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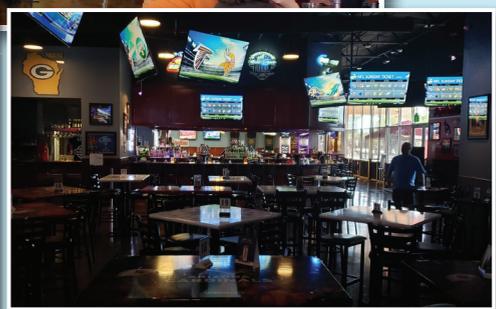
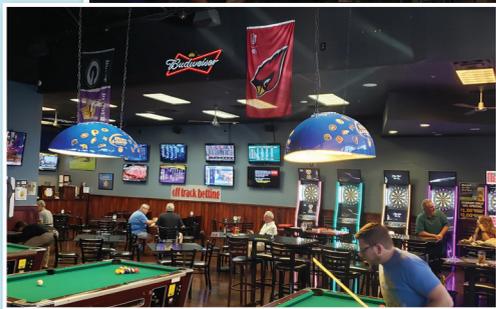
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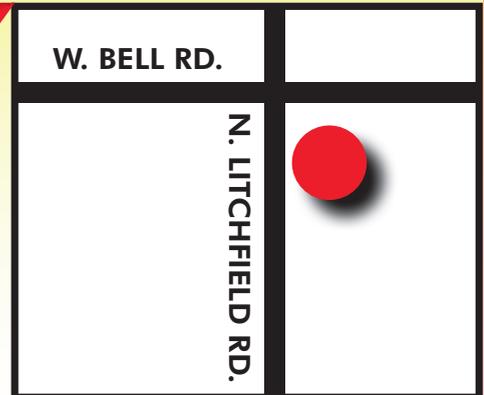
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New spring training season could bring unpredictability amid pandemic

By Philip Haldiman

One of the big takeaways of experiencing professional sports during a global pandemic is that change at a moment's notice is always a possibility.

Such is the case for a new season of spring training in the Cactus League this year.

At the end of January, leaders of all eight Cactus League cities sent a letter to Major League Baseball requesting to delay spring training due to the high rate of COVID-19 cases in Maricopa County.

As of press time for this publication, the league had not reacted to this request and spring training in Arizona remains a go with a full season planned.

Opening day for the 15 teams in the Cactus League is planned for Feb. 27 and scheduled to run through March 30.

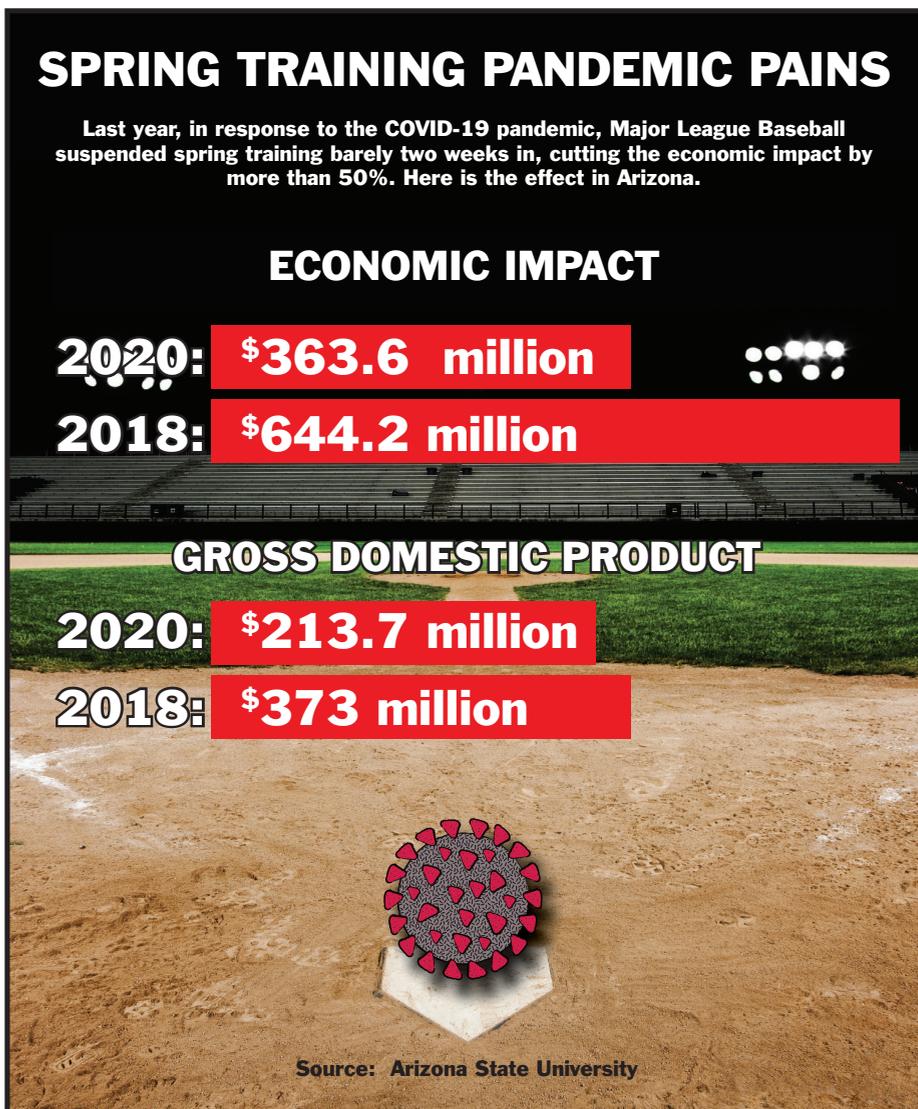
There have been reports of lowering fan capacity during games due to high virus metrics, but this had not been finalized by Major League Baseball by press time.

Cactus League Executive Director Bridget Binsbacher said public health will weigh heavily in all spring training decisions this year.

"We are hopeful that fans will be able to attend spring training games in 2021 but that will depend entirely on health guidelines. To be clear, the Cactus League Association does not make that decision, but we are in constant communication with stakeholders to ensure that our 10 ballparks are prepared for any eventuality," Ms. Binsbacher said. "We have been working closely with state, county and municipal officials so that our members have the most up-to-date information. The safety of the public is the No. 1 concern of each of our facilities."

Last year in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, MLB suspended spring training March 13 leading to a more than 50% decrease in economic impact.

The 2020 season generated an estimated economic impact of \$363.6 million, including a \$213.7 million contribution to Arizona's Gross Domestic Product, according to a study by the L. William Seidman Research Institute at Arizona State University's W.P. Carey School of Business.



This represented a dramatic decline from the previous ASU survey, which recorded \$644.2 million in economic impact, including \$373 million in Gross Domestic Product, over the full 2018 spring training season.

The study estimated that the 2020 season would have produced impact "on a par" with the 2018 season, had it not been cut short due to the pandemic.

At the time spring training was suspended, 139 of 237 scheduled Cactus League games had been played — 89 games were suspended due to the pandemic and another nine were rained-out. Cactus League games in Arizona drew a total of 912,956

fans in 2020, an average of 6,568 per game.

Ms. Binsbacher said 12 of the 15 clubs saw their largest crowds in what turned out to be the final week of games.

"Unfortunately, the shutdown came as we anticipated the annual influx of spring breakers to Arizona," she said. "Just as spring training offers fresh hope to baseball fans every year, we believe that the Cactus League will help lead the recovery of Arizona's tourism industry."

Booster and volunteer organizations play a big part in day-to-day operations and making spring training games run smoothly,

Continue on Page 8

KRAZY KEITH SAYS



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and the pandemic has pushed them to adjust as well.

Organizations like the Peoria Diamond Club in the West Valley and Scottsdale Charros in the East Valley will decrease their boots on the ground during games this season.

Diamond Club General Manager Rosalind Shanley said the nonprofit organization will provide 60-70 volunteers per game this year, compared with a typical year, which would have about 150 volunteers a game.

Volunteers provide ushering, parking, ticket taking and some guest services at the Peoria Sports Complex,

but she said, there will be less job areas to cover this season.

The Diamond Club's mission is to raise money to fund youth charities and organizations in the West Valley.

Last year, it donated more than \$18,000 to 10 nonprofits, such as Special Olympics of AZ, Arizona Burn Foundation and Desert Valley Elementary School. The organization's total giving for the 2018-19 season was \$115,789 to 45 children's charities.

Because of the pandemic they canceled their biggest fundraiser of the year, a charity game that is typically the first game of

the season.

"We will not be hosting a party for our PDC sponsors or the city dignitaries. Unfortunately, we cannot have the ceremonies of years past, highlighting our winter grant cycle recipients and giving out their monies on the field," Ms. Shanley said. "Our focus of the past in fundraising during the spring training season has had to shift to year-long sponsorships that support our grant program. We will continue to serve this mission, despite the necessary spring training season changes."

American Family Fields of Phoenix

Home: Milwaukee Brewers

Address: 3805 N. 53rd Ave., Phoenix

Opened: 1998 with extensive renovations in 2019

Tickets: 1-800-933-7890

Features: Recessed playing field and shaded concourse with 7,000 seats

Most Unique Concessions Item:

Following the renovations, larger concession spaces are father off the concourse, allowing for better crowd flow. They also have one feature not found in the former Maryvale Baseball Park: concession workers can actually cook there instead of distributing food prepped in a commissary. Condiment stations now feature Secret Stadium Sauce, imported from Miller Park.

Best Known Ballpark Amenity:

A family favorite, the lawn seating is intimate, sunny and offers a great view of the game and place to spread out and relax.

Most Distinguishable Stadium

Feature: Extensive renovations paid for by the Brewers and the city of Phoenix were finished in 2019. Upgrades included a new entry plaza will behind home plate that feature the primary ticket office and gates. The east side of the plaza area includes the lobby entrance to the new clubhouse building. In addition, an entry to the new retail store from outside of the home plate gate allows fans access to the store during non-game times.

Stadium Snapshots

What's in a name: For years, the stadium was known as Maryvale Baseball Park. In November 2017, the Phoenix City Council voted in favor of a plan to renovate the park. The plan keeps the Brewers at the American Family Fields of Phoenix through at least the year 2042.



Camelback Ranch

Home: Los Angeles Dodgers and Chicago White Sox

Address: 10710 W. Camelback Road, Glendale

Opened: 2009

Tickets: 623-302-5000, ext. 2.

Features: More than 118,000 square feet of major and minor league clubhouse space, 13 full baseball fields and three half-fields with a capacity of 13,000 (10,000 permanent seats, space for 3,000 on the lawn).

Most Unique Concessions Item:

If you're feeling hungry, step up to the plate and try an 18-inch slice of pizza at Double Play Deli and Pizza on the concourse behind home plate.

Best Known Ballpark Amenity:

The entire Sonoran Desert-inspired complex of Camelback Ranch covers 141 acres and

includes seating room for 3,000 on the lawn, plus 12 luxury suites and a party deck.

Most Distinguishable Stadium

Feature: A 5-acre lake system with a river that serves the dual purpose of irrigation for the fields and beautiful landscaping. The lake is stocked with fish and supports numerous species of water fowl, including cranes and geese.

What's new(-ish): Opened before spring training in 2020, the Ballpark Boulevard extension gives fans another option to slide right into and out of Camelback Ranch. The boulevard has been extended to meet 99th Avenue, stretching from Camelback Road on the south to Maryland Avenue on the north. Ballpark Boulevard previously dead-ended just beyond Camelback Ranch. Visitors now more directly access Glendale's Sports and Entertainment District — including Westgate, Tanger Outlets, Gila River Arena (Arizona Coyotes) and State Farm Stadium (Arizona Cardinals).

Goodyear Ballpark

Home: Cleveland Indians and Cincinnati Reds

Address: 1933 S. Ballpark Way, Goodyear

Opened: 2009

Tickets: 623-882-3430

Features: 8,000 stadium seats, 1,500 lawn seats, six luxury suites, terrace seating on the third level behind home plate and 300 seats in the Right Field Pavilion.

Most Unique Concessions Item:

Fans of these Ohio-based teams can get a taste of home with a Cleveland Polish boy at the 1901 Charter Grille of wolf down a Cincinnati Skyline Coney at the Queen City Grill

Best Known Ballpark Amenity:

The free Kids Zone, which includes baseball-themed inflatable activities, a kid-sized Wiffle ball field and tons of grass to run and play on.

Most Distinguishable Stadium

Feature: The statue of "The Ziz" in the Home Plate Plaza. The fiberglass sculpture stands 60 feet 6 inches, which represents the distance between home plate and the pitcher's mound.

Most Interesting Stadium

Tidbit: The name for the concession stand behind the center field wall — Hangar 46 — ties in the ballpark's airport backdrop as well as the year the city was incorporated.



Hohokam Stadium

Home: Oakland A's

Address: 1235 N. Center St., Mesa

Opened: Stadium rebuilt in 1997, **Continue on Page 24**

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RISING STARS

By Mark Carlisle

San Francisco Giants catcher Joey Bart walks on the field prior to spring training workouts for pitchers and catchers Feb. 12, 2020, at Scottsdale Stadium. The prospects on display in the Cactus League this year are highlighted by a crop of catchers that include six of the top 10 catching prospects in baseball, as ranked by MLB Pipeline. Bart is the top-ranked catcher in that group, ranked as baseball's second-best catching prospect. [AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin]

Cactus League's future stars are highlighted by catchers in 2021

While spring training is a great chance to see today's stars prepare for a new season, it's also the first chance to see the stars of tomorrow take the diamond in their big league uniform.

While these rising stars might not play in the majors this year, many of them will be household names in a few years' time. The Cactus League, where half of baseball's 30 teams play spring training, offers an early look at some of the top prospects in the game. The catcher position is the most prolific among Cactus League prospects this year, with six of the game's top 10 catching prospects — as ranked by MLB Pipeline — on display in the Valley this spring.

At least 15 of baseball's most highly touted prospects will play in the Cactus League. That number could rise as only five of 15 Cactus League teams have announced as of deadline which minor league players who aren't on the 40-man roster will be invited to spring training this year.

Also important to note is that with the 2020 season affected by the coronavirus pandemic, there was no minor league season last year.

If they didn't get time with their major league club in 2020, many of these prospects are seeing the field for the first time in nearly 12 months. A minor league season is planned for 2021.

WEST VALLEY

PEORIA SPORTS COMPLEX Seattle Mariners

The Mariners do not have any of their top prospects on their 40-man roster but are likely to add some, as they invited three of their top prospects as non-roster invitees last year.

Maybe coming:

Jarred Kelenic. OF



Kelenic was MLB Pipeline's top outfield prospect and ninth overall prospect in 2020. He was drafted by the Mets sixth overall out of high school in 2018 and traded to the Mariners in a deal that sent Robinson Cano and Edwin Diaz to New York.

The left-handed center fielder has adjusted to pros well, hitting 23 home runs and stealing 20 bases in 2019 with a .904 on-base plus slug-

ging percentage (OPS) and reached Double-A by the end of the year. Kelenic capped the season with a small appearance for the Peoria Javelinas in the Arizona Fall League, where he hit three singles and walked once in 11 plate appearances.

This will be Kelenic's third spring training in Peoria, though last year's spring training was cut short by COVID-19. In 2020, he went 6-for-26 with a homer, a double and seven strikeouts during spring training. The 21-year-old shows good speed and a strong arm in center. He's projected to make his major league debut this year.

Julio Rodriguez. OF



Rodriguez joins Kelenic as baseball's best duo of outfield prospects. The 20-year-old Dominican Republic-product is ranked as baseball's fourth-best outfield prospect. He tore up the minors at age 17 and 18, hitting .326 with a .390 on-base percentage and a .540 slugging percentage in Single-A and high-A ball during 2019. **Continue on Page 12**

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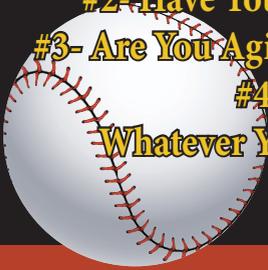
#2- Have You Recently Moved or Maybe Planning To? (Have You Been Traded?)

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Rodriguez capped the 2019 season in the Arizona Fall League in Peoria where, at 18, he struggled with power but had a .397 average against mostly much older prospects.

Rodriguez is coming back not just from the missed minor league season but from a left wrist fracture he suffered during summer camp. He did get 18 games in at the Dominican Winter League in early 2021 but struggled, hitting .196.

Speed is not a feature of Rodriguez's game, but he moves well for his 6-foot-4 frame. He's played both center and right, but future Mariners' lineups likely will feature Rodriguez in right with Kelenic in center. Rodriguez's cannon of an arm will fit in well in right. Rodriguez is expected to trail Kelenic by a year, debuting in 2022.

This is Rodriguez's third spring training in Peoria. He hit 4-for-7 in 2019 but just 2-for-13 in 2020.

Emerson Hancock. RHP

Hancock is the ninth-ranked right-handed pitcher in 2021.

Logan Gilbert. RHP

Hancock is the 10th-ranked right-handed pitcher in 2021.

Taylor Trammell. OF

Trammell was the 51st-ranked overall prospect in 2020, making him, Kelenic and Rodriguez the best trio of outfield prospects in baseball. He played spring training at Peoria Sports Complex for the Padres last year before being traded to Seattle last August.

George Kirby. RHP

Kirby was the 95th-ranked overall prospect in 2020. He was not invited to spring training last year.

San Diego Padres

Coming:



Luis Campusano. C

Campusano is MLB Pipeline's third-ranked catching prospect in 2021 and the second-best catching prospect in the Cactus League. He was the first catcher off the board during the 2017 draft, picked 39th overall by San Diego.

The 22-year-old hit well in high-A ball in 2019, with a .325 average and 15 home runs. He struggled in his limited time in Peoria for the Arizona Fall League, going 1-for-13 with six strikeouts.

Campusano has had a cup of coffee in the majors, appearing in one regular season game and going 1-for-3 with a home run. He also had one plate appearance in the playoffs for the Padres, striking out. He'll be fighting for a spot on the Opening Day roster this spring.

Maybe coming:

Mackenzie Gore. LHP



Gore was deemed baseball's top pitching prospect last year and is likely to repeat that feat this year, as MLB Pipeline again named him the top left-handed pitcher. (MLB Pipeline has not released its Top 100 overall prospects list for 2021 as of deadline, but has released some positional rankings, in which pitchers are divided between right- and left-handers.)

Gore is not on the 40-man roster but was invited to spring training last year. He is expected to end up in the majors by the end of the 2021 season.

The 21-year-old made a mockery of high-A ball in 2019, posting a 1.02 ERA and striking out 12.5 batters per nine innings. He struggled in five starts in Double-A, posting a 4.50 ERA but still struck out 10.4 per nine.

The left-hander was the 2017 Gatorade National Player of the Year his senior season in high school, when he put up laughable numbers: 11-0, 0.19 ERA, 158 strikeouts and five walks in 74 1/3 innings. Afterward, he was drafted third overall by San Diego in 2017.

All four of Gore's pitches are above average, and he can throw each for a strike. His mid-90s fastball has late action that causes defensive swings from batters. It's complimented well by a late-dropping low-80s change-up, though it's his least-used pitch. Gore's big, mid-70s curveball has suffered a bit as he's dealt with blisters but is still a good pitch. His mid-80s slider has become his go-to breaking ball. He was one of the minor league's best at producing swinging strikes last year.

Gore struggled in two short spring training outings last year. He allowed three earned runs in 1 2/3 innings.

CJ Abrams. SS

Abrams is the third-ranked shortstop prospect in 2021. He was not invited to spring training last year.

Robert Hassell. OF

Hassell was the 74th-ranked overall prospect in 2020. He was not invited to spring training last year.

**SURPRISE STADIUM
Texas Rangers**

Coming:



Sam Huff. C

The Rangers top prospect at spring training is a local product: Phoenix native and Arcadia High School alumnus Sam Huff. The 23-year-old is seventh-ranked catching prospect in baseball and the fourth-best catching prospect in the Cactus League

Huff was drafted in the seventh round by the

Rangers in 2016, passing on a commitment to play for Grand Canyon University after leading all Arizona high schoolers with 14 home runs his senior year. Huff spent his first two pro seasons around town in the Arizona League.

Huff showed a lot of power improvement in 2019 as he slugged .509 and hit 28 home runs between Single-A and high-A ball. He played 10 games in the majors last year and made a splash right away, hitting .355 with three homers.

Huff's powerful swing has produced the best exit velocity off the bat in the Rangers' farm system since slugger Joey Gallo. Like Gallo, Huff's aggressive swing produces a high strikeout rate — 30% — something Huff may need to improve against higher-level pitching.

Huff is baseball's eighth-ranked catching prospect. In addition to power at the plate he provides a strong arm and good framing skills behind the plate. The six-foot-four catcher also can play first base.

This is Huff's third spring training in Surprise. He's a combined 3 for 21 in the Cactus League.



Dane Dunning. RHP

Dunning was the 98th overall prospect in 2020 and the Rangers' top pitching prospect. The 26-year-old made seven starts in the majors for the White Sox last year, going 2-0 with a 3.97 ERA. He was acquired by the Rangers in an off-season trade that sent Lance Lynn to Chicago.

This will be Dunning's third spring training in the Valley, the latter were at Camelback Ranch with the White Sox.

Dunning is expected to be in the Rangers' starting rotation this year.

Not coming:

The Rangers have announced their non-roster invitees. They could add a few more players by the start of spring, but it's not likely the following players will be in the Cactus League this year.

Josh Jung. 3B

Jung is the fifth-ranked third baseman prospect in 2021.

Justin Foscue. 2B

Justin Foscue is the eighth-ranked second baseman prospect in 2021.

Kansas City Royals

Coming:

None of Kansas City's top prospects are on the 40-man roster, but some may come to spring training as non-roster invitees. Their top pitching prospect played spring training in Surprise last year.

Maybe coming:

Daniel Lynch. LHP

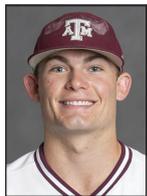
Lynch is the second-ranked left-handed pitcher in 2021 behind San Diego's Gore. He



pitched in spring training in Surprise last year, allowing one run and striking out three in 2 2/3 innings across two outings.

The 24-year-old pitched in the Arizona Fall League in 2019, where he posted a 3.86 ERA and struck out 19 batters in 14 innings across four starts for the Surprise Saguaros.

Lynch was a breaking-ball first pitcher at the University of Virginia but has developed into more of a power pitcher in the pros after the Royals asked him to throw more fastballs. Lynch now regularly throws in the mid-90s and can touch the upper-90s. He supplements the heat with a good slider, an improving change-up and a decent curve. Lynch was drafted 34th overall in 2018.



Asa Lacy. LHP

Lacy is the third-ranked left-handed pitching prospect in 2021, making him and Lynch the best duo of southpaw prospects in baseball. This is the 21-year-old's first season in the pros after pitching the last three seasons for Texas A&M. Kansas City drafted him fourth overall in the 2020 MLB Draft.

Lacy had a 2.07 college ERA and struck out 13.3 batter per nine innings.

Bobby Witt Jr. SS

Witt is the second-ranked shortstop prospect in 2021. He was not invited to spring training last year.

CAMELBACK RANCH Los Angeles Dodgers

Coming:



Keibert Ruiz. C

The 22-year-old Venezuelan Ruiz signed with the Dodgers at 16. The switch-hitting catcher was rising through the farm system alongside 26-year-old catcher Will Smith until Smith broke out in 2019 and became the Dodgers' starting catcher in the bigs. Ruiz instead took a step back in Double-A play in 2019, though he hit well in nine games at Triple-A at the end of the year.

Ruiz made his MLB debut last year going 2-for-8 with a home run and three strikeouts in two games. He did not make the Dodgers' playoff roster. Ruiz got 10 games in back home in the Venezuelan Winter League in early 2021, hitting just .129.

Ruiz has been better as a left-handed hitter, especially when it comes to power. Only two of his 29 career homers are from the right side of the plate.

Ruiz has the athletic ability to be a good de-

fensive catcher but can get lackadaisical behind the plate and make errors. He's agile and can frame pitches well. He has good arm strength but struggles with accuracy. He's thrown out just 23% of stealing baserunners.

This is Ruiz's fourth spring training at Camelback Ranch. He had a great spring training in 2018 (7-for-12) but was bad in 2019 (3-for-16) and 2020 (1-for-11).

Maybe coming:

Michael Busch. 2B

Busch is the fifth-ranked second baseman prospect in 2021. He was not invited to spring training last year.

Kody Hoese. 3B

Hoese is the eighth-ranked third baseman prospect in 2021. He was not invited to spring training last year.

Josiah Gray. RHP

Gray was the 62nd-ranked overall player in 2020. He was invited to spring training last year.

Chicago White Sox

Coming:



Michael Kopech. RHP

Kopech has long been near the top of the prospect rankings but his early career has been derailed by injury and the coronavirus.

The 24-year-old blew out his elbow in his fourth major league start in 2018, missing the entire 2019 season recovering from Tommy John surgery. He opted out of the 2020 season over concerns about the coronavirus. MLB Pipeline ranked him as the 18th best overall prospect in 2020.

The Red Sox drafted Kopech 33rd overall in 2014. He was traded to Chicago alongside infield prospect Yoan Moncada, now Chicago's starting third baseman, in 2016 in the trade that sent Chris Sale to Boston.

Before his elbow injury, Kopech had a high-90s fastball that regularly broke 100 and topped out at 105. Hitters also struggled with his high-80s slider with diagonal break. He was also working on adding slower pitches — a curveball and changeup — into his arsenal.

As long as Kopech can return to full health, he should have a spot in the starting rotation waiting for him.

This will be Kopech's fourth spring at Camelback Ranch. He pitched poorly in his first two spring trainings but pitched one scoreless inning last year.



Nick Madrigal. 2B

The White Sox also are the only team with four top-40 prospects, a group rounded out by Nick Madrigal. Madrigal is another star college player the White Sox draft-

ed fourth overall in 2018. Madrigal led Oregon State to a College World Series title as a junior in 2018.

Madrigal is a great contact hitter but, at 5-foot-7 doesn't provide much power. In his first full pro season last year, he hit .311 and had by far the lowest strikeout rate in the minors, playing in high-A, Double-A and Triple-A. He slugged just .414 and hit only four home runs.

Madrigal is the game's second-ranked second baseman prospect and could be a Gold Glove candidate at the position in the future. He has good speed but his high baseball IQ helps him in the field and to steal bases — he swiped 35 last year.

Madrigal will be fighting for a roster spot in spring training. He's projected to debut this season, but could join the club later in the year.

Maybe coming:

Andrew Vaughn. 1B

Vaughn is the top-ranked first baseman prospect in 2021. He was invited to spring training last year. At California, Vaughn was college baseball's best hitter from 2017 to 2019. He won college baseball's Gold Spikes MVP award as a sophomore in 2018. He was drafted third overall in 2019, but his college success didn't carry over during his first year in the pros.

Garrett Crochet. LHP

Crochet is the sixth-ranked left-handed pitcher in 2021. He was not invited to spring training last year but pitched in five major league games in the regular season.

GOODYEAR BALLPARK Cleveland Indians

Coming:



Nolan Jones. 3B

Jones is the third-ranked third baseman prospect in 2021 and the top third base prospect in the Cactus League.

The 22-year-old originally was a hockey standout but concussion issues led to him to focus on baseball. The slugger, who bats left and throws right, hit 22 home runs in the minors during 2019. He capped the season playing for the Mesa Solar Sox in the Arizona Fall League, where he hit only .200 but was named to the Fall Stars Game.

This is Jones' fourth spring training. He struggled last year, hitting 1-for-12 with nine strikeouts.



Bobby Bradley. 1B

Bradley is the seventh-ranked first baseman prospect in 2021.

The 24-year-old is playing in his seventh spring training, coming to Goodyear every year since he was 18. He tore up Goodyear Ballpark last year, going 9-for-27

Continue on Page 20



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ARIZONA D'BACKS

2020 Record and Results

Regular Season Record: 25-35
Did not make playoffs

Team Leaders

Manager: Torey Lovullo
General Manager Partner: Ken Kendrick
Player Development Director: Josh Barfield
Pro Scouting Coordinator: Jason Parks



Kole Calhoun

Ballpark

Chase Field 48,519 capacity
2020 Season Attendance No attendance in 2020

Spring Training Ballpark

Salt River Field at Talking Stick 11,000 capacity

2020 Team Stats

G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI
60	1,997	269	482	101	12	58	255
BB	SO	SB	CS	Avg.	OBP	SLG	OPS
181	461	23	7	.241	.312	.391	.704



LOS ANGELES ANGELS

2020 Record and Results

Regular Season Record: 26-34
Did not make playoffs

Team Leaders

Manager: Joe Madden
Owners: Arte and Carole Moreno
General Manager: Perry Minasian
Chairman: Dennis Kuhl



Anthony Rendon

Ballpark

Angel Stadium of Anaheim 45,517 capacity
2020 Season Attendance No attendance in 2020

Spring Training Ballpark

Diablo Stadium 9,558 capacity

2020 Team Stats

G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI
60	2,020	294	501	97	8	85	285
BB	SO	SB	CS	Avg.	OBP	SLG	OPS
293	480	21	8	.248	.332	.430	.762



OAKLAND ATHLETICS

2020 Record and Results

Regular Season Record: 36-24
Post Season Record: 3-4, lost in divisional round

Team Leaders

Manager: Bob Melvin
Managing Partner: John Fisher
General Manager: David Forst
Scouting Director: Eric Kubota



Lou Trivino

Ballpark

RingCentral Coliseum 46,847 capacity
2020 Season Attendance No attendance in 2020

Spring Training Ballpark

Hohokam Stadium 10,500 capacity

2020 Team Stats

G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI
60	1,908	274	430	91	11	71	264
BB	SO	SB	CS	Avg.	OBP	SLG	OPS
238	524	26	3	.225	.322	.396	.718



MILWAUKEE BREWERS

2020 Record and Results

Regular Season Record: 29-31
Post Season Record: 0-2, lost in wild card round

Team Leaders

Manager: Craig Counsell
Chairman and Principal Owner: Mark Attanasio
Senior Vice President, General Manager: Matt Arnold
Vice President, Domestic Scouting: Tod Johnson



Tim Lopes

Ballpark

Miller Park 41,900 capacity
2020 Season Attendance No attendance in 2020

Spring Training Ballpark

American Family Fields 10,000 capacity

2020 Team Stats

G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI
60	1,920	247	429	83	5	76	238
BB	SO	SB	CS	Avg.	OBP	SLG	OPS
221	582	15	11	.223	.313	.389	.702



CHICAGO CUBS



2020 Record and Results

Regular Season Record: 34-26
Post Season Record: 0-2, lost in wild card round

Team Leaders

Manager: David Ross
President, Baseball Operations: Jed Hoyer
Baseball Operations Director: Greg Davey
Vice President, Player Development: Matt Dorey



Anthony Rizzo

Ballpark

Wrigley Field 41,649 capacity
2020 Season Attendance No attendance in 2020

Spring Training Ballpark

Sloan Park 15,000 capacity

2020 Team Stats

G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI
60	1,918	265	422	82	8	74	248
BB	SO	SB	CS	Avg.	OBP	SLG	OPS
229	568	24	10	.220	.318	.387	.705



LOS ANGELES DODGERS



2020 Record and Results

Regular Season Record: 43-17
Post Season Record: 12-6, won World Series

Team Leaders

Manager: Dave Roberts
President and CEO: Stan Kasten
Senior Vice President, Baseball Operations: Josh Byrnes
Vice President, Scouting: David Finley



Justin Turner

Ballpark

Dodger Stadium 56,000 capacity
2020 Season Attendance No attendance in 2020

Spring Training Ballpark

Camelback Ranch 13,000 capacity

2020 Team Stats

G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI
60	2,042	349	523	97	6	118	327
BB	SO	SB	CS	Avg.	OBP	SLG	OPS
228	471	29	8	.256	.338	.483	.821



SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS

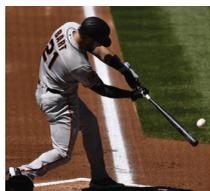


2020 Record and Results

Regular Season Record: 29-31
Did not make playoffs

Team Leaders

Manager: Gabe Kapler
President and CEO: Laurence Baer
President, Baseball Operations: Farhan Zaidi
Pro Scouting Director: Zach Minasian



Joey Bart

Ballpark

Oracle Park 41,265 capacity
2020 Season Attendance No attendance in 2020

Spring Training Ballpark

Scottsdale Stadium 12,000 capacity

2020 Team Stats

G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI
60	2,019	299	532	107	14	81	290
BB	SO	SB	CS	Avg.	OBP	SLG	OPS
195	499	19	8	.263	.335	.451	.785



CLEVELAND INDIANS



2020 Record and Results

Regular Season Record: 35-25
Post Season Record: 0-2, lost in wild card round

Team Leaders

Manager: Terry Francona
Chairman and CEO: Paul J. Dolan
President, Baseball Operations: Chris Antonetti
Vice President, Player Development: James Harris



Triston McKenzie

Ballpark

Progressive Field 35,041 capacity
2020 Season Attendance No attendance in 2020

Spring Training Ballpark

Goodyear Ballpark 10,311 capacity

2020 Team Stats

G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI
60	1,959	248	446	96	5	59	234
BB	SO	SB	CS	Avg.	OBP	SLG	OPS
239	517	25	10	.228	.317	.372	.689





SEATTLE MARINERS

2020 Record and Results

Regular Season Record: 27-33
Did not make playoffs

Team Leaders

Manager: Scott Servais
Chairman, Managing Partner: John Stanton
President and CEO: Kevin Mather
Player Development Director: Andy McKay



Kendall Graveman

Ballpark

T-Mobile Park 47,929 capacity
2020 Season Attendance No attendance in 2020

Spring Training Ballpark

Peoria Sports Complex 12,339 capacity

2020 Team Stats

G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI
60	1,929	254	435	88	5	60	244
BB	SO	SB	CS	Avg.	OBP	SLG	OPS
207	545	50	16	.226	.309	.370	.678



SAN DIEGO PADRES

2020 Record and Results

Regular Season Record: 37-23
Post Season Record: 2-4, lost in divisional round

Team Leaders

Manager: Jayce Tingler
Executive Vice President, General Manager: A.J. Preller
Baseball Operations Director: Nick Ennis
Pro Scouting Director: Pete DeYoung



Jorge Ona

Ballpark

PetCo Park 40,209 capacity
2020 Season Attendance No attendance in 2020

Spring Training Ballpark

Peoria Sports Complex 12,339 capacity

2020 Team Stats

G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI
60	1,972	325	506	103	12	96	312
BB	SO	SB	CS	Avg.	OBP	SLG	OPS
204	479	55	13	.257	.333	.466	.798



TEXAS RANGERS

2020 Record and Results

Regular Season Record: 22-38
Did not make playoffs

Team Leaders

Manager: Chris Woodward
Co-chairman and Managing Partner: Ray C. Davis
President, Baseball Operations and General Manager: Jon Daniels
Executive Vice President, General Manager: Chris Young



Leody Traveras

Ballpark

Globe Life Park in Arlington 48,114 capacity
2020 Season Attendance No attendance in 2020

Spring Training Ballpark

Surprise Stadium 10,500 capacity

2020 Team Stats

G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI
60	1,936	224	420	80	9	62	204
BB	SO	SB	CS	Avg.	OBP	SLG	OPS
167	548	49	14	.217	.285	.364	.648



CINCINNATI REDS

2020 Record and Results

Regular Season Record: 31-29
Post Season Record: 0-2, lost in wild card round

Team Leaders

Manager: David Bell
CEO: Robert H. Castellini
Vice President, General Manager: Nick Krall
Pro Scouting Director: Rob Coughlin



Luis Castillo

Ballpark

Great American Ball Park 42,319 capacity
2020 Season Attendance No attendance in 2020

Spring Training Ballpark

Goodyear Ballpark 10,311 capacity

2020 Team Stats

G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI
60	1,842	243	390	276	3	90	237
BB	SO	SB	CS	Avg.	OBP	SLG	OPS
239	534	29	9	.212	.312	.403	.715



COLORADO ROCKIES



2020 Record and Results

Regular Season Record: 26-34
Did not make playoffs

Team Leaders

Manager: Bud Black
Owner, Chairman and CEO: Richard L. Monfort
Executive Vice President, General Manager: Jeff Bridich
Vice President, Scouting: Bill Schmidt



Ryan Castellani

Ballpark

Coors Field 50,398 capacity
2020 Season Attendance: No attendance in 2020

Spring Training Ballpark

Salt River Fields at Talking Stick 11,000 capacity

2020 Team Stats

G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI
60	2,057	276	528	84	16	63	264
BB	SO	SB	CS	Avg.	OBP	SLG	OPS
161	543	42	9	.257	.311	.405	.716



KANSAS CITY ROYALS



2020 Record and Results

Regular Season Record: 26-34
Did not make playoffs

Team Leaders

Manager: Mike Matheny
Chairman and CEO: John Sherman
Senior Vice President, Baseball Operations/General Manager: Dayton Moore
Pro Scouting Director: Michael Cifuentes



Kris Bubic

Ballpark

Kauffman Stadium 37,903 capacity
2020 Season Attendance: No attendance in 2020

Spring Training Ballpark

Surprise Stadium 10,500 capacity

2020 Team Stats

G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI
60	1,988	248	485	97	7	68	237
BB	SO	SB	CS	Avg.	OBP	SLG	OPS
172	527	49	20	.244	.309	.402	.711



CHICAGO WHITE SOX



2020 Record and Results

Regular Season Record: 35-25
Post Season Record: 1-2, lost in wild card round

Team Leaders

Manager: Tony La Russa
Board Chairman: Jerry Reinsdorf
Senior Vice President, General Manager: Rick Hahn
Player Development Director: Chris Getz



Lucas Giolito

Ballpark

Guaranteed Rate Field 40,615 capacity
2020 Season Attendance: No attendance in 2020

Spring Training Ballpark

Camelback Ranch 18,000 capacity

2020 Team Stats

G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI
60	2,047	306	534	94	6	96	294
BB	SO	SB	CS	Avg.	OBP	SLG	OPS
179	571	20	8	.261	.326	.453	.779

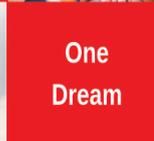


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with three home runs, a double and seven RBIs.

Bradley debuted in the big leagues last year, where he did not find the same success he did in spring, hitting .178 with just one homer in 15 games. He was the designated hitter more often than he played first base.

Bradley thrived in the Valley since he first arrived. He won the triple crown (highest average and most home runs and RBIs) in the rookie-level Arizona League at age 18.

Triston McKenzie. RHP

McKenzie was the 97th-ranked overall prospect in 2020. He was not invited to spring training last year but pitched in eight regular season games in the majors last year. He posted a 2-1 record with a 3.24 ERA and impressively struck out 42 batters in 33 1/3 innings.

Maybe coming:

Aaron Bracho. 2B

Cleveland has the bases covered with a top-10 prospect at first, second and third base. Bracho is the sixth-ranked second baseman prospect. He was not invited to spring training last year.

Tyler Freeman. SS

Freeman was the 92nd-ranked overall prospect in 2020. He was not invited to spring training last year.

Cincinnati Reds

Coming:



Tyler Stephenson. C

Stephenson is the ninth-ranked catching prospect in baseball and the sixth-best catching prospect in the Cactus League.

The 24-year-old had his best minor league season in 2019, capping it by hitting .347 for the Glendale Desert Dogs in the Arizona Fall League. He made his big league debut last year and hit well — a .294 average and two homers in eight games.

This is Stephenson's fourth spring training, and he's done well in Goodyear, hitting .345 and posting a .475 on-base percentage.

Stephenson is expected to split time behind the plate in the majors this year with Tucker Barnhart.

Not coming:

Nick Lodolo. LHP

Lodolo is the seventh-ranked left-handed pitcher in 2021.

Jonathan India. 3B

India is the ninth-ranked third baseman prospect in 2021.

Hunter Greene. RHP

Greene was the 47th-ranked overall prospect in 2020.

Austin Hendrik. OF

Hendrik was the 78th-ranked overall prospect in 2020.

**MARYVALE STADIUM
Milwaukee Brewers**

The Brewers only have one top-100 ranked prospect and he is not coming to spring training.

Not coming:

Garrett Mitchell. OF

Mitchell was the 56th-ranked overall prospect in 2020.

**EAST VALLEY
SALT RIVER FIELDS
Arizona Diamondbacks**

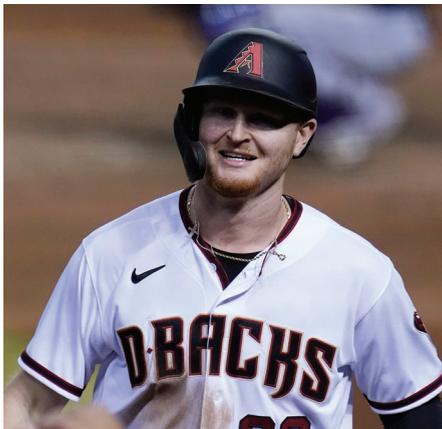
Coming:

Pavin Smith. 1B/OF

Smith is the ninth-ranked first baseman prospect in 2021. The Diamondbacks drafted him seventh-overall in 2017 after he'd hit .342 with 13 home runs as a junior at the University of Virginia.

The left-hander made slow but steady progress in the minors resulting in a 2019 season where he hit .291 with 12 homers in Double-A. He made his major league debut in 2020, hitting .270 with one home run in 12 games.

It will be interesting to see where Smith fits in on the field in the D-backs' future. He can play both first base and outfield, and the D-backs have plenty more prospects coming at those positions: Seth Beer is the fourth-ranked first baseman prospect in 2021 and like Smith, can also play outfield, and outfielders Kristian Robinson, Alek Thomas and Corbin Carroll were all Top 100 prospects in 2020. In the majors last year, Smith started five games at first base, two in left field, two in right field and two at designated hitter. If the National League adds a permanent DH, it could clear up the log jam the D-backs have with five prospects for four positions.



Diamondbacks' Pavin Smith smiles after his home run against the Colorado Rockies during a Sept. 25, 2020 game at Chase Field in Phoenix. Smith, the ninth-ranked first baseman prospect, is the D-backs only top prospect who will definitely be at spring training, as he is on the 40-man roster. Five other top Snake prospects — three outfielders, a first baseman and a shortstop — could also come to spring training as non-roster invitees. [AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin]

This will be Smith's fourth spring training. He's hit well at Salt River Fields, averaging .342 in 38 at-bats.

Maybe coming:



Seth Beer. 1B

Beer is the fourth-ranked first baseman prospect in 2021. He was invited to spring training last year.

Beer was undrafted out of high school but was so impressive at Clemson, including winning Baseball America's Freshman of the Year honors in 2016, he boosted his draft status to a first-round pick out of college in 2018. Beer was drafted by the Astros but was one of four minor leaguers sent to Arizona in the Zack Greinke trade.

Beer is a higher-rated first base prospect than Smith but it's still unknown if he'll come to spring training. He's likely to, as he was invited last year. Like Smith, Beer can play both first base and the corner outfield positions. Between the minors and college, Beer has started 109 games at first, 62 in left field and 10 in right field. With the crowded crop of first base and outfield prospects, which position Beer will end up playing is still up in the air.

The left-handed slugger was hitting quite well in 2019, averaging a combined .309 with 27 home runs between high-A and Double-A ball, but then regressed after being traded to the Diamondbacks, hitting just .204 with one homer in his final 24 games of the season in Double-A. Beer rebounded with a killer Arizona Fall League season with the Salt River Rafters, hitting .315.

This is the 24-year-old's third spring training. He played in the Grapefruit League in Florida with the Astros in 2019 and in the Cactus League with the D-backs last year, where he went just 3-for-17.

Kristian Robinson. OF



Robinson was the 39th-ranked overall prospect in 2020. The 20-year-old from the Bahamas showed contact, power and speed at age 18 in high-A ball, hitting .319

with nine home runs and 14 stolen bases in 44 games. Robinson has the speed to play center — his primary position in the minors — but scouts expect he may end up in right field, partially due to his strong arm and with an expectation that he'll lose some speed as he fills out his 6-foot-3 frame.

The right-hander was invited to spring training in Scottsdale last year but played in just one game, going 0-for-2 with a strikeout.

Alek Thomas. OF

Thomas was the 45th-ranked overall prospect in 2020. The 20-year-old left-hander was thriving in Single-A ball at age 19 in 2019, but



saw a dip in average, on-base percentage and slugging percentage after he was promoted to high-A.

The D-backs have invited Thomas to spring training the last two years and he's hit 2-for-7 with a home run. Center field has also been Thomas' main position in the minors. Scouts expect he will play either center or left, both a fit for his above-average speed and below-average arm power.

center field has also been Thomas' main position in the minors. Scouts expect he will play either center or left, both a fit for his above-average speed and below-average arm power.



Geraldo Perdomo. SS

Perdomo was the 79th-ranked overall prospect in 2020. He was invited to spring training the last two years.

Switch-hitting middle infielder Geraldo Perdomo had a down season in Single-A and High-A in 2019 but ended the season with a great showing in the Arizona Fall League with the Salt River Rafter, hitting .316 with a .417 on-base percentage.

The 21-year-old is the D-backs' best defensive prospect with skills that include a large range and good arm strength. Perdomo's speed is a plus on the bases, with 50 combined steals in his last two seasons, but needs to improve at reading pitchers, as he's been caught stealing in about a third of his attempts.

Perdomo went 2-for-3 with a triple in 2019 but went 0-for-6 last spring.



Corbin Carroll. OF

Carroll was the 85th-ranked overall prospect in 2020. The D-backs' 2019 first-round pick (16th overall) made a splash in his first pro season. At age 18, he hit

well in the rookie-level Arizona League and then did even better after being promoted to low-A ball, adding 38 points to his batting average and 131 points to his slugging percentage.

The 20-year-old is the fastest of the D-backs outfield prospects and while Robinson and Thomas have both mainly played center field in the minors, Carroll is likely to beat them out for the spot and be a terrific defensive center fielder.

The left-hander was invited to spring training last year, where he struck out in his only at-bat.

Colorado Rockies

None of the Rockies top prospects are on the 40-man roster, but some may come to spring training as non-roster invitees.

Maybe coming:



Michael Togliola. 1B

Togliola is the sixth-ranked first baseman prospect in 2021. He was not invited to spring training last year in his first season out of college.

Zac Veen. OF

Veen was the 49th-ranked overall prospect in 2020. He was drafted ninth-overall by the Rockies in the 2020 draft.

SCOTTSDALE STADIUM San Francisco Giants

Coming:

Joey Bart. C

Bart is the second-ranked catcher prospect in 2021 and will be the top catching prospect in the Cactus League.

Bart was the second overall pick in the 2018 draft out of Georgia Tech. He's since received an up-front bonus of \$7,025,000, which is a record for a position player.

After six-time All-Star Buster Posey opted out of the 2020 season, the Giants called up Bart, who struggled at the plate, hitting just .233 with no home runs in 33 games.

Prior to his major league stint, Bart thrived in the Valley, hitting .389 in spring training last year and .333 in with the Scottsdale Scorpions in the Arizona Fall League in 2019 — he posted an on-base plus slugging percentage (OPS) north of 1.200 during each of those short seasons. This will Bart's third spring training in Scottsdale.

Bart, 24, has improved his defense since coming out of high school, going from some scouts doubting if he could be a big league catcher at all to now most thinking he could win a Gold Glove at the position some day.

With Posey back with the team in 2021 and the Giants signing free agent catcher Curt Casali, Bart isn't expected to start the season in the majors, but will likely get called up for more big league action at some point during the year.

Not coming:

Marco Luciano. SS

Luciano is the fourth-ranked shortstop prospect in 2021.

Heliot Ramos. OF

Ramos was the 60th-ranked overall prospect in 2020.

Hunter Bishop. OF

Bishop was the 66th-ranked overall prospect in 2020.

Seth Corry. LHP

Corry was the 94th-ranked overall prospect in 2020.

TEMPE DIABLO STADIUM Los Angeles Angels

Coming:

Brandon Marsh. OF

Marsh was the 73rd-ranked overall prospect in 2020.

Maybe coming:

Reid Detmers. LHP

Detmers was the 75th-ranked overall pros-

pect in 2020. Detmers was drafted 10th overall by the Angels in 2020.

SLOAN PARK Chicago Cubs

Coming:



Miguel Amaya. C

Amaya is the eighth-ranked catcher prospect in 2021 and the fifth-highest ranked catching prospect in the Cactus League.

The 21-year-old Panamanian has hit decently during his first four minor league seasons, though he's mostly touted for his defense. And while his bat is not the best, he has a knack for drawing walks. This will be Amaya's fourth spring training. He hasn't hit well in Mesa, averaging a combined .188 in spring training and posting a dismal .577 on-base plus slugging percentage (OPS) with the Mesa Solar Sox in the 2019 Arizona Fall League.

Amaya has started 2021 with a bang in the Puerto Rican Winter League, where he exhibited his power and ability to get on base, posting a 1.161 OPS during 10-game season — more than double his OPS in the Arizona Fall League.

The Cubs are set at catcher for now with two-time All-Star Willson Contreras, but Amaya may see big league at-bats as soon as this season.

Brailyn Marquez. LHP

Marquez is the eighth-ranked left-handed pitching prospect in 2021.

Maybe coming:

Chase Strumpf. 2B

Strumpf is the seventh-overall ranked second baseman prospect in 2021. Strumpf was not invited to spring training last year in his first season out of college.



Brennan Davis. OF

Davis was the 72nd-ranked overall prospect in 2020. He was invited to spring training last year. Davis went to Chandler Basha High School where he helped the Bears win a state 6A basketball title while winning defensive player of the year honors. After that, he focused on baseball and was drafted by the Cubs in the second round in 2018.

HOHOKAM STADIUM Oakland Athletics

Coming:



A.J. Puk. LHP

Puk was the 53rd-ranked overall prospect in 2020.

Mark Carlisle can be reached at mcarlisle@newszap.com or found on Twitter @mwcarlisle.

Talking before a Sept. 20, 2020, baseball game between the Cleveland Indians and the Detroit Tigers are, from left, home plate umpire D.J. Reyburn, third base umpire Ryan Blakney, first base umpire Tim Timmons, and second base umpire Laz Diaz. Certain new rules implemented last season may be returning in 2021. [The Associated Press]

By Matt Loeschman
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Some new MLB rules may be back in 2021

Everything changed in 2020. A global pandemic shifted the way we live our everyday lives, and sports was not immune to the impact of the coronavirus.

Anyone who follows our National Pastime saw the game a bit differently last year — the regular season was cut to 60 games, playoffs were expanded and other new rules took hold in a sport where change hasn't always been easily embraced.

The Los Angeles Dodgers won the World Series in a 2020 season that won't soon be forgotten.

As we shift to the 2021 Major League Baseball campaign, certain elements we are accustomed to in baseball will return. Fans, shut out of all the ballparks in 2020, will be allowed to attend games on a limited basis to start — on a team-by-team basis.

And two major rule changes implemented directly because of the pandemic are likely to return for 2021.

Fearing the pandemic could create scheduling issues once again, MLB officials in late January proposed the return of seven-inning doubleheaders and extra-inning games

beginning with a runner on second base — two rules implemented during 2020 that met with mostly favorable reception. The Major League Baseball Players Association must approve the rule changes for them to return. As of the last week of January, that had not yet occurred.

Those two rules were used for the first time in 2020 during the 60-game shortened season primarily to limit the length of games during the pandemic. The new regulations were widely embraced by players, and several MLB managers were reportedly advocating for their return.

"Change is abundant now in every walk of life," former Arizona Diamondbacks and current Oakland A's manager Bob Melvin said during a December conference call. "And if you don't embrace it, you get stuck in the mud."

While the union was expected to approve the doubleheader and extra-inning rule changes for the 2021 season, the two sides in late January had not determined whether there will be a universal designated hitter or an expanded postseason with rosters remaining at 26 players.

In January, MLB had proposed implementing a universal DH in exchange for an expanded postseason — which would generate additional revenue with the extra round of playoffs televised on ESPN — but the two sides were at a stalemate.

MLB is seeking a 14-team playoff field — two fewer teams than a year ago but four more than its format since 2012.

Players, coaches and front-office personnel have made it clear they want a universal DH.

"Both from a Mets standpoint and from a general baseball standpoint, having a DH in the National League is a good thing," Mets president Sandy Alderson said in a January conference call. "The fact is, pitchers can't even bunt anymore. So I'm in favor of putting a hitter in that additional slot. Ultimately it makes the game more exciting. More offense, or more opportunity for offense, a bigger challenge for the pitchers.

"I just think for the overall quality of the game, the excitement level of the DH is the right thing in the National League."

Many fans believe the universal DH rule makes too much sense not to return after the league used it in **Continue on Page 24**



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2020. Pitchers have not batted since 2019 and making them do it again in 2021, only to potentially change the rule in 2022, seems unnecessary.

Adding a DH in both leagues is something certain fans may be upset about if they truly love the National League rules. It adds offense to the game and also means the World Series won't be played under two different sets of rules.

Teams also are heavily in favor of expanded playoffs, with a record 16 teams reaching the playoffs last year instead of 10, eliminating the one-game, winner-take-all game with a best-of-three first round.

MLB is seeking a 14-team playoff pool that provides the team with the best record in each league a first-round bye. Last year, with 16 teams, the only advantage to winning the division was playing the best-of-three at home. The team with the league's best record simply played the lowest seed.

Other new rules introduced during 2020 included the "three-batter minimum" — Rule 5.10(g) requires that starting pitchers and relief pitchers must pitch to either a minimum of three batters or to the end of a half-inning, with exceptions for incapacitating injury or illness.



In front of the scoreboard that has the Boston Red Sox playing as the visitors at Fenway Park, Toronto Blue Jays' Lourdes Gurriel Jr. makes a catch against Red Sox's Rafael Devers during the seventh inning of the second game of a baseball doubleheader on Friday, Sept. 4, 2020, in Boston. [The Associated Press]

The minimum time a pitcher spends on the injured list was increased back to 15 days from 10 while the minimum assignment period of pitchers who are optionally assigned to the minors increased from 10 days to 15. The injured list remained at 10 days for po-

sition players.

MLB was also flirting with technology to possibly assist with calling balls and strikes but the pandemic seemed to put a pause on that experiment.

Oakland became the stadium's tenant in 2015 after further refurbishments

Tickets: 1-877-493-2255

Features: Seated capacity of 10,000. Shaded terrace level. Lighted stadium. The Right Field Lounge is a reserved, covered patio behind Section 119 just past first base for guests to enjoy a catered meal and watch the game.

Most Unique Concessions Item: Ike's Love & Sandwiches, a true taste of the East Bay.

Best Known Ballpark Amenity: Get a glimpse of the batter's eye. Hohokam takes you inside the cage with a live HD view during batting practice.

Most Distinguishable Stadium Feature: Shade. Over half of the seating

bowl is shaded for the entirety of the game. There are also covered patios for picnics where fans can still catch every pitch of the game.

Most Interesting Stadium

Tidbit: The A's opened the original Hohokam in 1977 and played there for only two springs. Almost 40 years later, the A's returned to Mesa to open the current rendition of Hohokam Stadium — two years after the Chicago Cubs played their final game at the site.



Peoria Sports Complex

Home: San Diego Padres and Seattle Mariners

Address: 16101 N. 83rd Ave., Peoria

Opened: 1994, recent renovations of teams' clubhouses and other continuing upgrades

to stadium were finished in 2017.

Tickets: 1-800-677-1227

Features: Capacity of 11,333, main lighted stadium, two clubhouses and 12 full-size practice fields.

Most Unique Concessions

Item: The foot-long "Ruthian" hot dog is reserved for those with a bambino-sized appetite.

Best Known Ballpark Amenity:

Several craft beer brands and flavors from the Pacific Northwest and Southern California.

Most Distinguishable Stadium

Feature: Peoria Cove, a ship-themed kids attraction with a mini baseball field, splash pad and playground.

Most Interesting Stadium

Tidbit: Peoria Sports Complex was the first spring training facility built to host two teams, and the Mariners and Padres have remained its tenants since 1994.



Salt River Fields at Talking Stick

Home: Arizona Diamondbacks and Colorado Rockies

Address: 7555 N. Pima Road, Scottsdale

Opened: 2011

Tickets: 480-312-2586

Features: 7,000 fixed seats in the grandstand and 4,000 lawn seats for a total estimated seating capacity of 11,000. However, the record attendance at Salt River Fields was set at 14,035 on March 16, 2019, when the Diamondbacks hosted the Cubs.

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Baseball card values soar

By Jason Stone

COVID-19 canceled a third of spring training last year and will make the games different again this year.

But one part of baseball that's not suffering through the pandemic is a hobby older than any of today's baseball fans have been alive.

Baseball card collecting began making a small resurgence when the millennium changed as card companies produced more rare and unique cards.

But the coronavirus has sent the market through the roof.

"I almost hate to say it, but it has really powered the industry — certainly for the last year," said Don Drooker, who buys card collections for AZ Sports Cards, 10045 W. Camelback Road, Suite 104, in Phoenix. "The hobby itself has really been over the top."

Industry experts are pointing to people having more time at home to sort through old collections.

"A lot of people who were stuck at home were going through the attic, closet or garage and started to find they wanted to collect," said Mr. Drooker, 74, of Sun City Grand in Surprise.

The industry saw a big milestone in August when a Mike Trout card sold for almost \$4 million. Mr. Trout's 2009 Bowman Chrome Draft Prospects Mike Trout Superfractor card featured an autograph. Because there was only one made, it fetched a record \$3.93 million.

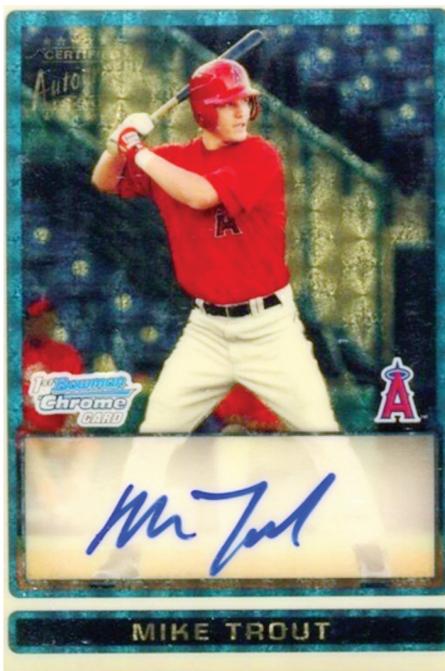
The sale broke the previous record of \$3.12 million for a 1909 T206 Honus Wagner card, which was long seen as the Mona Lisa of baseball cards.

"My eBay business the last two years has been better than it's ever been," said Mr. Drooker, who also sells his own cards. "I don't know if we're going through a run that's going to stop. Things are flying off the shelf for lack of a better term."

Rare items, such as the Mr. Trout rookie card, are what is driving the market right now. That's opposite to what happened in the 1980s and 1990s when the market crashed because of too many companies printing too many cards.

"The hobby took a hit in the '80s and '90s when cards were essentially overproduced," Mr. Drooker said. "Major League Baseball gave out too many licenses to too many companies. They were all cranking out the product to compete with each other."

Mr. Drooker said any card prior to 1980 or



TOP 5 BASEBALL CARD SALES

- 1 — Mike Trout, 2009 Bowman Chrome Draft Prospects Mike Trout Superfractor autograph, \$3.93 million (2020)
- 2 — Honus Wagner, 1909 T206 card, \$3.12 million (2016)
- 3 — Mickey Mantle, 1952 Topps, \$2.88 million (2018)
- 4 — Mickey Mantle, 1951 Bowman, \$750,000 (2018)
- 5 — Babe Ruth, 1916 Sporting News, \$717,000 (2016)

anything produced in the last 20 years are in a "different category."

"The industry reinvented itself about 20 years ago," he said. "They cut back on the companies. Now there is only one provider for each sport. It makes a much higher-end product."

Card buyers have a better idea what they're buying these days. Card boxes are factory sealed with little to no chance of tampering or counterfeiting new cards.

Card packs will give the odds of finding goodies inside. Some of those include pieces of a player's jersey or their bat on a card itself. Autograph cards, like the Mr. Trout rookie card, are also popular. So are cards that have serial numbers printed on them so collectors know right off just how rare the card is.

The condition of the cards themselves has never been less of a question, either.

Thanks to the rise in popularity of third-party professional grading during the past 20 years, fans have been able to confidently buy

cards online and know what they're buying.

Collectors send their cards into one of two main grading companies, who then judge the card for its centering, sharp corners and other errors.

It's not cheap to do it, however. Depending on the card, it could cost between \$10 to \$500 to have one graded. But Mr. Drooker said when a card could be worth four figures or more, it's well worth it.

"The Internet changed the hobby dramatically back in the 1990s," Mr. Drooker said. "What the Internet did was it created a different marketplace for older cards. If you have an older card and you want to sell it — even if you want to keep it in your collection — the best thing to do is have a card graded."

Mr. Drooker said the current market is made up of three kind of collectors.

First, there are those who treat the hobby like an investment, continually upgrading and buying cards that keep their value over years, such as Hall of Famers.

The second group are speculators. Those are the collectors who try to scoop up all the young up-and-coming players at cheap prices before their careers take off. Those are the people looking for the next Mr. Trout rookie card.

The final group of collectors are those who want to build sets and keep their own cards with no real thought of selling them.

"They're all enjoying it, but people are doing it for different reasons," Mr. Drooker said.

Personally, Mr. Drooker said he favors the 1956 Topps set best as it was one of the first he remembers as a kid.

In the 1980s, he began collecting again and rebuilt that set, which features Hall of Famers such as Roberto Clemente, Sandy Koufax, Ted Williams, Mickey Mantle, Willie Mays, Jackie Robinson and the recently passed Hank Aaron.

Baseball card shops are spread out across the Valley, making them accessible to all 10 Cactus League stadiums.

Phoenix has Dave's Sports Cards Shop, 3404 N. 24th St.; the Batter's Box, 2855 W. Cactus Road; Home Plate Sports Cards, 12802 N. 19th Ave.; Invest in Baseball, 4836 E. McDowell Road; Boxseat Collectibles, 4855 Warner Road; and 3D Sports Card, 3210 W. Bell Road.



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Item: The Sonoran Hot Dog is a quarter-pound hot dog wrapped in hickory-smoked bacon and slow-cooked on the grill. Served on a freshly-baked bun and topped with pico de gallo, pinto ranch beans, and a drizzle of mayo. Also, the Talking Stick Mega Dog features a half-pound, foot-long hot dog topped with slow-smoked pulled pork and Southwest Mac-n-Cheese, which is a blend of cheddar, jack, and Gouda cheese folded into cavatappi pasta and blended with green chilies.

Best Known Ballpark Amenity: The Cold Stone Kids Fun Field is a family-focused destination where kids can take Wiffle ball batting practice and run the bases just like big leaguers.

Most Distinguishable Stadium Feature: A uniquely designed roof that mimics the traditional Native American ramada.

Most Interesting Stadium Tidbit: Salt River Fields is the first U.S. Green Building Council LEED Gold-certified sports venue of its kind in the United States.



Sloan Park

Home: Chicago Cubs
Address: 2330 W. Rio Salado Parkway, Mesa.
Opened: 2014
Tickets: 1-800-THE-CUBS.
Features: Capacity of 15,000. Lighted stadium. Sloan Park is lovingly called “Wrigleyville West” by Cubs fans and locals. There are many homages to Wrigley Field at Sloan Park, from a replica marquee sign where fans can get their photos taken to the outfield berm that is shaped to resemble the bleachers in Chicago. The roof replicates parts of the Cubs’ home field in Chicago as well.

Most Unique Concessions Item:

Chicago Dog.
Best Known Ballpark Amenity: Player walkway.

Most Distinguishable Stadium Feature: Marquee.

Most Interesting Stadium

Tidbit: SRP Citrus Grove food trucks



Scottsdale Stadium

Home: San Francisco Giants
Address: 7408 E. Osborn Road, Scottsdale

Opened: 1992, with major renovations finished in the winter of 2020

Tickets: 480-312-2586

Features: 12,000 capacity

Most Unique Concessions

Item: Brisket and pulled pork sandwiches straight from the smoker is a fan favorite.

Best Known Ballpark Amenity: Large selection of specialty beers, including San Francisco’s own Anchor Steam.

Most Distinguishable Stadium Feature: Picturesque views of Camelback Mountain and the McDowell Mountains.

Most Interesting Stadium

Tidbit: Scottsdale Stadium renovations were finished in time for spring training 2020. They are: A new clubhouse. Additional shaded areas for the Charros Lodge in right field. Upgrades to the main stadium entrance. An expanded press box. Upgrades to the right field concourse.



Surprise Stadium

Home: Kansas City Royals and Texas Rangers

Address: 15850 N. Bullard Ave., Surprise

Opened: 2003

Tickets: 623-222-2222 or 888-755-2583

Features: 7,000 fixed seats with the berm able to hold up to 3,600 people

Most Unique Concessions Item:

Deliciousness evolves from the variety offered such as roasted corn with a bevy of seasonings, puffy tacos, Chuckie’s fried pork tenderloin sandwich, crispy fries (both wavy and curly), fresh elephant ears and a cool shaved iced “Snowie” offering more than 30 flavors.

Best Known Ballpark Amenity:

Fans might catch a glimpse of batting practice along the Sanderson Ford Concourse’s batting cages. From tee-work to casual baseball talk, this special amenity brings the game that much closer to fans.

Most Distinguishable Stadium

Feature: The love for the game is prevalent with quotes from Babe Ruth, George Will, Bob Lemon, Bryant Gumbel, Red Smith and Humphrey Bogart. The lower deck concourse also features plaques commemorating the Rangers’ and Royals’ greatest players and managers as well as local community heroes.

Most Interesting Stadium

Tidbit: The playing field in the stadium is named after the city’s first Parks and Recreation Director, Billy Parker. Parker played three years in the big leagues and hit a game winning home run in his first big league game. Billy’s love of youth sports can still be seen today in the city of Surprise’s youth program offerings.



Tempe Diablo Stadium

Home: Los Angeles Angels
Address: 2200 W. Alameda Drive, Tempe

Opened: 1968 with extensive renovation in 2005

Tickets: 480-858-7575

Features: 9,558 seats, six-plus practice fields and main stadium

Most Unique Concessions Item: A “tap room” near home plate offers four choices from Four Peaks, a brewery based in Tempe.

Best Known Ballpark Amenity: The grand entrance in front of the stadium is a well-known sight to behold.

Most Distinguishable Stadium

Feature: The iconic butte beyond left field of the stadium defines the spring training scene in Tempe.

Best Ballpark Game Tradition:

Watch players walk across the west parking lot to the practice fields and score an autograph or two.

Most Interesting Stadium

Tidbit: Tempe Diablo Stadium was home to the Seattle Pilots/Milwaukee Brewers franchise from 1969 to 1972. After a few years without a team, the facility took in the new Seattle Mariners in 1977. The Mariners moved to Peoria in 1993. The Angels moved in that spring and have trained in Tempe since.

Sources: Cactus League, City of Goodyear, City of Peoria, Twitter, Wikimedia Commons

TRIVIA TIME

Test your knowledge on Arizona spring baseball

Compiled by **Jason Stone**

From its humble beginnings of hosting just a handful of teams in the mid-1900s, Arizona's Cactus League spring training has grown to half of the teams in Major League Baseball each year. Here are some questions to test your knowledge about the Cactus League and spring training.

QUESTIONS

1. In what year was the Cactus League established?
2. Which team practiced in Sarasota, Florida before moving to the Cactus League in 2009?
3. What is the nickname of the Cactus League's counterpart league in Florida?
4. What U.S. city has been called the original birthplace of spring training baseball?
5. Which was the first team to conduct spring training in Arizona?
6. In what year did the same number of teams practice in Arizona and Florida?
7. Which were the first two teams in the Cactus League?
8. Which is the newest spring training facility in the Cactus League?
9. What team held spring training in Havana, Cuba, in 1947 and 1949?



Arizona Diamondbacks' Daulton Varsho sneaks behind Colorado Rockies catcher Tony Wolters to score a run during the seventh inning of a baseball game Sunday, Sept. 27, 2020 in Phoenix. [AP Photo/Darryl Webb]

10. Which Major League teams played some spring training games in Hermosillo, Mexico, in 2015?
11. During what years did the Milwaukee Brewers hold spring training in Sun City?
12. What is the oldest stadium still used in the Cactus League?
13. What was the first World Series featuring two Cactus League teams?
14. Which Cactus League ballpark has the largest seating capacity?
15. Where did the Milwaukee Brewers practice before moving to American Family Fields of Phoenix in Maryvale?
16. Who was the first Major League team to play an exhibition game in Arizona?

See answers on the next page.

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In this May 15, 2019, file photo, Chicago Cubs' Kyle Schwarber hits a solo home run off Cincinnati Reds relief pitcher David Hernandez in the eighth inning of a baseball game in Cincinnati. Schwarber agreed to a one-year, \$10 million contract with the Washington Nationals on Jan. 9, 2021. [AP Photo/John Minchillo, File]

TRIVIA ANSWERS

- 1947.
- The Cincinnati Reds.
- The Grapefruit League.
- Hot Springs, Arkansas, which became the spring home of the Chicago White Stockings in 1886.
- The Detroit Tigers trained at Riverside Park in Phoenix in 1929.
- Since 2018, the number of teams in the Cactus and Grapefruit leagues has been evenly split at 15 apiece.
- Cleveland Indians and New York Giants.
- Mesa's Sloan Park, home of the Cubs, opened in February 2014.
- The Brooklyn Dodgers.
- The Arizona Diamondbacks and Colorado Rockies.
- 1973 to 1985.
- Tempe Diablo Stadium, which opened in 1969.
- New York Giants vs. Cleveland Indians in 1954.
- Sloan Park in Mesa can usually accommodate up to 15,000 fans.
- The Brewers trained at Compadre Stadium in Chandler from 1986 to 1997.
- The Chicago White Sox in 1909.



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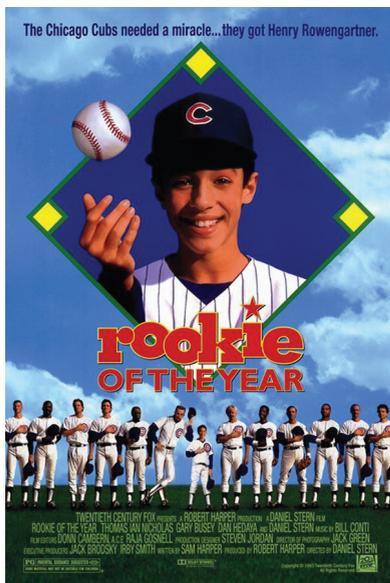
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All-Star Cameos

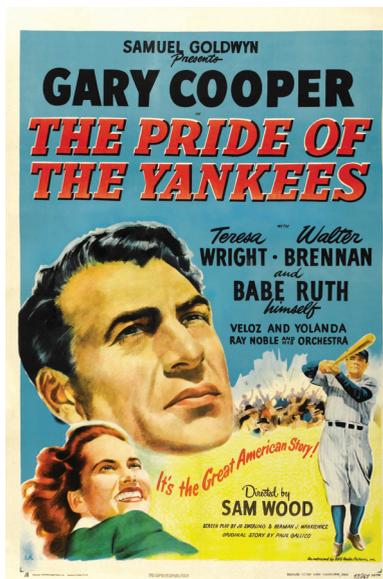
Baseball greats and their film, television appearances



Compiled by **Jeremy Carr**

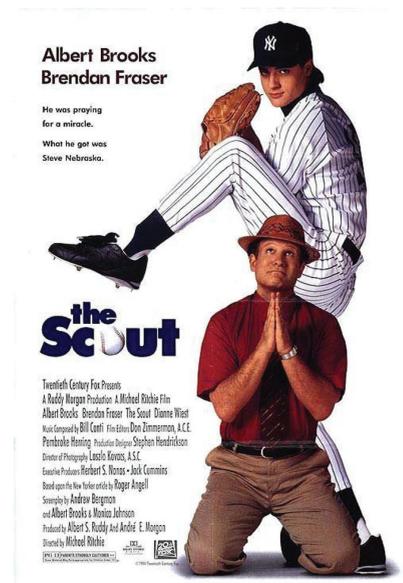
Barry Bonds in *Rookie of the Year* (1993)

Although his ultimate legacy may be tainted by a performance-enhancing drug scandal, there's no denying Barry Bonds displayed remarkable skill. He was drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates as the sixth overall pick in 1985, and over the course of his 22 seasons went on to amass a slew of staggering achievements, including seven National League Most Valuable Player awards, eight Gold Glove awards, 12 Silver Slugger awards and 14 All-Star selections. He also, in 1993's *Rookie of the Year*, faced a preteen with a rocket for an arm. Henry Rowengartner (Thomas Ian Nicholas), a lackluster Little Leaguer who longs to play in the majors, breaks his arm and discovers after it heals a newfound ferocity in his pitch. In the stands during a later Chicago Cubs game, he vigorously throws an opposing team's ball back on the field and is promptly signed for the remainder of the season, striking out no less than Bonds himself. Also appearing in the film are Gary Busey, Dan Hedaya, Daniel Stern (who also directed) and John Candy, as well as Bonds' one-time Pirates teammate Bobby Bonilla.



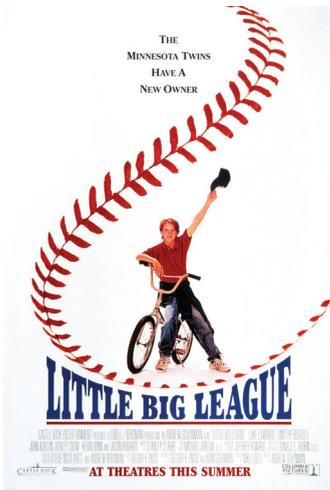
Babe Ruth in *The Pride of the Yankees* (1942)

Unlike the other entries here, there was a personal, real-life connection to Babe Ruth's appearance in 1942's *The Pride of the Yankees*. This classic biopic about Lou Gehrig, the Yankees' hall of fame first baseman who died in 1941 after a years-long battle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), was directed by Sam Wood from a script by Herman J. Mankiewicz, Jo Swerling and Casey Robinson. In the film, which received 11 Oscar nominations, Gehrig is played by Gary Cooper, but several of his actual Yankees teammates also play themselves, including Ruth, Bob Meusel, Mark Koenig and Bill Dickey. Ruth, nicknamed "The Bambino" and "The Sultan of Swat," played for 22 seasons, beginning with the Boston Red Sox and later getting notoriously traded to New York. His record-setting batting helped lead the Yankees to seven American League pennants and four World Series championships. He was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1936 as one of its five inaugural members. In the early 1940s, however, Ruth was nearing 300 pounds and was forced to undergo rapid weight loss for his turn in *The Pride of the Yankees*. That, in addition to a recent heart attack, a car accident and Ruth's rousing nightlife, left him weakened to the point where he developed pneumonia after filming and was hospitalized.



Keith Hernandez in *The Scout* (1994)

Like Jackson, (Page 33) Keith Hernandez was no stranger to film and television, including a guest-star turn in a two-part 1992 episode of *Seinfeld*, which embroils the acclaimed first baseman in a plot parodying the controversial "magic bullet theory" of President John F. Kennedy's assassination (Hernandez's quip from the show — "I'm Keith Hernandez" — later became the title of one of his books). Hernandez also appeared in a 1994 episode of *Law & Order* and in 1993 episodes of the children's series *Ghostwriter*. On the big screen, the five-time All-Star and World Series champ turned up in the 1994 comedy *The Scout*, where he is shockingly struck out by Brendan Fraser's Steve Nebraska, whose stunning fastballs catch the eye of scout Al Percolo, played by Albert Brooks, and result in the young prospect's signing with the Yankees, only to face a series of psychological setbacks. Directed by Michael Ritchie, *The Scout* also featured famous baseball faces Tim Lincecum, John Sterling, Ozzie Smith, Steve Garvey and George Steinbrenner. Hernandez also took a smaller role in the 2000 crime film *The Yards*, a gritty picture starring Mark Wahlberg and Joaquin Phoenix and directed by the internationally lauded James Gray.



Ken Griffey Jr. in *Little Big League* (1994)

Many children dream of professional sports success, but what occurred to 12-year-old Billy Heywood in the 1994 film *Little Big League* was a quirky twist of fate few could imagine. Played by Luke Edwards, Billy inherits the Minnesota Twins after the passing of the team's prior owner, his grandfather, and eventually becomes owner and manager of the club himself (summer break is just around the corner, so why not?). Clearly in over his head, he receives guidance from team executives, but that doesn't prevent the boy from encountering one obstacle after another, among them a "suspension" passed down by his mother after Billy swears at an umpire and is ejected from a game. Still, all goes surprisingly well as Billy turns the team around and has them playoff-bound. Enter a major league foil: Ken Griffey Jr. Griffey played for 22 years, mostly with the Seattle Mariners and Cincinnati Reds, and the Hall of Famer was a 13-time All-Star known for his home runs and his immense popularity, which was in large part because of contracts with the likes of Nintendo and Nike. He was the No. 1 draft selection in 1987 and notably became part of the first father-son pairing in MLB history when his dad also joined the Mariners; the two hit back-to-back singles in his father's debut with the team. Griffey also was an outstanding center fielder, earning 10 Gold Glove awards. It's in this capacity where he gets in the way of Billy's aspirations, snagging a potential home run and thwarting the fictional Twins from celebrating a game-winning score. Also appearing in this good-humored fantasy directed by Andrew Scheinman (his first and only directorial effort) are Randy Johnson (also with the Mariners at the time), Paul O'Neill, Rafael Palmeiro, Ivan Rodriguez, Wally Joyner and Lou Pineilla.



Derek Jeter in *The Other Guys* (2010)

Derek Jeter had an astonishing 20-season career with the New York Yankees. Drafted by the team out of high school, he won Rookie of the Year, was a perennial All-Star, won multiple Silver Slugger and Golden Glove awards, won five World Series championships and was easily elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility. It's not surprising, then, that New Yorkers don't take kindly to NYPD officer Terry Hoitz, who accidentally shoots Jeter before a World Series game and kicks off the regional animosity of 2010's *The Other Guys*. Played by Mark Wahlberg, Terry is subsequently nicknamed the "Yankee Clipper" and earns the scorn of New Yorkers everywhere, including his fellow officers — except for his partner (Will Ferrell), with whom he is soon investigating an intricate criminal plot. This buddy-cop action comedy was directed by Adam McKay, who co-wrote the film with Chris Henchy, and was the fourth of five collaborations between Ferrell and McKay and the first of three between Ferrell and Wahlberg. A box office success, *The Other Guys* also stars Dwayne Johnson, Samuel L. Jackson and Eva Mendes. As for Jeter, he has been no stranger to celebrity, becoming one of the most popular athletes in recent times because of his personal life and product endorsements as much as his on-field abilities. He also turned up in Peter Segal's 2003 comedy *Anger Management*, featuring Adam Sandler and Jack Nicholson as well as fellow MLB star Roger Clemens.



Reggie Jackson in *Baseketball* (1998) and *The Benchwarmers* (2006)

Reginald Martinez Jackson, the legendary right fielder who played 21 seasons for the Kansas City/Oakland Athletics, Baltimore Orioles, New York Yankees and California Angels, was famously dubbed "Mr. October" for his clutch postseason skills. He was also a recurrent All-Star, winner of the Most Valuable Player award and two World Series MVPs, and was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1993. On top of all that, he was in a film favorite. *Baseketball*, an outlandish comedy from director David Zucker and *South Park* creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone (who also star), tells the oftentimes crude story of two best friends who are generally inept in athletic contests and decide to develop their own quirky sport, which unexpectedly gains traction and leads to a full-fledged league. Jackson has a notable cameo (as do Bob Costas, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Dale Earnhardt and Dan Patrick). Years later, Jackson also turned up as himself in the 2006 film *The Benchwarmers*, directed by Dennis Dugan and featuring Rob Schneider, David Spade, Jon Heder and Jon Lovitz. Here, Jackson offers up idiosyncratic tips to some hapless, neophyte friends as they try to form their own baseball team. Comedy was evidently Jackson's forte, going back to his earlier appearance in *The Naked Gun: From the Files of Police Squad!* (a 1988 film also directed by Zucker), where he plays an assassin.

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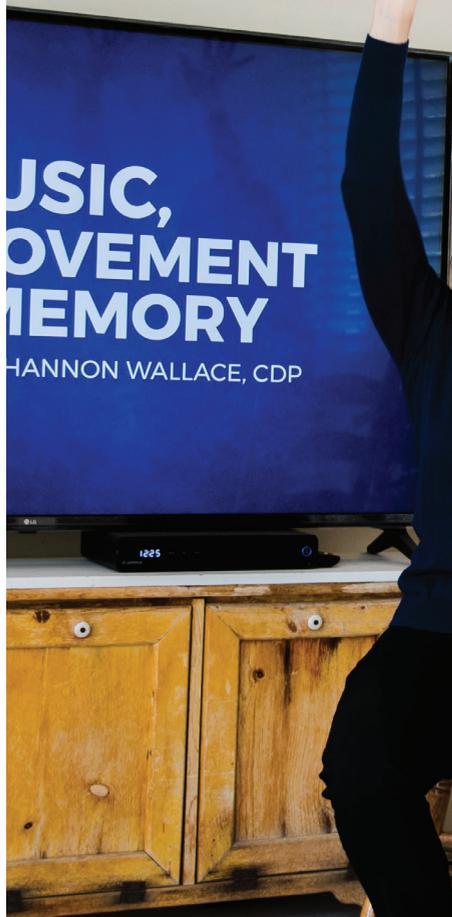


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