# .1 MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL WEEKLY NOTES THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2017 

## ALTUVE POSTS RARE BATTING LINE

On Wednesday night, Houston Astros second baseman Jose Altuve went 4-for-5 with two doubles and two triples in a 3-0 win over the Miami Marlins at Marlins Park. The 27 -year-old became just the $12^{\text {th }}$ player since 1913 (14th occurrence overall) to collect at least two doubles and two triples in a single contest. Altuve, a two-time American League batting champion, was the first player to accomplish the feat since Tampa Bay's Carl Crawford on August 2, 2005.

Altuve, a four-time All-Star, became the first player in Astros franchise history to accomplish the feat, and he joined Snuffy Stirnweiss as the only other second baseman to turn the trick. Stirnweiss did so for the New York Yankees on September 3, 1945.

Altuve became the fifth player this season to collect four extra-base hits in a game, joining Washington's Anthony Rendon, Arizona's David Peralta, Atlanta's Freddie Freeman and Yoenis Céspedes of the New York Mets. The five such games already surpassed the 2016 total of three and matched the 2015 total.


Jose is the first second baseman to record four extra-base hits in a game since San Diego's Ryan Schimpf on August 19, 2016. Since 1913, a second baseman has had four extra-base hits in a game 31 times. In addition, Altuve joined 2017 Hall of Fame inductee Jeff Bagwell (June 14, 1996 - four doubles), as well as Kevin Bass (June 27, 1987 - two doubles, one triple and one homer) as the only Astros to record four extra-base hits in a single game.

Single Games with at Least Two Doubles and Two Triples, 1913-Present

| Player, Team | Date | Opponent (Result) | AB | R | H | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Jose Altuve, HOU | May 17, 2017 | at Miami (W, 3-0) | 5 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Carl Crawford, TB | August 2, 2005 | at Texas (W, 10-8) | 5 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Travis Fryman, DET | July 26, 1994 | vs. Seattle (W, 9-1) | 5 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 |
| Ed Stroud, WSH | July 4, 1968 | vs. New York-AL (W, 4-2) | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Gino Cimoli, KCA | April 27, 1962 | vs. Baltimore (W, 14-5) | 5 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Lou Boudreau, CLE | April 26, 1948 | at Chicago-AL (W, 12-11) | 6 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 |
| Jim Russell, PIT | September 1, 1946 | vs. St. Louis (L, 7-6) | 5 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Snuffy Stirnweiss, NYY | September 3, 1945 | at Philadelphia-AL (W, 7-6) | 6 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Heinie Manush, WSH | July 23, 1932 | vs. Philadelphia-AL (W, 6-5) | 5 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Bill Terry, NYG | September 13, 1931 | at Cincinnati (W, 9-4) | 5 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 |
| Lefty O'Doul, PHI | June 27, 1930 | at Pittsburgh (L, 6-4) | 5 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Heinie Manush, STL | May 24, 1929 | at Cleveland (W, 5-0) | 5 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Harry Hooper, CWS | September 28, 1924 | vs. Detroit (T, 10-10) | 5 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Harry Hooper, BOS | September 5, 1919 | at Philadelphia-AL (W, 15-7) | 5 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 |

## THE DOMINANCE OF CLAYTON KERSHAW

On Wednesday against the NL West-rival San Francisco Giants, Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw improved to 7-2 on the season after limiting the Giants to just three hits and no walks with five strikeouts over 7.0 scoreless innings in the 6-1 victory.

Kershaw became the $11^{\text {th }}$ pitcher this season to toss at least 7.0 scoreless innings with no walks in a start, joining Tampa Bay's Chris Archer, Cleveland's Carlos Carrasco, Oakland's Andrew Triggs, Pittsburgh's Ivan Nova, Masahiro Tanaka of the New York Yankees, Kansas City's Jason Vargas, Seattle's Ariel Miranda, Minnesota's Hector Santiago, and Mike Leake and Carlos Martínez of the St. Louis Cardinals.

The contest marked Kershaw's $17^{\text {th }}$ career start in which he pitched at least 7.0 scoreless innings without allowing a walk. Since his debut in 2008, he leads the Majors with those 17 such outings, ranking ahead of Cliff Lee, who
 posted 13 starts of that kind. Dating back to 1913, Kershaw's total of 17 is tied for the fourth-most overall. Hall of Famer Greg Maddux accomplished the feat an astounding 41 times during his 23-year career.

Wednesday's outing also marked the eighth time in his career that Kershaw has blanked the Giants with an outing of at least 7.0 innings. According to Elias, the only other Major League pitcher to do that at least eight times against the Giants since they moved to San Francisco in 1958 is Hall of Famer Don Sutton (nine).

Kershaw now has 20 career wins against the Giants, equaling his highest total against any franchise (also 20 wins vs. Colorado). Elias notes the only other active pitchers with at least 20 career wins against a team are Felix Hernandez (23 against Oakland), Justin Verlander (22 against Kansas City; 20 against Cleveland; 20 against the White Sox), CC Sabathia (21 against Detroit; 20 against Kansas City) and Bartolo Cólon (20 against Seattle; 20 against Texas).

Career Starts of at Least 7.0 Scoreless Innings with No Walks

| 2008-Present |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| Pitcher | Games |
| Clayton Kershaw | 17 |
| Cliff Lee | 13 |
| Zack Greinke | 11 |
| Roy Halladay | 9 |
| Max Scherzer | 8 |
| Ervin Santana | 8 |
| Hisashi Iwakuma | 8 |
| Doug Fister | 8 |
| Jon Lester | 7 |
| Felix Hernandez | 7 |
| Cole Hamels | 7 |
| Bartolo Colón | 7 |
| Madison Bumgarner | 7 |

Active Pitchers

| Pitcher | Games |
| :---: | :---: |
| Clayton Kershaw | 17 |
| Zack Greinke | 14 |
| Bartolo Colón | 11 |
| Ervin Santana | 9 |
| CC Sabathia | 9 |
| Felix Hernandez | 9 |
| Bronson Arroyo | 9 |
| Max Scherzer | 8 |
| Hisashi Iwakuma | 8 |
| Cole Hamels | 8 |
| Jon Lester | 7 |
| Madison Bumgarner | 7 |
| 13 Pitchers | 6 |

1913-Present

| Pitcher | Games |
| :---: | :---: |
| Greg Maddux | 41 |
| Pete Alexander | 33 |
| Walter Johnson | 20 |
| Clayton Kershaw | 17 |
| Tommy John | 17 |
| Roy Halladay | 17 |
| Don Drysdale | 17 |
| Tom Seaver | 16 |
| Gaylord Perry | 16 |
| Randy Johnson | 16 |
| David Wells | 15 |
| Curt Schilling | 15 |
| Robin Roberts | 15 |

## GETTING DRAFTY

Among the 868 players who were on 2017 Opening Day 25 -man rosters, disabled lists and restricted lists, a total of 631 players were selected in the MLB Draft.

The earlier selections do in fact show the highest returns of Major League players, as the 134 players chosen in the top 30 amounted to 21.2 percent of the 631 Opening Day players who went through the Draft en route to the Major Leagues. Picks 31-60 generated 13.5 percent of the players, and picks 61-90 turned out 9.8 percent.

After the first 10 rounds, the $13^{\text {th }}$ round produced the most Major League players with 13. The $13^{\text {th }}$ round produced Tyler Austin (NYY), Matt Bowman (STL), Matt Carpenter (STL), Brandon Drury (ARI), A.J. Griffin (TEX), Robert Gsellman (NYM), Shawn Kelley (WSH), Ty Kelly (NYM), Daniel Murphy (WSH), Ryan O’Rourke (MIN),
 James Pazos (SEA), Albert Pujols (LAA) and Devon Travis (TOR).

Seattle's Jarrod Dyson, who was chosen in the $50^{\text {th }}$ round of the 2006 Draft by the Kansas City Royals, is the latest Draft pick in the Major Leagues on Opening Day rosters.

Following is a round-by-round breakdown of where Major League players on 2017 Opening Day rosters were selected in the Draft:

| Round/Pick | Total | \% Of Active Players <br> Who Were Drafted |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Picks 1-30 | 134 | $21.2 \%$ |
| Picks 31-60 | 85 | $13.5 \%$ |
| Picks 61-90 | 62 | $9.8 \%$ |
| Picks 91-120 | 42 | $6.7 \%$ |
| Picks 121-150* | 54 | $8.6 \%$ |
| $6^{\text {th }}$ | 24 | $3.8 \%$ |
| $7^{\text {th }}$ | 19 | $3.0 \%$ |
| $8^{\text {th }}$ | 16 | $2.5 \%$ |
| $9^{\text {th }}$ | 24 | $3.8 \%$ |
| $10^{\text {th }}$ | 14 | $2.2 \%$ |
| $11^{\text {th }}$ | 9 | $1.4 \%$ |
| $12^{\text {th }}$ | 11 | $1.7 \%$ |
| $13^{\text {th }}$ | 13 | $2.1 \%$ |
| $14^{\text {th }}$ | 7 | $1.1 \%$ |
| $15^{\text {th }}$ | 6 | $1.0 \%$ |
| $16^{\text {th }}$ | 10 | $1.6 \%$ |
| $17^{\text {th }}$ | 12 | $1.9 \%$ |
| $18^{\text {th }}$ | 9 | $1.4 \%$ |
| $19^{\text {th }}$ | 7 | $1.1 \%$ |
| $20^{\text {th }}$ | 10 | $1.6 \%$ |
|  |  |  |


| Round/Pick | Total | \% Of Active Players <br> Who Were Drafted |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $21^{\text {st }}$ | 5 | $0.8 \%$ |
| $22^{\text {nd }}$ | 5 | $0.8 \%$ |
| $23^{\text {rd }}$ | 4 | $0.6 \%$ |
| $24^{\text {th }}$ | 2 | $0.3 \%$ |
| $25^{\text {th }}$ | 5 | $0.8 \%$ |
| $26^{\text {th }}$ | 5 | $0.8 \%$ |
| $27^{\text {th }}$ | 2 | $0.3 \%$ |
| $28^{\text {th }}$ | 3 | $0.5 \%$ |
| $30^{\text {th }}$ | 6 | $1.0 \%$ |
| $31^{\text {st }}$ | 3 | $0.5 \%$ |
| $32^{\text {nd }}$ | 2 | $0.3 \%$ |
| $33^{\text {rd }}$ | 7 | $1.1 \%$ |
| $34^{\text {th }}$ | 1 | $0.2 \%$ |
| $38^{\text {th }}$ | 2 | $0.3 \%$ |
| $40^{\text {th }}$ | 1 | $0.2 \%$ |
| $41^{\text {st }}$ | 2 | $0.3 \%$ |
| $42^{\text {nd }}$ | 3 | $0.5 \%$ |
| $43^{\text {rd }}$ | 1 | $0.2 \%$ |
| $45^{\text {th }}$ | 1 | $0.2 \%$ |
| $48^{\text {th }}$ | 2 | $0.3 \%$ |
| $50^{\text {th }}$ | 1 | $0.2 \%$ |
|  |  |  |

*Includes 25 players selected in the $4^{\text {th }}$ or $5^{\text {th }}$ round, after pick \#150.

## REED'S RUN CONTINUES

Updating a note from last week's edition of the Weekly Notes, New York Mets reliever Addison Reed has yet to allow a walk in 21 appearances this season. His 21 appearances are tied for fourth-most in the NL.

The streak of 21 contests without a walk, spanning 20.2 innings pitched, is a new Mets franchise record for consecutive games pitched without a walk to begin a season. LaTroy Hawkins held the previous mark of 17, doing so at the outset of the 2013 campaign.


Only six pitchers in the Majors dating back to at least 1913 have opened a season with a longer stretch than that of Reed this year, including Mark Eichhorn, who tops the list with 30 straight appearances without issuing a walk to begin the 1991 season for the California Angels.

Consecutive Games Without Allowing a Walk to Begin a Season, 1913-Present

| Pitcher, Team | Games | Season | IP | Strikeouts |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Mark Eichhorn, CAL | 30 | 1991 | 40.1 | 21 |
| Pat Neshek, HOU | 24 | 2015 | 20.2 | 19 |
| John Smoltz, ATL | 23 | 2004 | 24.2 | 28 |
| Dennis Eckersley, OAK | 23 | 1990 | 27.1 | 29 |
| Peter Moylan, ATL | 22 | 2015 | 10.1 | 8 |
| Jamie Walker, BAL | 22 | 2009 | 12.1 | 9 |
| Addison Reed, NYM | 21 | 2017 | 20.2 | 25 |
| Seth Maness, STL | 21 | 2015 | 17.1 | 10 |
| Dennis Eckersley, OAK | 21 | 1991 | 24.0 | 25 |
| Ian Krol, DET | 20 | 2014 | 14.2 | 9 |
| Sean Doolittle, OAK | 20 | 2014 | 21.0 | 28 |
| Wilton Lopez, HOU | 20 | 2012 | 21.2 | 16 |
| Harry Eisenstat, CLE | 20 | 1942 | 32.0 | 11 |

## EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY

 (by MLB Official Historian John Thorn)

In the golden age of magazines, the period 1880-1920, the newsstands were bedecked with general-interest and literary publications: the weeklies included such fare as The Saturday Evening Post, Collier's, FrankLeslie's Popular Magazine, and Harper's; the monthlies boasted, among others, Atlantic, Munsey's, McClure's Magazine, and Century Illustrated Monthly Magazine. Competition for rack space was fierce, as was the competition for the eye (and pocketbook) of the browser; the fees that top writers routinely received in 1920 exceed those available today, when the dollar buys so much less; and artists whose work graced magazine covers, like James Montgomery Flagg, Edward Penfield, Maxfield Parrish, and J. C. Leyendecker, became truly wealthy. But first-class cover art had never been viewed as a necessary competitive edge for an all-sports publication until the advent of "Baseball Magazine." For more, see: http://ourgame.mlblogs. com/2013/05/01/baseball-magazine/

Joseph Francis Kernan (1878-1958) provided cover art for many numbers of Baseball Magazine in its glory years, 1908 (the year of its founding) to 1920. A prolific illustrator, he specialized in images of home, family, and outdoor recreation. His paintings of football, fishing, and hunting frequently graced the covers of the Saturday Evening Post in the 1920s and'30s.

Harold A. Van Buren (1887-1977) designed several Baseball Magazine covers, all with intense graphic interest. Here is one particularly grand example (my personal favorite of all Baseball Magazine covers) from the publication's first year (1908).

By the 1920s the covers had turned rather dull in aesthetic terms-red borders around a player photograph. This heralded not only the cost cutting that characterized the magazine industry as a whole, at the dawn of the new age of radio, but also a growing perception that on the newsstand and throughout the sports/entertainment industry, it was stars, not sensibility, that sold. More's the pity for the culture, perhaps, but in sports as in theater, the play's the thing, and so are the players.


## MLB ON-AIR THIS WEEK

(All Times ET)

| Friday, May $19^{\text {th }}$. | Milwaukee Brewers at Chicago Cubs | 2:20 p.m. |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Cleveland Indians at Houston Astros | 8:10 p.m. |  |
|  | San Francisco Giants at St. Louis Cardinals | 8:15 p.m. |  |
| Saturday, May 20 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ : | Kansas City Royals at Minnesota Twins | 2:10 p.m. |  |
|  | Milwaukee Brewers at Chicago Cubs | 2:20 p.m. |  |
|  | Miami Marlins at Los Angeles Dodgers | 10:10 p.m. |  |
|  | Chicago White Sox at Seattle Mariners | 10:10 p.m. | M |
| Sunday, May $\mathbf{2 1}^{\text {st. }}$ | San Francisco Giants at St. Louis Cardinals | 2:15 p.m. | Nerwork |
|  | Milwaukee Brewers at Chicago Cubs | 2:20 p.m. |  |
| Monday, May 22 ${ }^{\text {nd }}$ : | San Francisco Giants at Chicago Cubs Detroit Tigers at Houston Astros | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 8:05 p.m. } \\ & \text { 8:10 p.m. } \end{aligned}$ |  |
| Wednesday, May $24^{\text {th }}$ : | Miami Marlins at Oakland Athletics | 3:35 p.m. |  |
|  | Chicago White Sox at Arizona Diamondbacks | 3:40 p.m. |  |
|  | Kansas City Royals at New York Yankees | 7:05 p.m. |  |
|  | Texas Rangers at Boston Red Sox | 7:10 p.m. |  |
|  | St. Louis Cardinals at Los Angeles Dodgers | 10:10 p.m. |  |



Thursday, May 18 $^{\text {th: }}$ :
Saturday, May 20 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ : Texas Rangers at Detroit Tigers 7:15 p.m.
San Francisco Giants at St. Louis Cardinals 7:15 p.m.
Los Angeles Angels at New York Mets 7:15 p.m.

| Sunday, May 21 ${ }^{\text {st: }}$ | Texas Rangers at Detroit Tigers | $8: 05 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Tuesday, May 23 ${ }^{\text {rd }}:$ | St. Louis Cardinals at Los Angeles Dodgers | $10: 10 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. |

## UPON FURTHER REVIEW

Through 594 games played this season (through Wednesday), Major League Baseball has had 358 replay reviews, which have taken an average of one minute and thirty-three seconds.

```
*358 Replay Reviews
*72 Confirmed (20.1\%)
*113 Stands (31.6\%)
*167 Overturned (46.6\%)
*6 Rules Check (1.7\%)
*1:33 Average Time
```



## LINE DRIVES (Compiled from Club Game Notes)

HONORING JACKIE: Today marks the $70^{\text {th }}$ anniversary of Jackie Robinson playing his first game at Wrigley Field - the only remaining Major League ballpark in which Robinson played. The game on May 18, 1947 drew a paid crowd of 46,572 fans, which remains the largest paid regular season crowd in Wrigley Field history. Jackie Robinson's granddaughter, Meta Robinson, helped raise a new flag honoring his legacy on the ballpark's right field foul pole prior to today's game.

REACH DOWN: Texas had a pair of four-hit games on Wednesday night by Jared Hoying (batting $8^{\text {th }}$ ) and Delino DeShields (batting $9^{\text {th }}$ ), this after one four-hit game in the Club's first 40 contests (Carlos Gomez cycle on April $29^{\text {th }}$ vs. LAA). Both went 4-for-4 last night, and Elias notes that it was only the second time since 1900 that a team's starters in the $8^{\text {th }}$ and $9^{\text {th }}$ slot in the batting order each went 4 -for- 4 or better in the same game (no hitless at-bats). The only other time it happened was May 27, 2004 (Detroit at Kansas City), when Carlos Peña of the Tigers (6-for-6 batting $8^{\text {th }}$ ) and Omar Infante ( 4 -for-4 batting $9^{\text {th }}$ ) did it. The only other instance of 8-9 batters having four-hit games in Texas history was August 22, 2007 at Baltimore (Game 1), when Jarrod Saltalamacchia (4-for-6 batting $8^{\text {th }}$ ) and Ramon Vazquez (4-for-6 batting $9^{\text {th }}$ ) did it in club's record-setting 30-3 win.

WELCOME TO THE SHOW: Cardinals rookie Magneuris Sierra has hit safely in each of his first seven games, batting .367 with eight runs scored. Sierra is now tied with Enos Slaughter (1938), Terry Pendleton (1984) and Bo Hart (2003) for the Cardinals record of hitting safely in seven straight games to begin their careers.

PHILLIES DUO THRIVING IN MAY: Phillies first baseman Tommy Joseph has raised his batting average 105 points over his last 20 games played. Since April $20^{\text {th }}$, Joseph is batting .333 with a .413 on-base percentage and .621 slugging percentage. Of his 22 hits in that span, 11 have been for extra bases (seven doubles, four homers). Joseph leads the Majors with a 1.304 OPS during the month of May, while teammate Aaron Altherr ranks second with a 1.283 OPS. Altherr has reached base safely in 28 of his 59 plate appearances during the month (. 475 on-base percentage). Overall, Altherr's 1.091 OPS is the seventh-highest of any player in the majors with at least 100 plate appearances this season, trailing only Washington's Bryce Harper (1.235), Atlanta's Freddie Freeman (1.209), Mike Trout of the Los Angeles Angels (1.193), Washington's Ryan Zimmerman (1.180), Aaron Judge of the New York Yankees (1.146) and Milwaukee's Eric Thames (1.128).

PERFECT 10: Mets catcher René Rivera has hit in a career-high 10 straight games, going 16-for-39 (.410) with 11 RBI. Rivera has multi-hit games in five of those contests, and his .324 batting average as a catcher is the fourth-highest in the Majors this year among all catchers with 60 -or-more at-bats. Rivera's 10-game hitting streak is the longest by a Mets catcher since Ramon Castro had an 11-game hitting streak from June 16-July 28, 2007. Mets catchers have 32 RBI this year, the second-most in the Majors behind Houston (33).

ORANGE CRUSH: Orioles first baseman Chris Davis hit a go-ahead home run in the $12^{\text {th }}$ inning on Tuesday at Detroit and hit another go-ahead shot in the $13^{\text {th }}$ inning after the Tigers tied the game in the bottom of the $12^{\text {th }}$ inning. According to Elias, Davis is only the second player in the Expansion Era (since 1961) to hit two go-ahead home runs in extra-innings. He joined Matt Adams, who did so for the St. Louis Cardinals at Cincinnati on September 4, 2013 in the $14^{\text {th }}$ and $16^{\text {th }}$ innings. Davis and Adams are the only players to hit multiple home runs in the $12^{\text {th }}$ inning-or-later of a game.

WHAT A RELIEF: Greg Holland registered his $16^{\text {th }}$ save in his $16^{\text {th }}$ opportunity Sunday, setting the Rockies franchise record for consecutive converted saves to begin a season. He extended his streak to 17 games with his save on Tuesday night. The Rockies are 18-0 when Holland appears in a game, tied with Boston and Craig Kimbrel (also 18-0) for the best mark in the Majors.

A GRAND GESTURE: Tuesday night marked Joe Maddon's $1,000^{\text {th }}$ career managerial victory during his stints with the Angels (interim in 1996, 1999), the Rays (2006-14) and the Cubs (2015-present). To mark the milestone victory, Maddon's charitable foundation, the Respect 90 Foundation, will donate 1,000 meals to homeless children and families both at the Evangeline Booth Lodge in Chicago and Sallie House in St. Petersburg, Florida. Maddon is the eighth active manager to reach 1,000 victories. He has 220 wins as Cubs manager, already $14^{\text {th }}$-most in franchise history, while his .608 winning percentage (220-142) trails only fellow Cubs World Series Manager Frank Chance (768-389, .664) for best in Cubs history (minimum 300 games)

900 RBI FOR BP: Braves second baseman Brandon Phillips collected his $900^{\text {th }}$ and $901^{\text {st }}$ career RBI on Friday at Miami. He ranks $15^{\text {th }}$ among all active players in RBI and needs one home run to become the $48^{\text {th }}$ player in Major League history with 200 career homers and 200 steals.

MY WAVE: The Tigers have had multi-home run performances from a player in each of their last two games and three of their last four (J.D. Martinez twice, Tyler Collins). The last time Detroit had back-to-back games in which a player hit two-or-more home runs was September 25-26, 2008 vs. TB (Ramon Santiago and Gary Sheffield each hit two).

K'S FOR DAYS: Through April $26^{\text {th }}$, the Rays had played 3,099 games in club history and the longest streak of double-digit strikeout games by the offense was 5 games, from September 12-16, 2015. In only 19 games since then, they have matched this club-record streak three separate times (April $28^{\text {th }}-$ May $2^{\text {nd }}$, May $5^{\text {th }}-9^{\text {th }}$, May $12^{\text {th }}-17^{\text {th }}$ ). They have had 28 double-digit strikeout games, putting them on a pace for 108 (MLB record is 80 by the 2013 Astros). The Rays offense leads the Majors with 441 strikeouts, the most in Major League history through 42 games (previous high was 2015 Cubs - 419). Tampa Bay has 65 strikeouts more than any other team (Milwaukee - 376) and 97 more than any other American League team (Texas - 344). They are on pace for 1,701 strikeouts, which would pass the Major League record held by the 2016 Brewers ( 1,543 ). Last year the Rays had a club record 1,482 strikeouts, the second-most in AL history. Their 16 strikeouts on Tuesday night tied the season high (third time overall).

RING 'EM UP: Philadelphia's Nick Pivetta has struck out 16 batters in 14.2 innings pitched to begin his career ( 9.82 strikeouts per 9.0 innings pitched), striking out five-or-more in each of his three starts. He is one of three Phillies starters since 1913 to strike out five-or-more in his first three career starts (Randy Wolf in 1999, Lowell Palmer in 1969) and is the only of 13 Major League starters to debut this year to do so.

SELECT COMPANY: The Astros won 70 percent of their first 40 games this season. Three of the last four teams to do so went on to win the World Series, including the 2016 Cubs (29-11), the 2007 Red Sox (28-12) and the 2005 White Sox (28-12). The 2010 Rays started the season 29-11, but lost in the American League Division Series.

DON'T LET THE BEARD FOOL YOU: Rockies outfielder Charlie Blackmon hit his ninth home run and recorded his $30^{\text {th }} \mathrm{RBI}$ on Tuesday. According to Elias, the only other player in the last 10 seasons to have 30 RBI from the leadoff spot in the team's first 40 games was lan Kinsler for the Rangers in 2009. Blackmon currently leads the Majors with six triples, is tied for second in the NL with 51 hits, third with 24 extra-base hits and tied for seventh with 30 RBI. His six triples, nine home runs, 30 RBI and 51 hits are the most in the Majors by a leadoff hitter. Among MLB center fielders, he ranks second in home runs (Mike Trout), first in RBI, is tied for first in extra-base hits and ranks second in batting average.

THE FRIENDLIEST OF CONFINES: On Wednesday night, Cincinnati's Zack Cozart became the third visitor and seventh player overall to homer in five consecutive games at Wrigley Field. The feat has been accomplished just eight times, and no player has homered in six straight games at the historic ballpark. Cozart (July 4, 2016-May 17, 2017), joined Houston's Carlos Beltrán (June 29-August 27, 2004) and Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt of the Phillies (May 31-August 13, 1980) as the only visitors to do it. It has also been accomplished by Chicago's Sammy Sosa (June 3-15, 1998); Hall of Famer Ryne Sandberg (August 7-11, 1989); Leon Durham (April 21-May 7, 1984); and Hall of Famer Billy Williams (June 1-16, 1972 and September 3-15, 1965).


## INTERLEAGUE TRACKER

| League <br> American League | $\underline{2017 \text { Record }}$ |  | Batting Average |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ERA |  |  |  |  |
| National League | $42-25$ |  | $.255(593-$ for- 2,324$)$ | 3.85 |
| N | $25-42$ |  | $.246(574-$ for- 2,336$)$ | 4.39 |

## MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL'S PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

| Week Ending | American League | National League |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| April $9^{\text {th }}$ | 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 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ | James Paxton, SEA (2-0, 0.00 ERA, 15.0 IP, $17 \mathrm{SO}, 3 \mathrm{BB}, 6 \mathrm{H})$ | Marcell Ozuna, MIA (.435, 4 HR, 12 RBI, 1 2B, 4 R, 1.000 SLG) |
| April $23{ }^{\text {rd }}$ | 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 $30^{\text {th }}$ | 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 $7^{\text {th }}$ | Yonder Alonso, OAK (.409, 5 HR, 10 RBI, 5 R, 1 2B, 25 TB) | Cody Bellinger, LAD (.429, 3 HR, $12 \mathrm{RBI}, 8 \mathrm{R}, 1$ 2B, 1 3B) |
| May 14 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ | 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) |

## BUDWEISER PRESENTS THE AL \& NL PLAYERS OF THE MONTH

| Month | American League | National League |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| April | Mike Trout, LAA (.364, 7 HR, $18 \mathrm{RBI}, 92 \mathrm{~B}, 23 \mathrm{~B}, 18 \mathrm{R}, 5 \mathrm{SB})$ | Ryan Zimmerman, WSH (.420, $11 \mathrm{HR}, 29 \mathrm{RBI}, 82 \mathrm{~B}, 22 \mathrm{R})$ |

## 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, $1 \mathrm{BB}, 1 \mathrm{SHO})$ |

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL'S ROOKIES OF THE MONTH

| Month | American League | National League |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| April | Aaron Judge, NYY (.303, $10 \mathrm{HR}, 20 \mathrm{RBI}, 22 \mathrm{~B}, 13 \mathrm{~B}, 23 \mathrm{R})$ | 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, $6 \mathrm{SV}, 0.90$ ERA, $10.0 \mathrm{IP}, 20 \mathrm{SO}, 1 \mathrm{BB})$ | Greg Holland, COL (0-0, $11 \mathrm{SV}, 1.50 \mathrm{ERA}, 12.0 \mathrm{IP}, 13 \mathrm{SO})$ |

