



MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL WEEKLY NOTES

THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2018

CLUB 2,500

On Wednesday night against the Los Angeles Angels, Houston Astros starting pitcher Justin Verlander tossed his first complete-game shutout of the 2018 season with seven strikeouts and five hits allowed. With his ninth inning punchout against rookie sensation Shohei Ohtani, the six-time All-Star became the 33rd pitcher in Major League history to reach the 2,500-strikeout plateau. CC Sabathia of the New York Yankees, who has logged 2,874 strikeouts entering play today, is the only other active pitcher to reach the milestone. Following his excellent outing yesterday, in which he fired 7.2 innings of shutout ball with three punchouts, Texas Rangers hurler Bartolo Colon is the next-closest pitcher to the 2,500-strikeout club. The 21-year-veteran will go into his next start with 2,486 punchouts for his career.



Verlander recorded his historic strikeout in his 395th career outing, becoming just the sixth pitcher in history to reach the milestone in fewer than 400 career games. The 2011 AL MVP and Cy Young Award-winner joined Hall of Famers Nolan Ryan, Randy Johnson, Tom Seaver and Pedro Martínez, as well as Roger Clemens. Below is a table depicting each pitchers' cumulative stats at the time of their 2,500th career strikeout, sorted by fewest games needed:

Pitcher	Years	IP	G	W-L	H	BB	SO
Randy Johnson	1988-99	2,108.0	313	152-83	1,625	991	2,500
Nolan Ryan	1966-78	2,286.1	338	143-134	1,559	1,480	2,500
Pedro Martinez	1992-2004	2,152.2	367	173-71	1,623	594	2,500
Roger Clemens	1984-96	2,695.0	373	186-109	2,297	868	2,500
Tom Seaver	1967-77	2,927.2	381	200-116	2,313	850	2,500
Justin Verlander	2005-18	2,613.2	395	193-116	2,277	812	2,500

Entering play today, three Astros pitchers pace the American League in ERA. Verlander leads the Majors with a 1.05 ERA on the season, and is trailed in the AL by his team mates Gerrit Cole (1.75) and Charlie Morton (2.03). Led by their dynamic starting pitching staff, the Astros are the only Club in the Majors with a team ERA below 3.00, holding a 2.44 mark on the season. The Arizona Diamondbacks trail the leading Astros with a 3.31 team ERA.

According to the Elias Sports Bureau, the last time a Club had the top three pitchers in its league in ERA through at least 45 team games into the season was the Boston Red Sox in 2002. Through 157 team games played, Martínez (2.26), Derek Lowe (2.45) and Tim Wakefield (2.75) ranked in the top three in the Junior Circuit.

2018 MLB DRAFT DETAILS ANNOUNCED

Major League Baseball will hold day one of the 2018 MLB Draft on Monday, June 4th at MLB Network's Studio 42 in Secaucus, New Jersey. This year's Draft will begin live on MLB Network and MLB.com at 7:00 p.m. (ET). Prior to the start of the Draft, MLB Network will air a Draft preview show, also simulcast on MLB.com, at 6:00 p.m. (ET).

The selection order of the Draft is determined by the reverse order of finish at the close of the previous championship season. For just the second time in team history, the Detroit Tigers will have the first overall selection of the Draft. Previously, Detroit drafted right-handed pitcher Matt Anderson with the top overall selection in 1997.

The Tampa Bay Rays (16th, 31st, 32nd, 56th, 71st) and the Kansas City Royals (18th, 33rd, 34th, 40th, 58th) each have a Major League-best five selections within the first 78 picks during the first day of the Draft. The Chicago Cubs (24th, 62nd, 77th, 78th) and the Cleveland Indians (29th, 35th, 41st, 67th) will each make four selections on the Draft's opening day.

The Draft will once again feature Competitive Balance Rounds, which were originally agreed upon as a part of the 2012-2016 Basic Agreement between MLB and the Major League Baseball Players Association, and restructured as part of the 2017-2021 Basic Agreement. The Competitive Balance Rounds give Clubs with the lowest revenues and in the smallest markets an additional draft pick each year. Eight teams were awarded CB Round A picks, and six teams were given CB Round B picks. The groups of teams in each of the CB Rounds will alternate each year through 2021. Additionally, the Draft will include free agent compensation picks, which were also restructured as part of the 2017-2021 Basic Agreement. Compensation picks in 2018 include picks 31 through 35, immediately following the first round, and picks 75 through 78, which follow CB Round B.

The Draft will have 40 rounds, and a Club may pass on its selection in any round and not forfeit its right to participate in other rounds. The 2018 Draft will span three days, as it has since 2009. For day one on June 4th, Round 1 and Competitive Balance Round A will air exclusively on MLB Network and MLB.com. Beginning with the first pick in Round 2 and continuing through overall pick number 78, the Draft will air live exclusively on MLB.com.

The intervals between selections during round one will last four minutes, followed by one-minute intervals between selections for the remainder of day one. The Draft will resume at 1:00 p.m. (ET) on Tuesday, June 5th, when selections will be made for rounds 3-10, with one minute intervals between selections. Day three of the Draft on Wednesday, June 6th will begin at 12:00 p.m. (ET), featuring picks in rounds 11-40, with no time delay between selections.

Each of the 30 Major League Clubs will be represented at the Draft by one of its former players and/or a member of its front office. Last year's representatives included Hall of Famer George Brett, legendary manager Jim Leyland and 1976 National League Cy Young Award winner Randy Jones, amongst others. The Club representatives who will attend the 2018 Draft will be announced in the weeks ahead, as well as information on MLB's annual Draft Luncheon for media members. In addition to the Club representatives, four players chosen in the first round of the Draft last year were in attendance. Amateur players will again be invited to this year's festivities.



2018 Order of Selection

Pick By Round

First Round	
1	Detroit Tigers
2	San Francisco Giants
3	Philadelphia Phillies
4	Chicago White Sox
5	Cincinnati Reds
6	New York Mets
7	San Diego Padres
8	Atlanta Braves
9	Oakland Athletics
10	Pittsburgh Pirates
11	Baltimore Orioles
12	Toronto Blue Jays
13	Miami Marlins
14	Seattle Mariners
15	Texas Rangers
16	Tampa Bay Rays
17	Los Angeles Angels
18	Kansas City Royals
19	St. Louis Cardinals
20	Minnesota Twins
21	Milwaukee Brewers
22	Colorado Rockies
23	New York Yankees
24	Chicago Cubs
25	Arizona Diamondbacks
26	Boston Red Sox
27	Washington Nationals
28	Houston Astros
29	Cleveland Indians
30	Los Angeles Dodgers

First Round (Comp)	
31	Tampa Bay Rays [For Cobb]
32	Tampa Bay Rays [For Rasmussen]
33	Kansas City Royals [For Cain]
34	Kansas City Royals [For Hosmer]
35	Cleveland Indians [For Santana]

CB Round A	
36	Pittsburgh Pirates
37	Baltimore Orioles
38	San Diego Padres
39	Arizona Diamondbacks
40	Kansas City Royals
41	Cleveland Indians
42	Colorado Rockies
43	St. Louis Cardinals

Second Round	
44	Detroit Tigers
45	San Francisco Giants
46	Chicago White Sox
47	Cincinnati Reds
48	New York Mets
49	Atlanta Braves
50	Oakland Athletics
51	Pittsburgh Pirates
52	Toronto Blue Jays
53	Miami Marlins
54	Seattle Mariners
55	Texas Rangers
56	Tampa Bay Rays
57	Los Angeles Angels
58	Kansas City Royals
59	Minnesota Twins
60	Milwaukee Brewers
61	New York Yankees
62	Chicago Cubs
63	Arizona Diamondbacks
64	Boston Red Sox
65	Washington Nationals
66	Houston Astros
67	Cleveland Indians
68	Los Angeles Dodgers

CB Round B	
69	Miami Marlins
70	Oakland Athletics
71	Tampa Bay Rays
72	Cincinnati Reds
73	Milwaukee Brewers
74	Minnesota Twins

Second Round (Comp)	
75	St. Louis Cardinals [For Lynn]
76	Colorado Rockies [For Holland]
77	Chicago Cubs [For Arrieta]
78	Chicago Cubs [For Davis]

Third Round	
79	Detroit Tigers
80	San Francisco Giants
81	Chicago White Sox
82	Cincinnati Reds
83	New York Mets
84	San Diego Padres
85	Oakland Athletics
86	Pittsburgh Pirates
87	Baltimore Orioles
88	Toronto Blue Jays
89	Miami Marlins
90	Seattle Mariners
91	Texas Rangers
92	Tampa Bay Rays
93	Los Angeles Angels
94	Kansas City Royals
95	St. Louis Cardinals
96	Colorado Rockies
97	New York Yankees
98	Chicago Cubs
99	Arizona Diamondbacks
100	Boston Red Sox
101	Washington Nationals
102	Houston Astros
103	Cleveland Indians
104	Los Angeles Dodgers

Fourth Round	
105	Detroit Tigers
106	San Francisco Giants
107	Philadelphia Phillies
108	Chicago White Sox
109	Cincinnati Reds
110	New York Mets
111	San Diego Padres
112	Atlanta Braves
113	Oakland Athletics
114	Pittsburgh Pirates
115	Baltimore Orioles
116	Toronto Blue Jays
117	Miami Marlins
118	Seattle Mariners
119	Texas Rangers
120	Tampa Bay Rays
121	Los Angeles Angels
122	Kansas City Royals
123	St. Louis Cardinals
124	Minnesota Twins
125	Milwaukee Brewers
126	Colorado Rockies
127	New York Yankees
128	Chicago Cubs
129	Arizona Diamondbacks
130	Boston Red Sox
131	Washington Nationals
132	Houston Astros
133	Cleveland Indians
134	Los Angeles Dodgers

GETTING DRAFTY

Among the 877 players who were on 2018 Opening Day 25-man rosters, disabled lists and restricted lists, a total of 648 players were selected in the MLB Draft.

The earlier selections do in fact show the highest returns of Major League players, as the 134 players chosen in the top 30 amounted to 20.7 percent of the 648 Opening Day players who went through the Draft en route to the Major Leagues. Picks 31-60 generated 12.3 percent of the players, and picks 61-90 turned out 9.4 percent.

After the first 10 rounds, the 16th round produced the most Major League players with 13. The 16th round produced Clayton Blackburn (TEX), Scooter Gennett (CIN), David Hernandez (CIN), Tyler Kinley (MIN), Dominic Leone (STL), Raffy Lopez (SD), Ryan Merritt (CLE), Bryan Mitchell (SD), Blake Parker (LAA), Tommy Pham (STL), Dalton Pompey (TOR), James Shields (CWS) and Chris Young (LAA).



Arizona's Jarrod Dyson and Pittsburgh's Nik Turley, who were each chosen in the 50th round of the 2006 and 2008 Drafts by the Kansas City Royals and New York Yankees, respectively, are the latest Draft picks in the Major Leagues on Opening Day rosters.

Following is a round-by-round breakdown of where Major League players on 2018 Opening Day rosters were selected in the Draft:

Round/Pick	Total	% Of Active Players Who Were Drafted
Picks 1-30	134	20.7
Picks 31-60	80	12.3
Picks 61-90	61	9.4
Picks 91-120	42	6.5
Picks 121-150*	56	8.6
6 th	29	4.5
7 th	21	3.2
8 th	21	3.2
9 th	27	4.2
10 th	17	2.6
11 th	12	1.9
12 th	10	1.5
13 th	12	1.9
14 th	8	1.2
15 th	6	0.9
16 th	13	2.0
17 th	9	1.4
18 th	8	1.2
19 th	8	1.2
20 th	7	1.1
21 st	6	0.9
22 nd	6	0.9

Round/Pick	Total	% Of Active Players Who Were Drafted
23 rd	7	1.1
24 th	2	0.3
25 th	6	0.9
26 th	3	0.5
27 th	2	0.3
28 th	3	0.5
29 th	1	0.2
30 th	3	0.5
31 st	3	0.5
32 nd	5	0.8
33 rd	4	0.6
34 th	1	0.2
35 th	1	0.2
36 th	2	0.3
38 th	1	0.2
40 th	1	0.2
41 st	1	0.2
42 nd	3	0.5
43 rd	1	0.2
45 th	2	0.3
48 th	1	0.2
50 th	2	0.3

*Includes 24 players selected in the 4th or 5th round, after pick #150.

NEWCOMB SHINES

In an away tilt on Sunday against the Miami Marlins, Atlanta Braves starting pitcher Sean Newcomb logged 6.0 innings of shutout ball with six strikeouts, permitting just one hit and four walks. With the scoreless outing, the 24-year-old extended his career-best scoreless streak to 20.0 innings, the longest active streak in the Majors.

In addition, Newcomb, who was acquired from the Los Angeles Angels in the trade for Andrelton Simmons, has not allowed more than two hits in each of his last three starts. On May 2nd against the New York Mets, Sean logged 7.0 shutout innings with eight strikeouts and two hits allowed. On May 8th, the 15th overall selection in the 2014 MLB Draft recorded 6.0 scoreless innings and permitted just a pair of hits to go along with six punchouts.



Since 1908, Newcomb is the 10th starting pitcher to not allow more than two hits over at least 6.0 innings in three consecutive outings during the same season. Additionally, Sean is joined by Michael Fulmer and Gio Gonzalez as the only hurlers to not allow a run during their hot stretch. The table below illustrates each starter's dominant three-start stretch.

Pitcher, Club	Dates	W-L	IP	H	R
Sean Newcomb, ATL	May 2-13, 2018	3-0	19.0	5	0
Max Scherzer, WSH	June 21 - July 2, 2017	2-1	21.0	6	3
Ervin Santana, MIN	April 3-15, 2017	3-0	22.0	5	1
Michael Fulmer, DET	June 1-12, 2016	3-0	19.2	6	0
Gio Gonzalez, WSH	April 12-24, 2012	2-0	20.0	6	0
Damian Moss, ATL	July 24 - August 4, 2002	2-0	22.0	4	2
Randy Johnson, SEA	June 2-13, 1997	3-0	25.0	5	1
Al Leiter, FLA	July 17-28, 1996	2-1	18.2	5	7
Nolan Ryan, HOU	June 10 - August 19, 1981	2-0	19.2	6	2
Rube Marquard, NYG	August 24 - September 1, 1911	3-0	27.0	4	1



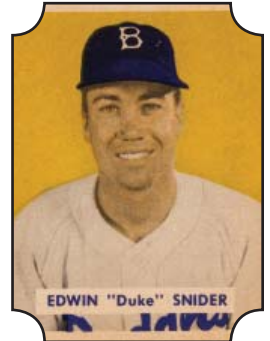
INTERLEAGUE TRACKER

League	2018 Record	Batting Average	ERA
American League	20-37	.251 (499-for-1,987)	4.50
National League	37-20	.253 (498-for-1,966)	3.88

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

Last time around we let the writers have a time at bat; this week it's the players' turn. For those who might object, a Yogi Berra did, that it's tough to hit and think at the same; these players were certainly articulate when reflecting about their experiences.

DUKE SNIDER (right): "The night after I was voted into the Hall of Fame in January 1980, I went out to dinner with some friends to the River Cafe in Brooklyn. We were dining quietly in a corner when some people recognized me, and pretty soon the whole place was applauding, and someone had a bottle of champagne sent to our table and toasted us. Then a young man about thirty came over to the table and said he'd been carrying around my baseball card from the Brooklyn Dodgers ever since he was eight years old, and he asked me to sign it. Take it from me, it does feel good to be remembered."



TOMMY LEACH: "Today they seem to think that the most exciting play in baseball is the home run. But in my book the most exciting play in baseball is a three-bagger, or an inside-the-park home run. You used to see a fair number of them in the old days, but now they're the rarest plays in baseball. For sheer excitement, I don't think anything can beat when you see that guy go tearing around the bases and come sliding into third or into the plate, with the ball coming in on a line from the outfield at the same time. Now that's something to write home about."

WAITE HOYT: "Don't tell me about Ruth; I've seen what he did to people. I've seen them, fans, driving miles in open wagons through the prairies of Oklahoma to see him in exhibition games as we headed north in the spring. I've seen them: kids, men, women, worshippers all, hoping to get his name on a torn, dirty piece of paper, or hoping for a grunt of recognition when they said, 'Hi ya, Babe.' He never let them down; not once. He was the greatest crowd pleaser of them all."

RUBE FOSTER (right): "The real test comes when you are pitching with men on bases. Do not worry. Try to appear jolly and unconcerned. I have smiled often with the bases full with two strikes and three balls on the batter. This seems to unnerve. In other instances, where the batter appears anxious to hit, waste a little time on him and when you think he realizes his position and everybody yelling at him to hit it out, waste a few balls and try his nerve; the majority of times you will win out by drawing him into hitting at a wide one."



TED WILLIAMS: "I remember the first time I saw Carl Yastrzemski, a youngster in the Red Sox batting cage a few years ago, and how much he reminded me of myself at that age—I mean he positively quivered waiting for the next pitch. And I have to think there was nobody who had any more opportunity than I did, along with the God-given physical attributes and the intense desire. Almost always the first at the ballpark, almost always the last to leave. I'm talking about from a kid on. I have to laugh now at my last five or six years in Boston, how I just wanted to get in and get out, to beat the crowds, to get it over with."

STAN MUSIAL: "The 1962 All-Star Game at Washington's beautiful new stadium drew a capacity crowd including President John F. Kennedy, for whom I had campaigned.... We had met only once before, a couple of years earlier. I had been standing in front of the Schroeder Hotel in Milwaukee, waiting for the team bus.... A man came up to me and said: 'You're Stan Musial, aren't you? My name is Jack Kennedy, I'm glad to meet you.'

"Of course, I recognized the senator ... then campaigning in the Wisconsin primary....

"'They tell me,' he said, 'you're too old to play ball and I'm too young to be president, but maybe we'll fool them.'"

MLB ON-AIR THIS WEEK

(All Times ET)

Thursday, May 17th:	Oakland Athletics at Toronto Blue Jays	7:07 p.m.
	Baltimore Orioles at Boston Red Sox	7:10 p.m.
	Chicago Cubs at Atlanta Braves	7:35 p.m.
Friday, May 18th:	Los Angeles Dodgers at Washington Nationals	7:05 p.m.
	Arizona D-backs at New York Mets	7:10 p.m.
Saturday, May 19th:	Colorado Rockies at San Francisco Giants	4:05 p.m.
	Cleveland Indians at Houston Astros	4:10 p.m.
	Baltimore Orioles at Boston Red Sox	7:10 p.m.
	New York Yankees at Kansas City Royals	7:15 p.m.
	Los Angeles Dodgers at Washington Nationals	1:35 p.m.
Sunday, May 20th:	New York Yankees at Kansas City Royals	2:15 p.m.
	New York Yankees at Texas Rangers	8:05 p.m.
Monday, May 21st:	Kansas City Royals at St. Louis Cardinals	8:15 p.m.
	Arizona D-backs at Milwaukee Brewers	1:10 p.m.
Wednesday, May 23rd:	Kansas City Royals at St. Louis Cardinals	1:15 p.m.
	New York Yankees at Texas Rangers	7:05 p.m.
	Cleveland Indians at Chicago Cubs	8:05 p.m.



Saturday, May 19th: Oakland Athletics at Toronto Blue Jays (FS1) 1:07 p.m.



Wednesday, May 23rd: San Francisco Giants at Houston Astros 2:10 p.m.

Sunday, May 20th:	Cleveland Indians at Houston Astros	8:08 p.m.
Tuesday, May 22nd:	Cleveland Indians at Chicago Cubs	7:05 p.m.
	Colorado Rockies at Los Angeles Dodgers	10:10 p.m.



UPON FURTHER REVIEW

Through 631 games played this season (through Wednesday), Major League Baseball has had 388 replay reviews, which have taken an average of one minute and twenty-two seconds.

- *388 Replay Reviews
- *76 Confirmed (19.6%)
- *122 Stands (31.4%)
- *187 Overturned (48.2%)
- *3 Rules Check (0.8%)
- *1:22 Average Time



LINE DRIVES (Compiled from Club Game Notes)

THIS IS 40: Boston Red Sox outfielder J.D. Martinez has totaled 54 hits and 11 home runs thus far. Martinez became the seventh Red Sox player to record at least 10 homers and 50 hits in the Club's first 40 games, joining Manny Ramirez (2001), Mo Vaughn (1994, '96, '98), Dwight Evans (1981), and Hall of Famers Jim Rice (1978), Ted Williams (1948, '57) and Jimmie Foxx (1938, '40).

WINNER WINNER: On Saturday night, right-handed pitcher Charlie Morton of the Astros extended his career-long winning streak to eight games, which spans his last 11 regular season starts dating back to September 15, 2017. During this eight-game run, Morton has posted a 2.01 ERA (15 ER/67 IP).

MAD MAX DELIVERS: On Friday night, Washington's Max Scherzer tossed seven innings with 11 strikeouts, while giving up four hits and one earned run. The outing marked his 70th career game with at least 10 strikeouts and the sixth of the season. The 70 games with at least 10 punchouts match Hall of Famer Tom Seaver for 10th most of all-time.

GO JOE: Rockies shortstop Trevor Story accounted for all four runs batted in on Saturday, his second consecutive four-RBI game. Story became the first Rockies player with back-to-back four-RBI games since Nolan Arenado on September 26-27, 2015.

FOUR SCORE: New York Yankees outfielder Aaron Judge (11 HR), shortstop Didi Gregorius (10 HR), catcher Gary Sánchez (10 HR) and outfielder Giancarlo Stanton (10 HR) are the first quartet of teammates in Yankees history to hit at least 10 home runs in the team's first 40 games of a season. Prior to 2018, no more than two Yankees had even done it in the same year.

SANTANA SO SMOOTH: Edgar Santana of the Pittsburgh Pirates picked up his first Major League win on Wednesday after tossing 1.1 scoreless innings in Pittsburgh's 3-2 victory over the White Sox. He has made eight straight scoreless appearances (8.0 IP) and has been scored upon four times overall in his 18 outings. Santana has limited left-handed batters to a .135 batting average (5-for-37) this season and has held them to just three hits in 28 at bats (.107) over his last 11 games.

THUNDER & LIGHTNING: Outfielder Harrison Bader had an RBI-triple and solo home run in Sunday's loss to the Padres, becoming the first Cardinal to collect a triple and homer in the same game since Stephen Piscotty on September 1, 2017 at San Francisco. Hall of Famer Stan Musial is the Cardinal with the most such games, doing so 17 times in his career.

MANN OF THE HOUR: Left-handed pitcher Brandon Mann of the Texas Rangers made his Major League debut on Sunday at Houston in his first day in the big leagues. Mann, a native of Des Moines, WA, became the second-oldest Ranger at the time of his MLB debut (33.362) to only Yoshinori Tateyama (35.149 on May 24, 2011 vs. White Sox). No U.S.-born player had been as old as Mann for his Major League debut since Houston's Alan Zinter on June 18, 2002 at Milwaukee (34.030).

THE MAILE MAN DELIVERS AGAIN: Blue Jays catcher Luke Maile won Friday night's game with a two-run blast in the 12th inning. The homer was his first career extra-inning home run and his first career walk-off homer. It was his second walk-off hit, also singling in a run in the 10th frame in Game two of a doubleheader vs. Kansas City on April 17th. Maile also tied the game with a solo homer in the seventh inning for his first career multi-homer game.

CATCH AS CATCH CAN: On Friday, Cubs backstop Willson Contreras set a career mark with seven RBI, going 4-for-5 with two homers (including a first-inning grand slam), two doubles and two runs scored in an 11-2 win over the White Sox. He's just the fifth Cubs catcher since the RBI became an official stat in 1920 with at least seven RBI in a game, joining Ed Bailey (1965), George Mitterwald (1974), Barry Foote (1980) and Geovany Soto (2008).

LATE COMEBACK: Prior to Friday night, the last time the Mets won a game they were trailing in the ninth inning or later was August 22, 2016 vs. Philadelphia. New York trailed 6-4 in the ninth, before winning 9-8 in 11 innings in that game. Friday night was also the seventh time the Mets won in their final at-bat, tied for the third-most in the Majors.

THEY SEE ME ROLLIN': On Sunday afternoon, starting pitcher Clayton Richard logged a career-high-tying 10 strikeouts (June 30, 2010 vs. Colorado), earning his 53rd win as a Padre and tying Dave Dravecky for the third-most wins by a Padre southpaw. Richard pitched eight innings in back-to-back starts for the second time in his career (August 19-25, 2012). The last Padre starter to do so was Andrew Cashner (September 15-20, 2014).

BELT'S SPLASH HOMER: Giants infielder Brandon Belt hit his eighth home run of the season on Tuesday night, tied with Evan Longoria for the team lead. Belt's homer was also his eighth career "Splash Hit" home run, tied with Pablo Sandoval for the second-most all-time in the 19-year history of AT&T Park, trailing only Barry Bonds (35).

NO RUNS FOR YOU: Over his last four appearances (3 GS), Wade LeBlanc of the Mariners has allowed only one run over 17.0 innings. He has limited opponents to a .197 (12-for-61) batting average, while walking one and striking out 12. During this stretch, dating back to April 27th, LeBlanc's 0.53 ERA is the second-lowest in the Majors, trailing only Atlanta's Sean Newcomb (0.00 ERA).

SHO-K: With 11 strikeouts on Sunday, the Angels' Shohei Ohtani (43 strikeouts on season) passed Bo Belinsky (38 strikeouts in 1962) for the most strikeouts by an Angel through their first six career games. Ohtani is just the fourth Angel with multiple games with at least 10 strikeouts as a rookie, joining Frank Tanana (1974), Belinsky (1962) and Ken McBride (1961). He became the first AL player ever to have at least 10 punchouts in two of his first six career games.

MORE ABOUT MANNY: Shortstop Manny Machado of the Orioles went 2-for-4 with two home runs (one grand slam) and six RBI on Friday night. It marked his first grand slam of the season and the eighth of his career. Machado's eight grand slams ties him with Chris Davis for the most in the Majors since his debut in 2012. On Friday, he hit the 149th and 150th home runs of his career, becoming the youngest Oriole to collect 150 career home runs (25 years, 309 days old). Prior to Machado, Hall of Famer Eddie Murray was the youngest Oriole to reach 150 home runs at 26 years, 165 days.

THEY CALL ME THE FIERMAN: Mike Fiers earned his fourth win of the season on Monday night, allowing just one run on three hits with one walk and five strikeouts in six innings. With the win, Fiers became the first Tigers starting pitcher to win back-to-back starts this season. Over his last two starts, Fiers has a 2.38 ERA (11.1 IP/3 ER) with 10 strikeouts.

WHAT A COMEBACK: With his scoreless outing in Tuesday night's game, Jonny Venters of the Tampa Bay Rays recorded his first win since August 17, 2012 vs. LA Dodgers (with Atlanta), going 2,096 days in between. Between victories, 1,058 other pitchers earned a win in the Majors, with Max Scherzer leading the way over that span with 100 wins.

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)
April 29 th	Didi Gregorius, NYY (.357/.419/.821, 7 R, 4 HR, 10 RBI)	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)
May 13 th	James Paxton, SEA (1-0, No-Hitter, 11 SO, 3 BB, 15.0 IP) Francisco Lindor, CLE (.600/.652/1.400, 8 R, 4 2B, 4 HR)	Scooter Gennett, CIN (.591, 7 R, 2 2B, 4 HR, 10 RBI, 27 TB)

BUDWEISER PRESENTS THE AL & NL PLAYERS OF THE MONTH

MONTH	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

MONTH	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

MONTH	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)