



MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL WEEKLY NOTES

THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2017

A FIRST HALF TO REMEMBER

Boston Red Sox starting pitcher Chris Sale fanned 10 batters in a win over the Kansas City Royals on Tuesday. The dominant left-hander now has 146 strikeouts on the season over his 15 starts, including 10 games with at least 10 strikeouts. The 28-year-old Florida native is now 9-3 on the season with a 2.85 ERA over 107.1 innings pitched, setting up a likely sixth All-Star Game selection.

According to Elias, since the mound was set at its current distance in 1893, the only other pitchers to reach 10 double-digit strikeout games in as few games into a season as Sale were Hall of Famers Pedro Martinez in 1999 (also 15th game) and Randy Johnson in 2000 (12th game) and 2001 (14th game).

With just over two weeks remaining before the All-Star break, Sale has a chance to reach the 170-strikeout plateau within the season's first half. That has not been accomplished since teammates Curt Schilling (186) and Johnson (171) both did so in 2002. Overall, the feat has been done just 20 times in MLB history by 11 different pitchers. Seven of the 11 pitchers are currently in the Hall of Fame. Sale would become the third Boston pitcher to accomplish the feat, joining Roger Clemens (1988) and Martinez (1999).

Pitchers with at Least 170 Strikeouts Before the All-Star Break, MLB History

Player, Team	Season	Strikeouts	W-L	ERA
Nolan Ryan, CAL	1977	234	13-8	2.64
Nolan Ryan, CAL	1973	233	11-12	2.84
Randy Johnson, ARI	1999	211	9-7	2.95
Randy Johnson, ARI	2001	202	11-5	2.71
Sandy Koufax, LAD	1962	202	13-4	2.15
Steve Carlton, STL	1972	201	14-6	2.48
Nolan Ryan, CAL	1974	201	12-9	3.48
Randy Johnson, ARI	2000	198	14-2	1.80
Sandy Koufax, LAD	1965	195	15-3	2.13
Bob Feller, CLE	1946	190	15-5	1.90
Vida Blue, OAK	1971	188	17-3	1.42
Roger Clemens, BOS	1988	186	12-5	2.42
Curt Schilling, ARI	2002	186	14-3	3.08
Pedro Martinez, BOS	1999	184	15-3	2.10
Sam McDowell, CLE	1970	183	13-4	2.63
Curt Schilling, ARI	1998	180	8-8	2.92
Tom Seaver, NYM	1970	178	14-5	2.40
Randy Johnson, ARI	2002	171	12-3	2.47
Randy Johnson, SEA	1993	171	10-5	3.30
Randy Johnson, SEA	1998	170	7-8	5.07

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

The Washington Nationals enter play today with the top offense in the Majors having scored a Major League-best 398 runs in their 72 games. Ryan Zimmerman leads the Club with 57 RBI, followed by Bryce Harper (55), Daniel Murphy (49) and Anthony Rendon (45). Each of the four players are currently on pace to drive in over 100 runs, which puts the Nats on pace to become the 25th team in the Modern Era (since 1900) to accomplish the feat, and the first since the 2003 Atlanta Braves, which featured Andruw Jones (116 RBI), Chipper Jones (106), Javy Lopez (109) and Gary Sheffield (132).

Additionally, Washington would become just the ninth National League squad to ever have four players reach the 100-RBI milestone in the same season.

The 1936 Yankees, who had five such players reach 100 RBI, are the only team in the Modern Era to have more than four players accomplish the feat. The five players included Bill Dickey (107 RBI), Joe DiMaggio (125), Lou Gehrig (152), Tony Lazzeri (109) and George Selkirk (107).

Below is a look at the previous 24 teams to have four different players record at least 100 RBI in a single season.

Teams with Four Players Reaching 100 RBI in a Single Season

Team	# of Players	Players (RBI)
1936 New York Yankees	5	Bill Dickey (107), Joe DiMaggio (125), Lou Gehrig (152), Tony Lazzeri (109), George Selkirk (107)
1922 St. Louis Browns	4	Baby Doll Jacobson (102), Marty McManus (109), George Sisler (105), Ken Williams (155)
1925 Pittsburgh Pirates	4	Clyde Barnhart (114), Kiki Cuyler (102), Pie Traynor (106), Glenn Wright (121)
1927 New York Yankees	4	Lou Gehrig (173), Tony Lazzeri (102), Bob Meusel (103), Babe Ruth (165)
1929 Philadelphia Phillies	4	Don Hurst (125), Chuck Klein (145), Lefty O'Doul (122), Pink Whitney (115)
1929 Chicago Cubs	4	Kiki Cuyler (102), Rogers Hornsby (149), Riggs Stephenson (110), Hack Wilson (159)
1931 New York Yankees	4	Ben Chapman (122), Lou Gehrig (185), Lyn Lary (107), Babe Ruth (162)
1932 New York Yankees	4	Ben Chapman (107), Lou Gehrig (151), Tony Lazzeri (113), Babe Ruth (137)
1936 Detroit Tigers	4	Charlie Gehringer (116), Goose Goslin (125), Marv Owen (105), Al Simmons (112)
1939 New York Yankees	4	Bill Dickey (105), Joe DiMaggio (126), Joe Gordon (111), George Selkirk (101)
1940 Boston Red Sox	4	Joe Cronin (111), Bobby Doerr (105), Jimmie Foxx (119), Ted Williams (113)
1977 Boston Red Sox	4	Carlton Fisk (102), Butch Hobson (112), Jim Rice (114), Carl Yastrzemski (102)
1982 Milwaukee Brewers	4	Cecil Cooper (121), Ben Oglivie (102), Gorman Thomas (112), Robin Yount (114)
1996 Seattle Mariners	4	Jay Buhner (138), Ken Griffey Jr. (140), Edgar Martinez (103), Alex Rodriguez (123)
1996 Colorado Rockies	4	Dante Bichette (141), Ellis Burks (128), Vinny Castilla (113), Andres Galarraga (150)
1996 Baltimore Orioles	4	Brady Anderson (110), Bobby Bonilla (116), Rafael Palmeiro (142), Cal Ripken Jr. (102)
1997 Colorado Rockies	4	Dante Bichette (118), Vinny Castilla (113), Andres Galarraga (140), Larry Walker (130)
1999 Texas Rangers	4	Juan Gonzalez (128), Rusty Greer (101), Rafael Palmeiro (148), Ivan Rodriguez (113)
1999 New York Yankees	4	Derek Jeter (102), Tino Martinez (105), Paul O'Neill (110), Bernie Williams (115)
1999 Colorado Rockies	4	Dante Bichette (133), Vinny Castilla (102), Todd Helton (113), Larry Walker (115)
1999 Cleveland Indians	4	Roberto Alomar (120), Manny Ramirez (165), Richie Sexson (116), Jim Thome (108)
1999 Arizona Diamondbacks	4	Jay Bell (112), Steve Finley (103), Luis Gonzalez (111), Matt Williams (142)
2000 Anaheim Angels	4	Garret Anderson (117), Darin Erstad (100), Troy Glaus (102), Mo Vaughn (117)
2003 Atlanta Braves	4	Andruw Jones (116), Chipper Jones (106), Javy Lopez (109), Gary Sheffield (132)

SPEAKING OF RUNS BATTED IN...

Three American League teams — the Houston Astros, the Minnesota Twins and the Seattle Mariners — have a number of different players responsible for their offensive output.

The Astros, who rank second in the AL with 372 runs scored, have had 11 different players drive in more than 20 runs so far this season, including: Carlos Correa (46), George Springer (46), Marwin Gonzalez (37), Brian McCann (37), Jose Altuve (34), Carlos Beltrán (31), Yuli Gurriel (30), Evan Gattis (26), Alex Bregman (25), Josh Reddick (24) and Jake Marisnick (20).

The Twins have had 10 different players reach at least 20 RBI to date, including: Miguel Sanó (52), Brian Dozier (32), Max Kepler (29), Joe Mauer (29), Kennys Vargas (27), Eduardo Escobar (25), Jason Castro (23), Jorge Polanco (22), Eddie Rosario (22) and Robbie Grossman (21).

The Mariners have also had 10 different players reach the 20-RBI plateau so far, including: Nelson Cruz (58), Robinson Canó (42), Kyle Seager (42), Danny Valencia (37), Mike Zunino (30), Taylor Motter (23), Ben Gamel (22), Mitch Haniger (21), Jarrod Dyson (20) and Jean Segura (20).

The three teams could join a very short list of just three teams in the Modern Era (since 1900) that have had at least 10 different players collect 50-or-more RBI in a single season. Those three teams include the 1930 St. Louis Cardinals (10), the 2007 Detroit Tigers (10) and the 2009 Los Angeles Angels (11).

The 1930 Cardinals, who won the National League pennant, featured Sparky Adams (55), Jim Bottomley (97), Taylor Douthit (93), Showboat Fisher (61), Frankie Frisch (114), Charlie Gelbert (72), Chick Hafey (107), Gus Mancuso (59), George Watkins (87) and Jimmie Wilson (58).

The 2007 Tigers, who finished second in the AL Central, had Sean Casey (54), Curtis Granderson (74), Carlos Guillen (102), Brandon Inge (71), Craig Monroe (55), Magglio Ordoñez (139), Placido Polanco (67), Ivan Rodriguez (63), Gary Sheffield (75) and Marcus Thames (54).

The 2009 Angels, who advanced to the American League Championship Series, had at least 50 RBI from 11 different players, including Bobby Abreu (103), Erick Aybar (58), Chone Figgins (54), Vladimir Guerrero (50), Torii Hunter (90), Maicer Izturis (65), Howie Kendrick (61), Gary Matthews Jr. (50), Kendrys Morales (108), Mike Napoli (56) and Juan Rivera (88).



COMING UP CLUTCH

The Baltimore Orioles have 306 RBI as a team to this point during the 2017 season, and a league-best 43.8 percent of the club's RBI (134) have come with two outs. In 2016, the Orioles were tied for 13th in the Majors with 36.9% of their RBI coming with two outs. The Colorado Rockies rank fourth this season with 41.0 percent of their RBI coming with two outs, an increase of 9.4 percent compared to 2016 (31.6%), marking the largest percentage increase among teams this season.

The Washington Nationals, who lead the Majors with 390 RBI on the season, also rank first with 156 two-out RBI (40.0%). In 2016, the Nationals were tied for 12th in the Majors with 262 two-out RBI on the season, accounting for 35.6% of the team's RBI (735).

The Oakland Athletics, who rank 30th in the Majors with 28.8 percent of their RBI coming with two outs, were tied for ninth last season at 38.3%. Their 9.5 percent decrease is the largest of any team from last season to this season.

The league-wide average of RBI coming with two outs this season is 37.4% (3,582 of 9,586), up from 36.4% (7,550 of 20,745) in 2016.

Nationals outfielder Bryce Harper leads the Majors with 28 two-out RBI, followed by Colorado's Charlie Blackmon (27); Tampa Bay's Steven Souza (27); Ryan Zimmerman of the Nationals (26); Houston's George Springer (25); Jay Bruce of the Mets (24); Colorado's Mark Reynolds (24) and Baltimore's Mark Trumbo (24).

CLUB	TOTAL RBI	TWO-OUT RBI	2017 PERCENTAGE	2016 PERCENTAGE
Baltimore	306	134	43.8%	36.9%
Tampa Bay	348	147	42.2%	41.9%
Atlanta	320	133	41.6%	33.0%
Colorado	378	155	41.0%	31.6%
Chicago (NL)	310	125	40.3%	34.9%
Houston	372	150	40.3%	35.0%
Washington	390	156	40.0%	35.6%
Los Angeles (NL)	354	141	39.8%	32.2%
New York (NL)	327	130	39.8%	32.8%
Philadelphia	260	103	39.6%	34.0%
Texas	327	129	39.4%	36.1%
Cleveland	319	124	38.9%	36.3%
Toronto	291	113	38.8%	38.0%
Detroit	323	123	38.1%	36.9%
Cincinnati	337	128	38.0%	34.8%
Kansas City	265	100	37.7%	40.8%
Minnesota	313	116	37.1%	35.5%
Los Angeles (AL)	311	114	36.7%	30.0%
Arizona	360	130	36.1%	39.1%
Boston	314	112	35.7%	38.3%
Pittsburgh	282	100	35.5%	38.8%
Chicago (AL)	308	109	35.4%	38.7%
Miami	316	111	35.1%	36.9%
Seattle	339	119	35.1%	37.0%
New York (AL)	376	127	33.8%	40.3%
St. Louis	290	98	33.8%	36.2%
Milwaukee	339	113	33.3%	38.5%
San Francisco	263	81	30.8%	35.0%
San Diego	256	77	30.1%	39.1%
Oakland	292	84	28.8%	38.3%

KNEBEL'S K-STREAK

With his strikeout last night against the Pittsburgh Pirates, Milwaukee Brewers closer Corey Knebel has recorded at least one strikeout in each of his 37 appearances this season. His 64 punchouts over 36.2 innings of work lead all Major League relievers.

Corey's streak is tied for the longest of its kind for relief pitchers to begin a season in the Modern Era (since 1900) with Aroldis Chapman, who also recorded 37 straight contests with a strikeout to begin the 2014 season.



In his appearance on May 15th, the 25-year-old Knebel eclipsed the franchise record for consecutive appearances with a strikeout by a reliever, held jointly by John Axford (August 3, 2010 - March 31, 2011) and Chris Bosio (September 5, 1986 - June 7, 1987).

Relief Pitchers with at least One Strikeout in Consecutive Appearances to Begin a Season, 1900-Present

Reliever, Team	Streak Date	Games
Aroldis Chapman, CIN	May 11 - August 13, 2014	37
Corey Knebel, MIL	April 3, 2017- Present	37
Aroldis Chapman, CIN	April 5 - June 16, 2012	29

Dating back to his final appearance of the 2016 season on October 2nd, Knebel's overall streak spans 38 games and is the third-most consecutive games with a strikeout as a reliever over any time period. Chapman leads the way with a streak of 49 games, followed by Bruce Sutter's streak of 39 appearances.

Relief Pitchers with at least One Strikeout in Consecutive Appearances, 1900-Present

Reliever, Team	Streak Date	Games
Aroldis Chapman, CIN	August 21, 2013 - August 13, 2014	49
Bruce Sutter, CHI	June 1 - October 2, 1977	39
Corey Knebel, MIL	October 2, 2017 - Present	38
Eric Gagne, LAD	July 18, 2003 - April 10, 2004	35

Across the Majors this season, no other relief pitcher has recorded a streak of more than 20 appearances. Tommy Kahnle of the Chicago White Sox and Jose Leclerc of the Texas Rangers have posted the second-longest streaks this season, each registering a strikeout in 18 consecutive games.

Relief Pitchers with at least One Strikeout in Consecutive Appearances, 2017

Reliever, Team	Streak Date	Games
Corey Knebel, MIL	April 3, 2017- Present	37
Tommy Kahnle, CWS	May 6 th - Present	18
Jose Leclerc, TEX	April 4 th - Present	18
Frankie Montas, OAK	April 9 th - May 30 th	17

2017 ALL-STAR TEAMS TO BE ANNOUNCED ON ESURANCE ALL-STAR SELECTION SHOW

The American League and National League All-Star teams for the 2017 Major League Baseball All-Star Game presented by Mastercard will be unveiled on Sunday, July 2nd at 7:00 p.m. (ET) on the “Esurance All-Star Selection Show” on ESPN prior to the network’s 8:00 p.m. (ET) “Sunday Night Baseball” telecast featuring the Washington Nationals at the St. Louis Cardinals, Major League Baseball announced today.

The AL All-Star Team will have nine elected starters via the Esurance MLB All-Star Game Ballot, while the NL All-Star Team will have eight fan-elected starters. The ballot, which is available exclusively online, will be available for just one more week before the voting period closes on Thursday, June 29th at 11:59 p.m. (ET).

The pitchers and reserves for both squads – totaling 23 for the NL and 22 for the AL – will be determined through a combination of “Player Ballot” choices and selections made by the Commissioner’s Office.

Following the announcement of the American League and National League All-Star rosters, fans will begin voting to select the final player for each League’s 32-man roster via the 2017 Esurance MLB All-Star Game Final Vote. Fans will cast their votes from a list of five players from each League over the balloting period. Now in its 16th season with over 680 million votes cast, fans again will be able to make their Final Vote selections on MLB.com, Club sites and their mobile devices.



INDIANS, TWINS TO PLAY TWO GAMES IN SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO NEXT APRIL

The Cleveland Indians and the Minnesota Twins will meet in a two-game series at Hiram Bithorn Stadium in San Juan, Puerto Rico on April 17th-18th, 2018, Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association announced on Wednesday. The games will mark the first time that either team has played in Puerto Rico.

The two-game set, which will serve as Twins home games, will represent the first regular season games played in Puerto Rico since the New York Mets and the Miami Marlins held a three-game series at the historic ballpark in June 2010.

“The Minnesota Twins are honored to visit Puerto Rico and represent Major League Baseball in this international showcase,” Twins President & CEO Dave St. Peter said. “The Twins look forward to joining MLB and the Cleveland Indians organization in celebrating Puerto Rico’s rich baseball heritage and growing influence on our game.”

“It is a dream come true for me to play in Puerto Rico,” Indians All-Star shortstop Francisco Lindor said. “When the Montreal Expos played in Puerto Rico, I remember going to those games and thinking to myself, ‘I would love to be here playing in front of my country and people.’ Now that we have the opportunity next April, it is a dream realized for me. These will be the most memorable regular season games of my career, for sure.”

MLB also held regular season games in San Juan in 2001, when the Texas Rangers and the Toronto Blue Jays opened the regular season, and in 2003 and 2004, when the Montreal Expos played a portion of their home schedule at Hiram Bithorn Stadium.

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



Charles Dana Gibson, The First League Game of Base-Ball of the Season, Harper's Weekly, April 27, 1889

Charles Dana Gibson is today remembered as the originator of “The Gibson Girl” (right), the long-haired, athletic beauty featured in so many of his ironic social tableaux. He was the man who defined late Victorian and Edwardian style in turn-of-the-century America, and his incredibly free yet frosty drawings still define the age. Memorably, he based one of his most famous Gibson Girls on model Evelyn Nesbit—later to become famous as “The Girl in the Red Velvet Swing” whose husband, Harry K. Thaw, murdered architect Stanford White.



But I get carried away in my enthusiasms. Gibson was a baseball fan, too, who specialized in depicting the facial expressions that accompanied hope and despair in the stands. This lesser known work (atop this story) is my favorite, though. It appeared in Harper's Weekly in monochrome, of course; the coloring is later.

Here are a some other evocative and, in their day, famous, Gibson baseball drawings: “Two Strikes” (left) and “Fanned Out” (right).



MLB ON-AIR THIS WEEK
(All Times ET)

Thursday, June 22nd:	Cleveland Indians at Baltimore Orioles	7:05 p.m.
	Chicago Cubs at Miami Marlins	7:10 p.m.
	New York Mets at Los Angeles Dodgers	10:10 p.m.
	Detroit Tigers at Seattle Mariners	10:10 p.m.
Friday, June 23rd:	Texas Rangers at New York Yankees	7:05 p.m.
	Los Angeles Angels at Boston Red Sox	7:10 p.m.
Saturday, June 24th:	Texas Rangers at New York Yankees	1:05 p.m.
	Houston Astros at Seattle Mariners	10:10 p.m.
	Colorado Rockies at Los Angeles Dodgers	10:10 p.m.
Sunday, June 25th:	Los Angeles Angels at Boston Red Sox	1:35 p.m.
	Texas Rangers at New York Yankees	2:05 p.m.
Monday, June 26th:	Chicago Cubs at Washington Nationals	7:05 p.m.
	Texas Rangers at Cleveland Indians	7:10 p.m.
Tuesday, June 27th:	Chicago Cubs at Washington Nationals	7:05 p.m.
	Texas Rangers at Cleveland Indians	7:10 p.m.
Wednesday, June 28st:	Chicago Cubs at Washington Nationals	7:05 p.m.
	Texas Rangers at Cleveland Indians	7:10 p.m.



Saturday, June 24th:	Milwaukee Brewers at Atlanta Braves (FS1)	4:10 p.m.
	New York Mets at San Francisco Giants	7:15 p.m.
	Pittsburgh Pirates at St. Louis Cardinals	7:15 p.m.
	Los Angeles Angels at Boston Red Sox	7:15 p.m.

Sunday, June 25th:	Pittsburgh Pirates at St. Louis Cardinals	8:05 p.m.
Monday, June 26th:	Colorado Rockies at San Francisco Giants	10:08 p.m.



UPON FURTHER REVIEW

Through 1,076 games played this season (through Wednesday), Major League Baseball has had 633 replay reviews, which have taken an average of one minute and thirty seconds.

- *633 Replay Reviews
- *137 Confirmed (21.6%)
- *189 Stands (29.9%)
- *298 Overturned (47.1%)
- *9 Rules Check (1.4%)
- *1:30 Average Time



LINE DRIVES (Compiled from Club Game Notes)

ROAD WARRIOR: José Abreu has become the first player in White Sox history to hit each of his first 12 home runs of the season on the road, breaking the mark he shared with Tom Paciorek (1982).

LEADER OF THE PACK: On Tuesday, Tigers second baseman Ian Kinsler took Seattle's Ariel Miranda deep for his fourth leadoff home run of the season and the 44th of his career, tying him with Brady Anderson for fifth-most in Major League history. He needs only two more to tie Jimmy Rollins for fourth on the all-time list.

SPRINGER'S DINGERS: On Monday night, Geroge Springer became the first Astros hitter to reach 20 homers prior to the All-Star Break since Carlos Lee (21) and Lance Berkman (22) in 2008. The franchise record for home runs in a season prior to the break is 29, set by Berkman in 2002.

ALL RISE: Aaron Judge is one of five players in Yankees history to hit at least 24 homers through 68 team games, joining Babe Ruth (six times: 1920-21, '26- 28, '30); Mickey Mantle (1956); Roger Maris (1960-61); and Alex Rodriguez (2007).

RAY OF LIGHT: Rays closer Alex Colomé recorded his 20th save of the season in the team's 74th game on Tuesday night. In club history, only two others have reached 20 saves as quickly: right-hander Fernando Rodney (67th game, en route to a club-record 48 saves) in 2012 and Roberto Hernandez (69th game) in 1999.

30 FOR 30: Nomar Mazara of the Rangers homered in two straight games on Monday and Tuesday, reaching 30 career long balls with his solo shot in the fifth inning Tuesday night. According to Elias, Mazara hit his 30th career homer at the age of 22 years and 55 days. The only Rangers players who reached 30 homers at a younger age than Mazara were Ruben Sierra in 1987 (21 years, 286 days) and Juan Gonzalez in 1991 (21 years, 312 days).

RIZZO AT THE TOP: In his first seven contests batting leadoff, Anthony Rizzo reached safely to start each game. According to Elias, he became the only player in the last 60 seasons to reach in his first plate appearance in each of his first seven career games batting leadoff. The only other Cubs player since 1946 to reach safely leading off seven consecutive games is Richie Ashburn.

NEW YORK, NEW YORK: On Wednesday, the Mets led the National League with 36 home runs this month, while the Yankees lead the American League with 36 homers in June. According to Elias, the last time two New York teams were 1-2 (in either order) in the Majors in home runs at any point in a month was June 1989 (Mets-32, Yankees-31).

WE HAVE LIFT OFF: On Wednesday, Yasmani Grandal of the Dodgers hit two home runs in a victory over the Mets. Grandal became the third different Dodgers player with multiple home runs in a single game over the team's last three games. Rookie Cody Bellinger hit two homers against the Mets on Monday night, while Corey Seager hit three long balls on Tuesday night. According to Elias, it marked just the second time in Dodgers history that they had three different players with two-or-more homers in three straight games. It also happened in May 2016 (Seager, Trayce Thompson and Joc Pederson). In addition, the game was Grandal's sixth career multi-homer game as a catcher for the Dodgers. Only Roy Campanella (22) and Mike Piazza (19) have had more such games as a catcher in Dodgers history.

SOMETHING WE'VE NEVER SEEN: The Phillies have lost each of their last three games, all at home, all in extra innings, becoming the first team in National League history to do so.

RED MACHINES: Scott Schebler hit his 20th home run of the season on Wednesday. Schebler is the second Reds player to reach 20 home runs this season, joining Joey Votto (20), who reached the mark on Tuesday night. According to Elias, it's only the third time in franchise history that the Reds have two players reach 20 home runs within their first 75 games of a season. It also happened in 1953 (Ted Kluszewski and Gus Bell) and 1970 (Tony Perez and Johnny Bench).

UNMAGIC NUMBER: The Orioles were defeated by Cleveland on Wednesday, 5-1, setting an unwanted record in the process. The Orioles have allowed at least five runs in each of their last 18 games, setting an American League record. The previous record was set in 1901, the AL's first season as a Major League, when Connie Mack's Philadelphia Athletics allowed at least five runs in 17 straight games (May 4th – 26th).

SUPER NOVA: Entering his start today, Pittsburgh's Ivan Nova has pitched at least 6.0 innings in each of his first 14 starts this season, becoming the first Pittsburgh pitcher to do so since Eddie Solomon, who pitched 6.0 innings-or-more in all 17 starts in 1981. Nova pitched 7.0 innings in his last start and has been charged with two earned runs-or-less in six of his 14 assignments this year. He enters today's action ranked first in the National League with two complete games, fifth in ERA (2.91) and fourth in innings pitched (96.0). Since being acquired by the Pirates last year on August 1st, Nova's 2.97 ERA is the fourth-best among all Major League pitchers (minimum 140.0 innings pitched) behind Washington's Max Scherzer (2.55), Chicago's Jon Lester (2.80) and Minnesota's Ervin Santana (2.91). His 1.05 WHIP in that time is the second-best in the NL behind Scherzer (0.90).

RODNEY HITTING HIS MARK: Arizona's Fernando Rodney, who boasts a career-best eight straight hitless outings, has not allowed an earned run in 17 straight games since May 1st, going 14-for-15 in save chances with a 0.00 ERA and a .041 opponents batting average (2-for-49) over 16.2 innings pitched. Rodney's 20 first-half saves are the fifth-most in franchise history, behind Valverde (26 in 2007), Byung-Hyun Kim (22 in 2002), J.J. Putz (21 in 2011) and Addison Reed (21 in 2014).



INTERLEAGUE TRACKER

<u>League</u>	<u>2017 Record</u>	<u>Batting Average</u>	<u>ERA</u>
American League	81-57	.264 (1,262-for-4,788)	4.35
National League	57-81	.255 (1,216-for-4,774)	4.77

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)
May 7 th	Yonder Alonso, OAK (.409, 5 HR, 10 RBI, 5 R, 1 2B, 25 TB)	Cody Bellinger, LAD (.429, 3 HR, 12 RBI, 8 R, 1 2B, 1 3B)
May 14 th	Mookie Betts, BOS (.375, 8 R, 4 2B, 3 HR, 11 RBI, .917 SLG)	Alex Wood, LAD (2-0, 0.00 ERA, 11.0 IP, 21 SO, 2 BB)
May 21 st	J.D. Martinez, DET (.389, 7 R, 4 HR, 9 RBI, 10 BB, 1.056 SLG)	Jake Lamb, ARI (.412, 7 R, 4 HR, 10 RBI, 1.176 SLG, 20 TB)
May 28 th	José Abreu, CWS (.452, 14 H, 7 R, 3 2B, 2 HR, 5 RBI, 23 TB)	Charlie Blackmon, COL (.400, 3 HR, 12 RBI, 6 R, 1 2B, 1 3B)
June 4 th	George Springer, HOU (.500, 11 R, 5 HR, 9 RBI, 1.033 SLG)	Edinson Volquez, MIA (2-0, 0.60 ERA, 14 SO, 1 no-hitter)
June 11 th	Aaron Judge, NYY (.500/.600/1.000, 10 R, 3 2B, 3 HR, 6 RBI)	Scooter Gennett, CIN (Hit 17 th 4 HR game in MLB history)
June 18 th	José Ramírez, CLE (.516/.545/1.065, 9 R, 8 2B, 3 HR, 33 TB)	Jacob deGrom, NYM (2-0, 0.53 ERA, 17.0 IP, 12 SO, 1 CG)

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)
May	Carlos Correa, HOU (.386, 24 R, 8 2B, 7 HR, 26 RBI)	Charlie Blackmon, COL (.359, 24 R, 6 2B, 5 3B, 6 HR, 29 RBI)

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)
May	Lance McCullers Jr., HOU (4-0, 0.99 ERA, 37 SO, 36.1 IP)	Alex Wood, LAD (5-0, 1.27 ERA, 41 SO, 7 BB, 28.1 IP)

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)
May	Aaron Judge, NYY (.347, 17 R, 5 2B, 7 HR, 17 RBI, 3 SB)	Cody Bellinger, LAD (22 R, 5 2B, 9 HR, 27 RBI, .556 SLG)

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)
May	Craig Kimbrel, BOS (12.2 IP, 7 SV, 0.00 ERA, 25 SO, 1 BB)	Greg Holland, COL (9 G, 8 SV, 1.17 ERA, 15 SO, 1 BB)