



MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL WEEKLY NOTES

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2017

DECISION FOR THE DIAMOND

With the NFL Draft beginning tonight, here is an annual look at some notable players throughout Major League Baseball who have passed on pursuing football careers as well as NFL stars who chose the gridiron over the diamond.

Current/Recent MLB players:

- Minnesota's **Joe Mauer**, a six-time All-Star and the 2009 American League Most Valuable Player, was Gatorade's National Player of the Year as a quarterback at Cretin-Derham Hall High School and signed a letter of intent to play at Florida State.
- New York Yankees left-hander **CC Sabathia**, a six-time All-Star and 2007 AL Cy Young Award winner, signed a letter of intent to play as a tight end at the University of Hawaii, but he signed with Cleveland after being a first round pick in 1998.
- New York Yankees designated hitter **Matt Holliday** signed a letter of intent to play quarterback at Oklahoma State University after earning All-American honors in his senior season at Stillwater High School, but decided to sign with the Colorado Rockies after they drafted him in 1998.
- Miami Marlins outfielder **Giancarlo Stanton** was a three-sport star (baseball, football and basketball) at Notre Dame High School in southern California. He accepted a scholarship to play baseball for USC before being selected 79th overall by the Marlins in the 2007 MLB Draft. Stanton also received offers from USC, UCLA and UNLV to play football.
- Cincinnati Reds outfielder **Billy Hamilton** was an all-state athlete in baseball, football and basketball at Taylorsville High School in Mississippi. He was a top wide receiver prospect, but turned down a football scholarship from Mississippi State University and was drafted by the Reds in the second round of the 2009 MLB Draft.
- San Francisco Giants right-hander **Jeff Samardzija** was a wide receiver at the University of Notre Dame, catching a total of 24 passes in his first two seasons before emerging as a star in his junior season in 2005. He finished the year with 77 catches and single-season records in both receiving yards (1,215) and touchdown receptions (15) with numerous All-America selections. After a senior season in 2006 with 12 touchdowns, Jeff finished as the school's all-time leader in reception yards with 2,593 and was one of three finalists for the Fred Biletnikoff Award for the nation's top wide receiver.
- Arizona Diamondbacks reliever **Archie Bradley**, who was the seventh overall selection in the 2011 Draft, passed on the opportunity to play quarterback at the University of Oklahoma.
- Baltimore Orioles outfielder **Seth Smith** was a quarterback in college, serving as the backup at Mississippi for three seasons behind Eli Manning.
- **Bubba Starling**, the fifth overall selection of the 2011 Draft by the Kansas City Royals, chose to sign with the Royals rather than play quarterback at the University of Nebraska.
- Chicago Cubs Minor League pitcher **Casey Kelly**, who was a centerpiece of the deal that sent Adrian Gonzalez to the Boston Red Sox prior to the 2011 season, was a standout quarterback in high school in Sarasota, Florida. He was headed to the University of Tennessee before being selected by the Sox as the 30th pick in the first round of the 2008 MLB Draft.
- New York Mets Minor League outfielder **Desmond Jennings** was a standout football player at Pinson Valley High School in Alabama and received a scholarship from the University of Georgia to play both baseball and football, as well as Alabama. Drafted in the 18th round in 2005 by the Cleveland Indians, Jennings did not sign and enrolled at Itawamba Community College to play baseball and football. Ultimately, he was selected by the Tampa Bay Devil Rays in the 10th round of the 2006 MLB Draft.
- New York Mets Minor League outfielder **Tim Lincecum** was a Heisman Trophy winner (2007) at the University of Florida. Lincecum quarterbacked the Gators to two National Championships (2006, 2008) and was drafted by the Denver Broncos in the first round (#25 overall). He signed a Minor League contract with the Mets on September 8, 2016.

- Free agent outfielder **Jeff Francoeur** led Parkview (GA) High School to two state championships in both baseball and football and was slated to play both at Clemson University, whose baseball team also had received commitments from D-backs right-hander Zack Greinke and former Major League outfielder Jeremy Hermida. All three were first round choices, however, and each signed to play professional baseball.
- Free agent outfielder **Carl Crawford** was recruited by Nebraska as an option quarterback, but the Houston native signed with the Devil Rays out of Jefferson Davis High School as a second round pick in 1999.
- Free agent Minor Leaguer **Kyle Parker**, the 26th overall selection in the 2010 Draft by the Colorado Rockies was the starting quarterback at Clemson University and was permitted by the Rockies to play at Clemson during the 2010 season before concentrating on baseball full time.
- Free agent Minor League outfielder **Donavan Tate**, the son of former NFL running back Lars Tate, was San Diego's third overall selection out of Cartersville High School in Georgia in 2009. Tate was an all-state selection as quarterback at Cartersville and had committed to play both baseball and football at the University of North Carolina prior to being drafted.
- Free agent Minor Leaguer **Brandon Jacobs**, who is currently playing independently in the Frontier League, was selected by the Boston Red Sox in the 10th round of the 2009 Draft. Jacobs had committed to play football at Auburn University prior to the draft following a senior season in which he rushed for over 1,500 yards with 19 touchdowns and was named to the Georgia 5A All-State team.
- Free agent Minor Leaguer **Chad Jones** was a third round selection out of LSU by the New York Giants in the 2010 NFL Draft. Jones was originally drafted out of high school in the 13th round of the 2007 MLB Draft by the Houston Astros. He was again drafted in 2010 by the Milwaukee Brewers in the 50th round, and taken a third time in the ninth round of the 2013 Draft by the Reds.

Former/Retired MLB players:

- Hall of Famer **Mickey Mantle** was a three-sport athlete at Commerce High School in Oklahoma, playing baseball, basketball and football. He received a football scholarship from the University of Oklahoma.
- Hall of Famer **Harmon Killebrew** was an All-American quarterback at Payette High School in Idaho, earning 12 varsity letters. He was offered a football scholarship from the University of Oregon.
- Hall of Famer **Jim Rice** was a three-sport athlete at T.L. Hannah High School, playing baseball, basketball and football. Rice was an all-state kick returner, defensive back and wide receiver, leading to football scholarships from Clemson, North Carolina and the University of Nebraska.
- Hall of Famer **Ryne Sandberg** was a three-sport star at North Central High School in Spokane, Washington and was named to Parade Magazine's High School All-America team. He originally signed a letter of intent with Washington State University, but opted not to attend after the Philadelphia Phillies drafted him in the 20th round of the 1978 MLB Draft.
- Hall of Famer **Reggie Jackson** was a star athlete at Cheltenham High School in Pennsylvania, excelling in baseball, football, basketball and track and field. Jackson accepted a football scholarship from Arizona State University, while receiving additional offers from Alabama, Georgia and Oklahoma. Following one season on the football team, Jackson decided to switch to baseball full-time during his sophomore season when he would become a First Team All-American. Mr. October was the second overall pick by the Kansas City Athletics in the 1966 MLB Draft.
- Hall of Famer **Jackie Robinson** was a four-sport star at John Muir High School in Pasadena, California, playing baseball, football, basketball and track and field. After thriving in each sports at Pasadena Junior College, Jackie enrolled at UCLA, where he became the school's first athlete to letter in four varsity sports. In 1941, Robinson pursued a career with the Los Angeles Bulldogs of the Pacific Coast Football League. Following his military career, Robinson ultimately accepted a contract from the Kansas City Monarchs in the Negro Leagues and would thus begin his historical professional baseball career.
- **Bo Jackson**, a Heisman Trophy winner, played four seasons in the NFL with the Oakland Raiders from 1987-1990, and played eight years in the majors from 1986-1994. Bo was named Comeback Player of the Year in 1993, after he had missed the 1992 season due to hip replacement surgery which would force him to retire during the 1994 season. Jackson was the first athlete to be named an All-Star in two major sports. He was selected on three occasions in the MLB Draft -- first out of high school by the New York Yankees in the second round in 1982; then by the Los Angeles Angels in the 20th round in 1985; and finally in the fourth round in 1986 by the Kansas City Royals. Jackson was the first overall selection of the 1986 NFL Draft by the Tampa Bay Bucs, but refused to sign with the team, and was again selected in 1987 in the seventh round by the Los Angeles Raiders.

- Like Jackson, **Deion Sanders** had success in both Major League Baseball and in the NFL. "Prime Time" played nine seasons in the Majors, leading the league in triples in 1992 and hitting .533 in the 1992 World Series. Deion recorded 53 career interceptions in 13 NFL seasons and was selected to the Pro Bowl eight times. Sanders was drafted by the Atlanta Falcons with the fifth overall selection in the 1989 NFL Draft, and selected by the New York Yankees in the 30th round of the 1988 Amateur Draft. He is the only athlete to play in a World Series and a Super Bowl.
- Former MLB outfielder **Brian Jordan** was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals 30th overall in the 1988 Amateur Draft. While in the Minor Leagues, Jordan was a safety for the Atlanta Falcons from 1989-1991 before turning his attention to baseball full-time.
- Hall of Famer **Dave Winfield** was drafted by four teams in three different sports following his college career. The San Diego Padres selected him fourth overall in the 1973 Draft, four years after the Baltimore Orioles selected him out of high school in the 40th round. Despite not playing football in college, Winfield was chosen by the Minnesota Vikings in the 17th round of the 1973 NFL Draft. Winfield was also selected in the 1973 NBA Draft by the Atlanta Hawks.
- Retired slugger **Adam Dunn**, who signed with the Reds after being drafted in the second round in 1998, accepted a scholarship to play football at the University of Texas, but after the school's spring football game in 1999, he decided to play baseball full-time. A high school quarterback, Dunn resisted a position change after being informed he would not be the Longhorns' starting quarterback in the upcoming season.
- Hall of Famer **Frank Thomas** played football as a freshman tight end for Auburn, catching three passes for 45 yards, but he then focused only on baseball for the rest of his college career.
- Former Rockies first baseman **Todd Helton** was the signal-caller for the University of Tennessee. Slated to be the Vols' backup quarterback in 1994, Helton took over for the injured Jerry Colquitt in the season opener at UCLA and started the next three games. Helton suffered a sprained Medial Collateral Ligament in the first half of Tennessee's September 24th game at Mississippi State, and a freshman named Peyton Manning took over from then on.
- Former Major League outfielder and manager **Kirk Gibson** was a wide receiver at Michigan State University, where he was named to the 1978 College Football All-America Team. He was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals in the seventh round of the 1979 NFL Draft.
- Former All-Star outfielder **Darin Erstad** played baseball and football at the University of Nebraska and was the punter on the Cornhuskers' 1994 national championship team.
- Former All-Star outfielder **Grady Sizemore** was recruited to play both baseball and football, as a quarterback, at the University of Washington. At Everett's Cascade High School, Sizemore set school records with 3,081 rushing yards and 16 career interceptions. He also was recruited by Arizona State, Cal, Clemson and Washington State. Sizemore signed with the Montreal Expos after being selected 75th overall in the third round of the 2000 MLB Draft.
- Former Major League outfielder **Trot Nixon** signed a letter of intent to play quarterback at North Carolina State, but he signed with Boston after being the seventh overall pick in the 1993 Draft.
- Former Major League outfielder **Elijah Dukes** was offered a scholarship to play linebacker at North Carolina State.
- Former Major League infielder **Josh Fields**, who played in 100 games for the Chicago White Sox in 2007, earned three letters as quarterback of Oklahoma State's football team where he holds the school record for most career touchdown passes with 55. Fields tied a Big 12 record (since broken) with seven touchdown passes in a 52-6 win at SMU on September 20, 2003, and set a Cotton Bowl record with 307 passing yards vs. Mississippi on January 2, 2004. The following June, Josh was selected as the 18th pick overall by the White Sox.
- Former Major League infielder/outfielder and MLB Network analyst **Mark DeRosa** played baseball and football at the University of Pennsylvania where he was the Quakers starting quarterback from 1993-1995. Mark was selected in the seventh round of the 1996 MLB Draft by the Atlanta Braves.
- Former Major League outfielder **Gabe Gross** played baseball and football at Auburn. After starting six games at quarterback as a freshman in 1998, he began to concentrate on baseball in his sophomore year. Gross was Toronto's first round pick in 2001.
- Former Major League outfielder **Nick Stavinoha** played football and baseball at Jersey Village (TX) High School where he helped lead his baseball team to three district championships and the football team to two district titles before attending the University of Houston for football. Nick, who appeared in 79 games for the Cardinals in 2010, later switched to San Jacinto College as he began his switch to baseball.
- Former Major League outfielder **Joe Borchard** played baseball and football at Stanford. He was considered the leading candidate to start at quarterback for the Cardinals in 2000, but he signed with the White Sox after being their first round pick (12th overall) that June.

Current/Recent NFL players:

- New England Patriots quarterback **Tom Brady** played football, baseball and basketball at Junipero Serra High School in California. He was drafted as a catcher by the Montreal Expos in the 18th round of the 1995 Draft following his high school career. Brady did not sign and went on to play football at the University of Michigan before turning pro and leading the Patriots to five Super Bowl wins.
- Seattle Seahawks quarterback **Russell Wilson**, who was drafted by the Colorado Rockies in the fourth round of the 2010 Draft, was the starting quarterback at North Carolina State and he led the Seahawks to a Super Bowl win in his second season after the team drafted him 75th overall in the 2012 NFL Draft. The Texas Rangers, who currently have the baseball rights to Wilson after selecting him in the 2013 Rule 5 Draft, have had Wilson participate in drills during Spring Training in each of the previous two seasons.
- Detroit Lions wide receiver **Golden Tate** was a 42nd round selection of the Arizona Diamondbacks out of high school in 2007 and a 50th round selection of the San Francisco Giants out of Notre Dame in 2010 after he was a second round choice of the Seattle Seahawks in the 2010 NFL Draft.
- Free agent quarterback **Colin Kaepernick** was drafted by the Chicago Cubs in the 43rd round of the 2009 Draft.
- Tampa Bay quarterback **Jameis Winston**, who led his Florida State team to a national championship in 2013, was a two-sport star for the Seminoles. Winston made 24 relief appearances on the mound in 2014 for the Seminoles, going 1-0 with a 1.08 ERA and 31 strikeouts in 33.1 innings pitched while holding opposing hitters to a .154 batting average. In addition, he recorded a team-high seven saves, which was tied for eighth-most in the conference.
- New York Jets wide receiver **Eric Decker** was selected in the 2008 MLB Draft in the 39th round by the Milwaukee Brewers, and again in 2009 in the 27th round by the Minnesota Twins.
- Free agent quarterback **Johnny Manziel** was drafted by the San Diego Padres in the 28th round of the 2014 Draft.
- Miami Dolphins quarterback **Matt Moore** was drafted by the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim in the 22nd round in the 2004 Draft.
- Houston Texans quarterback **Brandon Weeden** was drafted by the New York Yankees in the second round of the 2002 Draft. He played parts of five Minor League seasons for the Yankees, Dodgers and Royals.
- Texas Tech quarterback **Patrick Mahomes**, who is expected to be drafted in the early rounds of the NFL Draft this weekend, was selected by the Detroit Tigers in the 37th round of the 2014 MLB Draft out of high school. Mahomes is the son of former big league pitcher Pat Mahomes.

Former/Retired NFL players:

- Hall of Fame quarterback **John Elway** was drafted by the Kansas City Royals in the 1979 Amateur Draft, but did not sign with the club. He was again selected in the 1981 Amateur Draft by the New York Yankees. Elway signed with the club and played right field for the Oneonta Yankees in 1982. He hit .318 in 42 games before giving up baseball for professional football. He was selected number one overall in the 1983 NFL Draft by the Baltimore Colts before being traded to the Denver Broncos. Elway played 16 seasons as the quarterback of the Broncos and led the team to Super Bowl titles in 1998 and 1999. John was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2004.
- Hall of Fame quarterback **Dan Marino** was drafted by the Kansas City Royals in the 1979 Amateur Draft, but decided to play college football instead. Marino would go on to become one of the greatest NFL quarterbacks of all time.
- Former NFL quarterback **Daunte Culpepper** was drafted as an outfielder out of high school by the New York Yankees in the 26th round of the 1995 Draft, but did not sign. Culpepper would go on to play quarterback at the University of Central Florida where he set more than 30 school quarterback records. Daunte was drafted by the Minnesota Vikings with the 11th overall selection in the 1999 NFL Draft.
- Free agent NFL quarterback **Michael Vick** was drafted by the Colorado Rockies in the 30th round of the 2000 Draft.
- Former NFL wide receiver **Hines Ward** was a high school outfielder taken in the 73rd round of the 1994 MLB Draft. The 2006 Super Bowl MVP did not sign and went on to become a star football player at the University of Georgia.
- Former Tennessee Titans quarterback **Jake Locker**, who was also a 10th round selection by the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim in 2009, had his rights signed by the Angels while he returned to the University of Washington for his junior season. Locker was selected eighth overall by Tennessee in the 2010 NFL Draft.
- Heisman Trophy winner **Ricky Williams** was drafted by the Philadelphia Phillies in the eighth round of the 1995 MLB Draft. Williams spent four years in professional baseball, never moving up beyond Single-A, before turning his attention to professional football.

- Peyton and Eli's father **Archie Manning**, a former NFL quarterback, was taken in the third round of the 1971 Amateur Draft by the Chicago White Sox, but did not sign. He was also selected in the 1971 NFL Draft by the New Orleans Saints with the second overall selection. Archie played 13 NFL seasons and was selected to the Pro Bowl in 1978 and 1979.
- Former NFL running back **Cedric Benson** was also a high school outfielder taken in the 12th round of the 2001 MLB Draft. He played in nine games for the Gulf Coast Dodgers before going on to star at the University of Texas at Austin, where he received the Doak Walker Award as the nation's top running back in 2004. Boston Red Sox outfielder Darnell McDonald was recruited by the University of Texas to play baseball and football but chose to play professional baseball leading to the school's recruitment of Benson.
- Former NFL wide receiver **Javon Walker** was selected by the Florida Marlins in the 12th round of the 1997 Draft and he played in parts of three Minor League seasons for the club.
- Former NFL wide receiver **Antwaan Randle El** was selected by the Chicago Cubs in the 14th round of the 1997 Draft.
- Former Atlanta Falcons quarterback **Doug Johnson** was a second round draft pick in 1996 for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, playing as an infielder in their Minor League system in 1996 and 1997 before suffering a rotator cuff injury and leaving to concentrate on football full-time.
- Former NFL quarterback **Drew Henson** was selected in the sixth round of the 2003 NFL Draft by the Houston Texans. Henson played in nine games over two seasons from 2004-05 with the Dallas Cowboys and Detroit Lions. Prior to his NFL stint, he was also selected by the New York Yankees in the third round of the 1998 MLB Draft with the 97th overall selection. Henson played in over 500 Minor League games over six seasons and appeared in eight Major League games with the Yankees between 2002-03, collecting one hit in nine at-bats.
- Former NFL quarterback **Kerry Collins** was drafted three times by MLB clubs. The Detroit Tigers drafted him out of high school in the 26th round of the 1990 MLB Draft, but Collins decided to attend Penn State University. The Tigers drafted him again in the 60th round of the 1991 MLB Draft, and he was selected in the 48th round of the 1994 MLB Draft by the Toronto Blue Jays, but did not sign in either instance. Collins was ultimately drafted in the first round of the 1995 NFL Draft by the Carolina Panthers, would make two Pro Bowl Teams (1996, 2008) and play for 17 seasons.
- Former first baseman **Chris Weinke** played six seasons (1991-96) in the Toronto Blue Jays Minor League system after being selected by the Jays in the second round of the 1990 MLB Draft. After the 1996 season, Weinke accepted a football scholarship at Florida State University, winning the Heisman Trophy in 2000. He was drafted by the Carolina Panthers in the fourth round of the 2001 NFL Draft.
- The late **Steve McNair** was drafted by the Seattle Mariners in the 35th round of the 1991 MLB Draft. A three-sport athlete at Mount Olive High School in Mississippi, McNair did not sign with the Mariners, but opted to attend Alcorn State University. He was drafted by the Houston Oilers with the third overall pick in the 1995 NFL Draft and would go on to win the 2003 MVP Award.
- Former NFL running back **D.J. Dozier** was originally drafted out of high school by the Detroit Tigers in the 18th round of the 1983 Amateur Draft. He opted to go to Penn State and play football where he scored the game-winning touchdown of Penn State's 1987 Fiesta Bowl victory over Miami. D.J. was drafted 14th overall by the Minnesota Vikings in the 1987 NFL Draft and finished his football career in 1992 with the Detroit Lions. In 1990, the New York Mets signed him as an amateur free agent. He spent 1990 and 1991 in the Minors, and was called up to the Major Leagues in 1992 where he would play in 25 games.
- Former Miami Dolphins quarterback **Pat White** helped lead his high school team to two state championships as a pitcher and outfielder before attending the University of West Virginia for football. White was drafted by Major League organizations on four different occasions, but never did sign. The Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim drafted him in the fourth round of the 2004 MLB Draft, and again in the 27th round in 2007. The Cincinnati Reds selected Pat in the 49th round in 2008 and the New York Yankees picked him in the 48th round in 2009. White signed a Minor League deal with the Kansas City Royals in September 2010 after being released by the Dolphins, and has since retired from the diamond.

Other:

- Ohio State University head football coach **Urban Meyer**, who won two BCS Championships at the University of Florida (2006 and 2008) and one at Ohio State (2014), was selected by the Atlanta Braves in the 13th round of the 1982 MLB Draft. He went on to play two seasons as a shortstop in the Braves organization.
- Oakland Raiders head coach **Jack Del Rio** was a 22nd round selection of the Toronto Blue Jays in the 1981 MLB Draft out of Hayward High School in California.

MLB AND THE MARLINS ANNOUNCE 2017 ALL-STAR LEGACY INITIATIVE

Earlier this week, Major League Baseball and the Miami Marlins announced the contribution of more than \$5 million toward the 2017 All-Star Legacy initiative to fund community improvement projects designed to leave a lasting impact throughout Greater Miami and beyond and support national charitable organizations.

This is the 20th anniversary of the All-Star Legacy program, which started in 1997 in connection to the Midsummer Classic in Cleveland. This year's All-Star Legacy effort features the development of youth baseball and softball playing fields, Boys & Girls Club teen centers, an airport military hospitality lounge and a mobile eye unit. The various All-Star Legacy projects will be unveiled leading up to the 88th MLB All-Star Game presented by Mastercard.

More than \$5 Million to Local Projects and National Charities

MLB Charities, the Miami Marlins and the Marlins Foundation (a donor-advised fund of The Miami Foundation) plan to donate approximately \$5 million, a significant portion of which will go toward the All-Star Legacy initiative. The donation also will support national charitable partners of Major League Baseball, including Boys & Girls Clubs of America, the Jackie Robinson Foundation and Stand Up To Cancer, among others. The funds will be raised from Gatorade All-Star Workout Day on Monday, July 10th. Since 1997, MLB and host All-Star Clubs have donated approximately \$80 million through the All-Star Legacy initiative.

2017 All-Star Legacy Projects

- **José Martí Park (Miami, FL)** – This project will include a complete renovation and rededication of the field at José Martí Park. Renovations will include regrading the field to eliminate low spots, replacing the outfield grass with field turf, adding new high-efficiency sports lighting, and a drainage system to help facilitate weather-related delays. Additionally, all fencing and the backstop will be repaired with new vinyl coated fencing. Other improvements will include extending the dugout at both sides with roofs and new benches, installing bleachers with shade canopies, and the installation of an art component on the adjacent gymnasium building's façade. The renovations could potentially result in an additional 1,000-3,000 youth players participating in baseball and softball programming at José Martí Park.
- **Charles Hadley Park (Miami, FL)** – Upgrades to Charles Hadley Park will consist of a complete renovation of a baseball field, including replacing all fencing and the backstop with new vinyl coated fencing, installing new dugouts and re-grading the outfield turf. Additional improvements will include reconditioning the infield clay as well as the fabric along the first and third base lines. The project also will install concrete pads for the players' protection as well as shade canopies for the bleacher areas.
- **Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Mobile Eye Unit (Miami, FL)** – Legacy funding will go toward a new mobile optometric unit, replacing an outdated, 14-year-old vehicle that has been in constant need of repair. The new unit will allow the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired to expand their much needed services of free eye examinations and glasses for eligible school children.
- **Military Hospitality Lounge at Miami International Airport (Miami, FL)** – Renovations will be made to the Military Hospitality Lounge at Miami International Airport, which provides hospitality services for active and former members of the Armed Forces and their families who are traveling. Plans for the lounge, which was in need of several aesthetic and functional upgrades/repairs, include a more efficiently-designed space as well as new furniture, appliances, flooring, signage and utility work.
- **Boys & Girls Clubs of Miami-Dade (Kendall Club, Miami, FL)** – This project would encompass the renovation and expansion of the existing Teen Center at the Kendall Club of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Miami-Dade to include the following: removing the existing flooring, lighting, lay-in ceiling and HVAC equipment in the current study lounge/game room and entry area, removing the wall and door inside the entry area. Additional space renovations include installation of the new HVAC system, flooring and lighting as well as recoating the roofing on the exterior, upgrading furniture, enabling telephone/cable and Wi-Fi service, cosmetic upgrades (interior and exterior painting), and creating an outdoor space adjacent to the Teen Center with an art component. The renovation and expansion is expected to increase the number of children served daily from 20 to as many as 100 teens per day, a potential 400% increase.
- **Boys & Girls Club of Broward County (Leo Goodwin Teen Center, North Lauderdale, FL)** – This project will involve renovations to the Leo Goodwin Teen Center facility of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County. The scope of the project includes improvements to the computer lab, including new computer desks, tables, lab chairs, headphones as well as new gaming design software. Additional upgrades include those to the "college corner," the club's recording studio, and the game room and lounge areas, which will receive a new television and improved sound system, respectively. The lounge area also will receive a throw rug, lounge-style tables and chairs, wall shelving, wall décor and new curtains. Generally, the club will receive new gym doors, updated painting and new baseboards.

PERFECT STARTS

Entering play on Thursday, 20 starting pitchers have started the 2017 season with a perfect record of 2-0 or better. Below is a look at the complete list:

Player, Team	W-L	ERA	IP	H	ER	BB	SO	Next Scheduled Start
Dallas Keuchel, HOU	4-0	1.22	37.0	22	5	9	27	Sunday vs. Oakland
Ervin Santana, MIN	4-0	0.77	35.0	13	3	10	26	TBD
Brandon McCarthy, LAD	3-0	2.25	24.0	18	6	8	22	TBD
James Paxton, SEA	3-0	1.39	32.1	21	5	6	39	TBD
Miguel González, CWS	3-0	2.00	27.0	21	6	8	20	TBD
Tanner Roark, WSH	3-0	3.64	29.2	26	12	9	21	TBD
Jake Arrieta, CHI	3-0	3.65	24.2	20	10	5	29	Tomorrow at Boston
Antonio Senzatela, COL	3-0	2.08	26.0	18	6	4	17	Today vs. Washington
Jeremy Hellickson, PHI	3-0	1.88	24.0	14	5	3	10	Today vs. Miami
Robbie Ray, ARI	2-0	3.42	23.2	19	9	14	30	TBD
Aaron Nola, PHI	2-0	4.50	16.0	20	8	6	15	On Disabled List
Brett Anderson, CHI	2-0	3.54	20.1	21	8	11	14	Sunday at Boston
Matt Harvey, NYM	2-0	2.84	25.1	19	8	5	17	Today vs. Atlanta
Cole Hamels, TEX	2-0	3.03	32.2	25	11	12	15	Tuesday at Houston
A.J. Griffin, TEX	2-0	4.11	15.1	9	7	4	16	On Disabled List
Kendall Graveman, OAK	2-0	2.00	18.0	13	4	5	12	Tonight at LA Angels
Gio Gonzalez, WSH	2-0	1.35	26.2	20	4	8	21	Today at Colorado
Matt Cain, SF	2-0	2.42	22.1	17	6	9	15	Saturday vs. San Diego
Chase Anderson, MIL	2-0	1.12	24.0	19	3	6	22	Tomorrow vs. Atlanta
Stephen Strasburg, WSH	2-0	2.89	28.0	22	9	7	29	TBD

WILL HIRE FOR HITS

Through Wednesday (315 total games), there have been a total of 1,823 hits across the Majors, putting the 2017 season on pace for a total of 40,091 hits. That would be the lowest hit output in the Wild Card era. From 1996 through 2016, the lowest hit total for a season came in 1997, when there was a total of 41,471 hits. Ironically, the current percentage of hits going for extra-bases in 2017 is 35.1, the highest mark during that timeframe, albeit slightly.

MLB TOTAL HITS, TOTAL EXTRA-BASE HITS & EXTRA-BASE HIT PERCENTAGE (1996-2017)

Year	Hits	XBH	XBH %	Year	Hits	XBH	XBH%	Year	Hits	XBH	XBH%
1996	42,320	13,804	32.6	2003	44,057	14,968	34.0	2010	42,554	13,965	32.8
1997	41,471	13,527	32.6	2004	44,522	15,268	34.3	2011	42,267	13,849	32.8
1998	44,489	14,704	33.1	2005	43,991	14,768	33.6	2012	42,063	14,122	33.6
1999	45,327	15,189	33.5	2006	45,073	15,473	34.3	2013	42,093	13,655	32.4
2000	45,246	15,546	34.4	2007	44,977	15,092	33.6	2014	41,595	13,172	31.7
2001	43,879	15,199	34.6	2008	43,972	14,778	33.6	2015	42,106	14,090	33.5
2002	43,272	14,680	33.9	2009	45,073	14,728	32.7	2016	42,276	14,737	34.9
								2017	5,197	1,823	35.1

TREA-CYCLE

On Tuesday night, Washington's Trea Turner went 4-for-6 with four runs scored and seven RBI while hitting for the cycle in a 15-12 win over the Colorado Rockies at Coors Field. The cycle was just the third-ever by a Washington Nationals player, joining Brad Wilkerson (April 6, 2005 vs. Philadelphia) and Cristian Guzman (August 28, 2008 vs. Los Angeles Dodgers).

The cycle marked the second of the young season, joining Wil Myers' performance on April 10th vs. Colorado. Dating back to at least 1913, it marked just the third time that multiple cycles were hit before the end of April in a single season. The others came in 2009, when Orlando Hudson of the Dodgers (April 13th vs. San Francisco), Ian Kinsler of the Rangers (April 15th vs. Baltimore) and Jason Kubel of the Twins (April 17th vs. LA Angels) all turned the trick; and in 2005, when Wilkerson was joined by Mark Grudzielanek of the Cardinals (April 27th vs. Milwaukee).

Turner's seven RBI in the contest tied for the third-most in a cycle behind Philadelphia's Jimmie Foxx, who had nine in his cycle against Cleveland on August 14, 1933, and Pittsburgh's Ralph Kiner, who had eight in his milestone on June 25, 1950 against Brooklyn. Other players to post seven RBI in a cycle include Colorado's Troy Tulowitzki (August 10, 2009); Mark Teixeira of the Rangers (August 17, 2004); Boston's Rich Gedman (September 18, 1985); San Francisco's Jim Ray Hart (July 8, 1970); and Joe DiMaggio of the Yankees (July 9, 1937).



The Rockies have been on the receiving end of both cycles so far this year. Oddly enough, the Rockies were the last team to allow multiple cycles in a single season, when San Diego's Matt Kemp and Shin-Soo Choo of the Rangers did so against them in 2015. Overall, the Rockies have allowed four of the last eight cycles hit in the Majors.

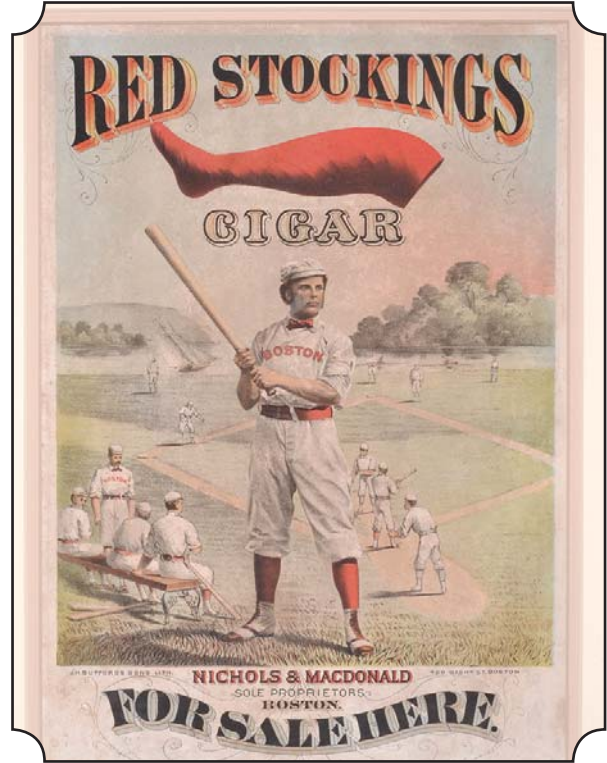
A night after hitting for the cycle, Turner went 3-for-5 with two extra-base hits (double and home run), three runs scored, and two RBI as Washington topped the Rockies on Wednesday. Over his last two games, he's totaled five extra-base hits, seven runs scored, and nine RBI. According to Elias, the only other player over the last 40 years with that many extra-base hits, runs scored, and RBI over a two-game span was Mike Piazza on May 6-7, 1995. Similarly, both of Piazza's games were at Coors Field, where he totaled the same exact number of extra-base hits, runs scored, and runs batted in as Turner.

WELCOME TO THE SHOW

Pittsburgh Pirates right-hander Dovydas Neverauskas made his Major League debut Monday night, becoming the first player who was born and raised in Lithuania to appear in a big league game. Neverauskas was recalled Monday from Triple-A Indianapolis, where he posted a save and a 0.00 ERA (8.1ip/3r/0er) over five appearances. Signed as a non-drafted free agent on July 9, 2009, Neverauskas spent the last seven years in the Pirates Minor League system before making his debut. On Wednesday, Gift Ngoepe became the first player from South Africa to appear in a Major League game. Signed by the Pirates as a non-drafted free agent as an 18-year-old on September 29, 2008, Ngoepe spent his first professional season (2009) playing with the Gulf Coast League Pirates. After hitting .429 (18-for-42) in 21 Spring Training games this year, Gift has spent the first three weeks of the regular season with Triple-A Indianapolis and is batting .241 (14-for-58) with four RBI thru 15 games. Ngoepe, who represented South Africa during the 2009 World Baseball Classic, as well as the 2012 and 2016 WBC Qualifiers, has been rated by Baseball America as the "Best Defensive Infielder" in the Pirates Minor League system each of the last five seasons (2013-2017).



EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY
(by MLB Official Historian John Thorn)



This gorgeous lithograph from 1889 (upper left), featuring Hall of Famers Cap Anson and Buck Ewing, is a monument in the history of celebrity endorsement. While not the first — that honor goes to an 1874 cigar poster featuring Boston's star shortstop George Wright (upper right) — it is the most splendid. According to Charles Zuber of the Cincinnati Times-Star:

There is only one case of record where ball players received a large remuneration for acting as models for an advertisement. Those players were Capt. Ewing and 'Old Man' Anson. It was before the Brotherhood War, when Ewing was in the very zenith of his glory. A certain ale manufacturing concern wanted a taking ad. for its goods and decided that a base ball picture was the best thing. So when the Chicagos came to New York this firm arranged for Ewing and Anson to sit in front of a tent on which the ad of the company was emblazoned. Barrels and cases of the product were placed in close proximity and Ewing and Anson, in their uniforms and each with a glass of ale poised graceful in his hands, were in the foreground. The ad made a big hit and Ewing and Anson received \$300 and a case of ale each. It was quick and easy for them.

When this possibly unique poster came up at auction in 2008, it fetched \$188,000. The George Wright poster brought just a bit more when it came up at auction six years later.

For more on the general subject of athlete endorsements, with a concentration on the Wright image, see "The Dawn of Athlete Endorsements." (<http://ourgame.mlblogs.com/2014/01/20/the-dawn-of-athlete-endorsements/>)

MLB ON-AIR THIS WEEK
(All Times ET)

Thursday, April 27th:	Houston Astros at Cleveland Indians	6:10 p.m.
	New York Yankees at Boston Red Sox	7:10 p.m.
Friday, April 28th:	New York Mets at Washington Nationals	7:05 p.m.
	Chicago Cubs at Boston Red Sox	7:10 p.m.
Saturday, April 29th:	Baltimore Orioles at New York Yankees	1:05 p.m.
	San Diego Padres at San Francisco Giants	9:05 p.m.
	Philadelphia Phillies at Los Angeles Dodgers	9:10 p.m.
Sunday, April 30th:	Seattle Mariners at Cleveland Indians	1:10 p.m.
	New York Mets at Washington Nationals	1:35 p.m.
Monday, May 1st:	San Francisco Giants at Los Angeles Dodgers	10:10 p.m.
Tuesday, May 2nd:	Toronto Blue Jays at New York Yankees	7:05 p.m.
	Baltimore Orioles at Boston Red Sox	7:10 p.m.
Wednesday, May 3rd:	Colorado Rockies at San Diego Padres	10:10 p.m.
	San Francisco Giants at Los Angeles Dodgers	10:10 p.m.
Thursday, May 4th:	Oakland Athletics at Minnesota Twins	1:10 p.m.
	Cleveland Indians at Detroit Tigers	1:10 p.m.
	Miami Marlins at Tampa Bay Rays	7:10 p.m.
	Baltimore Orioles at Boston Red Sox	7:10 p.m.
	Los Angeles Angels at Seattle Mariners	10:10 p.m.



Saturday, April 29th:	Chicago Cubs at Boston Red Sox (FS1)	4:05 p.m.
	Los Angeles Angels at Texas Rangers (FS1)	7:15 p.m.

Sunday, April 30th:	Chicago Cubs at Boston Red Sox	8:05 p.m.
Monday, May 1st:	Baltimore Orioles at Boston Red Sox	7:10 p.m.
Wednesday, May 3rd:	Toronto Blue Jays at New York Yankees	7:05 p.m.



UPON FURTHER REVIEW

Through 315 games played this season (through Wednesday), Major League Baseball has had 206 replay reviews, which have taken an average of one minute and thirty-six seconds.

- *206 Replay Reviews
- *41 Confirmed (19.9%)
- *66 Stands (32.0%)
- *94 Overturned (45.6%)
- *5 Rules Check (2.4%)
- *1:35 Average Time



LINE DRIVES (Compiled from Club Game Notes)

CREATING A DESERT BREEZE: Zack Greinke had 11 strikeouts with no walks on Monday vs. San Diego, his 11th career game of at least 10 strikeouts and no walks, the fourth-highest total among active players, behind Clayton Kershaw (19), Max Scherzer (15) and Madison Bumgarner (12).

FEAST OR FAMINE: A day after scoring 19 runs, the Tigers offense was shut out by Mariners starter James Paxton and relievers Nick Vincent and Edwin Díaz in an 8-0 loss on Wednesday night. According to Elias, it marked just the third time in the last 40 years in which a team scored at least 19 runs in one game and then was shut out in their next game by the same opponent. On August 1, 2002, the Rangers defeated the Red Sox, 19-7, and then were shut out 13-0 the following day; and on September 9, 2004, the Royals scored 26 runs against the Tigers, then were held scoreless that same day in the second game of a doubleheader.

MR. APRIL: Eric Thames has set new Brewers' franchise records for home runs (11) and runs (27) for the month of April. Thames also became the fourth player in Major League history to produce eight home runs in a calendar month against a single opponent with his home run against Cincinnati on Tuesday, joining Hall of Famer Babe Ruth of the Yankees (May 1930 vs. Philadelphia); Hall of Famer Willie Stargell of the Pirates (April 1971 vs. Atlanta); and Philadelphia's Deron Johnson (July 1971 vs. Montreal).

BUEN COMIENZO: Antonio Senzatela is the second Venezuelan-born pitcher to earn a win in three of his first four career starts (also: Jeanmar Gómez). According to Elias, Senzatela, who is 3-0 with a 2.08 ERA (26.0 IP, 6 ER), joins Nelson Cruz (3-0, 2.91 ERA) and Joe Kennedy (3-0, 2.49) as the only pitchers in Rockies history to be 3-0 or better with an ERA under 3.00 over their first four career starts.

LEAVE IT TO SEAGER: Corey Seager, who finished Tuesday's contest 1-for-3 with a run, a walk and a stolen base, became just the third Los Angeles Dodger to record his 250th career hit before turning 23. Seager, who celebrates his 23rd birthday today, recorded a single in the eighth inning of Tuesday's game to join Adrian Beltre and Willie Davis as the only Los Angeles Dodgers to accomplish the feat. He has hit safely in 13 of his last 16 games, batting .333 (20-for-60) with 11 runs, four doubles, three homers and 11 RBI. In 22 games this season, Seager has posted a .317 (26-for-82)/.387/.537 slashline with 13 runs, six doubles, four homers and 16 RBI, which is tied for the 13th most in the National League.

BE LIKE MAIK: Maikel Franco's third-inning grand slam proved to be the game-winning hit in Philadelphia's 7-4 victory over the Marlins on Wednesday. That was Franco's second grand slam of the season, hitting his first on April 12th against the Mets. Franco is the first player in Phillies history with two-or-more grand slams before the end of April in a single season. Over the last 10 seasons (since 2008), four other players have done this: Joe Crede (2008), Albert Pujols (2009), Ike Davis (2014) and Bryce Harper (2016), who each had two by the end of April.

STRO-SHOW: On Wednesday night, Marcus Stroman recorded a pinch-hit double to lead off the 11th inning. In the history of Interleague play, only one other AL pitcher got his first Major League hit as a pinch hitter: Tampa Bay's Wade Davis against the Astros on June 26, 2011. He became the 1st pitcher in club history with a pinch hit and the first AL pitcher with a pinch-hit double since Boston's Gary Peters on June 19, 1971. The last AL pitcher to record a pinch hit of any kind was Kansas City's Bruce Chen on June 17, 2012 (single). Stroman was the first AL pitcher since Matt Albers (with the White Sox on June 1, 2016 at the Mets) to score the winning run in a game that went into extra innings.

TRIPLE THREAT: Jake Arrieta on Saturday recorded an RBI triple and now has a triple in each of his last four seasons. According to Elias, he is the first pitcher to triple in four consecutive seasons since St. Louis' Ray Sadecki from 1963-66.

CLOSING TIME: Craig Kimbrel has retired 18 of his last 19 batters faced (12 strikeouts) entering play on Thursday. He is averaging 16.4 strikeouts per 9.0 innings, the sixth-best mark among Major League relievers. His seven saves lead the AL and are tied for second in the Majors. Kimbrel has converted each of his 22 career save opportunities at Fenway Park, the second-longest streak ever by a Red Sox pitcher, trailing only Tom Gordon, who saved 29 consecutive chances in 1998-99. Kimbrel has allowed no runs and only five hits in those 22 games (22.0 IP, 4 BB, 37 SO).

TEHERAN VS. THE METS: Wednesday night's Atlanta Braves starter Julio Teheran allowed two earned runs over 6.1 innings in an 8-2 win over the Mets at Citi Field. Spanning his last seven starts against the Mets, Teheran has surrendered just five earned runs total, and in the Divisional Era (since 1969), only one other pitcher allowed five-or-fewer runs versus the Mets over a seven-start span — Mike Hampton (five runs), August 1997 to May 2001.

ALMOST PERFECT: Entering play on Thursday, Astros right-hander Brad Peacock has allowed just one hit over 9.2 innings pitched, while posting a 0.00 ERA in his six relief appearances. Opposing batters are just 1-for-30 off him for the season.

PICKING UP WHERE HE LEFT OFF: Entering play on Thursday, New York Mets reliever Jerry Blevins has stranded 13 of 15 inherited runners this year after he was tied for the Major League lead stranding 47 runners last year. Blevins is unscored upon in his 13 outings with 12 strikeouts over 8.0 innings.

JAKE CAN RAKE: Yankees outfielder Jacoby Ellsbury has reached base safely via hit, walk or hit by pitch in 25 straight games with a plate appearance, dating back to September 26, 2016. The streak is tied with Seattle's Mitch Haniger for the longest active on-base streak in the Majors, and it is the second-longest such streak of his career behind a 26 game streak with Boston from July 2-September 26, 2007. Jacoby is batting .337/.416/.438 (30-for-89) with 15 runs, three doubles, two home runs, eight RBI, 11 walks, eight stolen bases and one hit by pitch over the current stretch (including one game in which he did not have a plate appearance, but had one run and one stolen base).

ROAD WARRIOR: Dating back to August 16, 2016, Robinson Canó has reached base safely in 30 of his last 35 road games, including 28 games with at least one hit. In that time, he is batting .329 (47-for-143) with 24 runs scored, seven doubles, nine home runs, 22 RBI and 11 walks. During this stretch Canó's .329 average is the fifth-highest in the AL (min. 100 PA), while also ranking first in hits, tied for fourth in home runs and runs scored, tied for eighth in extra-base hits (15), 10th in OPS (.936) and in slugging percentage (.566). Overall in his career, he is batting .310 (1,170-for-3,770) with 557 runs scored, 271 doubles, 16 triples, 133 home runs, 528 RBI and 254 walks in 948 career road games. Since making his debut in 2005, Canó leads the Major Leagues on the road in hits and doubles, while also ranking third in runs scored, fifth in average and sixth in RBI.

TRIBE TRIO: On Wednesday against Houston, Cleveland's Michael Brantley drove in three runs, Carlos Santana had two RBI, and José Ramírez had one RBI in the 7-6 victory. Cleveland has played 20 games in the 2017 campaign, and each in this trio has reached the 15-RBI mark (Ramírez, 18; Santana, 16; Brantley, 15). The last season in which three Indians players had at least 15 RBI through the first 20 team games was in 2000, when four did so: Manny Ramirez (21), Travis Fryman (17), Omar Vizquel (16), and Jim Thome (15).



INTERLEAGUE TRACKER

<u>League</u>	<u>2017 Record</u>	<u>Batting Average</u>	<u>ERA</u>
American League	13-10	.234 (182-for-779)	3.32
National League	10-13	.237 (187-for-790)	3.18

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL'S PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

<u>WEEK ENDING</u>	<u>AMERICAN LEAGUE</u>	<u>NATIONAL LEAGUE</u>
April 9 th	Nomar Mazara, TEX (.417, 2 HR, 9 RBI, 6 R, 2 2B, .750 SLG)	J.T. Realmuto, MIA (.500, 2 HR, 6 RBI, 6 R, 2B, 3B, .909 SLG)
April 16 th	James Paxton, SEA (2-0, 0.00 ERA, 15.0 IP, 17 SO, 3 BB, 6 H)	Marcell Ozuna, MIA (.435, 4 HR, 12 RBI, 1 2B, 4 R, 1.000 SLG)
April 23 rd	Steven Souza Jr., TB (.414, 2 2B, 1 3B, 2 HR, 9 RBI, 5 R, 22 TB)	Bryce Harper, WSH (.550, 3 HR, 7 RBI, 4 2B, 10 R, 1.200 SLG)