
MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL • OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER



NEWS RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY

February 12, 2018

MEDIA ACCESS DETAILS FOR ANDRE DAWSON CLASSIC HELD THIS WEEKEND AT THE NEW ORLEANS MLB YOUTH ACADEMY (FEBRUARY 15-18)

**Annual Round-Robin Tournament Designed to Highlight HBCU Baseball Programs
Has Been Renamed in Honor of Baseball Hall of Famer and HBCU Alumnus Andre Dawson**

**Highlights Include Special Appearances by Dawson, Curtis Granderson,
Dmitri Young, Marvin Freeman & Jerry Manuel**

Below are the media access details for the "Andre Dawson Classic," which will be held this weekend at the New Orleans MLB Youth Academy and University of New Orleans. Formerly known as the "Urban Invitational," the event was renamed in honor of **Andre Dawson** – the Chicago Cubs and Montreal Expos legend who is one of only two HBCU Baseball alumni enshrined in the Baseball Hall of Fame. The annual round-robin, collegiate baseball tournament was launched in 2008 by Major League Baseball to highlight Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and their baseball programs. In the event's 11-year history, more than 25 HBCU players who have participated in the tournament have been selected in the MLB Draft.

WHO:

- Andre Dawson** – Baseball Hall of Famer
- Curtis Granderson** – Outfielder, Toronto Blue Jays
- Dmitri Young** – Two-time MLB All-Star; 13-Year MLB Infielder/Outfielder
- Cliff Floyd** – 2001 MLB All-Star; 17-Year MLB Infielder/Outfielder; MLB Network Studio Analyst
- Jerry Manuel** – Former Major League Infielder & Manager; MLB Youth Programs Consultant
- Marvin Freeman** – 10-Year MLB Pitcher
- Tony Reagins** – Senior Vice President, Youth Programs, Major League Baseball
- Darrell Miller** – Vice President, Youth & Facility Development, Major League Baseball
- Del Matthews** – Senior Director, Baseball Development, Major League Baseball
- Eddie Davis** – Director, New Orleans MLB Youth Academy

***NOTE:** Hall of Famer Andre Dawson will be available on-site to media on Sunday, February 18th.
Media wishing to cover any portion of the event must RSVP with Kerline Batista at kerline.batista@mlb.com.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

- **Alabama State University** (Montgomery, Ala.; 2nd appearance)
- **Alcorn State University** (Alcorn, Miss.; 4th appearance)
- **Grambling State University** (Grambling, La.; 7th appearance)
- **Prairie View A&M University** (Prairie View, Texas; 4th appearance)
- **Southern University** (Baton Rouge, La.; 11th appearance)
- **University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff** (Pine Bluff, Ark.; 1st appearance)
- **University of Illinois at Chicago** (Chicago, Ill.; 2nd appearance)
- **University of New Orleans** (New Orleans, La.; 5th appearance)

PRACTICE DAY – Thursday, February 15th

Media is invited to cover teams' general baseball workouts prior to the start of the tournament. Practices will be held at the New Orleans MLB Youth Academy (MLBYA) and Maestri Field (home of University of New Orleans baseball).

(more)

Below is the practice schedule (all times CT):

Teams	Practice Time	Location
Prairie View A&M University	12:30p.m. – 2:00p.m.	New Orleans MLBYA
Alabama State University	2:00p.m. – 3:30p.m.	New Orleans MLBYA
University of New Orleans	2:30p.m. – 4:00p.m.	University of New Orleans
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff	3:40p.m. – 5:10p.m.	New Orleans MLBYA
Southern University	4:30p.m. – 6:00p.m.	University of New Orleans
Grambling State University	5:20p.m. – 6:50p.m.	New Orleans MLBYA
University of Illinois at Chicago	6:00p.m. – 7:30p.m.	University of New Orleans

TOURNAMENT PLAY – Friday, February 16th – Sunday, February 18th

Alabama State University, Alcorn State University, Grambling State University, Prairie View A&M University, Southern University and University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff will represent the HBCU programs at the Andre Dawson Classic. They will be joined by two non-HBCU schools, the University of New Orleans (UNO) and the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC).

Below is the tournament schedule (all times CT):

Date	Time	Teams	Location
Feb. 16	12:00p.m.	Southern University vs. UIC	New Orleans MLBYA
Feb. 16	12:00p.m.	Alcorn vs. Arkansas Pine Bluff	University of New Orleans
Feb. 16	3:30p.m.	Grambling State vs. Southern University	New Orleans MLBYA
Feb. 16	6:30p.m.	UIC vs. UNO	University of New Orleans
Feb. 16	6:30p.m.	Alabama State vs. Prairie View	New Orleans MLBYA
Date	Time	Teams	Location
Feb. 17	2:00p.m.*	UIC vs. Southern University	New Orleans MLBYA
Feb. 17	3:00p.m.	Prairie View A&M vs. Alcorn State	University of New Orleans
Feb. 17	6:00p.m.*	Alabama State vs. UNO	New Orleans MLBYA
Feb. 17	6:30p.m.	Arkansas Pine Bluff vs. Grambling State	University of New Orleans
Date	Time	Teams	Location
Feb. 18	12:00p.m.	Prairie View A&M vs. UIC	New Orleans MLBYA
Feb. 18	12:00p.m.	Arkansas Pine Bluff vs. Alabama State	University of New Orleans
Feb. 18	3:00p.m.	Southern University vs. UNO	University of New Orleans
Feb. 18	3:00p.m.	Alcorn State vs. Grambling State	New Orleans MLBYA

**These games will air LIVE on MLB Network and MLB.com.*

WHERE: New Orleans MLB Youth Academy in Pontchartrain Park, 6403 Press Drive, New Orleans, LA, 70122
Maestri Field, 6801 Franklin Ave, New Orleans, LA 70122

MLB Senior Vice President of Youth Programs **Tony Reagins**, MLB Senior Director of Baseball Development **Del Matthews** and Director of New Orleans MLB Youth Academy **Eddie Davis**, can be available for interviews throughout each day of the tournament.

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CONTACT: Kerline Batista, Major League Baseball, kerline.batista@mlb.com, (347) 998-2049,

About New Orleans MLB Youth Academy

The New Orleans MLB Youth Academy at Wesley Barrow Stadium in historic Pontchartrain Park opened in 2012, replacing a 55-year-old facility that was devastated by Hurricane Katrina. The facility operates in coordination with the New Orleans Recreation Development Commission to offer a dynamic youth program that provides free, year-round baseball and softball instruction as well as educational and baseball vocation programming for more than 2500 young people from underserved and urban communities throughout southern Louisiana. The New Orleans MLB Youth Academy features a turf stadium, indoor and outdoor batting cages, extra bullpens, a youth field and a softball field. Staff is available daily to provide free, year-round baseball and softball instruction. The Academy also focuses on educational and vocational programs, including after-school homework assistance, ACT Prep, broadcasting, sports law, graphic design and gaming, field maintenance, and scouting and umpiring programs and clinics.