

# cubs spring training mesa

**cubs spring training mesa** marks a significant event in the Major League Baseball calendar, drawing fans and sports enthusiasts to the vibrant city of Mesa, Arizona. This annual tradition offers an exceptional opportunity to witness the Chicago Cubs prepare for the upcoming season in a warm, inviting environment. Cubs spring training in Mesa is not only a chance to see top-tier baseball talent in a more intimate setting, but it also provides access to excellent facilities, engaging fan experiences, and the unique charm of the Cactus League. This article explores everything about Cubs spring training in Mesa, including the history, facilities, fan amenities, and tips for attendees. Whether planning a visit or simply interested in the Cubs' preseason activities, this comprehensive guide covers all essential aspects and more.

- History of Cubs Spring Training in Mesa
- Hohokam Stadium: The Cubs' Spring Training Home
- Fan Experience and Amenities
- Spring Training Schedule and Events
- Visiting Mesa for Cubs Spring Training

## History of Cubs Spring Training in Mesa

The Chicago Cubs have a rich history with spring training in Mesa, Arizona, dating back to 1979. This long-standing relationship has made Mesa a central hub for Cubs fans during the preseason months. Over the decades, the Cubs' spring training experience in Mesa has evolved significantly, reflecting changes in the sport, training methods, and fan engagement. The move to Mesa was part of a broader shift of Major League Baseball teams to the Cactus League, which offers favorable weather and top-notch facilities. The Cubs' presence in Mesa has contributed to the city's identity as a baseball destination and has helped foster a strong local fan base.

## Evolution of the Cubs' Spring Training

Since relocating to Mesa, the Cubs have continuously upgraded their training facilities and fan amenities. The original stadium and training grounds were modest compared to today's standards, but ongoing investments have transformed the site into a modern complex. The Cubs' commitment to spring training in Mesa reflects the importance of preseason preparation and player development. This history also highlights memorable moments and legendary players who have passed through Mesa during spring training, adding to the team's legacy.

## **Significance within the Cactus League**

The Cactus League, which includes teams training in Arizona, is renowned for its competitive environment and accessibility for fans. Cubs spring training Mesa fits prominently within this framework, offering a unique blend of tradition and innovation. The league's structure allows fans to attend multiple games and enjoy the region's baseball culture. Mesa's role as a host city enhances the Cactus League's reputation and contributes to the overall appeal of spring training in Arizona.

## **Hohokam Stadium: The Cubs' Spring Training Home**

Hohokam Stadium serves as the primary venue for Cubs spring training Mesa activities. Located in Mesa, Arizona, this stadium is designed to meet the needs of players, coaches, and fans alike. With a seating capacity of approximately 10,500, it provides an intimate yet vibrant atmosphere for spring training games. The stadium's design integrates modern amenities with the historical context of the site, making it a favored destination for baseball enthusiasts. Hohokam Stadium is not only a game-day facility but also a training hub equipped with state-of-the-art resources.

## **Facilities and Features**

The stadium features spacious locker rooms, practice fields, batting cages, and medical facilities to support player health and performance. Additionally, the spectator areas include comfortable seating, concession stands, and merchandise shops dedicated to Cubs memorabilia. The layout ensures excellent sightlines for fans, enabling an immersive viewing experience. Hohokam Stadium's infrastructure is continually maintained and upgraded to keep pace with evolving standards in professional sports venues.

## **Location and Accessibility**

Situated conveniently within Mesa, the stadium is easily accessible by car and public transportation. Ample parking and nearby accommodations make attending Cubs spring training Mesa games a seamless experience for visitors. The location also allows fans to explore Mesa's local attractions before or after games, enhancing the overall visit. Accessibility improvements have prioritized inclusivity, ensuring that all fans can enjoy the spring training atmosphere without difficulty.

## **Fan Experience and Amenities**

The Cubs spring training Mesa experience extends beyond the games to include a variety of fan-oriented services and activities. From interactive zones to food and beverage options, the spring training environment is designed to engage supporters of all ages. Fans can enjoy close-up views of players during batting practice, participate in autograph sessions, and explore Cubs-themed entertainment areas. The combination of professional baseball and fan engagement creates a festive atmosphere unique to spring training.

## **Concessions and Dining Options**

Hohokam Stadium offers a range of food and beverage choices, featuring traditional ballpark fare alongside local specialties. Concessions include classic items such as hot dogs, popcorn, and peanuts, as well as healthier options and craft beverages. The availability of diverse dining options caters to varying tastes and dietary preferences, enhancing the enjoyment of game day.

## **Merchandise and Souvenirs**

Official Cubs merchandise is widely available at the stadium, allowing fans to purchase jerseys, hats, and collectibles. Seasonal items celebrating Cubs spring training Mesa are especially popular, providing memorable keepsakes. Merchandise stands are strategically located for convenience, and the quality of products reflects the team's branding standards.

## **Family-Friendly Activities**

The spring training venue features designated areas for children and families to engage in activities such as face painting, games, and photo opportunities with mascots. These efforts make Cubs spring training Mesa an inclusive event that attracts attendees of all ages. Special promotions and themed nights further enhance the family-friendly environment.

## **Spring Training Schedule and Events**

The Cubs spring training Mesa schedule is a key aspect for fans planning to attend games or related events. The preseason typically begins in late February and runs through March, encompassing a series of exhibition games against other Cactus League teams. The schedule balances competitive play with opportunities for player evaluation and team development. In addition to games, the Cubs organize fan events, meet-and-greets, and community outreach activities throughout spring training.

## **Game Schedule and Ticketing**

The official schedule is released annually, detailing dates, opponents, and game times. Tickets for Cubs spring training Mesa games can be purchased in advance or at the stadium, with options ranging from single-game admissions to multi-game packages. Early booking is recommended due to high demand. Ticket pricing varies based on seating location and game significance.

## **Special Events and Promotions**

Throughout the spring training season, the Cubs host themed nights, giveaways, and autograph sessions to enhance fan engagement. These special events often coincide with holidays or milestones and contribute to a festive atmosphere. Promotions may include discounted tickets, merchandise offers, and interactive contests.

## Community Engagement

The Cubs organization participates in community events during spring training Mesa, including youth clinics, charity fundraisers, and public appearances by players and coaches. These initiatives deepen the connection between the team and local residents, emphasizing the role of spring training beyond baseball.

## Visiting Mesa for Cubs Spring Training

Attending Cubs spring training Mesa games offers visitors a chance to explore the broader attractions of the city and surrounding areas. Mesa, Arizona, is known for its desert landscapes, cultural sites, and recreational opportunities. Planning a trip to coincide with spring training can combine sports fandom with tourism, providing a well-rounded experience. Understanding travel logistics, accommodations, and local highlights is essential for a successful visit.

## Travel and Transportation

Mesa is accessible via Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, located approximately 20 miles from Hohokam Stadium. Visitors can use rental cars, taxis, or rideshare services to reach the stadium and local hotels. Public transportation options also serve the area, offering cost-effective alternatives. Traffic management during spring training is organized to minimize congestion.

## Accommodations

The city features a wide range of lodging options, from budget motels to upscale resorts. Many hotels offer special packages during spring training to attract Cubs fans. Proximity to the stadium varies, with some accommodations within walking distance and others requiring a short drive. Early reservations are advisable due to increased demand during the spring training season.

## Local Attractions and Dining

Beyond baseball, Mesa offers numerous attractions such as the Arizona Museum of Natural History, Utery Mountain Regional Park, and a vibrant downtown area with restaurants and shops. Visitors can enjoy southwestern cuisine, explore art galleries, or participate in outdoor activities. The combination of sports and tourism makes Mesa an appealing destination during Cubs spring training.

## Tips for Visitors

- Arrive early to explore the stadium and participate in pre-game activities.
- Stay hydrated and use sun protection, as Arizona's climate can be warm

and sunny.

- Check the official Cubs spring training Mesa schedule for any last-minute changes.
- Consider attending multiple games to experience different opponents and atmospheres.
- Engage with local businesses to support the community and enhance your visit.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **When does Cubs Spring Training in Mesa usually start?**

Cubs Spring Training in Mesa typically begins in mid-February and runs through late March.

### **Where do the Chicago Cubs hold their Spring Training in Mesa?**

The Chicago Cubs hold their Spring Training at Sloan Park in Mesa, Arizona.

### **How can I buy tickets for Cubs Spring Training games in Mesa?**

Tickets for Cubs Spring Training games at Sloan Park can be purchased online through the official Chicago Cubs website or at the ballpark box office.

### **What are some popular activities to do around Sloan Park during Cubs Spring Training?**

Around Sloan Park, fans can enjoy dining at local restaurants, visiting nearby golf courses, and exploring downtown Mesa attractions.

### **Are there any COVID-19 protocols for attending Cubs Spring Training in Mesa?**

COVID-19 protocols may vary each year; it is advised to check the official Chicago Cubs or Sloan Park website for the latest health and safety guidelines before attending.

### **Can I meet Cubs players during Spring Training in Mesa?**

While player availability varies, fans often have opportunities for autographs and interactions during batting practice and fan events at Sloan Park.

## **What is the best way to get to Sloan Park for Cubs Spring Training games?**

The best way to get to Sloan Park is by car, with ample parking available; alternatively, some shuttle services and rideshares operate around game times.

## **Are there any special events or promotions during Cubs Spring Training in Mesa?**

Yes, the Cubs often host themed game nights, giveaways, and fan appreciation events throughout Spring Training at Sloan Park.

## **What is the seating capacity of Sloan Park where Cubs Spring Training takes place?**

Sloan Park has a seating capacity of approximately 15,000, making it the largest Spring Training stadium in Major League Baseball.

## **Additional Resources**

### *1. Spring Awakening: The Cubs' Mesa Training Journey*

This book offers an in-depth look at the Chicago Cubs' spring training experience in Mesa, Arizona. It covers the history of the Cubs' training facility, player preparations, and behind-the-scenes moments that define the team's preseason. Fans get an insider's perspective on how the team gears up for the regular season.

### *2. Field of Dreams: Cubs Spring Training in Mesa*

Explore the vibrant atmosphere of Cubs spring training in Mesa through this engaging narrative. The book highlights memorable games, player development stories, and the community's role in supporting the team. It's a celebration of baseball's traditions and the Cubs' dedication to excellence.

### *3. Cubs Camp Chronicles: Mesa Edition*

This collection of stories and interviews captures the energy and excitement of spring training in Mesa. Readers learn about key players' routines, coaching strategies, and the challenges faced during camp. The book also features personal anecdotes from players and staff that bring the experience to life.

### *4. Mesa Magic: How Cubs Spring Training Shapes a Season*

Discover how the Cubs' time in Mesa influences their performance throughout the year. This book analyzes training techniques, team chemistry building, and the role of the Mesa facility in player health and readiness. It provides a detailed look at the preparation that sets the foundation for success.

### *5. Behind the Scenes at Cubs Spring Training Mesa*

Gain access to the hidden aspects of the Cubs' spring training in Mesa with this revealing book. From clubhouse routines to media interactions and player rehab, it offers a comprehensive view of the preseason environment. Readers get to see what goes into making spring training a crucial part of the Cubs' calendar.

### *6. Cubs in the Desert: Mesa Spring Training Stories*

This book compiles a variety of personal stories from players, coaches, and fans who experience Cubs spring training in Mesa. It captures the spirit of community, competition, and hope that surrounds the annual event. Through vivid storytelling, it portrays how the desert setting becomes a backdrop for baseball dreams.

#### *7. The Cubs' Mesa Spring Training Legacy*

Tracing the evolution of the Cubs' spring training in Mesa, this book documents key moments and milestones over the years. It highlights how the facility and training programs have grown to support the team's ambitions. Readers will appreciate the historical context and the impact on modern baseball.

#### *8. Pitching Perfection: Cubs Spring Training Mesa Techniques*

Focused on the art and science of pitching, this book examines how Cubs pitchers use spring training in Mesa to refine their skills. It delves into training drills, biomechanics, and coaching philosophies that contribute to pitching success. The book is a valuable resource for aspiring players and baseball enthusiasts alike.

#### *9. From Mesa to the Majors: Cubs' Spring Training Success Stories*

Highlighting players who made significant strides during spring training in Mesa, this book tells inspiring stories of growth and achievement. It showcases how the early season preparation can launch careers and shape the Cubs' roster. Readers will find motivation in these tales of perseverance and talent development.

## **Cubs Spring Training Mesa**

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**cubs spring training mesa: Spring Training Handbook** Josh Pahigian, 2013-06-12 Spring training is a time of renewal for baseball, when teams and fans descend on Florida and Arizona to begin the ever hopeful new season. The pace is a little slower, the fans are closer to the action, and the players are more accessible: the sport returns to its idyllic roots. When the first edition of this book was released, 18 of the MLB teams trained in Florida and 12 in Arizona. As 2013 arrives each league consists of 15 teams; together they utilize 14 parks in Florida and 10 in Arizona. This heavily illustrated work dedicates a chapter to each park, including modern Cactus League marvels like Camelback Ranch and Salt River Fields, and Grapefruit League bastions like Joker Marchant Stadium and McKechnie Field. Florida's Fenway Park replica, which opened in 2012, is included. In addition to profiling the five parks that have opened since the first edition, the author has updated the other chapters. Each provides a description of the park, and a recounting of its history, followed by a summary of the home team or teams' spring history. Next is a review of the park's seating, concessions and fan traditions. Each chapter concludes with information about nearby baseball landmarks and attractions.

**cubs spring training mesa: Under the March Sun** Charles Fountain, 2009-03-04 There is nothing in all of American sport quite like baseball's spring training. This annual six-week ritual,

whose origins date back nearly a century and a half, fires the hearts and imaginations of fans who flock by the hundreds of thousands to places like Dodgertown to glimpse superstars and living legends in a relaxed moment and watch the drama of journeyman veterans and starry-eyed kids in search of that last spot on the bench. In *Under the March Sun*, Charles Fountain recounts for the first time the full and fascinating history of spring training and its growth from a shoestring-budget roadtrip to burn off winter calories into a billion-dollar-a-year business. In the early days southern hotels only reluctantly admitted ballplayers--and only if they agreed not to mingle with other guests. Today cities fight for teams by spending millions in public money to build ever-more-elaborate spring-training stadiums. In the early years of the 20th century, the mayor of St. Petersburg, Florida, Al Lang, first realized that coverage in northern newspapers every spring was publicity his growing city could never afford to buy. As the book demonstrates, cities have been following Lang's lead ever since, building identities and economies through the media exposure and visitors that spring training brings. An entertaining cultural history that taps into the romance of baseball even as it reveals its more hard-nosed commercial machinations, *Under the March Sun* shows why spring training draws so many fans southward every March. While the prices may be growing and the intimacy and accessibility shrinking, they come because the sunshine and sense of hope are timeless.

**cubs spring training mesa: Cubs Time** Andrew Lee, 2020-05-15 Book Delisted

**cubs spring training mesa: Chicago Cubs** Fred Mitchell, 2013-03 Mitchell catches up with former Cubs players-- some of them famous, some of them obscure, all of them unforgettable. Find out what happened after the gloves came off.

**cubs spring training mesa: Bringing the Civic Back In** Larry Bennett, John D. Fairfield, Patricia Mooney-Melvin, 2022-09-09 Commemorates the legacy of the late urban historian Zane L. Miller--

**cubs spring training mesa: Chicago Cubs Firsts** Al Yellon, 2024-06-04 In the more than 140-year-history of the Chicago Cubs, fans have been treated to countless firsts — well-known things such as the first Cubs Black player (Ernie Banks), the first night game at Wrigley (August 9, 1988 vs. the Mets), the first to win a Gold Glove and Silver Slugger in the same year (Ryne Sandberg), and the first Cubs pitcher to win the Cy Young Award (Ferguson Jenkins). The list goes on. In *Chicago Cubs Firsts*, Al Yellon presents the stories behind those and other firsts in Cubs history in question-and-answer format. More than a mere trivia book, Yellon's collection includes substantive answers to the question of "Who (or when) was the first..." on a variety of topics, many of which will surprise even seasoned fans of the North Siders.

**cubs spring training mesa: Cubs** Fred Mitchell, 2004 Written by veteran Chicago Tribune sportswriter Mitchell, this unique look back at Chicago baseball history researches 50 former Cubs players--some of them famous, many of them fairly obscure, all of them unforgettable.

**cubs spring training mesa: Ralph Kiner** Robert P. Broadwater, 2016-04-13 Ralph Kiner (1922-2014) was one of the most feared power hitters of his era. Babe Ruth predicted Kiner would be the slugger most likely to break Ruth's single season home run record. While the left fielder from New Mexico missed that mark, he did break one of the Babe's records, leading his league in home runs for seven consecutive seasons--a record unbroken since. Kiner set his records while playing for some of the worst teams ever to take the field. With little support in the Pittsburgh Pirates lineup, pitchers were often able to work around Kiner, walking him dozens of times per season. Despite this, Kiner made them pay for their mistakes, sending towering flies over the fences. After just 10 years in the league, Kiner's career on the field was cut short by chronic back pain. At retirement, his 369 home runs placed him sixth on the all-time list. He didn't leave baseball, however, serving as general manager of a minor league team and later announcing for the newly formed New York Mets in 1962, where he would be the voice of the team for more than fifty years. This is his story.

**cubs spring training mesa: Brain Freeze - 321 °F** J. P. Polidoro, 2011-03-04

**cubs spring training mesa: The Bilko Athletic Club** Gaylon H. White, 2014-03-06 During the 1956 baseball season in the city of Los Angeles, Mickey Mantle's pursuit of Babe Ruth's

single-season home run record was matched only by the day-to-day drama of Steve Bilko's exploits in the Pacific Coast League. While Mantle was winning the Triple Crown in the American League, Bilko was doing the same in the highest of all the minor leagues with the Los Angeles Angels. He led the league hitters in eight categories, and the Angels romped to the pennant. Bilko hit one mighty home run after another to earn Minor League Player of the Year honors and inspire the team's nickname, "The Bilko Athletic Club." The Bilko Athletic Club tells the story of the 1956 Los Angeles Angels, a team of castoffs and kids built around Steve Bilko, a bulky, beer-loving basher of home runs. Author Gaylon H. White provides an intimate portrait of life in minor league baseball in the 1950s and gives readers a glimpse inside the heads and hearts of the players as they experience the same doubts and frustrations many face in the pursuit of a dream. The Angels' unforgettable season unfolds through stories told by the players themselves, as they racked up runs and rolled to a 107-61 won-loss record, finishing sixteen games ahead of their closest competitor. Featuring in-depth interviews with Steve Bilko and twenty-five of his '56 Angels teammates, The Bilko Athletic Club also includes several photos and is highlighted by never-before-told anecdotes. A fascinating account of a season to remember, The Bilko Athletic Club will take fans and historians of the national pastime back to the golden era of baseball.

**cubs spring training mesa: *Maybe Next Year*** Greg Pearson, 2016-10-29 Sports fans are a devoted bunch, win or lose. Millions sit in the wind and the cold, watching their team slip ever further from the playoffs--only to come back for more next year. What is it that keeps them going? This book, published just before the Cubs ended the longest active drought in pro sports, features more than 100 loyal followers of 23 teams who explain their reasons for never giving up. They tell stories of devotion and determination: the Toronto Maple Leafs fans who got married, on the ice, before a game; the Sacramento Kings supporters who fought to keep their team from leaving town; and the fans of Mississippi State football with their never-say-die cowbells. For these fans, optimism outweighs disappointment.

**cubs spring training mesa: *The Zobrist Family: Look What God Can Do*** Tom Zobrist, 2017-12-05 Look What God Can Do is a heartwarming story of family and faith. Pastor Tom Zobrist shares insights on how God works in our lives, as well as wisdom that he has garnered over decades of service to the Lord as an Air Force recruit, student, minister, husband, father, and friend. This deeply personal story reveals lessons learned over a lifetime of faith and service, with practical Christian advice on topics ranging from marriage and child-rearing to baseball coaching and more. Follow Tom's journey of faith from his high school days in Morton, Illinois, to game seven of the 2016 World Series, where his son Ben made history as the MVP of the world champion Chicago Cubs. You'll learn, as Tom and his family have learned, what incredible things God can do if you just let him work through you.

**cubs spring training mesa: *Holy Cow!*** Harry Caray, 2013-04-24 Writing with Chicago Tribune sports columnist Verdi, Harry Caray recaps his decades in the booth, paying special attention to the owners he has dealt with, particularly Gussie Busch, Charley Finley and Bill Veeck. He also explains his philosophy of success in the booth, which is to think of himself primarily as a fan explaining the game to his fellow fans and pointing out players' failures as well as strengths. In this memoir, he recalls players he has admired, beginning with his all-time favorite, Stan Musial, and including Reggie Jackson, Richie Allen, and Ryne Sandberg.

**cubs spring training mesa: *The Lords of the Realm*** John Helyar, 2011-07-27 The ultimate chronicle of the games behind the game.—The New York Times Book Review Baseball has always inspired rhapsodic elegies on the glory of man and golden memories of wonderful times. But what you see on the field is only half the game. In this fascinating, colorful chronicle—based on hundreds of interviews and years of research and digging—John Helyar brings to vivid life the extraordinary people and dramatic events that shaped America's favorite pastime, from the dead-ball days at the turn of the century through the great strike of 1994. Witness zealous Judge Landis banish eight players, including Shoeless Joe Jackson, after the infamous Black Sox scandal; the flamboyant A's owner Charlie Finley wheel and deal his star players, Vida Blue and Rollie Fingers, like a deck of

cards; the hysterical bidding war of coveted free agent Catfish Hunter; the chain-smoking romantic, A. Bartlett Giamatti, locking horns with Pete Rose during his gambling days of summer; and much more. Praise for *The Lords of the Realm* A must-read for baseball fans . . . reads like a suspense novel.—Kirkus Reviews Refreshingly hard-headed . . . the only book you'll need to read on the subject.—Newsday Lots of stories . . . well told, amusing . . . edifying.—The Washington Post

**cubs spring training mesa: Peace of the Mind** D. J. Blue, 2008-07 *Peace of the Mind* is D.J. Blue's follow-up to 2005's *The Good Life Chronicles*. Once again, he covers a wide array of topics, this time including several chapters on Christian spirituality. Included among them: an in-depth analysis of the Bible, covering questions answered as well as questions raised while reading the Bible; the debate between Catholics and Protestants on different spiritual issues is discussed; and Rick Warren's best-selling spiritual book *The Purpose Driven Life* is also reviewed, including eerie parallels to topics brought up in *The Good Life Chronicles*. Readers of that preceding book will recognize other familiar topics: the annual Taconite Trophy Classic continues to be immortalized via the written word, as each year's golf tournament has been chronicled herein; the fourth installment chapter on women, always popular yet provocative with the female crowd, is included; and a complete *Seinfeld* episodic list (partially referenced in the previous book) is now given its just due--the entire classic series is reviewed, episode by episode. This is just a sample of the various topics and experiences covered. *Peace of the Mind* concludes the Thousand Page Trilogy with an over-all introspective and occasionally subtle spiritual theme running through many of the chapters, reflecting the accomplishments, the struggles and the aspirations of life itself.

**cubs spring training mesa: As They See 'Em** Bruce Weber, 2009-03-17 *Named One of the Best Baseball Books Ever Written* by Esquire An insider's look at the largely unknown world of professional umpires, the small group of men (and the very occasional woman) who make sure America's favorite pastime is conducted in a manner that is clean, crisp, and true. Millions of American baseball fans know, with absolute certainty, that umpires are simply overpaid galoots who are doing an easy job badly. Millions of American baseball fans are wrong. Bruce Weber, a New York Times reporter, not only interviewed dozens of professional umpires but entered their world, trained to become an umpire, then spent a season working games from Little League to big league spring training. *As They See 'Em* is Weber's entertaining account of this experience as well as a lively exploration of what amounts to an eccentric secret society, with its own customs, its own rituals, its own colorful vocabulary. Writing with deep knowledge of and affection for baseball, he delves into such questions as: Why isn't every strike created equal? Is the ump part of the game or outside of it? Why doesn't a tie go to the runner? And what do umps and managers say to each other during an argument, really? Packed with fascinating reportage that reveals the game as never before and answers the kinds of questions that fans, exasperated by the clichés of conventional sports commentary, pose to themselves around the television set, Bruce Weber's *As They See 'Em* is a towering grand slam.

**cubs spring training mesa: Out of the Park** Ed Mickelson, 2007-04-16 During the Golden Age of baseball, as many as 59 minor leagues operated in a single season, and hundreds of G.I.s returning home from World War II competed in them for the big break that would land them one of only 400 spots on 16 teams in the majors. These were truly the days when athletes played purely for the love of the game, motivated by goals that seemed always just beyond their fingertips. Among the many men who endured shocking extremes in pursuit of that diamond-plate dream was first baseman Ed Mickelson. This book relates the entirety of his 11-year struggle against the odds of success. A talented athlete from his early youth, Mickelson followed the game he loved across continental America, winning some and losing some, but always persevering. While a recruit for Lynchburg in the Class B Piedmont League, Mickelson maintained a league-leading .393 batting average. When traded to the Southeastern League in Montgomery, Alabama, he scaled his previous statistic to achieve an average of .417. In his first major league start, an ailing Stan Musial provided the opportunity for Ed to get one of only two hits against Hall of Famer Warren Spahn. After batting .335 and driving in 139 runs at Shreveport, Louisiana, in the Texas League, Ed was honored to

become first pick among 8500 players in the Minor League draft in 1954, making him a Portland Beaver in the Pacific Coast League. This book captures the fierceness of his struggle throughout his career before the man who drove in the last run of the St. Louis Browns would eventually hand over his bat and go home. Despite his impressive statistics--the second highest batting average in the Pacific Coast League and the best fielding percentage among first basemen--Mickelson traded in professional baseball for a career of high school counseling and coaching young athletes, some becoming professionals themselves. His story is told here for veterans, scholars and fans alike, revealing first-hand the both difficult and rewarding challenges of the big game.

**cubs spring training mesa:** *The Book of Joe* Joe Maddon, Tom Verducci, 2022-10-11 Lessons in baseball enlightenment from three-time MLB Manager of the Year Joe Maddon. No one sees baseball like Joe Maddon. He sees it through his trademark glasses and irrepressible wit. Raised in the "shot and beer" town of Hazleton, PA, and forged by 15 years in the minors, Maddon over 19 seasons in Tampa Bay, Chicago, and Anaheim has become one of the most successful, most colorful, and most quoted managers in Major League Baseball. He is a workplace culture expert, having engineered two of the most stunning turnarounds in the past quarter century: taking the Rays from the worst record in baseball one year to the World Series the next and leading the Cubs to their first World Series title in 108 years. Like his teams, Maddon defies convention. He is part strategist, part philosopher, part sports psychologist, and part motivational coach. In *THE BOOK OF JOE*, Maddon gives readers unique insights into the game, including the tension between art and data, the changing role of managers as front offices gain power, why the honeymoon with the Cubs did not last, and what it's like to manage the modern player, including stars such as Shohei Ohtani, Mike Trout, Albert Pujols, Yu Darvish, and Kris Bryant. But you expect even more from a manager who meditates daily, admires Twain, and has only one rule when it comes to a team dress code: "If you think you look hot, wear it!" And Maddon delivers. Built on old school values and new-school methods, his wisdom applies beyond the dugout. His mantras about leadership, mentorship, team building, and communication are meditations on life, not just baseball. Among those mantras are: "Do simple better." "Try not to suck." "Don't ever permit the pressure to exceed the pleasure." "See it with first-time eyes." "Tell me what you think, not what you've heard." *THE BOOK OF JOE* is Maddon at his uniquely holistic best. It is a memoir of a fascinating baseball journey, an insider's look at a changing game, and a guidebook on leadership and life.

**cubs spring training mesa:** *Chicago Tribune Index*, 1995

**cubs spring training mesa:** *One Line Drive* Daniel Ponce de Leon, 2021-03-09 Daniel Ponce de Leon's hard-fought journey to Major League Baseball and recovery from a near-death injury, followed by his astonishing big league debut, will inspire readers to trust God in all circumstances. The path you take to achieving your dreams is not always easy. Daniel Ponce de Leon, an acclaimed pitcher for the St. Louis Cardinals, overcame many challenges to get to the Major Leagues. Drafted four times, he spent a long four years climbing his way up through the minors before finally reaching AAA, only one step away from the Major Leagues. Then, Daniel's dream was almost shattered when he was struck in the head by a line drive. Spending weeks in the hospital and months recovering from a large epidural hematoma, skull fracture, brain swelling, and hemorrhaging, Daniel held on to his belief that he would one day realize his dream. Fourteen months later, and fully recovered, he made his first Major League start, becoming the fifth pitcher in modern Major League history to throw seven innings of no-hit ball in his first outing. MLB.com referred to it as one of the greatest debuts in Major League Baseball history. In *One Line Drive*, Daniel retells his remarkable journey, sharing how he never would have made it without his faith in God and the support of family and friends. Full of grit, determination, and faith, Daniel's story is an inspiring reminder to keep pressing on regardless of any setback or disappointment.

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