

GAME NOTES

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VENEZUELA VS. NEW YORK METS (5-5-1)

MARCH 9, 2023 • 1:10 PM

CLOVER PARK • PORT ST. LUCIE, FL

LHP EMMANUEL DE JESÚS (0-0, -.-) VS. RHP JOSÉ BUTTO (0-0, 4.91)

SNY



YESTERDAY: The Mets fell to Team Nicaragua in an exhibition game at Clover Park, 2-0...RHP Max Scherzer allowed two earned runs on one hit and one walk over 3.0 innings in his third start of the spring... All nine of his outs came via the strikeout...RHP Eric Orze, RHP Sam Coonrod, RHP Jeff Brigham, LHP T.J. McFarland, RHP Jimmy Yacabonis and LHP Josh Walker each threw 1.0 scoreless inning in relief...The six relievers combined to allow four hits and strikeout four batters without issuing a walk...The Mets lone hit of the night came from SS Ronny Mauricio, an infield single in the seventh.

VENEZUELA: Team Venezuela has a record of 12-12 in the World Baseball Classic...Their best result in the WBC came in 2009 when they went 6-2 before falling to South Korea in the semifinals...Houston Astros 1B coach Omar López will serve as the manager for team Venezuela...López 46 served as a quality control coach for Team Venezuela in the 2017 World Baseball Classic.

ON THE WORLD STAGE: INF Jonathan Araúz is 3-9 with a double, a walk and a run scored in two WBC games for Team Panama...Minor league RHP Humberto Mejía started and threw 2.0 scoreless innings in Team Panama's 12-5 victory of Team Chinese Taipei on March 8...Baseball Hall of Famer & Mets Hall of Famer Mike Piazza led Team Italy to a 6-3 extra-inning win over Team CUBA today in his WBC managerial debut.

ABRAHAMMER: In spring training games, Abraham Almonte leads the majors among qualifiers in batting average with a .500 clip and leads qualifiers in OBP with a .650 mark...Almonte also ranks second in the majors in OPS with a 1.293 mark and eighth in SLG with a .643 clip.

YOUTH MOVEMENT: Several of the Mets top prospects are among the major league leaderboard in several offensive categories this spring...Brett Baty ranks second in batting average (.474), second in OBP (.524), tied for third in hits (9), sixth in OPS (1.208) and seventh in SLG (.684)...Ronny Mauricio is tied for second in the majors with three home runs, tied for ninth in RBI with seven and tied for 11th in total bases with 16...Mark Vientos is tied for ninth in RBI with seven, 11th in SLG with a .615 mark and tied for 11th in total bases with 16.

T-LO: Tim Locastro has had an excellent spring and is tied for second in stolen bases with five, tied for second in doubles with four and eighth among qualifiers in OBP with a .485 mark.

WELCOME BACK: Former Mets INF Howard Johnson and INF Mookie Wilson will be in camp until March 10...Johnson was a two-time All-Star and two-time Silver Slugger with the Mets and ranks third in franchise history in stolen bases (202) and fourth in home runs (192)...One of four players in major league history with three or more 30-30 seasons, Johnson will be inducted into the Mets Hall of Fame on June 3 along with LHP Al Leiter and broadcasters Gary Cohen and Howie Rose...Wilson spent 10 years with the Mets and hit .276/.318/.394 with 60 home runs, 342 RBI and 281 steals with New York... Upon his retirement, he led the Mets in stolen bases (281) and triples (62)...He currently works as a team ambassador for the Mets.

THE BUCK STARTS HERE: In his first season as Mets skipper, Buck Showalter took home the NL Manager of the Year Award...He led the club to 101 wins and its first playoff berth since 2016...Showalter was also named Manager of the Year in 1994 with the Yankees, 2004 with the Rangers and 2014 with the Orioles... His four Manager of the Year Awards are tied for the most in the award's history with Bobby Cox and Tony La Russa...Showalter ranks 18th all-time and third among active managers with 1,652 managerial wins... Showalter is the first Mets manager to record 100 or more victories in his first season with the club...He joins Yogi Berra as the only managers to guide both the Mets and Yankees into the playoffs.

THE BATTING CHAMP IS HERE: Last season, INF/OF Jeff McNeil became the first Met ever to win a major league batting title and joined José Reyes (2011) as the only other Met to win a National League batting title...The two-time All-Star owns a .307 career batting average, the second-best clip by a Met through their first five big league seasons behind David Wright's .309 mark (min. 1,500 AB)

YES, THE CLOSER: RHP Edwin Díaz won the 2022 Trevor Hoffman NL Relief Pitcher of the Year Award... The two-time All-Star joined Craig Kimbrel as the only pitchers in major league history to win Reliever of the Year in both leagues...Díaz pitched to a 1.31 ERA (9 ER/62.0 IP) and led all major league relievers with 118 strikeouts...His 50.2 strikeout rate was the third-best in major league history for a single season...The right-hander became the 12th pitcher in major league history to strike out at least 100 batters, record 30 or more saves, and sport a sub-1.50 ERA.

POLAR POWER: Last season, INF Pete Alonso tied for the major league lead with 131 RBI, the most ever by a Met in a single season...Alonso finished third in the majors with 40 home runs in 2022 and became the first Met ever with multiple seasons of 40 or more home runs...His 146 career home runs are the fourth most by a major leaguer through his first four major league seasons trailing Ralph Kiner (168), Albert Pujols (160) and Eddie Mathews (153)...Alonso ranks seventh in franchise history in home runs...He is three home runs behind Carlos Beltrán and trails Dave Kingman by eight long balls.

GLOBAL GAME: 10 players in major league camp with the Mets will compete in the 2023 World Baseball Classic...INF Pete Alonso, INF/OF Jeff McNeil, RHP Adam Ottavino and LHP Brooks Raley will play for Team USA...INF Eduardo Escobar, RHP Elieser Hernandez and C Omar Narváez will compete for Team Venezuela...RHP Edwin Díaz and INF Francisco Lindor will play for Team Puerto Rico...INF Jonathan Araúz, a non-roster invitee, will compete for Team Panama...Minor leaguers RHP Dominic Hamel (Puerto Rico), RHP Humberto Mejía (Panama), LHP Cam Opp (Great Britain) and RHP Claudio Scotti (Italy) will also participate in the 2023 World Baseball Classic...Baseball Hall of Famer & Mets Hall of Famer Mike Piazza will manage Team Italy.

NEW FACES IN NEW PLACES: The 2023 Mets enter Spring Training with several new players on the roster...These include: OF Abraham Almonte (minor league free agent), INF Jonathan Araúz (minor league free agent), RHP Jeff Brigham (trade), OF Lorenzo Cedrola (minor league free agent), RHP Sam Coonrod (waiver claim), RHP Zach Greene (Rule 5 Draft), RHP Elieser Hernández (trade), OF Tim Locastro (minor league free agent), LHP T.J. McFarland (minor league free agent), INF Danny Mendick (free agent), LHP Zach Muckenhirn (minor league free agent), C Omar Narváez (free agent), INF José Peraza (minor league free agent), OF Tommy Pham (free agent), LHP José Quintana (free agent), LHP Brooks Raley (trade), RHP Denyi Reyes (minor league free agent), RHP Stephen Ridings (waiver claim), RHP David Robertson (free agent), RHP Kodai Senga (free agent), OF DJ Stewart (minor league free agent), RHP William Woods (minor league free agent), RHP Justin Verlander (free agent) and RHP Jimmy Yacabonis (minor league free agent).

HEY NOW, YOU'RE AN ALL-STAR: Last season, INF Pete Alonso, RHP Edwin Díaz, OF Starling Marte and INF/OF Jeff McNeil were selected to play for the National League in the 2022 All-Star Game at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles...The Mets four All-Star selections in 2022 were the most in a season since 2016 (Noah Syndergaard, Yoenis Céspedes, Jeurys Familia and Bartolo Colón)...McNeil started for the National League at second base and was the first Met to start an All-Star Game since David Wright and Matt Harvey both started in the 2013 All-Star Game at Citi Field...McNeil joined Ron Hunt (1964) as the only other Met to start at second base in the All-Star Game.

EXPECTED TO START

RHP JOSÉ BUTTO: Will make his third appearance of the spring and his second start...Has allowed two earned runs on two hits, two walks and seven strikeouts over 3.2 innings in Grapefruit League play... The 24-year-old made his MLB debut in a start last season on August 21 at Philadelphia...He allowed seven runs on nine hits in 4.0 innings with five strikeouts...Enters this season ranked as the No. 15 Mets prospect according to MLB Pipeline... Appeared in 28 minor league games (25 starts) in 2022 combined with Binghamton (AA) and Syracuse (AAA) and posted a 7-6 record and a 3.56 ERA (51 ER/129.0 IP) with 138 strikeouts and a 1.21 WHIP...Named International Pitcher of the Week for the week of September 19-25 after a scoreless 7.0-inning start with 11 strikeouts on September 21...Has a career 20-25 record over 102 games (89 starts) in his five-year minor league career in the Mets system...Has a minor league career ERA of 3.44 (172 ER/450.1 IP)...Was signed by the Mets as a non-drafted free agent on December 21, 2016.

2/25 vs. MIA	1.2	0	1	1	2	4
3/2 vs. ATL	2.0	2	1	1	0	3

METS TOP PROSPECTS: The Mets have their top four prospects in major league camp...All four cracked MLB Pipeline's list of the top 100 prospects in baseball: C Francisco Álvarez (#3), INF Brett Baty (#21), C Kevin Parada (#36) and OF Alex Ramirez (#96)...Also in big league camp are Mets No. 6 prospect INF Ronny Mauricio and No. 7 prospect INF Mark Vientos.

THAT'S A LOTTA HARDWARE: With Justin Verlander and Max Scherzer, the 2023 Mets are the third team in major league history to boast multiple three-time Cy Young award winners on their roster in the same season, joining the 1986 White Sox (Tom Seaver and Steve Carlton) and the 2021 Dodgers (Scherzer and Clayton Kershaw).

HITTING THE ROAD: New York finished the season going 47-34 on the road last season...Their .580 road winning percentage placed them third in the majors and second in the NL...It was tied for the fourth-highest in team history...It was the highest road-winning percentage since 2007...Overall, they hit .265/.334/.424 away from Citi Field...Their .265 road average was second in the majors

UPCOMING PITCHING

THURSDAY

1:10 PM vs. Venezuela

VENEZUELA: LHP Emmanuel De Jesus

METS: RHP José Butto, RHP Grant Hartwig, RHP Bryce Montes de Oca

FRIDAY

1:10 PM vs. Houston

ASTROS: RHP Shawn Dubin

METS: TBA

FRIDAY

6:05 at St. Louis

METS: TBA

CARDINALS: LHP Jordan Montgomery

