



Arizona Fall League Game Notes - Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Website: mlbfallball.com

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AFL Standings

East Division

GB

Mesa	6-4	—
Salt River	5-5	1.0
Scottsdale	3-8	3.5

West Division

GB

Surprise	7-3	—
Glendale	7-4	0.5
Peoria	3-7	4.0

Today's Games

MESA @ PEORIA

Mesa

LHP Cameron Bishop (BAL)
0-0, 0.00 ERA

Peoria

XHP James McArthur (PHI)
0-0, 2.25 ERA

SURPRISE @ SCOTTSDALE

Surprise

RHP Zach Haake (KC)
0-0, 3.00 ERA

Scottsdale

LHP Kody Funderburk (MIN)
0-1, 9.00 ERA

OFF DAY:

Salt River Rafters
Glendale Desert Dogs

Batting Practice Schedule - Through 10/30

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

Charlie Morton (Peoria Javelinas, 2007) will take the start for the Atlanta Braves in Game 1 of the World Series this evening. He suited up for six Fall League games in 2007, tossing a combined 21 innings and posting a 2.05 ERA. Morton made his big league debut in 2008 and has since suited up for 14 consecutive MLB seasons, collecting 1,625 total innings of work. At the age of 37, he made an MLB-leading 33 starts in 2021. Morton is a two-time All-Star (2018, 2019), a World Series champion with the 2017 Houston Astros, and has the 16th-most innings pitched out of all active MLB players. Tonight will be his fourth career appearance in a World Series game.

Upcoming Games and Probable Starters

Wednesday, October 27

Glendale @ Mesa	12:35 p.m. RHP Andre Pallante vs. RHP Ryan Jensen
Surprise @ Peoria	12:35 p.m. RHP Owen White vs. RHP Roansy Contreras
Scottsdale @ Salt River	6:35 p.m. LHP Tanner Tully vs. RHP Abner Uribe

Thursday, October 28

Glendale @ Peoria	12:35 p.m. RHP Bobby Miller vs. LHP MacKenzie Gore
Salt River @ Surprise	12:35 p.m. RHP Connor Grey vs. LHP Asa Lacy
Scottsdale @ Mesa	12:35 p.m. RHP Caleb Sampen vs. LHP Hogan Harris

Fall League Player Profile



Troy Johnston - MIA

Mesa Solar Sox - OF/1B

Bats: Left **Throws:** Left
Height: 6'0" **Weight:** 210 lb.

Born: June 22, 1997 (24)
Birthplace: Tacoma, WA
Drafted: 2019 (17th round, MIA)
College: Gonzaga



Favorite hat in the Fall League (other than Mesa):

Surprise Saguaros

Favorite Halloween candy:

Candy Corn

Least favorite Halloween candy:

Jolly Ranchers

How do you put on your socks and shoes in the morning?

Right sock, left sock, left shoe, right shoe.

AFL Player Notebook

Peoria

#32 Bo Henning (Pitching Coach, ATL) - Coached with High-A Rome as the pitching coach in 2021. Joined the Atlanta Braves organization in 2020 after working as the pitching coach at Nova Southeastern University in 2019-2020. Coached for three summers in the summer collegiate Northwoods League for the Willmar Stingers, serving as manager from 2018-2019. Finished his playing career in 2013 with the Vallejo Admirals (independent).

#5 Bryson Stott (PHI) - First-round selection in the 2019 draft out of UNLV. Second-ranked Phillies prospect according to MLB Pipeline. Played 112 games in 2021, 80 of them coming with Double-A Reading where he posted a .301/.368/.481 slash. Began his Fall League campaign going 9-for-33 with four doubles and a 1.111 OPS through his first seven games. Played college summer ball in the Northwoods League (Wisconsin Rapids, 2017) and the Cape Cod Baseball League (Wareham Gateman, 2018).

#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.

Salt River

#57 Brian Metoyer (NYM) - Drafted in the 40th round of the 2018 draft out of Louisiana State University of Alexandria. Pitched 33 innings with High-A Brooklyn in 2021, posting a 2.18 ERA with 46 strikeouts. Finished the season with Double-A Binghamton, allowing one run in three innings. 77 career minor league innings with a 3.97 ERA.

#14 Dominic Canzone (ARI) - Eighth-round selection in the 2019 draft out of Ohio State. Played 79 games in 2021 between High-A Hillsboro and Double-A Amarillo, posting a combined .302/.375/.522 slash with 14 home runs and 52 RBIs. 125 career minor league games with a .294/.354/.527 career slash. Won the Big 10 conference tournament with Ohio State in 2019.

#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.

AFL Player Notebook

Mesa

#29 Nick Vespi (BAL) - 18th-round pick in the 2015 draft out of Palm Beach State College. Made his Double-A and Triple-A debut in 2021, pitching 19 innings for Double-A Bowie and 19.2 frames for Triple-A Norfolk. Posted a combined 4.19 ERA with 51 strikeouts and 17 walks. 137 career minor league appearances; 32 career starts and 105 relief appearances. Four scoreless innings to start the 2021 Fall League with six strikeouts.

#41 Jonah Bride (OAK) - Attended Neosho County Community College (KS) and the University of South Carolina. Played exclusively in Double-A Midland in 2021, posting a .265/.407/.424 slash in 264 total at-bats. 23rd-round draft selection in 2018. Mid-season All-Star for the New York-Penn League in 2018. MiLB.com Organization All-Star for the A's in 2018. Started the Fall League going 5-for-17 in four games with a double and home run.

#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.

Scottsdale

#25 Cole Cottam (BOS) - Played in 71 games in 2021, 46 with High-A Greenville and 25 with Double-A Portland, posting a combined .278/.371/.500 slash. 4th-round selection in the 2018 draft out of Kentucky. Played three seasons in the SEC, posting a combined .326/.399/.553 slash in 151 NCAA games. Played one collegiate summer with the Willmar Stingers (Northwoods) and Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox (Cape Cod).

#45 Cole Waites (SF) - 18th-round draft pick in the 2019 draft out of West Alabama. Pitched 13.1 innings in 2021 between Low-A San Jose and the Giants' complex league affiliate. Posted a combined 0.68 ERA and 0.525 WHIP with a staggering 20.9 K/9. 30.2 career minor league innings with a 3.82 ERA, 1.207 ERA and 17.3 K/9. Four strikeouts in his first 2.2 innings of Fall League work.

#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.

Surprise

#6 Nathan Eaton (KC) - 21st-round pick in the 2018 draft out of the Virginia Military Institute. Posted a .243/.344/.371 slash in 70 games with High-A Quad Cities in 2021 with 23 stolen bases. 1,029 career minor league at-bats in three total seasons. Started the 2021 Fall League going 10-for-21 with four doubles and a triple.

#30 Harold Cortijo (NYY) - 14th-round pick in the 2017 draft out of Riverdale Baptist High School (MD). Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico. 158.1 career minor league innings with a 3.69 ERA, 1.288 WHIP and 8.9 K/9. Pitched 12.1 innings in 2021, pitching 10.1 with High-A Tampa and 2.0 with the Yankees' complex league affiliate. Career 4.54 ERA in High-A across 83.1 total innings.

#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.

Glendale

#50 Zack Thompson (STL) - 19th overall selection in the 2019 draft out of Kentucky. Eighth-ranked Cardinals prospect according to MLB Pipeline. Pitched exclusively for Triple-A Memphis in 2021, posting a 7.06 ERA in 93 innings. Career 6.56 minor league ERA in 108.1 total innings. Opened the 2021 Fall League with six scoreless innings, allowing two hits and collecting 11 strikeouts.

#18 Yolbert Sánchez (CHW) - Played three seasons in the Cuban National Series before debuting in the White Sox organization in 2019 (Dominican Summer League). Pitched stateside for the first time in 2021, debuting in High-A Winston Salem and finishing the season with Double-A Birmingham. 2021 slash of .308/.352/.419 in 360 at-bats. Started the 2021 Fall League going 2-for-8 with a double.

#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.

Today's Fall League Five

1: Taking the home run lead in grand fashion: Jeter Downs (BOS) blasted an opposite-field grand slam in the eighth inning on Monday against the Glendale Desert Dogs. His five home runs stand alone atop the AFL leaderboard, followed by Lars Nootbaar (STL) with four.

2: Five of the nine starters in the Glendale Desert Dogs' batting order on Monday recorded multiple hits, while three hitters (Juan Yopez, STL; Korey Lee, HOU; Pedro Leon, HOU) posted three hits. Multi-hit afternoons by Nootbaar, Lee and Yopez kept their average at or above .300.

3: After a Monday road win, the Glendale Desert Dogs have a 6-0 record on the road and are 1-4 at home. All six Arizona Fall League teams are a combined 21-10 on the road this year.

4: The Salt River Rafters have taken over the Fall League's ERA crown (4.66) after a high-scoring affair between Surprise and Mesa on Monday (31 combined runs). Surprise now holds a 4.85 team ERA, while the best WHIP in the league belongs to the Glendale Desert Dogs at 1.47. Surprise is marginally behind in WHIP at 1.48.

5: The Rafters and Desert Dogs have today off. Aside from league-wide Sunday off days, there won't be another such day off for any team until November 10. After today, there are 25 days remaining on the 2021 AFL schedule; three days are Sunday off days, three days will feature two games, 17 days will feature three games, while one day each is dedicated to the Fall Stars Game and Championship Game.

Important dates to remember:

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

