



MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL WEEKLY NOTES

THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2018

OPENING DAY ROSTERS FEATURE 254 PLAYERS BORN OUTSIDE THE U.S.

A total of 254 players on 2018 Opening Day 25-man rosters and inactive lists were born outside the 50 United States, Major League Baseball announced last Friday.

The 254 players born outside the U.S. (29.0 percent) came from a record-high pool of 877 players (750 active 25-man roster players and 127 disabled, suspended, paternity list or restricted Major League players) on March 29th rosters and represent a record-high 21 countries and territories outside the U.S. Previously, there were 19 countries and territories represented on last year's Opening Day rosters, which was also a Major League record. The 254 foreign-born players are the second-highest total in history, trailing last year's 259, and the percentage of 29.0 is tied with 2007 for the third-highest figure in history, behind only 29.8 in 2017 and 29.2 in 2005.

As it has each year since MLB began releasing this annual data in 1995, the Dominican Republic again leads the Major Leagues with 84 players born outside the United States. Venezuela ranks second with 74 players, while Puerto Rico places third with 19 players, its highest total since there were 20 in 2011. Rounding out the totals are Cuba (17); Mexico (11); Japan (8); Canada (6); South Korea (6); Colombia (5, eclipsing the previous high of four from 2013-2015); Curaçao (5, tied with 2014 for its record high); Australia (3), Brazil (3, eclipsing the previous high of two from 2015-2017); Nicaragua (3); Panama (3), Aruba (1); Germany (1); Lithuania (1); Netherlands (1); South Africa (1); Taiwan (1); and the U.S. Virgin Islands (1).

Toronto's Gift Ngoepe, a native of Pietersburg, South Africa, is the first South African-born player, as well as the first born in the continent of Africa, to make an Opening Day roster. Pittsburgh's Dovydas Neverauskas, a native of Vilnius, Lithuania, is the first Lithuanian-born player to appear on an Opening Day roster in Major League history. Both players made their Major League debuts in 2017.

For the second consecutive season, the Texas Rangers have the most foreign-born players with a total of 14 on a roster that spans five different countries and territories outside the U.S. Texas is followed by the Chicago White Sox (13), Miami Marlins (12), Minnesota Twins (11), Philadelphia Phillies (11) and Toronto Blue Jays (11). The Los Angeles Dodgers have players from eight different countries and territories outside the U.S., marking the most in the Majors. They are followed by the Atlanta Braves (7), Marlins (7) and Seattle Mariners (7).

ANNUAL OPENING DAY FOREIGN-BORN PLAYER PERCENTAGE (1995-PRESENT)

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
1995	16.9% (141 of 830)	2003	27.7% (229 of 827)	2011	27.7% (234 of 846)
1996	17.0% (132 of 773)	2004	27.3% (227 of 830)	2012	28.4% (243 of 856)
1997	18.9% (147 of 774)	2005	29.2% (242 of 829)	2013	28.2% (241 of 856)
1998	20.3% (174 of 841)	2006	27.4% (223 of 813)	2014	26.3% (224 of 853)
1999	21.2% (178 of 841)	2007	29.0% (249 of 849)	2015	26.5% (230 of 868)
2000	23.6% (198 of 839)	2008	28.0% (239 of 855)	2016	27.5% (238 of 864)
2001	25.2% (215 of 854)	2009	28.0% (229 of 818)	2017	29.8% (259 of 868)
2002	26.1% (222 of 849)	2010	27.7% (231 of 833)	2018	29.0% (254 of 877)

FROM THE MANAGER'S OFFICE

Twenty-six of the current 30 Major League managers previously played in the Majors. The four managers to not appear in a Major League game include Joe Maddon, Bryan Price, Buck Showalter and Brian Snitker. Twelve of the managers were primarily catchers during their professional careers (Jeff Banister, Bruce Bochy, Kevin Cash, John Gibbons, A.J. Hinch, Maddon, Mike Matheny, Bob Melvin, Mike Scioscia, Scott Servais, Snitker and Ned Yost); five were outfielders (Clint Hurdle, Gabe Kapler, Dave Martinez, Dave Roberts and Showalter); five were second basemen (Alex Cora, Craig Counsell, Andy Green, Torey Lovullo and Rick Renteria); three were pitchers (Bud Black, Mickey Callaway and Price); two were first basemen (Terry Francona and Don Mattingly); two were third basemen (Aaron Boone and Paul Molitor); and one was a shortstop (Ron Gardenhire). Other notes about baseball's current managerial crop:

- The average age of a Major League manager as of Opening Day was 52.2, more than two years younger than last year's Opening Day average of 54.4. Chicago Cubs manager Maddon is the oldest at 64 years of age, while the youngest is Tampa Bay Rays manager Cash at 40 years old (Green is also 40).
- The longest tenured managers with their current clubs are Scioscia of the Los Angeles Angels (2000); San Francisco's Bochy (2007); Baltimore's Showalter (2010); and Kansas City's Yost (2010).
- Six managers (Boone, Cora, Gardenhire, Callaway, Kapler, Martinez) are in their first year with their current team, including five (Boone, Cora, Callaway, Kapler, Martinez) that are making their Major League managing debut (full-time).
- Ten of the 30 Major League managers at one time played in the organizations for which they now manage (Boone – NYY; Cash – TB; Cora – BOS; Francona – CLE; Martinez – WSH/MON; Matheny – STL; Molitor – MIN; Roberts – LAD; and Snitker – ATL). In addition, nine of the 10 (except Snitker) played a game in the Major Leagues with the team they now manage.
- Sixteen of the 30 skippers are managing a Major League club for the first time; the other 14 held a Major League managerial post prior to joining their current team, including Gibbons, who previously managed his current Club, the Toronto Blue Jays, from 2004-2008.
- Fifteen managed in the Minor Leagues prior to becoming a Major League skipper. The 15 exceptions include: Boone, Black, Callaway, Cash, Cora, Counsell, Hinch, Martinez, Matheny, Mattingly, Melvin, Molitor, Price, Roberts and Servais.
- Four managers made the All-Star team at least once as a player (Boone, Mattingly, Molitor and Scioscia).



AGING GRACEFULLY

On Opening Day rosters this season, the average age of Major League players was recorded at 28.91 years old, slightly down from last year's Opening Day average of 29.13.

The Toronto Blue Jays are the oldest club in the Majors for the second-consecutive season with an average age of 31.01, while the San Francisco Giants pace the National League at 30.15. The Philadelphia Phillies are the youngest team in baseball with an average age of 26.92, and the New York Yankees field the youngest squad in the American League at 28.04 years old.

For the third consecutive season, Texas Rangers right-hander Bartolo Colon is the oldest player in the Majors at 43 years old, while Atlanta Braves right-hander Peter Moylan is the oldest player in the National League at 39 years old. Boston's Rafael Devers is the youngest player in the Majors at 21 years old, and St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Jordan Hicks is the youngest in the National League, also at 21 years old.

Youngest Players on Opening Day Rosters

Player, Team	Date of Birth
Rafael Devers, BOS	10/24/96
Jordan Hicks, STL	9/6/96
Julio Urías, LAD*	8/12/96
Luiz Gohara, ATL*	7/31/96
Allen Cordoba, SD*	12/6/95
Julian Fernández, SF*	12/5/95
Amed Rosario, NYM	11/20/95
Carlos Tocci, TEX	8/23/95
Brad Keller, KC	7/27/95
Adalberto Mondesi, KC*	7/27/95
Cody Bellinger, LAD	7/13/95

* indicates player is on Disabled List



Oldest Players on Opening Day Rosters

Player, Team	Date of Birth
Bartolo Colon, TEX	5/24/73
Ichiro Suzuki, SEA	10/22/73
Fernando Rodney, MIN	3/18/77
Joaquin Benoit, WSH*	7/26/77
Peter Moylan, ATL	12/2/78
Chase Utley, LAD	12/17/78
Victor Martinez, DET	12/23/78
Adrián Beltré, TEX	4/7/79
Brad Ziegler, MIA	10/10/79
Albert Pujols, LAA	1/16/80
Rich Hill, LAD	3/11/80

SIR DIDI

On Tuesday afternoon against the Tampa Bay Rays, Didi Gregorius batted a perfect 4-for-4 with three runs scored, two home runs, a double and eight RBI. The Netherlands native became just the second player in franchise history to tally at least three runs scored, four hits, one double, two home runs and eight RBI in a single contest. Gregorius joined Danny Tartabull, who notched three runs, five hits, a double, two round-trippers and nine RBI on September 8, 1992 against the Baltimore Orioles. In addition, Didi became the first shortstop in MLB history to produce such a stat line. Since 1908, the feat has been accomplished 19 times, most recently by Andrew McCutchen of the Pittsburgh Pirates (September 26th) and Anthony Rendon of the Washington Nationals (April 30th), who both did so during the 2017 campaign.



Players to Tally at least 3 R, 4 H, 1 2B, 2 HR, 8 RBI in a Game since 1908

Player, Team	Date	R	H	2B	HR	RBI
<i>Didi Gregorius, NYY</i>	<i>4/3/2018</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>8</i>
Andrew McCutchen, PIT	9/26/2017	4	4	1	2	8
Anthony Rendon, WSH	4/30/2017	5	6	1	3	10
Lonnie Chisenhall, CLE	6/9/2014	3	5	1	3	9
Josh Hamilton, TEX	5/8/2012	4	5	1	4	8
Garret Anderson, LAA	8/21/2007	3	4	2	2	10
Matt Holliday, COL	9/20/2005	3	4	1	2	8
Ronnie Belliard, COL	9/23/2003	3	4	1	2	8
Erubiel Durazo, ARI	5/17/2002	3	4	1	3	9
Danny Tartabull, NYY	9/8/1992	3	5	1	2	9
Tim Wallach, MON	5/13/1990	4	4	1	2	8
Dave Parker, CIN	9/15/1987	4	5	1	2	8
Roy Howell, TOR	9/10/1977	4	5	2	2	9
George Mitterwald, CHI	4/17/1974	3	4	1	3	8
Norm Zauchin, BOS	5/27/1955	4	4	1	3	10
Ralph Kiner, PIT	6/25/1950	4	5	1	2	8
Johnny Rizzo, PIT	5/30/1939	4	5	2	2	9
Jimmie Foxx, PHI	7/10/1932	4	6	1	3	8
Jim Bottomley, STL	9/16/1924	3	6	1	2	12

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL'S PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

WEEK ENDING	AMERICAN LEAGUE	NATIONAL LEAGUE
April 1 st	Justin Smoak, TOR (.467/.529/1.00, 2 2B, 2 HR, 8 RBI)	Adam Eaton, WSH (.615, 7 R, 8 H, 2 2B, 2 HR, 5 RBI)

REGULAR GUYS...

- Yadier Molina made his 14th straight Opening Day start at catcher (2005-18), the most ever by a Cardinals backstop. The 14 consecutive starts established a new record for the most consecutive starts at a single position in Cardinals history. According to Elias, Yadier's 14 consecutive Opening Day starts is third-most in franchise history overall, behind Hall of Famers Stan Musial (18, 1946-63) and Lou Brock (15, 1965-79).
- Xander Bogaerts made his fifth consecutive start at shortstop on Opening Day for the Boston Red Sox (2014-18). In Red Sox lore, only six players have made more than five consecutive Opening Day starts at shortstop since 1901: Everett Scott (8, 1914-21), Joe Cronin (7, 1935-41), Heinie Wagner (7, 1907-13), Rick Burleson (6, 1975-80), Freddy Parent (6, 1901-06) and Rico Petrocelli (6, 1965-70).
- Joe Mauer made his 14th career Opening Day start for the Twins (2004-08, 10-18), surpassing Hall of Famer Harmon Killebrew (1961-72, 74) for the franchise record.
- Felix Hernández made his 11th career Opening Day start for the Mariners and his 10th straight, extending his club record, which is also the longest active streak in the Majors.
- Adam Jones started his 11th consecutive Opening Day in center field for the Orioles. His 11 center field Opening Day starts rank second all-time in team history behind only Paul Blair's 12. Jones is the first player to make 11 consecutive Opening Day starts in center field for one team since Hall of Famer Ken Griffey Jr. recorded 11 straight such starts for the Seattle Mariners from 1989-99.
- Backstop Buster Posey started his eighth-consecutive Opening Day for the San Francisco Giants, the most by a Giants catcher in Club history. Elsewhere in the infield, Brandon Crawford made his seventh-straight Opening Day start, which are also the most by a Giants shortstop in team history.
- Evan Longoria made his 10th consecutive Opening Day start at the hot corner, and first with the San Francisco Giants, which is the longest active streak of any third baseman in the game.
- Freddie Freeman started his eighth consecutive Opening Day for the Braves on Monday, extending his Atlanta franchise record for a first baseman.
- Mike Trout (2013-18) became the first player in Angels history to make six Opening Day starts in center field. The Club record for consecutive Opening Day starts at any position is held by Tim Salmon, who registered 11 consecutive Opening Day starts in right field from 1993-2003.
- Julio Teheran started Atlanta's opener for the fifth consecutive season, establishing a new Atlanta-era record (since 1966). Hall of Famer Warren Spahn, who started a franchise-record six straight Milwaukee openers (1957-62) was the last Braves pitcher to make more than four consecutive Opening Day starts. Only two Major League pitchers have a longer active Opening Day start streak with his current team than Teheran: Seattle's Hernández (10) and Clayton Kershaw of the Los Angeles Dodgers (eight).
- Ryan Braun is the fourth player in Brewers franchise history to start at least 11 games on Opening Day, joining Hall of Famers Robin Yount (19) and Paul Molitor (12), as well as Jim Gantner (11). In addition, with his first career start at first base, Braun became the fourth player in franchise history to make starts from at least three different positions on Opening Day. Braun joined Molitor (2B, 3B, SS, CF, DH), Yount (SS, LF, CF) and Charlie Moore (C, LF, RF).
- Adrián Beltré returned to the Opening Day starting lineup this season for the Texas Rangers after missing last year's first game of the season for just the second time in his storied career. Beltré started in 15 consecutive openers from 2002-16, joined by Albert Pujols and Jimmy Rollins as the only players to do so.
- Six-time All-Star Justin Verlander became the 18th pitcher in Major League history to make 10 career Opening Day starts. Only two other active MLB hurlers have made at least 10 such starts: CC Sabathia (11) of the Yankees and Seattle's Hernández.
- Jon Lester made his seventh career Opening Day start and his third with the Cubs. The lefty hurler also made four-straight Opening Day starts with the Boston Red Sox from 2011-14. In addition, Lester is the first left-handed pitcher in Cubs history to start consecutive season openers, and just the second lefty hurler in Cubs history to start three Opening Day contests, joining Hippo Vaughn (1915, 17, 19).
- 2017 AL Cy Young Award winner Corey Kluber made his fourth-straight Opening Day start for the Cleveland Indians, becoming just the fourth hurler in franchise lore to do so, joining Stan Coveleski (5, 1917-21), and Hall of Famers Bob Feller (4, 1946-49) and Gaylord Perry (4, 1972-75).

...AND NOT SO REGULAR

- 24-year-old Luis Severino made his first Opening Day start for the New York Yankees, becoming the first Dominican-born hurler in Club history to start Opening Day. Severino was the fourth foreign-born pitcher to start for the Yankees on Opening Day, joining his rotation-mate Masahiro Tanaka (2015-17, Japan), Chien-Ming Wang (2008, Taiwan) and Orlando Hernandez (2000, Cuba).

- This season, the Philadelphia Phillies' Opening Day roster consisted of 14 players who were not on the Opening Day roster in 2017. For the fourth-consecutive season, at least 13 players on Philadelphia's opening roster were not on the initial 25-man roster the year before.
- Garrett Richards drew the Opening Day start for the Los Angeles Angels, marking the fourth consecutive season that a different Halos starter drew the first game. Previously, Ricky Nolasco (2017), Richards (2016) and Jered Weaver (2015) were on the bump for Opening Day.
- The 2018 season marked the seventh consecutive year that the Angels had a new Opening Day starting left fielder as Justin Upton drew the nod for the Halos. The others include Cameron Maybin (2017), Daniel Nava (2016), Matt Joyce (2015), Josh Hamilton (2014), Mark Trumbo (2013) and Vernon Wells (2012). The last player to start consecutive Opening Days in left for the Angels was Wells in 2011-12.
- José Ureña made the Opening Day start for the Miami Marlins last Thursday. Ureña became the seventh different pitcher to start on Opening Day since 2012, joining Edinson Volquez (2017), Wei-Yin Chen (2016), Henderson Alvarez (2015), José Fernandez (2014), Ricky Nolasco (2013) and Josh Johnson (2012). Johnson was the last Marlins hurler to draw consecutive Opening Day starts, doing so from 2010-12.
- Chase Anderson, who made his first career Opening Day start for the Milwaukee Brewers, became the fifth different pitcher to earn the opening start for Milwaukee over the last five seasons. Preceding Anderson were Junior Guerra (2017), Wily Peralta (2016), Kyle Lohse (2015) and Yovani Gallardo (2014).

MLB ON-AIR THIS WEEK **(All Times ET)**

Thursday, April 5th:	Cincinnati Reds at Pittsburgh Pirates	7:05 p.m.
Friday, April 6th:	Arizona Diamondbacks at St. Louis Cardinals	7:15 p.m.
	Kansas City Royals at Cleveland Indians	4:10 p.m.
	Atlanta Braves at Colorado Rockies	4:10 p.m.
	Baltimore Orioles at New York Yankees	7:05 p.m.
Saturday, April 7th:	Cincinnati Reds at Pittsburgh Pirates	7:05 p.m.
	Baltimore Orioles at New York Yankees	1:05 p.m.
	Tampa Bay Rays at Boston Red Sox	1:05 p.m.
	San Diego Padres at Houston Astros	7:10 p.m.
	Cincinnati Reds at Pittsburgh Pirates	7:05 p.m.
	Oakland Athletics at Los Angeles Angels	10:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 8th:	Atlanta Braves at Colorado Rockies	10:00 p.m.
	Tampa Bay Rays at Boston Red Sox	1:05 p.m.
Monday, April 9th:	Baltimore Orioles at New York Yankees	1:05 p.m.
Tuesday, April 10th:	Pittsburgh Pirates at Chicago Cubs	2:20 p.m.
Wednesday, April 11th:	Oakland Athletics at Los Angeles Dodgers	10:10 p.m.
	Atlanta Braves at Washington Nationals	1:05 p.m.
	Houston Astros at Minnesota Twins	1:10 p.m.
	Toronto Blue Jays at Baltimore Orioles	7:05 p.m.
	New York Yankees at Boston Red Sox	7:10 p.m.



Saturday, April 7th: Chicago Cubs at Milwaukee Brewers (FS1) 4:05 p.m.

Tuesday, April 10th: Tampa Bay Rays at Chicago White Sox 8:08 p.m.



Wednesday, April 11th: Milwaukee Brewers at St. Louis Cardinals 1:15 p.m.

Sunday, April 8th: New York Mets at Washington Nationals 8:08 p.m.
Monday, April 9th: Milwaukee Brewers at St. Louis Cardinals 7:05 p.m.
Tuesday, April 10th: New York Yankees at Boston Red Sox 7:10 p.m.



LINE DRIVES (Compiled from Club Game Notes)

X'TRA BASES: Xander Bogaerts became the first Red Sox player ever to record multiple extra-base hits in each of his first three games of a season (source: Elias). The only other Major Leaguer to do that since 1900 is Adrian Gonzalez (2015). He became the fourth Major Leaguer since 1900 to log five doubles in his Club's first three games, joining Pop Dillon of the Detroit Tigers (1901), Jim Greengrass of the Cincinnati Reds (1954) and Carlos Beltrán of the New York Mets (2008).

HOMER HAPPY: Eight of the Mariners 19 runs scored this season have come via home run (Nelson Cruz - 2 two-run HR; Mitch Haniger - solo HR & two-run HR; Dee Gordon - solo HR). The Mariners homered in each of the first three games, marking the 10th time in club history they've opened a season with at least one home run in each of the first 3 games (also: 2016 - 5 G, 2014 - 3 G, 1999 - 4 G, 1998 - 8 G, 1995 - 3 G, 1982 - 3 G, 1981 - 5 G, 1980 - 3 G & 1978 - 3 G).

BRAVES RUNS: With 13 runs in Tuesday night's win, the Braves recorded a MLB-high 41 runs through five games. That is the most runs a Braves team has scored through the first five games of the season since the 2006 team had 42 runs. The last MLB team to score more than 41 runs in the first five games of the season was the 2011 Cincinnati Reds, who scored 43.

EXTRA BASEBALL: The Marlins have played a total of 67 innings over their first six games of the season, including a 17-inning win on Friday vs. the Cubs, a 10-inning loss on Saturday vs. the Cubs and a 13-inning loss on Tuesday vs. Boston. It marks the most innings played by a team over their first six games since the 1982 Oakland Athletics (70 innings) and the most by a National League squad since the 1968 Houston Astros and New York Mets (69 innings).

A GRAND TIME: Colin Moran's first-inning grand slam Monday afternoon was the first of his Major League career and just the third one hit by a Pirates player in the team's Home Opener. Hall of Famer Ralph Kiner connected off Cincinnati's Howie Fox in the third inning on April 22, 1949 and Hall of Famer Roberto Clemente hit his off Philadelphia's Jim Owens on April 10, 1962.

BRYCE BEING BRYCE: On April 2nd at Atlanta, Bryce Harper walked four times in addition to his three-run home run. It was his fifth career game with at least four walks. Since 2012 (Harper's rookie year), only Paul Goldschmidt (6) has recorded more games of at least four walks.

STILL GOT IT, STILL GOT IT: Bartolo Colon took a no-decision in his Rangers debut Monday night, but posted the first quality start by a Texas pitcher in 2018. The Rangers are the 11th team with which he has pitched. With his start last night, Colon now has 20 Major League seasons, joining teammate Adrián Beltré (21 seasons) as the only active MLB players to have appeared in 20+ seasons. At 44 years, 313 days old for his start last night, he is the oldest to have appeared in MLB this season and the second-oldest player in Rangers history (Nolan Ryan was 46.234 for his final start on 9/22/93 at SEA).

FOR STARTERS: Starting pitchers Jake Odorizzi (6.0 IP), Kyle Gibson (6.0 IP) and José Berríos (9.0 IP) combined for 21.0 scoreless innings to start the season. Additionally, they combined to allow five hits (2 doubles, 0 home runs), eight walks, 19 strikeouts and an opponent batting average of .074. Twins starters posted a 4.73 ERA (869.2 IP, 457 ER) last season, an improvement of 0.66 in earned run average from the prior season (5.39 in 2016).

SO FAR, SHO GOOD: Shohei Ohtani is the first Angels pitcher with at least six strikeouts in his MLB pitching debut since Kevin Gregg in 2003. Ohtani is the second Japanese born pitcher with 6+ IP, 6+ SO and four-or-fewer baserunners allowed in his MLB pitching debut, joining Mets' Masato Yoshii (4/5/98 vs. PIT). With Sunday's start, Ohtani became the first player to start as a non-pitcher on Opening Day and then start as a pitcher within his team's first 10 games since Babe Ruth (BOS) in 1919.

TRIPLE THREAT: Nicholas Castellanos legged out a triple in back-to-back games over the weekend (April 1-2). It marked the second time in Castellanos' career that he tripled in back-to-back games (also, August 9-10, 2017). Castellanos had an American League-leading 10 triples last season, becoming the first Tiger to lead the American League in triples since Austin Jackson in 2012.

EDWIN'S MAD DASH: Edwin Encarnacion sparked the Indians offense with an inside-the-park homer during the top of the 2nd inning in Cleveland's 6-0 victory on Monday night. It marked the second inside-the-parker of his career, previously doing so with Cincinnati on August 31, 2007 at St. Louis. Edwin became the oldest player (35 years, 85 days) to record an inside-the-parker since Derek Jeter (36 years, 26 days) did so on July 22, 2010 vs. Kansas City.

NO GLITCH ON THE FIRST PITCH: On Opening Day, Ian Happ homered on the game's first pitch from José Ureña in the very first game of MLB's regular season. According to Elias, Happ became just the second player to homer on the very first pitch of a Major-League season, joining Boston's Dwight Evans, who homered off Jack Morris to kick off the 1986 campaign at Tiger Stadium.

WE LIKE HOMERS: Dodger's first baseman Cody Bellinger collected his first hit of the season on Sunday with a two-run homer in the sixth inning. The homer was the 40th of Bellinger's career, a milestone he reached in just 136 games, which is the third-fewest number of contests needed to hit 40 all-time, trailing just Rudy York (129) and Mark McGwire (110).

PANIK'S SOLO HOMERS: Infielder Joe Panik provided the Giants' first run of the game Tuesday with a solo home run. It was the Giants' third run in their first five games, all of which were the product of solo homers by Panik. According to Elias, the Giants are the first team in MLB history whose first three runs of a season came on solo homers by the same player.

PITCHERS WHO RAKE: Miles Mikolas on Monday became the first Cardinals pitcher to homer for his first MLB hit since Mark Worrell (6/5/08 [2] at Washington). Cardinals pitchers have hit 10 homers off the Brewers of the 51 home runs they have allowed to pitchers in their history. Adam Wainwright and Blue Moon Odom (OAK, 1964-76) are tied for most of any pitcher with three.

HISTORY!: Tuesday night's game between the Cardinals and Brewers marked the first in Major League history that started with back-to-back homers (Fowler & Pham) and ended with back-to-back homers (Yelich & Braun). It marked the first time in franchise history that the Brewers ended a game with consecutive homers.

DAVIDSON'S DAY: Matt Davidson became the fourth player in MLB history to hit three home runs on Opening Day, joining Toronto's George Bell (1988), the Cubs' Tuffy Rhodes (1994) and Detroit's Dmitri Young (2005). According to Elias, Davidson is the first White Sox DH to record a three-homer game. The Sox had been the last American League team in existence for the entirety of the DH rule without a three-homer game from a DH.

IT'S A WALK-OFF: Adam Jones hit a walk-off home run in the 11th inning in Thursday's season opener. Last year, Mark Trumbo also hit an 11th-inning walk-off homer in the Orioles season opener. According to Elias, the Orioles are the first team in Major League history to hit an Opening Day walk-off home run in consecutive seasons. The Orioles also won in walk-off fashion on Opening Day in 2016 when Matt Wieters hit a walk-off single in the bottom of the ninth inning on April 4, 2016 vs. Minnesota.

ELIAS SAYS: Right-handed pitcher Gerrit Cole made a huge first impression with his 11-strikeout performance on Saturday, becoming just the fourth player in franchise history to record 11-or-more strikeouts in their Astros debut, joining J.R. Richard (15, 9/5/71), Hall of Famer Randy Johnson (12, 8/2/98) and Collin McHugh (12, 4/22/14).