

Holy crap, spring training is starting. The Dodgers had their Pitcher/Catcher report on the 17th, with their first full squad workout on the 23rd. I can't believe baseball's starting again and it almost makes you forget that Covid is still a thing. Anyways, this year the Dodgers have 31 non-roster invitees with a mixture of fresh talent, promising prospects, and veterans attempting a comeback. Let's have a look.

Pitchers:

- RHP Josiah Gray
- RHP Michael Grove
- RHP Landon Knack
- RHP Nolan Long
- RHP Jose Martinez
- RHP Bobby Miller
- RHP Brandon Morrow
- RHP Jimmy Nelson
- RHP Ryan Pepiot
- RHP Nick Robertson
- RHP Gus Varland
- RHP Kendall Williams
- LHP Mike Kickham
- LHP Robinson Ortiz
- LHP James Pazos
- LHP Enny Romero

Some of the names you probably recognize. [Jimmy Nelson](#) signed a 1 year deal in 2020, but was sidelined the entire season after going through back surgery. Now he's back on a minor league contract and honestly out of everyone on this list, Nelson has the best chance of making it onto the 40-man. [Brandon Morrow](#) will throw his first big league pitch since 2018. His first game will tell us how much he's regressed and if he can make another resurgence, but we're all rooting for him to do so. [Josiah Gray](#) is the Dodgers' top prospect not in the MLB (that goes to Keibert Ruiz), ranking #58 on Pipelines' Top 100. Gray was part of that huge salary dump trade with the Reds (RIP Puig) and has climbed up to AA with very impressive numbers, posting a 2.75 ERA with a 1.119 WHIP and 25% SO rate. Pipeline predicts Gray will make his MLB debut this season, most likely during September call ups.

The names that are more obscure include [Gus Varland](#), the recently acquired prospect from A's (traded for [Adam Kolarek](#)). [Bobby Miller](#) was the Dodgers' 1st round pick in 2020 and this will be the first time he's pitched professionally since the minors were closed last season. He's only 21 and he left his last year at Louisville with an absolute gem of a season, so his ceiling is very high. [Ryan Pepiot](#) and [Nick Robertson](#) were both draft picks from 2019 and did well in their one season of rookie ball and will probably be promoted to High-A - AA throughout the season. [Kendall Williams](#) was one of two Players to be Named Later when the Dodgers traded Ross Stripling to the Blue Jays last season. The 6'6" 2nd round pick was a surprising acquisition and has serious potential if the Dodgers can utilize his size for speed.

<iframe width="560" height="315" src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/MErIPzn8wMg" frameborder="0" allow="accelerometer; autoplay; clipboard-write; encrypted-media; gyroscope; picture-in-picture" allowfullscreen></iframe>

His fastball sits at around 90-95 on a good day and he has a curveball and slider for his offspeed pitches at average to above average spin rates. Of course the speed and spin rates are subject to go up since he's only 20 and is still developing, so keep this kid on your radar.

Catchers

- Stevie Berman
- Tim Federowicz
- Hunter Feduccia

Older Dodger fans probably remember [Tim Federowicz](#) back in the early 2010's. Since then he's been bouncing from minor league clubs and hasn't particularly stood out over his 13 year career. [Stevie Berman](#) was drafted in 2016 and has done fairly well in the minors and peaking at AA. Despite his decent batting average and OBP (.259 and .342), he doesn't hit for extra bases very well (.369 SLG). Unless the 26 year old finds some power or pull, he'll probably end up as a backup catcher in the league at best. But none of these guys are taking a spot from [Austin Barnes](#), [Will Smith](#), or [Keibert Ruiz](#).

Infielders

- Jacob Amaya
- Andy Burns
- Michael Busch
- Matt Davidson
- Omar Estevez
- Kody Hoese
- Devin Mann
- Rangel Ravelo
- Elliot Soto
- Miguel Vargas

[Jacob Amaya](#) is the 10th ranked prospect on the Dodgers, drafted in the 11th round in 2017 from West Covina (eyyy). Amaya spent time between Low-A and High-A ball in 2019 and hit above average with a .260/.369/.391 triple slash. [Andy Burns](#) was drafted by the Toronto Blue Jays in 2011, but spent most of his career in AAA. He did make his MLB debut in 2016, but went hitless in his only 6 at bats and has yet to record a big league hit. Since then, he's spent time in the KBO and other international leagues, but for now he's here with the Dodgers. [Michael Busch](#) is ranked #4 in the farm, but saw limited time in 2019 after an injury. Busch was originally a 1st baseman, but was drafted as a 2nd baseman to fill the infield holes. He has performed well in his limited appearances, but he's also split time at 1st base and the outfield. In

his 10 games in 2019, Busch hit .182/.474/.182, but that doesn't mean anything and he has quite a high ceiling once he gets a full season in.

`<blockquote class="twitter-tweet"><p lang="en" dir="ltr">#Mets shortstop Andrés Giménez legs this one out, but that's one heck of an effort by #Dodgers 2b Michael Busch pic.twitter.com/BAqKRLJkx9</p>— Jonathan Mayo (@JonathanMayo) October 20, 2019</blockquote> <script async src="https://platform.twitter.com/widgets.js" charset="utf-8"></script>`

[Kody Hoese](#) is the most recognizable name here who's not Matt Davidson (already talked about him). He's the highest Dodger prospect who isn't Josiah Gray or Keibert Ruiz. Drafted in the 1st round in 2018, Hoese spent his first season between Rookie Ball and Low-A, hitting a nice .299/.380/.483 with an OPS of .863. The biggest questions are his fielding and if he can keep up his hot bat in High-A or even AA. He has good plate discipline, striking out only 17%, but we'll see how he does this year. His MLB debut project is 2022 so there's a lot of expectations from him this season. [Miguel Vargas](#) was signed in the Dominican when he was 18 and in his first minor league season, he cruised through Rookie and Low-A, hitting .330/.404/.465. His bat didn't cool down and in 2019 he had another monster triple slash of .308/.380/.440. His issue right now is fielding. He doesn't have a definitive spot in the infield, playing around 1st, 2nd, and 3rd base, with 3rd base being his worst position. Realistically, he'll probably become a first baseman but the Dodgers have time to develop the young 21 year old.

Outfielders

- James Outman
- Andy Pages

[James Outman](#) was the 7th round pick in 2018 and played pretty average in Low-A, hitting .226/.322/.407. He has some decent power, but his plate discipline is lacking, striking out a whopping 29%. Primarily in center field, Outman dabbled in playing infield in 2019 playing 2 games at shortstop and 1st base. I doubt they'll convert him into a utility player, but it's hard to give him a spot in the MLB with the Dodgers' crowded outfield. [Andy Pages](#) is a Dominican player who is rank #12 in Dodger prospects. He spent all of 2019 in rookie ball where he went on a tear hitting .298/.398/.651 for an OPS of 1.049. He should be promoted to Low-A this season and maybe even AA if things go well. He's only 20 years old so unless he breaks out in a huge, Juan Soto-like way, don't expect his call up until around 2023.

Final Thoughts

For the young guys I didn't mention, they're not scrubs. Almost all the prospects invited are part of the Dodgers top 30 prospects, I just don't know enough about them.

Let spring training begin.

