

ARIZONA FALL LEAGUE

GAME NOTES - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2025



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AFL Standings

| | W-L | GB | Streak |
|----------------------|-----|-----|--------|
| Scottsdale Scorpions | 8-4 | - | L1 |
| Surprise Saguaros | 7-4 | 0.5 | W2 |
| Peoria Javelinas | 6-6 | 2.0 | W1 |
| Salt River Rafter | 6-6 | 2.0 | L1 |
| Mesa Solar Sox | 5-7 | 3.0 | W1 |
| Glendale Desert Dogs | 3-8 | 4.5 | L4 |

NFP Hitter & Pitcher of the Week

ESMERLYN VALDEZ (SRR/PIT No. 15/OF):

- 8-13, 2B, 5 HR, 11 RBI, 7 BB, 2.573 OPS

- Led the AFL in TB (24), HR (5), SLG, (.727), and OPS (2.573), while being tied for the league lead in hits (8)

- Second in AVG (.615), OBP (.727), RBI (11), and BB (7)

ANDERSON BRITO (SCO/HOU No. 7/RHP):

- 1 GS, 1 W, 3 IP, 0 H, 0 R, 2 BB, 8 K, 51 P-31 S

- Struck out seven batters in a row

- Eight strikeouts most in an appearance in AFL this season

- Topped out at 98.9 mph on fastball

Tuesday's Top Performers

ESMERLYN VALDEZ (SRR/PIT No. 15/OF) continued his tear through the AFL, hitting his 8th HR, a 104.7 exit velocity laser in the seventh inning. The Hitter of the Week reached base in all four plate appearances adding to his league-leading 15 BB.

BRADEN MONTGOMERY (GLD/MLB No.35, CWS No.1/OF) smacked an RBI-Double for his first Fall League hit in first AFL at-bat. He also walked three times.

SAM ANTONACCI (GLD/CWS No. 11/INF) has reached base in seven-straight games after going 3-for-5, HR, 3 BB, and 4 SB. He leads the Desert Dogs and is 5th in the AFL with 18 total bases.

CAM COLLIER (PEO/MLB No. 94/CIN No. 6/IF) combined to go 2-for-6 with a double and 2 RBI.

JOE LAMPE (SUR/CLE/OF) notched his first multi-hit game in the Fall League, going 3 for 3 with 2 stolen bases against Glendale in game one.

CADE SMITH (MSS/NYY No. 19/RHP) struck out five, giving up one run on one hit through 3 2/3 IP.

YORDIN CHALAS (SRR/ARI No. 21/RHP) struck out three in 2 IP, bringing his scoreless innings streak up to five.

JACKSON BAUMEISTER (MSS/TB No. 21/RHP) tossed 4 IP, allowing two hits, one earned run and two walks. He struck out five batters, getting 10 swings and misses.

Fall League Alumni

ROAD TO THE FALL CLASSIC: 29 players on Championship Series rosters were AFL alumni (27.8%) with the Dodgers leading with 12. 2012 Mesa Solar Sox **George Springer** sprang the Blue Jays ahead to the World Series with a three-run home run. Springer ended with a 1.012 OPS in 21 games in the AFL.

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

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

Media Inquiries

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

Today's Headlines

Mesa @ Salt River: The Solar Sox send out RHP **Bryce Cunningham** (NYY No. 5) for his third start. The second-round pick in 2024 is wrapping up his first professional season after striking out 55 with a 2.82 ERA in 11 starts with High-A Hudson Valley.

RHP **Carlson Reed** (PIT) makes his second appearance of the season after two innings in relief against Scottsdale on Oct. 15. Reed made 16 starts with High-A Greensboro, recording a 2-4 record, 4.14 ERA, and only allowing opponents to a .194 batting average.

Scottsdale @ Surprise: The top two teams in the AFL match up for the third time this season. The Scorpions have won five of their last six games, including both matchups on Saturday and Sunday against Surprise. Scottsdale scored 26 runs on 24 hits in 14 combined innings. They lead the league with a .296 AVG/.431 OBP/.462 SLG slash line and a .893 team OPS. The Scorpions' 101 runs scored are 20 more than anyone else.

The Scottsdale pitching staff also leads the AFL with 115 strikeouts. This afternoon on the bump is RHP **Ryan Murphy** (SF), making his third AFL appearance and second start.

RHP **Daniel Espino** (CLE No. 29) makes his third start in the AFL. He has retired six of eight batters faced in two scoreless innings, striking out a pair. Piggybacking will be **Jesús Broca** (TEX). Broca jumped up two levels this season, ending in Double-A Biloxi. In his lone AFL appearance, he struck out three in 1 2/3 shutout innings.

Glendale @ Peoria: The nightcap sets up the best pitching matchup thus far in the AFL. MLB's No. 88 prospect and No. 5 White Sox prospect LHP **Hagen Smith** hasn't allowed a run across six innings pitched. Heading to his third start, Smith has nine strikeouts, allowing four hits and four walks. The No. 5 overall pick in the 2024 draft struck out four of the first six batters he faced last week.

On the other side, he faces Orioles No. 21 prospect LHP **Jose De León**. Opening Week's NFP Pitcher of the Week is third in the AFL with 12 strikeouts. In High-A Aberdeen, De León struck out eight or more batters in each of his final six starts. He racked up 53 strikeouts in his final 31 2/3 IP (15.06 K/9).

Upcoming Games and Probable Pitchers

Wednesday, October 22

| | | |
|-----------------------|------|---|
| Mesa @ Salt River | 1:30 | RHP Bryce Cunningham vs. RHP Carlson Reed |
| Scottsdale @ Surprise | 1:30 | RHP Ryan Murphy vs. RHP Daniel Espino |
| Glendale @ Peoria | 6:30 | LHP Hagen Smith vs LHP Luis De León |

Thursday, October 23

| | | |
|-----------------------|------|--|
| Glendale @ Salt River | 1:30 | RHP Chen-Wei Lin vs. LHP Jojo Ingrassia |
| Scottsdale @ Peoria | 1:30 | RHP Spencer Miles vs. RHP Johnathan Harmon |
| Surprise @ Mesa | 6:30 | RHP Trenton Denholm vs. RHP Koen Moreno |

Friday, October 24

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|
| Scottsdale @ Salt River | 12:30 | RHP James Hicks vs. RHP David Hagaman |
|-------------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|

Weekly Batting Practice & Infield/Outfield

Wednesdays are the current mandatory batting practice and I/O days. The schedule is below.

1:30 - Home I/O: 9:45 a.m., Home BP: 10:10 a.m., Visitor BP: 11:25 p.m., Visitor I/O: 12:35 p.m.
6:30 - Home I/O 2:45 p.m., Home BP: 3:10 p.m., Visitor BP: 4:25 p.m., Visitor I/O: 5:35 p.m.