



MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL WEEKLY NOTES

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2018

DECISION FOR THE DIAMOND

With the NFL Draft beginning tonight, here is an annual look at some notable players throughout Major League Baseball who have passed on pursuing football careers as well as NFL stars who chose the gridiron over the diamond.

Current/Recent MLB players:

- Minnesota's **Joe Mauer**, a six-time All-Star and the 2009 American League Most Valuable Player, was Gatorade's National Player of the Year as a quarterback at Cretin-Derham Hall High School and signed a letter of intent to play at Florida State.
- New York Yankees left-hander **CC Sabathia**, a six-time All-Star and 2007 AL Cy Young Award winner, signed a letter of intent to play as a tight end at the University of Hawaii, but he signed with Cleveland after being a first round pick in 1998.
- Free Agent designated hitter **Matt Holliday** signed a letter of intent to play quarterback at Oklahoma State University after earning All-American honors in his senior season at Stillwater High School, but decided to sign with the Colorado Rockies after they drafted him in 1998.
- New York Yankees outfielder **Giancarlo Stanton** was a three-sport star (baseball, football and basketball) at Notre Dame High School in southern California. He accepted a scholarship to play baseball for USC before being selected 79th overall by the Marlins in the 2007 MLB Draft. Stanton also received offers from USC, UCLA and UNLV to play football.
- Cincinnati Reds outfielder **Billy Hamilton** was an all-state athlete in baseball, football and basketball at Taylorsville High School in Mississippi. He was a top wide receiver prospect, but turned down a football scholarship from Mississippi State University and was drafted by the Reds in the second round of the 2009 MLB Draft.
- San Francisco Giants right-hander **Jeff Samardzija** was a wide receiver at the University of Notre Dame, catching a total of 24 passes in his first two seasons before emerging as a star in his junior season in 2005. He finished the year with 77 catches and single-season records in both receiving yards (1,215) and touchdown receptions (15) with numerous All-America selections. After a senior season in 2006 with 12 touchdowns, Jeff finished as the school's all-time leader in reception yards with 2,593 and was one of three finalists for the Fred Biletnikoff Award for the nation's top wide receiver.
- Arizona Diamondbacks reliever **Archie Bradley**, who was the seventh overall selection in the 2011 Draft, passed on the opportunity to play quarterback at the University of Oklahoma.
- Free agent outfielder **Seth Smith** was a quarterback in college, serving as the backup at Mississippi for three seasons behind Eli Manning.
- Minor Leaguer **Bubba Starling**, the fifth overall selection of the 2011 Draft by the Kansas City Royals, chose to sign with the Royals rather than play quarterback at the University of Nebraska.
- San Francisco Giants Minor League pitcher **Casey Kelly**, who was a centerpiece of the deal that sent Adrián González to the Boston Red Sox prior to the 2011 season, was a standout quarterback in high school in Sarasota, Florida. He was headed to the University of Tennessee before being selected by the Sox as the 30th pick in the first round of the 2008 MLB Draft.
- New York Mets Minor League outfielder **Tim Tebow** was a Heisman Trophy winner (2007) at the University of Florida. Tebow quarterbacked the Gators to two National Championships (2006, 2008) and was drafted by the Denver Broncos in the first round (#25 overall). He signed a Minor League contract with the Mets on September 8, 2016.

Former/Retired MLB players:

- Hall of Famer **Mickey Mantle** was a three-sport athlete at Commerce High School in Oklahoma, playing baseball, basketball and football. He received a football scholarship from the University of Oklahoma.
- Hall of Famer **Harmon Killebrew** was an All-American quarterback at Payette High School in Idaho, earning 12 varsity letters. He was offered a football scholarship from the University of Oregon.
- Hall of Famer **Jim Rice** was a three-sport athlete at T.L. Hannah High School, playing baseball, basketball and football. Rice was an all-state kick returner, defensive back and wide receiver, leading to football scholarships from Clemson, North Carolina and the University of Nebraska.
- Hall of Famer **Ryne Sandberg** was a three-sport star at North Central High School in Spokane, Washington and was named to Parade Magazine's High School All-America team. He originally signed a letter of intent with Washington State University, but opted not to attend after the Philadelphia Phillies drafted him in the 20th round of the 1978 MLB Draft.
- Hall of Famer **Reggie Jackson** was a star athlete at Cheltenham High School in Pennsylvania, excelling in baseball, football, basketball and track and field. Jackson accepted a football scholarship from Arizona State University, while receiving additional offers from Alabama, Georgia and Oklahoma. Following one season on the football team, Jackson decided to switch to baseball full-time during his sophomore season when he would become a First Team All-American. Mr. October was the second overall pick by the Kansas City Athletics in the 1966 MLB Draft.
- Hall of Famer **Jackie Robinson** was a four-sport star at John Muir High School in Pasadena, California, playing baseball, football, basketball and track and field. After thriving in each sports at Pasadena Junior College, Jackie enrolled at UCLA, where he became the school's first athlete to letter in four varsity sports. In 1941, Robinson pursued a career with the Los Angeles Bulldogs of the Pacific Coast Football League. Following his military career, Robinson ultimately accepted a contract from the Kansas City Monarchs in the Negro Leagues and would thus begin his historical professional baseball career.
- Hall of Famer **Dave Winfield** was drafted by four teams in three different sports following his college career. The San Diego Padres selected him fourth overall in the 1973 Draft, four years after the Baltimore Orioles selected him out of high school in the 40th round. Despite not playing football in college, Winfield was chosen by the Minnesota Vikings in the 17th round of the 1973 NFL Draft. Winfield was also selected in the 1973 NBA Draft by the Atlanta Hawks.
- Hall of Famer **Frank Thomas** played football as a freshman tight end for Auburn, catching three passes for 45 yards, but he then focused only on baseball for the rest of his college career.
- **Bo Jackson**, a Heisman Trophy winner, played four seasons in the NFL with the Oakland Raiders from 1987-1990, and played eight years in the majors from 1986-1994. Bo was named Comeback Player of the Year in 1993, after he had missed the 1992 season due to hip replacement surgery which would force him to retire during the 1994 season. Jackson was the first athlete to be named an All-Star in two major sports. He was selected on three occasions in the MLB Draft -- first out of high school by the New York Yankees in the second round in 1982; then by the Los Angeles Angels in the 20th round in 1985; and finally in the fourth round in 1986 by the Kansas City Royals. Jackson was the first overall selection of the 1986 NFL Draft by the Tampa Bay Bucs, but refused to sign with the team, and was again selected in 1987 in the seventh round by the Los Angeles Raiders.
- Like Jackson, **Deion Sanders** had success in both Major League Baseball and in the NFL. "Prime Time" played nine seasons in the Majors, leading the league in triples in 1992 and hitting .533 in the 1992 World Series. Deion recorded 53 career interceptions in 13 NFL seasons and was selected to the Pro Bowl eight times. Sanders was drafted by the Atlanta Falcons with the fifth overall selection in the 1989 NFL Draft, and selected by the New York Yankees in the 30th round of the 1988 Amateur Draft. He is the only athlete to play in a World Series and a Super Bowl.
- Former MLB outfielder **Brian Jordan** was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals 30th overall in the 1988 Amateur Draft. While in the Minor Leagues, Jordan was a safety for the Atlanta Falcons from 1989-1991 before turning his attention to baseball full-time.
- Retired slugger **Adam Dunn**, who signed with the Reds after being drafted in the second round in 1998, accepted a scholarship to play football at the University of Texas, but after the school's spring football game in 1999, he decided to play baseball full-time. A high school quarterback, Dunn resisted a position change after being informed he would not be the Longhorns' starting quarterback in the upcoming season.
- Former Rockies first baseman **Todd Helton** was the signal-caller for the University of Tennessee. Slated to be the Vols' backup quarterback in 1994, Helton took over for the injured Jerry Colquitt in the season opener at UCLA and started the next three games. Helton suffered a sprained Medial Collateral Ligament in the first half of Tennessee's September 24th game at Mississippi State, and a freshman named Peyton Manning took over from then on.

- Retired outfielder **Jeff Francoeur** led Parkview (GA) High School to two state championships in both baseball and football and was slated to play both at Clemson University, whose baseball team also had received commitments from D-backs right-hander Zack Greinke and former Major League outfielder Jeremy Hermida. All three were first round choices, however, and each signed to play professional baseball.
- Retired outfielder **Carl Crawford** was recruited by Nebraska as an option quarterback, but the Houston native signed with the Devil Rays out of Jefferson Davis High School as a second round pick in 1999.
- Former Major League outfielder and manager **Kirk Gibson** was a wide receiver at Michigan State University, where he was named to the 1978 College Football All-America Team. He was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals in the seventh round of the 1979 NFL Draft.
- Former All-Star outfielder **Darin Erstad** played baseball and football at the University of Nebraska and was the punter on the Cornhuskers' 1994 national championship team.
- Former All-Star outfielder **Grady Sizemore** was recruited to play both baseball and football, as a quarterback, at the University of Washington. At Everett's Cascade High School, Sizemore set school records with 3,081 rushing yards and 16 career interceptions. He also was recruited by Arizona State, Cal, Clemson and Washington State. Sizemore signed with the Montreal Expos after being selected 75th overall in the third round of the 2000 MLB Draft.
- Former Major League outfielder **Trot Nixon** signed a letter of intent to play quarterback at North Carolina State, but he signed with Boston after being the seventh overall pick in the 1993 Draft.
- Former Major League outfielder **Elijah Dukes** was offered a scholarship to play linebacker at North Carolina State.
- Former Major League infielder **Josh Fields**, who played in 100 games for the Chicago White Sox in 2007, earned three letters as quarterback of Oklahoma State's football team where he holds the school record for most career touchdown passes with 55. Fields tied a Big 12 record (since broken) with seven touchdown passes in a 52-6 win at SMU on September 20, 2003, and set a Cotton Bowl record with 307 passing yards vs. Mississippi on January 2, 2004. The following June, Josh was selected as the 18th pick overall by the White Sox.
- Former Major League infielder/outfielder and MLB Network analyst **Mark DeRosa** played baseball and football at the University of Pennsylvania where he was the Quakers starting quarterback from 1993-1995. Mark was selected in the seventh round of the 1996 MLB Draft by the Atlanta Braves.
- Former Major League outfielder **Gabe Gross** played baseball and football at Auburn. After starting six games at quarterback as a freshman in 1998, he began to concentrate on baseball in his sophomore year. Gross was Toronto's first round pick in 2001.
- Former Major League outfielder **Nick Stavino** played football and baseball at Jersey Village (TX) High School where he helped lead his baseball team to three district championships and the football team to two district titles before attending the University of Houston for football. Nick, who appeared in 79 games for the Cardinals in 2010, later switched to San Jacinto College as he began his switch to baseball.
- Former Major League outfielder **Joe Borchard** played baseball and football at Stanford. He was considered the leading candidate to start at quarterback for the Cardinals in 2000, but he signed with the White Sox after being their first round pick (12th overall) that June.
- Former Minor League outfielder **Donavan Tate**, the son of former NFL running back Lars Tate, was San Diego's third overall selection out of Cartersville High School in Georgia in 2009. Tate was an all-state selection as quarterback at Cartersville and had committed to play both baseball and football at the University of North Carolina prior to being drafted.
- Former Minor Leaguer **Brandon Jacobs**, who is currently playing independently in the Frontier League, was selected by the Boston Red Sox in the 10th round of the 2009 Draft. Jacobs had committed to play football at Auburn University prior to the draft following a senior season in which he rushed for over 1,500 yards with 19 touchdowns and was named to the Georgia 5A All-State team.
- Former Minor Leaguer **Chad Jones** was a third round selection out of LSU by the New York Giants in the 2010 NFL Draft. Jones was originally drafted out of high school in the 13th round of the 2007 MLB Draft by the Houston Astros. He was again drafted in 2010 by the Milwaukee Brewers in the 50th round, and taken a third time in the ninth round of the 2013 Draft by the Reds.

Current/Recent NFL players:

- New England Patriots quarterback **Tom Brady** played football, baseball and basketball at Junipero Serra High School in California. He was drafted as a catcher by the Montreal Expos in the 18th round of the 1995 Draft following his high school career. Brady did not sign and went on to play football at the University of Michigan before turning pro and leading the Patriots to five Super Bowl wins.

- Seattle Seahawks quarterback **Russell Wilson**, who was drafted by the Colorado Rockies in the fourth round of the 2010 Draft, was the starting quarterback at North Carolina State and he led the Seahawks to a Super Bowl win in his second season after the team drafted him 75th overall in the 2012 NFL Draft. The New York Yankees, who currently have the baseball rights to Wilson after acquiring him via trade this past offseason, had Wilson participate in 2018 Spring Training games.
- Detroit Lions wide receiver **Golden Tate** was a 42nd round selection of the Arizona Diamondbacks out of high school in 2007 and a 50th round selection of the San Francisco Giants out of Notre Dame in 2010 after he was a second round choice of the Seattle Seahawks in the 2010 NFL Draft.
- Free agent quarterback **Colin Kaepernick** was drafted by the Chicago Cubs in the 43rd round of the 2009 Draft.
- Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback **Jameis Winston**, who led his Florida State team to a national championship in 2013, was a two-sport star for the Seminoles. Winston made 24 relief appearances on the mound in 2014 for the Seminoles, going 1-0 with a 1.08 ERA and 31 strikeouts in 33.1 innings pitched while holding opposing hitters to a .154 batting average. In addition, he recorded a team-high seven saves, which was tied for eighth-most in the conference.
- Free agent wide receiver **Eric Decker** was selected in the 2008 MLB Draft in the 39th round by the Milwaukee Brewers, and again in 2009 in the 27th round by the Minnesota Twins.
- Free agent quarterback **Johnny Manziel** was drafted by the San Diego Padres in the 28th round of the 2014 Draft.
- Free agent quarterback **Matt Moore** was drafted by the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim in the 22nd round in the 2004 Draft.
- Houston Texans quarterback **Brandon Weeden** was drafted by the New York Yankees in the second round of the 2002 Draft. He played parts of five Minor League seasons for the Yankees, Dodgers and Royals.
- Kansas City Chiefs quarterback **Patrick Mahomes**, the 10th overall selection in the 2017 NFL Draft, was selected by the Detroit Tigers in the 37th round of the 2014 MLB Draft out of high school. Mahomes is the son of former big league pitcher Pat Mahomes.

Former/Retired NFL players:

- Hall of Fame quarterback **John Elway** was drafted by the Kansas City Royals in the 1979 Amateur Draft, but did not sign with the club. He was again selected in the 1981 Amateur Draft by the New York Yankees. Elway signed with the club and played right field for the Oneonta Yankees in 1982. He hit .318 in 42 games before giving up baseball for professional football. He was selected number one overall in the 1983 NFL Draft by the Baltimore Colts before being traded to the Denver Broncos. Elway played 16 seasons as the quarterback of the Broncos and led the team to Super Bowl titles in 1998 and 1999. John was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2004.
- Hall of Fame quarterback **Dan Marino** was drafted by the Kansas City Royals in the 1979 Amateur Draft, but decided to play college football instead. Marino would go on to become one of the greatest NFL quarterbacks of all time.
- Hall of Fame running back **Jim Thorpe** played for four Major League teams from 1913-19, but ultimately embarked on an eight-year football career that began in 1920. Thorpe was First Team All-Pro in 1923 and was named to the NFL 1920's All-Decade Team. Considered one of the greatest athletes in American history, Thorpe also won two gold medals at the 1912 Summer Olympics in Stockholm.
- Former NFL quarterback **Daunte Culpepper** was drafted as an outfielder out of high school by the New York Yankees in the 26th round of the 1995 Draft, but did not sign. Culpepper would go on to play quarterback at the University of Central Florida where he set more than 30 school quarterback records. Daunte was drafted by the Minnesota Vikings with the 11th overall selection in the 1999 NFL Draft.
- Free agent NFL quarterback **Michael Vick** was drafted by the Colorado Rockies in the 30th round of the 2000 Draft.
- Former NFL wide receiver **Hines Ward** was a high school outfielder taken in the 73rd round of the 1994 MLB Draft. The 2006 Super Bowl MVP did not sign and went on to become a star football player at the University of Georgia.
- Former Tennessee Titans quarterback **Jake Locker**, who was also a 10th round selection by the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim in 2009, had his rights signed by the Angels while he returned to the University of Washington for his junior season. Locker was selected eighth overall by Tennessee in the 2010 NFL Draft.
- Heisman Trophy winner **Ricky Williams** was drafted by the Philadelphia Phillies in the eighth round of the 1995 MLB Draft. Williams spent four years in professional baseball, never moving up beyond Single-A, before turning his attention to professional football.

- Peyton and Eli's father **Archie Manning**, a former NFL quarterback, was taken in the third round of the 1971 Amateur Draft by the Chicago White Sox, but did not sign. He was also selected in the 1971 NFL Draft by the New Orleans Saints with the second overall selection. Archie played 13 NFL seasons and was selected to the Pro Bowl in 1978 and 1979.
- Former NFL running back **Cedric Benson** was also a high school outfielder taken in the 12th round of the 2001 MLB Draft. He played in nine games for the Gulf Coast Dodgers before going on to star at the University of Texas at Austin, where he received the Doak Walker Award as the nation's top running back in 2004. Boston Red Sox outfielder Darnell McDonald was recruited by the University of Texas to play baseball and football but chose to play professional baseball leading to the school's recruitment of Benson.
- Former NFL wide receiver **Antwaan Randle El** was selected by the Chicago Cubs in the 14th round of the 1997 Draft.
- Former Atlanta Falcons quarterback **Doug Johnson** was a second round draft pick in 1996 for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, playing as an infielder in their Minor League system in 1996 and 1997 before suffering a rotator cuff injury and leaving to concentrate on football full-time.
- Former NFL quarterback **Drew Henson** was selected in the sixth round of the 2003 NFL Draft by the Houston Texans. Henson played in nine games over two seasons from 2004-05 with the Dallas Cowboys and Detroit Lions. Prior to his NFL stint, he was also selected by the New York Yankees in the third round of the 1998 MLB Draft with the 97th overall selection. Henson played in over 500 Minor League games over six seasons and appeared in eight Major League games with the Yankees between 2002-03, collecting one hit in nine at-bats.
- Former NFL quarterback **Kerry Collins** was drafted three times by MLB clubs. The Detroit Tigers drafted him out of high school in the 26th round of the 1990 MLB Draft, but Collins decided to attend Penn State University. The Tigers drafted him again in the 60th round of the 1991 MLB Draft, and he was selected in the 48th round of the 1994 MLB Draft by the Toronto Blue Jays, but did not sign in either instance. Collins was ultimately drafted in the first round of the 1995 NFL Draft by the Carolina Panthers, would make two Pro Bowl Teams (1996, 2008) and play for 17 seasons.
- Former first baseman **Chris Weinke** played six seasons (1991-96) in the Toronto Blue Jays Minor League system after being selected by the Jays in the second round of the 1990 MLB Draft. After the 1996 season, Weinke accepted a football scholarship at Florida State University, winning the Heisman Trophy in 2000. He was drafted by the Carolina Panthers in the fourth round of the 2001 NFL Draft.
- Former NFL quarterback **Steve McNair** was drafted by the Seattle Mariners in the 35th round of the 1991 MLB Draft. A three-sport athlete at Mount Olive High School in Mississippi, McNair did not sign with the Mariners, but opted to attend Alcorn State University. He was drafted by the Houston Oilers with the third overall pick in the 1995 NFL Draft and would go on to win the 2003 MVP Award.
- Former NFL running back **D.J. Dozier** was originally drafted out of high school by the Detroit Tigers in the 18th round of the 1983 Amateur Draft. He opted to go to Penn State and play football where he scored the game-winning touchdown of Penn State's 1987 Fiesta Bowl victory over Miami. D.J. was drafted 14th overall by the Minnesota Vikings in the 1987 NFL Draft and finished his football career in 1992 with the Detroit Lions. In 1990, the New York Mets signed him as an amateur free agent. He spent 1990 and 1991 in the Minors, and was called up to the Major Leagues in 1992 where he would play in 25 games.
- Former Miami Dolphins quarterback **Pat White** helped lead his high school team to two state championships as a pitcher and outfielder before attending the University of West Virginia for football. White was drafted by Major League organizations on four different occasions, but never did sign. The Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim drafted him in the fourth round of the 2004 MLB Draft, and again in the 27th round in 2007. The Cincinnati Reds selected Pat in the 49th round in 2008 and the New York Yankees picked him in the 48th round in 2009. White signed a Minor League deal with the Kansas City Royals in September 2010 after being released by the Dolphins, and has since retired from the diamond.

Other:

- Ohio State University head football coach **Urban Meyer**, who won two BCS Championships at the University of Florida (2006 and 2008) and one at Ohio State (2014), was selected by the Atlanta Braves in the 13th round of the 1982 MLB Draft. He went on to play two seasons as a shortstop in the Braves organization.
- Oakland Raiders head coach **Jack Del Rio** was a 22nd round selection of the Toronto Blue Jays in the 1981 MLB Draft out of Hayward High School in California.

PERFECT STARTS

Entering play on Thursday, 20 starting pitchers have started the 2018 season with a perfect record of 2-0 or better. Four Clubs enter play today with two starters that are off to perfect starts: the Houston Astros, the Arizona Diamondbacks, the Boston Red Sox, the Cleveland Indians and the New York Mets. Below is a look at the complete list:

Player, Team	W-L	ERA	IP	H	ER	BB	SO	Next Scheduled Start
Justin Verlander, HOU	4-0	1.36	39.2	21	6	8	48	TBD
Patrick Corbin, ARI	4-0	1.89	33.1	16	7	6	48	Saturday at Washington
Rick Porcello, BOS	4-0	1.93	32.2	23	7	4	32	Sunday vs. Tampa Bay
Carlos Carrasco, CLE	4-0	2.31	35.0	24	9	6	28	Saturday vs. Seattle
Jake Arrieta, PHI	3-0	1.82	24.2	15	5	8	18	Monday at Miami
Hyun-Jin Ryu, LAD	3-0	1.99	22.2	11	5	9	27	Tomorrow at San Francisco
Garrett Richards, LAA	3-0	3.46	26.0	18	10	16	35	Saturday vs. NY Yankees
Charlie Morton, HOU	3-0	1.86	29.0	21	6	11	35	TBD
Chad Bettis, COL	3-0	2.40	30.0	22	8	12	20	Sunday at Miami
Miles Mikolas, STL	3-0	3.46	26.0	24	10	2	20	Tomorrow at Pittsburgh
Eduardo Rodriguez, BOS	3-0	3.63	22.1	19	9	8	23	TBD
Brandon McCarthy, ATL	3-0	3.38	26.2	26	10	9	19	TBD
Johnny Cueto, SF	2-0	0.35	26.0	13	1	4	23	Saturday vs. LA Dodgers
Robbie Ray, ARI	2-0	5.13	26.1	24	15	17	43	Sunday at Washington
Andrew Triggs, OAK	2-0	4.70	23.1	22	12	9	23	TBD
Jordan Montgomery, NYY	2-0	3.80	21.1	21	9	9	17	Today vs. Minnesota
Noah Syndergaard, NYM	2-0	3.29	27.1	24	10	5	39	Today at St. Louis
Jacob deGrom, NYM	2-0	2.53	32.0	25	9	8	40	Tomorrow at San Diego
Junior Guerra, MIL	2-0	0.56	16.0	10	1	6	15	Saturday at Chicago Cubs
Mike Clevinger, CLE	2-0	1.75	25.2	19	5	8	17	Today vs. Seattle



INTERLEAGUE TRACKER

<u>League</u>	<u>2017 Record</u>	<u>Batting Average</u>	<u>ERA</u>
American League	11-17	.252 (246-for-975)	4.62
National League	17-11	.271 (273-for-1,009)	4.10

SIR DIDI PART DEUX

On Wednesday night against the Minnesota Twins at Yankee Stadium, shortstop Didi Gregorius went 3-for-3 with a home run and two RBI to lead the Yankees to a 7-4 victory. The Amsterdam native enters play today in the midst of a nine-game hitting streak dating back to April 16th. With last night's blast, Didi became the first shortstop in Yankees history to homer in four consecutive games. Gregorius, who paces the Majors in RBI, became the first Major League shortstop since at least 1908 to register nine round-trippers and 29 RBI through his first 23 games of a season. Since RBI became an official statistic in 1920, Didi's 29 currently rank tied for third in the month of April in Yankees lore with Tino Martinez (1998) and Hall of Famer Dave Winfield (1988), and trails only Martinez's 1997 season (34) and Alex Rodriguez, who also tallied 34 during his MVP Award-winning 2007 campaign.



In addition, the left-handed-swinging slugger has posted a .372/.470/.833 slash line to start the 2018 campaign, ranking first in batting average, slugging percentage and OPS (1.303), and fourth in on-base percentage among qualified Major League hitters. With five games remaining in April, Gregorius is on pace to become just the fifth player since at least 1908 to record a slash line of .350/.450/.800 with at least 29 RBI in the month of April. Washington Nationals first baseman Ryan Zimmerman was the last to accomplish the feat, doing so last year with his scorching start to the 2017 season.

Players with a Slash Line of .350/.450/.800 and 29 RBI in April, since 1908

Player, Club	Year	BA	OBP	SLG	RBI
Didi Gregorius, NYY	2018	.372	.470	.833	29
Ryan Zimmerman, WSH	2017	.420	.458	.886	29
Larry Walker, COL	1997	.456	.538	.911	29
Dale Murphy, ATL	1985	.380	.451	.873	29
Ron Cey, LAD	1977	.425	.543	.890	29

EXTRA-EXTRA

Also in Wednesday night's tilt against the Twins, rookie third baseman Miguel Andújar connected for his ninth double of the season. Entering today's action, the 23-year-old has also recorded a triple and three home runs, culminating in 13 extra-base hits on the season. According to the Elias Sports Bureau, the Dominican Republic native is just the seventh rookie since 1900 to tally at least 13 extra-base hits in his first 16 games of a season. Only Jeff Baker of the Colorado Rockies (2006) and Gregg Jefferies of the New York Mets notched 14 such hits. Shortstop Trevor Story of the Colorado Rockies last accomplished the feat during his historic start to the 2016 season, and Hall of Famer Joe DiMaggio was the only other Yankee to accomplish the feat, doing so in 1936.

Players with 13 XBHs in First 16 Games of a Season, since 1900

Player, Club	Year	2B	3B	HR
Miguel Andújar, NYY	2018	9	1	3
Trevor Story, COL	2016	3	2	8
Chris Dickerson, CIN	2008	7	2	4
Jeff Baker, COL	2006	7	2	5
Gregg Jefferies, NYM	1988	7	2	5
Dick Allen, PHI	1964	5	2	6
Joe DiMaggio, NYY	1936	10	1	2

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

My favorite figure in all of baseball is Charles Dillon Stengel (right). Not because he won all those championships with the Yankees, nor because he wrestled with the decision to become a ballplayer or a lefthanded dentist from Kansas City. Not because the city of his birth gave him his nickname. Not even because he spoke in a wondrous, perplexing new language to which he lent his own name, like James Joyce.

For me, the story that makes him my hero is this one: Even though he baffled everyone from sportswriters to congressmen with his stream-of-consciousness double-talk, Casey Stengel had both a keen baseball mind and, by the time he retired, more than fifty years of Major-League experience to back it up. Asked by a young reporter how best to describe his long career, an elderly Casey reflected a moment and said, "I'm a man that's been up and down."

That describes me, and I'll bet you too. Here is a Stengelese sampler.

"The secret of managing a club is to keep the five guys who hate you away from the five who are undecided."

"What's the use of askin' a man to execute if he can't execute?"

"I always heard it couldn't be done, but sometimes it don't always work."

"You gotta lose 'em sometime. When you do, lose 'em right."

"There comes a time in every man's life and I've had plenty of 'em."

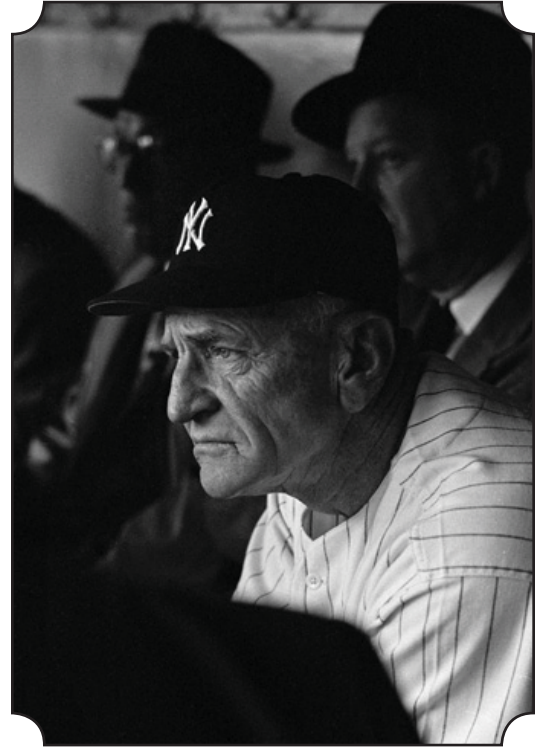
At age seventy-five: "Most people my age are dead at the present time, and you could look it up."

On why the Mets chose a catcher as their first pick in the expansion draft: "You have to have a catcher, because if you don't, you're likely to have a lot of passed balls."

Accepting congratulations for another Yankee pennant: "I couldn't-a done it without my players."

In spring training with the Yanks in 1956 after Don Larsen banged his car into a telephone pole at 4 A.M.: "He was probably mailing a letter."

On the 1962 Mets: "You look up and down the bench and you have to say to yourself: 'Can't anybody here play this game?'"



MLB ON-AIR THIS WEEK

(All Times ET)

Thursday, April 26th:	Boston Red Sox at Toronto Blue Jays	7:07 p.m.
	Milwaukee Brewers at Chicago Cubs	8:05 p.m.
Friday, April 27th:	Milwaukee Brewers at Chicago Cubs	2:20 p.m.
	Arizona D-backs at Washington Nationals	7:05 p.m.
	Colorado Rockies at Miami Marlins	7:10 p.m.
Saturday, April 28th:	Cincinnati Reds at Minnesota Twins	2:10 p.m.
	Milwaukee Brewers at Chicago Cubs	2:20 p.m.
	Atlanta Braves at Philadelphia Phillies	6:05 p.m.
Sunday, April 29th:	Arizona D-backs at Washington Nationals	1:35 p.m.
	St. Louis Cardinals at Pittsburgh Pirates	1:35 p.m.
Monday, April 30th:	San Diego Padres at San Francisco Giants	10:15 p.m.
Tuesday, May 1st:	Colorado Rockies at Chicago Cubs	8:05 p.m.
	New York Yankees at Houston Astros	8:10 p.m.
Wednesday, May 2nd:	Texas Rangers at Cleveland Indians	1:10 p.m.
	Colorado Rockies at Chicago Cubs	2:20 p.m.



Saturday, April 28th:

Arizona D-backs at Washington Nationals
New York Yankees at Los Angeles Angels

4:05 p.m.
9:07 p.m.



Wednesday, May 2nd:

Kansas City Royals at Boston Red Sox

1:05 p.m.

Sunday, April 29th:	New York Yankees at Los Angeles Angels	8:10 p.m.
Monday, April 30th:	Colorado Rockies at Chicago Cubs	7:05 p.m.
Wednesday, May 2nd:	New York Yankees at Houston Astros	8:10 p.m.



UPON FURTHER REVIEW

Through 351 games played this season (through Wednesday), Major League Baseball has had 207 replay reviews, which have taken an average of one minute and twenty-nine seconds.

- *207 Replay Reviews
- *41 Confirmed (19.8%)
- *62 Stands (30.0%)
- *102 Overturned (49.3%)
- *2 Rules Check (1.0%)
- *1:29 Average Time



LINE DRIVES *(Compiled from Club Game Notes)*

IMMACULATE INNING: Right-handed pitcher Kevin Gausman of the Baltimore Orioles struck out the side in the seventh inning on nine pitches on Monday night against Cleveland. The inning marked Gausman's first "immaculate inning" of his career, and he was the first Orioles pitcher to accomplish the feat since 1988 (since such records have been kept). Since 1988, an "immaculate inning" has been recorded 52 times in the Majors and Gausman's was the first since Rick Porcello did so against Tampa Bay in the fifth inning on August 9, 2017.

D-SPAN LIVE: Tampa Bay Rays outfielder Denard Span had at least three RBI in consecutive games (April 20th-21st) for the first time in his career. Span is the first Ray to do this since Logan Forsythe on August 15, 2016 against San Diego and August 21, 2016 against Texas. Span is the first Ray to do this in consecutive days since Curt Casali on July 27-28, 2015 vs. Detroit.

EXTRA-BASE HITS: Entering play thursday, Ozzie Albies' 17 extra-base hits are tied for the most in the Majors. Albies became the fourth player in Braves franchise history to record 17 extra-base hits before the end of April, done previously by Justin Upton (2013), Hall of Famer Chipper Jones (1998) and Dale Murphy (1985).

#COORS?: The Rockies have hit 33 home runs in 26 games this season, the most home runs in the National League and the third-most in the Major Leagues. Twenty of the Rockies' 32 home runs have come on the road, tied with Oakland for the second-most in the Major Leagues. Outfielder Charlie Blackmon is tied for the Major League lead for home runs on the road with seven. Blackmon is the first Rockies' player since Ian Stewart in 2010 to have his first seven home runs of the season all come on the road.

RAGING BULL: Center fielder Odubel Herrera of the Philadelphia Phillies has reached base safely in a career-best 25 straight games (since September 27, 2017), posting a .383 on-base percentage during the streak. He currently has the longest active on-base streak in Baseball and the longest by a Phillies player since 2016 (César Hernández, 29 G, August 24th-September 24th).

BENCH MARKS FOR YADI: With his two-run first inning double on April 20th, Yadier Molina (359) became the Busch Stadium III all-time RBI leader, passing Albert Pujols (356). Other catchers to hold all-time stadium RBI marks include Hall of Famer Johnny Bench (579) at Riverfront Stadium and the Cardinals' Ted Simmons (481) at Busch Stadium II.

LOURDES, WHAT A DEBUT!: In his Major League debut on Saturday afternoon, second baseman Lourdes Gurriel Jr. drove in three runs on two hits. Gurriel became the fourth Blue Jay in team history to record two-or-more hits and three-or-more RBI in their debut, joining J.P. Arencibia (August 7, 2010 at NY Yankees), Eric Hinske (April 1, 2002 at Boston) and Pat Borders (April 6, 1988 at Kansas City).

GETTIN' STREAKY WITH IT: Minnesota Twins second baseman Brian Dozier recorded a hit in 17 consecutive games to begin the season. Dating back to September 22, 2017, Dozier collected a hit in 24 straight, batting .373 (38-for-102) during that stretch. The 17-game streak passed Josh Willingham and Hall of Famer Kirby Puckett (15) for the longest in Club history (since 1961) to start a season.

EXTRA SALAMI: On Saturday night against the Chicago White Sox, outfielder Josh Reddick became the first player in Astros history to hit two grand slams in the month of April. Prior to Reddick, the last Astros player to hit multiple grand slams in a single calendar month was first baseman Jeff Bagwell, who hit two in May of 2001.

CLOSING TIME: Craig Kimbrel has converted his last 16 save opportunities (since 8/5/17), MLB's longest active streak. Kimbrel is three saves shy of 300 for his career, having converted 297 of 326 opportunities (91.1%). Of the 28 pitchers with 300+ saves, Mariano Rivera and Joe Nathan own the highest save percentage (both 89.1%).

NO-HITTER: On Saturday night, left-handed pitcher Sean Manaea tossed the seventh no-hitter in Oakland history and the 12th in Athletics history. It was Oakland's first no-hitter since Dallas Braden's perfect game on May 9, 2010 vs. Tampa Bay. According to the Elias Sports Bureau, Boston's .895 winning percentage entering the game was the highest in Major League history by a team that was no-hit at least five games into the season.

TWO-WAY SHOHEI: While starting as the cleanup hitter on Sunday, Shohei Ohtani became the first player to bat fourth in the same season he made three-plus starts in since Don Larsen (1961). On the mound on Tuesday night, Ohtani set the Angels' record with 26 strikeouts through his first four career games as a pitcher. He passed the mark of 24 strikeouts set by Bo Belinsky (1962) and Tim Lincecum (1992).

COOKIE CUTTER: With a win over Baltimore on Monday night, starting pitcher Carlos Carrasco improved to 4-0 on the season. Carrasco increased his career-long winning streak to 10 consecutive decisions, marking the longest streak by any Indians pitcher since Cliff Lee posted an 11-0 run between July 11th - September 12th during his 2008 Cy Young Award-winning campaign.

OUR BÁE(Z): Second baseman Javier Báez clubbed his seventh home run of the season on Sunday, becoming the first Cubs second baseman since at least 1913 to reach seven home runs before the end of April. Báez ranks ahead of Hall of Fame second basemen Rogers Hornsby (1931) and Ryne Sandberg (1996), who each recorded five homers before the end of April.

TRUST IN JESÚS: On Saturday night, Milwaukee Brewers first baseman Jesús Aguilar belted the first walk-off home run of his career. The home run came on the 13th pitch of the at-bat (started down 0-2), and was the longest at-bat resulting in a walk-off home run since Garret Anderson of the Angels hit a three-run shot on September 15, 1997 against the Minnesota Twins on the 13th pitch.

FROM ELIAS: After Saturday night, right-handed pitcher Jacob deGrom now has not suffered a loss in his last 10 road starts against NL East opponents, matching the franchise record. The last Met to reach that mark was Ron Darling, who did not lose any of his 10 road starts against the NL East in 1987.

GARCÍA'S GRACE: Over his first three Major League starts, left-handed pitcher Jarlin García has combined to allow just five hits and one run in 17.0 innings. Jarlin is the first pitcher in Club history with four-or-fewer hits and one-or-zero runs in each of his first three career starts, and the first pitcher in the Majors to do so since fellow southpaw Eduardo Rodriguez of the Boston Red Sox in 2015.

MARTIN GOES DEEP IN BOTH GAMES OF TWINBILL: Detroit Tigers outfielder Leonys Martín hit a home run in each game of Wednesday's doubleheader, clubbing a leadoff homer in the first game and a two-run shot in the fifth inning of the nightcap. Martín became the first Tiger to homer in both games of a doubleheader since Don Kelly on October 1, 2010 at Baltimore. Martín also homered in back-to-back games for the third time in his career (May 18-19, 2016).

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)
April 22 nd	Manny Machado, BAL (.500, 7 R, 11 H, 2 2B, 5 HR, 8 RBI) Sean Manaea, OAK (1-0, No-Hitter, 10 SO, 2 BB)	Patrick Corbin, ARI (2-0, 15.0 IP, 2 ER, 19 SO, 2 BB)