

WEEKLY NOTES THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2018

WEEK OF THE NO-NO

On Tuesday night against the Toronto Blue Jays, left-handed starting pitcher James Paxton of the Seattle Mariners threw his first career no-hitter, and the sixth in Club history. It was also the first complete game and shutout of his six-year career. In his previous outing on May 2nd against the Oakland Athletics, the University of Kentucky product registered 16 strikeouts across 7.0 innings pitched. James is the first AL pitcher to record a 16-strikeout game and a no-hitter in the same season since Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan of the Texas Rangers accomplished the feat in the same contest on May 1, 1991 against Toronto.



Paxton's dominant outing marked the third no-hitter in the Majors this season, following Sean Manaea of the Oakland Athletics on April 21st and a combined no-hitter by the Los Angeles Dodgers (started by Walker Buehler) on May 4th. The last season with three no-hitters by May 9th was the 1969 campaign. Montreal's Bill Stoneman tossed his no-hitter against the Philadelphia Phillies on April 17th, and was followed by Cincinnati's Jim Maloney against the Houston Astros on April 30th and Houston's Don Wilson against the Reds in the following game on May 1st.

During MLB's Mexico Series st Estadio de Béisbol Monterrey on May 4th, Buehler led a quartet of pitchers, including Tony Cingrani, Yimi García and Adam Liberatore to throw the first combined no-hitter in Dodgers franchise history, and the 12th in Major League history. The Dodgers pace all Major League Clubs with 23 total no-hitters in their storied Club history, trailed by the Boston Red Sox (18), the Chicago White Sox (18) and the San Francisco Giants (17). The team no-hitter also marked the first no-hitter outside of the United States and Canada in MLB history.

All three no-hitters this season have been in different countries: Paxton in Toronto, Canada, the Dodgers in Monterrey, Mexico and Manaea in Oakland, California. Paxton, a native of Ladner, Canada is the second Canadian-born pitcher in Major League history to record a no-hitter, and the first to do so on his native country's soil. Dick Fowler of the Philadelphia Athletics logged the first on September 9, 1945 against the St. Louis Browns. Below is a table with their respective linescores.

Pitcher, Club	Date	IP	Н	SO	BB
James Paxton, SEA	May 8, 2018	9.0	0	7	3
Dick Fowler, PHI	September 9, 1945	9.0	0	6	4

PERFECT STARTS

Entering play on Thursday, 17 starting pitchers have started the 2018 season with a perfect record of 2-0 or better. The Arizona Diamondbacks are the only Club with three starters that are off to perfect starts. Three Clubs enter play today with two starters off to perfect starts: the Boston Red Sox, the Los Angeles Dodgers and the New York Yankees. Below is a look at the complete list:

Player, Team	W-L	ERA	IP	Н	ER	BB	so	Next Scheduled Start
Rick Porcello, BOS	5-0	2.79	51.2	41	16	8	49	TBD
Patrick Corbin, ARI	4-0	2.16	51.0	29	12	13	67	TBD
Miles Mikolas, STL	4-0	2.70	40.0	37	12	2	31	Today at San Diego
Charlie Morton, HOU	4-0	2.16	41.2	26	10	17	48	Saturday vs. Texas
Eduardo Rodriguez, BOS	3-0	5.29	32.1	28	19	13	39	Today at NY Yankees
Johnny Cueto, SF	3-0	0.84	32.0	16	3	6	26	Currently on 60-day DL
Jacob deGrom, NYM	3-0	1.87	43.1	32	9	11	54	Sunday at Philadelphia
Hyun-Jin Ryu, LAD	3-0	2.12	29.2	16	7	10	36	Currently on 10-day DL
Nick Kingham, PIT	2-0	2.92	12.1	7	4	1	16	Currently with Double-A Altoona
CC Sabathia, NYY	2-0	1.39	32.1	23	5	5	23	Today vs. Boston
Jordan Montgomery, NYY	2-0	3.62	27.1	25	11	12	23	Currently on 10-day DL
Fernando Romero, MIN	2-0	0.00	11.2	7	0	6	14	Sunday at LA Dodgers
Matt Koch, ARI	2-0	2.13	25.1	18	6	7	17	TBD
Robbie Ray, ARI	2-0	4.88	27.2	25	15	17	45	Currently on 10-day DL
Jordan Zimmermann, DET	2-0	4.88	31.1	32	17	9	32	Currently on 10-day DL
Mike Clevinger, CLE	2-0	2.76	45.2	35	14	14	39	Saturday vs. Kansas City
Walker Buehler, LAD	2-0	1.12	16.0	10	2	7	19	TBD



INTERLEAGUE TRACKER

<u>League</u>	<u> 2018 Record</u>	<u>Batting Average</u>	<u>ERA</u>
American League	17-30	.254 (414-for-1,630)	4.26
National League	30-17	.253 (409-for-1,614)	3.94

SPRING TIME

In Monday night's road tilt against the Oakland Athletics, Houston Astros All-Star outfielder George Springer batted 6-for-6 with four runs scored, a double, home run and three RBI to lead Houston to a 16-2 victory. The 28-year-old became the first player in franchise history to record six hits in a nine-inning contest. Hall of Famer Joe Morgan went 6-for-6 in a 12.0-inning game on July 8, 1965 against the Milwaukee Braves. Overall, George's prolific night at the plate marked the 65th six-hit game in MLB history, and the first since Washington's Anthony Rendon on April 30, 2017.

Since 1908, only 15 players have logged six hits, four runs scored, a home run and three RBI in a nine-inning game, including Springer. Below is a table depicting each of their historic nights.

Player, Club	Date	Н	R	HR	RBI
George Springer, HOU	May 7, 2018	6	4	1	3
Anthony Rendon, WSH	April 30, 2017	6	5	3	10
C.J. Cron, LAA	July 2, 2016	6	5	2	5
Charlie Blackmon, COL	April 4, 2014	6	4	1	5
Freddy Sanchez, PIT	May 25, 2009	6	4	1	3
lan Kinsler, TEX	April 15, 2009	6	5	1	4
Carlos Peña, DET	May 27, 2004	6	4	2	5
Shawn Green, LAD	May 23, 2002	6	6	4	7
Edgardo Alfonzo, NYM	August 30, 1999	6	6	3	5
Cal Ripken Jr., BAL	June 13, 1999	6	5	2	6
Andres Galarraga, COL	July 3, 1995	6	4	2	5
Kirby Puckett, MIN	August 30, 1987	6	4	2	4
Kevin Seitzer, KC	August 2, 1987	6	4	2	7
Walker Cooper, CIN	July 6, 1949	6	5	3	10
Ty Cobb, DET	May 5, 1925	6	4	3	5

On the mound for Houston, Gerrit Cole continued his excellent start to the 2018 season with another dominant outing last Friday. Against the first-place Arizona Diamondbacks, Cole tossed a complete-game shutout with 16 strikeouts while holding opposing batters to just a hit and one walk. Since 1908, Cole's excellent outing marked just the fifth time that a hurler tossed a complete-game shutout with at least 16 punchouts and no more than one walk and hit. Three-time Cy Young Award-winner Max Scherzer is the only hurler to have accomplished the feat twice, and was also the last to do so.

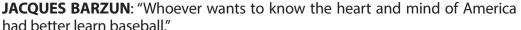
Complete-Game Shutouts with at least 16 SO, and no more than 1 H and 1 BB

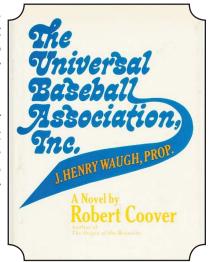
Player, Club	Date	Н	BB	ER	SO
Gerrit Cole, HOU	May 4, 2018	1	1	0	16
Max Scherzer, WSH	October 3, 2015	0	0	0	17
Max Scherzer, WSH	June 14, 2015	1	1	0	16
Kerry Wood, CHI	May 6, 1998	1	0	0	20
Nolan Ryan, CAL	July 9, 1972	1	1	0	16

<u>They Said It, and How!</u> (by MLB Official Historian John Thorn)

The snappiest quotes about the game have been offered by baseball players and baseball writers. But the resonant ones are, with few exceptions (like last week's bouquet of Stengelese) those crafted by "real writers"... those who scribble about "real life," present or past, and show up at the ballpark only now and then, even if their thoughts about baseball are never far off.

ROBERT COOVER: "There were things about the games I liked. The crowds, for example. I felt like I was part of something there, you know, like in church, except it was more real than any church, and I joined in the scorekeeping, hollering, the eating of hot dogs and drinking of Cokes and beer, and for a while I even had the idea that ball stadiums, and not European churches were the real American holy places."





PHILIP ROTH: "For someone whose roots in America were strong but only inches deep, and who had no experience, such as a Catholic child might, of an awesome hierarchy that was real and felt, baseball was a kind of secular church that reached into every class and region of the nation and bound millions upon millions of us together in common concerns, loyalties, rituals, enthusiasms, and antagonisms. Baseball made me understand what patriotism was about, at its best."

DONALD HALL: "Baseball is continuous, like nothing else among American things, and endless game of repeated summers, joining the long generations of all the fathers and all the sons."

ERIC ROLFE GREENBERG: "To be a pitcher! I thought. A pitcher, standing at the axis of event, or a catcher with the God-view of the play all before him; to be a shortstop, lord of the infield, or a center fielder with unchallenged claim to all the territory one's speed and skill could command; to perform the spontaneous acrobatics of the third baseman or the practiced ballet of the man at second, or to run and throw with the absolute commitment of the outfielder! And to live in a world without grays, where all decisions were final: ball or strike, safe or out, the game won or lost beyond question or appeal."

W.P. KINSELLA: "As I look around the empty park, almost Greek in its starkness, I feel an awesome inarticulate love for this very stadium and the game it represents. I am reminded of the story about the baseball fans of Milwaukee, and what they did on a warm fall afternoon, the day after it was announced that Milwaukee was to have a major-league team the next season. According to the story, 10,000 people went to County Stadium that afternoon and sat in the seats and smiled out at the empty playing field—sat in silence, in awe, in wonder, in anticipation, in joy—just knowing that soon the field would come alive with the chatter of infielders, bright as bird chirps."

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW: "What is both surprising and delightful is that the spectators are allowed, and even expected, to join in the vocal part of the game. I do not see why this feature should not be introduced into cricket. There is no reason why the field should not try to put the batsman off his stroke at the critical moment by neatly timed disparagements of his wife's fidelity and his mother's respectability."

EDNA FERBER: "Any man who can look handsome in a dirty baseball suit is an Adonis. There is something about the baggy pants, and the Micawber-shaped collar, and the skull-fitting cap, and the foot or so of tan, or blue, or pink undershirt sleeve sticking out at the arms, that just naturally kills a man's best points. Then too, a baseball suit requires so much in the matter of leg. Therefore, when I say that Rudie Schlachweiler was a dream even in his baseball uniform, with a dirty brown streak right up the side of his pants where he had slid for base, you may know that the girls camped on the grounds during the season."

MLB ON-AIR THIS WEEK (All Times ET)

Thursday, May 10 th :	Kansas City Royals at Baltimore Orioles Boston Red Sox at New York Yankees	7:05 p.m.
Friday, May 11th:	Chicago White Sox at Chicago Cubs Oakland Athletics at New York Yankees	7:05 p.m. 2:20 p.m. 7:05 p.m.
Saturday, May 12 th :	Boston Red Sox at New York Yankees Oakland Athletics at New York Yankees New York Mets at Philadelphia Phillies	7:07 p.m. 1:05 p.m. 7:05 p.m.
Sunday, May 13 th :	Texas Rangers at Houston Astros Texas Rangers at Houston Astros Chicago White Sox at Chicago Cubs	7:10 p.m. 2:10 p.m. 2:20 p.m.
Monday, May 14th:	Atlanta Braves at Chicago Cubs Houston Astros at Los Angeles Angels Cincinnati Reds at San Francisco Giants	2:20 p.m. 10:07 p.m.
Wednesday, May 16 th :	Chicago White Sox at Pittsburgh Pirates St. Louis Cardinals at Minnesota Twins Cincinnati Reds at San Francisco Giants	10:15 p.m. 12:35 p.m. 1:10 p.m. 3:45 p.m.





Thursday, May 10th: Saturday, May 12th: Tuesday, May 15th:

Minnesota Twins at Los Angeles Angels (FS1) Washington Nationals at Arizona D-backs (FS1) 4:05 p.m. St. Louis Cardinals at Minnesota Twins (FS1)

10:07 p.m. 8:10 p.m.

Wednesday, May 16th: Texas Rangers at Seattle Mariners 3:40 p.m.





Tuesday, May 15th:

Colorado Rockies at San Diego Padres

3:40 p.m.

Sunday, May 13th: Monday, May 14th: Wednesday, May 16th: Washington Nationals at Arizona D-backs Tampa Bay Rays at Kansas City Royals New York Yankees at Washington Nationals

UPON FURTHER REVIEW

Through 541 games played this season (through Wednesday), Major League Baseball has had 344 replay reviews, which have taken an average of one minute and twenty-three seconds.

> *344 Replay Reviews *69 Confirmed (20.1%) *103 Stands (29.9%) *169 Overturned (49.1%) *3 Rules Check (0.9%) *1:23 Average Time



8:08 p.m.

7:05 p.m.

7:05 p.m.

LINE DRIVES (Compiled from Club Game Notes)

3,000!!!: With a fifth-inning single to right field Friday (off Mike Leake), Angels designated hitter Albert Pujols became the 32nd player all-time to reach 3,000 hits - second in as many seasons (Adrián Beltré; July 30, 2017 vs. Baltimore). In addition, Pujols became the fourth player in Major League history with at least 3,000 knocks and 600 HRs (Hall of Famers Hank Aaron and Willie Mays, as well as Alex Rodriguez).

MR. 300: Boston Red Sox closer Craig Kimbrel recorded a perfect ninth inning on Saturday at Texas, becoming the fastest pitcher to reach 300 saves in terms of appearances (494), save opportunities (330), and age (29). Those distinctions previously belonged to Mariano Rivera (537 G), Joe Nathan (335 SVO), and Francisco Rodríguez (31 years old).

FOR LOVE OF COUNTRY: With his home run Saturday night, Miami Marlins second baseman Starlin Castro became the 38th Dominican-born player in Major League history to record 100 career home runs and 500 RBI, doing so in 1,186 career games. Among the 38 players to accomplish those feats, he is one of 13 active players. Albert Pujols, who just reached the 3,000-hit club Friday night, leads all Dominican players with 620 career home runs and 1,939 RBI. Adrián Beltré ranks second with 463 HR and 1,654 RBI.

AND THE LINE KEPT MOVING: Kansas City sent 14 men to the plate in the first inning Tuesday night, scoring 10 runs on nine hits for the club's biggest inning since the bottom of the first on August 23, 2006. The Royals scored seven of their 10 runs before an out was recorded, which included four home runs off Orioles starter Dylan Bundy. According to Elias Sports Bureau, it marked the first time in franchise history that the first eight KC hitters had reached base to start a game and the first time it's happened in any Major League contest since Boston did it at Toronto on July 2, 2015.

1-0: Atlanta Braves outfielder Ronald Acuña Jr. drove a 3-2 pitch out to left field Tuesday night to lead the Braves to a 1-0 win over Tampa Bay. Acuña Jr. (20 years, 141 days) became the youngest player to homer in a 1-0 game since Phil Cavarretta (19 years, 68 days) on September 25, 1935. He also became just the third rookie in Atlanta franchise history to homer in a 1-0 game, joining Brooks Conrad (August 12, 2010 vs. Los Angeles-NL) and Ryan Langerhans (April 18, 2005 at Houston).

OTTOMATIC: Right-handed pitcher Adam Ottavino of the Colorado Rockies has multiple strikeouts in 14 of his 19 games, including striking out the side four times. His 35 strikeouts rank second among Major League relievers. Ottavino tied the Rockies reliever strikeout record for the month of April with 24 (also: Juan Nicasio, 2014).

CC Ya!: On Tuesday night, Milwaukee Brewers starting pitcher Brent Suter belted his first career home run with a solo shot off Corey Kluber. Suter became the first left-handed-hitting pitcher to homer for the Brewers since CC Sabathia on July 13, 2008 vs. Cincinnati.

WALK-OFFS: The Cardinals staged back-to-back walk-off wins on Saturday and Sunday as Kolten Wong delivered a two-run blow in the 10th inning on Saturday and Dexter Fowler did the same with a two-run, two out blast to win Sunday night's game in the 14th inning. It was the first time the Cardinals had won via walk-off home runs in consecutive games since Matt Adams & Wong on July 7-8, 2014 vs. Pittsburgh, and it was the first time they'd done so in consecutive extra inning wins since June 4-5, 2011 vs. Chicago when Albert Pujols hit walk-offs in the 12th and 10th innings.

FIELD DAY: On Friday night vs. Toronto, outfielder Johnny Field became the first Rays rookie with three extra-base hits in a game since Steven Souza Jr. on May 31, 2015 at Baltimore. He became the first player in franchise history with a three extra-base hit game within the first 12 games of his career, and was the first player to do this in the Majors since Boston's Travis Shaw on August 1, 2015 vs. Tampa Bay.

1,500 HIT MILESTONE: Infielder Evan Longoria recorded his 1,500th career hit Saturday with a double in the third inning, becoming the 42nd player to reach that milestone in a Giants uniform, the most of any franchise. Outfielder Andrew McCutchen is also close to the 1,500 hit milestone with 1,494 career hits.

SANTO DOMINGO: Right-handed pitcher Domingo Germán of the Yankees made his first career Major League start on Sunday vs. Cleveland, tossing six hitless, scoreless innings with nine strikeouts and two walks in a no-decision. Per Elias, Germán was the first Major League pitcher since the mound was moved to 60'6" in 1893 to throw at least six hitless innings with at least nine strikeouts in his first career start.

IN A PINCH: In his last five pinch-hit appearances, outfielder Jesse Winker has walked, singled (RBI), doubled, singled and singled. He is the first Reds batter to reach base safely in five consecutive pinch-hit appearances since Todd Frazier did it from April 20-May 2, 2012 and the first Reds batter to produce a hit in four straight pinch-hit appearances since Brayan Peña from July 8-August 9, 2014.

ROAD WARRIOR: Adrián González has hit all five of his home runs this season in road games. During his career, he's hit 59.18 percent of his home runs in road games, the second-highest percentage among the 146 players in Major League history with 300 homers, behind Joe Adcock (59.23%).

RAGING BULL: Entering play Thursday, Phiadelphis Phillies outfielder Odúbel Herrera has now reached base safely in a career-best 37 straight games (since September 27, 2017). His 34 straight games reaching base to begin the season are the most by any Major League player since Matt Holliday began the 2015 season reaching base in 45 straight contests (Elias).

¡VAMOS VILLANUEVA!: Christian Villanueva recorded 13 home runs over his first 40 big-league games. Only five right-handed batters (Rhys Hoskins, Wally Berger, Gary Sánchez, José Abreu and Albert Pujols) had more home runs through 40 career games since 1913.

GREINER MAKES MAJOR LEAGUE DEBUT: Grayson Greiner made his Major League debut Sunday at Kansas City, starting at catcher and going 1-for-4. Greiner became the first Tigers player to record a hit in the first at-bat of his career since Steven Moya on September 1, 2014 at Cleveland. At 6-foot-6, Greiner matches Pete Koegel (1970-72), Don Gile (1959-62) and Anton Falch (1884) as the tallest to play catcher in Major League history.

BIG-GAME TEASE: White Sox starting pitcher James Shields held Minnesota hitless into the seventh inning on Sunday before allowing a one-out single to Eduardo Escobar. Shields' performance marked the second-longest no-hit bid of his career (7.0 IP on August 2, 2009 vs. Kansas City), and the longest by a Sox since José Quintana on May 21, 2013 vs. Boston (6.1 IP).

KEEPING UP WITH JONES: On Friday night, outfielder Adam Jones played in his 1,500th game with the Orioles. He became the eighth player in Orioles history (since 1954) to reach the 1,500 games played mark. Jones joined Hall of Famers Cal Ripken, Jr. (3,001 games) and Brooks Robinson (2,896), Mark Belanger (1,962), Hall of Famer Eddie Murray (1,884), Boog Powell (1,763), Brady Anderson (1,759), and Paul Blair (1,700) as players to appear in at least 1,500 games with the Orioles. Jones became the seventh active player to reach 1,500 games with his current team.

HITTING ROUND TRIPPERS RAPIDLY: Javier Báez on Monday belted his team-leading 10th homer of the season, reaching the mark in the team's 32nd game. It marks the fewest amount of team games for any second baseman to reach the 10-homer mark in franchise history. The only Cubs middle infielder to reach 10 homers in fewer team games is Hall of Famer Ernie Banks, who reached 10 homers in the team's first 30 games while manning shortstop to begin 1956.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL'S PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

WEEK ENDING	American League	National League
April 1st Justin Smoak, TOR (.467/.529/1.00, 2 2B, 2 HR, 8 RBI) April 8th Shohei Ohtani, LAA (3 HR, 7 RBI; 1-0, 0.00 ERA, 12 SO)		Adam Eaton, WSH (.615, 7 R, 8 H, 2 2B, 2 HR, 5 RBI)
		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) April 29 th Didi Gregorius, NYY (.357/.419/.821, 7 R, 4 HR, 10 RBI)		Patrick Corbin, ARI (2-0, 15.0 IP, 2 ER, 19 SO, 2 BB)
		Joey Votto, CIN (.360, 7 R, 1 2B, 4 HR, 8 RBI, .543 OBP)
May 6 th	Francisco Lindor, CLE (.425, 17 H, 4 HR, 4 2B, 10 RBI, 23 TB)	A.J. Pollock, ARI (.423, 5 R, 4 HR, 1 2B, 1 3B, 8 RBI, 2 SB)

BUDWEISER PRESENTS THE AL & NL PLAYERS OF THE MONTH

Монтн	American League	National League		
April	Didi Gregorius, NYY (.327, 24 R, 32 H, 8 2B, 10 HR, 30 RBI)	A.J. Pollock, ARI (.291, 20 R, 8 2B, 9 HR, 24 RBI, 6 SB)		

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL'S PITCHERS OF THE MONTH

Month	American League	National League	
April	Sean Manaea, OAK (4-2, 1.03 ERA, 37 SO, 1 no-hitter)	Max Scherzer, WSH (5-1, 1.62 ERA, 57 SO, 9 BB, 39.0 IP)	

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL'S ROOKIES OF THE MONTH

Монтн	American League	National League	
April	Shohei Ohtani, LAA (.341, 4 HR, 12 RBI; 2-1, 4.43 ERA)	Christian Villanueva, SD (.321, 15 R, 25 H, 8 HR, 19 RBI)	

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

Монтн	American League	National League	
April	Edwin Díaz, SEA (14 G, 11 SV, 0.63 ERA, 27 SO, 2 H)	Josh Hader, MIL (4 SV, 1.00 ERA, 39 SO, 5 BB, 18.0 IP)	