



## Arizona Fall League Game Notes - Saturday, October 23, 2021

Website: [mlbfallball.com](http://mlbfallball.com)

Twitter: @MLBazFallLeague

### AFL Standings

#### East Division

GB

Mesa	5-3	—
Salt River	4-5	1.5
Scottsdale	3-6	2.5

#### West Division

GB

Glendale	6-3	—
Surprise	5-3	0.5
Peoria	3-6	3.0

### Today's Games

#### MESA @ GLENDALE

##### Mesa

RHP Jeff Criswell (OAK)  
1-0, 4.91 ERA

##### Glendale

RHP Chad Donato (HOU)  
1-0, 9.00 ERA

#### PEORIA @ SURPRISE

##### Peoria

RHP Juan Then (SEA)  
0-1, 4.50 ERA

##### Surprise

LHP Asa Lacy (KC)  
1-0, 6.75 ERA

#### SALT RIVER @ SCOTTSDALE

##### Salt River

RHP Slade Cecconi (ARI)  
0-0, 5.40 ERA

##### Scottsdale

LHP Seth Corry (SF)  
0-0, 0.00 ERA

### Batting Practice Schedule - Through 10/23

Team	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
Surprise	X	off	X	X	-	-
Peoria	X	-	X	X	-	X
Glendale	X	-	-	X	-	-
Salt River	X	-	-	X	-	X
Scottsdale	X	X	-	X	X	X
Mesa	X	off	X	X	X	X

12:35 p.m. - HINF: 9:10 a.m., HBP: 9:25 a.m., VBP: 10:40 a.m., VIN: 11:40 a.m.

6:35 p.m. - HINF: 3:10 p.m., HBP: 3:25 p.m., VBP: 4:40 p.m., VIN: 5:40 p.m.

Teams are REQUIRED to take batting practice and infield every Monday and Thursday

### Fall League Alum of the Day

**Mike Trout** (Scottsdale Scorpions, 2011) made his MLB debut with the Los Angeles Angels in 2011. He played in Arizona that fall for 25 Fall League games, posting a .245/.279/.321 slash. Trout's torrid streak of MLB accolades was set in motion the following spring in his official rookie season; he won the American League Rookie of the Year award in 2012 and has been named an All-Star in every eligible season since. Trout is a three-time AL MVP (2014, 2016, 2019), an eight-time Silver Slugger, and is currently holding a big league slash of .305/.419/.583 in 1,288 career games. Trout's career OPS of 1.002 is 11th-best all time among MLB players with a minimum of 3,000 plate appearances.

### Upcoming Games and Probable Starters

#### Sunday, October 24

*No games scheduled (league-wide off day)*

#### Monday, October 25

Glendale @ Scottsdale

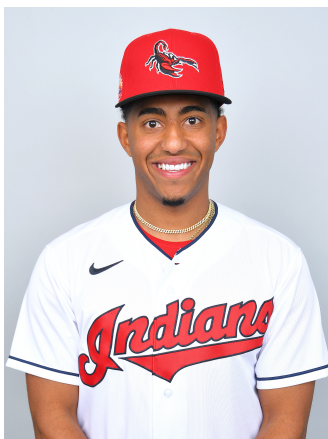
12:35 p.m. TBD vs. TBD

Mesa @ Surprise

12:35 p.m. RHP Logan Gillaspie vs. TBD

*Off day: Salt River, Peoria*

## Fall League Player Profile



### Richie Palacios - CLE Scottsdale Scorpions - 2B, SS

**Bats:** Left      **Throws:** Right  
**Height:** 5'10"    **Weight:** 180lb.

**Born:** May 16, 1997 (24)  
**Birthplace:** Brooklyn, NY  
**Drafted:** 2018 (3rd round, CLE)  
**College:** Towson



**Favorite Arizona Fall League hat (other than the Scorpions):**  
Salt River Rafters

**Favorite Fall League road ballpark:**  
Sloan Park (Mesa Solar Sox/Chicago Cubs)

**Favorite sport other than baseball:**  
Basketball

**NBA: Knicks or Nets?**  
Nets when they came to Brooklyn

## AFL Player Notebook

### Peoria

**#25 Canaan Smith-Njigba (PIT)** - 27th-ranked Pirates prospect according to MLB Pipeline. Drafted by the New York Yankees in the fourth round of the 2017 draft. Traded to the Pirates as part of a deal that sent Jameson Taillon to the Yankees. Played 66 games for Double-A Altoona in 2021, posting a .274/.398/.406 slash. 1028 career minor league at-bats with a .802 OPS.

**#59 Roansy Contreras (PIT)** - Named to the 2021 Futures Game for the National League. Made his professional debut at 17 in the New York Yankees system, working his way up to High-A in 2018. Traded in 2021 alongside Canaan Smith-Njugba in a deal that sent Jameson Tallion to New York. Made 12 starts for Double-A Altoona in 2021, posting a 2.65 ERA. Made his MLB debut in 2021, posting three scoreless innings in one start. 4.50 ERA in two innings of Fall League action.

**#41 Eguy Rosario (SD)** - Debuted as a professional at 16 in the Dominican Summer League and rookie-level Arizona league. Played exclusively with Double-A San Antonio in 2021, recording 420 at-bats with a .281/.360/.455 slash. Played winter ball in Venezuela with the Bravos de Margarita, recording 98 at-bats. Made his Double-A debut in 2018. Went 2-4 on Tuesday, October 19 against the Salt River Rafters.

### Salt River

**#28 Taylor Floyd (MIL)** - 10th-round selection in the 2019 draft out of Texas Tech. Helped lead the Red Raiders to their deepest College World Series run in program history (2019). Played two seasons of junior college baseball at Grayson College (TX). Pitched 56 innings in 2021 between High-A Wisconsin and Double-A Biloxi, posting a 2.89 ERA in 56 total innings. 3.39 ERA in 66.1 career minor league innings. Five strikeouts in first 2.2 innings of Fall League action.

**#50 Reagan Todd (COL)** - 32nd-round selection in the 2018 draft out of Colorado Mesa University. Played two seasons at Arizona State, making seven starts and 35 total appearances. Pitched with Double-A Hartford and Triple-A Albuquerque in 2021, posting a combined 4.53 ERA in 51.2 innings. 2.1 innings of scoreless work to begin the Fall League. Attended Regis Jesuit High School (CO), fewer than 20 miles from Colorado's Coors Field.

**#9 Cooper Hummel (ARI)** - 18th-round selection of the 2016 draft out of the University of Portland. Traded from the Brewers to the Diamondbacks in 2021 in a deal that sent Eduardo Escobar to Milwaukee. Recorded 293 at-bats between Triple-A Nashville and Triple-A Reno in 2021, posting a .311/.432/.546 slash. Named Triple-A West Player of the Month in September, posting a .463/.515/.800 slash in 21 games.

# AFL Player Notebook

## Mesa

**#15 Josh Simpson (MIA)** - Drafted the 32nd round of the 2019 draft out of Columbia University. Played three seasons in the Ivy League, posting a 4.20 ERA in 160.2 career college innings. Pitched 45.2 minor league innings in 2021, posting a 5.91 ERA with 19 walks and 62 strikeouts. Majored in political science at Columbia.

**#3 Greg Cullen (BAL)** - 15th-round selection of the 2018 draft from Niagara University. Traded from the Braves to the Orioles in 2021 in a deal that sent left-hander Tommy Milone to Atlanta. Played 38 games in 2021, 24 in Double-A Bowie where he posted a .219/.429/.398 slash in 108 at-bats. 786 career minor league at-bats with a .271/.393/.399 slash.

**#25 Brock Whittlesey (OAK)** - Born in Mesa, Arizona. Signed with the A's as an undrafted free agent in 2019 after two seasons at New Mexico State. Pitched 10.1 innings for Low-A Stockton and 46.1 innings for High-A Lansing in 2021, posting a combined 3.65 slash. Did not allow a run in his 10.1 innings with Stockton.

## Scottsdale

**#23 Greg DiCenzo (Manager, CLE)** - Head coach at Holy Cross (NCAA D1) from 2008-2019. Led the Crusaders to an NCAA regional in 2017. Managed Low-A Lake County in 2021. Began coaching at St. Lawrence University, starting as an assistant from 1999-2001 and taking over as interim head coach in 2002. Assistant at Northeastern University from 2003-2007, coaching Yankees reliever Adam Ottavino.

**#50 R.J. Dabovich (SF)** - Pitched at Central Arizona College and turned down an 18th-round pick in 2018 to pitch at Arizona State. Drafted in the fourth round of the 2020 draft after posting a 4.04 ERA in 32.1 innings for the Sun Devils. Made his professional debut with High-A Eugene in 2021, finishing the year with Double-A Richmond. Opened the 2021 Fall League with three scoreless innings and five strikeouts.

**#1 Richie Palacios (CLE)** - Third-round selection in the 2018 draft out of Towson University. Played with Double-A Akron and Triple-A Columbus in 2021, posting a combined .297/.404/.471 slash. Played collegiate summer baseball with the Wisconsin Rapids Rafters of the Northwoods League in 2016 and the Bourne Braves of the Cape Cod Baseball League in 2017. Homered against the Surprise Saguaros in the third inning on Thursday.

## Surprise

**#4 Drew Mount (CIN)** - Drafted in the sixth round of the 2018 draft out of Kansas State. Played in 62 games in 2021 between Triple-A Louisville, Double-A Chattanooga and the Reds' complex league squad, posting a .279/.361/.498 slash. Played two seasons of junior college baseball at De Anza College (CA). Attended San Jose State in 2014 and redshirted on the football team for one year as a safety.

**#18 Mario Lisson (Manager, WAS)** - Worked as the manager for the Fredericksburg Nationals (Low-A) in 2021. Managed the Gulf Coast Nationals in 2018 and 2019, one year removed from his final minor league season as a player. 3,913 career minor league at-bats in 12 years as a professional. Played 147 career games in Triple-A, posting a .242/.294/.380 slash. Born and raised in Venezuela.

**#48 Zach Haake (KC)** - Sixth round selection by the Royals in the 2018 draft. Pitched at Arkansas State in his college freshman year before transferring to Kentucky for his final collegiate season in 2018. Made 10 starts (11 total appearances) with High-A Quad Cities in 2021, posting a 3.74 ERA and 1.248 WHIP. 166 strikeouts in 149 career minor league innings. Pitched 3.2 scoreless innings in his last Fall League start on October 20, allowing one hit and striking out three.

## Glendale

**#30 Caleb Freeman (CHW)** - Drafted in the 15th round of the 2019 draft out of Texas Tech. Helped lead the Red Raiders to their deepest College World Series run in program history (2019). College teammate of Taylor Floyd (Salt River Rafters). Pitched 44 innings in 2021 between High-A Winston-Salem and Double-A Birmingham, posting a combined 3.27 ERA with 19 walks and 55 strikeouts.

**#26 Jake Walsh (STL)** - 16th-round pick in the 2017 draft out of Florida Southern College after transferring from Jacksonville State in 2015. 191.2 career minor league innings with a 2.39 ERA and 1.007 WHIP. Pitched 22 innings in 2021 between Double-A Springfield and Triple-A Memphis, posting a combined 2.86 ERA and collecting 34 strikeouts.

**#10 Pedro Leon (HOU)** - Second-ranked Astros prospect according to MLB Pipeline. Played in 52 games for Double-A Corpus Christi in 2021 before finishing the season with Triple-A Sugar Land for 17 games. Posted a combined .220/.339/.369 slash in 2021. Played in the Cuban National Series in the league's 2017-18 and 2018-19 season, playing both with the Hurricanes de Mayabeque.

## Today's Fall League Five

1: Both Jeter Downs (BOS) and Lars Nootbaar (STL) homered on Friday, keeping them tied atop the AFL home run leaderboard. Both have left the yard four times this fall; Downs leads the league in OPS at 1.520, while Nootbaar ranks sixth at 1.292.

2: Hans Crouse (PHI) recorded eight strikeouts in three innings on Friday, lifting his season figure to a league-leading 14 strikeouts. He is one of 12 pitchers with two starts on the fall. Cody Laweryson (MIN) ranks second in the league with 12 strikeouts.

3: After a 9-2 victory on Friday afternoon, the Glendale Desert Dogs jumped the Surprise Saguaros for the best record in the Fall League (6-3). The Desert Dogs also hold the league's best run differential at +13, and they are 5-0 on the road. Mesa and Surprise are tied for the second-best record at 5-3, a single win behind Glendale.

4: Juan Yopez (STL) entered Friday's action holding a .333 average and 1.063 OPS. Those figures are now at .346 and 1.168, thanks to a 2-for-5 showing on Friday that featured a seventh-inning homer. Yopez drove in four of the Desert Dogs' nine runs.

5: All six teams in the Fall League will play a night game today, the only such day on the 2021 AFL schedule. After today, 25 of the next 27 games on the schedule will be day games.

### **Important dates to remember:**

- Fall Stars Game: November 13th at Salt River Fields
- Championship Game: November 20th at Salt River Fields

