



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INAUGURAL “RISING STARS” ROSTERS ANNOUNCED

Phoenix, Arizona — The Arizona Fall League’s inaugural “Rising Stars Showcase” game featuring elite prospects from every organization in Major League Baseball will be played at 7:15 p.m. on Friday, October 27 at Surprise Stadium, the spring home of the Kansas City Royals and Texas Rangers in Surprise, Arizona. Fall League Hall of Fame ceremonies honoring current Boston Red Sox manager Terry Francona will begin at 6:45 p.m.

The game, pitting the Fall League’s East Division (Mesa Solar Sox, Phoenix Desert Dogs, Scottsdale Scorpions) versus the West Division (Grand Canyon Rafters, Peoria Javelinas, Peoria Saguaros), is the vision of Fall League Executive Director Steve Cobb. It is intended to serve much the same purpose as Major League Baseball’s annual “Futures Game” that now leads off All-Star Game festivities each July.

“We’re putting as many top prospects as possible on one field at one time,” Cobb states. “We’ve had so many first-round picks and minor league all-stars play in the Fall League, we thought this is a natural way to showcase the tremendous talent rising in baseball. For scouts and fans alike, it’s a dream to see top pitchers face top hitters.”

Friday’s game is scheduled on a World Series travel day to fill a void for baseball fans.

Scouting and minor league directors of every organization had the opportunity to complete a ballot to select the players for Friday’s game. Most roster selections were based on their input. Each major-league organization is represented by at least one player.

The coaching staffs of the Desert Dogs — manager Tony DeFrancesco (Athletics), pitching coach Tom Signore (Blue Jays), coaches Jamie Dismuke (Reds) and Steve Livesey (Devil Rays) — and the Saguaros — manager Randy Ready (Padres), pitching coach Rick Tomlin (Nationals), coaches James Rowson (Yankees) and Derek Lilliquist (Cardinals) — earned the right to skipper Friday’s contest by virtue of having their teams in first place in the east and west divisions, respectively, through the play of last Saturday, October 21.

Inaugural “Rising Stars” Rosters Announced/add 1-1-1-1

Friday’s starting pitchers will be Rafter Luke Hochevar (Royals) and Solar Sox Michael Pelfrey (Mets).

Following the “Rising Stars Showcase,” the six-team Arizona Fall League resumes play on Saturday, October 28 and continues with three games per day, six days per week (Monday-Saturday) through the weekend before Thanksgiving when the championship game will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, November 18 at Scottsdale Stadium.

The complete rosters of the inaugural “Rising Stars Showcase” follow.

East Division

Pitchers

Matt Albers, RHP, Solar Sox/Astros
Jon Coutlangus, LHP, Desert Dogs/Reds
Dewon Day, RHP, Scorpions/White Sox
Marcus McBeth, RHP, Desert Dogs/Athletics
Jonathan Meloan, RPH, Solar Sox/Dodgers
Patrick Misch, LHP, Scorpions/Giants
Mike Mitchell, RHP, Desert Dogs/Athletics
Michael Pelfrey, RHP, Solar Sox/Mets
Jeff Ridgway, Desert Dogs/Devil Rays
Billy Sadler, RHP, Scorpions/Giants
Kevin Slowey, RHP, Solar Sox/Twins

Catchers

Landon Powell, Desert Dogs/Athletics
Curtis Thigpen, Desert Dogs/Blue Jays

Infielders

James D’Antona, Scorpions/Diamondbacks
Ryan Braun, Scorpions/Brewers
Danny Richar, Scorpions/Diamondbacks
Ryan Klosterman, Desert Dogs/Blue Jays
Chin-Lung Hu, Solar Sox/Dodgers
Scott Moore, Solar Sox/Cubs
Eric Patterson, Solar Sox/Cubs

Outfielders

Terry Evans, Scorpions/Angels
Travis Buck, Desert Dogs/Athletics
Brent Clevlen, Desert Dogs/Tigers
Fernando Martinez, Solar Sox/Mets
Hunter Pence, Solar Sox/Astros

Coaching Staff (Desert Dogs)

Manager: Tony DeFrancesco, Athletics
Pitching Coach: Tom Signore, Blue Jays
Coaches: Jamie Dismuke, Reds
Steve Livesey, Devil Rays

West Division

Pitchers

Lenny Dinardo, LHP, Javelinas/Red Sox
Giovany Gonzalez, LHP, Saguaros/Phillies
J.A. Happ, LHP, Saguaros/Phillies
Luke Hochevar, RHP, Rafters/Royals
Jesse Ingram, RHP, Rafters/Rangers
Stephen Kahn, RHP, Javelinas/Mariners
Josh Newman, LHP, Rafters/Rockies
Devin Perrin, RHP, Saguaros/Nationals
Tony Sipp, LHP, Javelinas/Indians
William Startup, LHP, Javelinas/Braves
Scott Tyler, RHP, Javelinas/Marlins

Catchers

Neil Walker, Rafters/Pirates
Jarrod Saltalamacchia, Javelinas/Braves

Infielders

Eric Duncan, Saguaros/Yankees
Yunel Escobar, Javelinas/Braves
Michael Garciaparra, Javelinas/Mariners
Chase Headley, Saguaros/Padres
Joe Koshansky, Rafters/Rockies
Kevin Kouzmanoff, Javelinas/Indians
Troy Tulowitzki, Rafters/Rockies

Outfielders

Trevor Crowe, Javelinas/Indians
Jacoby Ellsbury, Javelinas/Red Sox
Mitch Maier, Rafters/Royals
Amaury Marti, Saguaros/Cardinals
Nolan Reimold, Rafters/Orioles

Coaching Staff (Peoria Saguaros)

Manager: Randy Ready, Padres
Pitching Coach: Rick Tomlin, Nationals
Coaches: James Rowson, Yankees
Derek Lilliquist, Cardinals