



Independent Professional Baseball Camp Tryout Guide

Pecos League Tryout Camps are updated at this link:

<http://www.PecosLeague.com/pecosleague.asp?page=77>

The Pecos League will offer these five one day tryouts in December of 2022



PECOS LEAGUE MARYSVILLE TRYOUT CAMP



DECEMBER 10, 2022 9 AM

BRYANT FIELD MARYSVILLE

PECOS LEAGUE HOUSTON TEXAS TRYOUT CAMP



DECEMBER 16, 2022

COASTAL BASEBALL PARK



The Pecos League offers the Pecos Spring League which is a three week league in March.

In 2023 there will be a record low number of Independent Teams in the United States and Canada. Yet there is all time high number of people running tryout camps where they are charging people money claiming they can get players signed.

These tryout camps and winter leagues are a dead end for your career, players waste money time and wind up being placed on a banned list. These tryout camps often state they are having multiple teams and multiple leagues.



JD Droddy promoted more players in 2013-2014 than any team in the history of the Pecos League. The players he promoted had success with the teams they were promoted to.

Here is some Q and A with JD about how hard it is for players to get into the Pecos League and then get promoted and the process.

#1 How hard is it get players promoted to other independent leagues?

The answer really starts with the players. In Trinidad, we have put a special emphasis on recruiting quality players who have the potential to help us win and to play in a higher league. The better the player, the easier to get him promoted. Beyond that, it depends on three things – the position played, the amount of professional experience and the numbers the player has put up. At least from the Triggers' perspective, it is easier to get pitchers promoted than position players. We play in the extreme elevation of the League's Northern Division and some of the parks are small. In my opinion, it is a very hard place in which to pitch. Breaking balls don't break as well, the elevation requires the pitcher to be in extremely good condition, and the ball carries well when hit. If you can pitch well under these circumstances, you can pitch well in most places. I think the other leagues understand this. And the record of promoted Triggers' pitchers when they go to higher leagues confirms it. So, it is easier to find a place for our exceptional pitchers. For position players, getting a player promoted is a bit harder. Just as the playing environment is harder for pitchers, it is a bit easier for hitters. So, factors such as experience tend to be more important. I usually advise position players to give the Pecos League at least two years. Putting up numbers over time helps get the player promoted. But, it can be done. We have had several position players promoted the past two years. And of the ones that have already played in the higher

leagues, most of them have done pretty well.

#2 How hard is it to get players signed to affiliated contracts?

This is an interesting question. In some ways it is much harder than getting a promotion to a higher independent league and in some ways it is easier. We have had three players promoted to MLB organizations the past two years (one of which went to the CAN-AM League very briefly before going to the Padres), while we have had 11 players who went higher independent leagues. In my mind, the difference is between potential and “game-readiness.” The MLB-affiliated organizations look more at potential. They have the time and resources to take a player who may not be ready yet to set the world on fire, but who possesses skills that can be developed over time. The independent leagues, however, are looking for someone who can make an immediate impact at their level. A careful analysis of the players promoted makes the difference very apparent.

#3 Why should players try to start in Pecos League vs. going to Frontier League or Association first.

The Pecos League is very rookie friendly. As of the last couple of years, we have a 25-year age limit, which can be waived by the league in special circumstances. We are actively looking for players who have the potential to be promoted to MLB organizations. The American Association, Frontier League, and Atlantic League are places where it is difficult for a rookie to succeed. Although those leagues, especially the Frontier League, invite a considerable number of rookies to Spring Training, a very low percentage of true rookies make it out of Spring Training with a regular-season roster spot. I don't have the exact percentage, but my experience is that it is very low. Sometimes these players are then picked up by Pecos League teams, where in some cases they go on to do well. But, by the time the Frontier League releases players, there usually are very few roster spots available in the Pecos League. A player is much better off to sign with a Pecos League team first. Then if he is successful in this league and gets some experience under his belt, he is much more likely to “stick” if he then goes to the higher league.

#4 How do you compare the success of other players in Independent Leagues by position?

I can answer this question only as to the Triggers, for which I have the most knowledge. As I indicated in my answer to the first question, our pitchers have done extremely well once promoted. Many of them have equal or better numbers in the higher league than in the Pecos League. All of our pitchers who have been promoted have been successful in the higher league, whether they go to higher independent leagues or MLB affiliated teams. As for position players, some saw their batting averages drop a bit when they left the Pecos League, but not all. For example, Jacob Fabry, who played for the Triggers in 2012 and 2013, went to the United League in 2014. His batting average there was considerably higher than either of his years in the Pecos League. He led the United League in hitting for much of the season and ended up at the end of the season on the all-league team. By the way, his United League team, the Rio Grande Valley Whitewings, won the league championship in 2014 and besides Fabry one of their best pitchers all year was Benji Waite (2013 Triggers). Another was former Alpine Cowboys Brad Orsey. Waite and Orsey tied for the second most wins in the United League and Orsey led that league with the best ERA. Also, after the Triggers' were eliminated from the 2014 playoffs, our closer, Zach “Lights Out” Leitten, joined the Whitewings and did not give up a single earned run for the remainder of the season.

Another example is Kevin McGovern, who went to the Lincoln Saltdogs of the American Association during the season. He did well for the remainder of the season, which included a streak of 24.1 consecutive innings during which he did not surrender a single earned run. He was also named the American Association Pitcher of the Week his second week there.

RHP Tony Smith (2012 and 2013) excelled on the Staff of the Schaumburg Boomers in 2014. The Boomers won the 2014 Frontier League Championship. The Boomers also won the Frontier League Championship in 2013, with one of their most effective pitchers that year being James Bierlein, who was with the Triggers in 2012.

There were other former Triggers who succeeded in higher independent leagues in 2014, including Johnny Bladel (traded to Amarillo Sox in midseason), Chris Escobar (traded to Sioux City of the American Association in midseason), and Frank Florio (Triggers 2013 and the Pecos League Hitter of the Year in 2013), who played for the Frontier League Grays in 2014. All three finished the season with their respective teams and all three were successful.

I know the question specifically asked about higher independent leagues, but I must point out that three members of the 2013 Triggers have also gone on to MLB-affiliated teams and done well. RHP Nick Mutz and RHP Eric Yardley played for Padres farm teams in 2014. Both spent part of they year with the Fort Wayne Tincaps (Class A). Mutz made the Midwestern League All-Star team. Yardley was sent to Double-A San Antonio for a five game stint, during which he posted a 3.0 ERA in the Texas League. Nick Rodesky, who signed with the Triggers midseason 2013 and also spent the entire 2014 regular season with the Triggers, was traded to the Phillies after the last regular season game. He was sent to a Rookie League, where he appeared in three games, posting a 1.5 ERA, and was then promoted to the Phillies' Class-A affiliate in Lakewood, NJ, where he pitched well for the remainder of the 2014 season.

So, all-in-all, I would say that the Triggers who have been promoted have done pretty well after going to higher leagues. We have some others who are going to higher leagues in 2015 (Blake May and Josh Tols going to the Kansas City T-Bones of the American Association come to mind), whom I expect to do very well. They are outstanding players. By the way, Tols is currently pitching for the Adelaide Bite of the Australian Baseball League and doing very well.



#5 Briefly talk about why teams keep coming to the Triggers for players.

First, we recruit high quality players, who have great skill, and who exhibit high character on and off the field. Those who make our team and don't exhibit both of those qualities usually are released during Spring Training or during the regular season. A player's own qualifications and performance are the primary factors in getting him promoted.

Second, I believe that most of the folks in the higher leagues with whom I have dealt know that I will be completely honest with them about the players. I won't "oversell" a player. I won't sugarcoat anything, including character issues. I will give them my honest assessment of the player's abilities.

Third, it helps that we have had good teams. When, for example, a team from the American Association is looking for someone to fill a need, I believe they look first at successful teams, whether that be the Triggers, Fuego, Invaders, or Cowboys. I don't think they look to last place teams, at least not as a starting point. That is my opinion; I don't have data to back it up. But, I firmly believe that it is true.

#6 Do the Triggers/Invaders really have an upper hand on other Pecos League Teams on getting promoted?

I don't think there is an "upper hand" for the Triggers or Invaders – or any other Pecos League team for that matter. As mentioned before, the teams with the best players have the upper hand because they have the most number of qualified players. Those are also the teams who usually have the best records.

If White Sands makes the playoffs in 2015 and has several players among the League leaders in pitching and hitting, I would expect that they would send multiple players to higher independent leagues and MLB-affiliated teams. In fact, I believe that the Pupfish sent a couple of guys to MLB- affiliated teams in 2014. It's all about the players – good players have a better chance of being promoted.

#7 What is your thoughts on 25 and under in Pecos League.

I have mixed feelings about it. I understand the rule because we are an entry-level league that is primarily about opportunity. Players in their 30s probably have reached their potential and playing in this league doesn't give them the opportunity to go higher. It is probably time for them to find a different career. However, there are circumstances when a 26 or 27 year old still may have much to contribute to a team and even the potential to advance, especially to a higher independent league. The Commissioner can, when circumstances warrant it, grant an age waiver for a player. As long as that authority is exercised in the right circumstances (and only the right circumstances), I think it is a good rule.



#8 There are so many winter leagues and what you take is on the players chances are that attend the Winter Leagues?

The Frontier League hosts its own tryout that guarantees each team draft 3 players. Well, first I should point out that the Pecos League has scores of pro baseball jobs available. Every player who attends the Pecos Spring League is guaranteed to be drafted and sent to Spring Training with one of the Pecos League teams. And a large number of those make regular season rosters in the Pecos League. Each year, I see several Pecos Spring League players participating in the Pecos League All-Star game. To my knowledge, none of the Winter leagues have anything like that in terms of opportunity. While some of them advertise that scouts from other leagues look for players at their Winter league, none of them put anywhere near the number of players in professional baseball as the Pecos Spring League.

As far as the Frontier League tryout is concerned, I must refer back to my answer to question #3. The

Frontier League is a quality league, but it isn't very rookie friendly. Even though the teams may draft three players each from the Frontier League tryout, I don't see a lot of those players making regular season rosters. We hear from a lot of these guys at the end of the Frontier League Spring Training period who have been released and are looking for a job in the Pecos League. And, as I said before, by then there aren't that many roster spots to be filled by Pecos League teams.

