



**HILLSBORO HOPS PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL**

HIGH-A AFFILIATES OF THE ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS  
OWNED AND OPERATED BY HOPS EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT LLC.



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Hillsboro Hops Announce 2026 Opening Day Roster**

*Five of D-Backs Top 30 Prospects on Roster*

**Hillsboro, Ore. (April 3, 2026)** – The three-time Northwest League champion Hillsboro Hops ([@HillsboroHops](https://twitter.com/HillsboroHops))—in conjunction with their parent club, the Arizona Diamondbacks—released their 2026 Opening Day roster on Friday. The Hillsboro roster will feature the Diamondbacks’ 2024 first round-pick Slade Caldwell, 2025 Diamondbacks’ third-round pick Brian Curley and a pair of former Oregon Ducks, Rio Britton and Logan Mercado. The 132-game schedule begins on Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at PK Park against the San Francisco Giants’ High-A affiliate, Eugene Emeralds. The Hops will host their home opener and first game in the new Hops’ Ballpark on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> against the Spokane Indians.

The 30-player roster features five players listed among the top 30 prospects in the Diamondbacks organization according to MLB.com: OF **Slade Caldwell** (#3), INF **Yassel Soler** (#21), RHP **Brian Curley** (#22), RHP **Wellington Aracena** (#24) and OF **Avery Owusu-Asiedu** (#29).

13 players on the Opening Day roster saw action with Hillsboro in 2025, with 15 players joining the Hillsboro roster for the first time.

### **Hops’ Opening Day Roster:**

#### ***Pitchers (16)***

- Wellington Aracena
- Kyle Ayers
- Jonatan Bernal
- Rio Britton
- Brian Curley
- Joangel Gonzalez
- Caden Grice
- Sawyer Hawks
- Sam Knowlton
- Logan Mercado
- Adonys Perez
- Rocco Reid
- Junior Sanchez
- Sandro Santana
- Nate Savino
- John West

#### ***Catchers (3)***

- Alberto Barriga
- Kenny Castillo
- Adrian De Leon



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### *Infielders (6)*

- Wallace Clark
- Brady Counsell
- Modeifi Marte
- Yerald Nin
- Adrian Rodriguez
- Yassel Soler

### *Outfielders (3)*

- Slade Caldwell
- Avery Owusu-Asiedu
- Trent Youngblood

**Mark Reed** will be managing the Hops again in 2026. Reed, the manager in 2025 and a coach on the Hops' 2024 staff was a third-round pick by the Chicago Cubs in 2004. Also returning to Hillsboro as hitting coach is former MLB Infielder **Jim Adduci** who was on the staff in 2025. Bench coach **Gift Ngoepe** and pitching coach **Blake Nation** will round out the field staff as newcomers to Hillsboro. Athletic trainer **Cat Widay** is returning for her second season, with strength & conditioning coach **Mike Vaca** completing the staff.

The Hops first game in the new Hops Ballpark will be on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> as they welcome the Spokane Indians to town for a six-game series. For the 13th consecutive season, the Hops' flagship radio station is Rip City Radio 620AM. All games can also be streamed online on Bally Live or through MLB.tv.

Tickets for all Hops' home games can be purchased at [hillsborohops.com](https://hillsborohops.com) or by calling 503-640-0887.



# Hillsboro Hops Roster • As of April 2, 2026

Manager: 7 Mark Reed    Pitching Coach: 43 Blake Nation    Hitting Coach: 30 Jim Adduci    Bench Coach: 0 Gift Ngoepe  
Trainer: Cat Widay    Strength Coach: Michael Vaca    Video Coordinator: Jon Gerber

| NO | PITCHERS (16)             | T | HT   | WT  | AGE | BORN     | HOME TOWN              | HIGH SCHOOL              | COLLEGE                                 | ACQUIRED                          | PRO YR | JOINED HOPS** |
|----|---------------------------|---|------|-----|-----|----------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------|---------------|
| 28 | <b>Wellington Aracena</b> | R | 6-3  | 180 | 21  | 12/27/04 | Mao, D.R.              |                          |                                         | Trade from Baltimore, 2/5/26      | 5th    | • Opening Day |
| 2  | <b>Kyle Ayers</b>         | R | 6-1  | 195 | 23  | 3/3/03   | Los Angeles, CA        | Notre Dame HS            | L.A. Valley CC / U Hou / TCU            | 13th round, 2024 draft            | 2nd    | • Opening Day |
| 41 | Jonatan Bernal            | R | 6-1  | 230 | 23  | 6/29/02  | Mazatlan, Sinaloa, MEX |                          |                                         | International free agent, 3/7/26  | 8th    | • Opening Day |
| 21 | <b>Rio Britton</b>        | L | 6-3  | 205 | 23  | 12/23/02 | Ione, CA               | Capital Christian HS     | U of Oregon/NC State U                  | 15th round, 2023 draft            | 3rd    | • Opening Day |
| 17 | <b>Brian Curley</b>       | R | 5-10 | 210 | 22  | 6/1/03   | Midlothian, VA         | Trinity Episcopal School | VCU / U of Georgia                      | 3rd round, 2025 draft             | 1st    | • Opening Day |
| 23 | Joangel Gonzalez          | R | 6-5  | 215 | 21  | 7/1/04   | El Tigre, VZ           | None                     | None                                    | International free agent, 2/9/23  | 4th    | • Opening Day |
| 31 | <b>Caden Grice</b>        | L | 6-6  | 250 | 23  | 6/15/02  | Greer, SC              | Riverside HS             | Clemson U                               | 2nd round, 2023 draft             | 4th    | • Opening Day |
| 34 | Sawyer Hawks              | R | 6-4  | 225 | 22  | 6/25/03  | Lakeland, FL           | McKeel Academy           | Air Force Acad / Vanderbilt U           | 6th round, 2025 draft             | 2nd    | • Opening Day |
| 44 | Sam Knowlton              | R | 6-8  | 260 | 25  | 6/15/00  | Warrior, AL            | Corner HS                | Pensacola State JC / U of South Alabama | 12th round, 2023 draft            | 3rd    | • Opening Day |
| 18 | Logan Mercado             | R | 6-0  | 225 | 24  | 10/19/01 | Pasco, WA              | Tri-Cities Prep          | U of Oregon                             | Minor League free agent, 5/28/25  | 2nd    | • Opening Day |
| 14 | <b>Adonys Perez</b>       | L | 6-3  | 185 | 22  | 10/10/03 | La Romana, DR          |                          |                                         | International free agent, 7/30/22 | 5th    | • Opening Day |
| 33 | Rocco Reid                | L | 6-0  | 205 | 23  | 10/16/02 | Greenville, SC         | Greenville Senior HS     | Clemson U.                              | 15th round, 2024 draft            | 3rd    | • Opening Day |
| 22 | <b>Junior Sanchez</b>     | R | 5-10 | 175 | 20  | 9/16/05  | Santo Domingo, D.R.    |                          |                                         | International free agent, 1/15/23 | 4th    | • Opening Day |
| 16 | Sandro Santana            | L | 5-10 | 150 | 21  | 3/7/05   | Barahona, D.R.         |                          |                                         | International free agent, 1/25/23 | 4th    | • Opening Day |
| 35 | Nate Savino               | L | 6-3  | 220 | 24  | 1/24/02  | Sterling, VA           | Potomac Falls HS         | U of Virginia                           | 3rd round, 2022 draft             | 3rd    | • Opening Day |
| 45 | <b>John West</b>          | R | 6-8  | 265 | 24  | 10/5/01  | Shrewsbury, MA         | Shrewsbury HS            | Boston College                          | 12th round, 2024 draft            | 2nd    | • Opening Day |

Current rotation beginning Fri. 4/3: FRI RH Brian Curley, SAT RH John West, SUN LH Caden Grice and LH Adonys Perez, TUE RH Kyle Ayers, WED RH Junior Sanchez and LH Rio Britton, THU RH Wellington Aracena

| NO | CATCHERS (3)    | B-T | HT  | WT  | AGE | BORN     | HOME TOWN                    | HIGH SCHOOL | COLLEGE | ACQUIRED                          | PRO YR | JOINED HOPS** |
|----|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|------------------------------|-------------|---------|-----------------------------------|--------|---------------|
| 15 | Alberto Barriga | R-R | 5-8 | 195 | 21  | 11/15/04 | Tierra Blanca, Veracruz, MEX |             |         | International free agent, 1/20/22 | 5th    | • Opening Day |
| 13 | Kenny Castillo  | R-R | 6-2 | 220 | 21  | 5/13/04  | Guacara, VZ                  | None        | None    | International free agent, 2/5/21  | 6th    | • Opening Day |
| 4  | Adrian De Leon  | R-R | 5-8 | 200 | 22  | 2/9/04   | Azua, D.R.                   |             |         | International free agent, 1/29/21 | 6th    | • Opening Day |

| NO | INFELDERS (6)    | B-T | HT   | WT  | AGE | BORN     | HOME TOWN           | HIGH SCHOOL                    | COLLEGE                      | ACQUIRED                          | PRO YR | JOINED HOPS** |
|----|------------------|-----|------|-----|-----|----------|---------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------|---------------|
| 5  | Wallace Clark    | S-R | 6-0  | 195 | 23  | 6/8/02   | Tulsa, OK           | Holland Hall HS                | U of Oklahoma / Duke U       | 9th round, 2025 draft             | 2nd    | • Opening Day |
| 8  | Brady Counsell   | R-R | 6-3  | 210 | 22  | 5/3/03   | Whitefish Bay, WI   | Whitefish Bay HS               | U of Minnesota / U of Kansas | 10th round, 2025 draft            | 1st    | • Opening Day |
| 9  | Modeifi Marte    | R-R | 6-1  | 210 | 23  | 7/31/02  | Santo Domingo, D.R. |                                |                              | International free agent, 3/11/22 | 5th    | • Opening Day |
| 24 | Yerald Nin       | L-R | 6-1  | 190 | 20  | 8/18/05  | Santo Domingo, D.R. |                                |                              | International free agent, 1/15/22 | 5th    | • Opening Day |
| 12 | Adrian Rodriguez | R-R | 6-0  | 185 | 22  | 10/21/03 | Guayama, P.R.       | International Baseball Academy | None                         | 8th round, 2022 draft             | 5th    | • Opening Day |
| 10 | Yassel Soler     | R-R | 5-11 | 230 | 20  | 1/26/06  | Santo Domingo, D.R. |                                |                              | International free agent, 1/15/23 | 4th    | • Opening Day |

| NO | OUTFIELDERS (3)    | B-T | HT   | WT  | AGE | BORN    | HOME TOWN      | HIGH SCHOOL      | COLLEGE                               | ACQUIRED                             | PRO YR | JOINED HOPS** |
|----|--------------------|-----|------|-----|-----|---------|----------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|---------------|
| 3  | Slade Caldwell     | L-L | 5-9  | 182 | 19  | 6/18/06 | Jonesboro, AR  | Valley View HS   | None                                  | 1st round (29th overall), 2024 draft | 2nd    | • Opening Day |
| 25 | Avery Owusu-Asiedu | R-R | 6-4  | 245 | 22  | 6/16/03 | Waukesha, WI   | Waukesha West HS | Southern Illinois Univ – Edwardsville | Trade from Philadelphia, 12/19/25    | 6th    | • Opening Day |
| 1  | Trent Youngblood   | L-R | 5-10 | 175 | 24  | 9/4/01  | Louisville, KY | Trinity HS       | Transylvania U (DIII in KY)           | 10th round, 2024 draft               | 2nd    | • Opening Day |

**Bold pitcher name** = currently projected in starting rotation    **IL** = Injured list    **TI** = Temporary Inactive List    **DEV** = Development List    **\*\*** = Date in 2026 added to Hops roster in *current* stint    • On 2026 Opening Day roster

**PRONUNCIATIONS:** Jim Adduci (uh-DOOS-ee)... Wellington Aracena (ar-uh-SAY-nuh)... Kyle Ayers (rhymes with "players")... Alberto Barriga (buh-REE-guh)... Jonatan Bernal (john-uh-tun ber-NALL)... Brady Counsell (council)... Joangel Gonzalez (yo-AWN-hell)... Caden Grice (rhymes with "rice")... Modeifi Marte (moe-DAY-fee mar-TAY)... Logan Mercado (mer-CAH-doe)... Gift Ngoepe (nn-GO-pay)... Yerald Nin (YAIR-uld neen)... Avery Owusu-Asiedu (oh-woo-soo ah-see-AY-doo)... Adonys Perez (uh-DOE-niss PAIR-ez)... Anderson Rojas (Anderson ROW-hoss)... Junior Sanchez (junior SAHN-ches)... Sandro Santana (SAHN-dro sahn-tahn-uh)... Nate Savino (suh-VEE-no)... Yassel Soler (yah-SELL so-LAIR)... Michael Vaca (VOCK-uh)... Cat Widay (wih-DAY)...