



MOREHEAD CITY MARLINS

2026 GAME NOTES

PUCK O'NEAL FIELD AT BIG ROCK STADIUM | 2714 MAYBERRY LOOP ROAD | MOREHEAD CITY, NC, 28557 | 252-269-9767

GAME NO. 25 / JUNE 28, 2026 / 6:30 PM

MOREHEAD CITY MARLINS

19-5

VS

ASHEBORO ZOOKEEPERS

14-7

HEAD COACH: SAM CAREL (Y6 / 154-106 Record)
THIS SEASON VS. ASHEBORO: 0-0
STREAK: W2

HEAD COACH: JAMEY MAY
THIS SEASON VS. MOREHEAD CITY: 0-0
STREAK: W2



ASHEBORO, NC MCCRARY PARK			
RHP SPENCER CIPRO	STARTERS	TBD	
TODAY	AT ASHEBORO	6:30 PM	HTN + MIXLR
WEDNESDAY	VS. FOREST CITY	6:30 PM	HTN
THURSDAY	AT WILMINGTON	7:05 PM	HTN + MIXLR



@MHCMARLINS

@ASHEBOROCPL

LEAGUE RECORD

19-5

OVERALL RECORD

20-5

HOME: 12-1

ROAD: 8-4

EAST STANDINGS

1.	MOREHEAD CITY	19-5
2.	WILMINGTON	17-7
3.	GREENVILLE	14-10
4.	HOLLY SPRINGS	10-12
5.	TRI-CITY	10-13
6.	PENINSULA	8-14
7.	ZEBULON	6-17

WEST STANDINGS

1.	HP-THOMASVILLE	14-7
2.	ASHEBORO	14-7
3.	BOONE	13-10
4.	FOREST CITY	13-12
5.	MACON	11-12
6.	LEXINGTON COUNTY	10-11
7.	FLORENCE	7-16
8.	MARTINSVILLE	6-19

KEY STORYLINES

REELIN' IN THE YEARS

The Marlins return for their 16th season in the Coastal Plain League. This year also marks the sixth under Head Coach Sam Carel, the winningest in Marlins history, who is in his second stint with the team. Carel led Morehead City to two Petitt Cup Playoff appearances in his first two seasons back.

REFLECTING ON 2025

Last Season, the Marlins finished 4th place in the East Division with a final record of 21-24. Morehead City was led by four All-CPL team players Tanner Malley (Western Michigan), Nate Anderson (Kennesaw State), Reid Bertram (Gardner-Webb), and Danny Thompson (UNC Greensboro).

MOREHEAD CITY PREVIEW

With a litany of returning players, the Marlins are poised for a successful 2026 campaign. Look out for some powerful bats and dominant pitching this season thanks to your favorite Morehead City stars. With Head Coach Sam Carel back at the helm alongside Jaylen Mack and Gabe Todtenhausen, a rising star among pitching coaches, the team looks to be as strong as ever in Big Rock.

MID-SEASON REVIEW

The Marlins currently sit atop the League and East Division standings with a 19-5 record, holding a 2 game lead over Wilmington in 2nd. Approaching the midpoint of the year, the Fish have the best team ERA at 3.54 and the best team batting average at .305, and have found ways to win regardless of the matchup, including a 10-game win streak through early and mid June.

HOOT HOOT

The Marlins outslugged the Owls last night on the road, taking it 14-10. Grant Russo and Jovan Gill continued their excellence at the plate, with Russo going 5-6 and Gill 3-5 with another homer. Peyton Watts also got his first hit of the season, a double. The pitchers fought through adversity early to piece together solid outings, followed by great work late from Gray, Hopkins, and Heard to finish the job.

RUSSO ON A ROLL

Over the last two games, Grant Russo has been nuts, hitting 8-10 along with four runs, two RBIs, and one walk. The everyday leadoff man has played a big part in getting the Marlins offense revamped after a few tough games. A wizard on the bases as well, Russo has 20 swiped bags, tied for the second most in the CPL with Greenville's Jeremiah Grant.

SCOUTING THE ZOOKEEPERS

Asheboro started the season red-hot with six straight wins, getting an early lead over the West Division. Since then, the Zookeepers have neither won nor lost more than two straight. The Zookeepers have a top-5 offense with a .286 team average and 21 combined home runs, along with RBI and total run numbers to match. Statistically, they also sit near the top in multiple pitching categories. Eight batters are currently hitting .300 or better, led by Blake Brookins with a .419 average.

	MATCHING UP	
24	GP	21
.305	BA	.286
.427	OBP	.429
.472	SLG	.452
.899	OPS	.880
233	H	199
44	2B	46
10	3B	3
21	HR	21
161	RBI	154
132	BB	134
209	K	164
55/71	SB/ATT	49/57
3.54	ERA	5.00

*stats vs. CPL teams

MHC MEDIA TEAM

Lead Broadcaster: Kyle Beene
571-245-3329 | kyledbeene@gmail.com
Broadcast & Streaming Intern: Max Schwanz
NOTES COMPILED BY KYLE BEENE



2026 MOREHEAD CITY MARLINS ROSTER

#	NAME	POS	HT	WT	B/T	YR	COLLEGE	HOMETOWN
1	Nuno Parache	RHP	6-0	195	R/R	R-SR	Nicholls State University	Zebulon, NC
2	Grant Russo	OF/IF	5-9	190	S/R	R-SO	Bloomsburg University	Sugarloaf, PA
3	Braxton Thomas	1B	6-2	225	L/L	JR	Cal Poly - San Luis Obispo	Patterson, CA
4	Ronnie Rowley	IF/OF	6-1	210	S/R	JR	MidAmerica Nazarene University	Bemen, OH
5	Peyton Watts	IF	6-0	180	L/R	JR	Georgia Gwinnett College	Oxford, AL
7	Matthew Heard	RHP	6-2	195	R/R	SR	University of North Georgia	Monroe, GA
8	Ethan Dillon	OF	6-2	190	R/R	SO	Transylvania University	Louisville, KY
9	James Brock	RHP	5-11	195	R/R	SR	University of British Columbia	Burnaby, BC
10	Reid Bertram	LHP	6-2	195	L/L	R-SR	Gardner-Webb University	Concord, NC
11	Zach Greenberg	C	5-10	185	R/R	R-JR	Winthrop University	Horsham, PA
12	Carson Gipson	RHP	6-2	200	R/R	SR	Univeristy of Mount Olive	Pikeville, NC
13	Spencer Cipro	RHP	6-5	225	R/R	R-SR	Belmont Abbey College	Brookfield, MA
14	Cruz Harlan	IF	5-9	165	S/R	SO	Coastal Carolina University	Centralia, IL
15	Diego Diaz	IF	5-10	180	L/R	JR	University of Texas - San Antonio	Pharr, TX
16	Jakob Haynes	C	6-3	220	R/R	JR	Seton Hill University	Claridge, PA
17	Jake Howard	OF/IF	6-3	235	R/R	SO	Chowan University	Kinston, NC
18	Tyler DeLuzio	LHP	5-11	195	L/L	R-JR	University of Mount Olive	Newport, NC
19	Jon Howard	IF	6-3	220	R/R	R-JR	Longwood University	Kinston, NC
20	Kole Hopkins	RHP	6-4	200	R/R	SO	University of Mount Olive	Tarpon Springs, FL
21	Bryce Nicolay	RHP	6-3	190	R/R	R-SO	University of Missouri - St Louis	Oakville, MO
22	Sebastian Mexico	OF	6-2	190	L/R	R-SR	Louisiana Tech University	Baldwine, MA
23	Bray Touchstone	C/1B	5-10	220	R/R	SO	Samford University	Cantonment, FL
24	Ryan Jackson	RHP	6-1	185	R/R	R-SO	Benedictine College	Denver, CO
25	Walker Sweet	RHP	6-2	220	R/R	JR	Missouri Southern State University	Webb City, MO
26	Kory Williams	RHP	6-4	220	R/R	SR	Goldey-Beacom College	Pennsauken, NJ
27	Sage Ferguson	RHP	6-4	235	R/R	R-SR	Colorado Mesa University	Hawthorne, NY
30	Brandon Carter	RHP	6-0	225	R/R	R-SR	Louisiana Christian University	Downsville, LA
31	Joey Calabretti	RHP/OF	6-2	200	R/R	JR	St. Bonaventure University	Perkasie, PA
32	Aidan Newton	RHP	6-3	205	R/R	R-SR	University of Mount Olive	Calgary, AB
33	Matt Hubbard	RHP	6-4	220	R/R	SO	University of Toledo	Perrysburg, OH
34	John Gray	RHP	6-5	210	R/R	R-JR	Wofford College	Wilmington, DE
38	Jovan Gill	1B/RHP	6-3	230	L/R	6TH-SR	Grand Valley State University	Kansas City, MO
39	Drew Wedgeworth	LHP	6-2	195	L/L	R-FR	Missouri State University	Springfield, MO

COACHES

HEAD COACH SAM CAREL

YEAR AS HC: 6
 YEAR IN MHC: 7
 ALMA MATER: MISSOURI STATE
 HOMETOWN: ST. LOUIS, MO
 RESIDES: ST. LOUIS, MO

PITCHING COACH GABE TODTENHAUSEN

YEAR AS PC: 5
 YEAR IN MHC: 1
 ALMA MATER: METROPOLITAN CC, MO
 HOMETOWN: KANSAS CITY, MO
 RESIDES: KANSAS CITY, MO

HITTING COACH JAYLEN MACK

YEAR AS HTC: 2
 YEAR IN MHC: 2
 ALMA MATER: COKER UNIVERSITY
 HOMETOWN: MOREHEAD CITY, NC
 RESIDES: MOREHEAD CITY, NC

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

HC	carol	#21	nick-o-lay
PC	toad-en-how-zen	#38	JO-vin
#1	pa-ra-chee		
#5	l-OW, rhymes with cow		
#13	sip-row		
#18	deh-LOO-zee-OH		



2026 SCHEDULE AND RESULTS

GAME	DATE / TIME	OPP.	W/L	SCORE	WIN	LOSS	SAVE	RECORD	TIME	ATT.
1	MAY 28 / 6:30pm	@ ZEBULON	W	15-5	MHC-CARSON GIPSON	ZEB-JACOB FOSTER		1-0	2:52	526
2	MAY 29 / 6:30pm	FLORENCE	W	13-3	MHC-KORY WILLIAMS	FLO-KANYE BRAXTON		2-0	2:31	900
3	MAY 30 / 7:00pm	@ PENINSULA	W	7-0	MHC-AIDAN NEWTON	PEN-PARKER CODINGTON		3-0	2:49	2,934
5	JUNE 3 / 7:00pm	@ MACON	W	12-2	MHC-CARSON GIPSON	MAC-ROBERT MITCHELL		4-0	2:47	1,635
6	JUNE 4 / 7:00pm	@ FLORENCE	L	1-0	FLO-JACKSON GRINE	MHC-DREW BOWLES		4-1	2:37	1,288
7	JUNE 5 / 6:30pm	WILMINGTON	W	3-1	MHC-MATTHEW HEARD	WLM-LUKE HAYES		5-1	2:24	867
EXH	JUNE 6 / 6:30pm	VA BEACH	W	15-0	MHC-BRYCE NICOLAY	VLR-TY WOODS		6-1	2:13	468
8	JUNE 7 / 5:45pm	@ TRI-CITY	L	6-2	TRI-LIAM STEWART	MHC-AIDAN NEWTON		6-2	2:41	720
9	JUNE 8 / 6:30pm	ZEBULON	W	6-2	MHC-SPENCER CIPRO	ZEB-BRADY STRAWMYER		7-2	2:51	457
10	JUNE 11 / 6:30pm	TRI-CITY	W	13-2	MHC-CARSON GIPSON	TRI-COLE TORBETT		8-2	2:17	635
11	JUNE 12 / 6:30pm	WILMINGTON	W	2-0	MHC-REID BERTRAM	WLM-OTHO SAVAGE	SAGE FERGUSON	9-2	2:34	900
12	JUNE 13 / 6:30pm	@ ZEBULON	W	17-7	MHC-NUNO PARACHE	ZEB-STUART THARLE		10-2	4:13	805
13	JUNE 14 / 6:30pm	MACON	W	10-9	MHC-MATT HUBBARD	MAC-DEVIN MILLER	MATTHEW HEARD	11-2	2:41	689
14	JUNE 15 / 6:30pm	ZEBULON	W	7-2	MHC-DREW WEDGEWORTH	ZEB-HUNTER MITCHELL		12-2	2:32	465
15	JUNE 17 / 6:30pm	HOLLY SPINGS	W	3-2	MHC-JAMES BROCK	HSP-RALPH GARIANO	MATTHEW HEARD	13-2	2:48	725
16	JUNE 18 / 6:30pm	@ GREENVILLE	W	9-8	MHC-BRANDON CARTER	GVL-CHRISTIAN DAVIS		14-2	3:41	509
17	JUNE 19 / 6:30pm	PENINSULA	W	15-1	MHC-REID BERTRAM	PEN-JACE KIRBY		15-2	2:38	840
18	JUNE 20 / 6:30pm	@ GREENVILLE	W	16-0	MHC-AIDAN NEWTON	GVL-NOLAN FEIDT		16-2	2:39	518
19	JUNE 21 / 6:30pm	WILMINGTON	L	11-3	ILM-DEREK LANGFELDER	MHC-MATT HUBBARD		16-3	3:24	567
20	JUNE 22 / 7:00pm	@ PENINSULA	L	10-2	PEN-BRIAN EREU	MHC-DREW WEDGEWORTH		16-4	2:37	1,050
21	JUNE 24 / 6:30pm	PENINSULA	W	5-4	MHC-BRANDON CARTER	PEN-OLVIS GENAO		17-4	3:00	657
4	JUNE 25 / 5:30pm (POST)	@ WILMINGTON	W	9-6	MHC-JAMES BROCK	WLM-OTHO SAVAGE	SAGE FERGUSON	18-4	2:31	1,015
22	JUNE 25 / 7:05pm	@ WILMINGTON	L	7-3	WLM-LOGAN VOELZ	MHC-REID BERTRAM		18-5	2:27	1,015
23	JUNE 26 / 6:30pm	TRI-CITY	W	9-5	MHC-MATT HUBBARD	TRI-CAL TRAVERS		19-5	3:12	890
24	JUNE 27 / 6:30pm	@ FOREST CITY	W	14-10	MHC-DREW WEDGEWORTH	FOR-DJ MCDOWELL	MATTHEW HEARD	20-5	3:30	348
25	JUNE 28 / 6:30pm	@ ASHEBORO								
26	JULY 1 / 6:30pm	FOREST CITY								
27	JULY 2 / 7:05pm	@ WILMINGTON								
28	JULY 3 / 6:30pm	ZEBULON								
29	JULY 5 / 5:05pm	@ HOLLY SPRINGS								
ASG	JULY 6-7	CPL ALL-STAR GAME								
EXH	JULY 8 / 6:30pm	VA BEACH								
30	JULY 9 / 6:30pm	WILMINGTON								
31	JULY 10 / 6:30pm	ZEBULON								
32	JULY 11 / 6:30pm	@ HOLLY SPRINGS								
33	JULY 12 / 5:45pm	@ TRI-CITY								
34	JULY 13 / 6:30pm	ZEBULON								
35	JULY 15 / 6:30pm	GREENVILLE								
36	JULY 16 / 6:30pm	@ GREENVILLE								
37	JULY 17 / 6:30pm	PENINSULA								
38	JULY 18 / 6:30pm	@ GREENVILLE								
39	JULY 20 / 7:00pm	@ PENINSULA								
EXH	JULY 22 / 6:30pm	VA BEACH								
40	JULY 23 / 6:30pm	WILMINGTON								
41	JULY 24 / 6:30pm	GREENVILLE								
42	JULY 25 / 6:30pm	@ HOLLY SPRINGS								
43	JULY 26 / 5:45pm	@ TRI-CITY								
44	JULY 27 / 6:30pm	HOLLY SPRINGS								
45	JULY 29 / 6:30pm	TRI-CITY								
46	JULY 30 / 7:05pm	@ WILMINGTON								
47	JULY 31 / 6:30pm	@ ZEBULON								
48	AUG 1 / 6:30pm	GREENVILLE								
POST	AUG 2	EAST WILDCARD								
POST	AUG 4	EAST DIV G1								
POST	AUG 5	EAST DIV G2								
POST	AUG 6	EAST DIV G3								
POST	AUG 8	PETITT CUP G1								
POST	AUG 9	PETITT CUP G2								
POST	AUG 10	PETITT CUP G3								



2018 & 2019 PETITT CUP CHAMPIONS

