



MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL WEEKLY NOTES

THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2018

KLUBOT IN THE ZONE

On Sunday against the Detroit Tigers at Comerica Park, Cleveland Indians starting pitcher Corey Kluber became the first American League pitcher, and second in the Majors (also Washington's Max Scherzer), to reach 10 wins after tossing 8.0 innings of two-run ball. Kluber registered eight punchouts without issuing a walk during his dominant outing. Since the calendar flipped to May, the two-time AL Cy Young Award winner has notched 56 strikeouts and just a single walk across eight starts and 54.1 innings pitched. According to the Elias Sports Bureau, the two-time All-Star logged the most strikeouts while issuing one walk-or-fewer over an eight-game span since 1893.



In addition, since his last walked batter on May 8th, Kluber has faced 168 batters without permitting a free pass, marking the third-longest streak of its kind over the last five seasons. With his streak still active heading into his next expected start tomorrow, only Bartolo Colon (204) and Phil Hughes (178) have faced more batters without issuing a walk over the past five years.

Moreover, across Kluber's five starts from May 19th-June 10th in which he did not permit a walk, the control-specialist logged at least seven strikeouts in each outing. Since 1908, the Stetson University product became just the third Major League hurler to post a streak of four such games, and the first since San Francisco's Jeff Samardzija last season. With a chance to become the first pitcher in history to post a streak of six such games, Kluber enters play today joined by Arizona's Curt Schilling (2002) as the only hurlers with a streak five such starts. Below is a table detailing each of the three pitchers' impressive runs.

Pitcher, Club	Streak Dates	G	W-L	IP	SO	BB	ERA
Corey Kluber, CLE	May 19 - June 10, 2018	5	4-0	34.1	42	0	1.31
Curt Schilling, ARI	May 13 - June 3, 2002	5	4-0	37.0	47	0	2.19
Jeff Samardzija, SF	May 3 - May 20, 2017	4	1-1	29.2	36	0	2.73

COMING UP CLUTCH

The Milwaukee Brewers have 274 RBI as a team to this point during the 2018 season, and a league-best 46.0 percent of the club's RBI (126) have come with two outs. In 2017, the Brewers were tied for 19th in the Majors with 34.8% of their RBI coming with two outs. The Oakland Athletics rank second this season with 44.4 percent of their RBI coming with two outs, an increase of 13.6 percent compared to 2017 (30.8%), marking the largest percentage increase among teams this season.

The Atlanta Braves, who rank fourth in the Majors with 317 RBI on the season, pace Baseball with 137 two-out RBI (43.2%). In 2017, the Braves were tied for 12th in the Majors with 268 two-out RBI on the season, accounting for 38.0% of the team's RBI (706).

The Houston Astros, who rank 27th in the Majors with 32.4 percent of their RBI coming with two outs, were tied for first last season at 40.0%. Their 7.6 percent decrease is the largest of any team from last season to this season.

The league-wide average of RBI coming with two outs this season is 37.4% (3,082 of 8,393), up from 36.3% (7,821 of 21,558) in 2017.

Rockies shortstop Trevor Story leads the Majors with 30 two-out RBI, followed by Pittsburgh's Francisco Cervelli (25); Atlanta's Ozzie Albies (23); Minnesota's Eduardo Escobar (23); Oakland's Khris Davis (22); Milwaukee's Ryan Braun (21); Baltimore's Manny Machado (21); Atlanta's Nick Markakis (20); Jurickson Profar of the Rangers (20); and Milwaukee's Travis Shaw (20).

CLUB	TOTAL RBI	TWO-OUT RBI	2018 PERCENTAGE	2017 PERCENTAGE
Milwaukee	274	126	46.0%	34.8%
Oakland	286	127	44.4%	30.8%
Atlanta	317	137	43.2%	38.0%
San Diego	254	106	41.7%	31.9%
Minnesota	260	104	40.0%	36.9%
Colorado	287	113	39.4%	39.3%
Kansas City	237	92	38.8%	34.8%
Chicago (AL)	247	95	38.5%	37.9%
Toronto	288	111	38.5%	37.5%
Washington	267	102	38.2%	34.4%
Los Angeles (AL)	299	113	37.8%	37.9%
Miami	222	84	37.8%	34.1%
Chicago (NL)	303	114	37.6%	39.0%
Tampa Bay	254	95	37.4%	37.6%
Texas	276	103	37.3%	36.0%
Cincinnati	278	103	37.1%	37.6%
New York (NL)	235	86	36.6%	40.0%
Baltimore	229	81	35.4%	38.7%
Philadelphia	261	92	35.2%	37.5%
Arizona	280	97	34.6%	32.9%
Boston	335	114	34.0%	35.8%
Cleveland	308	104	33.8%	34.7%
Detroit	276	93	33.7%	35.6%
Seattle	293	98	33.4%	33.5%
Pittsburgh	304	101	33.2%	39.1%
New York (AL)	336	111	33.0%	32.6%
Houston	339	110	32.4%	40.0%
St. Louis	269	87	32.3%	34.9%
Los Angeles (NL)	306	98	32.0%	39.6%
San Francisco	273	85	31.1%	34.2%

GOLDY RETURNS TO FORM

All-Star first baseman Paul Goldschmidt of the Arizona Diamondbacks enters play today in the midst of a nine-game hitting streak dating back to June 4th. Goldschmidt, who earned W.B. Mason Player of the Week honors for the period ending June 10th, is slashing .541/.614/1.081 with 12 runs scored, 20 hits, six doubles, a triple, four home runs and 11 RBI during his torrid stretch.

Over a three-game period from June 6th-9th, the Texas State University product became the second player in franchise history to log at least three hits and two RBI in each contest, joining Steve Finley (June 1-4, 1999). In addition, "Goldy" became the fifth player since 1908, and first since Frank Howard in 1968, to record at least two extra-base hits and two RBI in four consecutive games (June 6th-10th). The table below depicts each player's cumulative stats during their impressive stretches at the plate.

Player, Club	Streak Dates	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI
<i>Paul Goldschmidt, ARI</i>	<i>June 6-10, 2018</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>11</i>
Frank Howard, WSH	May 12-16, 1968	7	9	1	0	7	11
Frank Robinson, BAL	September 19-22, 1966	8	9	4	0	4	13
Vic Wertz, DET	July 28 - August 1, 1950	9	11	4	0	6	10
Chet Laabs, SLB	July 15-17, 1942	6	10	1	2	5	15

TIGHT DIVISION RACES

Entering play on Wednesday, 13 Clubs across the Majors were either leading their respective divisions, or trailing the Club in first by 3.0-or-fewer games. Through the comparable date in the season, that total is tied for the most since 2006 (also 2010), and is tied for the third-most in the Wild Card Era (since 1995). Only the 2006 (15) and 2004 (14) campaigns have had more Clubs within 3.0 games in the division race at this point in the season.

Here is a division-by-division breakdown of the 2018 standings heading into Wednesday:

- AL East: New York Yankees (43-19), Boston Red Sox (46-22, 0.0 GB)
- AL Central: Cleveland Indians (35-30)
- AL West: Seattle Mariners (43-24), Houston Astros (43-25, 0.5 GB)
- NL East: Atlanta Braves (38-28), Washington Nationals (36-28, 1.0 GB), Philadelphia Phillies (34-30, 3.0 GB)
- NL Central: Milwaukee Brewers (40-27), Chicago Cubs (38-26, 0.5 GB), St. Louis Cardinals (36-29, 3.0 GB)
- NL West: Arizona Diamondbacks (37-29), Los Angeles Dodgers (34-32, 3.0 GB)

Below is a look at how many different teams were within 3.0 games of the division lead at this point in the season since 1995.

Year	No. of Clubs	Year	No. of Clubs	Year	No. of Clubs
2018	13	2010	13	2002	11
2017	12	2009	12	2001	9
2016	10	2008	9	2000	12
2015	12	2007	12	1999	8
2014	10	2006	15	1998	8
2013	11	2005	11	1997	10
2012	10	2004	14	1996	12
2011	12	2003	13	1995	10

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

Players answer to managers. Managers answer to general managers. General managers answer to owners. And owners answer to fans, who may extend or withhold their approval with financial consequence. Today let's focus on what managers have had to say, or have had said about them.

LEO DUROCHER, responding to Red Barber asking, "Why don't you be a nice guy for a change?": "A nice guy! A nice guy! I been around baseball for a long time and I've known a lot of nice guys." Gesturing toward the Giant dugout, "Nice guys! Look over there. Do you know a nicer guy than Mel Ott? Or any of the other Giants? Why, they're the nicest guys in the world! And where are they? In last place! Nice guys! I'm not a nice guy—and I'm in first place. Take it from me, nice guys finish last."

LEO DUROCHER: "You don't save a pitcher for tomorrow. It might rain tomorrow."

LEO DUROCHER: "If somebody came up and hit .450, stole 100 bases and performed a miracle in the field every day I'd still look you in the eye and say Willie was better. He could do the five things you have to do to be a superstar: hit, hit with power, run, throw, and field. And he had that other magic ingredient that turns a superstar into a super superstar. He lit up the room when he came in. He was a joy to be around."



BRANCH RICKEY: "Leo Durocher is a man with an infinite capacity for immediately making a bad thing worse."

EDDIE MATHEWS: "I was Aaron's manager the year he broke Ruth's lifetime home-run record, and it did have aspects of a nightmare.... Would you believe two or three hundred writers were traveling with us? And everyone wanted an exclusive interview. We had to change Hank's name, hide him in the hotels, hire special limousines to chauffeur him in and out and around.... There'd be two hundred writers in the clubhouse after a game. You couldn't even move. TV cameras pushing people aside to get in and get their closeups. Oh, it was a mess. It started in spring training and ended the day after he hit number 715. They all left."

GRANTLAND RICE: "McGraw's (right) very walk across the field in a hostile town was a challenge to the multitude."

CHRISTY MATHEWSON: "I have seen McGraw go on to ball fields where he is as welcome as a man with the black smallpox.... I have seen him take all sorts of personal chances. He doesn't know what fear is."

CONNIE MACK: "If Judy Johnson were white, he could name his price."

CONNIE MACK: "I have never known a day when I didn't learn something new about this game."



GEORGE STALLINGS, on his deathbed, when the manager was asked why his health broke: "Oh, those bases on balls!"

WARREN SPAHN, who played for Casey Stengel in 1940s when he managed the Braves and in his last year as manager of the Mets: "I'm probably the only guy who worked for Stengel before and after he was a genius."

EARL WEAVER: "Bad ballplayers make good managers."

EARL WEAVER: "You can't sit on a lead and run a few plays into the line and just kill the clock. You've got to throw the ball over the goddamn plate and give the other man his chance. That's why baseball is the greatest game of them all."

TOM LASORDA: "Cut me and I'll bleed Dodger blue."

WES WESTRUM: "Baseball is like church. Many attend, but few understand."

JOE McCARTHY: "Don't alibi on the bad hops. Anybody can stop the good ones."

PETE ROSE: "The manager of a team is like a stagecoach. He can't move unless he has the horses."

MLB ON-AIR THIS WEEK

(All Times ET)

Thursday, June 14th:	Cleveland Indians at Chicago White Sox	2:10 p.m.
	Houston Astros at Oakland Athletics	3:35 p.m.
	Boston Red Sox at Seattle Mariners	10:10 p.m.
Friday, June 15th:	Chicago Cubs at St. Louis Cardinals	8:15 p.m.
Saturday, June 16th:	Tampa Bay Rays at New York Yankees	1:05 p.m.
	Minnesota Twins at Cleveland Indians	4:10 p.m.
	Philadelphia Phillies at Milwaukee Brewers	4:10 p.m.
Monday, June 18th:	New York Yankees at Washington Nationals	5:05 p.m.
Tuesday, June 19th:	Baltimore Orioles at Washington Nationals	7:05 p.m.
Wednesday, June 20th:	Los Angeles Dodgers at Chicago Cubs	2:20 p.m.
	Seattle Mariners at New York Yankees	7:05 p.m.



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Saturday, June 16th:	Chicago Cubs at St. Louis Cardinals	8:15 p.m.
	Boston Red Sox at Seattle Mariners	8:15 p.m.
	San Francisco Giants at Los Angeles Dodgers	8:15 p.m.



Wednesday, June 20th:	Atlanta Braves at Toronto Blue Jays	12:37 p.m.
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Sunday, June 17th:	Chicago Cubs at St. Louis Cardinals	8:05 p.m.
Monday, June 18th:	Arizona D-backs at Los Angeles Angels	10:07 p.m.
Tuesday, June 19th:	Arizona D-backs at Los Angeles Angels	10:07 p.m.



UPON FURTHER REVIEW

Through 1,007 games played this season (through Wednesday), Major League Baseball has had 583 replay reviews, which have taken an average of one minute and twenty-three seconds.

- *583 Replay Reviews
- *118 Confirmed (20.2%)
- *185 Stands (31.7%)
- *274 Overturned (47.0%)
- *5 Rules Check (0.9%)
- *1 Record Keeping (0.2%)
- *1:23 Average Time



LINE DRIVES *(Compiled from Club Game Notes)*

LEADING ROLE: Houston outfielder George Springer leads the Major Leagues with five leadoff homers this season. Springer has 23 career leadoff home runs, which ranks second in Club history behind Hall of Famer Craig Biggio (53), and tied for 15th in American League history, along with Alfonso Soriano, Shannon Stewart and Lou Whitaker.

STRAIGHT A'S FOR EHIRE: Twins shortstop Ehire Adrianza leads the team in games started at the position with a total of 40 on the season. He has started eight of the last nine Twins games at shortstop. In his last 13 games overall, Adrianza is hitting .333 (13-for-39) with five doubles, one triple, three home runs, nine RBI, four walks, a .395 on-base percentage and a 1.139 OPS.

GRAND SLAM: Atlanta's Ozzie Albies hit a 1-1, sixth-inning pitch out to right on Tuesday night for his second career grand slam (also, May 10th at Miami). Albies became the first Braves player with multiple grand slams in a season since 2012, when Brian McCann also had two.

STORYBOOK SEASON: Rockies shortstop Trevor Story is tied for first in the National League RBI race with 49, and is tied for fourth in the National League home run count with 14. He is batting .333 (34-for-102) since May 15th, hitting safely in 20-of-25 games. Story has hit in nine-of-11 games in June, batting .400 this month (18-for-45).

CAFECITO CALIENTE: Since 1964, first baseman José Martínez is only the seventh Cardinal to tally 10-or-more three-hit games in St. Louis' first 64 games to begin a season, joining Rafael Furcal (11, 2012), Vince Coleman (10, 1988), Tony Scott (12, 1979), Gary Templeton (10, 1979 & 1977), Curt Flood (10, 1966). Taylor Douthit has the franchise record with 16 in 1928.

MCCUTCHEEN HEATING UP: Giants outfielder Andrew McCutchen went 2-for-5 last night with a double, one home run and two RBI. McCutchen has 10 multi-hit efforts in his last 17 games, batting .338 (23-for-68). His .327 average this month is the sixth-highest in the NL, while four of his seven homers have come this month.

HOUSE OF HORRORS: The Rays are 8-25 (.242) at Yankee Stadium dating back to September 10, 2014, having been outscored 168-124 over that span. The Rays have lost 11 consecutive series there, the longest streak ever by any team in the current building. The Rays will enter tomorrow's game having lost 10 straight series openers at Yankee Stadium.

MILESTONE MAN: In Tuesday's win against Washington, Yankees left-handed starting pitcher CC Sabathia collected his 1,500th strikeout as a Yankee in the fourth inning. Sabathia became the fifth player in franchise history to reach the mark.

IAN KENNEDY: The Kansas City pitcher dealt 8.0 shutout innings on Tuesday for the first time since April 16, 2017 against the Angels (40 starts in between). However, he remains winless in his last 12 starts since his win on April 7th at Cleveland, one shy of the longest active streak in the Majors (min. 1 start in 2018), trailing Chris Bassitt and Joe Biagini.

SOMETHING IS BREWING: The Cubs' Tuesday loss snapped a seven-game winning streak against the Brewers. Dating back to their final meeting of 2017, Chicago is 9-2 in its last 11 games against Milwaukee (outscored the Brewers 41-15).

ALL-STAR SIMMONS?: Andrelton Simmons, who is currently on the 10-day DL, logged at least one hit in 11 of his previous 12 games, and 31 of his last 36 games, hitting .350 (48-for-137) with 13 extra-base hits and 25 RBI in the span. The Angels shortstop has struck out just twice since May 1st (139 PA). Simmons has reached base safely in 39 of his last 41 games.

OUR OWN MARTE-PARTAY: Thirteen of Diamondbacks middle infielder Ketel Marte's last 17 hits have gone for extra bases, including four triples, three home runs and six doubles.

#KEEPINITREALMUTO: Since coming back from the 10-day disabled list on April 17th, Marlins catcher J.T. Realmuto leads all Major League catchers in hits (56), runs scored (30), doubles (13), and slugging percentage (.522), and is tied for the lead in triples (3). Among National League backstops, he leads the group in at-bats (184) and batting average (.304), ranks second in on-base percentage (.369), and third in RBI (22).

COLD HARD FACTS: Since the start of the 2008 season, the Phillies are 43-25 (.632) in 68 games against the Rockies, which is their second-best win percentage against a club they have played 15-or-more times in that span (best: San Diego, 44-23, .657 win %).

BETTER THAN GOB'S ILLUSIONS: Padres pitcher Eric Lauer's six pickoffs pace the Majors. He and fellow rookie lefty Joey Lucchesi (three) have combined for nine pickoffs this season. That represents the most pickoffs by a Padres duo in franchise history.

EASY IN THE EAST: Blue Jays outfielder and designated hitter Curtis Granderson went 1-for-2 on Tuesday before being lifted for a pinch-hitter. He now has a .302 (19-for-63) batting average against AL East teams this season. Granderson has a .977 OPS in such games, good for 10th in MLB (min. 50AB).

TRIPLE THE FUN: The White Sox are tied for the American League lead and tied for third in the Majors this season with 20 triples. The Sox also led the AL with 37 triples last season, their highest total since 1999, which was also 37.

DANNY BOY: Third baseman Danny Valencia of the Baltimore Orioles extended his hitting streak to a season-high-matching six games with his single in the fourth inning last night. Valencia is hitting .348 (8-for-23) with one double, a home run, two runs scored, two RBI, and five walks during the stretch. He has hit safely in 16 of his last 19 games (since May 13th).

HOMERS: The Mets have 18 homers in its last 18 games, but, 14 have been solo blasts. The Mets have 27 two-strike homers this year, tied for the second-most in the National League.



INTERLEAGUE TRACKER

<u>League</u>	<u>2018 Record</u>	<u>Batting Average</u>	<u>ERA</u>
American League	42-55	.238 (775-for-3,253)	3.96
National League	55-42	.244 (805-for-3,295)	3.57

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)
May 20 th	J.D. Martinez, BOS (.346, 7 R, 2 2B, 5 HR, 8 RBI, 26 TB)	Brandon Belt, SF (.444/.500/1.074, 12 H, 5 HR, 11 RBI, 29 TB)
May 27 th	Gleyber Torres, NYY (.368, 5 R, 5 HR, 9 RBI, 1.158 SLG)	Scooter Gennett, CIN (.500, 6 R, 2 2B, 3 HR, 10 RBI, 23 TB)
June 3 rd	Edwin Encarnacion, CLE (.407, 9 R, 5 HR, 13 RBI, 28 TB)	Matt Kemp, LAD (.429, 6 R, 3 HR, 8 RBI, .952 SLG)
June 10 th	Eduardo Escobar, MIN (.462, 9 XBH, 8 RBI, 26 TB, 1.00 SLG)	Paul Goldschmidt, ARI (.640, 10 R, 11 XBH, 11 RBI, 36 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)
May	Francisco Lindor, CLE (27 R, 44 H, 13 2B, 10 HR, 23 RBI)	Scooter Gennett, CIN (.398, 6 2B, 8 HR, 24 RBI, .720 SLG)

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)
May	Justin Verlander, HOU (3-2, 0.86 ERA, 41.2 IP, 50 SO, 7 BB)	Max Scherzer, WSH (4-0, 2.21 ERA, 40.2 IP, 63 SO, 10 BB)

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)
May	Gleyber Torres, NYY (.317, 13 R, 26 H, 9 HR, 24 RBI)	Austin Meadows, PIT (.409, 9 R, 3 2B, 4 HR, 7 RBI, 3 SB)

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)
May	Blake Treinen, OAK (14 G, 1-0, 10 SV, 0.59 ERA, 19 SO)	Brad Hand, SD (13 G, 11 SV, 0.61 ERA, 22 SO, 6 H)