



## ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS (15-13-1) VS. CLEVELAND GUARDIANS (14-14-1)

RHP Merrill Kelly (0-0, 8.31) vs. RHP Slade Cecconi (2-1, 2.13)

Mon., March 23, 2026 • 6:40 p.m. AZT • Chase Field • Phoenix, Ariz.

Game No. 30 • Home Game No. 16 • Home: 7-7-1 • Road: 8-6

TV: DBACKS.TV | Livestream: ---

English Radio: Arizona Sports 98.7 FM | Spanish Radio: La Campesina 101.9 FM & 860 AM



Banner Sports Medicine Performance Center • Salt River Fields at Talking Stick • 7555 N. Pima Road, Scottsdale, Ariz., 85258

### D-BACKS 29TH SPRING TRAINING BREAKDOWN

- ◆ Arizona is in its 29th Cactus League season and 16th at Salt River Fields at Talking Stick (Tucson from 1998-2010).
- ◆ 5 home games against NL West rivals: Rockies (Feb. 21, March 12), Dodgers (Feb. 25), Giants (March 7) and Padres (March 15).
- ◆ 5 home games against 2025 Postseason contenders: Guardians (March 1), Mariners (March 9), Reds (March 16), Cubs (March 18) and Brewers (March 20).
- ◆ World Baseball Classic exhibition game vs. Team Mexico (March 3).

### SRF AND D-BACKS AMONG ATTENDANCE LEADERS

- ◆ In all of Spring Training play, the D-backs finished with the second-best total home attendance (161,054) and average home attendance (10,737), behind the Cubs (194,679/12,979).

### OPENING DAY 1 WEEK AWAY

- ◆ Opening Day is on Monday, March 30 vs. Tigers and Opening Week Homestand features Postgame Fireworks on Friday, April 3 and The All-American Rejects Postgame Concert on Saturday, April 4.
- ◆ The AL-champion Blue Jays will visit the desert for just the sixth time, from April 17-19: Postgame Fireworks on Friday, Ketel Marte Tee courtesy of State Farm on Saturday.
- ◆ Tickets can now be purchased at [dbacks.com/tickets](https://dbacks.com/tickets), via the MLB Ballpark App or by phone at 602.462.4600.

### SPRING SNAKEBITES

- ◆ Manager, **Torey Lovullo**, announced his starting rotation to start the season: RHP **Zac Gallen**, RHP **Ryne Nelson**, LHP **Eduardo Rodriguez**, RHP **Michael Soroka** and RHP **Brandon Pfaadt**.
- ◆ **Merrill Kelly** makes his third start tonight...Lovullo announced that Kelly will start the season on the injured list.
- ◆ **Gabriel Moreno** on Sunday started his first game at catcher since March 9 after being held back (right elbow inflammation)...caught 6.0 innings and went 3-for-4 with 1 double, 2 homers and 2 RBI.
- ◆ **Alek Thomas** has hit safely in 9 of his 10 games at a .370 clip (10-for-27)/1.230 OPS with 3 doubles, 1 triple, 2 homers and 8 RBI.
- ◆ **Nolan Arenado** is batting .400 (6-for-15)/1.567 OPS with 4 doubles, 2 homers and 9 RBI in 8 games.
- ◆ **Geraldo Perdomo** is batting .364 (8-for-22)/.826 OPS with 1 double and 2 walks in 8 games.
- ◆ **Jordan Lawlar** has hit safely in 9 of his last 10 games at a .333 clip (11-for-33)/.934 OPS with 1 double, 2 homers, 3 RBI and 3 walks... has made 13 starts in center field and 2 in left.

### LAST NIGHT'S RECAP

- ◆ The D-backs won 11-1 @ Padres.
  - **Gabriel Moreno** went 3-for-4 with 1 double, 2 homers (3) and 2 RBI in his first game at catcher since March 9...was held back from catching duties with right elbow inflammation.
  - **Jorge Barrosa** went 2-for-4 with a solo homer (3).
  - **Ildemaro Vargas** hit a solo homer (2).
  - **Ryan Waldschmidt** went 3-for-4 with 1 double.
  - **Brandyn Garcia** tossed a perfect 1.0 inning with 2 strikeouts.

### TUNE IN TO THE ACTION

- ◆ Tonight's game vs. Guardians at Chase Field features a DBACKS.TV broadcast, hosted by Steve Berthiaume, alongside Bob Brenly and Jody Jackson on the field.
- ◆ On the radio, the game will broadcast on Arizona Sports 98.7 FM, hosted by Chris Garagiola and Tom Candiotti.
- ◆ On Spanish radio, the game will broadcast on La Campesina 101.9 FM and 860 AM hosted by Oscar Soria and Rodrigo Lopez.
- ◆ DBACKS.TV subscriptions are \$99.99 for the full season or watch via local TV providers at [dbacks.com/channelfinder](https://dbacks.com/channelfinder).

### SPRING BREAKOUT RECAP

- ◆ The D-backs prospects won 10-3 vs. the Rockies prospects Saturday at Salt River Fields at Talking Stick in the third annual "Spring Breakout" prospect game.
  - Shortstop **Jose Fernandez** went 3-for-3 with 1 triple and 3 RBI and was named All-Spring Breakout First-Team.
  - **Druw Jones** started in center field and went 2-for-3 with 2 RBI.
  - **Kayson Cunningham**, the club's 2025 first-round draft pick, started at DH and had 2 singles.
  - **LuJames Groover** reached base 3 times (1-for-1, 2 BB).

### EVENING ON THE DIAMOND RAISES \$3.4 MILLION

- ◆ On Saturday, the D-backs and Arizona Diamondbacks Foundation celebrated over \$100 million in giving and raised \$3.4 million at their annual "Evening on the Diamond" marquee fundraising gala at Chase Field...the event brought together players, coaches, alumni along with dignitaries, community and corporate leaders, Advantage Members and more for a night celebrating community impact across Arizona.
- ◆ The evening featured premium silent and live auctions with exclusive memorabilia, luxury experiences and one-of-a-kind items, along with an impactful paddle raise for a meaningful cause to benefit the D-backs RBI fund.

### CONGRATS, TEAM VENEZUELA!

- ◆ Congratulations to **Eduardo Rodriguez** and additional D-backs members, **Rolando Valles** (Coaching Staff), **Francisco Cartaya** (International Scouting), **Rafael Yanez** (International Scouting) with Team Venezuela on winning their first WBC gold medal.

### TWO SPECIAL FANS TO TAKE CENTER STAGE AT HOME OPENER

- ◆ The D-backs home opener on March 30 vs. Tigers features 2 special fans who were personally invited from D-backs President, CEO & General Partner, Derrick Hall:
  - Throwing out the ceremonial first pitch will be **Beauden Baumkirchner**, who, at just 3 years old, developed a rare and aggressive staph infection that led to septic shock and months in intensive care and underwent more than 20 surgeries, including the amputation of both legs...in January, he visited MLB Network with Challenged Athletes Foundation, which included a FaceTime with **Corbin Carroll**...today, he plays baseball at Lake Havasu Little League using prosthetic legs, continuing to inspire those around him.
  - Performing the National Anthem will be **Joe Giacinto**, an Arizona clarinetist born blind and autistic...completely self-taught, he learns and performs music entirely by ear and has memorized hundreds of pieces, and dreams of performing alongside Andrea Bocelli.

### CAMP UPDATES

- ◆ Camp roster currently has 33 players (3 non-roster invitees): 17 pitchers (3), 3 catchers (1), 9 infielders (2) and 4 outfielders.
- ◆ On Sunday, the D-backs optioned LHP **Philip Abner** to Triple-A Reno and reassigned C **Aramis Garcia** and INF **Jacob Amaya** to Minor League camp.
- ◆ **Gabriel Moreno** caught his first game on Sunday since his late scratch on March 13 (right elbow inflammation).
- ◆ **Pavin Smith** played his first game on Thursday since being listed day-to-day with left forearm tightness.
- ◆ **Lourdes Gurriel Jr.** has yet to make his Spring debut but continues to get at-bats during back-field work.

### VETERAN SNAKES

- ◆ **Ketel Marte** (since 2017) becomes just the second D-back to play 10 seasons, joining Nick Ahmed (2014-23).
- ◆ Among D-back pitchers all-time, **Zac Gallen**, **Merrill Kelly** and **Kevin Ginkel** enter their franchise-record-tying eighth season with Randy Johnson (1999-2004, '07-08) and Andrew Chafin (2014-20, '23).
- ◆ **Torey Lovullo** enters as the winningest and longest-tenured skipper in franchise history, and his 10th season as Manager as only the second manager/head coach in Phoenix professional sports history to reach double-digits (Cardinals, Coyotes, Mercury, Suns), joining the Suns' John MacLeod (14 seasons, 1974-87).

### COACHING STAFF

- ◆ **Torey Lovullo** returns 9 coaches and added 1 new coach...returnees: **Jeff Banister** (bench coach, fifth season), **Dave McKay** (first base coach, 13th season), **Joe Mather** (hitting coach, fifth season), **Damion Easley** (assistant hitting coach, fifth season), **Brian Kaplan** (pitching coach, second season), **Wellington Cepeda** (bullpen coach, second season), **Travis Denker** (assistant hitting coach, second season), **Owen Dew** (assistant pitching coach, second season) and **Shaun Larkin** (infield coach, second season...new coach: **J.R. House** (third base & catching coach) rejoins the organization (previously 2012-18 in player development).

**SCHEDULED PITCHERS**

**STARTING PITCHER**

**No. 29 - RHP Merrill Kelly**

- Went a combined 12-9 with a 3.52 ERA (72 ER in 184.0 IP), 48 walks and 167 strikeouts over 32 starts with the D-backs and Rangers in his seventh season in the Majors.
- Has 12+ wins and 175.0+ innings in 3 of his last 4 seasons.
- In 22 starts with the D-backs, went 9-6 with a 3.22 ERA (46 ER in 128.2 IP), opponent .206 AVG, 38 walks and 121 strikeouts.
- Acquired by the Rangers for Minor League LHP Mitch Bratt, LHP Kohl Drake and RHP David Hagaman on July 31.
- In 10 starts with the Rangers, went 3-3 with a 4.23 ERA (26 ER in 55.1 IP), 10 walks and 46 strikeouts.
- Recorded his 900th career strikeout on Sept 5 vs. Astros and surpassed 1,000 career inning on Sept. 10 vs. Brewers.

DATE	OPP	DEC	ERA	G-GS	IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	SO
3/13	@ KC	-	10.80	1-1	1.2	6	2	2	0	0	1
3/18	vs. CHC	-	8.31	1-1	2.2	5	2	2	0	0	0
TOTALS		0-0	8.31	2-2	4.1	11	4	4	0	0	1

**ADDITIONAL PITCHERS**

**No. 56 - RHP Andrew Hoffmann**

- In 8 games in his first stint with the D-backs, went 1-1 with a 7.36 ERA (6 ER in 7.1 IP), opponent .241 AVG, 6 walks and 7 strikeouts.
- Acquired from the Royals for OF Randal Grichuk on July 26 and optioned to Triple-A Reno.
- Made his MLB debut last season on May 30 vs. Tigers with the Royals (2.0 IP)...in 3 games over 2 stints with the Royals, went 0-0 with a 3.86 ERA (2 ER in 4.2 IP), 4 walks and 5 strikeouts.
- In 32 games with Triple-A Omaha (Royals) last season, went 3-3 with 2 saves, a 2.25 ERA (10 ER in 40.0 IP), opponent .230 AVG, 10 walks and 55 strikeouts.

DATE	OPP	DEC	ERA	G-GS	IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	SO
2/20	@ COL	-	0.00	1-0	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	2
2/24	@ TEX	W	0.00	1-0	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3/6	vs. CWS	-	0.00	1-0	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	3
3/9	vs. SEA	-	1.93	1-0	1.2	3	1	1	0	1	2
3/13	@ KC	-	1.59	1-0	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	1
3/15	vs. SD	-	2.70	1-0	1.0	1	1	1	0	1	1
3/19	@ CWS	-	2.57	1-0	0.1	1	0	0	0	0	1
3/20	vs. MIL	-	2.25	1-0	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS		1-0	2.25	8-0	8.0	6	2	2	0	3	10

**No. 43 - RHP Jonathan Loaisiga**

- Began 2025 in his eighth season with the Yankees on the IL (recovering from right elbow surgery)...made 6 rehab appearances between Single-A Tampa and Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.
- Reinstated in mid-May and appeared in 30 games, going 0-1 with 1 save, a 4.25 ERA (14 ER in 29.2 IP), 10 walks and 25 strikeouts...placed on the IL on Aug. 2 (right thoracic spine muscle spasm) and did not pitch in the Majors the rest of the season.
- In 2024, was limited to 3 games due to a season-ending strained right elbow and surgery.
- Pitched parts of 8 seasons (2018-25) with the Yankees, going a combined 19-12 with 8 saves, a 3.54 ERA (98 ER in 249.1), opponent .244 AVG, 82 walks and 232 strikeouts in 193 games (11 starts).

DATE	OPP	DEC	ERA	G-GS	IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	SO
2/28	@ LAA	W	9.00	1-0	1.0	2	1	1	0	1	1
3/4	@ ATH	-	4.50	1-0	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	0
3/7	vs. SF	-	6.00	1-0	1.0	2	1	1	0	0	1
3/10	@ LAD	-	4.50	1-0	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	2
3/13	@ KC	-	3.60	1-0	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	1
3/15	vs. SD	-	3.00	1-0	1.0	2	0	0	0	0	1
3/19	@ CWS	-	3.86	1-0	1.0	1	1	1	0	0	1
TOTALS		1-0	3.86	7-0	7.0	8	3	3	0	2	7

**No. 22 - RHP Paul Sewald**

- In 2025, was limited to 18 games with the Guardians after 2 stints on the IL (strained right shoulder)...went 1-1 with 2 saves, a 4.70 ERA (8 ER in 15.1), 4 walks and 18 strikeouts.
- Acquired at the trade deadline by the Tigers but was limited to 4 games to close out the regular season (0-0, 4.15 ERA, 2 BB, 2 K).
- Returns for his second stint with Arizona (2023-24)...in 2023, was acquired from Seattle and helped lead club to its second-ever National League Pennant and World Series appearance.
- In 2024, was named the D-backs' Roberto Clemente Award nominee for his impact in the community.

DATE	OPP	DEC	ERA	G-GS	IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	SO
2/28	@ LAA	-	9.00	1-0	1.0	1	1	1	0	0	1
3/4	@ ATH	-	9.00	1-0	1.0	2	1	1	0	0	0
3/7	vs. SF	-	6.40	1-0	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	2
3/13	@ KC	-	4.50	1-0	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	0
3/15	vs. SD	-	3.60	1-0	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	1
3/18	vs. CHC	-	3.00	1-0	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3/21	vs. TEX	-	2.57	1-0	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	1
TOTALS		-	2.57	7-0	7.0	6	2	2	0	0	5

**PROBABLES (italics denotes D-backs Minor Leaguer)**

**MARCH 23 VS. GUARDIANS @ 6:40 P.M.**

**RHP Merrill Kelly vs. RHP Slade Cecconi**

AZ: RHP Ryan Thompson, RHP Andrew Hoffmann, RHP Paul Sewald, RHP Jonathan Loaisiga  
CLE: LHP Joey Cantillo, RHP Cade Smith

**MARCH 24 VS. GUARDIANS @ 12:40 P.M.**

**RHP Michael Soroka vs. LHP Parker Messick**

AZ: RHP Kevin Ginkel, LHP Brandyn Garcia, RHP Juan Morillo, LHP Philip Abner  
CLE: LHP Tim Herrin

**DAY-BY-DAY**

DATE	OPP	All Times Local	RESULT	REC.	* SRF Sellout	WIN	LOSS	ATT.
2/20	@ COL	W, 3-2	1-0			Rashi (1-0)	Weigel (0-1)	10,033
2/21	vs. COL	L, 11-6	1-1			Gordon (1-0)	Bratt (0-1)	10,185
2/22	vs. LAA	L, 10-9	1-2			Murphy (1-0)	Angelo (0-1)	10,375
2/23	@ CLE	L, 9-5	1-3			Festa (1-0)	Burgos (0-1)	3,385
2/24	@ TEX	W, 6-4	2-3			Hoffmann (1-0)	Gomber (0-1)	3,464
2/25	vs. LAD	L, 10-7	2-4			Diaz (1-0)	Ray (0-1)	*11,065
2/26	vs. KC	W, 13-10	3-4			Dubin (1-0)	Panzini (0-1)	6,471
2/27	@ SEA	W, 3-1	4-4			Nelson (1-0)	Castillo (0-1)	9,992
2/28	@ LAA	W, 8-5	5-4			Loaisiga (1-0)	Sandridge (0-1)	7,445
3/1	vs. CLE	W, 9-6	6-4			Drake (1-0)	Denholm (0-1)	*11,068
3/2	OFF DAY							
3/3	vs. MEX	L, 6-3				Gastelum	Morillo	10,472
3/4	@ ATH	W, 3-1	7-4			Carrillo (1-0)	Ferguson (0-1)	5,086
3/5	@ CHC	L, 8-1	7-5			Rea (1-1)	Nelson (1-1)	12,824
3/6	vs. CWS (ss)	L, 6-0	7-6			Kay (2-0)	Eagen (0-1)	10,044
3/6	@ MIL (ss)	L, 6-2	7-7			Fitzpatrick (1-0)	Burgos (0-2)	4,908
3/7	vs. SF	L, 7-4	7-8			Brubaker (1-0)	Drake (1-1)	12,815
3/8	@ CIN	L, 13-4	7-9			Santillan (1-0)	Dubin (1-1)	6,007
3/9	vs. SEA	W, 2-1	8-9			Anderson (1-0)	Castaño (0-1)	*11,944
3/10	@ LAD	L, 4-1	8-10			Glasnow (1-0)	Strowd (0-1)	8,636
3/11	vs. ATH	L, 13-3	8-11			Morales (2-1)	Russell (0-1)	9,244
3/12	vs. COL	L, 13-2	8-12			Sullivan (2-0)	Jameson (0-1)	10,481
3/13	@ KC	W, 11-5	9-12			Abner (1-0)	Cameron (0-1)	8,311
3/14	@ SF	W, 8-7	10-12			Thompson (1-0)	Fulmer (0-1)	10,193
3/15	vs. SD	T, 4-4	10-12-1			----	----	13,851
3/16	vs. CIN	W, 11-6	11-12-1			Nelson (2-1)	Abbott (1-3)	10,807
3/17	OFF DAY							
3/18	vs. CHC	W, 16-8	12-12-1			Ross (1-0)	Moore (0-1)	11,242
3/19	@ CWS	L, 4-2	12-13-1			Borucki (2-0)	Garcia (0-1)	8,271
3/20	vs. MIL	W, 8-7	13-13-1			Jarvis (1-0)	Nova (0-1)	11,857
3/21	vs. TEX	W, 5-2	14-13-1			Nelson (3-1)	Gomber (0-2)	9,605
3/22	@ SD	W, 11-1	15-13-1			Curtiss (1-0)	Buehler (2-1)	7,297
3/23	vs. CLE				6:40 PM		DBACKS.TV 98.7 FM KNAI 101.9 FM 860 AM	
3/24	vs. CLE				12:40 PM		KNAI 101.9 FM 860 AM	

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Home: 7-7-1  
Away: 8-6-0  
Day: 11-12-1  
Night: 4-1-0  
vs. NL: 6-8-1  
vs. AL: 9-5-0

**ATTENDANCE**

HOME	ROAD
Total: 161,054	Total: 98,555
Avg: 10,737	Avg: 7,581
Largest: 13,851 (3/15)	Largest: 12,824 (3/5)

**RECENT TRANSACTIONS**

- 3/22 Optioned to Triple-A Reno: LHP Philip Abner  
Reassigned to Minor League camp: C Aramis Garcia, INF Jacob Amaya
- 3/20 Optioned to Triple-A Reno: RHP Kade Strowd
- 3/15 Optioned to Triple-A Reno: RHP Drey Jameson  
Reassigned to Minor League camp: RHP John Curtiss, INF Luken Baker.

**SCHEDULED PITCHERS CONT.**

**No. 81 - RHP Ryan Thompson**

- In 2025, was limited to 48 games with Arizona, going 3-2 with 1 save, a 3.92 ERA (18 ER in 41.1 IP) and 36 strikeouts.
- His 35.1 chase pct. ranked fourth among NL relievers [min. 100 BF], behind Graham Ashcraft/CIN (37.9), Tanner Scott/LAD (35.7) and Shelby Miller/AZ-MIL (35.7).
- Did not allow a home run in 30 consecutive games (24.0 IP) last season from May 19-Sept. 26.
- In 2025, did not allow a run in a season-high 10 straight games (8.1 IP) from June 17-Sept. 5, going 1-0 with 5 walks and 6 strikeouts.

DATE	OPP	DEC	ERA	G-GS	IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	SO
2/26	vs. KC	-	0.00	1-0	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	2
3/1	vs. CLE	-	0.00	1-0	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	1
3/5	@ CHC	-	6.00	1-0	1.0	2	2	2	1	0	1
3/8	@ CIN	-	4.50	1-0	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3/11	vs. ATH	-	7.20	1-0	1.0	2	2	2	0	0	0
3/14	@ SF	W	6.00	1-0	1.0	2	0	0	0	0	0
3/16	vs. CIN	-	6.43	1-0	1.0	1	1	1	0	0	2
3/19	@ CWS	-	6.14	1-0	0.1	1	0	0	0	0	0
3/20	vs. MIL	-	5.40	1-0	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS		1-0	5.40	9-0	8.1	9	5	5	1	0	6