



ARIZONA FALL LEAGUE

GAME NOTES - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2026



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AFL Standings

	W-L	GB	Streak
Peoria Javelinas	1-0	-	W1
Salt River Rafter	1-0	-	W1
Surprise Saguaros	1-0	-	W1
Glendale Desert Dogs	0-1	1.0	L1
Mesa Solar Sox	0-1	1.0	L1
Scottsdale Scorpions	0-1	1.0	L1

Opening Day Top Performers

JARLIN SUSANA (SRR/MLB No. 66/WSH No. 3/ RHP) threw the fastest pitch recorded in AFL history (since at least 2015) at 103.8 mph on Saturday. In fact, Susana had each of the nine fastest recorded pitches ever and 17 of the fastest 20. Amongst 36 fastballs, 34 eclipsed 100.0 mph, averaging 101.7 mph. He struck out four, retiring 9 of the final 10 batters he faced.

WYATT SANFORD (GLE/PIT No. 5/SS) hit the first HR of the AFL season, driving a solo shot 100.0 mph to right field in the seventh inning.

WELBYN FRANCISCA (SUR/CLE No. 19/SS) went 5-for-5 with a double, a HR, 3 RBI, and 9 total bases.

NATHAN FLEWELLING (SCO/MLB No. 63/TB No. 4/C) went 3-for-4 with a 109.8 MPH single.

BRANDON BUTTERWORTH (PEO/BAL/2B) knocked the first walk-off of the AFL season with an RBI single to beat Mesa.

TAI PEETE (PEO/STL No.17/CF), IKE IRISH (PEO/MLB No. 95/BAL No. 5/DH), and ALEX MCCOY (PEO/SD No. 26/LF) all hit home runs for Peoria, going a combined 4-for-11, with a double, 3 HR, and 5 RBIs.

DOMINICK REID (MSS/CHC No. 28/RHP) struck out 7, allowing 1 run on 1 hit over 4.0 IP.

DIVISION SERIES: In the 2026 MLB Division Series, 87 of the 208 (41.8%) active players are Arizona Fall League alum. The New York Yankees led teams with 14, including Gerrit Cole, Max Fried, and Giancarlo Stanton.

MLB Pipeline Top 100 Prospects

8. Sebastian Walcott - SS, Surprise Saguaros (TEX)
15. Eduardo Quintero - OF, Glendale Desert Dogs (LAD)
26. Zyhir Hope - OF, Scottsdale Scorpions (DET)
27. Caleb Bonemer - OF, Glendale Desert Dogs (CWS)
34. Arjun Nimmala - SS, Mesa Solar Sox (LAA)
44. Bryce Rainer - SS, Scottsdale Scorpions (DET)
58. Tate Southisene - SS, Glendale Desert Dogs (ATL)
59. Aidan Miller - SS, Surprise Saguaros (PHI)
63. Nathan Flewelling - C, Scottsdale Scorpions (TB)
66. Jarlin Susana - RHP, Salt River Rafter (WSH)
76. Angeibel Gomez - OF, Surprise Saguaros (KC)
78. Dax Kilby - SS, Salt River Rafter (NYY)
79. Charles Davalan - OF, Glendale Desert Dogs (LAD)
84. Demetrio Crisantes - 2B, Salt River Rafter (ARI)
95. Ike Irish - OF, Peoria Javelinas (BAL)

Media Inquiries

For Arizona Fall League media inquiries, please contact Jaden Taylor (Jaden.Taylor@MLB.com).

Today's Headlines

The Arizona Fall League returned for its 34th playing season yesterday, with teams combining for 38 runs. Welcoming hundreds of top Minor League prospects, the Arizona Fall League serves as the "finishing school" for players to reach the Major League level.

Starting Pitchers

Scottsdale @ Glendale: RHP Miqueas Mercedes (MIL) makes his AFL debut today. He opened the year with a 3.04 ERA with 28 strikeouts in his first six appearances before being placed on the injured list on May 5 and later being reinstated on May 29. In 2026, the right-hander spent the majority of the season in Single-A Wilson and went 2-1 with a 2.81 ERA, 71 strikeouts, and 1.44 WHIP over 73.2 innings pitched.

The Desert Dogs will turn to the **LHP Luke Fox (LAD)**. Fox was drafted in the 17th round (520) in 2023 out of Duke. In nine starts in 2026, he tossed 28.1 innings with a 3.18 ERA, a 0.88 WHIP, and 35 strikeouts. He earned Texas League Pitcher of the Week honors on April 19, 2026 after he tossed 9.2 scoreless innings while allowing two hits and striking out 10 in two appearances.

Salt River @ Surprise: RHP Sean Sullivan (COL No. 20) was drafted in the 2nd round (43) in 2023 out of Wake Forest. Sullivan made his Major League debut for the Rockies on June 12, 2026, where he tossed 3.0 shutout innings against the Athletics. In fourteen starts in Triple-A Albuquerque, he struck out 59 in 61.0 innings while earning five wins. He is currently on the Rockies 40-man roster.

On the other side, **RHP Jacob Johnson (TEX No. 17)** will take the hill for Surprise. Johnson was drafted in the 11th round (325th) in 2025 out of Pearl River (CC). He split the season between the Arizona Complex League and High-A Hickory, going 2-0 with a 2.51 ERA, 48 strikeouts, and a 1.26 WHIP in 14 games (13 starts). On Sept. 6, 2026, he was named Carolina League Pitcher of the Week after he hurled 5.0 no-hit innings against Fayetteville.

Peoria @ Mesa: RHP Braxton Bragg (BAL No. 22) gets the nod for the Javelinas. The Dallas Baptist grad was drafted in the 8th round (241) in 2023. In 2025, he made 12 appearances (11 starts) with a 1.68 ERA, and a .195 batting average against in 59.0 innings, striking out 77 compared to 17 walks. Bragg missed all of the 2026 season, while making last appearance on June 28, 2025 with Double-A Chesapeake (463 days).

Mesa sends out the local **LHP Grant Richardson (ATH)**, who was drafted in the 6th round (170) in 2025 out of Grand Canyon University. The left-hander had the highest K/9 in GCU all-time history at 12.43 in 2024 (minimum 50 innings). He spent the majority of the 2026 season on the injured list. The Horizon High School graduate is making first appearance since April 22.

Upcoming Games and Probable Pitchers

Sunday, October 4

Scottsdale @ Glendale	1:30	RHP Miqueas Mercedes vs. LHP Luke Fox
Peoria @ Mesa	5:00	RHP Braxton Bragg vs. LHP Grant Richardson
Salt River @ Surprise	5:00	LHP Sean Sullivan vs. RHP Jacob Johnson

Monday, October 5

Peoria @ Salt River	1:30	RHP Luke Holman vs. LHP Cesar Lares
Glendale @ Surprise	6:30	RHP Brooks Auger vs. RHP Steven Zobac
Scottsdale @ Mesa	6:30	RHP Miguel Mendez vs. RHP Peyton Olejnik

Tuesday, October 6

Surprise @ Salt River	1:30	RHP Steven Zobac vs. RHP RJ Sales
Glendale @ Mesa	3:30	RHP Alex Williams vs. RHP Jake Bloss

Batting Practice & Infield/Outfield

The Arizona Fall League is set to have three mandatory batting practice and I/O days on Oct. 8, 15, and 19. Other days are at the discretion of the coaching staffs. The schedule for those days is below:

1:30 - Home I/O: 9:45 a.m., Home BP: 10:10 a.m., Visitor BP: 11:25 p.m., Visitor I/O: 12:35 p.m.
6:30 - Home I/O: 2:45 p.m., Home BP: 3:10 p.m., Visitor BP: 4:25 p.m., Visitor I/O: 5:35 p.m.