



MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL WEEKLY NOTES

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2017

DIGGING THE LONG BALL

Entering Thursday, the Detroit Tigers and the Texas Rangers each homered in all eight of their games to start the season. The streaks are tied for the 10th-longest by an American League team in history (dating back to 1913).

On Wednesday against the Minnesota Twins, the Tigers extended their power streak with a fourth-inning shot by outfielder Andrew Romine, while the Rangers flexed their muscles with three home runs against the Angels off the bats of Mike Napoli, Elvis Andrus and Carlos Gomez. The eight-game streak to start the season is the longest in Tigers franchise history, eclipsing the previous mark of seven, set in 2014. For the Rangers, the streak is the second-longest in team history, behind a 10-game run to start the 2009 season.

The Cincinnati Reds, who had homered in their first eight games of the season, had their streak come to a close on Wednesday despite putting up nine runs in a victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates. Cincinnati's streak was tied for the 12th-longest to start a season by an NL Club (since 1913).

The 2002 Cleveland Indians hold the top spot in the Majors (since 1913) with at least one home run in the first 14 games of the 2002 campaign. Below is a look at the top home run streaks to start a season by an AL Club, as well as any MLB Club:

***HR Streak to Start Season,
AL Clubs, 1913-Present***

Team	HR Streak to Start Season (Games)
2002 Cleveland Indians	14
2007 Tampa Bay Devil Rays	12
2009 Texas Rangers	10
1999 New York Yankees	10
2012 Cleveland Indians	9
2006 Cleveland Indians	9
2001 New York Yankees	9
1997 Cleveland Indians	9
1994 Toronto Blue Jays	9
2017 Detroit Tigers	8
2017 Texas Rangers	8
2008 Chicago White Sox	8
2002 Oakland Athletics	8
1998 Seattle Mariners	8
1932 New York Yankees	8

***HR Streak to Start Season,
MLB Clubs, 1913-Present***

Team	HR Streak to Start Season (Games)
2002 Cleveland Indians	14
1954 Chicago Cubs	13
2013 New York Mets	12
2007 Tampa Bay Devil Rays	12
2001 Arizona Diamondbacks	12
1997 Colorado Rockies	12
1986 Cincinnati Reds	12
1994 Colorado Rockies	11
2016 San Francisco Giants	10
2009 Texas Rangers	10
1999 New York Yankees	10
1960 St. Louis Cardinals	10
Eight Teams Tied	9

DEBUT DOINGS

On Wednesday afternoon at Yankee Stadium, 24-year-old Jordan Montgomery made his Major League debut in a start for the Yankees against the Tampa Bay Rays. Montgomery was just the sixth pitcher to make his MLB debut in a start for the Yankees over the last 10 seasons (2008-17), joining Adam Warren (June 29, 2012), Masahiro Tanaka (April 4, 2014), Chase Whitley (May 15, 2014), Luis Severino (August 5, 2015) and Chad Green (May 16, 2016).

Only two teams — the Kansas City Royals and the San Francisco Giants — have had fewer pitchers (five each) make their big league debut in a start during the same span. The Chicago Cubs have also had six. Overall, only nine Major League Clubs have used less than 10. The Cincinnati Reds have had the most since 2008, sending 20 pitchers to the hill in a start during their Major League debut.

Below is a team-by-team breakdown of MLB pitching debuts in a start over the last 10 years. Of the 343 pitchers overall, 36 have become MLB All-Stars (denoted in red):

Cincinnati (20): **Johnny Cueto (4/3/08)**; Daryl Thompson (6/21/08); Ramon Ramirez (8/30/08); Matt Maloney (6/6/09); Mike Leake (4/11/10); Sam LeCure (5/28/10); Travis Wood (7/1/10); Todd Redmond (8/18/12); Raisel Iglesias (4/12/15); Michael Lorenzen (4/29/15); Jon Moscot (6/5/15); Josh Smith (6/23/15); John Lamb (8/14/15); Robert Stephenson (4/7/16); Tim Melville (4/10/16); Tim Adleman (5/1/16); Daniel Wright (5/24/16); Cody Reed (6/18/16); Rookie Davis (4/6/17); Amir Garrett (4/7/17).

Colorado (17): Greg Reynolds (5/11/08); Esmil Rogers (9/12/09); Alan Johnson (4/17/11); Juan Nicasio (5/28/11); **Drew Pomeranz (9/11/11)**; Christian Friedrich (5/9/12); Edwar Cabrera (6/27/12); Chad Bettis (8/1/13); Eddie Butler (6/6/14); Christian Bergman (6/9/14); Tyler Matzek (6/11/14); Yohan Flande (6/25/14); Jon Gray (8/4/15); Tyler Anderson (6/12/16); Jeff Hoffman (8/20/16); Antonio Senzatela (4/6/17); Kyle Freeland (4/7/17).

San Diego (17): Chad Reineke (8/16/08); Dirk Hayhurst (8/23/08); Josh Geer (8/30/08); Wade LeBlanc (9/3/08); Walter Silva (4/8/09); Mat Latos (7/19/09); Cesar Carrillo (8/13/09); Cory Luebke (9/3/10); Anthony Bass (6/13/11); Joe Wieland (4/14/12); Andrew Werner (8/22/12); Casey Kelly (8/27/12); Burch Smith (5/11/13); Jesse Hahn (6/3/14); Odrisamer Despaigne (6/23/14); Colin Rea (8/11/15); Cesar Vargas (4/23/16).

Atlanta (16): Charlie Morton (6/14/08); James Parr (9/4/08); Kenshin Kawakami (4/11/09); Kris Medlen (5/21/09); Tommy Hanson (6/7/09); Mike Minor (8/9/10); Brandon Beachy (9/20/10); **Julio Teheran (5/7/11)**; Randall Delgado (6/17/11); David Hale (9/13/13); Matt Wisler (6/19/15); Manny Banuelos (7/2/15); Ryan Weber (9/8/15); Aaron Blair (4/24/16); Joel De La Cruz (6/29/16); Robert Whalen (8/3/16).

Washington (16): Garrett Mock (6/8/08); Collin Balester (7/1/08); Shairon Martis (9/4/08); **Jordan Zimmermann (4/20/09)**; Craig Stammen (5/21/09); J.D. Martin (7/20/09); Luis Atilano (4/23/10); **Stephen Strasburg (6/8/10)**; Yunesky Maya (9/7/10); Tommy Milone (9/3/11); Nate Karns (5/28/13); Taylor Jordan (6/29/13); A.J. Cole (4/28/15); Joe Ross (6/6/15); Lucas Giolito (6/28/16); Reynaldo Lopez (7/19/16).

Detroit (15): Eddie Bonine (6/14/08); Chris Lambert (8/26/08); Rick Porcello (4/9/09); Alfredo Figaro (6/20/09); Andy Oliver (6/25/10); Duane Below (7/20/11); Jacob Turner (7/30/11); Drew Smyly (4/12/12); Casey Crosby (6/1/12); Jose Alvarez (6/9/13); Robbie Ray (5/6/14); Drew VerHagen (7/19/14); Buck Farmer (8/13/14); Kyle Ryan (8/30/14); Michael Fulmer (4/29/16).

Arizona (14): Bryan Augenstein (5/13/09); Cesar Valdez (5/3/10); Barry Enright (6/30/10); **Wade Miley (8/20/11)**; Jarrod Parker (9/27/11); **Patrick Corbin (4/30/12)**; Trevor Bauer (6/28/12); Tyler Skaggs (8/22/12); David Holmberg (8/27/13); Chase Anderson (5/11/14); Andrew Chafin (8/13/14); Archie Bradley (4/11/15); Zack Godley (7/23/15); Braden Shipley (7/25/16).

L.A. Dodgers (14): Hiroki Kuroda (4/4/08); Clayton Kershaw (5/25/08); John Ely (4/28/10); Nathan Eovaldi (8/6/11); Stephen Fife (7/17/12); Hyun-Jin Ryu (4/2/13); Matt Magill (4/27/13); Red Patterson (5/1/14); Zach Lee (7/25/15); Kenta Maeda (4/6/16); Ross Stripling (4/8/16); Julio Urias (5/27/16); Brock Stewart (6/29/16); Jose De Leon (9/4/16).

Oakland (14): Greg Smith (4/9/08); Gio Gonzalez (8/6/08); Trevor Cahill (4/7/09); Brett Anderson (4/10/09); Vin Mazzaro (6/2/09); Bobby Cramer (9/13/10); Graham Godfrey (6/10/11); A.J. Griffin (6/24/12); Dan Straily (8/3/12); Sean Manaea (4/29/16); Daniel Mengden (6/11/16); Dillon Overton (6/25/16); Raul Alcantara (9/5/16); Jharel Cotton (9/7/16).

Toronto (13): David Purcey (4/18/08); Scott Richmond (7/30/08); Ricky Romero (4/9/09); Robert Ray (5/2/09); Brett Cecil (5/5/09); Brad Mills (6/18/09); Marc Rzepczynski (7/7/09); Kyle Drabek (9/15/10); Zach Stewart (6/16/11); Henderson Alvarez (8/10/11); Drew Hutchison (4/21/12); Sean Nolin (5/24/13); Matt Boyd (6/27/15).

Pittsburgh (13): Jimmy Barthaier (6/27/08); Yoslan Herrera (7/12/08); Daniel McCutchen (8/31/09); Brad Lincoln (6/9/10); Aaron Thompson (8/24/11); Jeff Locke (9/10/11); Phil Irwin (4/14/13); Gerrit Cole (6/11/13); Brandon Cumpton (6/15/13); Jameson Taillon (6/8/16); Chad Kuhl (6/26/16); Steven Brault (7/5/16); Tyler Glasnow (7/7/16).

Baltimore (12): Chris Waters (8/5/08); Koji Uehara (4/8/09); Brad Bergesen (4/21/09); Jason Berken (5/26/09); David Hernandez (5/28/09); Chris Tillman (7/29/09); Brian Matusz (8/4/09); Jake Arrieta (6/10/10); Zach Britton (4/3/11); Wei-Yin Chen (4/10/12); Kevin Gausman (5/23/13); Mike Wright (5/17/15).

Miami (12): Ryan Tucker (6/8/08); Graham Taylor (4/26/09); Sean West (5/23/09); Adalberto Mendez (9/6/10); Brad Hand (6/7/11); Elih Villanueva (6/15/11); Jose Fernandez (4/7/13); Brian Flynn (9/4/13); Anthony DeSclafani (5/14/14); Andrew Heaney (6/19/14); Justin Nicolino (6/20/15); Jake Esch (8/31/16).

Minnesota (12): Anthony Swarzak (5/23/09); Armando Gabino (8/25/09); Matt Fox (9/3/10); Scott Diamond (7/18/11); Liam Hendriks (9/6/11); Cole De Vries (5/24/12); Kyle Gibson (6/29/13); Andrew Albers (8/6/13); Yohan Pino (6/19/14); Trevor May (8/9/14); Tyler Duffey (8/5/15); Jose Berrios (4/27/16).

Philadelphia (12): Antonio Bastardo (6/2/09); Tyler Cloyd (8/29/12); Jonathan Pettibone (4/22/13); Ethan Martin (8/2/13); David Buchanan (5/24/14); Severino Gonzalez (4/28/15); Adam Morgan (6/21/15); Aaron Nola (7/21/15); Jerad Eickhoff (8/21/15); Alec Asher (8/30/15); Zack Eflin (6/14/16); Jake Thompson (8/6/16).

Cleveland (11): Scott Lewis (9/10/08); David Huff (5/17/09); Carlos Carrasco (9/1/09); Jeanmar Gomez (7/18/10); Josh Tomlin (7/27/10); Alex White (4/30/11); Zach McAllister (7/7/11); Danny Salazar (7/11/13); Cody Anderson (6/21/15); Toru Murata (6/28/15); Mike Clevinger (5/18/16).

Houston (11): Jordan Lyles (5/31/11); Henry Sosa (8/10/11); Dallas Keuchel (6/17/12); Jarred Cosart (7/12/13); Rudy Owens (5/23/14); Jake Buchanan (6/21/14); Nick Tropeano (9/10/14); Asher Wojciechowski (4/9/15); Lance McCullers (5/18/15); Vince Velasquez (6/10/15); David Paulino (9/8/16).

St. Louis (11): P.J. Walters (4/17/09); Adam Ottavino (5/29/10); Lance Lynn (6/2/11); Joe Kelly (6/10/12); John Gast (5/14/13); Tyler Lyons (5/22/13); Michael Wacha (5/30/13); Marco Gonzales (6/25/14); Tim Cooney (4/30/15); Mike Mayers (7/24/16); Luke Weaver (8/13/16).

Boston (10): Justin Masterson (4/24/08); Charlie Zink (8/12/08); Michael Bowden (8/30/08); Felix Doubront (6/18/10); Kyle Weiland (7/10/11); Allen Webster (4/21/13); Anthony Ranaudo (8/11/14); Eduardo Rodriguez (5/28/15); Brian Johnson (7/21/15); Henry Owens (8/4/15).

Chicago White Sox (10): Clayton Richard (7/23/08); Carlos Torres (7/22/09); Lucas Harrell (7/30/10); Pedro Hernandez (7/18/12); Andre Rienzo (7/30/13); Charles Leesman (8/9/13); Erik Johnson (9/4/13); Scott Carroll (4/27/14); Chris Bassitt (8/30/14); Chris Beck (5/28/15).

New York Mets (10): Jon Niese (9/2/08); Dillon Gee (9/7/10); Chris Schwinden (9/8/11); **Matt Harvey (7/26/12)**; Collin McHugh (8/23/12); Zack Wheeler (6/18/13); Rafael Montero (5/14/14); **Jacob deGrom (5/15/14)**; **Noah Syndergaard (5/12/15)**; Steven Matz (6/28/15).

Milwaukee (9): Tyler Thornburg (6/19/12); Hiram Burgos (4/20/13); Johnny Hellweg (6/28/13); Tyler Wagner (5/31/15); Tyler Cravy (6/2/15); Taylor Jungmann (6/9/15); Zach Davies (9/2/15); Jorge Lopez (9/29/15); Brent Suter (8/19/16).

Seattle (9): **Michael Pineda (4/5/11)**; Blake Beavan (7/3/11); Anthony Vasquez (8/23/11); Brandon Maurer (4/4/13); Taijuan Walker (8/30/13); James Paxton (9/7/13); Roenis Elias (4/3/14); Mike Montgomery (6/2/15); Adrian Sampson (6/18/16).

Texas (9): Eric Hurley (6/12/08); **Matt Harrison (7/8/08)**; Tommy Hunter (8/1/08); Omar Beltre (6/30/10); **Yu Darvish (4/9/12)**; Justin Grimm (6/16/12); Nick Tepesch (4/9/13); Nick Martinez (4/5/14); Chi Chi Gonzalez (5/30/15).

Tampa Bay (8): Jeff Niemann (4/13/08); **Wade Davis (9/6/09)**; Jeremy Hellickson (8/2/10); Alex Cobb (5/1/11); **Chris Archer (6/20/12)**; **Alex Colome (5/30/13)**; Enny Romero (9/22/13); Blake Snell (4/23/16).

L.A. Angels (7): Nick Adenhart (5/1/08); Anthony Ortega (4/25/09); Sean O'Sullivan (6/16/09); Trevor Bell (8/12/09); Tyler Chatwood (4/11/11); Garrett Richards (8/10/11); Matt Shoemaker (9/20/13).

Chicago Cubs (6): Thomas Diamond (8/3/10); Brooks Raley (8/7/12); Chris Rusin (8/21/12); Dallas Beeler (6/28/14); Tsuyoshi Wada (7/8/14); Kyle Hendricks (7/10/14).

New York Yankees (6): Adam Warren (6/29/12); **Masahiro Tanaka (4/4/14)**; Chase Whitley (5/15/14); Luis Severino (8/5/15); Chad Green (5/16/16); Jordan Montgomery (4/12/17).

Kansas City (5): Danny Duffy (5/18/11); Will Smith (5/23/12); Ryan Verdugo (7/17/12); Jake Odorizzi (9/23/12); Yordano Ventura (9/17/13).

San Francisco (5): Matt Palmer (8/16/08); Ryan Sadowski (6/28/09); **Madison Bumgarner (9/8/09)**; Eric Surkamp (8/27/11); Mike Kickham (5/28/13).

GREAT SCOTT

Boston Red Sox reliever Robby Scott tossed 1.0 scoreless inning in Wednesday's 12-5 loss to the Baltimore Orioles. Scott has now appeared in 11 career contests (dating back to September) without allowing a run. The streak is the longest of its kind by any pitcher to start his career in a Red Sox uniform. Heath Hembree is the only other pitcher to amass this long of a streak to begin his career with any games played for Boston. Hembree started his career with 11 scoreless outings, the first nine of which came while playing for the San Francisco Giants.

Scott's streak is currently tied for the 30th-longest in the Majors dating back to 1913. In 2016, Atlanta's Hunter Cervenka began his career with 15 consecutive scoreless outings, while Baltimore's Donnie Hart put together 18 straight scoreless appearances. Brad Ziegler holds the all-time mark for consecutive scoreless appearances to start his career, pitching in 29 straight for Oakland from May 31-August 12, 2008.



Of the 29 pitchers with longer streaks to begin their careers, only nine did so over the span of two seasons: Seattle's Carson Smith (20 from 2014-15); Toronto and Oakland's Vince Horsman (20 from 1991-92); Arizona's Doug Slaten (18 from 2006-07); San Francisco's Hunter Strickland (14 from 2014-15); Kansas City's Bob McClure (13 from 1975-76); James Pazos of the New York Yankees (12 from 2015-16); San Diego's Ernesto Frieri (12 from 2009-10); Cleveland's Alex Herrera (12 from 2002-03); and Philadelphia's Todd Frohwirth (12 from 1987-88).

EARLY CYCLE

San Diego's Wil Myers hit for the cycle on Monday night against the Colorado Rockies, marking just the second such milestone in Padres history. Former Padres outfielder Matt Kemp collected the first cycle in Padres history on August 14, 2015, also coming against the Rockies. In fact, the Rockies have been on the opposing end of three of the last seven cycles (also Shin-Soo Choo of the Rangers on July 21, 2015).



The cycle by Myers was the third-earliest on the calendar in history, and it was just the eighth cycle within a team's first eight games of a season. The others include: Baby Doll Jacobson of the St. Louis Blues (third game - April 17, 1924); Detroit's Gee Walker (first game - April 20, 1937); San Francisco's Dave Kingman (second game - April 16, 1972); Boston's Scott Cooper (eighth game - April 12, 1994); Houston's Craig Biggio (seventh game - April 8, 2002); Washington's Brad Wilkerson (second game - April 6, 2005); and Orlando Hudson of the Los Angeles Dodgers (eighth game - April 13, 2009).

In addition, Myers accomplished the feat with just four plate appearances in the contest. Of the 252 cycles dating back to 1913, just 28 (11.1%) have been accomplished with just four plate appearances. Pittsburgh's John Jaso last turned the trick on September 28, 2016 against the Cubs.

JACKIE ROBINSON CELEBRATION

To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the legendary Hall of Famer Jackie Robinson breaking baseball's color barrier in 1947, all players and on-field personnel will again wear Number 42 on Saturday, April 15th, with all MLB clubs home on Jackie Robinson Day hosting pregame ceremonies. In Los Angeles, the Dodgers will unveil a Jackie Robinson statue – the first statue in Dodger Stadium history – and host Rachel, Sharon and David Robinson, the wife, daughter and son of Jackie Robinson, for their annual Jackie Robinson Day ceremonies. Additional activities include the inaugural 'Trailblazer Series' in Compton, Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholars at MLB ballparks, special Diverse Business Partner awards as well as MLB Network & MLB.com coverage.



NUMBER '42'

As has been tradition each April 15th since 2009, MLB will celebrate Jackie Robinson Day with all players and on-field personnel wearing Number '42' during that day's games.

JACKIE ROBINSON DAY BALLPARK ACTIVITY — Statue at Dodger Stadium, JRF Scholars at Ballparks

All Clubs playing at home on Saturday will commemorate Jackie Robinson Day with special on-field, pregame ceremonies in their ballparks. Home Clubs will feature Jackie Robinson Day jeweled bases and lineup cards. The Los Angeles Dodgers will be joined by the Robinson Family (Rachel, Sharon and David), Dodgers owner Magic Johnson as well as Baseball Hall of Famers Frank Robinson, Sandy Koufax, Tommy Lasorda and Hall of Fame Broadcaster Vin Scully in the unveiling of a statue dedicated to Jackie. Jackie's teammate and Dodger legend Don Newcombe will also attend. The statue depicts a young Jackie Robinson in his rookie season (1947) sliding into home plate in a salute to his signature playing style.

Additionally, MLB Clubs will host more than 50 Jackie Robinson Foundation (JRF) scholars and alumni for ceremonies across the league. With support from donors like Major League Baseball and MLB Clubs, the Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarship Program provides four-years of financial assistance and direct program services annually to 225 highly motivated students attending 100 colleges and universities across the country, and has developed a mentoring curriculum to reach a broad cohort of college students beyond its core "JRF Scholars". The Foundation's unique program offers comprehensive support that includes internship and permanent job placement; curriculum and career guidance; one-on-one mentoring; and leadership and practical life skills training. The Jackie Robinson Foundation's celebrated, hands-on approach has resulted in a consistent, nearly 100% graduation rate throughout its 44-year history. The Foundation will also break ground later this month on the Jackie Robinson Museum in lower Manhattan. The Museum will expand the JRF's educational mission by chronicling Jackie Robinson's achievements and challenging people of all ages to pursue a life of achievement and purpose.

INAUGURAL 'TRAILBLAZER SERIES'

Major League Baseball and USA Baseball recently announced the launch of the inaugural 'Trailblazer Series,' a first-of-its-kind girls baseball tournament hosted in conjunction with Jackie Robinson Day. Approximately 100 girls, ages 16 and under, representing 20 states across the country as well as Washington D.C. and Canada, will participate in the three-day tournament held in the greater Los Angeles-area from Thursday, April 13th through Saturday, April 15th. The girls playing in the Trailblazer Series have been divided into two age divisions, 16U & 12U, and placed onto teams by random selection. They will be coached by some of the nation's top female baseball coaches and players, including those from USA Baseball's Women's National Team. Additional activities for Trailblazer Series participants will include non-game instruction from the coaches, appearances by special guests connected to baseball, and attending Jackie Robinson Day celebrations at Dodger Stadium on April 15th. The entire event is completely expense-free for participants.

In addition to the weekend's celebration of women in baseball, USA Baseball's National Member Organizations, which sanction leagues across the country and around the world, reaffirmed their commitment to providing girls opportunities to participate in their baseball leagues. Leaders at AABC, American Legion, Babe Ruth League, Dixie Boys and Majors, Dixie Youth, Little League International, NABF, NFHS, PONY, USSSA and MLB's Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities (RBI) program are all working toward growing the opportunities afforded to girls in the game.

JACKIE ROBINSON MOST VALUABLE DIVERSE BUSINESS PARTNER AWARD

Major League Baseball and several MLB Clubs are also announcing the 2017 recipients of the "Jackie Robinson Most Valuable Diverse Business Partner Award (MVDDBP)," which is given on an annual basis, in recognition of Jackie Robinson Day, to minority-owned, women-owned and other diverse-owned businesses and organizations whose work reflects the character and commitment to the excellence of Jackie Robinson's legacy. Eight clubs have named 11 companies as MVDDBP Award recipients, including the following: Alpha Insulation (Atlanta Braves), C. Beene & Associates (Detroit Tigers), C&G Construction Supply (Chicago Cubs), Continental Painting & Decorating (Chicago Cubs), Contour (Seattle Mariners), Eckert Welding (Cincinnati Reds), KVA Promotions (San Diego Padres), Lumi Organics (Pittsburgh Pirates), PromoShop (Cleveland Indians), Southern Door (Atlanta Braves) and Terra Engineering (Chicago Cubs).

The Diverse Business Partners program is the leading, economically-driven business initiative designed to cultivate new and existing partnerships with diverse-owned businesses by increasing opportunities for them to participate in the procurement activities of MLB. MLB has spent more than \$1 billion with diverse businesses since the program was created.

MLB NETWORK PROGRAMMING

MLB Network is televising a variety of programming this weekend marking Jackie Robinson Day, including a new episode of Play Ball, MLB Network's weekly player interview and demonstration show for kids, on Saturday, April 15 at 10:00 a.m. ET that will include an introduction to Robinson's life, plus commentary on Robinson's playing style from Cincinnati Reds outfielder Billy Hamilton. Throughout the rest of the day, MLB Network will provide coverage of the various tributes to Robinson across the league as well as game live look-ins and highlights on MLB Tonight at 4:00 p.m. ET, followed by coverage of the Los Angeles Dodgers' home game against the Arizona Diamondbacks. In a new program on Sunday, April 16th, current Major Leaguers Chris Archer, Mychal Givens, Josh Harrison, Adam Jones, Andrew McCutchen, Marcus Stroman and MLB Senior Vice President, Youth Programs Tony Reagins discuss Robinson's lasting impact and the current state of the game since his debut in MLB Network Roundtable – Jackie Robinson: 70 Years Later, hosted by MLB Network's Harold Reynolds.

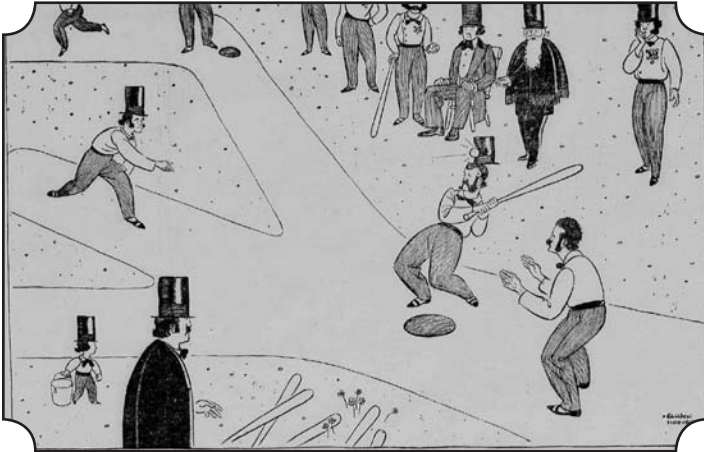
MLB.COM

MLB.com will have complete coverage of the day's events from each Major League ballpark with video highlights, interviews, stories from its Club beat and national reporters and photographs. Additionally, MLB.com will support Jackie Robinson Day events across MLB.com, the MLB.com At Bat app, Cut4.com, and through official MLB and Club accounts on social media channels including Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat and Instagram. Jackie Robinson Day will be supported across social media again with its official hashtag - #Jackie42.

SPECIAL MLB.COM AUCTION TO BENEFIT THE JACKIE ROBINSON FOUNDATION

One number '42' jersey will be signed by each member of every Club and auctioned off on MLB.com (MLB.com/42jersey), with proceeds benefitting the Jackie Robinson Foundation. The auction will be LIVE on Saturday, April 15th.

EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY: HOME PLATE **(by MLB Official Historian John Thorn)**



I was watching a Mets game the other night when I was brought up short by a bit of old-fashioned baseball lingo. Announcer Ron Darling said something about a pitcher throwing the ball “over the dish.” This amused me, and sent me down my usual sort of research rabbit hole. Dish was obviously a synonym for plate, and thus referenced home plate. Its first known usage, attested to in Paul Dickson’s splendid *Baseball Dictionary*, dates to May 14, 1897, when an unknown scribe in the *New York World* wrote: “[Bid] McPhee didn’t connect with three beauts that cut the dish.”

Dickson credited this find to Peter Morris, who wrote in his search for the origin of “home plate”:

A child who finds it confusing that a five-sided shape is referred to as a plate has a good point. Home plate was originally round, and the name did not change when the shape did.

Now, I knew that the 1857 rules called for both “home base,” as it was first called, and the “pitcher’s points”—a space reserved for the pitcher’s delivery—were each to be marked by “a flat circular iron plate, painted or enamelled white.” The diameter of these discs was nine or ten inches, but I can’t recall where I learned that.

A one-foot-square, with one side facing the field, was introduced in 1868, perhaps to aid the pitcher who for the past three years had had to endure the calling of errant pitches as “balls.” In 1874, home base was rotated so that one point faced the pitcher. This was a significant change because, without changing the size of the plate, it gave the pitcher 17 inches of strike zone instead of 12 (actually, 16.97, as application of the Pythagorean theorem will attest, but who’s counting?). Ever since 1868, the width of the plate has never changed, not even when some bright soul suggested, for the 1900 season, filling in the top “corners” as an aid to the home-plate umpire.

Which gets us back to the days when home plate was indeed a circle. The quaint cartoon above, by Ellison Hoover from the *New York Tribune* of April 24, 1921 came to my notice only recently, and I featured it at Our Game (<https://goo.gl/2UyiCr>).

But the (properly) circular plate was featured in an earlier graphic, the celebrated Currier & Ives “American National Game of Base Ball,” from 1866 (right).



Finally, I know of one and only one photographic image of these spiked plates used at each end of the pitching alley” (many clubs not wishing to purchase the plates instead used metal rings, or quoits). Here is the “Rockingham Nine” of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, ca. 1866 (left).

MLB ON-AIR THIS WEEK
(All Times ET)

Thursday, April 13th:	Tampa Bay Rays at New York Yankees	7:05 p.m.
	Baltimore Orioles at Toronto Blue Jays	7:07 p.m.
Friday, April 14th:	Pittsburgh Pirates at Chicago Cubs	2:20 p.m.
	St. Louis Cardinals at New York Yankees	7:05 p.m.
	Baltimore Orioles at Toronto Blue Jays	7:07 p.m.
Saturday, April 15th:	Philadelphia Phillies at Washington Nationals	1:05 p.m.
	St. Louis Cardinals at New York Yankees	1:05 p.m.
	Arizona D-backs at Los Angeles Dodgers	9:10 p.m.
	Texas Rangers at Seattle Mariners	9:10 p.m.
Sunday, April 16th:	Tampa Bay Rays at Boston Red Sox	1:35 p.m.
	Philadelphia Phillies at Washington Nationals	1:35 p.m.
Monday, April 17th:	Tampa Bay Rays at Boston Red Sox	11:05 a.m.
Tuesday, April 18th:	Chicago White Sox at New York Yankees	7:05 p.m.
	Boston Red Sox at Toronto Blue Jays	7:07 p.m.
	Pittsburgh Pirates at St. Louis Cardinals	8:15 p.m.
Wednesday, April 19th:	Milwaukee Brewers at Chicago Cubs	2:20 p.m.
	Texas Rangers at Oakland Athletics	3:35 p.m.
	Miami Marlins at Seattle Mariners	3:40 p.m.
Thursday, April 20th:	Boston Red Sox at Toronto Blue Jays	12:37 p.m.
	Cleveland Indians at Minnesota Twins	1:10 p.m.
	Washington Nationals at Atlanta Braves	7:35 p.m.
	Kansas City Royals at Texas Rangers	8:05 p.m.
	Arizona D-backs at San Diego Padres	9:10 p.m.
	Seattle Mariners at Oakland Athletics	10:05 p.m.



Saturday, April 15th: Detroit Tigers at Cleveland Indians (FS1) 4:10 p.m.

Sunday, April 16th: St. Louis Cardinals at New York Yankees 8:05 p.m.
Wednesday, April 19th: Cleveland Indians at Minnesota Twins 8:10 p.m.



UPON FURTHER REVIEW

Through 130 games played this season (through Wednesday), Major League Baseball has had 91 replay reviews, which have taken an average of one minute and thirty-six seconds.

- *91 Replay Reviews
- *17 Confirmed (18.7%)
- *29 Stands (31.9%)
- *42 Overturned (46.2%)
- *3 Rules Check (3.3%)
- *1:36 Average Time



LINE DRIVES (Compiled from Club Game Notes)

IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH: Marcell Ozuna went 2-for-2 with two homers and six RBI in Miami's 8-4 win over Atlanta on Tuesday. According to Elias, there have been over 2,000 instances of a player producing at least six RBI in a game since RBI became an official statistic in 1920. Ozuna was only the ninth player to knock in at least six runs with two-or-fewer official at-bats in a game, and the first to do that in nearly 17 years, since San Diego's Bret Boone went 2-for-2 with six RBI against the Astros on June 10, 2000.

HISTORIC TRIP: After playing in Major League Baseball's oldest ballpark today, 105-year-old Fenway Park, the Pirates will be playing in 103-year-old Wrigley Field tomorrow afternoon. Aside from the Red Sox and Cubs, Elias notes only three other clubs have played games in back-to-back days in both historic venues; the Braves last year on April 28th-29th, the Brewers in 2011 on June 16th-17th and the Phillies in 1998 on June 21st-22nd.

MAN(NY) ON A MISSION: Padres outfielder Manuel Margot homered to lead off the game Tuesday night in Colorado, his second leadoff homer of the season. According to Elias, no Padres player has ever had two-or-more leadoff homers within the team's first nine games of a season. The last rookie to hit two-or-more leadoff home runs in the team's first nine games was Lou Brock of the Chicago Cubs in 1962. Brock hit two leadoff home runs in the Cubs' first seven games that season.

WE HAVE CONTACT: Entering play today, Mookie Betts has not struck out in his last 101 regular season plate appearances, beginning with his final plate appearance on September 2, 2016 vs. Baltimore. According to Elias, it is the longest active streak in the Majors; the last player with a streak as long was Jeff Keppinger (107 in 2010). The last Red Sox player with a streak that long was Wade Boggs (107 PA in 1991).

RARE BASEBALL FEAT: In addition to Cleveland's exciting 2-1 triumph over the White Sox on Tuesday, the Chicago Cubs also won their 2017 home opener in walk-off fashion, defeating the Los Angeles Dodgers by a score of 3-2 one day prior on Monday at Wrigley Field. According to Elias, the two tilts collectively marked the second time in Major League history for both defending League champions to win their respective home openers in walk-off fashion the very next season. The feat was first accomplished by the 1960 White Sox and Dodgers after meeting in the 1959 Fall Classic.

LEADOFF SHOTS: Astros outfielder George Springer is the first player in Major League history to hit four leadoff homers in his club's first nine games of a season, besting Brady Anderson, who hit four leadoff homers in the Orioles first 17 games of 1996. Anderson was also the quickest player to reach five leadoff homers in a season, doing so in Baltimore's first 27 games of 1996. Springer now has 13 career leadoff homers, which is tied for second in Astros history with Terry Puhl (13), trailing only Craig Biggio (53).

SEVEN HOME RUNS: The Mets hit seven home runs on Tuesday night at Citizens Bank Park. It was the third time in team history they've hit seven or more homers in a game (also: August 24, 2015 at Philadelphia, eight homers; and April 19, 2005 at Philadelphia, seven homers). According to Elias, no other team in Major League history has had three games with seven or more home runs at a visiting ballpark.

BASH BROTHERS: Orioles outfielder Adam Jones and first baseman Chris Davis each homered in the 12-5 win over the Red Sox on Wednesday. According to Elias, it was the 37th time that they've homered in the same game since they became teammates in 2011, the highest total for any teammates over that time.

LEADING OFF: Dustin Pedroia has recorded a hit in each of Boston's eight games this season. This is the longest season-opening hitting streak of his career (previous: six in 2014) and the longest hit streak for an AL player this season. Prior to 2017, the last Boston player to record a hit in each of the club's first eight games of a season was J.D. Drew (first nine in 2007). In 2016, Pedroia became the first Red Sox player ever with as many as six hitting streaks of at least 10 games in a single season. He was the first Major Leaguer to do that since Derek Jeter in 1999 (also six).

COMEBACK KIDS: The Tigers delivered their fifth come-from-behind win of the season on Wednesday (tie for most in Majors with Arizona), defeating the Twins, 5-3, after trailing, 3-0. The big blow for Detroit was Andrew Romine's first career grand slam. But what's more, before Wednesday, Romine had 23 at-bats with the bases loaded in his Major League career, and he had never delivered an extra-base hit.

THE BIG A: Left-hander Amir Garrett of the Reds began his Major League career with 12 scoreless innings over his first two starts before allowing a two-run homer to Pittsburgh's David Freese in the seventh inning on Wednesday night at PNC Park. Garrett's 12-inning scoreless streak ties Billy Rhines (1890) for the second-longest to begin a Reds career. In 1970, Wayne Simpson began his career with 15 scoreless innings.

STILL ERROR FREE IN THE FIELD: Entering play on Thursday, the Royals continue to play errorless defense through the first eight games of the year, a franchise first. The previous best was a seven-game errorless start to the 2013 season, going 64.2 innings before an error in the eighth game of the campaign. The Royals, who have handled 285 chances flawlessly spanning 71.2 innings, are the only club left standing without a defensive miscue in the Majors, as all other squads have committed at least two, while Arizona is leading the pack with 11. Kansas City also turned two more double plays on Wednesday night, giving them 13 on the year, good for a second place tie in the Majors.

ZERO SUM GAME: On Wednesday night against the Dodgers, the Cubs were shut out in a regular season contest at Wrigley Field for the first time since May 31st of last season, ironically, vs. the Dodgers. The Cubs had plated a run in 57 straight home games prior to Wednesday, the team's longest stretch since an 83-game run from July 30, 2007-July 27, 2008. Since previously getting shut out at home, the Cubs had blanked their opponent seven times at Wrigley Field prior to Wednesday. Prior to the shutout, the Cubs had scored at least one run in each of their last 40 regular season games overall. The team had previously been blanked by the Dodgers on August 28th of last season in Los Angeles.



INTERLEAGUE TRACKER

<u>League</u>	<u>2017 Record</u>	<u>Batting Average</u>	<u>ERA</u>
American League	2-5	.203 (47-for-232)	4.14
National League	5-2	.259 (65-for-251)	2.24

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL'S PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

<u>WEEK ENDING</u>	<u>AMERICAN LEAGUE</u>	<u>NATIONAL LEAGUE</u>
April 9th	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)