



MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL WEEKLY NOTES

THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2018

HISTORY ON THE ISLAND

Wednesday night's game between the Cleveland Indians and the Minnesota Twins was the 62nd regular season international game in MLB history. The two-game series marked the first regular season games to be played by both Cleveland and Minnesota outside of the United States and Canada. With the pair of games this week, Hiram Bithorn Stadium has now hosted 49 Major League contests.

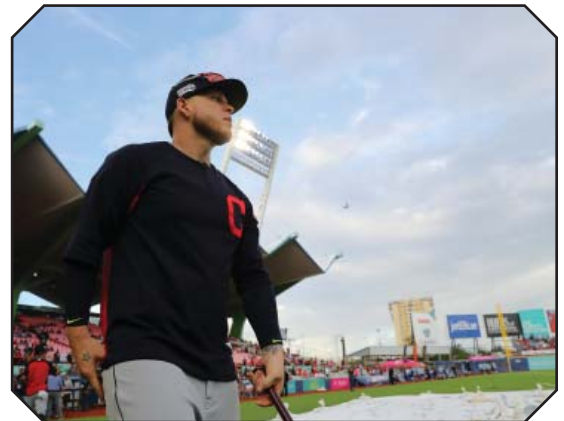
The 16-inning thriller that resulted in a 2-1 Minnesota victory was the longest international regular season game in history. Previously, the 14-inning tilt between the Anaheim Angels and the Montreal Expos on June 5, 2003 held the record.



With José Berríos and Eddie Rosario representing the Island on this year's Twins roster, Minnesota has had 22 different Puerto Rican natives play in the Club's history (since 1961). For the Indians, both Francisco Lindor and Roberto Pérez hail from Puerto Rico. Across Baseball, 19 Puerto Rican players were represented on Major League Opening Day rosters, its highest total since there were 20 in 2011.

With a hit on Tuesday and a pair of hits on Wednesday night, Rosario became the ninth Puerto Rican native to record three hits at Hiram Bithorn. The 26-year-old joined Jose Vidro (33), Wil Cordero (11), Bengie Molina (8), Hall of Famer Roberto Alomar (5), Juan Gonzalez (4), Felipe Lopez (3) and Hall of Famer Iván Rodríguez (3). On the mound, Berríos became the first native of the Island to toss 7.0-plus scoreless innings in a start, and also matched the record of innings pitched set by Javier Vazquez in 2003.

In the first game of the Puerto Rico series, Lindor, a two-time AL All-Star became the first Puerto Rican to homer in a Major League game at Estadio Hiram Bithorn since Ramón Castro of the Florida Marlins on September 6, 2003 against the Montreal Expos. The 24-year-old also became just the seventh different Puerto Rican-born player to homer at the historic stadium in a regular season contest. Moreover, Pérez became the first Puerto Rican native to start behind the plate at Hiram Bithorn since Castro on April 15, 2004.

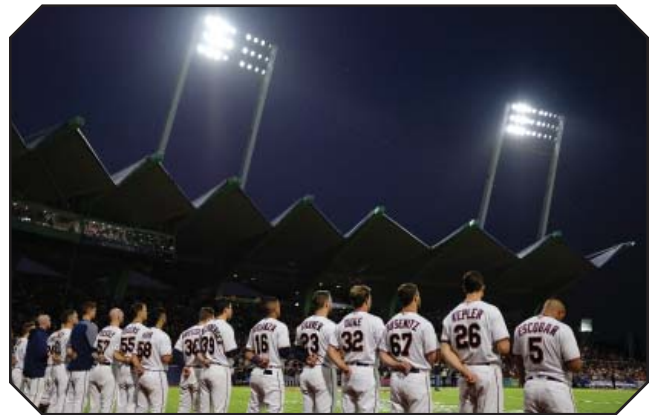


In the following two pages is a table depicting all regular season international Major League games. A three-game series between the San Diego Padres and Los Angeles Dodgers will take place from May 4th-6th later this season in Monterrey, Mexico. For both the Puerto Rico and Mexico Series, Clubs may utilize 26-man rosters, per the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the MLBPA.

INTERNATIONAL MAJOR LEAGUE GAMES

Country	City	Date	Road Team	Home Team	Result
Mexico	Monterrey	August 16, 1996	New York Mets	San Diego Padres	SD 15, NYM 10
Mexico	Monterrey	August 17, 1996	New York Mets	San Diego Padres	NYM 7, SD 3
Mexico	Monterrey	August 18, 1996	New York Mets	San Diego Padres	SD 8, NYM 0
Mexico	Monterrey	April 4, 1999	Colorado Rockies	San Diego Padres	COL 8, SD 2
Japan	Tokyo	March 30, 2000	New York Mets	Chicago Cubs	NYM 5, CHC 1 (11)
Puerto Rico	San Juan	April 1, 2001	Texas Rangers	Toronto Blue Jays	TOR 8, TEX 1
Puerto Rico	San Juan	April 11, 2003	New York Mets	Montreal Expos	MON 10, NYM 0
Puerto Rico	San Juan	April 12, 2003	New York Mets	Montreal Expos	MON 5, NYM 4
Puerto Rico	San Juan	April 13, 2003	New York Mets	Montreal Expos	MON 2, NYM 1 (10)
Puerto Rico	San Juan	April 14, 2003	New York Mets	Montreal Expos	MON 5, NYM 3
Puerto Rico	San Juan	April 15, 2003	Atlanta Braves	Montreal Expos	ATL 2, MON 1 (10)
Puerto Rico	San Juan	April 16, 2003	Atlanta Braves	Montreal Expos	ATL 2, MON 3
Puerto Rico	San Juan	April 17, 2003	Atlanta Braves	Montreal Expos	ATL 14, MON 8 (10)
Puerto Rico	San Juan	April 19, 2003	Cincinnati Reds	Montreal Expos	MON 8, CIN 7 (10)
Puerto Rico	San Juan	April 19, 2003	Cincinnati Reds	Montreal Expos	MON 9, CIN 5
Puerto Rico	San Juan	April 20, 2003	Cincinnati Reds	Montreal Expos	CIN 7, MON 5
Puerto Rico	San Juan	June 3, 2003	Anaheim Angels	Montreal Expos	ANA 15, MON 4
Puerto Rico	San Juan	June 4, 2003	Anaheim Angels	Montreal Expos	ANA 11, MON 2
Puerto Rico	San Juan	June 5, 2003	Anaheim Angels	Montreal Expos	MON 8, ANA 7 (14)
Puerto Rico	San Juan	June 6, 2003	Texas Rangers	Montreal Expos	MON 13, TEX 10
Puerto Rico	San Juan	June 7, 2003	Texas Rangers	Montreal Expos	MON 5, TEX 4
Puerto Rico	San Juan	June 8, 2003	Texas Rangers	Montreal Expos	MON 3, TEX 2
Puerto Rico	San Juan	September 5, 2003	Florida Marlins	Montreal Expos	MON 6, TEX 2
Puerto Rico	San Juan	September 6, 2003	Florida Marlins	Montreal Expos	FLA 14, MON 4
Puerto Rico	San Juan	September 7, 2003	Florida Marlins	Montreal Expos	FLA 3, MON 1
Puerto Rico	San Juan	September 9, 2003	Chicago Cubs	Montreal Expos	CHC 4, MON 3
Puerto Rico	San Juan	September 10, 2003	Chicago Cubs	Montreal Expos	MON 8, CHC 4
Puerto Rico	San Juan	September 11, 2003	Chicago Cubs	Montreal Expos	MON 3, CHC 2
Japan	Tokyo	March 30, 2004	New York Yankees	Tampa Bay Devil Rays	TB 8, NYY 3
Japan	Tokyo	March 31, 2004	New York Yankees	Tampa Bay Devil Rays	NYY 12, TB 1
Puerto Rico	San Juan	April 9, 2004	New York Mets	Montreal Expos	NYM 3, MON 2 (11)
Puerto Rico	San Juan	April 10, 2004	New York Mets	Montreal Expos	MON 1, NYM 0
Puerto Rico	San Juan	April 11, 2004	New York Mets	Montreal Expos	NYM 4, MON 1
Puerto Rico	San Juan	April 13, 2004	Florida Marlins	Montreal Expos	FLA 5, MON 0
Puerto Rico	San Juan	April 14, 2004	Florida Marlins	Montreal Expos	FLA 9, MON 0
Puerto Rico	San Juan	April 15, 2004	Florida Marlins	Montreal Expos	FLA 3, MON 0
Puerto Rico	San Juan	May, 18, 2004	Milwaukee Brewers	Montreal Expos	MON 3, MIL 2
Puerto Rico	San Juan	May 19, 2004	Milwaukee Brewers	Montreal Expos	MIL 6, MON 3
Puerto Rico	San Juan	May 20, 2004	Milwaukee Brewers	Montreal Expos	MIL 3, MON 2
Puerto Rico	San Juan	May 21, 2004	San Francisco Giants	Montreal Expos	SF 6, MON 5
Puerto Rico	San Juan	May 22, 2004	San Francisco Giants	Montreal Expos	SF 7, MON 2

Country	City	Date	Road Team	Home Team	Result
Puerto Rico	San Juan	July 2, 2004	Toronto Blue Jays	Montreal Expos	MON 2, TOR 0
Puerto Rico	San Juan	July 3, 2004	Toronto Blue Jays	Montreal Expos	TOR 2, MON 0
Puerto Rico	San Juan	July 4, 2004	Toronto Blue Jays	Montreal Expos	MON 6, TOR 4
Puerto Rico	San Juan	July 5, 2004	Atlanta Braves	Montreal Expos	ATL 11, MON 4
Puerto Rico	San Juan	July 6, 2004	Atlanta Braves	Montreal Expos	ATL 1, MON 0
Puerto Rico	San Juan	July 7, 2004	Atlanta Braves	Montreal Expos	ATL 14, MON 2
Puerto Rico	San Juan	July 8, 2004	Pittsburgh Pirates	Montreal Expos	MON 2, PIT 1
Puerto Rico	San Juan	July 9, 2004	Pittsburgh Pirates	Montreal Expos	PIT 11, MON 0
Puerto Rico	San Juan	July 10, 2004	Pittsburgh Pirates	Montreal Expos	MON 4, PIT 0
Puerto Rico	San Juan	July 11, 2004	Pittsburgh Pirates	Montreal Expos	MON 2, PIT 1
Japan	Tokyo	March 25, 2008	Boston Red Sox	Oakland Athletics	BOS 6, OAK 5 (10)
Japan	Tokyo	March 26, 2008	Boston Red Sox	Oakland Athletics	OAK 5, BOS 1
Puerto Rico	San Juan	June 28, 2010	New York Mets	Florida Marlins	FLA 10, NYM 3
Puerto Rico	San Juan	June 29, 2010	New York Mets	Florida Marlins	FLA 7, NYM 6
Puerto Rico	San Juan	June 30, 2010	New York Mets	Florida Marlins	NYM 6, FLA 5
Japan	Tokyo	March 28, 2012	Seattle Mariners	Oakland Athletics	SEA 3, OAK 1 (11)
Japan	Tokyo	March 29, 2012	Seattle Mariners	Oakland Athletics	OAK 4, SEA 1
Australia	Sydney	March 22, 2014	Los Angeles Dodgers	Arizona D-backs	LAD 3, ARI 1
Australia	Sydney	March 23, 2014	Los Angeles Dodgers	Arizona D-backs	LAD 7, ARI 5
Puerto Rico	San Juan	April 17, 2018	Cleveland Indians	Minnesota Twins	CLE 6, MIN 1
Puerto Rico	San Juan	April 18, 2018	Cleveland Indians	Minnesota Twins	MIN 2, CLE 1 (16)



COLE'S WORLD

On Wednesday night against the Seattle Mariners at Minute Maid Park, All-Star pitcher Gerrit Cole registered his second win of the season, tossing 7.0 innings of shutout ball on five hits and two walks with five strikeouts. Cole, who was acquired by Houston via trade during the offseason, has led the Astros to a win in each of his four outings thus far, compiling a 2-0 record. In Cole's first three starts of the 2018 campaign, the first overall selection of the 2008 MLB Draft recorded at least 11 strikeouts in each outing. The 27-year-old became just the second hurler since at least 1908 to log 11 punchouts-or-more in three consecutive starts to begin a season, joining Hall of Famer and Astros executive Nolan Ryan with the 1973 Angels. In the past 110 years, only six pitchers have posted a streak of at least two games to begin a season. Below is a table illustrating how those six pitchers fared during their streaks.



Pitcher, Club	Dates	Games	W-L	SO	ERA
Gerrit Cole, HOU	April 1-13, 2018	3	1-0	36	1.29
Nolan Ryan, CAL	April 6-18, 1973	3	3-0	37	1.67
Wade Miller, HOU	April 5-11, 2001	2	2-0	23	1.62
Pedro Martinez, BOS	April 4-9, 2000	2	2-0	23	0.63
Nolan Ryan, CAL	April 8-13, 1978	2	0-0	25	0.00
Karl Spooner, BRO	September 22-26, 1954	2	2-0	27	0.00

Although he failed to reach the double-digit strikeout mark in last night's start against Seattle, Cole became the sixth pitcher since 1900 to record at least 40 strikeouts in his first four games with a team, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. Hall of Famers Randy Johnson and Martinez share the Major League record with 44 strikeouts in their first four outings with the Arizona Diamondbacks in 1999 and Boston Red Sox in 1998, respectively. Those two all-time greats are followed by: Boston's Chris Sale (42, 2017); Cole (41, HOU); Stephen Strasburg of the Washington Nationals (41, WSH); and Herb Score of the Cleveland Indians (41, 1955). Entering play today, the Newport Beach, California native paces the Majors with his 41 punchouts.

Additionally, in each of his four starts thus far, Cole has logged at least 7.0 innings while permitting no more than two earned runs and five hits in each outing. Since 2000, only Johnny Cueto (9) and Martinez (5) have posted longer streaks to begin a campaign. Overall, only seven Major League hurlers have posted a streak of four such outings to begin a season. Below is a table displaying how each starter fared through his streak.

Pitcher, Club	Dates	Games	W-L	H	ERA
Johnny Cueto, CIN	March 31-May 15, 2014	9	4-2	33	1.25
Pedro Martinez, BOS	April 4-30, 2000	5	5-0	22	1.27
Gerrit Cole, HOU	April 1-18, 2018	4	2-0	15	0.96
Chris Sale, BOS	April 5-20, 2017	4	1-1	15	0.91
Matt Harvey, NYM	April 3-19, 2013	4	4-0	10	0.93
Roger Clemens, HOU	April 8-23, 2005	4	1-0	16	0.32
Randy Johnson, ARI	April 4-20, 2000	4	4-0	18	0.76

TOUGH LUCK LOPEZ

On Monday night against the Oakland Athletics, Chicago White Sox starting pitcher Reynaldo López allowed two runs across 6.0 innings with 10 strikeouts, while limiting the A's to just four hits. Monday's contest marked Reynaldo's third consecutive quality start to begin the season, and his second career start with at least 10 punchouts. Following Oakland's 8-1 victory over the White Sox, López enters play today with an 0-2 record despite tossing at least 6.0 innings and limiting the opposition to no more than four hits and two earned runs in each start. The Dominican Republic native became just the third Major League starter since at least 1908 to not register a win after three such outings to begin a season, joining Bob Welch, who did so with the Los Angeles Dodgers during the 1980 season, and A.J. Griffin, who did so for the A's during the 2012 campaign. López, who is scheduled to make his next start on Sunday against the Houston Astros, will look to avoid becoming the first pitcher to post a streak of four such outings to begin a season. Below is a table depicting each starter's first three outings of their respective seasons.



Reynaldo López, CWS	IP	H	ER	Decision
April 2 nd at Toronto	6.0	2	1	ND
April 8 th vs. Detroit	7.0	2	0	L (0-1)
April 26 th at Oakland	6.0	4	2	L (0-2)

A.J. Griffin, OAK	IP	H	ER	Decision
June 24, 2012 vs. San Francisco	6.0	3	2	ND
June 29, 2012 at Texas	6.0	2	0	ND
July 4, 2012 vs. Boston	6.0	4	2	ND

Bob Welch, LAD	IP	H	ER	Decision
April 14, 1980 at San Diego	7.0	4	0	ND
April 19, 1980 vs. Detroit	8.0	2	2	L (0-1)
April 24, 1980 at Oakland	7.0	4	2	ND



INTERLEAGUE TRACKER

<u>League</u>	<u>2017 Record</u>	<u>Batting Average</u>	<u>ERA</u>
American League	8-11	.256 (174-for-680)	4.27
National League	11-8	.260 (176-for-676)	4.41

CRAZY 8'S

Entering play today, the New York Yankees pitching staff has recorded at least eight strikeouts in each contest since Opening Day, a streak spanning 16 games. The Washington Nationals had their streak end Monday night against the New York Mets, logging at least eight punchouts in 16 games to begin the 2018 campaign. Though the Yankees streak is still ongoing, the shared record of 16 consecutive games to begin a season with at least eight punchouts is the longest streak in the Majors since at least 1908. Led by All-Star starting pitcher Luis Severino's 28 strikeouts, the Yankees have tallied 181 punchouts by 15 pitchers. Three-time Cy Young Award-winner Max Scherzer paces a group of 14 Nationals hurlers with 38 strikeouts, culminating with a team total of 203. Below is a table depicting the longest such streaks since 1908 to begin a season.

Consecutive Games with at least Eight Strikeouts to Begin a Season, since 1908

Team	Games	W-L	IP	ERA	SO
2018 New York Yankees	16	8-8	148.0	4.68	181
2018 Washington Nationals	16	7-9	148.0	3.83	178
2016 Kansas City Royals	9	7-2	81.0	2.78	97
2017 Chicago Cubs	8	5-3	73.0	2.59	87
2016 New York Yankees	8	4-4	69.0	4.30	80
2018 New York Mets	7	6-1	63.0	2.14	82
2018 Los Angeles Angels	7	5-2	68.1	3.03	70
2013 Kansas City Royals	7	4-3	60.2	3.56	71
2017 New York Mets	6	3-3	57.0	3.32	61
2014 Los Angeles Dodgers	6	4-2	53.0	2.72	57

Across Major League Baseball, the Nationals and Yankees rank second and fifth in strikeouts, respectively. The Houston Astros lead the Majors with 213 team strikeouts on the season, while Washington ace Scherzer ranks second in punchouts behind the aforementioned Cole (41). On the heels of his 10-strikeout complete-game shutout against the Atlanta Braves on April 9th, Scherzer recorded 11 strikeouts across 7.0 innings of two-run ball on Saturday against the Colorado Rockies. For the third time this season, the 33-year-old veteran notched at least 10 strikeouts. It was the 67th start of his storied career in which he reached the double-digit strikeout mark. Since making his Major League debut in 2008, Scherzer leads all Major League hurlers in games with at least 10 strikeouts. Seven-time All-Star Clayton Kershaw ranks second after Mad Max with 59 such outings. Below is a table detailing the 10 pitchers that have tossed the most games with at least 10 punchouts since 2008.



Games with at least 10 Strikeouts, since 2008

Player, Team	Games	W-L	ERA	SO
Max Scherzer	67	41-11	1.98	747
Clayton Kershaw	59	40-8	1.51	667
Chris Sale	53	28-14	1.79	618
Corey Kluber	40	24-2	1.53	458
Justin Verlander	40	29-4	1.90	443
Stephen Strasburg	36	25-3	2.21	401
David Price	36	23-9	2.11	399
Tim Lincecum	34	22-2	1.44	384
Yu Darvish	34	20-9	1.82	381
Félix Hernández	33	17-3	1.25	365

They Said It, and How! **(by MLB Official Historian John Thorn)**

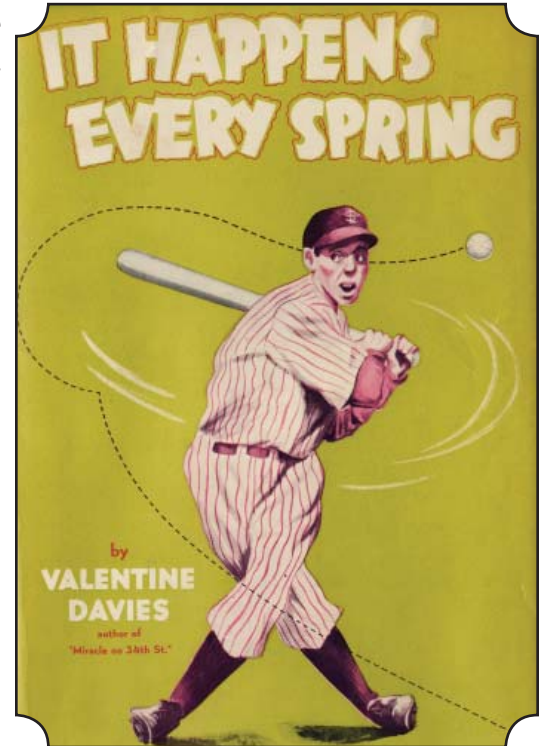
Not all baseball lyricisms are even remotely related to baseball. Some have been snipped from their context as to alter their meaning utterly. For example:

April is the cruelest month

April is the cruelest month, breeding
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing
Memory and desire, stirring
Dull roots with spring rain.
(T.S. Eliot, "The Waste Land," 1922)

The boys of summer

I see the boys of summer in their ruin
Lay the gold tithings barren,
Setting no store by harvest, freeze the soils;
There in their heat the winter floods
Of frozen loves they fetch their girls,
And drown the cargoed apples in their tides.
(Dylan Thomas, "I See the Boys of Summer," 1934)



But here are some unquestioned paeans to our favorite game:

A. BARTLETT GIAMATTI: "It breaks your heart. It is designed to break your heart. The game begins in the spring, when everything else begins again, and it blossoms in the summer, filling the afternoons and evenings, and then as soon as the chill rains come, it stops and leaves you to face the fall alone. You count on it, rely on it to buffer the passage of time, to keep the memory of sunshine and high skies alive, and then just when the days are all twilight, when you need it most, it stops."

THOMAS WOLFE: "Is there anything that can evoke spring—the first fine days of April—better than the sound of the ball smacking into the pocket of the big mill, the sound of the bat as it hits the horsehide...? And is there anything that can tell more about an American summer than, say, the smell of the wooden bleachers in a small-town baseball park, that resinous, sultry, and exciting smell of old dry wood?"

DAVID HALBERSTAM: "By and large it is the sport that a foreigner is least likely to take to. You have to grow up playing it, you have to accept the lore of the bubble-gum card, and believe that if the answer to the Mays-Snyder-Mantle question is found, then the universe will be a simpler and more ordered place."

ERNIE HARWELL: "Baseball is cigar smoke, hot-roasted peanuts, The Sporting News, Ladies' Day, Down in Front, Take Me Out to the Ball Game, the seventh-Inning Stretch and the Star-Spangled Banner. Baseball is a highly paid Brooklyn catcher telling the nation's business leaders: 'You have to be a man to be a big leaguer, but you have to have a lot of little boy in you too.' This is a game for America—this baseball. A game for boys and for men."

MLB ON-AIR THIS WEEK (All Times ET)

Thursday, April 19th:	Toronto Blue Jays at New York Yankees	6:35 p.m.
	Pittsburgh Pirates at Philadelphia Phillies	7:05 p.m.
Friday, April 20th:	Kansas City Royals at Detroit Tigers	1:10 p.m.
	Cleveland Indians at Baltimore Orioles	7:05 p.m.
	Pittsburgh Pirates at Philadelphia Phillies	7:05 p.m.
	Toronto Blue Jays at New York Yankees	7:05 p.m.
Saturday, April 21st:	Toronto Blue Jays at New York Yankees	1:05 p.m.
	Kansas City Royals at Detroit Tigers	1:10 p.m.
	Boston Red Sox at Oakland Athletics	9:05 p.m.
	Washington Nationals at Los Angeles Dodgers	9:10 p.m.
Sunday, April 22nd:	Cleveland Indians at Baltimore Orioles	1:05 p.m.
	Toronto Blue Jays at New York Yankees	1:05 p.m.
Monday, April 23rd:	Miami Marlins at Los Angeles Dodgers	10:10 p.m.
	Washington Nationals at San Francisco Giants	10:15 p.m.
Tuesday, April 24th:	Chicago Cubs at Cleveland Indians	6:10 p.m.
	Minnesota Twins at New York Yankees	6:35 p.m.
Wednesday, April 25th:	Los Angeles Angels at Houston Astros	2:10 p.m.
	Seattle Mariners at Chicago White Sox	2:10 p.m.



Saturday, April 21st: Cleveland Indians at Baltimore Orioles 4:05 p.m.



Thursday, April 19th: Houston Astros at Seattle Mariners 3:40 p.m.

Sunday, April 22nd: Washington Nationals at Los Angeles Dodgers 8:05 p.m.
Monday, April 23rd: Minnesota Twins at New York Yankees 7:05 p.m.



UPON FURTHER REVIEW

Through 259 games played this season (through Wednesday), Major League Baseball has had 151 replay reviews, which have taken an average of one minute and thirty-one seconds.

- *151 Replay Reviews
- *30 Confirmed (19.9%)
- *44 Stands (29.1%)
- *75 Overturned (49.7%)
- *2 Rules Check (1.3%)
- *1:31 Average Time



LINE DRIVES *(Compiled from Club Game Notes)*

MAUER 2K: Joe Mauer of the Minnesota Twins recorded his 2,000th career hit Thursday night with a two-run single in the seventh inning. He joined Hall of Famers Kirby Puckett (2,304) and Rod Carew (2,085) as the only players in Twins history (since 1961) to accomplish the feat. Mauer collected his at 34 years, 11 months and 24 days, while Puckett recorded his at 34 years, 25 days and Carew recorded his at 32 years, 9 months and 14 days.

50th ANNIVERSARY GAME: Tuesday night marked the 50th anniversary of the Oakland A's first home game. On April 17, 1968, the A's lost to the Baltimore Orioles 4-1 in front of a crowd of 50,164. Lew Krausse, who started for Oakland that night, tossed out the ceremonial first pitch. To commemorate the A's half-century in Oakland, admission and parking for Tuesday's game was free.

LA PANTERA: Shortstop Adeiny Hechavarria of the Tampa Bay Rays has not committed an error since July 30, 2017, a streak of 66 games and 222 chances without an error. It is the longest streak by games and third longest by chances for a shortstop in club history. Since August 1, 2017, he is the only shortstop in the Majors to appear in at least 25 games without committing an error.

WE'LL CALL IT A COMEBACK: The Cubs on Saturday erased a 10-2 deficit after four innings to defeat the Braves, 14-10. The eight-run comeback is Chicago's largest since wiping out an eight-run deficit (down 8-0, won 10-9) at Washington on July 7, 2011. The Cubs became the first team since the Diamondbacks in 2011 (September 27th vs. the Dodgers) to erase a deficit of at least five runs and take a lead in an inning with three-or-fewer hits.

HADERADE: Milwaukee Brewers relief pitcher Josh Hader has at least three strikeouts in each of his seven appearances this season. Hader joins Tom Henke (Toronto-1989) and Tom Gordon (Kansas City-1991) as the only pitchers since 1893 (the first season that the distance from the mound to the plate was 60'6") to have three-plus strikeouts in seven consecutive relief appearances.

TSUNAMI WARNING: St. Louis Cardinals starting pitcher Carlos Martínez waited out a two hour and 36-minute rain delay before firing seven scoreless innings with 11 strikeouts en route to a 3-2 win over Cincinnati on Sunday. The right-hander posted his 10th career double-digit strikeout game, his most since fanning 11 vs. Philadelphia on June 10, 2017. Martínez is currently riding a team-high 12.0-inning scoreless streak.

ARANO-NO: Philadelphia Phillies right-handed pitcher Víctor Arano has started the season by retiring the first 22 batters he has faced. Dating back to last year, Arano has retired a combined 29 consecutive batters. Per Elias, the last Phillies pitcher to retire 29 consecutive batters was the late Roy Halladay, who also retired 29 from the start of his perfect game on May 29, 2010 at Miami and into his following start on June 4, 2010.

DIGGING THE LONG BALL: Entering play today, the Blue Jays have hit home runs in 15 different games, tied for second-most in the Major Leagues. The club's 25 home runs this season rank third in the American League, while their 103 runs are fourth-most. So far this season, 11 different Blue Jays have gone deep, tied for second among American League teams.

FAST START: Second baseman Ozzie Albies of the Atlanta Braves hit his fifth home run of the season on Saturday, leading off the game with a drive out to left field. Albies became the third middle infielder in franchise history to record five home runs in the month of April, joining fellow second basemen Kelly Johnson (2007) and Dan Uggla (2011).

1,600 & 1,000: With a walk in the first inning on Tuesday night, Joey Votto joined Miguel Cabrera and Albert Pujols as the only active players with at least 1,600 career hits and 1,000 career walks.

IT'S STILL HIS BIRTHDAY THOUGH: All-Star third baseman Nolan Arenado of the Colorado Rockies turned 27 years old on Monday. Arenado and Hall of Famer Jimmie Foxx are the only players in Major League history to have three-or-more seasons of at least 35 home runs and 130 RBI before turning 27. Arenado is the fourth player all-time with multiple seasons of 40 doubles, 35 home runs and 130 RBI before turning 27 (Hall of Famers Hank Greenberg and Chuck Klein, and Hal Trosky).

FLASHBACK WEDNESDAY: On Tuesday night, Arizona Diamondbacks left-handed pitcher Patrick Corbin threw his first career complete-game shutout and fourth complete game (May 20, 2013 at Rockies; August 20, 2013 at Reds; September 6, 2013 at Giants). Corbin became the first D-backs lefty to toss a home shutout since Hall of Famer Randy Johnson on Sept. 14, 2003 vs. Rockies.

DOUBLE TROUBLE: Five different Yankees have hit multiple home runs in a game this season, with outfielder Aaron Hicks on Friday joining catcher Gary Sánchez on April 11th at Boston; shortstop Didi Gregorius on April 3rd vs. Tampa Bay and April 16th vs. Miami; first baseman Tyler Austin on March 31st at Toronto; outfielder Giancarlo Stanton on March 29th at Toronto (all 2 HR games). The Yankees are the first team in Major League history to have five different players record a multi-homer game in the first 14 games of a season.

V-MART CONTINUES HOT STRETCH: Victor Martinez of the Detroit Tigers collected three hits in Tuesday night's game, including his first home run of the season. With his homer, Martinez became the 14th Tiger since 1906 to hit a home run in his age-39 season-or-older and the first since Gary Sheffield in 2008.

BEST OF THE BETTS: On Tuesday night against the Los Angeles Angels, Boston Red Sox outfielder Mookie Betts recorded his third career game with a club-record-tying three home runs (also May 31, 2016 at Baltimore, August 14, 2016 vs. Arizona). The only other hitter in club history with three such games is Hall of Famer Ted Williams (3). Betts tied Hall of Famer Ralph Kiner (1947-48) and Boog Powell (1963-66) for the most three home run games by a player at age 25-or-younger in Major League history.

JUST SCORE 3: The Mariners are 7-1 this season when scoring at least three runs in a game, including winning seven straight games with at least three runs scored. Seattle's .875 winning percentage in games scoring at least three runs ranks first in the Major Leagues this season.

OPACY GOES GOLD: After a multi-year effort of research and enhancements, Oriole Park at Camden Yards has been awarded with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification for an existing building. At 26 years, Oriole Park is the oldest ballpark to receive LEED Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council, and joins three other MLB ballparks to achieve this status; AT&T Park in San Francisco, Marlins Park in Miami, and Target Field in Minneapolis.

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)
April 8 th	Shohei Ohtani, LAA (3 HR, 7 RBI; 1-0, 0.00 ERA, 12 SO)	Jameson Taillon, PIT (2-0, 1.26 ERA, 14.1 IP, 16 SO)
April 15 th	Justin Verlander, HOU (1-0, 0.60 ERA, 15.0 IP, 20 SO, 2 BB)	Max Scherzer, WSH (2-0, 1.13 ERA, 1 CG SHO, 21 SO)