

# GAME NOTES

NEW YORK METS MEDIA RELATIONS DEPARTMENT • CITI FIELD • FLUSHING, NY 11368

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## NEW YORK METS (8-11-1) AT HOUSTON ASTROS (9-7-3)

MARCH 18, 2023 • 7:05 PM

BALLPARK OF THE PALM BEACHES • WEST PALM BEACH, FL

RHP MAX SCHERZER (0-1, 1.93) VS. LHP FRAMBER VALDEZ (1-0, 2.00)

WCBS 880



**YESTERDAY:** The Mets defeated the Miami Marlins, 6-1, at Clover Park...RHP Carlos Carrasco earned his first victory of the spring...The right-hander allowed one run over 4.0 innings on two hits and struck out seven batters...CF Brandon Nimmo recorded his first hit of the spring with a triple in the third and drove in his first run of the spring with a walk in the fourth...SS Luis Guillorme went 2-2 with a bases-clearing double in the fourth...RHP Jeff Brigham, RHP Stephen Nogosek, RHP John Curtiss and LHP T.J. McFarland combined to throw 5.0 scoreless innings out of the bullpen.

**ROSTER MOVE:** Yesterday, the Mets claimed RHP Dennis Santana off waivers from the Minnesota Twins...Santana, 26, has appeared in 134 major league games and owns a 7-14 record with a 5.12 ERA (79 ER/139.0 IP) with 72 walks and 128 strikeouts.

**ON THE WORLD STAGE:** INF Francisco Lindor batted .450 (9-20) with a triple, six RBI and six runs in five games for Team Puerto Rico... INF Eduardo Escobar hit a solo home run in Team Venezuela's 5-1 victory over Team Israel on Wednesday...C Omar Narváez went 1-3 in team Venezuela's victory of Team Nicaragua on Tuesday...OF Jeff McNeil went 1-4 on Sunday for Team USA...RHP Adam Ottavino tossed a scoreless inning for USA in relief against Team Mexico...INF Jonathan Araúz went 4-15 with a .421 OBP and three RBI in four games for Team Panama...Minor league RHP Humberto Mejía tossed 4.0 scoreless innings in two outings (one start) for Team Panama...Baseball Hall of Famer & Mets Hall of Famer Mike Piazza led Team Italy to a quarterfinal appearance.

**TOMÁS THE TANK ENGINE:** C Tomás Nido has a .393/.414/.786 slashline in 10 games this spring...Five of Nido's 11 hits this spring have gone for extra-bases, including three home runs...The 28-year-old has hit safely in each of his last nine Grapefruit League games.

**THE PEN IS MIGHTIER:** Several Mets relievers have had stellar springs so far...RHP Jimmy Yacabonis has not allowed a run over 6.0 innings this spring...RHP Tommy Hunter has not allowed a run in 5.0 innings...RHP John Curtiss has allowed one earned run on three hits over 6.0 innings in Grapefruit League play...Drew Smith has allowed one earned run on three hits over 4.0 innings this spring...RHP Jeff Brigham has allowed two runs with eight strikeouts in 6.2 innings of work...LHP Zach Muckenhirn has yet to allow an earned run in 4.2 innings.

**GET OUT THE TAPE MEASURE:** INF Ronny Mauricio has belted four home runs this spring, two of which have traveled 450+ feet...Mauricio's four homers this spring have traveled an average distance of 432 feet.

**AMAZIN' DAY:** The New York Mets are taking over New York City with the club's first-ever Amazin' Day, an all-day, citywide extravaganza for Mets fans taking place on Saturday, March 25...Fans who wear a Mets hat or any Mets gear will be granted access to several events at iconic NYC institutions, community-focused events, and giveaways throughout the day...With the Mets focused on creating the best fan experience in sports, fans can sign up for the chance to win exclusive ticketed events on Amazin' Day and enter the Amazin' Day Sweepstakes to win the ultimate grand prize starting today...For information and updates on Amazin' Day, please visit Mets.com/AmazinDay or follow the Mets on social media.

**YOUTH MOVEMENT:** Several of the Mets top prospects are among the major league leaderboard in several offensive categories this spring...Ronny Mauricio is tied for third in the majors with four home runs...Brett Baty leads the majors among qualifiers in OBP (.512), ranks second in average (.394) and ninth in OPS (1.000)...Mark Vientos and Mauricio are tied for 15th in total bases with 21.

**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.

**T-LO:** Tim Lincecum has had an excellent spring and is tied for second in the majors with five doubles...Lincecum is tied for third in stolen bases with six, fourth in OBP with a .439 mark, tied for sixth in runs with nine, seventh in average with a .347 clip and 12th in OPS with a .982 mark.

**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 will play for Team USA...INF Eduardo Escobar 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...LHP Brooks Raley (USA) and LHP José Quintana (Colombia) were slated to play, but withdrew due to injury.

**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 Cedro (minor league free agent), RHP Sam Coonrod (waiver claim), RHP Zach Greene (Rule 5 Draft), RHP Elieser Hernández (trade), OF Tim Lincecum (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).

**SMILE LIKE YOU MEAN IT:** Last season, INF Francisco Lindor set a Mets shortstop record for most RBI in a season with a career-high 107 RBI...The 28-year-old has led all shortstops with 184 home runs since he debuted in 2015...Lindor is one of 11 players to hit 150 or more homers and swipe 100 or more bags since 2015.

### EXPECTED TO START

**RHP MAX SCHERZER:** Will make his fourth start of the spring and third in Grapefruit League play...The three-time Cy-Young Award winner, eight-time All-Star and 2019 World Series Champion made 23 starts with the Mets last season, posting a 11-5 record with a 2.29 ERA (37 ER/145.1 IP) and 173 strikeouts...Ranked sixth in the majors (min. 140.0 innings) with a 2.29 ERA, ninth with a 10.71 K/9 ratio, second with a 0.91 WHIP and third with a 7.21 K/BB ratio...Among pitchers to face 500 or more batters, his .207 opponent average ranked 14th in the majors, while his .574 OPS against ranked eighth...Made five starts in July after being activated from the IL on July 5...He went 1-1 with a 1.39 ERA (5 ER/32.1 IP) while striking out 45 and walking just four...Reached his 200th career win on September 19, 2022 at Milwaukee after throwing 6.0 perfect innings in his return from the 15-Day IL...Has appeared in 430 career games (421 starts) over a 15-year major league career and owns a lifetime record of 201-102 with 3.11 ERA (927 ER/2692.0 IP)...One of 19 pitchers all-time to accumulate 3,000 career strikeouts...His 3193 career strikeouts are five behind teammate Justin Verlander for the most by an active pitcher.

Date/Opp	IP	H	R	ER	BB	K
2/26 vs. WAS	2.0	3	1	1	0	5
3/3 vs. WAS	2.2	5	7	0	0	1
3/8 vs. NCA	3.0	1	2	2	1	9

**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, Yoanis Céspedes, Jeury 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.

**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).

**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).

### UPCOMING PITCHING

**SATURDAY**  
7:05 PM at Houston

**METS:** RHP Max Scherzer, RHP Tommy Hunter, LHP Joey Lucchesi, RHP Drew Smith, RHP William Woods

**ASTROS:** LHP Framer Valdez, RHP TY Buttrey, RHP Devin Conn, LHP Austin Davis, RHP Austen Hansen

**SUNDAY**  
1:10 PM vs. St. Louis

**CARDINALS:** RHP Dakota Hudson

**METS:** TBA

