



# MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL WEEKLY NOTES

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 2018

## NOT SCARED OF THE BRIGHT LIGHTS

In Atlanta's doubleheader against the Miami Marlins on Monday, Braves outfielder Ronald Acuña Jr. became the fourth player in Major League history, and the first National Leaguer, to club leadoff home runs in both games of a doubleheader, joining Hall of Famers Harry Hooper (1913) and Rickey Henderson (1993), as well as Brady Anderson (1999), according to the Elias Sports Bureau. In addition, the rookie phenom led off Tuesday's contest with another round-tripper, and joined Anderson as the only players in MLB history to lead off three consecutive games with a homer.

Acuña became the youngest player in MLB history to homer in five consecutive games, and matched the Braves franchise record with eight other sluggers, including Hall of Famers Chipper Jones (2004), Hank Aaron (1966) and Rogers Hornsby (1928).



Moreover, the Venezuelan native posted an eight-game hitting streak from August 8<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, slashing .471/.514/1.235 with 13 runs scored, 16 hits, two doubles, eight home runs, 15 RBI and two stolen bases to lead Atlanta to a 6-2 record during the torrid stretch. According to Elias, Ronald (20 years, 239 days) became the youngest slugger since at least 1900 to club eight round-trippers in an eight-game span. Los Angeles Dodgers first baseman/outfielder Cody Bellinger was slightly older (21 years, 341 days) when he accomplished the feat during his Rookie of the Year campaign last season from June 11<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>.

Entering play today, Acuña, who signed with Atlanta in July 2014, is batting .288 (76-for-264) with 49 runs scored, 17 doubles, a triple, 19 home runs, 43 RBI and eight stolen bases across 68 games played. With just under two months still remaining in the 2018 season, the dynamic outfielder is the seventh player in Baseball history to bat at least .285 with 17 doubles, 19 homers and eight stolen bases in a season while younger than 21 years old, and the first since seven-time All-Star Mike Trout. Hall of Famers Orlando Cepeda and Frank Robinson, as well as Trout each earned Rookie of the Year honors during their historic campaigns. The table below illustrates the full list and their statistics.

### ***MLB Players to Bat .285 with 17 2B, 19 HR, 8 SB, since 1871***

| Player, Club                 | Year        | BA          | OBP         | SLG         | 2B        | HR        | SB       |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| <b>Ronald Acuña Jr., ATL</b> | <b>2018</b> | <b>.288</b> | <b>.348</b> | <b>.576</b> | <b>17</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>8</b> |
| Mike Trout, LAA              | 2012        | .326        | .399        | .564        | 27        | 30        | 49       |
| Alex Rodriguez, SEA          | 1996        | .358        | .414        | .631        | 54        | 36        | 15       |
| Ken Griffey Jr., SEA         | 1990        | .300        | .366        | .481        | 28        | 22        | 16       |
| Vada Pinson, CIN             | 1959        | .316        | .371        | .509        | 47        | 20        | 21       |
| Orlando Cepeda, SF           | 1958        | .312        | .342        | .512        | 38        | 25        | 15       |
| Frank Robinson, CIN          | 1956        | .290        | .379        | .558        | 27        | 38        | 8        |

## **MOOKIE CHASING HISTORY**

All-Star outfielder Mookie Betts enters play today in the midst of a 10-game hitting streak, dating back to August 5<sup>th</sup>, leading the Red Sox to an 8-2 record over that span. During his torrid stretch, the AL MVP hopeful is slashing .459/.574/.892 with 12 runs scored, six doubles, two triples, two home runs, seven RBI, nine walks and three stolen bases.



On August 9<sup>th</sup>, Betts became the 21<sup>st</sup> player (22<sup>nd</sup> time) in Club history to hit for the cycle, and the first since his teammate Brock Holt on June 16, 2015. The 25-year-old became the third Red Sox player to accomplish the feat out of the leadoff spot, joining Holt and Leon Culberson (July 3, 1943). In his next contest on Friday against the Baltimore Orioles, Mookie collected three runs scored, a pair of doubles and three RBI en route to becoming the first Red Sox hitter to score multiple runs in five consecutive games (August 5<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>) since Kevin Youkilis in 2005.

On the 2018 season, Mookie owns a slash line of .352/.440/.668 with 99 runs scored, 140 hits, 35 doubles, five triples, 27 home runs, 64 RBI and 24 stolen bases. With an OPS of 1.108, the three-time All-Star is on pace to become just the ninth player since at least 1871 to post an OPS of 1.100-or-better with 24 stolen bases in a single season, and the first since Larry Walker during his 1997 MVP campaign. Fourteen-time All-Star Barry Bonds is the only other player to have accomplished the feat over the last 100 years, doing so during his 1993 MVP season.

### ***MLB Players with an OPS of at least 1.100 and 24 SB, since 1871***

| <b>Player Club</b>              | <b>Year</b>        | <b>BA</b>          | <b>OBP</b>         | <b>SLG</b>         | <b>OPS</b>          | <b>XBH</b>       | <b>SB</b>        |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b><i>Mookie Betts, BOS</i></b> | <b><i>2018</i></b> | <b><i>.352</i></b> | <b><i>.440</i></b> | <b><i>.668</i></b> | <b><i>1.108</i></b> | <b><i>67</i></b> | <b><i>24</i></b> |
| Larry Walker, COL               | 1997               | .366               | .452               | .720               | 1.172               | 99               | 33               |
| Barry Bonds, SF                 | 1993               | .336               | .458               | .677               | 1.136               | 88               | 29               |
| Nap Lajoie, PHA                 | 1901               | .426               | .463               | .643               | 1.106               | 76               | 27               |
| Ed Delahanty, PHI               | 1896               | .397               | .472               | .631               | 1.103               | 74               | 37               |
| Ed Delahanty, PHI               | 1895               | .404               | .500               | .617               | 1.117               | 70               | 46               |
| Hugh Duffy, BSN                 | 1894               | .440               | .502               | .694               | 1.196               | 85               | 48               |
| Joe Kelley, BLN                 | 1894               | .393               | .502               | .602               | 1.104               | 74               | 46               |
| Sam Thompson, PHI               | 1894               | .415               | .466               | .696               | 1.162               | 73               | 27               |
| Tip O'Neill, STL                | 1887               | .435               | .490               | .691               | 1.180               | 85               | 30               |

In addition, Betts, who has also earned a pair of Gold Glove Awards in his five-year career, is looking to become just the fourth player in Baseball history (first in AL) to record a batting average of .340-or-better with 27 home runs and 24 stolen bases in a single season, joining Walker, Ellis Burks and Hall of Famer Willie Mays. The table below details each player's extraordinary season.

| <b>Player Club</b>              | <b>Year</b>        | <b>BA</b>          | <b>HR</b>        | <b>SB</b>        |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b><i>Mookie Betts, BOS</i></b> | <b><i>2018</i></b> | <b><i>.352</i></b> | <b><i>27</i></b> | <b><i>24</i></b> |
| Larry Walker, COL               | 1997               | .366               | 49               | 33               |
| Ellis Burks, COL                | 1996               | .344               | 40               | 32               |
| Willie Mays, SF                 | 1958               | .347               | 29               | 31               |

## **AUGUST TRADE & WAIVER TRACKER**

Following is a list of trades and waiver claims made during the August waiver trading period:

**August 3** - Tigers acquired RHP Christian Binford from the Orioles for cash  
**August 4** - Yankees acquired 3B Gio Urshela from the Blue Jays for cash  
**August 4** - Yankees acquired RHP George Kontos from the Indians for cash  
**August 4** - Tigers acquired RHP Eric Villanueva from the Mets for cash  
**August 5** - Athletics acquired RHP Shawn Kelley from the Nationals for future considerations  
**August 6** - Athletics acquired RHP Mike Fiers from the Tigers for future considerations  
**August 6** - Pirates acquired SS Adeiny Hechavarria and cash from the Rays for RHP Matt Seelinger  
**August 7** - Royals acquired RHP Jon Perrin from the Brewers for RHP Sal Biasi  
**August 9** - Tigers acquired RHP Nick Tepesch from the Blue Jays for cash  
**August 9** - Athletics acquired RHP Fernando Rodney from the Twins for RHP Dakota Chalmers  
**August 10** - Phillies acquired 1B Justin Bour and cash from the Marlins for LHP McKenzie Mills  
**August 12** - Marlins acquired OF Christopher Bostick from the Pirates for cash  
**August 14** - Blue Jays acquired RHP Bryan Baker from the Rockies  
**August 14** - Rays acquired RHP Shane Baz from the Pirates  
**August 14** - Rangers acquired OF Alexander Ovalles from the Cubs  
**August 14** - Angels acquired RHP Odrisamer Despaigne from the Marlins for cash  
**August 15** - Cubs acquired OF Terrance Gore from the Royals  
**August 16** - Rangers acquired RHP Kelvin Gonzalez from the Royals for future considerations

## **BETANCES FINDING HIS GROOVE BACK**

On Tuesday night against the Tampa Bay Rays at Yankee Stadium, relief pitcher Dellin Betances of the New York Yankees tallied a strikeout in his 29<sup>th</sup> consecutive appearance dating back to May 29<sup>th</sup>. Since then, the four-time All-Star has compiled a 2-1 record with 50 strikeouts, 12 walks, nine hits and a 0.64 ERA across 28.1 innings pitched. Now with 88 punchouts on the season, the 30-year-old is 12 strikeouts away from becoming the first pitcher in MLB history to register at least 100 strikeouts as a reliever in five consecutive seasons.



With the outing, Betances surpassed his former teammate Andrew Miller (May 6-July 17, 2016) for the longest streak by a reliever in franchise history. In addition, the streak is tied for seventh among Major League relievers in a single season since at least 1908. Milwaukee Brewers reliever Corey Knebel holds the MLB record, posting a strikeout in 45 consecutive games during his 2017 All-Star campaign, while Jeff Montgomery holds the AL record after logging a streak of 32 games in 1989. The table below depicts relievers who have tallied at least one punchout in 29-or-more outings.

| <b>Pitcher, Club</b>        | <b>Games</b> | <b>Streak Dates</b>        | <b>W-L</b> | <b>ERA</b>  | <b>SO</b> | <b>BB</b> |
|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| Corey Knebel, MIL           | 45           | April 3-July 15, 2017      | 0-2        | 1.62        | 79        | 26        |
| Bruce Sutter, CHI           | 39           | June 1-October 2, 1977     | 7-2        | 1.64        | 87        | 21        |
| Aroldis Chapman, CIN        | 37           | May 11-August 13, 2014     | 0-3        | 1.93        | 74        | 13        |
| Juan Nicasio, PIT           | 33           | July 2-September 25, 2016  | 5-0        | 2.81        | 73        | 15        |
| Eric Gagne, LAD             | 32           | July 18-September 27, 2003 | 1-0        | 0.25        | 61        | 9         |
| Jeff Montgomery, KC         | 32           | June 18-September 5, 1989  | 1-1        | 0.93        | 59        | 10        |
| Lee Smith, BOS              | 30           | June 6-August 24, 1988     | 2-2        | 2.53        | 52        | 15        |
| <b>Dellin Betances, NYY</b> | <b>29</b>    | <b>May 29-Present</b>      | <b>2-1</b> | <b>0.64</b> | <b>50</b> | <b>12</b> |
| Tommy Kahnle, CWS-NYY       | 29           | May 6-July 22, 2017        | 1-2        | 2.79        | 47        | 5         |
| Cody Allen, CLE             | 29           | April 29-July 8, 2015      | 1-0        | 1.20        | 48        | 9         |
| Aroldis Chapman, CIN        | 29           | April 5-June 16, 2012      | 4-2        | 1.06        | 59        | 11        |
| John Hiller, DET            | 29           | May 4-July 24, 1976        | 8-1        | 2.93        | 65        | 34        |

## **LITTLE LEAGUERS TO BIG LEAGUERS**

The 72<sup>nd</sup> Little League World Series (LLWS) begins today in Williamsport, PA. The 16-team tournament features eight International teams (Asia-Pacific, Australia, Canada, Caribbean, Europe-Africa, Japan, Latin America and Mexico) and eight U.S. teams (Great Lakes, Mid-Atlantic, Midwest, New England, Northwest, Southeast, Southwest and West).

The teams that will represent each region include: Seoul, South Korea (Asia-Pacific); Queensland, Australia (Australia); Surrey, British Columbia (Canada); Guayama, Puerto Rico (Caribbean); Barcelona, Spain (Europe-Africa); Kawaguchi, Japan (Japan); Arraijan, Panama (Latin America); Tamaulipas, Mexico (Mexico); Grosse Pointe, Michigan (Great Lakes); Staten Island, New York (Mid-Atlantic); Des Moines, Iowa (Midwest); Coventry, Rhode Island (New England); Coeur d'Alene, Idaho (Northwest); Peachtree, Georgia (Southeast); Houston, Texas (Southwest); and Honolulu, Hawaii (West).

The World Series Championship game will be played on Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. (ET) between the U.S. and International Champion.

Little League Baseball estimates that it has nearly 2.4 million participants across the world. Several current and former players in Major League Baseball have participated in the Little League World Series:

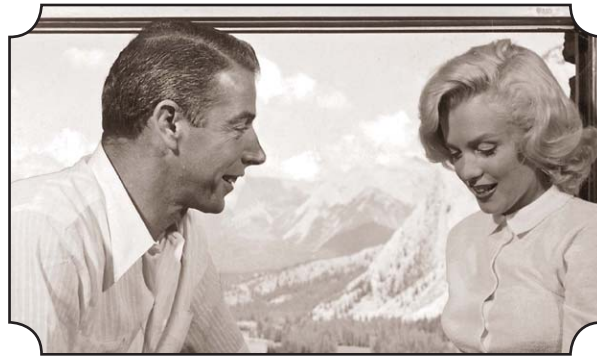
- New York Mets third baseman Todd Frazier was a member of the 1998 Toms River, New Jersey team that defeated Kashima, Japan in the Championship game. His older brother, Jeff Frazier, an outfielder who made it to the Majors with the Detroit Tigers in 2010, was also part of the 1995 Toms River club that made it to Williamsport.
- Los Angeles Dodgers first baseman/outfielder Cody Bellinger played on the 2007 Chandler, Arizona team that advanced to the U.S. semifinals.
- New York Mets outfielder Michael Conforto was a member of the 2004 Schenectady, New York team that competed in the Little League World Series. Michael went on to play college ball at Oregon State, where he appeared in the College World Series in 2013. With his appearance in the Fall Classic with the Mets in 2015, he became the third player ever to appear in the Little League World Series, College World Series and MLB World Series, joining Ed Vosberg and Jason Varitek.
- New York Yankees starting pitcher Lance Lynn played on the 1999 Brownsburg, Indiana team that participated in the tournament.
- Toronto Blue Jays second baseman Devon Travis played on the 2003 Boynton Beach, Florida team that participated in the tournament.
- Toronto Blue Jays outfielder Randal Grichuk played on the 2003 and 2004 Richmond, Texas teams that appeared in consecutive tournaments.
- Texas Rangers infielder Jurickson Profar and Milwaukee Brewers second baseman Jonathan Schoop were both members of the Pabao Little League team from Willemstad, Curaçao that won the 2004 Little League World Series.
- Baltimore Orioles infielder Rubén Tejada was a member of the 2001 Santiago de Veraguas, Venezuela team that advanced to the LLWS.



- Oakland Athletics pitcher Yusmeiro Petit was a member of the 1994 Maracaibo, Venezuela team that won the Little League World Series. Petit's catcher on the team was former Giants teammate Guillermo Quiróz. Maracaibo defeated Northridge, California in the Championship game, which featured Tennessee Titans quarterback Matt Cassel.
- Free agent outfielder Michael Saunders was on the 1999 Victoria, British Columbia, Canada team that advanced to the Little League World Series.
- Former outfielder Colby Rasmus played as a pitcher and first baseman for Phenix City, Alabama during the 1999 LLWS. Phenix City won the U.S. championship game before losing in the finals to Osaka, Japan. Rasmus finished the World Series batting .500 (5-for-10) with a home run, three runs scored and three RBI. Colby's brother, Cory, a free agent pitcher most recently with the Los Angeles Angels' organization, was also on the 1999 Phenix City squad.
- Former MLB right-handed pitcher Jason Marquis was a member of the Staten Island, NY 1991 LLWS team.
- Former Major League outfielder Jason Bay played in the 1990 LLWS for Canada, which upset Monterrey, Mexico in the opening round, but lost to Team Taiwan the next day.
- Sean Burroughs, who was the ninth overall pick in the 1998 Draft, was a member of both the 1992 and 1993 Long Beach, California teams that won back-to-back Little League World Series titles.
- Former Major League infielder Jeff Clement played on the 1996 Marshalltown, Iowa team that advanced to the Little League World Series.
- Former Major League outfielder Clete Thomas was a member of the 1996 Panama City, Florida club that advanced to United States final before losing to Cranston, Rhode Island.
- Nine-time All-Star Gary Sheffield was a pitcher for the Belmont Heights (FL) Little League team in the 1980 LLWS as they won it all in the year after losing in the championship game to Taiwan. He also played and won the 1997 Major League World Series with the Florida Marlins.
- Former Boston Red Sox catcher Jason Varitek participated in all three World Series: Little League World Series in 1984, College World Series with the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets in 1994, and the World Series in 2004 and 2007.
- Tampa Bay Rays manager and former big league catcher Kevin Cash played on the 1989 LLWS team from Tampa, Florida.
- Other former Major Leaguers who appeared in the LLWS include: Wilson Alvarez (1982 – Maracaibo, Venezuela); Jim Barbieri (1954 – Schenectady, New York); Derek Bell (1980-81 – Tampa, Florida); Larvell Blanks (1962 – Del Rio, Texas); Chin-Feng Chen (1990 – Tainan County, Taiwan); Billy Connors (1954 – Schenectady, New York); Dwight Gooden (1979 – Tampa, Florida); Charlie Hayes (1977 – Hattiesburg, Mississippi); Ken Hubbs (1954 – Colton, California); Erik Johnson (1978 – San Ramon, California); Keith Lampard (1958 – Portland, Oregon); Carney Lansford (1969 – Santa Clara, California); Adam Loewen (1996 – Surrey, British Columbia, Canada); Vance Lovelace (1975 – Tampa, Florida); Lloyd McClendon (1971 – Gary, Indiana); Lastings Milledge (1997 – Bradenton, Florida); Bobby Mitchell (1967 – Northridge, California); Jim Pankovits (1968 – Richmond, Virginia); Marc Pisciotta (1983 – Marietta, Georgia); Boog Powell (1954 – Lakeland, Florida); Carl Taylor (1954 – Lakeland, Florida); Hector Torres (1958 – Monterrey, Mexico); Dave Veres (1978 – Torrejon Air Force Base, Europe); Ed Vosberg (1973 – Tucson, Arizona); Dan Wilson (1981 – Barrington, Illinois); and Rick Wise (1958 – Portland, Oregon).

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

Short but sweet ... or certainly tweet, as any of these quips will run less than 280 characters.



**JOE DIMAGGIO:** "There is no trick to catching a ball in the open field.... The test of an outfielder's skill comes when he has to go against the fence to make a catch."

**WILLIE MAYS:** "It's not hard. When I'm not hittin', I don't hit nobody. But when I'm hittin', I hit anybody."

**ENOS SLAUGHTER:** "I'll never quit. They'll have to tear my uniform off."

**BOBBY BROWN:** "The art of hitting is the art of getting your pitch to hit."

**WARREN SPAHN:** "A pitcher needs two pitches—one they're looking for and one to cross 'em up."

**PREACHER ROE:** "I got three pitches: my change; my change off my change; and my change off my change off my change."

**WHITEY FORD:** "You would be amazed how many important outs you can get by working the count down to where the hitter is sure you're going to throw to his weakness and then throw to his power instead."

**SANDY KOUFAX:** "I became a good pitcher when I stopped trying to make them miss the ball and started trying to make them hit it."

**DON DRYSDALE:** "I've got one way to pitch to righties—tight."

**VERNON LAW:** "If you don't play to win, why keep score?"

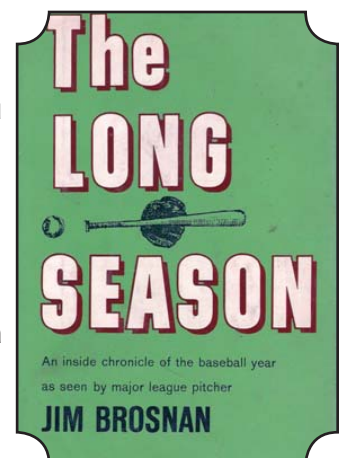
**JIM BROSANAN:** "Umpires are most vigorous when defending their miscalls."

**MICKEY LOLICH:** "The only thing running and exercising can do for you is make you healthy."

**BOB LEMON:** "I had my bad days on the field, but I didn't take them home with me. I left them in a bar along the way."

**BROOKS ROBINSON:** "I could field as long as I can remember. But hitting has been a struggle all my life."

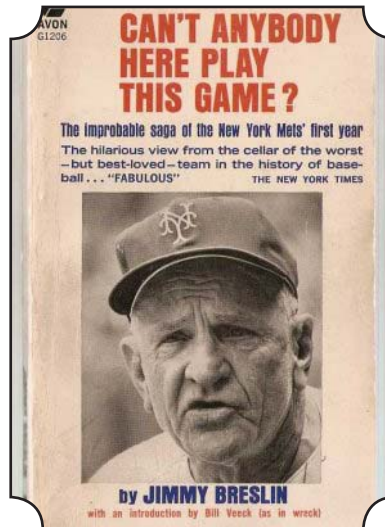
**CURT FLOOD:** "I am a man, not a consignment of goods to be bought and sold."



**DICK ALLEN:** "Your body is just like a bar of soap. It gradually wears down from repeated use."

**ELIJAH "PUMPSIE" GREEN:** "Some day I'll write a book and call it How I Got the Nickname 'Pumpsie' and sell it for one dollar, and if everybody who ever asked me that question buys the book, I'll be a millionaire."

**RICHIE ASHBURN,** after his season with the 1962 Mets: "I don't know what's going on, but I know I've never seen it before."



**JIMMY BRESLIN:** "Having Marv Throneberry play for your team is like having Willie Sutton play for your bank."

**TED WILLIAMS:** "All I want out of life is that when I walk down the street folks will say, 'There goes the greatest hitter who ever lived.'"

**JIMMY CANNON** in 1947: "Jackie Robinson is the loneliest man I have ever seen in sports."

**BILL VEECK:** "I try not to break the rules but merely to test their elasticity."

**ABE MARTIN:** "Knowin' all about baseball is just about as profitable as bein' a good whittler."

**MONTE IRVIN:** "Baseball has done more to move America in the right direction than all the professional patriots with their billions of cheap words."

**CHUCK CONNORS:** "Branch Rickey had both money and players. He just didn't like to see the two of them mix."

**FRANKIE FRISCH:** "There's nothing tough about playing third, All a guy needs is a strong arm and a strong chest."

**RON SWOBODA:** "Why am I wasting so much dedication on a mediocre career?"

**JOSH GIBSON, Jr.,** on the induction of his late father into the Hall of Fame in 1972: "I want to say something personal to my father. 'Wake up, Dad, you just made it in.'"

**MLB ON-AIR THIS WEEK**  
**(All Times ET)**

|   |   |            |
|---|---|------------|
| <b>Thursday, August 16<sup>th</sup>:</b>  | New York Mets at Philadelphia Phillies        | 7:05 p.m.  |
|   | Washington Nationals at St. Louis Cardinals   | 7:15 p.m.  |
|   | Arizona Diamondbacks at San Diego Padres      | 10:10 p.m. |
| <b>Friday, August 17<sup>rd</sup>:</b>    | New York Mets at Philadelphia Phillies        | 6:05 p.m.  |
|   | Houston Astros at Oakland Athletics           | 10:05 p.m. |
|   | Los Angeles Dodgers at Seattle Mariners       | 10:10 p.m. |
| <b>Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup>:</b>  | Toronto Blue Jays at New York Yankees         | 1:05 p.m.  |
|   | Los Angeles Dodgers at Seattle Mariners       | 10:10 p.m. |
| <b>Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup>:</b>    | Cleveland Indians at Boston Red Sox           | 7:10 p.m.  |
|   | St. Louis Cardinals at Los Angeles Dodgers    | 10:10 p.m. |
| <b>Tuesday, August 21<sup>st</sup>:</b>   | Cleveland Indians at Boston Red Sox           | 7:10 p.m.  |
| <b>Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>:</b> | Cincinnati Reds at Milwaukee Brewers          | 2:10 p.m.  |
|   | Philadelphia Phillies at Washington Nationals | 7:05 p.m.  |



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| <b>Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup>:</b> | Baltimore Orioles at Cleveland Indians (FS1)   | 4:05 p.m. |
|  | Milwaukee Brewers at St. Louis Cardinals (FS1) | 7:15 p.m. |

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|--|--|-----------|
| <b>Thursday, August 16<sup>th</sup>:</b> | New York Mets at Philadelphia Phillies | 4:05 p.m. |
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|--|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup>:</b> | Toronto Blue Jays at New York Yankees | 1:05 p.m. |
|--|---------------------------------------|-----------|

|   |  |            |
|---|--|------------|
| <b>Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup>:</b>    | New York Mets at Philadelphia Phillies     | 7:10 p.m.  |
| <b>Tuesday, August 21<sup>st</sup>:</b>   | St. Louis Cardinals at Los Angeles Dodgers | 10:10 p.m. |
| <b>Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>:</b> | St. Louis Cardinals at Los Angeles Dodgers | 10:10 p.m. |



**UPON FURTHER REVIEW**

Through 1,812 games played this season (through Wednesday), Major League Baseball has had 1,040 replay reviews, which have taken an average of one minute and twenty-two seconds.

- \*1,040 Replay Reviews
- \*211 Confirmed (20.3%)
- \*329 Stands (31.6%)
- \*490 Overturned (47.1%)
- \*7 Rules Check (0.7%)
- \*3 Record Keeping (0.3%)
- \*1:22 Average Time





## **LINE DRIVES** *(Compiled from Club Game Notes)*

**PROFESSOR OF POUND-OLGY:** Cardinals shortstop Paul DeJong hit his first career walk-off home run and RBI on Monday night. DeJong posted an RBI in six straight games, matching his career-high (July 21-26, 2017). In addition, Paul became the 13<sup>th</sup> Cardinal with an RBI and an extra base hit in six-or-more straight games, and the first since Matt Carpenter earlier this season from July 14<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>.

**SEAN'S FIRST START:** Toronto Blue Jays pitcher Sean Reid-Foley made his Major League debut on Monday and became the second player in MLB history to be born in Guam, joining John Hattig, who played 13 games for the Blue Jays in 2006. The 22-year-old became the 28<sup>th</sup> hurler in team history to toss at least 5.0 innings and allow three-or-fewer runs in his debut.

**ABOUT TUESDAY NIGHT:** San Francisco Giants backstop Nick Hundley became the first Giants player since 1958 to record a go-ahead hit when trailing in the 9<sup>th</sup> inning-or-later with the bases loaded and two outs against the archrival Dodgers.

**WELCOME TO THE SHOW:** Baltimore Orioles outfielder Cedric Mullins made his Major League debut on Friday night and went 3-for-4 with two doubles, two RBI, and three runs scored. Mullins became the first player in Orioles history (since 1954) to record three hits in his Major League debut. Cedric became the second player in the Majors this season to record at least two hits, two runs and two RBI in his Major League debut, joining Los Angeles Angels backstop Jose Briceno (May 26<sup>th</sup>).

**MVP?:** All-Star third baseman Eugenio Suárez is on pace to become the first Reds batter to hit .300 with at least 35 home runs and 118 RBI since George Foster in 1977. Only four batters in franchise history have reached those marks in a single season: Hall of Famers Frank Robinson (3x) and Tony Perez, as well as Ted Kluszewski and Foster.

**CY OF RELIEF:** In his last seven starts, Boston Red Sox ace Chris Sale is 6-0 with a 0.20 ERA. Since ERA became an official statistic in 1913, that is the lowest ERA for a Red Sox pitcher over any seven-start span, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. The last pitcher to record an ERA that low over a seven-start span (min. 15.0 IP) was Hall of Famer Bob Gibson during his 1968 MVP season (0.14 from June 6<sup>th</sup>-July 6<sup>th</sup>).

**PEN PALS:** Mets reliever Robert Gsellman has tossed 6.2 scoreless innings, dating back to August 2<sup>nd</sup>, and has allowed two runs over his last 11.1 innings (1.59 ERA) with three saves since the All-Star break. His bullpen-mate Jerry Blevins has hurled 7.2 scoreless innings since the Midsummer Classic.

**MR. STEAL YO' BASE:** In Sunday's game against Philadelphia, San Diego Padres outfielder Travis Jankowski swiped four bases, setting a career high and becoming the first Padre to have a four-steal game since Everth Cabrera on September 30, 2012.

**PROVING HIS WORTH:** Miami Marlins rookie third baseman Brian Anderson is on pace for 173 hits this season, which would rank as the second-most by a National League rookie since 2010 (Corey Seager; 193 in 2016), and would be the eighth-most by an NL rookie since 2000.

**HE'S THE McMAHON:** Colorado Rockies infielder Ryan McMahon hit a three-run, walk-off home run to give the Rockies a 3-2 win on Saturday. It was the first walk-off home run to breakup a shutout in franchise history, and the first walk-off win with two outs since Mark Reynolds' on June 26, 2016.

**PUNCHING TICKETS:** All-Stars Justin Verlander (217 SO) and Gerrit Cole (219 SO) are the first pair of Astros teammates to reach 200 strikeouts in the same season since Roger Clemens (218) and Roy Oswalt (206) in 2004. Their combined strikeout total of 436 currently ranks fourth among the best duos in franchise history. Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan (270) and Mike Scott (233) hold the current record with 503 punchouts in 1987.

**YOUNG BLOODS:** Los Angeles Angels third baseman Taylor Ward made his MLB debut on Tuesday night, becoming the 12<sup>th</sup> player to make his Major League debut with Halos this season. That total matches the Club record for a single season (also 1996 and 1975).

**PHILLIE SPECIAL:** With Philadelphia's win last night, the Phillies equaled their 2017 win total. Only eight times in the franchise's 136-year history has a team equaled their win total from the previous year by August 15<sup>th</sup>-or-earlier: 1883-1884, 1904-05, 1928-29, 1945-46, 1961-1962, 1981-82, 1992-93 and 2000-01. The Minnesota Twins were the last Major League team to do so (2016-17).

**THE EDWIN DÍAZ REPORT:** In 60 appearances this season, Seattle Mariners All-Star closer Edwin Díaz is 47-for-50 (94.0%) in save opportunities with a 1.95 ERA (13 ER, 60.0 IP), 103 strikeouts and 15 walks. He is currently one of five pitchers (six times) in Major League history to post at least 45 saves, 100 strikeouts and an ERA under 2.00, joining Bryan Harvey (1991), Eric Gagne (2002-03), Greg Holland (2013) and Kenley Jansen (2016).

**PITCHING POINTS:** The Rays have suffered a Major League-most 20 losses when yielding three runs-or-fewer. This is already the fourth-most in a season in franchise history, while the club record is 24 (2014). They also have a Major League-most 12 losses when yielding two runs-or-fewer, which matches the 2012 season for the most in Club history.

**EARNING THEIR PINSTripES:** The Yankees have won all five starts by J.A. Happ and Lance Lynn, with the two starting pitchers acquired by the Yankees in July combining to go 4-0 with a 1.44 ERA (31.1 IP, 5 ER) in those outings.

**CONSISTENT SALVY:** All-Star backstop Salvador Perez clubbed his fifth career multi-homer game on Wednesday and his first since September 6, 2017. With the performance, Perez became the fifth Royal with at least four straight seasons with 20-or-more home runs, joining John Mayberry (1972-75), Steve Balboni (1984-87), Bo Jackson (1987-90) and Mike Sweeney (1999-2002).

**SECOND HALF SPLENDOR:** In the last four seasons (2015-18), the Cubs have amassed a 163-85 record after the All-Star Break, and the team's .657 win percentage is by far the best in Baseball. Cleveland ranks second with a .622 mark (153-93).

## MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL'S PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

| WEEK ENDING             | AMERICAN LEAGUE  | NATIONAL LEAGUE   |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| April 1 <sup>st</sup>   | 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 <sup>th</sup>   | 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 <sup>th</sup>  | 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 <sup>nd</sup>  | Manny Machado, BAL (.500, 7 R, 11 H, 2 2B, 5 HR, 8 RBI)<br>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 <sup>th</sup>  | 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 <sup>th</sup>     | 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 <sup>th</sup>    | James Paxton, SEA (1-0, No-Hitter, 11 SO, 3 BB, 15.0 IP)<br>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 <sup>th</sup>    | 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 <sup>th</sup>    | 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 <sup>rd</sup>    | 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 <sup>th</sup>   | Eduardo Escobar, MIN (.462, 9 XBH, 8 RBI, 26 TB, 1.000 SLG)  | Paul Goldschmidt, ARI (.640, 10 R, 11 XBH, 11 RBI, 36 TB)     |
| June 17 <sup>th</sup>   | Evan Gattis, HOU (.417, 6 R, 2 2B, 4 HR, 15 RBI, 1.000 SLG)  | Marcell Ozuna, STL (.455, 4 HR, 8 RBI, 22 TB, 1.000 SLG)      |
| June 24 <sup>th</sup>   | Nelson Cruz, SEA (.500, 8 R, 3 HR, 8 RBI, 25 TB, 1.042 SLG)  | Nolan Arenado, COL (.379, 7 R, 11 H, 5 HR, 13 RBI, 28 TB)     |
| July 1 <sup>st</sup>    | Alex Bregman, HOU (.464, 7 R, 13 H, 5 2B, 5 HR, 10 RBI)  | Javier Báez, CHI (.483, 14 H, 10 R, 6 2B, 11 RBI, 26 TB)      |
| July 8 <sup>th</sup>    | Xander Bogaerts, BOS (.400/.600/.933, 6 R, 4 XBH, 10 RBI)  | Mark Reynolds, WSH (.625/.684/1.313, 7 R, 3 HR, 12 RBI)       |
| July 15 <sup>th</sup>   | José Ramírez, CLE (.423, 5 HR, , 11 RBI, 29 TB, 1.115 SLG)   | Trevor Story, COL (.400, 3 2B, 3 HR, 22 TB, .880 SLG)         |
| July 22 <sup>nd</sup>   | Rougned Odor, TEX (.615, 8 H, 3 SB, 11 TB, .846 SLG )  | Matt Carpenter, STL (.529, 8 R, 6 HR, 10 RBI, 1.706 SLG)      |
| July 29 <sup>th</sup>   | Jonathan Schoop, BAL (.379, 11 H, 6 R, 5 HR, 13 RBI, 27 RB)  | Christian Yelich, MIL (.517/.548/1.000, 8 R, 7 XBH, 10 RBI)   |
| August 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Rougned Odor, TEX (8 R, 4 HR, 10 RBI, 20 TB, .870 SLG)   | Matt Carpenter, STL (.423, 7 R, 2 2B, 4 HR, 7 RBI, 8 BB)      |
| August 13 <sup>th</sup> | J.D. Martinez, BOS (.464, 7 R, 5 2B, 4 HR, 11 RBI, 30 TB)  | Ryan Zimmerman, WSH (.476, 3 2B, 3 HR, 12 RBI, 22 TB)         |



## INTERLEAGUE TRACKER

| League          | 2018 Record | Batting Average        | ERA  |
|-----------------|-------------|------------------------|------|
| American League | 114-127     | .241 (1,949-for-8,081) | 4.08 |
| National League | 127-114     | .249 (2,048-for-8,213) | 3.96 |

## **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)    |
| June  | Alex Bregman, HOU (24 R, 33 H, 9 2B, 11 HR, 30 RBI)         | Paul Goldschmidt, ARI (.364, 25 R, 8 2B, 10 HR, 23 RBI)      |
| July  | José Ramírez, CLE ( 21 R, 8 2B, 8 HR, 25 RBI, 19 BB, 11 SB) | Matt Carpenter, STL (.333, 22 R, 8 2B, 11 HR, 21 RBI, 19 BB) |

## **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)     |
| June  | Chris Sale, BOS (3-2, 1.76 ERA, 41.0 IP, 60 SO, 9 BB)       | Jon Lester, CHI (5-0, 1.13 ERA, 32.0 IP, 20 SO, 17 H, 10 BB) |
| July  | Chris Sale, BOS (3-0, 0.36 ERA, 25.0 IP, 43 SO, 16 H, 4 BB) | Zack Greinke, ARI (4-0, 1.60 ERA, 33.2 IP, 35 SO, 5 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)  |
| June  | Miguel Andújar, NYY (10 R, 24 H, 6 2B, 7 HR, 20 RBI)      | Juan Soto, WSH (.317, 19 R, 6 2B, 6 HR, 15 RBI, 18 BB)    |
| July  | Lourdes Gurriel Jr. (.423, 30 H, 9 R, 4 2B, 4 HR, 14 RBI) | Juan Soto, WSH (.299/.398/.526, 18 R, 5 2B, 5 HR, 15 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)   |
| 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)        |
| June  | Edwin Díaz, SEA (14 G, 12 SV, 1.88 ERA, 20 SO, 2 BB)     | Kyle Barraclough, MIA (12 G, 7 SV, 0.00 ERA, 12 SO, 1 H) |
| July  | Edwin Díaz, SEA (10 G, 9 SV, 0.00 ERA, 19 SO, 2 BB, 2 H) | Felipe Vázquez, PIT (14 G, 8 SV, 2 ER, 22 SO, 3 BB)      |