



PRESS RELEASE

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TEAMS ANNOUNCED FOR THE “DESERT INVITATIONAL” AND “ANDRE DAWSON CLASSIC,” MLB-HOSTED COLLEGIATE BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS

Annual Round-Robin Style Tournaments Will Each Host Eight Division-I Teams in Arizona and Florida in February

MLB Network to Air Five LIVE Matchups Across Both Tournaments; All Games Will Stream on MLB.com

Major League Baseball today announced the teams that will compete in the 2026 MLB Desert Invitational and the Andre Dawson Classic. Each collegiate baseball tournament will feature eight Division-I universities and will be held in February to celebrate the nationwide start of the college baseball season.

First-time teams participating in the **MLB Desert Invitational** include **Pennsylvania State University, Northeastern University, University of Iowa** and **U.S. Air Force Academy**. **Grand Canyon University** will make their fourth appearance at the Invitational, while **Kansas State University, University of Connecticut** and **University of Nebraska** will make their second appearances. MLB’s annual Arizona-based tournament will be hosted February 13th-16th throughout the Greater Phoenix area across five locations – (1) Salt River Fields at Talking Stick, (2) Sloan Park, (3) Grand Canyon University, (4) Goodyear Ballpark and (5) Scottsdale Stadium.

Now in its 18th year, the **Andre Dawson Classic** serves as MLB’s annual collegiate baseball tournament highlighting Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and their baseball programs. The Classic features seven returning teams, led by **Southern University** who have participated every year of the Classic. Joining Southern University will be **Alabama State University, Bethune-Cookman University, Florida A&M University, Grambling State University, Jackson State University** and **Texas Southern University**. **Yale University** will make their first appearance in the Classic, marking the first time an Ivy League school has participated. Members of the MLB Voices will participate on the broadcast during the Andre Dawson Classic. The Classic continues to feature Nike RBI and MLB Youth Academy alumni and will be hosted the following weekend, February 20th-22nd at the Jackie Robinson Training Complex in Vero Beach, Florida.

Both tournaments will take place in a round-robin format, and all games will stream live on MLB.com, while MLB Network will exclusively air three matchups from the Desert Invitational and two from the Andre Dawson Classic.

The Desert Invitational and the Andre Dawson Classic will feature some of the most outstanding baseball programs in the nation. The participating teams and game schedules include the following:

Desert Invitational:

- **U.S. Air Force Academy** (Air Force Academy, CO) – 1st appearance
- **Grand Canyon University** (Phoenix, AZ) – 4th appearance
- **Kansas State University** (Manhattan, KS) – 2nd appearance
- **Northeastern University** (Boston, MA) – 1st appearance
- **Penn State University** (State College, PA) – 1st appearance
- **University of Connecticut** (Mansfield, CT) – 2nd appearance
- **University of Iowa** (Iowa City, IA) – 1st appearance
- **University of Nebraska** (Lincoln, NE) – 2nd appearance

The full schedule (all times MST) for the **2026 Desert Invitational** tournament is as follows (dates, times and matchups are subject to change):

Date	Time	Teams	Location
Feb. 13	1 p.m.	Kansas State vs. Iowa	Goodyear Ballpark
Feb. 13	6 p.m.	Penn State vs. Air Force	Goodyear Ballpark
Feb. 13	6 p.m.	Nebraska vs. UConn	SRF at Talking Stick
Feb. 13	6 p.m.	Grand Canyon vs. Northeastern	Grand Canyon University
Date	Time	Teams	Location
Feb. 14	1 p.m.	Grand Canyon vs. Penn State	SRF at Talking Stick
Feb. 14	5 p.m.	Kansas State vs. UConn	Scottsdale Stadium
Feb. 14	6 p.m.	Air Force vs. Iowa	SRF at Talking Stick
Feb. 14	6:30 p.m.	Northeastern vs. Nebraska	Sloan Park
Date	Time	Teams	Location
Feb. 15	12 p.m.	Penn State vs. Kansas State	Sloan Park
Feb. 15	1 p.m.	Northeastern vs. Iowa	SRF at Talking Stick
Feb. 15	5:30 p.m.	Grand Canyon vs. Nebraska	Sloan Park
Feb. 15	6 p.m.	UConn vs. Air Force	SRF at Talking Stick
Date	Time	Teams	Location
Feb. 16	1 p.m.	Air Force vs. Kansas State	Sloan Park
Feb. 16	1 p.m.	Nebraska vs. Stanford	SRF at Talking Stick

Highlighted games to be aired live on MLB Network

All games will stream for free on MLB.com, MLB.TV and in the MLB App.

Andre Dawson Classic:

- **Alabama State University** (Montgomery, AL) – 10th appearance
- **Bethune-Cookman University** (Daytona Beach, FL) – 5th appearance
- **Florida A&M University** (Tallahassee, FL) – 6th appearance
- **Grambling State University** (Grambling, LA) – 14th appearance
- **Jackson State University** (Jackson, MS) – 4th appearance
- **Southern University** (Baton Rouge, LA) – 18th appearance
- **Texas Southern University** (Houston, TX) – 3rd appearance
- **Yale University** (New Haven, CT) – 1st appearance

The full schedule (all times EST) for the **2026 Andre Dawson Classic** tournament is as follows (dates, times and matchups are subject to change):

Date	Time	Teams	Location
Feb. 20	11 a.m.	Texas Southern vs. Jackson State	JRTC
Feb. 20	3 p.m.	Southern vs. Grambling	JRTC
Feb. 20	7 p.m.	Alabama State vs. Florida A&M	JRTC
Date	Time	Teams	Location
Feb. 21	9 a.m.	Southern vs. Texas Southern	JRTC
Feb. 21	12 p.m.	Grambling vs. Alabama State	JRTC
Feb. 21	4 p.m.	Yale vs. Jackson State	JRTC
Feb. 21	8 p.m.	Bethune-Cookman vs. Florida A&M	JRTC
Date	Time	Teams	Location
Feb. 22	9 a.m.	Grambling vs. Jackson State	JRTC
Feb. 22	10 a.m.	Alabama State vs. Texas Southern	JRTC
Feb. 22	12 p.m.	Florida A&M vs. Southern	JRTC

Highlighted games to be aired live on MLB Network
All games will stream for free on MLB.com, MLB.TV and in the MLB App.

Historically, the MLB Desert Invitational has featured 2024 National Champion University of Tennessee, Vanderbilt University, University of Michigan, Texas Christian University, California Polytechnic State University (San Luis Obispo), San Diego State University, University of Virginia, California State University (Fullerton), Michigan State University and the University of Arizona, among others. MLB Develops alumni participating in the tournament include Grand Canyon University’s Troy Sanders, Kansas State University’s Donte Lewis and University of Nebraska’s Jeter Worthley. Tickets for the 2026 Desert invitational are currently available at <https://brushfire.com/mlbdesertinvitational>. Children 5 and under are free.

Other HBCUs previously participating in the Andre Dawson Classic include Alcorn State University, University of Arkansas Pine Bluff, Prairie View A&M University and North Carolina A&T University, among others. The Classic will feature over 30 MLB Develops alumni, including over 10 former Nike RBI athletes. Single-day and Tournament ticket packages for the Andre Dawson Classic are available now at www.mlb.com/robinson-training-complex.

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