

2024

ELDERS OF ZION – Standard Instructions

(Do not use computer managers for the Elders. Please send gamesheets for all road games.)

Lineups for April road games (May on monthly lineups will be sent)

Vs LHP – Hays 7 Farmer 5 Blackmon DH McLain 6 Candelario 3 D’Arnaud 2 Haniger 8 Benintendi 9 Rodgers 4

Vs RHP – Benintendi 9 Gelof 4 Henderson 5 Seager 6 Candelario 3 Blackmon DH Taveras 8 Kirk 2 Hays 7

GENERAL GUIDELINES – OFFENSE/POSITION PLAYERS

There will be 5 Elders on the offensive bench April to October, with a handful of guys rotating through the roster from month to month. Here’s how they sort out in general:

1B – CANDELARIO most every day – with his new ability to steal the occasional base, not much reason to remove him during a game. **RIVAS** will be up during a couple of months to fill in for 15-20 games as a platoon option vs RHP. During those months he is a valid defensive replacement at first, and a secondary PH vs. RHP.

2B – RODGERS starts vs LHP , **GELOF** or **McLAIN** vs. **RHP**. For the moment do not use **GELOF** off the bench if he’s not starting. **GELOF**’s big shift will make him leave the game in key bats vs LHP – if removed, **FARMER** rather than **RODGERS** would be the defensive replacement at second in-game.

SS – SEAGER starts vs RH, **McLAIN** vs LHP. One can PH for the other, but only in a game tying or GW spot late to neutralize the shift if the switch increases on base chances.

3B – HENDERSON starts vs RH, **FARMER** vs LH. Unlike **GELOF** and **SEAGER**, Gunnar should be a prime PH/IF sub vs RH relievers or a possible PR whenever not starting.

OF – HAYS, TAVERAS, BENINTENDI comprise the OF most days. **HANIGER** will sub for **TAVERAS** vs LH when he’s on the active roster. **BADDOO** will start a few games in the OF to spell the starters. **PALACIOS** will mainly serve as a PH versus LH when active.

DH – BLACKMON DHs most days most months. When he is down (June/July), Kirk will C and D’Arnaud will DH versus LH, and **BADDOO** will DH vs RH.

C – Back down to two C, who will platoon (**KIRK** vs RH, **D’Arnaud** vs LH). There’s enough extra usage that the starter can be pulled for a PH vs good RH pitching late in close games. **KIRK** can also be a defensive replacement..

GENERAL GUIDELINES – PITCHING STAFF (Part A – The Starters)

The starting staff is back in the middle of the TBL road. **CASTILLO** gives us 33 starts of Grade 13, and **LUZARDO** 32 starts of an 11. We'd like to get them into the 6th inning every time out, and occasionally into the 7th if they're cruising. Most of the other starts are in the hands of three Grade 9s whose peripherals and fatigue will give them shorter hooks. Indeed, since most of the 5th-6th starter job belongs to good Gr 7 Alex **COBB**, he may outlast the lesser 9's some games. All three are candidates for removal anytime after 5. **FERNANDO CRUZ** will serve as the opener for the two double-header games on the schedule.

The four rules to follow absolutely for the starters are as follows: 1) no starter (except **CRUZ**) leaves before the fifth, unless forced out by runs; 2) no starter pitches after being fatigued if the game is within 2 runs 6th on; 3) that any starter should be replaced 7th on if they put the tying/lead (T/L) run on base (6th on); and 4) that the late inning relievers should be in to protect any 1-2 run lead in the 8th or 9th , and also come on in the 7th to stop a jam if the score is 0/+3, and a change will steal more hits than the P that is in. Everything else is under your discretion, within the reliever guidelines discussed below.

GENERAL GUIDELINES – PITCHING STAFF (PART B – The Relievers)

There are four parts to the 2017 Zion bullpen – as outlined below..

1) Closer – **ALVARADO (20*** for 41 IP) and **URIBE (25* for 31 IP)** will share the job, with one up each month. Both are wild, and good vs. the HR. Maximum 4 outs per appearance – so can get last out of the 8th, or the first out of the 10th, but no more.

2) The set-up men. There are three main setup men (**SEWALD R15**, **HAMILTON R15**, and **MLODZINSKI R17**) with a total of 155 innings with either 2 or 4 up every month. They should be pitching the 7th and 8th when we are leading or tied, or even a short outing to snuff out a rally in the 6th. Because their innings total is a bit thin, the “good 12*” (**TAYLOR ROGERS**, the only double plus peripherals pitcher in the pen will have to help out in this section of the game as well.

3) The middle men (Grades 11-12) are Rogers, Jansen, Schreiber, and LH Genesis Cabrera and contribute over 220 innings to the cause. They will work the 6th when we lead and go to the pen early, or later in games we're trailing but not out of it.

4) The long men – 66 innings of Cruz R10 and 60 innings of Garcia R9. They work early, or mop up, or try to grab an extra +5 to bail out a middle man who's struggling.

There are just over 575 innings of these guys, so use them hard when a game looks to be winnable, and stick with starters as long as possible in games where we're far ahead or behind. Because there are a lot of middling grades toward the rear, don't be afraid to open the bullpen door more than once in an inning to stop a rally from getting too far.

DEFENSIVE STRATEGY OPTIONS

INTENTIONAL WALK – Rarely, if ever.

HOLD RUNNERS – Always vs. PL batter; otherwise, only hold runners with adjSSN of 23+.

INFIELD IN/DEEP – Play IN 8th on with <2 out if runner on 3rd is T/L run; otherwise, play DEEP.

OUTFIELD THROWS – 1) ALWAYS throw if runner chance is < 33. 2) ALWAYS throw for lead runner, unless he is not T/L run, and trail runner chance is 7+ lower. Computer managers, play as you would your team, but never let the potential winning run cross the plate uncontested 7th on.

DEF. REPLACEMENTS – Defense is better overall with this year's Elders, but during most of this year there should be a limited number of possible defensive moves:

1) **RODGERS** can sub defensively at 2B as needed.

2) **KIRK** can replace **D'ARNAUD** late to slow the running game.

3) If active **RIVAS** can sub defensively at 1B if we're leading 8th on and he's not scheduled to bat in the 9th.

OFFENSIVE STRATEGY OPTIONS (Order of Preference – SB, H&R, sacrifice)

STEALS: In order to steal, I like to have an adjSSN (after all P and C adjustments) of 27+; however, if the SB is critical enough to the outcome of the game, I'll take a shot at 25 or 26 (especially if the batter can't H&R).

WHO STEALS WHEN: The running game is much more in evidence this year with a total of six guys (**GELOF, McLAIN, HENDERSON, BENINTENDI, BADDOO, and TAVERAS**) with 10 SB attempts or more and an unadjusted SSN of 29+, and basically have the green light to steal 2nd any time 5th inning on score is +2/-1 (However, limit – 1x per series on a straight steal). The other steal attempts are sprinkled modestly among a few other position players. Those steal attempts will mostly be consumed on hit and run plays.

HIT & RUN: I'm a huge believer in the H&R – and the entire offense has 2 31s. However, given the large number of Ks on many cards, not everyone with 2 31s should be trying to use them, **KIRK, RODGERS, and BENINTENDI** should H&R aggressively with any non-slow runner with steals available. **CANDELARIO, FARMER, and SEAGER** should hit and run with a non-slow runner on first with an adjusted SSN of 24 or more. The rest of the crew should hit away.

SACRIFICE: Sacrifice tying/lead run on 2nd to 3rd with exactly 0 outs 8th or later. (Exceptions: Never bunt with a serious power hitter unless all of his non-power hits are stolen)

NEVER, EVER SQUEEZE!!! (Just say NOOOO!)

OFFENSIVE SUBSTITUTIONS Most players not starting can usually come in whenever they may be helpful – please consult the general usage by position, however, as there are some exceptions..

PINCH HITTING – You can PH for the platoon positions as noted in the general instructions. **PALACIOS** when up is around to PH when his two 1s might turn the tide.

PINCH RUNNING – **BADDOO** (when up) or **HENDERSON** (when not starting vs LHP) are the most available PR.

RUNNER ADVANCEMENT: 1) **ALWAYS** go if chance is 28+. **NEVER** go if chance is less than 20, except home with T/L run 8th on and 2 out (15+). 3) Otherwise, use Adams tables to determine go/no go. When playing computer game, be aggressive with the fastest runners, and conservative with the 9 speed or less crew). Otherwise, I'll rely on your knowledge of hit descriptions to try and match up with these general parameters, as your knowledge would greatly exceed my own on this topic.

SEND RUNNER ON 3RD – Always if 20 or better with 2 out.

We're better than we've been for the last couple years, and other than my good friend Mr. Bloom the rest of the division has essentially called in sick. I don't think we've got enough to take the division away from Cayman, but a wild card appears to be in reach.

ELDERS OF ZION - 2024 Emergency Instructions

IN MINORS (X)

										IN MINORS (X)								
Th	GS	IP	Gr	Ctl	HR	Fat	Bats	Fldg		Inj.	A	M	Jn	Jl	A	S	O	
Castillo, Luis (Ca)	SEA	R	33	197	13	16	-12	24	2	2 WP1 BK0 MF2								
Luzardo, Jesus (L)	MIA	L	32	179	11	15	13	23	2	2 WP3 MF0								
Paxton, James (P)	BOS	L	19	96	9	11	-24	23	2	4 WP3 BK0 MF0		x		x		x		
Gray, Jonathan (Gr)	TEX	R	29	157	9	11	-11	23	2	3 WP2 BK0 MF2								
Cobb, Alex (Co)	SFO	R	28	151	7	25	13	23	1	3 WP3 MF0							x	
Gore, MacKenzie (Go)	WSH	L	27	136	9	-23	-26	23	1	3 WP3 BK0 MF0	x		x		x			
Urbe, Abner	MIL	R		31	25*	-62	62	6	2	3 WP3 MF0	x		x		x		x	
Alvarado, Jose	PHI	L		41	20*	-24	34	6	1	3 WP3 HB0 BK0 MF0		x		x		x		
Mlodzinski, Carmen	PIT	R	1	36	17*	-41	32	6/6*	2	3 WP0 BK0 MF0	x		x		x	x		
Sewald, Paul	ARI	R		61	15*	-16	0	6*	2	1 WP1 BK0 MF0								
Schreiber, John	BOS	R	2	47	12*	-42	13	6/6*	2	3 WP1 BK0 MF +1	x		x		x		x	
Jansen, Kenley	BOS	R		45	11*	-11	16	6*	1	2 WP2 MF0		x		x		x		
Hamilton, Ian	NYR	R	3	58	15*	-32	53	6/8*	2	3 WP1 BK0 MF +2		x					x	
Bellatti, Andrew	PHI	R		25	7*	-33	-13	6*	2	4 WP1 BK0 MF+1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Garcia, Luis A	SD	R		60	9*	-12	25	6*	1	2 WP3 BK0 MF0		x		x	x		x	
Rogers, Tyler	SFO	R		74	12*	26	24	7*	1	1 WP0 BK0 MF0								
Cruz, Fernando (Z)	CIN	R	2	66	10*	-25	26	8/7*	2	2 WP3 BK0 MF0	x			x				
Cabrera, Genesis	TOR	L		56	11*	-14	-12	6*	2	2 WP1 MF0			x			x		
										Inj.	Fldg							
Kirk, Alejandro	TOR	R	123	372	+2	-3	SA2	N	6	32	2	C8 (PB1/Th 0)						
D'Arnaud, Travis	ATL	R	74	267	+5	-3	SA2	N	7	33	3	C7 (PB1/Th-3)						
Baker, Luken	STL	R	33	86	-4	+2	SA0	N	5	29	4	1B3	x	x	x	x	x	x
Candelario, Jeimer	CHC	B	140	505	-2	-1	PB0	F34	9	9	33	2	1B3 3B4					
Rivas, Alfonso	PIT	R	48	109	-10	+1	SA5	F26	1	9	29	4	1B4 OF1	x		x	x	x
Gelof, Zach	OAK	R	69	270	-16	+4	SA0	D34	16	13	31	3	2B8				x	
Rodgers, Brendan	COL	R	46	179	-2	-1	SA1	N		12	31	4	2B9					
McLain, Matt	CIN	R	89	365	+5	-3	SA2	E29	19	15	31	3	2B7 SS8			x		
Seager, Corey	TEX	L	119	477	-7	+1	PR3	G26	3	15	33	2	SS9					
Henderson, Gunnar	BAL	L	150	560	-9	+1	SA5	F30	13	15	32	1	3B4 SS8					
Farmer, Kyle	MIN	R	145	526	+10	-5	SA3	E23	7	9	31	1	SS8 1B3 3B4 2B7					
Benintendi, Andrew	CHW	L	151	562	0	-2	SA0	F33	15	15	33	1	OF3					
Baddoo, Akil	DET	L	112	312	-8	-1	SA4	D32	17	16	31	2	OF2	x	x		x	x
Hays, Austin	BAL	R	144	520	0	-2	SA1	G32	6	16	31	1	OF3					
Blackmon, Charles	COL	L	96	359	+2	-2	PR0	G31	5	11	29	1	OF1			x	x	
Haniger, Mitch	SEA	R	61	211	+3	-3	SA2	G26	1	10	30	4	OF2		x		x	x
Palacios, Richie	STL	L	32	93	+2	-5	SA0	E31	2	15	29	4	OF2 2B6	x		x		
Taveras, Leody	TEX	B	143	511	-5	0	SA0	E30	18	16	30	1	OF3					
ROTATION																		
April 1-4	WAR		Ca, L	Co, P	Jul	1-5		MUN	Co	L, Gr	Go, Ca	Oct 1-4 (DH4)	@ VGAS	P, L, Ca, Go, Z				
April 6-8	@ NBO		Gr, L	Ca	Jul	6-9		IND		Co, L	Gr, Go	Oct 6-9	@ MUN	P, L, Gr, Ca				
April 10-13	@ CAY		P, Co	L, Ca	Jul	11-14		@ NW		Co, Ca, L, Gr		Oct 10-14	RCK	Go, P, L, Gr, Ca				
April 14-17	@ RCK		P, Gr	Co, L	Jul	15-18		@ BRO		Go, Co, Ca, L		Oct 15-18	KAN	Go, P, L, Gr				
April 19-23	COL		Ca	P, Gr	Jul	19-22		@ MAR		Gr, Go, Co, Ca		Oct 20-23	@ GC	Ca, P, L, Go				
May 1-5	@ KAN		Go	Ca, Gr	Aug	1-4		STM		Gr, L, Co, P		Nov 2-6	@ IND	Ca, Gr, P, L, Co				
May 7-10	@ HUD		Go, Ca	Gr, Co	Aug	5-8		MID		Ca, Gr, L, Co		Nov 7-10	MLR	Go, Ca, P, L				
May 11-14	BH		L, Go	Ca, Gr	Aug	10-13		WHT		Ca, Gr, L, P		Nov 11-13	NBO	Co, Go, Ca				
May 16-19	KNX		Co, L	Ca, Gr	Aug	14-17		@ HOB		Co, Ca, Gr, L		Nov 15-18	CAY	L, Co, Gr, Ca				
May 20-22	RIV (DH 22)		Go, Co	L, Z	Aug	18-21		@ RYE		P, Co, Ca, Gr		Nov 19-22	@ WAR	P, L, Co, Go				
June 1-4	NBO		Ca, Gr	Co, P	Sep	3-5		WAR		Go, L, Ca								
June 6-8	CAY		Ca, L	Gr	Sep	6-9		@ NBO		Gr, Co, Go, L								
June 9-11	@ WAR		P, Co	Ca	Sep	10-12		@ CAY		Ca, Gr, Co								
June 12-16	@ MLR		L	Gr, P	Co, Ca	Sep	14-17	@ COL		Go, Ca, Gr, Co								
June 18-21	VGAS		L, Gr	P, Ca	Sep	18-22		HUD	L	Go, Ca, Gr, Co								

