




COLORADO ROCKIES

National League West



x0

Denver, CO - Coors Field (46,897)
 Manager: Bud Black (476-556, 8th Season)



x1
NL

2260
FRANCHISE WINS

59-103
2023 SEASON

5th
DIVISION

#18
FARM SYSTEM RANK

2023: Won World Series

Rockies Outlook Rough in 2024

Last season was as bad as Rockies baseball has ever been in the 31-year history of the franchise. Colorado finished with a record of 59-103, the most losses in the club's history and, unfortunately, the prognosis isn't much better in 2024 as the team made no major moves in the offseason. To be fair to the front office, they are faced with a unique challenge. Not only do they have to navigate the complexities of playing home games at altitude, but they are also staring up at the mega-spender Dodgers and San Francisco and San Diego haven't stopped spending, either. Oh, and the Arizona Diamondbacks reached the World Series. To this point, the 2021 trade of Nolan Arenado has not netted much of a return and the team's biggest signing in recent memory has struggled to even stay on the field.

Batting

The player being eluded to above is, of course, **Kris Bryant**. The 2016 MVP and four-time All-Star with the Cubs has missed more games than he's played in a Rockies uniform. He played 80 games last season and struggled at the plate. The power that came so naturally early in his career has dissipated, leaving behind a slugging percentage of just .367. He has a *lot* to prove in 2024 as his 7-year, \$182 million deal is currently looking like one of the worst deals in baseball. Will that pressure help him perform or lead to additional struggles in 2024? The usually reliable **Charlie Blackmon** started showing his age, at least, in the games played department. However, he actually had a decent year at the plate when he did play including a four-year high in OBP which helps offset the absence of home run power in his late 30s. While the Arenado and Bryant deals have been less than ideal, the Rockies seemingly fleeced the Guardians in their trade for **Nolan Jones**, who posted very impressive numbers in his rookie season. Advanced analytics such as dWAR would tell you that **Ryan McMahon** is deserving of a Gold Glove in his trophy case. He could get it this year just like **Brendan Rodgers** did in 2022. Rogers was held to just 46 games in 2023, however. Catcher **Elias Diaz** made his first All-Star team and casually won MVP of the All Star Game. **Sean Bouchard** has impressed in brief major league stints the past two seasons but injuries are an ongoing concern. **Ezequiel Tovar's** batting is still a work at progress but at just 22 year olds he's a borderline-elite defensive shortstop. **Brenton Doyle** earned a Gold Glove in center last year but needs to make progress in his plate discipline. If the Rockies feel like they need more offense in the outfield, they could turn to **Sam Hilliard** who is now in his second stint with Colorado.



Photo via The Denver Post

Pitching


To say that the Colorado Rockies pitching staff struggled in 2023 would be an understatement. Even taking Coors Field into consideration, the Rockies had a difficult time getting outs in 2023. Injuries played a big role and starters **German Marquez** and **Antonio Senzatela** will miss most, if not all of 2024 following Tommy John surgery. Former closer **Daniel Bard** suffered a freak injury while playing catch and needed surgery to repair a torn meniscus. Of the franchise-record 17 starting pitchers that were used last season, most of the familiar faces who pitched the most for the Rockies are gone. **Kyle Freeland** returns to his familiar Opening Day and #1 starter spot but he's coming off a rough season that included an ERA above 5.00, a career-high 29 home runs allowed, and a career low K/9 of 5.4. **Cal Quantrill** had two extremely good seasons with the Guardians but his 2023 campaign didn't go as planned and he was held to 99.2 innings while his ERA soared to a career-worst 5.24. A shoulder injury was the cause of the limited innings and could be the culprit for the ERA, too. The Rockies signed him to a one-year deal following a trade and are hopeful he can regain his confidence in 2024. **Austin Gomber**, a member of the notorious Nolan Arenado trade, has since pitched 379.0 innings in three seasons with the Rockies, mostly as a starter, but to the tune of a 5.22 ERA although his second half of the season was much better. The other rotation spots are up for grabs and it makes sense that **Dakota Hudson** would grab one of them after signing a one-year, \$1.5 million deal.

The bullpen situation is even more concerning than the rotation. With Bard expected to miss time, the pitcher to get the nod at closer will be either **Justin Lawrence** or **Tyler Kinley**. Lawrence was a rare bright spot in comparison to a bullpen that ranked dead last in MLB in both WHIP and ERA. He made 11 saves as part of his 75 innings of work while posting an ERA of 3.72 and striking out 78 batters. Most of Kinley's 2023 season was lost to injuries. If the rotation becomes a revolving door again in 2024, relievers like **Ty Blach** and **Anthony Molina** will be asked to eat up innings. **Jake Bird** pitched 89.1 innings for the Rockies last season.

The Bottom Line

Unfortunately, there are still glaring weaknesses in the pitching staff and the lineup still appears to be "power challenged" even in the confines of Coors Field. The goal this year for Colorado should be to avoid the 100-loss mark and to see young players like Ezequiel Tovar and Nolan Jones continue their promising progressions. The silver lining to a team that won't be competitive is the ability to call up prospects without significant ramifications. The path to future contention runs through the development of young talent. Until then, it's going to be more tough sledding for the Blake Street Bombers.

2024 Projection: 53-109, 5th in NL West



2023 MLB Ranks
 RPG - 4.45 (18th)
 HITS - 1368 (16th)
 HR - 163 (26th)
 ERA - 5.67 (30th)
 SO - 1129 (30th)
 FD% - .986% (12th)

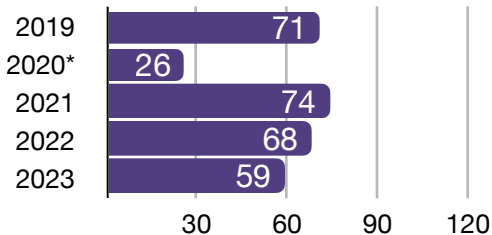
COLORADO

Kyle Freeland



Photo via Sports Illustrated

ROCKIES 5-YEAR WIN TREND



208 < Number to Know

The number of home runs hit at Coors Field. Despite sitting at an altitude of 5200 feet which heavily features hitters, eight other ballparks saw more home runs in 2023.

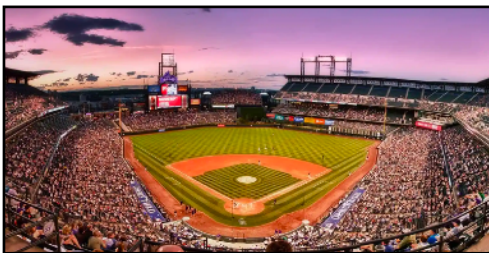


Photo via BaseballCloud

PROSPECT TO WATCH

Yanquiel Fernandez - OF

Fernandez' tremendous power is the characteristic that probably has the Rockies organization most excited, but he has since showed off additional abilities in his relatively short time in the minor leagues. He demolished the baseball in High-A Spokane and had 17 home runs and 64 RBI in just 58 games. The move to Double-A came with its challenges and included an uptick in strikeouts, but it's worth noting that he was, on average, 3.8 years younger than the average player at that level. He showed off his strong arm in the outfield at the Futures Game and threw a ball to third that clocked in at a whopping 103.3 mph which would have been the hardest throw by a Rockies outfielder in the Statcast Era (since 2015). He needs to find a way to bring down his strikeout rate, but he could be a heavyweight power hitter for Colorado soon.



Photo via Rox Pile

Projected Lineup

'23 AVG

19	Charlie Blackmon	DH	.279
23	Kris Bryant	1B	.233
22	Nolan Jones	LF	.297
7	Brendan Rodgers	2B	.258
24	Ryan McMahon	3B	.240
35	Elias Diaz	C	.267
12	Sean Bouchard	RF	.316
14	Ezequiel Tovar	SS	.253
9	Brenton Doyle	CF	.203

Projected Rotation

'23 ERA

21	Kyle Freeland	SP	5.03
47	Cal Quantrill	SP	5.24
26	Austin Gomber	SP	5.50
18	Ryan Feltner	SP	5.82
32	Dakota Hudson	SP	4.98
61	Justin Lawrence	CL	3.72

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

Nolan Jones - OF



2023 Statistics

GP AVG OPS HR RBI
106 .297 .931 20 62

Injuries took their toll on the Rockies in 2023, but the bright side is that it allowed for Nolan Jones to have a prominent role in the lineup, and the former 2016 second round pick made the most of the opportunity and then some. He led the Rockies in WAR (4.3) despite playing in only 106 games. He showed his versatility as a hitter by not only hitting for average (.297) but for power too. He drew plenty of walks too, leading to a very impressive OPS of .931 and he finished fourth in Rookie of the Year voting in the National League. The Rockies are desperate for stability in their ongoing rebuild and Jones' emergence is perfectly timed.

2024 Schedule

March/April 2024

					ARI 28 10:10	ARI 29 9:40	ARI 30 8:10
ARI 31 4:10	CHC 1 2:20	CHC 2 7:40	CHC 3 7:40		TB 5 4:10	TB 6 8:10	
TB 7 3:10	ARI 8 8:40	ARI 9 8:40	ARI 10 3:10		TOR 12 7:07	TOR 13 3:07	
TOR 14 1:37	PHI 15 6:40	PHI 16 6:40	PHI 17 6:05		SEA 19 8:40	SEA 20 8:10	
SEA 21 3:10	SD 22 8:40	SD 23 8:40	SD 24 8:40	SD 25 3:10		HOU 27 6:05	
HOU 28 4:05		MIA 30 6:40					

May 2024

				MIA 1 6:40	MIA 2 12:10	PIT 3 6:40	PIT 4 4:05
PIT 5 1:35		SF 7 8:40	SF 8 8:40	SF 9 3:10	TEX 10 8:40	TEX 11 8:10	
TEX 12 3:10	SD 13 9:40	SD 14 8:40	SD 15 4:10		SF 17 10:15	SF 18 4:05	
SF 19 4:05		OAK 21 9:40	OAK 22 9:40	OAK 23 3:37	PHI 24 8:40	PHI 25 9:10	
PHI 26 3:10	CLE 27 4:10	CLE 28 8:40	CLE 29 8:40		LAD 31 10:10		

June 2024

						LAD 1 10:10	
LAD 2 4:10	CIN 3 8:40	CIN 4 8:40	CIN 5 3:10	STL 6 7:45	STL 7 8:15	STL 8 4:15	
STL 9 2:15	MIN 10 7:40	MIN 11 7:40	MIN 12 1:10		PIT 14 8:40	PIT 15 9:10	
PIT 16 3:10	LAD 17 8:40	LAD 18 8:40	LAD 19 8:40	LAD 20 3:10	WSH 21 8:40	WSH 22 9:10	
WSH 23 3:10		HOU 25 8:10	HOU 26 2:10		CWS 28 8:10	CWS 29 2:10	
CWS 30 2:10							

July 2024

	MIL 1 8:40	MIL 2 8:40	MIL 3 8:40	MIL 4 8:10	KC 5 8:10	KC 6 9:10	
KC 7 3:10	CIN 8 7:10	CIN 9 7:10	CIN 10 7:10	CIN 11 1:10	NYM 12 7:10	NYM 13 4:10	
NYM 14 1:40	All-Star Break - Arlington, TX				SF 19 8:40	SF 20 8:10	
SF 21 3:10	BOS 22 8:40	BOS 23 8:40	BOS 24 3:10		SF 26 10:15	SF 27 DH	
SF 28 4:05		LAA 30 9:38	LAA 31 9:38				

August 2024

				LAA 1 9:38	SD 2 9:40	SD 3 8:40	
SD 4 4:10		NYM 6 8:40	NYM 7 8:40	NYM 8 3:10	ATL 9 8:40	ATL 10 8:10	
ATL 11 3:10	ARI 12 9:40	ARI 13 9:40	ARI 14 3:40		SD 16 8:40	SD 17 8:10	
SD 18 3:10		WSH 20 6:45	WSH 21 6:45	WSH 22 1:05	NYG 23 7:05	NYG 24 2:05	
NYG 25 1:35	MIA 26 8:40	MIA 27 8:40	MIA 28 8:40	MIA 29 3:10	BAL 30 8:40	BAL 31 8:10	

September 2024

BAL 1 3:10		ATL 3 7:20	ATL 4 7:20	ATL 5 7:20	MIL 6 8:10	MIL 7 7:10	
MIL 8 2:10		DET 10 6:40	DET 11 6:40	DET 12 1:10	CHC 13 8:40	CHC 14 8:10	
CHC 15 3:10	ARI 16 8:40	ARI 17 8:40	ARI 18 3:10		LAD 20 10:10	LAD 21 9:10	
LAD 22 4:10		STL 24 8:40	STL 25 8:40	STL 26 3:10	LAD 27 8:10	LAD 28 8:10	
LAD 29 3:10							

HOME

AWAY