



## TAMPA BAY RAYS (2-2-0) at MINNESOTA TWINS (2-2-0)

LH Ryan Yarbrough (0-0, 0.00) vs. RH Kenta Maeda (0-0, 0.00)

Thursday, March 4, 2021 • **First Pitch:** 1:05 p.m. • **Location:** Hammond Stadium • **TV:** FOX Sports Sun • **Radio:** None  
**Spring Game No.:** 5 • **vs. AL Opponents:** 0-2-0 • **vs. NL Opponents:** 2-0-0 • **Home Games:** 2-1-0 • **Road Games:** 0-1-0  
Day 15 of Spring Training • 28 Days Until Opening Day—Thursday, April 1 at Miami Marlins (4:10 p.m.)

### PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

To hear Rays coaches and players pronouncing their names in their own voices, visit [RAYSBASEBALL.COM/PRONUNCIATION](https://raysbaseball.com/pronunciation).

### UPCOMING PROBABLE PITCHERS & BROADCAST SCHEDULE

Upcoming Games	Time (ET)	Probable Pitchers (Rays vs. Opp.)	TV & Radio
Thurs., 3/4 at MIN	1:05 p.m.	<b>TB</b> —LH Ryan Yarbrough, RH Luis Patiño, RH Tyler Zombro, LH Brian Moran, RH Stetson Allie, LH Kenny Rosenberg; <b>MIN</b> —RH Kenta Maeda, RH Hansel Robles, LH Taylor Rogers, RH Tyler Duffey, RH Juan Minaya, RH Jorge Alcalá	FOX Sports Sun
Fri., 3/5 at BOS	1:05 p.m.	<b>TB</b> —LH Rich Hill (start), LH Ryan Sherriff, RH Joe Ryan, RH Drew Strotman, RH Ryan Thompson; <b>BOS</b> —LH Eduardo Rodríguez	None
Sat., 3/6 vs. ATL	1:05 p.m.	<b>TB</b> —RH Tyler Glasnow, RH Shane Baz, RH Trevor Richards, LH Cody Reed; <b>ATL</b> —RH Charlie Morton	WDAE 95.3 FM/620 AM

**PLAY BALL!**—Today the defending AL champion Rays play their fifth of 29 official Grapefruit League games (14 at Charlotte Sports Park, 15 on the road)...from the spring opener through the end of the regular season (Feb 28–Oct 3), the Rays are scheduled for 191 games over a span of 218 days.

- + There are 11 new faces on the 40-man roster—four free agents, four acquired via trade and three from the minor league system.
- + The Rays have a club-record 77 players on their spring roster: 42 pitchers, 8 catchers, 15 infielders and 12 outfielders...prior to 2021, the largest camp roster was 76 players (1999)...the 77 players on the spring roster includes four rehabbing pitchers on the 60-day IL.
- + The Rays are sold out of tickets for home spring games...tickets were all sold within five minutes of going on sale to the public.

**SLICE OF GRAPEFRUIT**—Per MLB's 2021 guidelines, games from Feb 28–March 13 (excluding ESPN games) will be scheduled for 7 innings, though they can be shortened to 5 innings or lengthened to 9 innings upon mutual agreement of both managers...games from March 14-30 will be scheduled for 9 innings, though managers can decide to shorten to 7 innings.

- + Earlier last month, Major League Baseball released a revised, regionalized Grapefruit League schedule to mitigate travel...28 of the Rays 29 spring games are against the Braves (7), Orioles (3), Pirates (2), Red Sox (8) and Twins (8)...the only exception is the final game—March 30 in Lakeland (Tigers)—after the Rays move their major league operations to Tropicana Field to prepare for Opening Day.
- + In 2020, three players who entered spring training as non-roster invites made the Opening Day roster...incl. postseason, nine non-roster invites spent time on the Rays active roster last season.

**TWO DISTINCT ERAS**—Since becoming the Rays in 2008, the Rays own the 5th-best record in baseball at 1,081-924 (.539) and have made six trips to the postseason, incl. three AL East division titles (2020, 2010, 2008) and two World Series appearances (2020, 2008)...during this span, only three clubs (Dodgers, Yankees, Cardinals) have reached the postseason more often, and only two (Dodgers, Giants) have competed in more World Series...the Rays have seven 90-win seasons since 2008, a number matched by only three other teams in baseball: Dodgers (8), Red Sox (7) and Yankees (7)...this success comes after the Devil Rays amassed the majors' worst record at 645-972 (.399) over the club's first decade of existence.

- + The Rays enter the 2021 season on the heels of the second AL pennant in team history...in 2020, the Rays went 40-20 (.667), the best winning pct. in club history...it was the fourth straight season they improved their winning pct., all under Manager **Kevin Cash**.

**THE SKIPPER**—**Kevin Cash** enters his seventh season as Rays manager...he is baseball's 3rd-longest-tenured manager with his current team behind OAK **Bob Melvin** (10th full season) and CLE **Terry Francona** (9th season)...Cash's career 454-416 (.522) record is the best winning pct. of any manager in club history...last season he was named AL Manager of the Year by the BBWAA, receiving 22 of 30 first-place votes...was the second manager in Rays history to win it, joining **Joe Maddon** (2008 and 2011).

- + At 42 years old in 2020, Cash was the youngest manager to reach the World Series since **Ozzie Guillén** (41) in 2005 (White Sox).
- + Three other current managers are former members of his coaching staff: **Rocco Baldelli** (Twins), **Charlie Montoyo** (Blue Jays) and **Derek Shelton** (Pirates)...Cash is one of six former Rays players who have gone on to manage major league teams...the others: Guillén (White Sox, Marlins), **Mickey Callaway** (Mets), **Gabe Kapler** (Phillies, Giants), **Dave Martinez** (Nationals) and **Baldelli** (Twins).

**MINOR MATTERS**—The Rays enter the 2021 season ranked by *Baseball America*, *Baseball Prospectus*, *ESPN* and *The Athletic* as the No. 1 farm system in the game...the Rays will attempt to complete the sweep when MLB.com releases their organizational rankings in mid-March...MLB.com placed eight Rays prospects on its preseason Top 100, most of any team.

- + Non-roster INF **Wander Franco** is the consensus No. 1 overall prospect in the minors...he became the fourth player to rank as *Baseball America's* top prospect in consecutive years, joining **Bryce Harper** (2011-12), **Joe Mauer** (2004-05) and **Andruw Jones** (1996-97).
- + This season the Rays continued affiliation with Durham, Montgomery and Bowling Green and added Low-A Charleston (S.C.).

**KNUTSON CLASSIC**—This is the second of eight meetings between the two clubs this spring...the Rays lost, 6-5, in a 6-inning game on March 1 at home...the spring series determines the winner of the "Knutson Classic," named for Rays press box attendant and Minnesota native **Dukes Knutson**...the Twins went 2-1 last spring to win it for a fifth consecutive year, after the Rays won it from

2013-15...the two clubs did not play in the 2020 regular season but will meet six times this year: Aug 13-15 at Target Field and Sep 3-5 at home.

- + Twins Manager **Rocco Baldelli** spent four seasons on **Kevin Cash's** coaching staff before being hired by the Twins on Oct 25, 2018.
- + Rocco was the Rays major league field coordinator in 2018 and the first base coach from 2015-17...he and Cash are two of six former Rays players who have gone on to manage major league teams.

**YESTERDAY'S RECAP**—The Rays defeated the Pirates, 3-1, for their second win of the spring...SS **Wander Franco** hit a solo homer in the 2nd inning that either hit the roof or cleared the building beyond the right field fence that houses the Rays front office...LF **Austin Meadows** hit a 2-run homer in the 5th, his second of the spring...after the Pirates opened the game with a single, Rays pitching retired 14 straight...LH **Shane Bieber** started and pitched the 1st, and LH **Josh Fleming** got the win.

**TODAY'S STARTER at MIN**—LH Ryan Yarbrough (0-0, 0.00 ERA)

- + **2020:** 1-4, 3.56 ERA (55.2-IP, 22-ER) in 11 apps (9 starts)
- + **2020 Postseason:** 1-0, 3.68 ERA (14.2-IP, 6-ER) in 5 apps (2 starts)
- + His first 8 apps last season came from the starting rotation...missed a start while on the 10-day IL for left groin tightness (Aug 29–Sep 6).
- + Allowed 2 runs (or fewer) in seven of his 11 apps, including four scoreless outings, but yielded 4 runs (or more) in his other 4 apps.
- + Ended the season winless in his last 17 starts, going 0-7 with a 4.72 ERA (89.2-IP, 47-ER) during that stretch, which began in 2019...tied the longest winless streak for a traditional starter in club history.
- + Threw first-pitch strikes to 67.2 pct. of batters faced, and 68.4 pct. of his pitches were strikes, the 4th- and 5th-highest rates in the majors (min. 50 IP)...averaged 15.0 pitches per inn., 6th in the majors.
- + Batters had an avg. exit velocity of 82.6 mph, lowest in the majors.

**SEASON MEMBERSHIPS**—The Rays have announced a new and innovative Season Membership model in anticipation of fans returning to Tropicana Field for the 2021 regular season...Rays Season Memberships allow fans to choose from six membership levels, each with its own associated discount and seating location...to ensure socially-distant seating, traditional fixed season ticket locations will not be available for 2021.

**CHAMPIONS CLUB**—To celebrate the Rays advancing to the 2020 World Series, the team has launched the American League Champions Club, presented by Geico...the club features exclusive experiences and events, including a members-only Zoom session with AL Manager of the Year **Kevin Cash** and Senior VP of Baseball Operations & General Manager **Erik Neander** and photo opportunities with the trophy...members will also receive special gifts, including an replica ring, replica trophy, a **Randy Arozarena** ALCS MVP Audio Bobblehead and a commemorative wooden coaster...to purchase a membership, visit [raysbaseball.com/ALchamps](https://raysbaseball.com/ALchamps).

**RAYS ON THE TUBE**—FOX Sports Sun, which will be rebranding as Bally Sports Sun in the coming weeks, will be televising a club-record 13 games during spring training...in addition to televising the games, each broadcast will be made available for live streaming on FOX Sports GO...the broadcast schedule will feature a mix of play-by-play by **Dewayne Staats**, analysis by **Brian Anderson** and reporting by **Tricia Whitaker**.

- + Dewayne has done play-by-play since the inaugural 1998 season; he and BA enter their 13th season together...Tricia, a proud alumna of Indiana University, begins her third season on the telecast.

2021 SPRING INNINGS PLAYED

PLAYER	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	LF	CF	RF	DH	PLAYER	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	LF	CF	RF	DH	PLAYER	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	LF	CF	RF	DH	
Adames					9					Hunt										3	Padlo					10				
Arozarena						5		4		Jones					2						Phillips							9		
Betts										Kelly		7									Pinto	3							1	
Boldt								4	3	Kiermaier											Quiroz				5					
Brosseau		4		4						Lowe, B			9								Smith	4								
Bruján			3		3				5	Lowe, J								10			Sullivan	3								
Choi										Lukes						5					Tsutsugo		4				4			6
Díaz		4			4					Margot							4	5			Walls			6		4				
Edwards			8							Mastrobuoni			3					2			Wendle			1	4					
Franco					9					Meadows						9			4		Whitley							6		
Gómez								6	8	Mejia	5										Zunino	9								
Gray		4								Odom	3																			

SPRING TRANSACTIONS

FEBRUARY

- 14 Placed LH **Jalen Beeks** (recovery from Tommy John surgery) and LH **Colin Poche** (recovery from Tommy John surgery) on the 60-day IL; acquired minor league 1B **Evan Edwards** from the Miami Marlins in exchange for RH **John Curtiss**; acquired RH **Chris Mazza**, LH **Jeffrey Springs** and cash considerations from the Boston Red Sox in exchange for C **Ronaldo Hernández** and minor league INF **Nick Sogard**; signed RH **Oliver Drake** and LH **Rich Hill** to one-year contracts.
- 22 Placed RH **Yonny Chirinos** (recovery from Tommy John surgery) and RH **Oliver Drake** (right flexor tendon strain) on the 60-day IL; signed RH **Collin McHugh** and RH **Chaz Roe** to one-year contracts.

RAYS SPRING TRAINING HISTORY

YEAR	W-L-T	ATT.	YEAR	W-L-T	ATT.	YEAR	W-L-T	ATT.	YEAR	W-L-T	ATT.
2021	2-2-0	3,381	2014	16-7-4	78,264	2007	10-19-2	79,044	2000	14-17-0	67,089
2020	9-8-4	44,511	2013	15-17-2	90,935	2006	13-16-1	70,756	1999	14-14-1	59,230
2019	13-17-2	74,023	2012	10-16-6	87,916	2005	13-16-0	61,261	1998	12-18-0	66,781
2018	14-16-2	69,731	2011	15-14-2	95,859	2004	11-8-0	43,916	<b>303-328-45</b>		<b>1,637,055</b>
2017	12-16-5	81,752	2010	20-8-2	97,971	2003	8-19-3	51,324			
2016	12-13-2	68,566	2009	15-16-1	103,255	2002	10-16-1	49,043			
2015	15-13-2	80,406	2008	18-8-2	54,960	2001	12-15-1	57,081			

2021 TAMPA BAY RAYS SPRING TRAINING SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TV/R	TIME/SCORE	W-L-T	WINNER	LOSER	ATT.
Sun	Feb 28	Atlanta	Charlotte County	W	W, 9-7 (7)	1-0-0	Rios (1-0)	Burrows (0-1)	1,127
Mon	March 1	Minnesota	Charlotte County	M	L, 5-6 (6)	1-1-0	Anderson (1-0)	Zombro (0-1)	1,127
Tues	March 2	@Boston	Fort Myers	E	L, 3-9	1-2-0	Pérez (1-0)	Hess (0-1)	1,860
Wed	March 3	Pittsburgh	Charlotte County	F/M	W, 3-1 (6)	2-2-0	Fleming (1-0)	Yajure (0-1)	1,127
Thurs	March 4	@Minnesota	Lee County	F	1:05 p.m.				
Fri	March 5	@Boston	Fort Myers		1:05 p.m.				
Sat	March 6	Atlanta	Port Charlotte	W	1:05 p.m.				
Sun	March 7	@Minnesota	Lee County	F/W	1:05 p.m.				
Tues	March 9	Boston	Charlotte County	F/M	1:05 p.m.				
Wed	March 10	Minnesota	Charlotte County	F/M	1:05 p.m.				
Thurs	March 11	@Atlanta	North Port		1:05 p.m.				
Fri	March 12	@Boston	Fort Myers		1:05 p.m.				
Sat	March 13	Minnesota	Charlotte County	F/W	1:05 p.m.				
Sun	March 14	@Atlanta	North Port	W	1:05 p.m.				
Mon	March 15	Boston	Charlotte County	F/M	1:05 p.m.				
Tues	March 16	Baltimore	Charlotte County	F/M	1:05 p.m.				
Wed	March 17	@Pittsburgh	Bradenton		1:05 p.m.				
Fri	March 19	@Boston	Fort Myers		1:05 p.m.				
Sat	March 20	@Minnesota	Lee County	W	6:05 p.m.				
Sun	March 21	Atlanta	Charlotte County	W	1:05 p.m.				
Mon	March 22	Boston	Charlotte County	F/M	1:05 p.m.				
Tues	March 23	@Baltimore	Sarasota		1:05 p.m.				
Wed	March 24	Minnesota	Charlotte County	F/M	1:05 p.m.				
Thurs	March 25	@Atlanta	North Port		1:05 p.m.				
Fri	March 26	Boston	Charlotte County	F/M	1:05 p.m.				
Sat	March 27	@Minnesota	Lee County	F/W	1:05 p.m.				
Sun	March 28	Atlanta	Charlotte County	F/W	1:05 p.m.				
Mon	March 29	@Baltimore	Sarasota		1:05 p.m.				
Tues	March 30	@Detroit	Lakeland		1:05 p.m.				

Home Games shaded gray TELEVISION: FOX Sports Sun (F), ESPN (E) RADIO: WDAE 95.3 FM/620 AM (W), MLB.com (M)