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HOUSTON ASTROS (0-0-0) AT NEW YORK METS (0-1-0) FEBRUARY 25, 2024 - 1:10 PM CLOVER PARK - PORT ST. LUCIE, FL RHP BRANDON BIELAK (0-0, -.-) VS. RHP JOSÉ BUTTÓ (0-0, -.-) PIX 11



PUTTING ON A CLINIC: Francisco Lindor will host a baseball clinic on Sunday, February 25 starting at 3 p.m. at Clover Park...As part of his continual philanthropic efforts, Lindor will teach 50 children from Port St. Lucie the fundamentals of the game while inspiring them to have fun and exemplify sportsmanship.

PREVIOUSLY ON...: Yesterday, the Mets opened their spring training slate with a 10-5 setback against the Cardinals...RHP Tylor Megill started and allowed a run on two hits with three strikeouts in 2.0 innings...LHP Nate Lavender struck out the side in the eighth inning...RHPs Yacksel Rios and Grant Hartwig each tossed 1.0 scoreless inning in relief...Catcher Hayden Senger was 2-2 with a solo home run and two runs scored...OF Alex Ramírez went 2-3 in his spring debut.

IT'S GRAPE TO BE BACK: The Mets return to Port St. Lucie for Grapefruit League play...The squad will play a total of 31 Spring Training games from February 24-March 25 before opening up the regular season on March 28 vs. the Milwaukee Brewers at Citi Field.

VS HOUSTON: Today, the Mets will play their first of seven Grapefruit League games against the Astros...Last season, the Mets dropped their lone series against Houston, going 1-2 in a three-game set at Minute Maid Park in June, despite outscoring the 'Stros, 21-15 in the series...This season, the Mets will host Houston for a three-game series to finish off the June portion of their schedule, June 28-30 at Citi Field...Will be just the second series between Houston and New York in Queens in the last 10 years.

MENDOZA LINES: Carlos Mendoza will begin his first season as the 25th manager in franchise history...The 44-year-old spent the previous 15 seasons with the Yankees organization, including the last four as the club's bench coach...From 2018-2019, Mendoza served as the Yankees' quality control coach...Prior to joining the big league coaching staff, Mendoza served as a manager and coach in the Yankees farm system...A native of Barquisimeto, Venezuela, Mendoza is the second full-time Venezuelan-born manager in big league history, joining Ozzie Guillén.

CLOVER PARK: The Mets will call Clover Park home for their 36th season...Opened in 1988, Clover Park seats 7,000 fans and also serves as the regular season home to the Mets Class-A affiliate St. Lucie Mets...The ballpark also donned the name Thomas J. White Stadium (1988-2004), Tradition Field (2004-2009, 2012-2016), Digital Domain Park (2010-2012) and First Data Field (2017-2019).

DOC AND DARRYL: This season the Mets will retire Dwight Gooden's #16 and Darryl Strawberry's #18...Gooden will be honored in a pregame ceremony on April 14, while Strawberry will be honored prior to June 2's game...Gooden won the 1984 NL Rookie of the Year Award while setting a major league rookie record with 276 strikeouts and was the youngest player ever named to an All-Star team at age 19...In 1985 Doc became the youngest pitcher ever to win Cy Young honors when he captured the "Triple Crown" of pitching, leading the majors in wins (24), strikeouts (268) and ERA (1.53)...Gooden was inducted into the Mets Hall of Fame in 2010 and ranks second in franchise history in wins (157) and strikeouts (1,875)...Strawberry was a seven-time All-Star with the Mets and earned National League Rookie of the Year honors in 1983...He is the Mets all-time leader in home runs (252), ranks second in RBI (733) and walks (580), third in extra-base hits (469) and runs (662) and fourth in slugging (.520)...Strawberry was also elected to the Mets Hall of Fame in 2010.

SPEAKING OF STRAW: Darryl Strawberry will be a guest instructor in camp starting tomorrow, February 26, until March 2.

MR SMILE: Last season, Francisco Lindor became the Mets' fourth member of the 30-30 club (also, David Wright, Howard Johnson and Darryl Strawberry) as he established a career-high with 31 stolen bases to pair with his 31 home runs...He joined Barry Larkin (1996), Alex Rodriguez (1998), Jimmy Rollins (2007), Hanley Ramírez (2008) and Bobby Witt Jr. (2023) as the only shortstops in major league history with a 30-30 season...The 30-year-old was among National League leaders in stolen bases (31, t-seventh), plate appearances (687, t-11th), hit by pitches (12, t-13th), RBI, (98, 14th), home runs (31, 14th), extra-base hits (66, t-14th), total bases (283, 15th) and doubles (33, t-16th last season).

POLAR POWER: Pete Alonso finished the 2023 season third in the majors in homers (46) and second in RBI (118)...He became the fifth player in major league history with three or more seasons of 40 or more homers in their first five years, joining Ralph Kiner (four), Ryan Howard, Albert Pujols and Eddie Mathews (three each)...His 192 career home runs are the most in the majors since his MLB debut in 2019 and are the third-most in major league history by a player in their first five major league seasons trailing Kiner (215) and Pujols (201)...Alonso currently ranks tied for fourth with Howard Johnson on the Mets all-time home run list...Mike Piazza is next (220).

INVADER NIM: Last season, Brandon Nimmo established career highs in many offensive categories including, games played (152), hits (162), homers (24), XBH (60) and RBI (68)...Nimmo's six triples were tied for eighth in the NL and his 13 triples since 2022 are tied for the most in the NL during that span...Since 2018, Nimmo has sported a .382 OBP, the fifth-highest mark in the NL and the 10th-highest mark in the majors during that time frame (min. 2000 plate appearances...His 24 home runs from the lead-off spot were the tied with Tommie Agee (1970) for the second-most by a Met in a single season.

ATTABOY ALVAREZ: In his rookie season, Francisco Alvarez slugged 25 home runs, the third-most by a Mets rookie trailing only Pete Alonso (2019) and Darryl Strawberry (1983)...Alvarez's 25 home runs last season were the second-most ever by a catcher age 21 or younger only behind Hall-of-Famer Johnny Bench (26, 1969)...Research courtesy of Sarah Langs...The Guatire, Venezuela native was named National League Rookie of the month for July.

NEW FACES IN NEW PLACES: The 2024 Mets enter the season with several new players on the roster...These include: free agent signings OF Harrison Bader, LHP Jake Diekmann, RHP Shintaro Fujinami, RHP Jorge López, LHP Sean Manaea, RHP Luis Severino, RHP Michael Tonkin and INF Joey Wendle; trade acquisitions RHP Adrian Houser, RHP Yohan Ramírez and OF Tyrone Taylor; waiver claims RHP Max Kranick and INF Zack Short; and minor league free agents: RHP Austin Adams, C Austin Allen, INF Rylan Bannon, INF Ji-Man Choi, RHP Kyle Crick, OF Ben Gamel, INF Jose Iglesias, OF Taylor Kohlwey, RHP Cam Robinson, INF Yolmer Sánchez, RHP Chad Smith, RHP Cole Sulser, OF Trayce Thompson, INF Luke Voit and LHP Danny Young.

STEAL THIS ALBUM: The Mets led the major leagues in 2023 with an 88.7% success rate in stolen bases...The team stole 118 bases in 133 attempts...It's the highest success rate in Mets history...The previous high was 82.3% which was accomplished in 2004...From May 11-June 29 the Mets stole a franchise-record 35 consecutive bases.

EXPECTED TO START

RHP JOSÉ BUTTÓ: Will make his first start of the spring today...Last season, Buttó went 1-4 with a 3.64 ERA (17 ER/42.0 IP) in nine games (seven starts) after making his major league debut with one start in 2022...Made his season debut on April 16 at Oakland with 5.0 innings of one-run ball...Spent much of the next four months at Triple-A Syracuse, where he was 3-7 with a 5.93 ERA (60 ER/91.0 IP) in 19 starts...Joined the rotation for remainder of the season following Carlos Carrasco's season-ending finger injury and made five starts in September/October, posting a 3.29 ERA (10 ER/27.1 IP) with 28 strikeouts and just nine walks...Tossed a career-high 6.1 innings on September 6 at Washington, during which he allowed two earned runs on six hits, one walk and six strikeouts...Earned his first career win on September 12 vs. Arizona, during which he fanned a career-high seven batters.

OUR PROSPECTS ARE GOOD: New York enters the season with four prospects in MLB Pipeline's top 100...Three of the four are here in major league camp with the Mets...They are: INF Jett Williams (No. 45), OF Drew Gilbert (No. 53) and INF Luisangel Acuña (No. 66)...The other is OF Ryan Clifford (No. 97)...Williams was a first-round selection (14th overall) by the Mets in 2022 and was named the Mets Player Development Hitter of the Year last season as a 19-year-old...Gilbert, Acuña and Clifford all joined the organization last summer via trade...Acuña was acquired from Texas in exchange for Max Scherzer...Gilbert and Clifford came to New York in the Justin Verlander deal with Houston.

THE CREAM OF THE CROP: Seven of New York's top 10 prospects (according to Baseball America) are in camp with the big league club...In addition to Williams, Gilbert and Acuña, RHP Christian Scott, RHP Mike Vasil and C Kevin Parada are participating in major league spring training (INF Ronny Mauricio, on the 60-Day IL recovering from a torn right ACL, is in Port St. Lucie as well).

UPCOMING PITCHING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25
1:10 PM vs. Houston

ASTROS: RHP Brandon Bielak, RHP AJ Blubaugh, RHP Rhett Kouba, RHP Joel Kuhnel

METS: RHP José Buttó, RHP Cole Sulser, LHP Danny Young, RHP Austin Adams, RHP Yohan Ramírez

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26
1:05 PM at Washington

METS: RHP Max Kranick, RHP Cam Robinson, RHP Eric Orze, RHP Sean Reid-Foley

NATIONALS: RHP Josiah Gray, RHP Cole Henry, LHP Mitchell Parker, LHP Jose A. Ferrer, LHP Robert Garcia, RHP Tanner Rainey, RHP Thaddeus Ward

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27
1:10 PM vs. Miami

METS: RHP Adrian Houser, LHP Nate Lavender, RHP Michael Tonkin, RHP Jorge López

MARLINS: LHP A.J. Puk, RHP Yonny Chirinos, RHP Kyle Tyler

2024 SPRING RESULTS

DATE	OPPONENT/LOCATION	SCORE/TIME/TV/RADIO	WP	LP	SV	RECORD
2/24	St. Louis Cardinals/Port St. Lucie	L, 10-5	Thompson (1-0)	Megill (0-1)		0-1
2/25	Houston Astros/Port St. Lucie	1:10 p.m./PIX 11				
2/26	Washington Nationals/West Palm Beach	1:05 p.m.				
2/27	Miami Marlins/Port St. Lucie	1:10 p.m./SNY				
2/28	St. Louis Cardinals/Port St. Lucie	1:10 p.m./SNY				
2/29	Houston Astros/West Palm Beach	6:05 p.m.				
3/1	St. Louis Cardinals/Jupiter	1:05 p.m.				
3/2	Miami Marlins/Jupiter	1:10 p.m./WCBS 880				
3/3	Houston Astros/Port St. Lucie	1:10 p.m./SNY/WCBS 880				
3/4	OFF					
3/5	New York Yankees/Port St. Lucie	1:10 p.m./ESPN				
3/6	Houston Astros/West Palm Beach					
3/7	Houston Astros/Port St. Lucie	6:10 p.m./SNY				
3/8	Miami Marlins/Jupiter	6:40 p.m.				
3/9	St. Louis Cardinals/Jupiter	1:05 p.m./WCBS 880				
3/10	Detroit Tigers/Port St. Lucie	1:10 p.m./SNY				
3/11	Miami Marlins/Port St. Lucie	6:10 p.m./SNY/WCBS 880				
3/12	Washington Nationals/West Palm Beach	6:05 p.m.				
3/13	Houston Astros/Port St. Lucie	6:10 p.m./SNY				
3/14	St. Louis Cardinals/Jupiter	1:05 p.m.				
3/15	Washington Nationals/Port St. Lucie	6:10 p.m./SNY				
3/16	Houston Astros/West Palm Beach	6:05 p.m./WCBS 880				
3/17	Washington Nationals/West Palm Beach	1:05 p.m./WCBS 880				
	Miami Marlins/Port St. Lucie	1:10 p.m./PIX 11				
3/18	OFF					
3/19	St. Louis Cardinals/Port St. Lucie	6:10 p.m./SNY				
3/20	Miami Marlins/Jupiter	1:10 p.m.				
3/21	Detroit Tigers/Lakeland	1:05 p.m.				
3/22	New York Yankees/Tampa	1:10 p.m./WCBS 880				
3/23	Houston Astros/Port St. Lucie	1:10 p.m./SNY/WCBS 880/ESPN 1050				
3/24	Washington Nationals/Port St. Lucie	1:10 p.m./PIX 11/WCBS 880/ESPN 1050				
	Miami Marlins/Jupiter	1:10 p.m.				
3/25	New York Yankees/Tampa	1:05 p.m.				

METS PITCHING

#54 AUSTIN ADAMS - RHP							#94 NATE LAVENDER - LHP							#49 YACKSEL RÍOS - RHP						
Date/Opp	IP	H	R	ER	BB	K	Date/Opp	IP	H	R	ER	BB	K	Date/Opp	IP	H	R	ER	BB	K
							2/24 vs. STL	1.0	0	0	0	0	3	2/24 vs. STL	1.0	1	0	0	0	1
#50 PHIL BICKFORD - RHP							#52 JORGE LÓPEZ - RHP							#88 CAM ROBINSON - RHP						
#70 JOSÉ BUTTÓ - RHP							#47 JOEY LUCCHESI - LHP							#96 CHRISTIAN SCOTT - RHP						
#55 KYLE CRICK - RHP							#59 SEAN MANAEA - LHP							#40 LUIS SEVERINO - RHP						
#39 EDWIN DÍAZ - RHP							#38 TYLOR MEGILL							#53 CHAD SMITH - RHP						
							2/24 vs. STL	2.0	2	1	1	0	3							
#30 JAKE DIEKMANN - LHP							#92 ERIC ORZE - RHP							#33 DREW SMITH - RHP						
#19 SHINTARO FUJINAMI - RHP							#0 ADAM OTTAVINO - RHP							#45 COLE SULSER - RHP						
#75 REED GARRETT - RHP							#62 JOSE QUINTANA - LHP							#51 MICHAEL TONKIN - RHP						
							2/24 vs. STL	1.0	1	2	2	1	1							
#93 DOMINIC HAMEL - RHP							#25 BROOKS RALEY - LHP							#97 MIKE VASIL - RHP						
#56 GRANT HARTWIG - RHP							#46 YOHAN RAMÍREZ - RHP							#91 JOSH WALKER - LHP						
							2/24 vs. STL	1.0	0	0	0	0	0							
#35 ADRIAN HOUSER - RHP							#71 SEAN REID-FOLEY - RHP							#81 DANNY YOUNG - LHP						
#32 MAX KRANICK - RHP																				

METS HITTING

#73 LUISANGEL ACUÑA - INF							#11 JOSE IGLESIAS - INF							#83 YOLMER SÁNCHEZ - INF						
Date/Opp	AB	H	XBH	HR	RBI	R	Date/Opp	AB	H	XBH	HR	RBI	R	Date/Opp	AB	H	XBH	HR	RBI	R
							2/24 vs. STL	2	0	0	0	0	0	2/24 vs. STL	3	0	0	0	0	0
#82 AUSTIN ALLEN - C							#57 TAYLOR KOHLWEY - OF							#98 HAYDEN SENGER - C						
							2/24 vs. STL	3	0	0	0	0	0	2/24 vs. STL	2	2	1	1	1	2
#20 PETE ALONSO - INF							#12 FRANCISCO LINDOR - INF							#74 ZACK SHORT - INF						
							2/24 vs. STL	2	0	0	0	0	0	2/24 vs. STL	2	1	0	0	0	0
#4 FRANCISCO ALVAREZ - C							#6 STARLING MARTE - OF							#29 DJ STEWART - OF						
														2/24 vs. STL	2	0	0	0	0	0
#44 HARRISON BADER - OF							#1 JEFF McNEIL - INF							#15 TYRONE TAYLOR - OF						
#58 RYLAN BANNON - INF							#2 OMAR NARVÁEZ - C							#43 TRAYCE THOMPSON - OF						
							2/24 vs. STL	2	0	0	0	1	0	2/24 vs. STL	2	0	0	0	0	0
#22 BRETT BATY - INF							#3 TOMÁS NIDO - C							#27 MARK VIENTOS - INF						
							2/24 vs. STL	2	1	0	0	0	1	2/24 vs. STL	2	1	0	0	0	1
#26 JI-MAN CHOI - INF							#9 BRANDON NIMMO - OF							#99 LUKE VOIT - INF						
														2/24 vs. STL	3	1	0	0	1	0
#21 BEN GAMEL - OF							#95 KEVIN PARADA - C							#13 JOEY WENDLE - INF						
#89 DREW GILBERT - OF							#72 ALEX RAMÍREZ - OF							#90 JETT WILLIAMS - INF						
							2/24 vs. STL	2	0	0	0	0	0							