

# MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL WEEKLY NOTES THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2017 

## SCOOTER'S HISTORIC NIGHT

On Tuesday night against the St. Louis Cardinals, second baseman Scooter Gennett recorded the first four-homer game in Cincinnati Reds franchise history. According to the Elias Sports Bureau, the Cincinnati native became the first player in MLB history to post five hits, four home runs and 10 RBI in a single game. The historic output was the $17^{\text {th }}$ four-homer game in MLB history, and the first since Josh Hamilton accomplished the feat for the Texas Rangers on May 8, 2012. Of the 17 players to blast four round-trippers in a single game, Gennett's 10 RBI are second-most, trailing only Mark
 Whitten, who plated 12 runs during his historic night on September 7, 1993. In addition, Gennett and Whitten are the only players in history to include a grand slam in their four-homer game.

Players Who Have Hit Four Home Runs in a Single Game

| Hitter | Date | Team | Stats |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Bobby Lowe | May 30, 1894 | Boston Beaneaters | $5 \mathrm{H}, 4 \mathrm{R}, 6 \mathrm{RBI}, 17 \mathrm{~TB}$ |
| Ed Delahanty | July 13, 1896 | Philadelphia Phillies | $5 \mathrm{H}, 4 \mathrm{R}, 7 \mathrm{RBI}, 17 \mathrm{~TB}$ |
| Lou Gehrig | June 3, 1932 | New York Yankees | $4 \mathrm{H}, 4 \mathrm{R}, 6 \mathrm{RBI}, 16 \mathrm{~TB}$ |
| Chuck Klein | July 10, 1936 | Philadelphia Phillies | $4 \mathrm{H}, 4 \mathrm{R}, 6 \mathrm{RBI}, 16 \mathrm{~TB}$ |
| Pat Seerey | July 18, 1948 | Chicago White Sox | $4 \mathrm{H}, 4 \mathrm{R}, 7 \mathrm{RBI}, 17 \mathrm{~TB}$ |
| Gil Hodges | August 31, 1950 | Brooklyn Dodgers | $5 \mathrm{H}, 5 \mathrm{R}, 9 \mathrm{RBI}, 17 \mathrm{~TB}$ |
| Joe Adcock | July 31, 1954 | Milwaukee Braves | $5 \mathrm{H}, 5 \mathrm{R}, 7 \mathrm{RBI}, 18 \mathrm{~TB}$ |
| Rocky Colavito | June 10, 1959 | Cleveland Indians | $4 \mathrm{H}, 5 \mathrm{R}, 6 \mathrm{RBI}, 17 \mathrm{~TB}$ |
| Willie Mays | April 30, 1961 | San Francisco Giants | $4 \mathrm{H}, 4 \mathrm{R}, 8 \mathrm{RBI}, 16 \mathrm{~TB}$ |
| Mike Schmidt | April 17, 1976 | Philadelphia Phillies | $5 \mathrm{H}, 4 \mathrm{R}, 8 \mathrm{RBI}, 17 \mathrm{~TB}$ |
| Bob Horner | July 6, 1986 | Atlanta Braves | $4 \mathrm{H}, 4 \mathrm{R}, 6 \mathrm{RBI}, 16 \mathrm{~TB}$ |
| Mark Whitten | September 7, 1993 | St. Louis Cardinals | $4 \mathrm{H}, 4 \mathrm{R}, 12 \mathrm{RBI}, 16 \mathrm{~TB}$ |
| Mike Cameron | May 2, 2002 | Seattle Mariners | $4 \mathrm{H}, 4 \mathrm{R}, 4 \mathrm{RBI}, 17 \mathrm{~TB}$ |
| Shawn Green | May 23, 2002 | Los Angeles Dodgers | $6 \mathrm{H}, 6 \mathrm{R}, 7 \mathrm{RBI}, 19 \mathrm{~TB}$ |
| Carlos Delgado | September 25, 2003 | Toronto Blue Jays | $4 \mathrm{H}, 4 \mathrm{R}, 6 \mathrm{RBI}, 16 \mathrm{~TB}$ |
| Josh Hamilton | May 8, 2012 | Texas Rangers | $5 \mathrm{H}, 4 \mathrm{R}, 8 \mathrm{RBI}, 18 \mathrm{~TB}$ |
| Scooter Gennett | June 6, 2017 | Cincinnati Reds | 5 H, 4 R, 10 RBI, 17 TB |

## DEBUT DOINGS

On Wednesday night, Tampa Bay's Jacob Faria made his Major League debut in a start at home against the Chicago White Sox. Faria, a $10^{\text {th }}$ round selection of the Rays in 2011, became the $14^{\text {th }}$ pitcher this season to make his Major League debut in a start. The 23 -year-old right-hander tossed 6.1 innings, allowing a run on three hits with two walks and five strikeouts to pick up the win in Tampa Bay's 3-1 victory.

Faria's start came just four days after Philadelphia's Ben Lively made his Major League debut in a start at home against San Francisco on Sunday. Lively, a fourth round pick of the Cincinnati Reds in 2013, pitched 7.0 innings, permitting a run on four hits with three walks and no strikeouts to earn a victory in Philadelphia's 5-3 win. The 7.0 innings pitched marked the most by a pitcher this season in a Major League debut. The 25 -year-old right-hander became the first pitcher in the Majors (and the seventh since 1913) to toss 7.0 innings in a debut with no more than one run allowed and zero strikeouts since Matt DeSalvo of the Yankees on May 7, 2007 (7.0 IP, 1 R, 0 SO). Additionally, Lively was the first pitcher to do so while also collecting a win since Baltimore's Anthony Telford on August 19, 1990 (7.0 IP, 0 R, 0 SO).

With the wins by Lively and Faria, the last four pitchers to make their big league debuts in a start have each collected a win in the outing (also San Diego's Dinelson Lamet and Kansas City's Eric Skoglund). Overall, teams have gone 11-3 in the 14 games (.786). The 14 pitchers have combined to go 6-3 with a 2.89 ERA over the 14 starts. In 71.2 innings pitched, they have allowed 23 earned runs on 61 hits with 29 walks and 60 strikeouts.


In 2016, there were 16 debut starts through June $8^{\text {th }}$ and 41 such starts overall on the season. Teams went $16-25$ during those 41 starts (.390). Below is a look at each of the debut starts this season in the Majors.

## 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 $12^{\text {th }}$ | Tampa Bay (W, 8-4) | ND | 4.2 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 7 |
| Dylan Covey, CWS | April 14 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ | Minnesota (W, 2-1) | ND | 5.1 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| Sal Romano, CIN | April 16 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ | Milwaukee (L, 4-2) | L | 3.0 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| Nick Pivetta, PHI | April 30 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ | 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 | May $25^{\text {th }}$ | N.Y. Mets (W, 4-3) | W | 5.0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 8 |
| Eric Skoglund, KC | May $30^{\text {th }}$ | Detroit (W, 1-0) | W | 6.1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| Ben Lively, PHI | June $3^{\text {rd }}$ | San Francisco (W, 5-3) | W | 7.0 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| Jacob Faria, TB | June $7^{\text {th }}$ | Chicago WS (W, 3-1) | W | 6.1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 |

## ALBERT JOINS THE 600-HOME RUN CLUB

On Saturday, first baseman Albert Pujols of the Los Angeles Angels became the ninth player in MLB history to reach the 600 -home run plateau. At 37 years, 138 days, the 10 -time All-Star became the fourth-youngest to join the elite group, trailing only Alex Rodriguez (35 years, 8 days), and Hall of Famers Babe Ruth (36 years, 196 days) and Hank Aaron (37 years, 81 days). The three-time MVP became the first player in history to record a grand slam with his $600^{\text {th }}$ home run. No player had previously hit a grand slam for his $500^{\text {th }}, 600^{\text {th }}$ or $700^{\text {th }}$ round-tripper.

In addition, Pujols became the third player in history to amass
 600 home runs and 600 doubles in his career, joining Aaron and Bonds. The Dominican Republic native had logged 1,223 extra-base hits leading up to his $600^{\text {th }}$ homer, the second-most for a player at the time of his historic blast behind Aaron $(1,233)$.

The 600-Home Run Club

| Player, Team | Date of 600 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| th | HR | Opposing Team | Career HR Total |
| Barry Bonds, SF | August 9, 2002 | Pittsburgh Pirates | 762 |
| Hank Aaron, ATL | April 27,1971 | San Francisco Giants | 755 |
| Babe Ruth, NYY | August 21, 1931 | St. Louis Browns | 714 |
| Alex Rodriguez, NYY | August 4, 2008 | Toronto Blue Jays | 696 |
| Willie Mays, SF | September 22,1969 | San Diego Padres | 660 |
| Ken Griffey Jr., CIN | June 9, 2008 | Florida Marlins | 630 |
| Jim Thome, MIN | August 15,2011 | Detroit Tigers | 612 |
| Sammy Sosa, TEX | June 20,2007 | Chicago Cubs | 609 |
| Albert Pujols, LAA | June 3,2017 | Minnesota Twins | $\mathbf{6 0 0}$ |

## FOUR AMATEUR PLAYERS TO ATTEND 2017 DRAFT ON MONDAY

Four amateur players are scheduled to attend Major League Baseball's 2017 Draft, which will be held on Monday, June 12 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ at MLB Network's Studio 42 in Secaucus, New Jersey. The four scheduled attendees, all from the high school ranks, include outfielder Jordon Adell; pitcher/shortstop Hunter Greene; pitcher Trevor Rogers; and outfielder Bubba Thompson.


## JORDON ADELL, OF

Ballard H.S. (Kentucky)

HT: 6-3
Born: 4/8/99

WT: 205
Hometown: Louisville, KY

B/T: R/R

Jordon hit . 562 in 35 games as a senior with 25 home runs, 61 RBI, nine doubles, 53 runs scored, a 667 on-base percentage and a 1.437 slugging percentage. Prior to the season, he was named a Rawlings-Perfect Game First Team All-American and Central All-Region First Team. As a junior in 2015, he hit .449 with 11 homers, 44 RBI, 10 doubles and 25 walks en route to being named Seventh Region Player of the Year by Kentucky high school coaches. On the mound, he went 1-0 with a 1.55 ERA, striking out 56 batters in just 31.2 innings pitched. He won the 2016 Home Run Derby at the Area Code Games, and was one of two underclass players invited to the 2016 Under Armour All-American Game.

## HUNTER GREENE, RHP/SS

Notre Dame H.S. (California)

HT: 6-3
Born: 8/6/99

WT: 195
Hometown: Stevenson Ranch, CA

B/T: R/R

For his career at Notre Dame High School, which also produced Major League All-Star Giancarlo Stanton, Hunter posted a 1.62 ERA over 121.1 innings pitched, while striking out 30 percent of the batters he faced. As a senior, he was 3-0 with a 0.75 ERA over five appearances, collecting 43 strikeouts and just four walks over 28.0 innings pitched. At the plate, he hit . 324 with six home runs, 28 RBI , six doubles, two triples, 23 runs scored, a .374 on-base percentage and a .598 slugging percentage. Prior to the season, he was named a Rawlings-Perfect Game First Team All-American and California All-Region First Team. Greene, who attended the MLB Youth Academy in Compton, California, hit . 419 as a junior and went 5-3 on the mound with a 1.63 ERA over 55.2 innings pitched.

HT: 6-6
Born: 11/13/97

TREVOR ROGERS, LHP
Carlsbad H.S. (New Mexico)
WT: 185
Hometown: Carlsbad, NM

B/T: L/L

Trevor was named the Gatorade Player of the Year in New Mexico in 2017 after going 11-0 with a 0.33 ERA and 134 strikeouts while leading his team to the Class 6A state semifinals. At the plate, he hit .394 with 13 runs scored, 28 hits, 26 RBI, seven doubles, six triples and three home runs. Prior to the season, he was named a Rawlings-Perfect Game First Team All-American and West All-Region First Team. As a junior, he went 9-2 with a 0.70 ERA and 122 strikeouts over 69.2 innings pitched. Rogers also hit . 388 last year with 12 extra-base hits, 24 runs scored and 22 RBI.

## BUBBA THOMPSON, OF

McGill-Toolen H.S. (Alabama)

HT: 6-2
Born: 6/9/98

WT: 180
Hometown: Theodore, AL

B/T: R/R

Bubba was batting .404 with nine home runs and 15 walks as of early May, and was a perfect 19-for-19 in stolen base attempts. Prior to the season, he was named a Rawlings-Perfect Game Second Team All-American and Southeast All-Region First Team. As a junior, Thompson hit . 469 with 39 runs scored, 11 doubles, eight triples and 19 stolen bases while helping his team to the Class 7A state semifinals. Thompson, who was an All-State and All-Coastal Alabama First Team selection following the season, also attended the MLB Prospect Development Pipeline Premier event in Atlanta in January.

## GOIN DEEP

The Houston Astros enter play on Thursday with a Major League-best 94 home runs on the season, which has helped the Club to a Major League-best 42-18 mark. The 42-18 record is also a franchise best through 60 games.

Entering play tonight against the Kansas City Royals, Houston has homered in 15 consecutive games since May $23^{\text {rd }}$, totaling 33 home runs during that time. The 15 consecutive games with a home run is tied with the Cincinnati Reds (May 19 $9^{\text {th }}$-June $4^{\text {th }}, 29$ total homers) for the third-longest stretch in the Majors this season behind a 16-game streak by the Cleveland Indians (May $14^{\text {th }}-31^{\text {st }}, 28$ homers overall) and a 16-game stretch by the Minnesota Twins (April $25^{\text {th }}$-May $16^{\text {th }}, 26$ homers overall).

In addition, the streak is now tied for the second-longest such run in Club history. The Astros also hit home runs in 15 straight games from May 8-23, 2001 (19 total homers), and in a franchise record 18 consecutive games from May 13-31, 2000 ( 33 total homers).

Marwin Gonzalez has hit 12 home runs through 48 games played this season, already just one shy of tying his single-season career high of 13 set in 2016. Last season, he did not hit his $12^{\text {th }}$ home run until September $6^{\text {th }}$ (118 games).

George Springer has hit six leadoff homers this season, tied for first in the Majors along with Tampa Bay's Corey Dickerson. Overall, Springer has 15 career leadoff home runs, which ranks second in Club history behind Craig Biggio (53). The single-season franchise mark for leadoff homers is eight, set by Biggio (2001) and matched by Springer in 2016.

## KNEBEL'S K-STREAK

Entering today's game against the San Francisco Giants, Milwaukee Brewers closer Corey Knebel has recorded at least one strikeout in each of his 31 appearances this season, logging 54 punchouts in 30.0 innings of work.

Corey's streak is the second-longest of its kind for relief pitchers to begin a season in the Modern Era (since 1900), following Aroldis Chapman's record of 37 straight contests with a strikeout to begin the 2014 season. On Tuesday, Knebel passed Chapman's second-best mark of 29 games, which he posted during his first All-Star season in 2012.


In his appearance on May $15^{\text {th }}$, 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, 201-present | 31 |
| Aroldis Chapman, CIN | April 5 - June 16, 2012 | 29 |

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

For connoisseurs of baseball art, the competition for the laurel as greatest of all the game's illustrators is between Edward Penfield and J.C. Leyendecker. Surely Baseball Magazine featured great covers in the early days, especially by J.F. Kernan, and Norman Rockwell's baseball covers for the Saturday Evening Post are worthy contenders for the crown. Otis Shepard's work, especially for the scorecards and programs of the Chicago Cubs, is sensational, too.

Among modern illustrators, I like Dick Perez and Mike Schacht especially, and we will return to say more about them (and Shepard) later in the season. But give me Penfield and Leyendecker.

Edward Penfield was the father of the American Poster Movement as art director of Harper's Magazine in the 1890s, and baseball was the least of his subjects. His muscular batsman is shown here on the cover of the outsized Book of Baseball [(right) Patten \& McSpadden, 1911]. But that was its third appearance, following a first appearance on a Collier's cover in 1902 and a promotional poster from that same year, now rare, titled "Three Men on Base."


His advertisement for Wick Fancy Hat Bands (left) features his "trademark" athletic figures as spectators. Notable are his blank-expressioned, androgynous young women and, oddly, the goateed John Philip Sousa.

Reusing images was common then as now, and Leyendecker's brilliant catcher, here cropped from a poster advertising a Purdue-Northwestern baseball game (bottom left), appeared first as the cover of the Saturday Evening Post on May 15, 1909. His rugged batsman, from the cover of Popular Magazine in May 1911 (bottom right), mirrored a style of full-featured athlete against a jaggedly brushstroked background that characterizes his many football illustrations of the period.


## MLB ON-AIR THIS WEEK

(All Times ET)

| Thursday, June $8^{\text {th }}$ : | San Diego Padres at Arizona Diamondbacks | 3:40 p.m. |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Baltimore Orioles at Washington Nationals | 7:05 p.m. |  |
| Friday, June 9 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ : | Colorado Rockies at Chicago Cubs | 2:20 p.m. |  |
|  | Detroit Tigers at Boston Red Sox | 7:10 p.m. |  |
|  | Baltimore Orioles at New York Yankees | 7:35 p.m. |  |
| Saturday, June 10 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ : | Texas Rangers at Washington Nationals | 12:05 p.m. | M |
|  | New York Mets at Atlanta Braves | 1:00 p.m. | , |
|  | Toronto Blue Jays at Seattle Mariners | 10:10 p.m. | 5 |
|  | Cincinnati Reds at Los Angeles Dodgers | 10:10 p.m. | , |
| Sunday, June $11^{\text {th }}$ : | Baltimore Orioles at New York Yankees | 1:05 p.m. |  |
|  | Chicago White Sox at Cleveland Indians | 1:10 p.m. |  |
| Tuesday, June 13 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ : | Milwaukee Brewers at St. Louis Cardinals | 2:15 p.m. |  |
|  | Atlanta Braves at Washington Nationals | 7:05 p.m. |  |
| Wednesday, June 144. | Oakland Athletics at Miami Marlins | 12:10 p.m. |  |
|  | Los Angeles Dodgers at Cleveland Indians | 7:10 p.m. |  |
|  | Chicago Cubs at New York Mets | 7:10 p.m. |  |



Saturday, June $10^{\text {th }}$ :

| Kansas City Royals at San Diego Padres (FS1) | 4:10 p.m. |
| :--- | :--- |
| Chicago White Sox at Cleveland Indians | 7:15 p.m. |
| Baltimore Orioles at New York Yankees | 7:15 p.m. |
| Detroit Tigers at Boston Red Sox | 7:15 p.m. |


| Thursday, June $\mathbf{8}^{\text {th }}:$ | Boston Red Sox at New York Yankees | $7: 05 \mathrm{p.m}$. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Sunday, June $\mathbf{1 1}^{\text {th }} \mathbf{~}$ | Detroit Tigers at Boston Red Sox | 8:05 p.m. |
| Wednesday, June $\mathbf{1 4}^{\text {th }}:$ | New York Yankees at Los Angeles Angels | 10:07 p.m. |

## UPON FURTHER REVIEW

Through 880 games played this season (through Wednesday), Major League Baseball has had 519 replay reviews, which have taken an average of one minute and thirty-two seconds.
*519 Replay Reviews
*108 Confirmed (20.8\%)
*156 Stands (30.1\%)
*248 Overturned (47.8\%)
*7 Rules Check (1.3\%)
*1:32 Average Time


## LINE DRIVES (Compiled from Club Game Notes)

BOOM BOOM MANCINI: Baltimore's Trey Mancini hit a pinch-hit, game-tying two-run home run in the ninth inning on Wednesday and then slugged a three-run walk-off homer in the $11^{\text {th }}$ inning of the 9-6 win over the Pirates. According to Elias, Mancini is just the second player in the Expansion Era (since 1961) to hit a ninth-inning, game-tying home run as a pinch hitter and then hit a walk-off home run in extra innings. He joins Brian McCann, who did so for Atlanta on May 17, 2011 against Houston. Also according to Elias, Mancini became the third player in the Expansion Era to drive in at least five runs in a game in which he did not enter until the ninth inning or later. He joins Harold Baines, who did so for the Orioles on May 4, 1999, and Adam LaRoche, who did so for the Nationals on September 3, 2014.

CUP OF JOE: Joe Kelly recorded a scoreless seventh inning on Tuesday. He has not allowed a run in any of his 13 appearances since May $1^{\text {st }}$ ( 12.0 IP, 8 H, 3 BB, 13 SO). Each of Kelly's first 41 appearances with the Sox came as a starter, but in 40 outings in relief - including the Postseason - since July 25, 2016, he is 4-0 with a 1.16 ERA and a 0.99 WHIP (46.2 IP, 30 H, 6 ER, 16 BB, 42 SO).

BUEHRLE TO BE IMMORTALIZED: The White Sox will honor former left-hander Mark Buehrle on June $24^{\text {th }}$, retiring his No. 56 jersey during a special tribute before the 1:10 p.m. game vs. Oakland. Buehrle will be the $12^{\text {th }}$ player to have his number retired by the Sox, including former teammates Paul Konerko (2015) and Hall of Famer Frank Thomas (2010). A $38^{\text {th }}$ round pick in 1998, Buehrle went 161-119 with a 3.83 ERA, 27 complete games (eight shutouts) and 1,396 strikeouts over 390 appearances ( 365 starts) with the Sox from 2000-11, making four American League All-Star Teams and winning three AL Gold Gloves.

BOUNCING BACK: Detroit right-hander Buck Farmer, who entered the 2017 season with a lifetime Major League record of 0-6 and an ERA of 6.84, improved to 2-0 this season by throwing 6.2 scoreless innings in the Tigers' 4-0 home win over the Angels on Wednesday night. In his first appearance this year, Farmer tossed 6.1 shutout frames in a win over the White Sox on May 27 th in Chicago. Farmer is the first pitcher in Major League history to win his first two starts of a season without allowing a run in either after entering that year with a career record of 0-5 or worse.

BEST IN BASEBALL: The Houston Astros enter play today with the best record in baseball at 42-18, leading the Majors in wins and winning percentage (.700). At 42-18, the Astros are off to their best 60-game start in Club history, a full 5.0 games better than their previous record ( $37-23$ set in 1999 and 1980). Their best 61-game start in Club history is 38-23, also set in 1999 and 1980. Houston leads the AL West by 12.0 games, and have led by as many as 14.0 this year. Prior to 2017, they had never held a divisional lead of more than 13.0 games. The Astros became the third team in MLB history to hold a 14.0-game divisional lead through 58 games of a season: also the 1880 Chicago White Stockings ( 40 games) and the 2001 Mariners ( 50 games). Houston is one of 31 teams in MLB history to win 42 of its first 60 games of a season. The last two teams to do so were the 2001 Mariners (46-12) and the 2016 Cubs (42-18).

CCENSATIONAL: New York Yankees left-hander CC Sabathia is 7-2 with 3.66 ERA in 12 starts this season, tied for third in the AL and tied for sixth in the Majors in wins. It marks his most pre-All-Star Break wins since 2013 (9-8), and he has won five straight starts (with each of them following a Yankees loss), posting a 1.11 ERA (32.1 IP, four ER) during the winning streak. The streak matches the Majors' longest streak of winning starts in 2017 (also teammate Masahiro Tanaka and Alex Wood of the Los Angeles Dodgers). It is his longest streak of winning starts since winning five consecutive from April 17-May 10, 2012. The Yankees are 10-2 in his 12 starts, tied for the second-most team wins in games started by a pitcher this season (The Dodgers are 11-2 in starts by Clayton Kershaw: 11-2; Houston is 10-1 in starts by Dallas Keuchel, and 10-2 in starts by Lance McCullers Jr.). Sabathia Is 6-0 with a 1.25 ERA (43.1IP, 6ER) in seven starts following a Yankees loss this season.

SOUTHSIDE POWER: Since joining the Mariners in 2015, Nelson Cruz has hit 36 of his 101 home runs against left-handed pitchers. In that span, nobody has hit more home runs against southpaws than Cruz. The next closest on the list are Todd Frazier of the White Sox (27) and Houston's George Springer (25), and then followed by Cruz's teammate Kyle Seager (25).

RAY-KING RAYS: The Rays are homerless in their last three games, but still rank second in the AL with 88 home runs (Houston - 94) and have hit 37 homers in their last 20 games. The 88 home runs are their second-most in club history through 61 games ( 90 in 2016). In addition, their 277 runs through 61 games are their most since 2013 (298). The Rays lead the AL with 45 runs scored in the first inning, ahead of the Mariners (39), and they have outscored opponents 180-136 in innings one throughfive, but have been outscored 136-97 from the sixth inning on. The Rays lead the Majors with 51 home runs on the road (in 30 games), compared to 37 home runs in 31 games at home.

NEVER SAY NEVER: Austin Bibens-Dirkx recorded his first Major League victory on Tuesday night after stranding a pair of inherited runners in the fourth and tossing 1.2 innings of scoreless relief. At 32.038 years old, Bibens-Dirkx is the fourth-oldest American-born Rangers pitcher at the time of his first Major League victory behind Brian Shouse (35.272), Bryan Corey (32.232) and Tony Barnette (32.175).

HISTORIC NIGHT: Atlanta Braves outfielder Nick Markakis doubled three times last night and drove in five runs. Since RBI became an official statistic in 1920, only two Braves players have had a three-double, five-RBI game - Gene Moore on August 25, 1936 in the first game of a doubleheader at St. Louis and Billy Southworth on August 4, 1921 at Chicago (NL).

ALL BAD THINGS MUST COME TO AN END: In Wednesday night's dramatic 6-4 win over the Cardinals, the Reds overcame a 4-1 deficit with five runs in the bottom of the seventh inning on Patrick Kivlehan's three-run home run, the first pinch-hit home run of his career, and Joey Votto's two-run homer. Prior to last night, the Redlegs had lost 82 consecutive home games in which they trailed by at least three runs in the seventh inning or later. It was the second-longest such home losing streak in franchise history (0-97, 1903-1908).

STEPPING UP: Miami Marlins catcher J.T. Realmuto is back on the road, where he has hit considerably better this season, posting a . 361 average ( 35 -for-97), which is fifth in the Majors. He trails Jose Altuve (.422), Aaron Hicks (.388), Daniel Murphy (.369) and Tyler Flowers (.366). He has recorded at least one hit in 22 of 25 road games this season, and had a 15 -game road hitting streak snapped on May $24^{\text {th }}$ at Oakland (0-for3); that currently stands as the longest road hitting streak in the Majors this season.

MORE TO COME: With his $600^{\text {th }}$ home run behind him, Albert Pujols is 141 RBI away from 2,000 and 123 hits away from 3,000. Only Hank Aaron and Alex Rodriguez finished with 2,000 RBI, 3,000 hits and 600 home runs. With 10 more homers, he will pass Sammy Sosa for most home runs by a foreign-born player.


## INTERLEAGUE TRACKER

| $\underline{\text { League }}$ | $\underline{\mathbf{2 0 1 7} \text { Record }}$ |  | Batting Average | ERA |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| American League | $64-45$ |  | $.261(982-$ for $-3,761)$ | 4.26 |
| National League | $45-64$ |  | $.251(942$-for-3,751) | 4.67 |

## 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, $15.0 \mathrm{IP}, 17 \mathrm{SO}, 3 \mathrm{BB}, 6 \mathrm{H})$ | Marcell Ozuna, MIA (.435, 4 HR, $12 \mathrm{RBI}, 1$ 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) |
| May $21{ }^{\text {st }}$ | 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 $28{ }^{\text {th }}$ | 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 $4^{\text {th }}$ | 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) |

## 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, $11 \mathrm{HR}, 29 \mathrm{RBI}, 82 \mathrm{~B}, 22 \mathrm{R})$ |
| May | Carlos Correa, HOU (.386, $24 \mathrm{R}, 82 \mathrm{~B}, 7 \mathrm{HR}, 26 \mathrm{RBI})$ | Charlie Blackmon, COL (.359, $24 \mathrm{R}, 62 \mathrm{~B}, 53 \mathrm{~B}, 6 \mathrm{HR}, 29 \mathrm{RBI})$ |

## 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, $1 \mathrm{BB}, 1 \mathrm{SHO})$ |
| 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, $7 \mathrm{BB}, 28.1 \mathrm{IP})$ |

## 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) |
| May | Aaron Judge, NYY (.347, $17 \mathrm{R}, 52 \mathrm{~B}, 7 \mathrm{HR}, 17 \mathrm{RBI}, 3 \mathrm{SB})$ | Cody Bellinger, LAD (22 R, $52 \mathrm{~B}, 9 \mathrm{HR}, 27 \mathrm{RBI}, .556 \mathrm{SLG})$ |

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

| Month | American League | National League |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| April | Cody Allen, CLE (0-0, $6 \mathrm{SV}, 0.90 \mathrm{ERA}, 10.0 \mathrm{IP}, 20 \mathrm{SO}, 1 \mathrm{BB})$ | Greg Holland, COL (0-0, $11 \mathrm{SV}, 1.50 \mathrm{ERA}, 12.0 \mathrm{IP}, 13 \mathrm{SO})$ |
| May | Craig Kimbrel, BOS (12.2 IP, $7 \mathrm{SV}, 0.00 \mathrm{ERA}, 25 \mathrm{SO}, 1 \mathrm{BB})$ | Greg Holland, COL $(9 \mathrm{G}, 8 \mathrm{SV}, 1.17 \mathrm{ERA}, 15 \mathrm{SO}, 1 \mathrm{BB})$ |

