic…this is the first time in the history of the WBC that Canada has an official captain.

MANAGER ERNIE WHITT
- He made history in 2023 as the only person to manage in all five World Baseball Classics, Team Canada is once again be led by Ernie Whitt who's managing in his sixth World Baseball Classic in 2026…Whitt has a 6-11 record as Manager of Team Canada at the World Baseball Classic…Managing Team Canada for the 22nd time in international competition at the 2026 WBC, Whitt has an all-time 79-43 record in international competition...He's led Canada to gold medal victories at the 2011 and 2015 Pan-American Games, silver at the 2019 Pan Am Games and bronze at the 1999 Pan Am Games...He also managed Canada to a fourth-place finish at the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece...He played 15 seasons in the Majors with Boston, Toronto, Atlanta and Baltimore and was an All-Star in 1985 with Toronto…He was inducted into the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame in 2009.

FAMILY AFFAIR
- The 2023 World Baseball Classic was a special time for the Quantrill family with father, Paul, and son, Cal, both members of Team Canada...After a 14 big league seasons with the Red Sox, Phillies, Blue Jays, Dodgers, Yankees, Padres and Marlins that ended in 2005, Paul, who will act as Team Canada's bullpen coach, ended his competitive playing career playing for Canada in the inaugural WBC in 2006...Cal, a former member of Canada's Junior National Team (U18) is set to play in his second WBC and has spent seven seasons in the majors with the Padres, Guardians, Rockies, Marlins and Braves…The Naylor brothers (Josh and Bo) were teammates with the Cleveland Guardians from 2022-2024 will be reunited for the first time as members of Team Canada…Josh played for Canada in the

2017 WBC while Bo suited up for the national team during the 2023 WBC…adding to the family ties is the fact that Josh and Bo's mother, Jenice, is a cousin of Denzel Clarke's mother, Donna.

- Josh and Bo Naylor are set to join a list of brothers to be WBC teammates having already made their MLB debuts. Others include: William & Willson Contreras (2026, Venezuela), C.J. & Garrett Stubbs (2026, Israel), Alexis & Edwin Diaz (2023, Puerto Rico), Joshua & Richie Palacios (2023, Netherlands), Donovan & Jhonatan Solano (2017, Colombia), Adrian & Edgar Gonzalez (2009 & 2013, Mexico), Jose & Yadier Molina (2013, Puerto Rico), Jerry Jr. & Scott Hairston (2009, Mexico), Bengie & Yadier Molina (2006, Puerto Rico), Jose & Javier Valentin (2006, Puerto Rico)

TRAINING CAMP 2026

- Team Canada opened training camp on March 2nd in Dunedin, Florida at the Spring Training home of the Toronto Blue Jays in preparation for the 2026 World Baseball Classic…Team Canada returns to Dunedin for Training Camp for the first time since 2017 and fourth time (2006, 2009, 2017) in the history of the event. Canada previously held WBC training camps in Arizona prior to the 2013 and 2023 editions of the event.
- Training camp included two exhibition games with Canada falling to the Blue Jays, 10-7 on March 3rd in Dunedin before rebounding with a 5-3 win over the Philadelphia Phillies on March 4th in Clearwater.

2026 ROSTER NOTES

- Team Canada's roster features 30 players led by 2024 American League All-Star Josh Naylor of the Seattle Mariners along with two-time Gold Glove outfielder Tyler O'Neill of the Baltimore Orioles.
- The pitching staff is anchored by MLB veterans Cal Quantrill (Texas Rangers minor league invite), 2019 NL All-Star Michael Soroka (Arizona Diamondbacks) and Jameson Taillon (Chicago Cubs) while James Paxton, who last pitched in the big leagues in 2024, is coming out of retirement to pitch for Canada in the WBC after an 11-year career.
- Paxton famously threw a no-hitter against the Toronto Blue Jays on May 8, 2018, at Rogers Centre as a member of the Seattle Mariners.
- Canada's roster features 15 players that appeared in the big leagues in 2025: Tyler Black (Brewers), Owen Caissie, (Cubs), Denzel Clarke (Athletics), Liam Hicks (Marlins), Edouard Julien (Twins), Otto Lopez (Marlins), Josh Naylor (Diamondbacks, Mariners), Bo Naylor (Guardians), Tyler O'Neill (Orioles), Cal Quantrill (Marlins, Braves), Michael Soroka (Nationals, Cubs), Jameson Taillon (Cubs), Abraham Toro (Red Sox), Jared Young (Mets), Rob Zastryzny (Brewers).
- Canada's roster includes 14 players who competed in the most recent World Baseball Classic in 2023 including Phillippe Aumont, Owen Caissie, Denzel Clarke, Indigo Diaz, Edouard Julien, Otto Lopez, Bo Naylor, Tyler O'Neill, Cal Quantrill, Jacob Robson, Noah Skirrow, Abraham Toro, Jared Young, and Rob Zastryzny.
- Former big leaguer Phillippe Aumont who has a wealth of international playing experience on his resume is coming out of retirement to pitch for Canada in his fourth World Baseball Classic, having previously appeared in the 2009, 2013, and 2023 tournaments, while Tyler O'Neill is set to play in his third consecutive WBC after appearing in the 2017 and 2023 editions. Josh Naylor (2017) and Jameson Taillon (2013) are set to compete in their second WBC.
- Joining Whitt on the coaching staff is 2006 American League MVP Justin Morneau, who will make his coaching debut with Team Canada after representing Canada as a player in the 2006, 2009, 2013, and 2017 World Baseball Classics. Returning from the 2023 coaching staff are Denis Boucher, Greg Hamilton, Russell Martin, and Paul Quantrill, while Stubby Clapp returns to the World Baseball Classic after previously playing for Canada in the 2006 and 2009 tournaments and serving as a coach during the 2013 event.

NEW FACES

- Seven players including Logan Allen, Micah Ashman, Tyler Black, Matt Davidson, Liam Hicks, Adam Macko and Matt Wilkinson will each represent Canada for the first time in international competition, while Jordan Balazovic (2019 Pan Am Games), Eric Cerantola (2017 U-18, 2019 Pan Am Games), Brock Dykxhoorn (2012 U-18, 2015 Pan Am Games, 2019 Premier 12), Adam Hall (2015 U-18), and Antoine Jean (2019 U-18) return to the program after previously representing Canada on the international stage.

2026 POOL PLAY

- Team Canada will compete in San Juan in Pool A in the First Round along with Colombia, Cuba, Panama and host Puerto Rico. Canada opens play on March 7th at Hiram Bithorn Stadium in San Juan against Colombia, before taking on Panama on March 8th, Puerto Rico on March 10th and Cuba on March 11th.

TEAM CANADA ALL-TIME AT THE WBC (6-11)

2006 (2-1) - *CAN 11 South Africa 8; CAN 8 USA 6*; MEX 9 CAN 1 **Eliminated in First Round**
2009 (0-2) - USA 6 CAN 5; Italy 6 CAN 2 **Eliminated in First Round**
2013 (1-2) - Italy 14 CAN 4; *CAN 10 MEX 3*; USA 9 CAN 4 **Eliminated in First Round**
2017 (0-3) – CAN 2 Dom. Rep. 9; Colombia 4 CAN 1; CAN 0, USA 8 **Eliminated in First Round**
2023 (2-2) – CAN 18 Great Britain 8; CAN 1 USA 12; CAN 5 Colombia 0; CAN 3 Mexico 10 **Eliminated in First Round**
2026 (1-1) – CAN 8, Colombia 2; CAN 3, Panama 4