

## BART STILL GOING STRONG

On Thursday, Bartolo Colón of the Atlanta Braves took the mound for a start at home against the Pittsburgh Pirates. Colón, who turned 44 on Wednesday, became the $22^{\text {nd }}$ different pitcher since 1913 to make a start at age 44 -or-older. The last pitcher to do so was Jamie Moyer, at 49 years, 191 days old, in his final career start on May 27, 2012 with Colorado at Cincinnati.

Colón became the first Braves pitcher to start for the team after his $44^{\text {th }}$ birthday since Dennis Martinez in 1998. Martinez made three starts as a 44-year-old for the Braves during that season. Ironically, Colón is just 10 wins shy of tying Martinez (245), a native of Nicaragua,forthemostwins bya LatinAmerican pitcherin Major League history. Overall, Colón ranks third among Latin American-born pitchers, also trailing Hall of Famer and fellow Dominican-born hurler Juan Marichal (243).

Only one other pitcher made a start for the Braves after his 44th birthday since the team moved to Atlanta in 1966 - Hall of Famer Phil Niekro, who made 34 such starts with Atlanta. Niekro
 made 155 starts after turning 44 years old, the most among all Major League pitchers since at least 1913.

Career Starts, Age 44-or-Older (Since 1913)

| Pitcher | Games |
| :---: | :---: |
| Phil Niekro | 155 |
| Jamie Moyer | 120 |
| Charlie Hough | 82 |
| Jack Quinn | 69 |
| Tommy John | 68 |
| Nolan Ryan | 67 |
| Randy Johnson | 47 |
| Gaylord Perry | 32 |
| Warren Spahn | 28 |
| Roger Clemens | 28 |
| Tim Wakefield | 26 |


| Pitcher | Games |
| :---: | :---: |
| David Wells | 21 |
| Satchel Paige | 14 |
| Fred Johnson | 8 |
| Bobo Newsom | 7 |
| Ted Lyons | 5 |
| Dennis Martinez | 3 |
| Hod Lisenbee | 3 |
| Jesse Haines | 3 |
| Red Faber | 2 |
| Joe Heving | 1 |

## HOME SWEET HOME

Houston Astros hurler Lance McCullers Jr. improved to 5-1 on the season with his victory over the Detroit Tigers on Tuesday at Minute Maid Park. The 23-year-old right-hander permitted one hit and two walks with five strikeouts in 5.0 scoreless innings in the 6-2 victory.

McCullers has now allowed no more than three runs in each of his 25 career home starts. The streak is currently tied for the fourth-longest in Major League history, and it is the longest such streak in American League history. Pedro Martinez held the previous AL record, yielding no more than three runs in 23 consecutive home starts at Fenway Park from August 3, 1999 through May 30, 2001. Additionally, the streak by McCullers surpassed Larry Dierker's run of 22 consecutive starts from July 11, 1970 through April 17, 1972 for the longest in Astros history.

Clayton Kershaw holds the all-time mark of 30 consecutive such starts at Dodger Stadium from June 5, 2013 through June 6, 2015. Jon Lester of the Cubs currently has a streak of 22 such starts, tied for $10^{\text {th }}$ all time.

In addition, the streak of 25 straight starts at home without allowing more than three earned runs is tied for the longest in Major League history by any pitcher to start his career. The late Jose Fernandez also accomplished the feat from April 13, 2013 through September 12, 2015.

Consecutive Home Starts Allowing Three Earned Runs or Less All-Time

| Pitcher, Team | Consecutive <br> Starts | Dates | W-L | ERA | IP | SO |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Clayton Kershaw, LAD | 30 | $6 / 5 / 13-6 / 6 / 15$ | $18-7$ | 1.74 | 222.1 | 272 |
| Adam Wainwright, STL | 28 | $5 / 16 / 09-8 / 18 / 10$ | $17-7$ | 1.54 | 204.0 | 186 |
| Clayton Kershaw, LAD | 27 | $6 / 26 / 08-4 / 29 / 10$ | $7-6$ | 2.25 | 151.2 | 162 |
| Lance McCullers Jr., HOU | 25 | $5 / 18 / 15-$ Present | $12-4$ | 2.05 | 154.0 | 185 |
| John Lackey, STL/CHI | 25 | $9 / 19 / 14-6 / 20-16$ | $14-6$ | 1.92 | 178.1 | 155 |
| Jose Fernandez, MIA | 25 | $4 / 13 / 13-9 / 12 / 15$ | $16-0$ | 1.11 | 162.2 | 190 |
| Chris Young, SD/NYM | 23 | $9 / 14 / 07-7 / 23 / 12$ | $8-6$ | 2.62 | 141.0 | 121 |
| Pedro Martinez, BOS | 23 | $8 / 3 / 99-5 / 30 / 01$ | $12-6$ | 1.75 | 170.0 | 247 |
| Rick Honeycutt, LAD | 23 | $4 / 17 / 85-8 / 6 / 86$ | $10-7$ | 2.13 | 139.1 | 78 |
| Jon Lester, CHI | 22 | $9 / 25 / 15-$ Present | $13-3$ | 1.80 | 150.1 | 146 |
| Josh Johnson, MIA | 22 | $4 / 10 / 10-4 / 17 / 12$ | $9-4$ | 1.68 | 150.0 | 165 |
| Larry Dierker, HOU | 22 | $7 / 11 / 70-4 / 17 / 72$ | $12-5$ | 1.98 | 168.1 | 103 |

Consecutive Home Starts Allowing Three Earned Runs or Less to Start Career

| Pitcher, Team | Consecutive <br> Starts | Dates | W-L | ERA | IP | SO |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Lance McCullers Jr., HOU | 25 | $5 / 18 / 15-$ Present | $12-4$ | 2.05 | 154.0 | 185 |
| Jose Fernandez, MIA | 25 | $4 / 13 / 13-9 / 12 / 15$ | $16-0$ | 1.11 | 162.2 | 190 |
| Joe Magrane, STL | 19 | $5 / 1 / 87-8 / 2 / 88$ | $5-5$ | 2.26 | 135.2 | 84 |
| Ferdie Schupp, NYG | 19 | $10 / 3 / 13-7 / 23 / 17$ | $15-2$ | 1.03 | 166.0 | 93 |
| Nelson Briles, STL | 16 | $4 / 23 / 66-9 / 11 / 67$ | $8-4$ | 1.84 | 117.2 | 73 |
| Joe Hesketh, MON | 14 | $8 / 10 / 84-7 / 28 / 85$ | $7-2$ | 1.68 | 96.1 | 74 |
| Ed Lynch, NYM | 14 | $9 / 13 / 80-6 / 14 / 83$ | $5-2$ | 2.57 | 87.2 | 21 |
| Jerry Koosman, NYM | 14 | $9 / 22 / 67-8 / 19 / 68$ | $8-5$ | 1.63 | 116.0 | 93 |
| Bruce Howard, CWS | 14 | $9 / 29 / 64-5 / 22 / 66$ | $7-2$ | 2.15 | 96.1 | 74 |
| Scott Perry, SLB/CHI/PHA | 14 | $5 / 13 / 15-7 / 6 / 18$ | $8-5$ | 1.48 | 122.0 | 31 |

## DEBUT DOINGS

On Thursday, San Diego's Dinelson Lamet made his Major League debut in a start at Citi Field against the New York Mets. Lamet, who became the $11^{\text {th }}$ pitcher this season to make his Major League debut in a start, tossed 5.0 innings, permitting one run on three hits with two walks and eight strikeouts to earn a win in San Diego's 4-3 victory.

Lamet's eight strikeouts were the most by a pitcher in a debut this season, and the most since Jose De Leon had nine in his debut for the Los Angeles Dodgers last September $4^{\text {th }}$ against the Padres at Dodger Stadium. The 24 -year-old right-hander became the second pitcher in Padres history to record at least eight strikeouts and earn a victory in his Major League debut, joining Bob Shirley, who had 11 strikeouts over 8.2 innings on April 10, 1977 at Cincinnati.

Overall, Lamet, a native of Santiago, Dominican Republic, became just the seventh pitcher in the last 10 seasons to
 post at least eight strikeouts and a win in his Major League debut. The others include De Leon; Masahiro Tanaka of the Yankees (eight strikeouts on April 4, 2014 at Toronto); Matt Harvey of the Mets (11 strikeouts on July 26, 2012 at Arizona); Washington's Stephen Strasburg (14 strikeouts on June 8, 2010 vs. Pittsburgh); Atlanta's Kenshin Kawakami (eight strikeouts on April 11, 2009 vs. Washington); and Cincinnati's Johnny Cueto (10 strikeouts on April 3, 2008 vs. Arizona).

Of the 11 pitchers to debut thus far, just three -- Lamet, Colorado's Kyle Freeland and Cincinnati's Amir Garrett -- picked up a victory in their debut. Overall, teams have gone 8-3 in the 11 games (.727). Freeland and Garrett each tossed 6.0 innings during their debuts, the longest outings among the 11 pitchers. Overall, the pitchers have combined to go 3-3 with a 3.63 ERA over the 11 starts. In 52.0 innings pitched, they have allowed 21 earned runs on 52 hits with 23 walks and 50 strikeouts.

In 2016, there were 14 debut starts through May $26^{\text {th }}$ and 41 such starts overall on the season. Below is a look at each of the debut starts this season in the Majors. Teams went 16-25 during those 41 starts (.390).

Starting Pitchers in MLB Debut During 2017 Season

| Pitcher, Team | Date | Opponent (Result) | Decision | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Antonio Senzatela, COL | April 6 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ | Milwaukee (W, 2-1) | ND | 5.0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 6 |
| Rookie Davis, CIN | April 6 $^{\text {th }}$ | Philadelphia (W, 7-4) | ND | 3.0 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| Amir Garrett, CIN | April 7 $^{\text {th }}$ | St. Louis (W, 2-0) | W | 6.0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| Kyle Freeland, COL | April 7 $^{\text {th }}$ | L.A. Dodgers (W, 2-1) | W | 6.0 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| Jordan Montgomery, NYY | April 12 $2^{\text {th }}$ | Tampa Bay (W, 8-4) | ND | 4.2 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 7 |
| Dylan Covey, CWS | April 14 $4^{\text {th }}$ | Minnesota (W, 2-1) | ND | 5.1 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| Sal Romano, CIN | April 16 $6^{\text {th }}$ | Milwaukee (L, 4-2) | L | 3.0 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| Nick Pivetta, PHI | April 30 $0^{\text {th }}$ | L.A. Dodgers (L, 5-3) | L | 5.0 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| Hector Velazquez, BOS | May 18 $^{\text {th }}$ | Oakland (L, 8-3) | L | 5.0 | 9 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| Paolo Espino, MIL | May 19 $^{\text {th }}$ | Chicago Cubs (W, 6-3) | ND | 4.0 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Dinelson Lamet, SD | ${\text { May } 25^{\text {th }}}$ | N.Y. Mets (W, 4-3) | W | 5.0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 8 |

## BUCKING THE TREND

Entering play today, there are six Major Leaguers who own a walk percentage greater than-or-equal to their strikeout percentage ( $\mathrm{BB} / \mathrm{K}$ ). Buster Posey of the San Francisco Giants paces the group among qualified batters, posting a $1.50 \mathrm{BB} / \mathrm{K}$ (11.2 BB\%, 7.5 K\%). Following Posey are Cincinnati's Joey Votto ( $1.46 \mathrm{BB} / \mathrm{K}$ ); Bostons' Mookie Betts (1.46) and Dustin Pedroia (1.40); Anthony Rizzo of the Cubs (1.04); and Pittsburgh's Jordy Mercer (1.00).

The 2017 campaign is on pace to have the most players record at least a $1.00 \mathrm{BB} / \mathrm{K}$ since 2011, when nine players accomplished the feat (2016 - 3; 2015 - 5; 2014 - 3; 2013 - 4; 2012 - 4). Those nine players were: Ian Kinsler (1.25 BB/K); Miguel Cabrera (1.21); Alberto Callaspo (1.21); José Bautista (1.19); Albert Pujols (1.05); José Reyes (1.05); Juan Pierre (1.05); Dustin Pedroia (1.01); and Prince Fielder (1.01).


Players with a 1.00 BB/K-or-Better, 2017 Season

| Hitter, Team | BB/K | Walk\% | Strikeout\% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Buster Posey, SF | 1.50 | $11.2 \%$ | $7.5 \%$ |
| Joey Votto, CIN | 1.46 | $17.2 \%$ | $11.8 \%$ |
| Mookie Betts, BOS | 1.40 | $10.7 \%$ | $7.6 \%$ |
| Dustin Pedroir, BOS | 1.40 | $11.2 \%$ | $8.0 \%$ |
| Anthony Rizzo, CHI | 1.04 | $12.9 \%$ | $12.4 \%$ |
| Jordy Mercer, PIT | 1.00 | $13.9 \%$ | $13.9 \%$ |

During a span of six seasons from 2012-17, Votto is the only active player in the Majors to post a higher walk percentage (18.4\%) than strikeout percentage (18.1\%), logging a $1.02 \mathrm{BB} / \mathrm{K}$. Across 3,049 plate appearances, the 2010 NL MVP has slashed .311/.441/.527 with 423 runs scored, 169 doubles, 114 home runs and 367 RBI, entering play today. No other player in Major League Baseball has replicated those total numbers along with a slash line over the same time period.

BB/K Leaders, 2012-2017

| Hitter, Team | BB/K | Walk\% | Strikeout\% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Joey Votto, CIN | 1.02 | $18.4 \%$ | $18.1 \%$ |
| Jose Bautista, TOR | 0.91 | $15.3 \%$ | $16.8 \%$ |
| Carlos Santana, CLE | 0.90 | $15.3 \%$ | $16.9 \%$ |
| Michael Brantley, CLE | 0.86 | $8.3 \%$ | $9.7 \%$ |
| Buster Posey, SF | 0.86 | $9.8 \%$ | $11.4 \%$ |
| Dustin Pedroia, BOS | 0.84 | $8.9 \%$ | $10.7 \%$ |

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



We all like to argue about baseball's greatest this or that - game, player, moment. In the history line, we spend a good deal of pleasurable time arguing about the first this or that — shutout, bunt, no-hitter, and so on. But this weekly column is about pictures, specifically illustrations. In the first episode this spring, we presented early images of boys playing ball: one from 1744 of boy playing "Base Ball" from John Newbery's Little Pretty Pocket-Book of 1744, though without a bat; and another from 1820 by Alexander Anderson in Samuel Wood's Children's Amusements. We also showed the first depiction of men playing ball, from the Magnolia Club engraved invitation to a postseason ball, slated for February 1844.

But what is the first image of two distinct clubs, playing a game of baseball that we can determine, from press accounts, was actually played. That honor goes to two depictions, published one week apart, of the game played between the Eagle and Gotham Clubs on Tuesday, September 8, 1857, at the Elysian Fields of Hoboken.

Porter's Spirit of the Times, a sporting weekly, featured its woodcut on its coveted front page only four days later (above), marking a signal event in baseball's acceptance as a sport worthy of men's attention. The New York Clipper, another weekly, had been reporting on baseball erratically since its inception on April 30, 1853, was unable to work up its illustration in time, or competing sporting material may have pushed the image to the following Saturday, September 19. Like Porter's, the Clipper ran its illustration on
 the cover, marking a first in its history as well (right).

By the way, the Eagles defeated the Gothams $15-9$ in a game played through nine innings, an innovation adopted in this year of 1857. Previously, victory went to the first club to score 21 runs.

## MLB ON-AIR THIS WEEK

(All Times ET)

| Friday, May $\mathbf{2 6}^{\text {th }}$ : | Kansas City Royals at Cleveland Indians | 7:10 p.m. |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Seattle Mariners at Boston Red Sox | 7:10 p.m. |  |
|  | Chicago Cubs at Los Angeles Dodgers | 10:10 p.m. |  |
|  | Atlanta Braves at San Francisco Giants | 10:15 p.m. |  |
| Saturday, May $27^{\text {th }}$ : | Oakland Athletics at New York Yankees | 1:05 p.m. |  |
|  | Texas Rangers at Toronto Blue Jays | 1:07 p.m. |  |
|  | Atlanta Braves at San Francisco Giants | 10:05 p.m. | 4 : |
| Sunday, May 28 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ : | Texas Rangers at Toronto Blue Jays | 1:07 p.m. | NETWOFK |
|  | Kansas City Royals at Cleveland Indians | 1:10 p.m. | , |
|  | Atlanta Braves at San Francisco Giants | 4:05 p.m. |  |
|  | Chicago Cubs at Los Angeles Dodgers | 4:10 p.m. | , |
| Monday, May 29 ${ }^{\text {th }}$. | Atlanta Braves at Los Angeles Angels | 9:07 p.m. |  |
| Wednesday, May 31 ${ }^{\text {st. }}$ : | Houston Astros at Minnesota Twins | 1:10 p.m. |  |
|  | Philadelphia Phillies at Miami Marlins | 1:10 p.m. |  |



Saturday, May 27 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ : Kansas City Royals at Cleveland Indians (FS1) $\quad$ : $: 10$ p.m.
Baltimore Orioles at Houston Astros 7:15 p.m.
New York Mets at Pittsburgh Pirates 7:15 p.m.
Chicago Cubs at Los Angeles Dodgers 7:15 p.m.
Sunday, May 28 $^{\text {th }}$ :
Monday, May 29 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ :

| New York Mets at Pittsburgh Pirates | 8:00 p.m. |
| :--- | :--- |
| New York Yankees at Baltimore Orioles | 1:05 p.m. |
| Washington Nationals at San Francisco Giants | 4:05 p.m. |
| Detroit Tigers at Kansas City Royals | 7:15 p.m. |



## UPON FURTHER REVIEW

Through 699 games played this season (through Thursday), Major League Baseball has had 404 replay reviews, which have taken an average of one minute and thirty-two seconds.
*404 Replay Reviews
*79 Confirmed (19.6\%)
*129 Stands (31.9\%)
*190 Overturned (47.0\%)
*6 Rules Check (1.5\%)
*1:32 Average Time


## LINE DRIVES (Compiled from Club Game Notes)

ORIOLE PARK HOME RUN KING: Orioles outfielder Adam Jones hit his eighth home run of the season on Monday. The home run was the $125^{\text {th }}$ of his career at Oriole Park at Camden Yards, passing Rafael Palmeiro for the most in the ballpark's history. Jones has played in 685 career games at Oriole Park, 680 as a member of the Orioles. Oriole Park at Camden Yards opened in 1992 and is celebrating its $25^{\text {th }}$ anniversary season.

BACK-TO-BACK-TO-BACK: On Wednesday night, Pittsburgh's David Freese, Jose Osuna and Jordy Mercer hit back-to-back-to-back home runs in the $10^{\text {th }}$ inning. Prior to Wednesday, there have been only two other games in which a team hit back-to-back-to-back homers in the $10^{\text {th }}$ inning or later. On May 2, 1964, Minnesota's Tony Oliva, Bob Allison, Jimmie Hall and Harmon Killebrew all hit home runs consecutively in the $11^{\text {th }}$ inning of a win in Kansas City; and on May 31, 2002, the Royals' Carlos Beltrán, Mike Sweeney, and Joe Randa did so in the $11^{\text {th }}$ inning of a victory over the Rangers in Texas.

FEAR THE BEARD: Colorado's Charlie Blackmon recorded his first multi-home run game of the season on Tuesday night, the eighth of his career and his third at Citizens Bank Park. Blackmon's four RBI gave him a Major League-leading 40 RBI on the season through 47 games. According to Elias, it's the fewest team games to accumulate 40 RBI from the leadoff spot since the Major Leagues began recording RBI in 1920. The previous record was 52 team games, held by Ian Kinsler (2009) and Mookie Betts (2016).

QUITE THE RUN AT HOME: Since last May $27^{\text {th }}$, Jon Lester of the Cubs is $12-0$ with a 1.55 ERA (19 earned runs in 110.1 innings pitched) at home. According to Elias, Lester is the fourth pitcher in Cubs history to go 12-0 or better in a 16-start span at Wrigley Field, but the first to do so with an ERA under 2.00. The others to go 12-0 or better were Bill Lee (14-0, 2.34 ERA in 16 starts at Wrigley from 1935-36); Jon Lieber (13-0, 3.25, 2001-02); and Lon Warneke (13-0, 2.10, 1932-33).

ONE IS THE LONELIEST NUMBER: The Mariners scored one run in five consecutive games from last Friday through Wednesday. It marked the first time in club history that the M's scored one run-or-fewer in five straight contests. Seattle scored exactly one run in four consecutive games (June 13-17, 1988), and one run-or-fewer in four successive games (July 14-17, 2011; two games with no runs and two games with one run). The last team to score one run-or-fewer in at least five consecutive games was the Kansas City Royals from June 3-8, 2016.

GOT YOUR BACK: On Tuesday, Cameron Maybin and Mike Trout of the Angles opened the game with back-to-back home runs. It marked the third time in 2017 that the Angels went back to back; the second time on their current road trip (Trout/Marte on May 21 ${ }^{\text {st }}$ at Mets); and the third time in eight games (Calhoun/Trout, May $15^{\text {th }}$ vs. White Sox). It was the first time the Angels have hit back-to-back homers to open a game on the road since May 21, 1996 at Baltimore (Rex Hudler and Don Slaught).

HOMERS HAPPENING QUICKLY: Though dormant for the first six innings, the Kansas City offense erupted for four home runs over the seventh and eighth innings on Tuesday night against the Yankees to turn the 2-0 deficit into a 6-2 win. It marked the fifth time in franchise history that the Royals hit four homers over a nine-batter span, and the first since June 29, 2001 in Cleveland when the Royals hit four fourth-inning home runs for a 5-3 win over the Indians. Tuesday was the second time in four games that the Royals have hit four homers in a contest.

BACK-TO-BACK CHAMPIONS: On Wednesday night, Rays outfielders Colby Rasmus and Steven Souza Jr. hit back-to-back homers in the seventh inning, the fifth time this season Rays hitters have gone back-to-back, marking the most in the Majors. This already exceeds their 2016 season total of four back-to-back shots (including one back-to-back-to-back, counted as one). Prior to this year, the Rays had never hit more than three back-to-back home runs by the end of May (2001 and 2009).

K-NEBEL: Corey Knebel has at least one strikeout in each of his 23 appearances this season ( 22.0 innings pitched, 38 strikeouts). His 38 strikeouts lead NL relievers, and rank second in the Majors. His streak is the third-longest, exclusively as a reliever, to begin a season in the modern era (since 1900).

NO FREEBIES: Giants right-hander Jeff Samardzija entered his start today having faced 132 batters without issuing a walk, the longest such streak of his career. His last walk allowed was to San Diego's Jabari Blash on April $28^{\text {th }}$ (third inning). The last Giants starter to have more than four consecutive walk-free starts was Bill Laskey, who had five such starts from June 7-25, 1984.

TEPERA TIME: Toronto's Ryan Tepera worked another scoreless inning on Tuesday night to extend his career-best streak. Over his last 11 scoreless appearances, he has an opponents' average of .091 (5-for-55) and a WHIP of 0.58 . At 17.1 consecutive scoreless innings, he leads all Major League relief pitchers.

STRIKE FORCE: The Cardinals matched their single-game high for strikeouts (19) by pitchers on Tuesday night in data to 1913, doing so for only the fourth time (last time was August 29, 2016 at Milwaukee). Relievers Matt Bowman (three) and Seung Hwan Oh (four) matched their career single-game bests for strikeouts on Tuesday and starter Lance Lynn had his ninth career game with at least 10 strikeouts.

STEPPING UP: Since taking over for injured outfielder Adam Eaton on April 29 ${ }^{\text {th }}$, Michael Taylor is hitting .321 (26-for-81) with five doubles, two triples, two homers, eight RBI, four walks, three stolen bases and 11 runs scored. He has posted a .353 on-base percentage and a .506 slugging percentage during that stretch. Taylor entered play on April $29^{\text {th }}$ hitting .095 with a .130 on-base percentage and a .095 slugging percentage and has since raised those marks to $.275 / .306 / .422$. Taylor has hit safely in 10 of his last 11 games, including multi-hit efforts in five.

NOT THE STREAK TO BEAT: Edinson Volquez has started his Marlins career with six consecutive losses, marking the longest single-season skid of his career. For streaks spanning multiple seasons, his current run of seven losses, dating back to September 15, 2016, is also a career long. His six-game slide to open the season is tied with Vladimir Nuñez for the second-longest such streak to open a season in Marlins' history. Joe Fontenot owns the Club record with seven consecutive losses to open his 1998 campaign.

IN ELITE COMPANY: Boston's Chris Sale struck out six batters over 7.1 innings in a comeback win over the Texas Rangers on Wednesday. Sale has 101 strikeouts in 10 starts thus far this season, his first season with the Red Sox. According to Elias, since 1893 (the first season in which the mound was set to its current distance from home plate), only one other pitcher had that many strikeouts in his first 10 starts with a team - Randy Johnson with the Astros. Houston acquired Johnson via trade from the Mariners during the 1998 season, with Johnson striking out 108 batters over his first 10 starts with the Astros. In addition, Sale's 101 strikeouts are the most in a pitcher's first 10 starts for the Red Sox. The previous high was 88 by Pedro Martinez.

40 IS THE NEW 30: Jake Lamb's two-run home run in the fifth inning on Wednesday put the Diamondbacks up for good in their 8-6 win over the Chicago White Sox. Lamb reached 40 RBI in just 44 games this season. According to Elias, only three other Diamondbacks players reached 40 RBI on the season in 45-or-fewer games: Matt Williams in 1999 (37 games), Steve Finley in 2000 (43), and Luis Gonzalez in 2001 (40).


## INTERLEAGUE TRACKER

| League | 2017 Record |  | Batting Average | ERA |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| American League | $51-36$ |  | $.256(766-$ for $-2,998)$ | 3.97 |
| National League | $36-51$ |  | $.245(733-$ for 2,986$)$ | 4.41 |

## 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 SO, 3 BB, 6 H) | Marcell Ozuna, MIA (.435, $4 \mathrm{HR}, 12 \mathrm{RBI}, 1$ 2B, $4 \mathrm{R}, 1.000 \mathrm{SLG}$ ) |
| 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) |
| May $21{ }^{\text {st }}$ | J.D. Martinez, DET (.389, 7 R, 4 HR, 9 RBI, $10 \mathrm{BB}, 1.056 \mathrm{SLG}$ ) | Jake Lamb, ARI (.412, 7 R, 4 HR, 10 RBI, 1.176 SLG, 20TB) |

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

| Month | American League | National League |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| April | Mike Trout, LAA (.364, $7 \mathrm{HR}, 18 \mathrm{RBI}, 92 \mathrm{~B}, 23 \mathrm{~B}, 18 \mathrm{R}, 5 \mathrm{SB})$ | 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, $\mathrm{HOU}(5-0,1.21 \mathrm{ERA}, 44.2 \mathrm{IP}, 36 \mathrm{SO})$ | 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 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 ( $0-0,6 \mathrm{SV}, 0.90 \mathrm{ERA}, 10.0 \mathrm{IP}, 20 \mathrm{SO}, 1 \mathrm{BB})$ | Greg Holland, COL ( $0-0,11 \mathrm{SV}, 1.50 \mathrm{ERA}, 12.0 \mathrm{IP}, 13 \mathrm{SO})$ |

