



MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL WEEKLY NOTES

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2017

DESERT BREEZE

On Wednesday, Arizona Diamondbacks starting pitcher Robbie Ray fanned 10 batters over 6.0 innings pitched in a 2-1 loss to the Washington Nationals at Nationals Park. With the 10 strikeouts, the D-backs pitching staff has now recorded at least 10 strikeouts in nine consecutive games to establish a new Major League record. The previous record of eight straight double-digit strikeout games was accomplished twice — by the Milwaukee Brewers from August 20-28, 2012, and by the Cleveland Indians from September 16-23, 2014. Arizona's previous best was double-digit strikeouts in five consecutive contests on three different occasions (August 21-25, 2008; October 3, 2012-April 5, 2013; and April 16-20, 2016).

Prior to yesterday's 10-strikeout game, the D-backs had actually fanned at least 11 batters in the previous eight contests, which matched a Major League record set by Cleveland during their eight-game stretch in 2014.

Arizona fanned 252 batters during the month of April, tied for the third-most in a single month in Club history, behind September/October 2015 (259) and August 2003 (256). The team also tallied 252 strikeouts in March/April 2014.



Entering play today, the D-backs rank third in the Majors with 273 strikeouts, trailing only the Houston Astros (279) and the Los Angeles Dodgers (274). In addition, led by Ray's 49 strikeouts, which are tied for second in the National League, D-backs starters are tied with the Boston Red Sox for first in the Majors with 184 strikeouts.

Also on Wednesday, the Astros pitching staff combined for 13 strikeouts in a 10-1 victory over the visiting Texas Rangers. The game marked Houston's sixth consecutive contest with at least 10 strikeouts, tied for fifth-most in Major League history. Besides Arizona's nine-game stretch and the aforementioned eight-game streaks, the Detroit Tigers accomplished the feat in seven straight games from April 26-May 2, 2013.

SALE-ING ALONG

Boston Red Sox starter Chris Sale leads the Majors with 63 strikeouts following his first six starts with the team. No other pitcher in the Majors has more than 46 entering play on Thursday. On Tuesday against Baltimore, Sale racked up 11 strikeouts over 8.0 innings in Boston's 5-2 win to improve to 2-2.

The game marked the five-time All-Star's fifth consecutive outing with at least 10 strikeouts, as it marked the 25th time in history that a pitcher has accomplished the feat, joining Hall of Famer Pedro Martinez as the only other Red Sox to do it. Martinez holds the Major League record with double-digit strikeouts in 10 consecutive starts between the 1999 and 2000 seasons.

Ironically, Sale holds the single-season mark with at least 10 strikeouts in eight straight contests from May 23-June 30, 2015. Sale's next scheduled start will come on Sunday at Target Field against the Minnesota Twins as he attempts to continue his streak of double-digit strikeouts. In 16 career starts against the Twins, Sale has fanned at least 10 on four occasions, last doing so on September 1, 2015 at Target Field (10 strikeouts). Only 12 times in history has a pitcher accomplished the feat in six straight outings, including 10 that occurred in one season. The 12 occurrences came from four pitchers other than Sale. Three are in the Hall of Fame — Martinez, Randy Johnson and Nolan Ryan — and the other is future Hall of Famer Clayton Kershaw.



According to Elias, Sale's 63 strikeouts over his first six games with the Red Sox tied Randy Johnson's 63 strikeouts over his first six games with the Arizona Diamondbacks in 1999 for the most strikeouts in a pitcher's first six games with a team, dating back to 1893.

Consecutive Starts with Double-Digit Strikeouts, 5+

Pitcher, Team	Consecutive Starts with at least 10 SO	Dates	IP	SO
Pedro Martinez, BOS	10	8/19/99 - 4/9/00	76.1	130
Chris Sale, CWS	8	5/23/15 - 6/30/15	60.0	97
Randy Johnson, ARI	7	4/13/01 - 5/13/01	56.0	90
Pedro Martinez, BOS	7	4/15/99 - 5/18/99	53.2	84
Nolan Ryan, CAL	7	5/19/77 - 6/16/77	60.0	90
Clayton Kershaw, LAD	6	4/21/16 - 5/17/16	48.0	68
Randy Johnson, ARI	6	7/31/02 - 8/25/02	50.0	79
Randy Johnson, ARI	6	4/25/00 - 5/21/00	45.1	71
Randy Johnson, ARI	6	7/20/99 - 8/16/99	49.0	65
Randy Johnson, SEA	6	6/19/98 - 7/16/98	51.0	74
Pedro Martinez, MON	6	6/3/97 - 6/30/97	50.2	72
Nolan Ryan, CAL	6	9/25/72 - 4/18/73	54.0	76
Chris Sale, BOS	5	4/10/17 - Present	38.2	56
12 Others	5			

FREEMAN'S SCORCHING START

On Sunday at Milwaukee, Atlanta Braves first baseman Freddie Freeman notched his ninth home run of the season just a day after stealing his fourth bag of the year. In doing so, Freeman became the first player in Atlanta Braves history to record at least nine home runs and four stolen bases by the end of the season's opening month. Furthermore, the two-time All-Star became just the ninth player since the turn of the century to accomplish the feat.



The others to do so in that time include San Francisco's Barry Bonds in 2000 (10 homers, four steals); Kansas City's Mark Quinn in 2001 (nine homers, four steals); Minnesota's Torii Hunter in 2002 (nine homers, five steals); Alfonso Soriano of the New York Yankees in 2003 (nine homers, six steals); Ian Kinsler of the Texas Rangers in 2007 (nine homers, four steals); Philadelphia's Jimmy Rollins in 2007 (nine homers, six steals); Toronto's José Bautista in 2011 (nine homers, four steals); and Washington's Bryce Harper in 2016 (nine homers, five steals).

On Wednesday night, Freeman had his career-best 10-game streak of at least one run scored snapped in a loss to the Mets at SunTrust Park. Freeman enters play on Thursday batting .368 (35-for-115) with 10 homers, 17 RBI, seven doubles and 25 runs scored.

PERFECT STARTS

Entering play on Thursday, 11 starting pitchers have started the 2017 season with a 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	5-0	1.21	44.2	25	6	11	36	Tomorrow at LA Angels
Ervin Santana, MIN	5-0	0.66	41.0	16	3	13	33	TBD
James Paxton, SEA	3-0	1.43	37.2	26	6	11	45	TBD
Gio Gonzalez, WSH	3-0	1.64	38.1	30	7	18	34	TBD
Brandon McCarthy, LAD	3-0	3.10	29.0	26	10	9	25	Saturday at San Diego
Chase Anderson, MIL	2-0	2.10	30.0	23	7	9	24	Tonight at St. Louis
Alex Wood, LAD	2-0	3.28	24.2	18	9	9	27	TBD
Matt Cain, SF	2-0	2.30	27.1	23	7	9	22	Tomorrow at Cincinnati
A.J. Griffin, TEX	2-0	4.11	15.1	9	7	4	16	Today at Houston
Cole Hamels, TEX	2-0	3.03	32.2	25	11	12	15	On Disabled List
Aaron Nola, PHI	2-0	4.50	16.0	20	8	6	15	TBD

EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY
The American National Game of Base Ball, Currier & Ives, 1866
(by MLB Official Historian John Thorn)



The crowd, reported at 15,000 to 20,000, is barely hinted at, and the rain that halted the contest in the sixth inning is forever off in the distance. When the clouds burst at five-thirty, after an hour and forty-five minutes of play (today's game is too slow, eh?), the Atlantics led the Mutuals 13–12. The Mutes had two men on base, but play could not be resumed. The Atlantics also won the second game of the series, later that month, 40–28, and by going on to finish undefeated in all its contests with first-class opposition became baseball's first "national champion."

Note that the first baseman and third baseman stand right on their bases because the rules at that time permitted the "fair-foul" hit, in which a skilled bunter could angle his bat so that a ball could bounce once in fair territory, skitter off into foul ground, and be a valid hit. The second baseman's position is harder to explain, but the vast hole between first and second is what prompted Henry Chadwick to suggest, first, that batters hit the ball on the ground in that direction, and second, that a "right shortstop" be added to the complement in the field—a tenth man. By the time anyone got around to testing Chad's idea, in the mid-seventies, eliminating the fair-foul hit seemed the wiser course, as it permitted corner infielders to play off the base.

Currier & Ives printed lithographs only in black and white and employed a legion of colorists to tint the pictures by hand. Smaller editions of this print sold for fifteen to twenty-five cents upon original publication and were made available for ten cents with a subscription to the *New York Clipper*, the main sporting paper at the time. A 20" x 30" print like this would have cost three dollars in 1866—half a week's pay for a workingman, but nothing like the figure it might fetch at auction today, surely beyond \$300,000.

Although long believed to depict the 1865 match between the Atlantic Base Ball Club of Brooklyn and the Mutual of New York, as described above, it has turned out be something else entirely: a fantasy game, one that the baseball world desired but that never was played, between the Atlantics and the Excelsiors, also of Brooklyn. For a good deal more about this image, see "Unraveling a Baseball Mystery" (<https://ourgame.mlblogs.com/unraveling-a-baseball-mystery-b443c0541c96#.23x5dk9y1>).

MLB ON-AIR THIS WEEK
(All Times ET)

Thursday, May 4th:	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.
Friday, May 5th:	New York Yankees at Chicago Cubs	2:20 p.m.
	Boston Red Sox at Minnesota Twins	8:10 p.m.
	Cleveland Indians at Kansas City Royals	8:15 p.m.
Saturday, May 6th:	Boston Red Sox at Minnesota Twins	2:10 p.m.
Sunday, May 7th:	Miami Marlins at New York Mets	1:10 p.m.
	St. Louis Cardinals at Atlanta Braves	1:35 p.m.
Tuesday, May 9th:	Texas Rangers at San Diego Padres	3:40 p.m.
Wednesday, May 10th:	Seattle Mariners at Philadelphia Phillies	1:05 p.m.
	San Francisco Giants at New York Mets	1:10 p.m.
Thursday, May 11th:	Boston Red Sox at Milwaukee Brewers	1:10 p.m.
	Kansas City Royals at Tampa Bay Rays	1:10 p.m.
	Baltimore Orioles at Washington Nationals	7:05 p.m.
	Houston Astros at New York Yankees	7:05 p.m.



Saturday, May 6th: New York Yankees at Chicago Cubs 7:15 p.m.

Sunday, May 7th:	New York Yankees at Chicago Cubs	8:05 p.m.
Monday, May 8th:	San Francisco Giants at New York Mets	7:10 p.m.
Wednesday, May 10th:	St. Louis Cardinals at Miami Marlins	7:10 p.m.



UPON FURTHER REVIEW

Through 409 games played this season (through Wednesday), Major League Baseball has had 261 replay reviews, which have taken an average of one minute and thirty-five seconds.

- *261 Replay Reviews
- *52 Confirmed (19.9%)
- *86 Stands (33.0%)
- *118 Overturned (45.2%)
- *5 Rules Check (1.9%)
- *1:35 Average Time



LINE DRIVES (Compiled from Club Game Notes)

CLOSING TIME: Red Sox closer Craig Kimbrel struck out the side in the ninth inning on Wednesday against the Orioles to secure his 10th save of the season. Kimbrel has retired 30 of his last 32 batters faced. During the stretch, which spans 10.0 innings, Kimbrel has allowed two hits and one run with no walks and 19 strikeouts. Kimbrel has now converted each of his 25 career save opportunities at Fenway Park, allowing no runs and just six hits in those 25 games (25.0 innings pitched, four walks, 44 strikeouts).

REACHING ROUND NUMBER HOMER TOTALS: On Tuesday, Kyle Schwarber hit his 20th career homer in his 97th regular season game, making him the quickest Cub to reach the 20-homer mark. He surpassed teammate Kris Bryant, who hit his 20th homer in his 114th career contest. Speaking of Bryant, he hit his 70th career homer on Tuesday. Since making his Major League debut on April 17, 2015, his 70 homers are third-most in the NL behind Colorado's Nolan Arenado (87) and Washington's Bryce Harper (73).

TRUE UTILITY MAN: According to Elias, Houston's Marwin Gonzalez is the first player in the modern era of baseball (since 1901) to homer in four straight starts, each at a different position. Gonzalez's last four starts have come at second base, third base, left field and first base.

K-K-K-KARNS: Nate Karns not only became the 294th hurler to record a win in a Royals' uniform, he also etched his name into team history by recording four strikeouts during the sixth inning of Wednesday night's tilt. He fanned Matt Davidson and Tim Anderson to open the sixth, then struck out Yolmer Sanchez, but the ball went to the screen for a wild pitch. Following a walk, Karns struck out José Abreu to become the first Royal to fan four in an inning since Kevin Appier on September 3, 1996, in Toronto. The last Major League hurler to strikeout four in a frame was Colorado's Jon Gray on September 17th of last year vs. the Padres.

SWIPING SNAKES: Paul Goldschmidt's streak of 25 consecutive successful stolen base attempts was snapped Tuesday when he was caught stealing second in the first inning. The streak was the second-longest streak in club history (Eric Byrnes, 30 from July 7-September 11, 2007), and the longest streak by a first baseman since data started being kept in 1974.

IVAN AND THE BABE: Ivan Nova has made 16 consecutive starts in which he has issued one walk-or-fewer, dating back to his first start with the Pirates last year on August 6th. It is the longest such streak by a Pittsburgh pitcher since Babe Adams had a team-record 17 straight starts with one or fewer walks from July 1, 1922 thru May 7, 1923.

ERVIN JOINS THE BIG TRAIN: In six starts this season, Ervin Santana has held the opposition scoreless three times and allowed exactly one run in each of the other three. According to Elias, Santana is the second pitcher in franchise history to allow no more than one run in each of his first six starts of a season. Walter Johnson started 1913 with a streak of seven straight such starts for the Washington Senators (four complete-game shutouts and three starts with one run).

MAJOR LEAGUE DEBUTS: Over the last two seasons, the Reds' 20 Major League debuts are the most of any team in either league. Eight Reds players already made Major League debuts so far this year, including right-handed pitchers Barrett Astin, Rookie Davis and Sal Romano; catcher Stuart Turner; left-handed pitchers Amir Garrett and Ariel Hernandez; and outfielders Jesse Winker and Phillip Ervin. Twelve Reds players made their Major League debuts in 2016, including right-handed pitchers Robert Stephenson, Tim Melville, Drew Hayes, Tim Adleman, Layne Somsen, Dayan Diaz, Daniel Wright and A.J. Morris; outfielder Steve Selsky; left-handed pitchers Cody Reed and Wandy Peralta; and infielder/outfielder Tony Renda and LHP Wandy Peralta.

SCORING MARGIN: The A's lost 9-1 Tuesday and 12 of their 27 games (44.4%) have been decided by five runs-or-more. The 12 games decided by five runs-or-more are the most in the Majors. They are 3-9 in those games and the nine losses are also the most in the Majors. Oakland has played just five one-run games, which is the second-fewest in the American League to Minnesota (4). The A's are 2-3 in one-run games and the two wins are tied for the second-fewest in the Majors to the Twins (1). Their season run differential is -37, which is tied for the lowest in the Majors (San Francisco).

MY KIND OF TOWN: Since 2007, the Phillies are 19-16 (.543) in 35 games played at Wrigley Field. That is the highest winning percentage for any visiting Major League team with at least 10 games played on the North Side. Philadelphia has a 5-3-2 series record in their 10 sets against the Cubs in that span as well as a +20 run differential in those 35 contests.

PIECING IT TOGETHER: On Monday night, Rays manager Kevin Cash rested third baseman Evan Longoria and center fielder Kevin Kiermaier, and still won. It was the first time the Rays won a game in which Longoria did not appear since July 1, 2013 at Houston, a 12-0 victory. In between, he had missed only four games, and the Rays lost all of them. Since returning from his three-game absence due to plantar fasciitis on July 2, 2013, Monday was only the fifth Rays game he missed out of 593. Since the start of the 2013 season, Longoria's 668 games played lead the Majors, followed by Seattle's Kyle Seager (661), Robinson Canó (660) of the Mariners/Yankees and Mike Trout (659) of the Angels.

AN-THO-NY! AN-THO-NY!: On a ridiculous offensive day all around, Nationals third baseman Anthony Rendon was in a class by himself on Sunday. Rendon, who was 6-for-6 with a double, three home runs, 10 RBI and five runs scored, became the 13th player in Major League history with at least 10 RBI in a single game. It was the most by a player in an MLB game since Angels outfielder Garret Anderson did it on August 21, 2007 against the Yankees, and Rendon was just two shy of the Major League record of 12, shared by Cardinals outfielder Mark Whiten (9/7/1993) and Cardinals first baseman Jim Bottomley (9/16/1924). According to Elias, only one other player drove in at least 10 runs in a so-called "perfect day at the plate" (every at-bat resulting in a hit): Bottomley, who went 6-for-6 with two homers and 12 RBI at Ebbets Field in Brooklyn in 1924. Rendon is the fifth player in Nationals history (2005-present) to enjoy a three-homer game, joining teammates Bryce Harper (May 6, 2015) and Ryan Zimmerman (May 29, 2013), as well as Adam Dunn (July 7, 2010) and Alfonso Soriano (April 21, 2006). Rendon is one of just two players in Major League history to record at least six hits, three homers, 10 RBI and five runs scored in a game. He is joined by Cincinnati catcher Walker Cooper (6-for-7, 3 HR, 10 RBI, 5 R), who did so on July 6, 1949 at Chicago.

ALL RISE: Yankees rookie outfielder Aaron Judge recorded his second career multi-homer game on Tuesday vs. Toronto (his first came four days prior on Friday vs. Baltimore). Judge became the youngest Yankee (25 years, 6 days) with at least two homers and two walks in a game since Mickey Mantle (24 years, 289 days) on August 4, 1956 at Detroit. Judge leads the Majors with 13 home runs and 27 RBI. He has six round-trippers in his last six games, 10 homers in his last 14 games and all of his 13 home runs in his last 20 games. According to Elias, no other rookie in Major League history has hit 13 home runs in his first 25 games of a season; the next-highest total was by Judge's teammate Gary Sánchez, who hit 11 homers for the Yankees in his first 25 games last season.

TURNING BACK THE CLOCK: Jose Reyes knocked in five of the 16 runs for the Mets in their win over the Braves on Wednesday. It tied his highest total in a Major League game, which he had done only once before, in his sixth game in the Majors, on June 15, 2003, four days after his 20th birthday. The only players that had longer gaps between five-RBI games than Reyes (13 years, 322 days) were Hall of Famer Paul Molitor (15 years, two days, 1981 to 1996) and Pete Rose (14 years, 73 days, 1964 to 1978).

TRIPLING FROM THE TOP: Marlins catcher J.T. Realmuto hit his second triple of the season on Wednesday, and both have come as a catcher and while batting in the leadoff spot. The last catcher with two leadoff triples in a season was Jason Kendall (2001 and 2002) and before him, Mickey Cochrane (1925).



INTERLEAGUE TRACKER

<u>League</u>	<u>2017 Record</u>	<u>Batting Average</u>	<u>ERA</u>
American League	17-14	.238 (250-for-1,049)	3.68
National League	14-17	.246 (265-for-1,076)	3.36

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL'S PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

WEEK ENDING	AMERICAN LEAGUE	NATIONAL LEAGUE
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)
April 30 th	Miguel Sanó, MIN (.524, 3 HR, 11 RBI, 4 R, 1 2B, .545 OBP)	Ryan Zimmerman, WSH (.500, 5 HR, 13 RBI, 2 2B, 11 R)

BUDWEISER PRESENTS THE AL & NL PLAYERS OF THE MONTH

MONTH	AMERICAN LEAGUE	NATIONAL LEAGUE
April	Mike Trout, LAA (.364, 7 HR, 18 RBI, 9 2B, 2 3B, 18 R, 5 SB)	Ryan Zimmerman, WSH (.420, 11 HR, 29 RBI, 8 2B, 22 R)

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL'S PITCHERS OF THE MONTH

MONTH	AMERICAN LEAGUE	NATIONAL LEAGUE
April	Dallas Keuchel, HOU (5-0, 1.21 ERA, 44.2 IP, 36 SO)	Ivan Nova, PIT (3-2, 1.50 ERA, 36.0 IP, 22 SO, 1 BB, 1 SHO)

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL'S ROOKIES OF THE MONTH

MONTH	AMERICAN LEAGUE	NATIONAL LEAGUE
April	Aaron Judge, NYY (.303, 10 HR, 20 RBI, 2 2B, 1 3B, 23 R)	Antonio Senzatela, COL (3-1, 2.81 ERA, 32.0 IP, 18 SO)

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL'S RELIEVERS OF THE MONTH PRESENTED BY THE HARTFORD

MONTH	AMERICAN LEAGUE	NATIONAL LEAGUE
April	Cody Allen, CLE (0-0, 6 SV, 0.90 ERA, 10.0 IP, 20 SO, 1 BB)	Greg Holland, COL (0-0, 11 SV, 1.50 ERA, 12.0 IP, 13 SO)