



Baseball in Yuma: A Chronology

- 1874 The Arizona Sentinel publishes the first report of a “*base ball match*” in Yuma—played February 17 on Main Street.
- 1908 The Boston Bloomer Girls play an exhibition game in Yuma on September 19.
- 1909-1910 Yuma forms a semi-pro winter team to participate in the new Imperial Valley League. Major Leaguers Duffy Lewis, Walter Nagle, and Dolly Gray are all part of the Yuma team.
- 1909 The Chicago White Sox play an exhibition game in Yuma on March 30—the first game played by a Major League team in Arizona—as part of a 3-day Laguna Dam celebration.
- 1910, 1913, 1914, 1915 The Chicago White Sox return to Yuma each of these years to play exhibition games.
- 1911 The Boston Red Sox play an exhibition game in Yuma on March 27.
- 1914 The Hawaiian Travelers of the nonexistent “Chinese University of Hawaii” play an exhibition game in Yuma on March 15.
- 1919 Casey Stengel brings a team of “all stars” to play an exhibition game as part of Yuma’s first Armistice Day observance on November 11.
- 1934-1942 Major League exhibition games are played annually at Yuma High School’s Doan Field. Visiting teams include the White Sox, Cubs, Pirates, and Athletics.
- 1935 The Yuma Cubs win the Arizona semi-pro championship, earning an August trip to the first national tournament in Wichita, Kansas. The Cubs finish 7th out of 32 teams.
- 1936 The great Satchel Paige is hired by the Yuma Cubs to pitch for the Yuma team on Feb. 9 and 16. (The Cubs had witnessed Paige’s heroics at the 1935 Wichita tournament.)
- 1936 The Tokyo Giants play an exhibition game against the Yuma Merchants (formerly Cubs) on March 31.
- 1950-1952** The **Yuma Panthers** (Class C Southwest International League) begin play at Municipal Stadium—aka “Panther Field”—as Yuma’s first minor league team.
- 1950 On March 29 the St. Louis Browns and Chicago White Sox play the last of the Major League exhibition games to be hosted at Doan Field.

1950	The venerable House of David and Kansas City Monarchs barnstorming teams meet in Yuma on August 15. The Monarchs are managed by “Cool Papa” Bell.
1951	San Diego Padres minor league team (Pacific Coast League) holds spring training in Yuma.
1951	Emmett Ashford becomes the first African American umpire of a non-Negro League pro baseball game: July 7, 1951 Yuma Panthers vs. Mexicali Eagles.
1954	Baltimore Orioles hold spring training in Yuma.
1955	Sacramento Solons (PCL) hold spring training in Yuma.
1955-1956	The Yuma Sun Sox (Class C Arizona-Mexico League) become Yuma’s second minor league team.
1959	Vancouver Mounties (PCL) hold spring training in Yuma.
1962	The Los Angeles Angels play an exhibition game versus the expansion Houston Colt .45s at Municipal ballpark on March 26.
1967	Satchel Paige, at the age of 61, returns to Yuma on August 7 to pitch a few innings for the Indianapolis Clowns.
1969-1993	San Diego Padres hold spring training in Yuma.
1978-1999	Yakult Swallows from Tokyo, Japan hold spring training in Yuma.
1995	The Desert Dawgs of the independent Golden State League become the third minor league team in Yuma’s history. They play only 10 games before the league folds.
1996	Arizona Western College Matadors place 3 rd at NJCAA World Series.
1997	Arizona Diamondbacks hold spring training in Yuma for minor league prospects one year before the major league Diamondbacks’ inaugural season.
2000-2002	The Yuma Bullfrogs of the independent Western Baseball League begin play at the Ray Kroc Baseball Complex as the fourth minor league team in Yuma’s history.
2004	Edmonton Trappers (PCL) hold spring training in Yuma.
2005-2011	The Yuma Scorpions of the independent Golden Baseball League begin play at the Ray Kroc Baseball Complex as the fifth minor league team in Yuma’s history.
2015	The City of Yuma converts the primary field at the Ray Kroc Baseball Complex from a baseball diamond to a soccer field.
2017	The Pacific Avenue Athletic Complex opens on September 1 as a multi-field location tailored to softball and youth baseball league play and tournaments.