



MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL WEEKLY NOTES

April 16, 2026





LIKE MIKE

Following his home run earlier this afternoon, Mike Trout has seven homers on the season, including five across the last four days at Yankee Stadium. Per Sarah Langs of MLB.com, Trout is just the first visiting player to homer in four consecutive games at the Yankees, and just the second player to homer in four straight games within a series at the Yankees, joining John Mayberry, who homered in four straight games across a three-day stretch in 1972. With his home run on Wednesday, he became the second visiting player to homer on three consecutive days at the current Yankee Stadium, joining Miguel Cabrera, who accomplished the feat in 2013.

Of Trout's seven homers, all of them have been "no doubters" per MLB Statcast, meaning the hit would've been a home run in all 30 ballparks. The only other player with at least seven "no doubters" this season is Aaron Judge, who has also had all eight of his homers this year be "no doubters".

With three more home runs this season, Trout can achieve his 14th career 10-homer season, matching Bryce Harper, Carlos Santana and Giancarlo Stanton for third-most among active players. The only active players with more seasons of at least 10 home runs are Andrew McCutchen (17) and Freddie Freeman (15). If Trout can reach the 20-homer mark this season, it would mark his 11th career season of at least 20 home runs, matching Paul Goldschmidt and Harper for third-most among active players. Hall of Famer Hank Aaron holds the record with 20 seasons of at least 20 home runs and 23 season of at least 10 home runs.

Overall, Trout now has 411 career home runs, surpassing Mark Teixeira on Wednesday night for sole possession of 57th place on the all-time home runs list. Among active players, his 410 homers are second-most to only Stanton who has 455 career home runs, with Judge (376 HR) and Goldschmidt (373 HR) rounding out the top-four.

On Monday night, Trout, Judge, Stanton and Goldschmidt all appeared in the game between the Yankees and Angels, marking the first time since at least 1900 that each of the sport's top-four active home run hitters appeared in a single game, per Elias. The four players also appeared in Tuesday and Wednesday night's contests, marking the second and third occasions in Baseball history.

MOST SEASONS WITH 20+ HOME RUNS (among active players)

PLAYER	SEASONS OF 20+ HR
Giancarlo Stanton	14 (2010-18; 2021-25)
Freddie Freeman	12 (2011-13; 2016-19; 2021-25)
Paul Goldschmidt	11 (2012-13; 2015-2019; 2021-2024)
Bryce Harper	11 (2012-13; 2015-19; 2021; 2023-25)
Manny Machado	10 (2015-2019; 2021-25)
Mike Trout	10 (2012-19; 2022; 2025)
Andrew McCutchen	10 (2011-18; 2021; 2024)
Eugenio Suárez	9 (2016-19; 2021-2025)
Salvador Perez	9 (2015-18; 2021-25)
Marcell Ozuna	9 (2014; 2016-19; 2022-25)
George Springer	9 (2014; 2016-19; 2021-2023; 2025)
Carlos Santana	9 (2011; 2013-14; 2016-19; 2023-24)

MOST SEASONS WITH 10+ HOME RUNS (among active players)

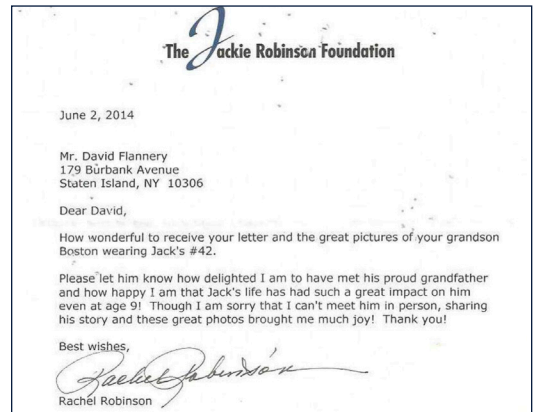
PLAYER	SEASONS OF 10+ HR
Andrew McCutchen	17 (2009-2025)
Freddie Freeman	15 (2011-2025)
Bryce Harper	14 (2012-2025)
Carlos Santana	14 (2011-19; 2021-25)
Giancarlo Stanton	14 (2010-18; 2021-25)
Manny Machado	13 (2013-2025)
Paul Goldschmidt	13 (2012-19; 2021-25)
Salvador Perez	13 (2012-18; 2020-25)
Mike Trout	13 (2012-20; 2022-25)
Nick Castellanos	12 (2014-25)
George Springer	12 (2014-25)
Nolan Arenado	12 (2013-19; 2021-25)



DEVELOPS

DEVELOPS ON THE DIAMOND

A SPECIAL JACKIE ROBINSON DAY: As seen in [The News & Observer](#), Jackie Robinson day has a special meaning for Breakthrough Series and DREAM series alumni Boston Flannery. Now a pitcher for the UNC Tar Heels, Flannery was inspired by Robinson since he first saw the film, “42.” After a fateful meeting between Flannery’s grandfather and Rachel Robinson, his grandfather told her about his grandson, Boston, who wore number 42 in Jackie’s honor. Rachel sent the Flannery family a letter, telling them how delighted she was that Jackie’s impact reached Boston at such a young age. By the time Flannery reached the Breakthrough Series at the Jackie Robinson Training Complex in Vero Beach, Florida, he was far more familiar on Jackie’s impact on the game. “Everywhere you look, there’s a quote from him,” Boston said. “There’s 42s everywhere. It was really, really awesome.” Boston, now in his third year at UNC, proudly dons Jackie’s number 42 each and every time he suits up.



WALKER CATCHES FIRE: St. Louis Cardinals’ rightfielder Jordan Walker has begun his 2026 campaign on a tear. Among all qualified players, the DREAM Series and Breakthrough Series alumni leads the league in home runs and total bases, ranks fourth in slugging, tied for fourth in extra base hits and sixth in OPS. His 1.6 bWAR also leads the Majors. Through just 18 games this season, Walker has already surpassed his home run totals in 2024 (5) and 2025 (6). The Georgia native recorded seven home runs from April 4th through April 13th, becoming one of 16 Cardinals to record seven home runs in a nine game span. The 23-year-old hit a home run in back-to-back-to-back games on April 6th-8th and April 11th-14th. The two such streaks made him the first Cardinals player to have two or more such streaks same season since Paul Goldschmidt in 2022.



DOMINATING: From April 10th-14th, Dominic Smith, a Breakthrough Series alumni recorded eight hits and nine RBI, marking the second time in his career he has had nine RBI over the course of five games, with the first coming as a member of the New York Mets in 2020. The California native recorded his second four-RBI game of the season with a single, double and homer on Tuesday against the Miami Marlins. Tuesday’s game marked the seventh time Smith reached the four-RBI mark in a game and along with his four-RBI game on March 28th, it is now the second time he’s done so multiple times in the same season.

NO QUIT IN SIMPSON: Tampa Bay Rays outfielder Chandler Simpson has continued his torrid start to the season through his first 17 games. The Breakthrough Series alumni has recorded at least one hit in 15 of his 17 games played. The Georgia Tech alumni now ranks second in batting average, tied for second in triples, tied for third in hits and tied for fourth in stolen bases among all qualified players, all while leading his Rays to a 10-7 record atop the American League East. Simpson’s 24 hits through his first 17 games makes him one of just 11 players in Rays’ franchise history to do so to start a season. Along with his teammate Yandy Díaz, who has also recorded 24 hits through the teams first 17 games, the pair marks the first time as many hits have been recorded since Austin Meadows did so in 2019. The Atlanta native also ranks second

UPCOMING MLB DEVELOPS EVENTS: On Friday, the ninth iteration of [Trailblazer Series](#) begins in Vero Beach, Florida at the Jackie Robinson Training Complex. The event will feature over 90 participating girls, representing 24 states, three Canadian provinces and Panama. The event provides girls who play baseball development and educational opportunities, as well as playing time. The participating athletes will also have the opportunity to partake in panel discussions with Maybelle Blair and Jeneana Lesko, both of whom starred in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, the pioneering women’s pro sports league. The Trailblazer series athletes will also volunteer as coaches for a special Jackie Robinson Day PLAY BALL event hosted at the Jackie Robinson Training Complex. The PLAY BALL event will give over 200 kids from local Indian River County the opportunity to learn diamond sports from the Trailblazer Series athletes alongside MLB PLAY BALL Ambassador Justin Sherman. The Trailblazer Series will feature over 30 participants who are currently a member of an MLB Youth Academy, Nike RBI program or have participated in a previous MLB Develops event.



THIRD ANNUAL EAST-WEST CLASSIC

Juneteenth Celebration in Alabama Will Feature Hall of Famer CC Sabathia and All-Star Chris Young Returning as Captains, Leading Many All-Star Participants

Major League Baseball announced on Monday that the third edition of the East-West Classic, a tribute to the Negro Leagues All-Star Games held from 1933-1962, will be held on Friday, June 19th at historic Rickwood Field in Birmingham, Alabama. Public gates will open at 11:30 a.m. (CT) before the Home Run Derby at 12:00 p.m. (CT) and the East vs. West game at 1:00 p.m. (CT). General admission tickets for the event's return to the iconic venue are available now for \$12 at mlb.com/rickwood.

For the third consecutive year, MLB will celebrate Juneteenth with an event at Rickwood Field. Previous events included 2024's *Barnstorm Birmingham* event and Fam Jam celebrity softball game; and last year's East-West Classic, held at Rickwood for the first time. The two previous iterations of the revival of the East-West Classic included the East's 5-4 victory at Doubleday Field in Cooperstown, New York in 2024, and last year's 3-0 West victory in the event's Birmingham debut. The game will last five innings or two hours, whichever comes first. Prior to the contest, the third consecutive home run derby will take place between the Classic participants. Previous winners of the derby include five-time All-Star Adam Jones in 2024 and six-time All-Star Prince Fielder last year.



This year's rosters will again be headlined by captains CC Sabathia (West), a 2025 Hall of Fame inductee, and 2010 All-Star, 13-year MLB outfielder and MLB Network analyst Chris Young (East). Their rosters are expected to feature former All-Stars and/or World Series Champions including Mike Cameron, Jose Contreras, Prince Fielder, Dexter Fowler, Jeremy Guthrie, Matt Kemp, Justin Upton, and others.

Young said: "We truly appreciate the opportunity to go back to Birmingham on Juneteenth. The East-West Classic shows that baseball is all about fun, community, and bringing people together. There's no better place to do exactly that than Rickwood Field, where we can honor the legends who helped build the foundation of our game."

This program is a key component of [MLB Together](#), baseball's social responsibility platform that mobilizes our Clubs, Players and Partners to invest in communities off the field, providing youth access to play baseball. Through continued collaboration with the City of Birmingham, Rickwood Field remains a national site for remembering and honoring the pioneers of the game. Adding another community element, MLB will host a special Juneteenth PLAY BALL event at the recently refurbished and rededicated Willie Mays Park in neighboring Fairfield. Over 150 participants from the Arthur and Eva Brown (AEB) Legacy Nike RBI and Ron 'Papa Jack' Jackson Nike RBI programs will have the opportunity to participate in the free diamond sports event, highlighted by East-West Classic players serving as volunteer coaches. Following the event, tickets to the Classic will be extended to the participating programs.

Rickwood Field is the oldest professional ballpark in the United States and former home of the Birmingham Black Barons of the Negro Leagues, who called Rickwood Field home from 1924 through 1960. Still a teenager in 1948, Alabama native Willie Mays began his professional career with the Black Barons. Rickwood Field was the site of the final Negro League World Series game in October 1948, which saw Mays' Black Barons falling to the Homestead Grays in five games. The Say Hey Kid played for his local team until beginning his legendary career with the New York Giants in 1951.

The Friends of Rickwood and the City of Birmingham worked with MLB to renovate and maintain Rickwood Field in 2024, transforming the National Historic Site before hosting a Major League game between the San Francisco Giants and St. Louis Cardinals. Following his passing on June 18th, 2024, *MLB at Rickwood Field: A Tribute to the Negro Leagues* served as a national remembrance of Mays and his legendary life and career. In its Year-End Awards for 2024, the *Sports Business Journal* named MLB at Rickwood Field as its Best New Event.

The Negro Leagues East-West All-Star Game debuted in 1933 at Chicago's Comiskey Park and was played annually through 1962, including several years that featured multiple games. Hall of Famer Bill Foster was the winning pitcher in the inaugural East-West All-Star Game and several future Hall of Famers starred in the game throughout the years, including Cool Papa Bell, Ray Brown, Andy Cooper, Leon Day, Martín Dihigo, Josh Gibson, Buck Leonard, Minnie Miñoso, Satchel Paige, Jackie Robinson and Willie Wells.



2026 INTERLEAGUE TRACKER

League	2026 Record	Batting Average	ERA
American League	49-62	.232 (853-for-3,681)	4.35
National League	62-49	.241 (916-for-3,695)	3.99

In 2025, American League teams defeated National League teams 367 times in an MLB-record 720 Interleague games (previous record: 690 G in 2023 and 2024).
It was the third year of MLB's balanced schedule.



WELCOME TO THE SHOW

Since April 9th, six players have made their Major League debut, including five pitchers and one position player.

There have now been 40 players to make their Major League debut this season, including 23 pitchers and 17 position players.

- 26-year-old Jack Anderson made his Major League debut with the Boston Red Sox on Tuesday against the Minnesota Twins at Target Field. The Tampa, Florida native tossed three innings in relief in the Red Sox loss, facing 11 batters and allowing only two to reach base. The Florida State University alumni became just one of three pitchers in Red Sox to pitch three innings or less, record four strikeouts and allow only one-or-fewer hits in a debut outing with the Club.
- 23-year-old Sam Antonacci, the Chicago White Sox ninth-best prospect, per *MLB Pipeline*, made his Major League debut on Wednesday against the Tampa Bay Rays at Rate Field. Fresh off his first career World Baseball Classic appearance with Team Italy, the Illinois native reached base twice in four plate appearances. Along with teammate Munetaki Murakami, Antonacci became the second this season, and the 21st in White Sox franchise history to record a hit, walk and run scored in a debut game.
- 24-year-old Gavin Collyer, the Texas Rangers 30th best prospect, per *MLB Pipeline* made his Major League debut with the Club on Wednesday against the Athletics at Sutter Health Park. The Georgia native faced just one batter and sent him down looking on just three pitches. In doing so, Collyer became one of four pitchers in Rangers franchise history to face one batter and strike him out in a debut outing.

Overall, the Chicago White Sox pace the Majors with seven players making their debut, followed by the Boston Red Sox with four and the Cleveland Guardians with three players making their debut. The teams with two players making their debut include the Houston Astros, Los Angeles Angels, Milwaukee Brewers, Philadelphia Phillies, St. Louis Cardinals and Texas Rangers. The Clubs that have seen one player make their Major League debut this season include the Arizona Diamondbacks, Baltimore Orioles, Chicago Cubs, Cincinnati Reds, Colorado Rockies, Detroit Tigers, Miami Marlins, Minnesota Twins, New York Mets, Pittsburgh Pirates and San Francisco Giants. The teams with a player yet to debut include the Athletics, Atlanta Braves, Los Angeles Dodgers, New York Yankees, San Diego Padres, Seattle Mariners, Tampa Bay Rays and Washington Nationals.

MLB Debuts, April 9th-April 15th

PLAYER	CLUB	POSITION	DEBUT DATE
Duncan Davitt	Chicago White Sox	RHP	April 10 th
Andrew Morris	Minnesota Twins	RHP	April 12 th
Jack Anderson	Boston Red Sox	RHP	April 14 th
Noah Schultz	Chicago White Sox	LHP	April 14 th
Sam Antonacci	Chicago White Sox	SS	April 15 th
Gavin Collyer	Texas Rangers	RHP	April 15 th



ABS OVERVIEW

OVERVIEW

MLB introduced the Automated Ball-Strike (ABS) Challenge System powered by T-Mobile beginning with the 2026 season. The system will rely on the same Hawk-Eye tracking technology that fuels MLB's Statcast data. *What to know about the challenge system:*

- Only batters and pitchers/catchers may initiate a challenge. Managers, coaches and other players may not be involved.
- Each team starts the game with two challenges. Teams will lose the ability to challenge after they do so incorrectly twice. Teams will start each extra inning with a challenge regardless of whether they have already exhausted their challenges in the first nine innings.
- The ABS zone is set as follows: The width is 17 inches, identical to home plate. The top of the zone is set at 53.5% of a player's measured height without cleats. The bottom is set at 27% of the player's measured height. The strike zone is captured as the ball passes through the middle of the plate, not the front.
- In MLB, challenges will not be permitted when a position player is pitching.

SEASON DATA

OVERALL
54%
OVERTURNS

1,082 CHALLENGES
582 OVERTURNED
500 CONFIRMED

BATTERS
47%
OVERTURNS

497 CHALLENGES
232 OVERTURNED
265 CONFIRMED

FIELDERS
60%
OVERTURNS

585 CHALLENGES
350 OVERTURNED
235 CONFIRMED

2026 ABS CHALLENGE TOTALS

CLUB	CHALLENGES (BATTER)		CHALLENGES (FIELDER)		CHALLENGES (TOTAL)	
	Challenges	W-L	Challenges	W-L	Total Results (Batting & Fielding)	Win %
Cincinnati Reds	16	11-5	12	9-3	28 (20 overturned, 8 confirmed)	71.4%
New York Mets	14	7-7	17	13-4	31 (20 overturned, 11 confirmed)	64.5%
San Diego Padres	13	7-6	23	16-7	36 (23 overturned, 13 confirmed)	63.9%
Kansas City Royals	12	6-6	20	14-6	32 (20 overturned, 12 confirmed)	62.5%
St. Louis Cardinals	15	9-6	21	13-8	36 (22 overturned, 14 confirmed)	61.1%
Chicago Cubs	17	9-8	16	11-5	33 (20 overturned, 13 confirmed)	60.6%
Philadelphia Phillies	15	7-8	15	11-4	30 (18 overturned, 12 confirmed)	60.0%
Detroit Tigers	23	10-13	14	12-2	37 (22 overturned, 15 confirmed)	59.5%
Arizona Diamondbacks	11	5-6	21	14-7	32 (19 overturned, 13 confirmed)	59.4%
Milwaukee Brewers	13	5-8	25	17-8	38 (22 overturned, 16 confirmed)	57.9%
Minnesota Twins	31	15-16	30	20-10	61 (35 overturned, 26 confirmed)	57.4%
New York Yankees	27	13-14	17	12-5	44 (25 overturned, 19 confirmed)	56.8%
Texas Rangers	11	6-5	12	7-5	23 (13 overturned, 10 confirmed)	56.5%
Colorado Rockies	23	9-14	27	19-8	50 (28 overturned, 22 confirmed)	56.0%
Athletics	17	10-7	26	14-12	43 (24 overturned, 19 confirmed)	55.8%
Baltimore Orioles	21	11-10	15	9-6	36 (20 overturned, 16 confirmed)	55.6%
Miami Marlins	14	6-8	35	21-14	49 (27 overturned, 22 confirmed)	55.1%
Pittsburgh Pirates	18	10-8	18	9-9	36 (19 overturned, 17 confirmed)	52.8%
Seattle Mariners	19	7-12	19	13-6	38 (20 overturned, 18 confirmed)	52.6%
Los Angeles Dodgers	9	4-5	24	13-11	33 (17 overturned, 16 confirmed)	51.5%
Tampa Bay Rays	18	10-8	23	11-12	41 (21 overturned, 20 confirmed)	51.2%
Los Angeles Angels	21	8-13	18	11-7	39 (19 overturned, 20 confirmed)	48.7%
Houston Astros	17	8-9	19	9-10	36 (17 overturned, 19 confirmed)	47.2%
San Francisco Giants	14	7-7	16	7-9	30 (14 overturned, 16 confirmed)	46.7%
Boston Red Sox	11	5-6	9	4-5	20 (9 overturned, 11 confirmed)	45.0%
Toronto Blue Jays	19	8-11	15	7-8	34 (15 overturned, 19 confirmed)	44.1%
Chicago White Sox	11	5-6	26	11-15	37 (16 overturned, 21 confirmed)	43.2%
Cleveland Guardians	20	7-13	15	7-8	35 (14 overturned, 21 confirmed)	40.0%
Atlanta Braves	16	4-12	22	11-11	38 (15 overturned, 23 confirmed)	39.5%
Washington Nationals	11	3-8	15	5-10	26 (8 overturned, 18 confirmed)	30.8%



ABS Overturn% Breakdown

2026 – MLB, Regular Season

OVERTURNS CHALLENGES
SITUATION INNINGS

OVERALL
BATTERS
FIELDERS

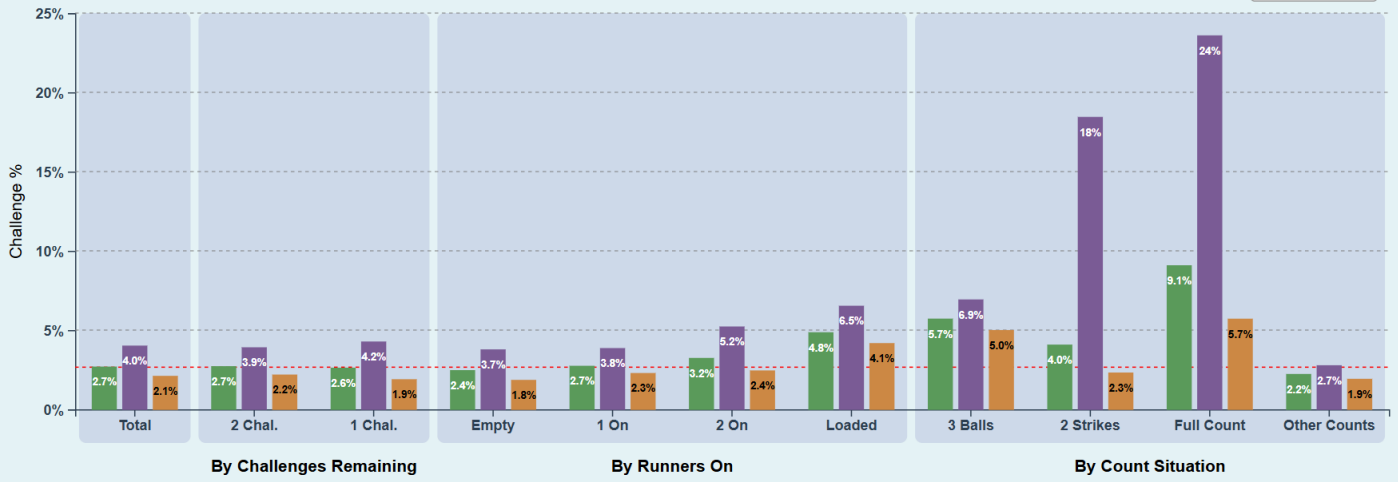


ABS Challenge% Breakdown

2026 – MLB, Regular Season

OVERTURNS CHALLENGES
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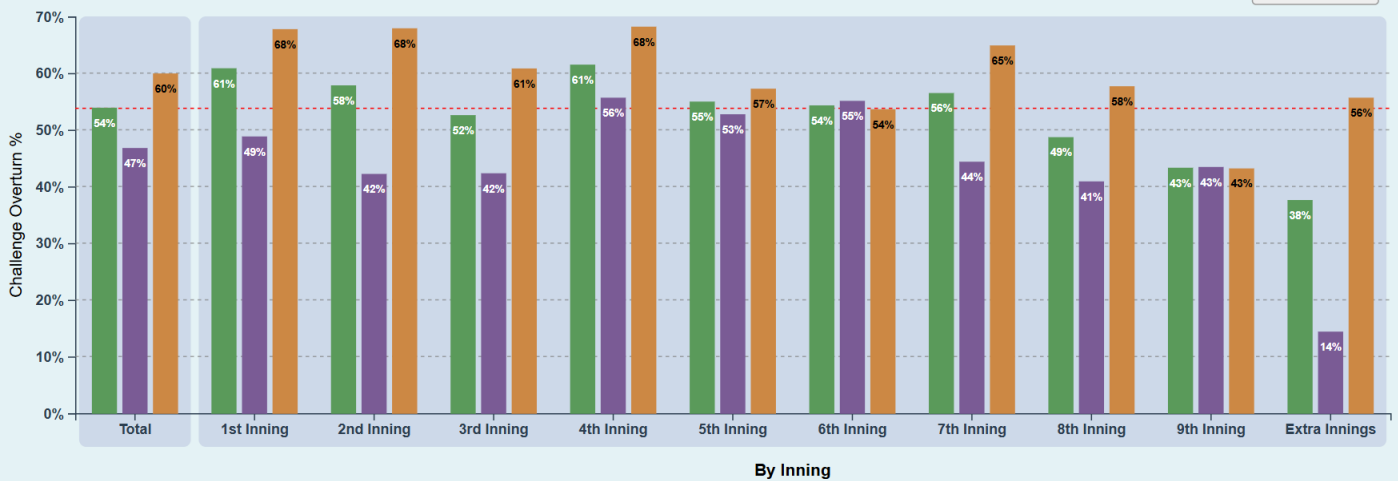


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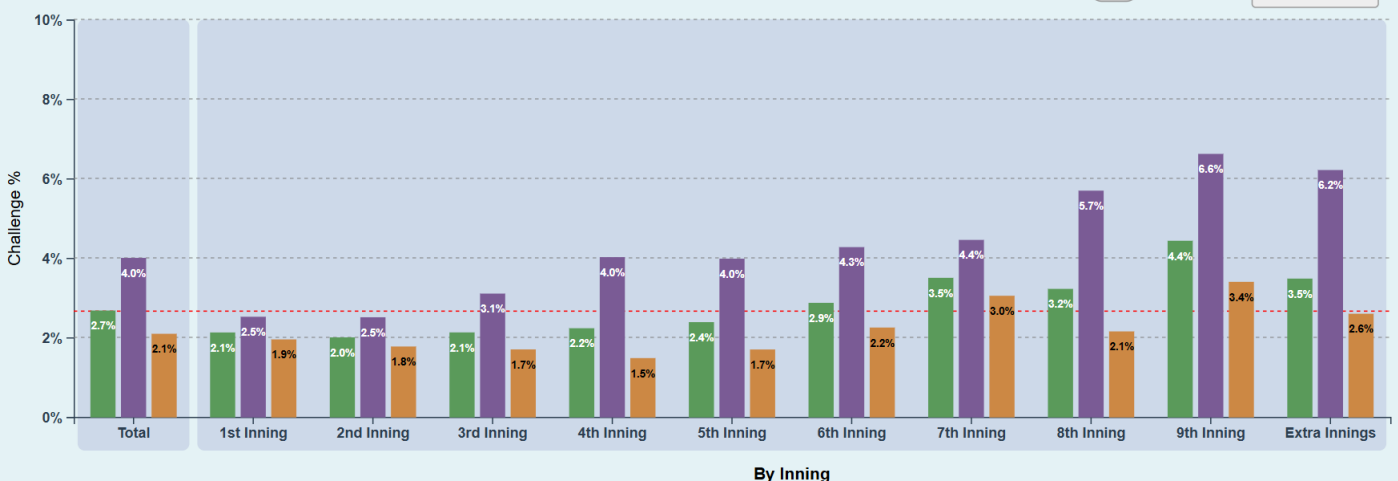


ABS Challenge% Breakdown

2026 – MLB, Regular Season

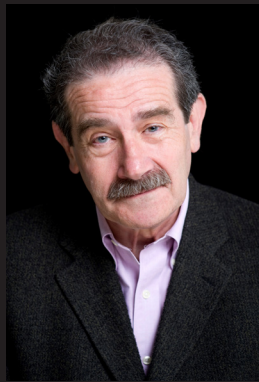
OVERTURNS CHALLENGES
SITUATION INNINGS

OVERALL
BATTERS
FIELDERS



Visit <https://baseballsavant.mlb.com/abs> for more insights!

AMERICA'S NATIONAL GAME



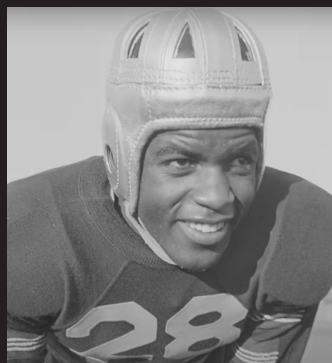
By John Thorn | Official Historian of Major League Baseball

In these days after MLB's annual celebration of Jackie Robinson Day, on April 15, let's look back to his debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947—and the climate that preceded it, going back beyond the hero's birth. His subsequent heroism and his path to the Hall of Fame both seemed assured after his rookie year (at age 28!) but baseball may have been his fourth-best sport. He was a quarterback at UCLA, led the Pac 8 in basketball scoring, and was the NCAA broad jump champion ... plus being selected as a member of the 1940 Olympic squad that never traveled to Tokyo. He has an arguable claim to being America's greatest athlete, ever.

Like America, baseball has struggled with Jefferson's remark in the Declaration of Independence that "all men are created equal." The enduring impulse to exclude has long competed with the benevolence of inclusion, and not only in the areas of race and gender. Despite the Civil War and a brief period of Reconstruction, baseball in 1867 passed a resolution barring Black clubs from admission to the National Association. "If colored clubs were admitted there would be in all probability some division of feeling, whereas, by excluding them no injury could result to anyone." Further testifying to their invisibility, the *New York Clipper* suggested, three years later: "that the colored clubs of New York and Philadelphia at once take measures to organize a National Association of their own."

In this remark one may detect the general direction for Black baseball in all the years up to Jackie Robinson and the Brooklyn Dodgers. I write this despite MLB's overt racial integration in 1884 and, perhaps surreptitiously, five years before, via a one-game appearance for the Providence Grays by a mixed-race—then termed mulatto—college student (see: <https://bit.ly/4c6PHFR>).

Big-league baseball then entered a whites-only era by extending an 1887 International League prohibition against signing additional Black players. Barriers, societal and in baseball, had been erected successively against Jews, Italians, Slavs and, even briefly, the Irish. The rulers of the game and especially Commissioner Landis kept this "gentleman's agreement" in place, though allowances were made in the 1890s for those of red skin and, later, light-complexioned Cubans. Those of mixed race were permitted to play in Organized Baseball if their skin did not reveal their racial heritage. Charles "Bumpus" Jones and Jimmy Claxton are prime among such examples.



Jackie Robinson with UCLA, 1939



Robinson and Rickey in 1962

April 15, 1947 is baseball's greatest day and Jackie Robinson its most important figure, vying only with Babe Ruth. Marking this date annually gives us reason to reflect on how far we have come as a sport and as a nation, and how much further we have to go. It diminishes Robinson and Branch Rickey not one bit to think about all those Black players of long ago who built the bridge, as my friend Buck O'Neil said, that Jackie Robinson walked across. (See my "Baseball Integration Timeline" at <https://bit.ly/4tFZf0f>.)

But let's get back to Robinson and the circumstances of his signing. He and Rickey forced America to confront the falsehood that baseball could truly be a national pastime while excluding peoples of color or national origin, let alone women (against whom no formal barrier exists).

In 1942 Branch Rickey, longtime General Manager of the Cardinals, joined the Brooklyn Dodgers. In St. Louis, with its segregated seating for fans, he knew he had no chance of realizing his long-held ambition to integrate the game. For him, this dated to 1905, when as catcher for the Ohio Wesleyan team, he had seen housing denied to Black catcher Charles Thomas.



Ohio Wesleyan 1903, with manager Rickey (top left) and catcher Thomas (middle row, third from left)

In the spring of 1945, as Rickey prepared to accelerate his scouting efforts, advocates of integration, emboldened by the impending end of World War II and the recent death of Commissioner Landis, escalated their campaign to desegregate baseball. On April 6, 1945, Black sportswriter Joe Bostic appeared at the Dodgers' Bear Mountain training camp with Negro League stars Terris McDuffie and Dave "Showboat" Thomas and forced Rickey to hold tryouts for the two players. Ten days later Black journalist Wendell Smith, white sportswriter Dave Egan, and Boston city councilman Isidore Muchnick engineered an unsuccessful ninety-minute audition with the Red Sox for Robinson, then a shortstop with the Kansas City Monarchs; second baseman Marvin Williams of the Philadelphia Stars; and outfielder Sam Jethroe of the Cleveland Buckeyes. In response to these events the major leagues announced the formation of a Committee on Baseball Integration (the group never met).

In May 1945 Rickey announced the formation of a new franchise, the Brooklyn Brown Dodgers, and a new Negro League, the United States League. He then dispatched his best talent hunters to observe Black ballplayers, ostensibly for the Brown Dodgers, but in reality for the Brooklyn National League club.

Rickey went on to sign Jackie Robinson to a contract with the Montreal Royals, Brooklyn's top affiliate. The date of the contract signing was October 23, but Rickey had first met with Robinson at the Dodger offices in Brooklyn (215 Montague Street) on August 28, ostensibly to discuss his playing in a new Negro League for the team that Rickey had announced in May, the Brooklyn Brown Dodgers. What Rickey really had in mind was to find the men who would integrate his major league Dodgers, thus giving his team an enduring competitive and economic edge.

Rickey looked at several men—Roy Campanella, Don Newcombe, John Wright, and Roy Partlow; Campanella and Newcombe, at least, believed they had been approached to play for the “Brown Dodgers.” Rickey knew he had to act quickly because the Ives-Quinn Act, outlawing racial discrimination in New York State employment, had passed. Moreover, his deal with Robinson, struck on August 28, would expire with October's end. Rickey asked writer Arthur Mann, a close friend (and later a Rickey employee) to write a long piece for *Look* magazine titled “The Negro and Baseball: The National Game Faces a Racial Challenge Long Ignored.”

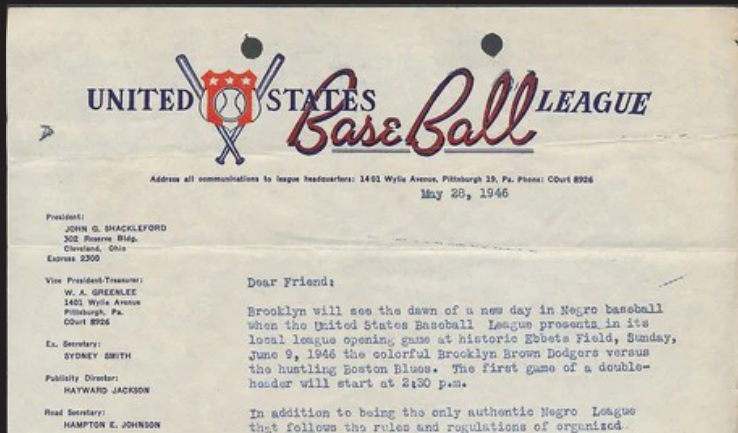
Rickey to Mann:

We just can't go now with the article. The thing isn't dead, — not at all. It is more alive than ever and that is the reason we can't go with any publicity at this time. There is more involved in the situation than I had contemplated. Other players are in it and it maybe that I can't clear these players until after the December meetings, possibly not until after the first of the year. You must simply sit in the boat....

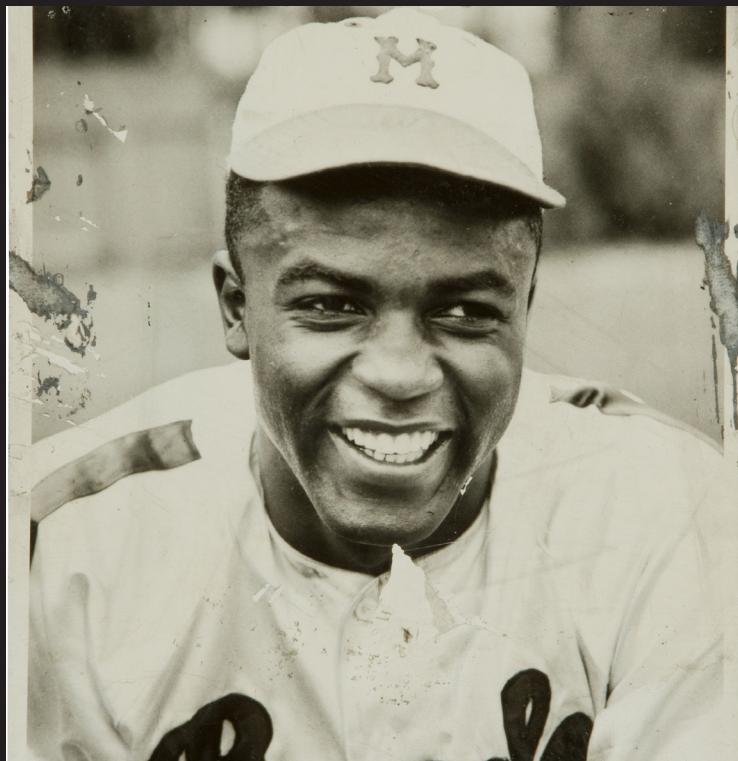
This, I discovered by reviewing the Rickey Papers at the Library of Congress immediately after they were made accessible in 1988, is how Robinson became the lone civil-rights pioneer. He went to spring training in 1946 as a Montreal Royal, at Daytona Beach, Florida, experiencing race-based retribution for daring to play alongside whites. Martin Luther King Jr. famously described him as “a sit-inner before sit-ins, a freedom rider before freedom rides.”

In Montreal Robby hit .349 and led his Royals to a Little World Series victory, in six games, against Louisville, where he could not stay at the same hotel as his teammates. This was followed by a 1947 spring camp in Panama and Cuba, where race was less of a factor. He “made” the Dodgers on April 10, in a sixth-inning announcement during an exhibition game against Montreal, followed by three more with the Yankees.

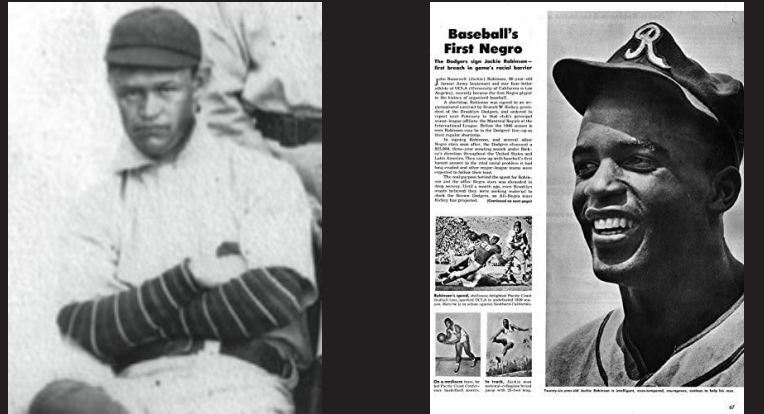
My three sons know the Jackie Robinson story, as all baseball fans do. But I understand what it was like to be alive, then: as an immigrant boy, I *felt* it, identifying with him and with the underdog Dodgers. I must have known how alone he was and how awesome a mission he had assumed: to be the individual who shaped the crowd—which is what a hero does.



The United States League featured the Brooklyn Brown Dodgers

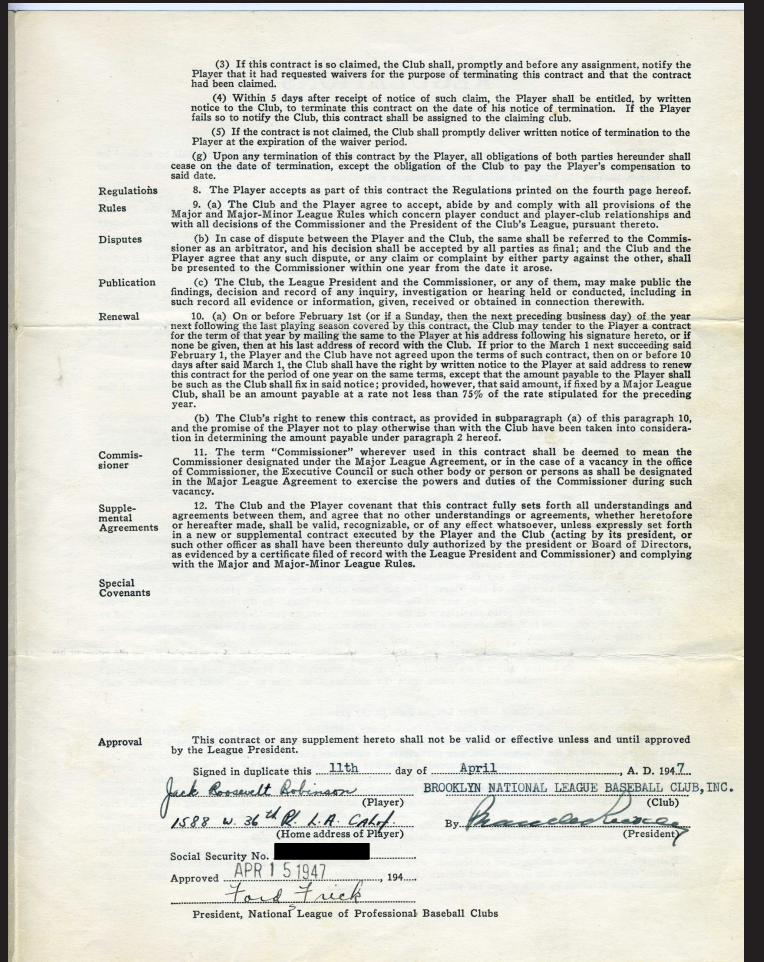


Jackie with Montreal on April 17, 1946, the day before he would make his Organized Baseball debut



Bumpus Jones with Columbus/Grand Rapids, 1899

The Arthur Mann story, truncated, as it appeared in LOOK, October 27, 1945



Jackie Robinson's big-league contract, page 2



WEEKLY AWARDS

All-Star outfielder James Wood of the Washington Nationals was unanimously selected the National League Player of the Week, and starting pitcher José Soriano of the Los Angeles Angels was named the American League Player of the Week.



PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Wood won his first career award, marking the first honor for the Nationals since Eddie Rosario won on May 13, 2024, and the first recognition for a Nationals outfielder since Kyle Schwarber on June 21, 2021. Soriano also earned his first career honor, marking the first award for the Angels since Jo Adell won on September 8th of last year. Overall, Soriano is the first pitcher to win the award since Ranger Suarez won for the Philadelphia Phillies on August 23rd of last year, and it marks the first occurrence in the AL since Tarik Skubal's award for the Detroit Tigers last season on June 28th. Including Shohei Ohtani's awards with the Angels, Soriano is the 15th Angels pitcher to win the award, and the first primary pitcher to earn the nod since Reid Detmers on May 16, 2022, following his no-hitter.



José Soriano
Los Angeles Angels



James Wood
Washington Nationals



PLAY OF THE WEEK



Jordan Beck
Colorado Rockies

Colorado Rockies outfielder Jordan Beck earned his first career Play of the Week Award, marking the third honor for Colorado since the award's inception in 2019. Other Rockies to win the award include Randal Grichuk on April 18, 2022 and Brenton Doyle on July 1, 2024. With the Rockies leading 2-0 in the bottom of the first inning at Petco Park, Nick Castellanos hit a ball to left field as Beck ran back and made a leaping catch at the wall, twisting his body to bring back a potential home run.

2026 WEEKLY AWARDS

DATE	AL PLAYER OF THE WEEK	NL PLAYER OF THE WEEK	PLAY OF THE WEEK
March 30 th	Chase DeLauter, CLE .353 (6-for-17), 4 HR, 5 RBI, 5 R, .353 OBP, 1.059 SLG	Sal Stewart, CIN .700 (7-for-10), 1 HR, 2 RBI, 3 2B, 3 BB, 2 R, .769 OBP, 1.300 SLG	Nasim Nuñez's Acrobatic Diving Stop
April 6 th	Yordan Alvarez, HOU .471 (8-for-17), 3 HR, 8 RBI, 7 BB, 7 R, .615 OBP, 1.118 SLG	Andy Pages, LAD .583 (14-for-24), 2 HR, 7 RBI, 2 2B, 2 BB, 5 R, 1 SB, .615 OBP, .917 SLG	Jo Adell's Game-Saving Home Run Robbery
April 13 th	José Soriano, LAA 2-0, 0.60 ERA(1 ER/15.0 IP), 5 H, 3 BB, 20 K, 0.53 WHIP, .102 OPP AVG	James Wood, WSH .545 (12-for-22), 3 HR, 8 RBI, 6 BB, 8 R, 2 SB, .655 OBP, 1.091 SLG	Jordan Beck's Game-Saving Home Run Robbery

SARAH'S FAVORITE NOTES OF THE WEEK

I'm Sarah Langs, a researcher for MLB.com, and I'm honored to have this space to share some of my favorite notes to wrap up each week of this wonderful sport.

TOP OF THE TOP: When the Angels-Yankees series began on Monday, there was a ton of power in the lineup. The top four active leaders in home runs all played — Giancarlo Stanton, Mike Trout, Aaron Judge and Paul Goldschmidt. It was the first time since at least 1900 that the top four active players in home runs entering that day all played in the same game, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

MVP POWER: Of course, they didn't all just play. Two of them put on a show. Three-time MVPs Trout and Judge each hit two home runs in the game. It was the fourth game in which two players who were already multi-time MVPs hit multiple home runs each, per Elias. They joined July 3, 1962 Roger Maris and Mickey Mantle, July 6, 1962 Maris and Mantle and June 21, 1956 Roy Campanella and Stan Musial.

MULTI HOMERS ACROSS THE BOARD: Trout and Judge were two of nine players who hit multiple homers on Monday. That's tied for the second-most players with multi-homer games on a single day in MLB history, behind 10 on Sept. 10, 2019. It was the most on a day before July in history. There were 10 MLB games on Monday, averaging 14.4 runs per game. That's the most runs per game on a single day with at least 10 games since July 18, 1936 (14.6). The only other April or March days in MLB history with 10+ games and as many runs per game were April 21 (15.7) and April 19 (14.4) in 1890.

BACK-TO-BACK-TO-BACK: Trout started a streak of three straight homers in the first inning on Tuesday, with Jo Adell and Jorge Soler hitting the other two. It was the sixth time Trout was involved in a back-to-back-to-back home run sequence. That ties Henry Aaron, Adrian Beltre, J.D. Drew and Frank J. Thomas for the most such instances by a player since at least 1900, per Elias.

TWO BUCKS: Byron Buxton had four hits on Tuesday, including two home runs. It was his 18th career multi-homer game, tying Roy Sievers and Tony Oliva for third-most in Twins/Senators franchise history, behind only Harmon Killebrew (45) and Justin Morneau (20).

MILLER TIME: Mason Miller has been on another level this year. Through his appearance on Tuesday, he's thrown 29.2 consecutive scoreless innings dating to last season. That's the longest active streak in MLB and the third-longest streak in Padres history, per Elias. He trails only 2006 Cla Meredith (33.2 IP) and 1980 Randy Jones (30 IP). Miller has 20 strikeouts in 27 batters faced this season. That 74.1% strikeout rate is the highest by a pitcher in his first eight appearances of a season since at least 1900.

WHAT A START: Nolan McLean made his 12th career start on Tuesday, and now has 85 strikeouts and just 20 runs allowed. He's the third pitcher since at least 1900 with 80 or more strikeouts and 20 or fewer runs allowed in first 12 career appearances, joining 2024 Paul Skenes and 2012-13 Matt Harvey.

YOUNG SAL: Sal Stewart racked up two homers and six RBI in the first two innings on Wednesday. At 22 years and 129 days, Stewart became the second-youngest Reds player with at least six RBI in a game (RBI official since 1920), older than only 8/23/23 Elly De La Cruz (21y 224d). Stewart's six RBI tied for the most by a Reds player in the first two innings of a game in at least the divisional era (1969), with 9/1/21 Nick Castellanos

THE GREATEST SHO: Shohei Ohtani made his third pitching start of the season on Wednesday and finally allowed an earned run, ending his streak without an earned run at 32.2 innings dating to last regular season. That was the longest of his career. He also extended his on-base streak Tuesday to 48 games dating to last regular season, the longest active on-base streak in MLB. It's the fourth-longest on-base streak by a Dodgers player since 1900, behind 1954 Duke Snider (58), 2000 Shawn Green (53) and 1900-01 Willie Keeler (50).

CURRENT IRONMAN: Matt Olson has played 801 consecutive games entering Friday, dating to May 2, 2021. His streak is the 12th-longest in MLB history. The only other streaks of at least 700 consecutive games to begin in the divisional era (1969) are, of course, 1982-98 Cal Ripken Jr. (2,632 games), as well as 1975-83 Steve Garvey (1,207), 2000-07 Miguel Tejada (1,152), 1978-83 Pete Rose (745) and 1981-86 Dale Murphy (740).

For more great notes and baseball tidbits, follow Sarah on Twitter ([@SlangOnSports](#))



UPON FURTHER REVIEW

Through Wednesday night's games, Major League Baseball has had 171 replay reviews, which have taken an average of one minute and twenty-four seconds. The 171 replay reviews consist of 149 Manager Challenges and 22 Crew Chief Reviews.

171 Replay Reviews
35 Confirmed (20.5%)
45 Stands (26.3%)
91 Overturned (53.2%)
0 Rules Check (0.0%)
0 Record Keeping (0.0%)
1:24 Average Time

LINE DRIVES

Compiled from Club Game Notes

ALL RISE: Entering Thursday's series finale, Aaron Judge has reached base in 20-of-49 plate appearances over his last 11 games since 4/3, batting .300/.417/.650 (12-for-40) with 12 runs, two doubles, four HR, nine RBI, seven walks, and three stolen bases. He is tied for first in the AL and tied for third in the Majors in home runs. Four of his six home runs this season have given the Yankees the lead. Since 2019, 140 of his 291 home runs have either tied the game (21) or given the Yankees the lead (119).

NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE: Dylan Cease has struck out 32 batters this season, the second-most through a pitcher's first four games as a Blue Jay in franchise history, trailing only David Price (33 strikeouts from Aug. 3-21, 2015). Entering Thursday, Cease leads the Majors in whiffs (73) and whiff rate (41%), while ranking second in strikeouts, trailing only Jacob Misiorowski who has 33. He has kept hitters to an average exit velocity of 85.2 MPH this season, the third-lowest mark among qualified pitchers in MLB, trailing only Jeffrey Springs (84.4 MPH) and Paul Skenes (85.1 MPH).

OUR PAL SAL: Sal Stewart has hit safely in 14 of his 18 games this season and reached base in 17 of 18 (20-for-62, .323/.434/.726). He's been on base 33 times, which ranks tied for fifth in the Majors. Stewart ranks among Major League leaders in HR (7, tied for second), RBI (17, Tied for seventh), OBP (ninth), SLG (second), OPS (1.160, third), extra-base hits (11, Tied for fourth), and total bases (45, fifth). In last night's 8-3 win vs SF, produced his first multi-HR game, hitting a pair of three-run shots off RHP Tyler Mahle (1st & 2nd innings). The six RBI in the game marked a new career high. Stewart has 12 HR through his first 36 career games, second-most by any Red through his first 36g since 1900 (Aristides Aquino 15hr, 2018-2019).

CAN'T WARD HIM OFF: Taylor Ward has reached base safely 16 straight games, slashing .344/.434/.500 (22-for-64) with 10 doubles, nine runs, eight RBI, 10 walks, and one hit-by-pitch. The on-base streak is tied for the second-longest active streak in the Majors. He had 10 doubles and 10 walks through 15 games, only the second player in the live ball era (since 1920) with double-digit doubles and walks in the first 15 games of a season. Ward's 10 doubles on the season lead MLB, outpacing SF's Willy Adames (9), while his 10 extra-base hits are tied for second in the AL behind Yordan Alvarez (11). Ward enters play today as the only player in the Majors to have four hits in two separate games this season. In 704 career games entering the 2026 season, Ward's career high in hits was three, done 37 times.

Flamin' Mason: Mason Miller extended his scoreless streak to 29.2 innings last night, dating back to Aug. 6, 2025 at ARI. It is the longest-active streak among all pitchers and the third-longest streak in Padre history. Opponents are 0-for-17 this season and just 1-for-43 against his slider dating back to Aug. 26, 2025. His slider has a 79.3% whiff rate, the highest-whiff rate of any single pitch by a player this season. On the season, Miller has struck out 20 of the 27 batters he has faced for a 74.1% strikeout rate, it is the highest K% by a pitcher in his first 8 appearances of a season since at least 1900 (Sarah Langs).

SUDDEN SAM: Sam Moll has opened the 2026 season by not allowing a hit to any of his first 35 batters. It's the longest such hitless streak by a Reds pitcher to open a season since 1961. Moll's eight consecutive hitless relief apps ranks as the second-longest streak by a Reds pitcher to open a season since 1900 (John Franco 11 games, 1987).

CATCH HIM IF YOU CHAN: Chandler Simpson is the fourth player to reach base safely in each of the Rays first 15 games of a season. He is one of four players in the Majors to reach base safely in each of his club's first 15 games this season, he has a 16-game on-base streak overall dating back to Sept. 27, 2025, second longest of his career (18G, June 25–July 19, 2025) and tied for the longest active streak in the AL with Riley Greene. He leads the Majors in singles (21) and paces the AL in average (.411/23-for-56) and hits. He has also swiped 7 SB, tied for second in the AL. Simpson is the 11th player in Major League history with a .400 average or better, seven stolen bases or more, and three strikeouts or fewer through his team's first 15 games.

KENLEY CLIMBS THE CHARTS: With two saves in the last two games, Kenley Jansen now boasts 480 career saves to surpass Hall of Famer Lee Arthur Smith (478) for third-most in Major League history. Only Hall of Famers Mariano Rivera (652 saves) and Trevor Hoffman (601 saves) have more. Jansen's 480 saves have come with five different clubs: the Los Angeles Dodgers (350), Boston Red Sox (56), Atlanta Braves (41), Los Angeles Angels (29) and Tigers (four).

PITCHING IN: Seth Lugo last night allowed just one run in 6.2 innings, lowering the ERA of Kansas City's starting rotation to 2.64, which leads the Majors ahead of the Braves (2.84). The Royals have 10 quality starts in 18 games (55.6%), third most in the Majors to the Mariners (12) and Dodgers (11). In 18 games, Royals starters have allowed zero earned runs in six starts, one ER-or-fewer in 12 starts (most in the Majors) and two-or-fewer in 13 starts (1 behind the MLB lead).

TURNING TWO: Mauricio Dubón and Matt Olson completed a 6-3 double play in last night's seventh inning, and the Braves have now turned a double play on the infield in 15 consecutive games dating to March 30 vs. the A's. That is by far the longest streak in baseball this season, and the longest for a Braves club since the 1985 season. Atlanta had a 15-game streak from June 19 through July 4 of that year, and a 17-game run from September 17 through October 4. Atlanta's 20 total double plays turned on the infield this season are most in the National League, and trail just Seattle (23) in all of baseball.

GOOD WOOD: Entering play on Thursday, James Wood has reached base safely in nine of his last 10 games, going 14-for-36 (.389) with three doubles, four homers, 11 RBI, 10 walks, three stolen bases and 11 runs scored. He has hits in eight of the 10 games. He is the only player in Major League Baseball with more than one batted ball greater than 116.0 MPH this season, he's also the only player with more than two batted balls (has three) of at least 115.0 MPH.

HE IS A MONIAK MONIAK: Mickey Moniak collected two home runs in Saturday's game, his second multi-homer game of the season. One of two players this season with multiple multi-homer games alongside Pittsburgh's Brandon Lowe. Since being reinstated from the 10-day injured list (sprained right finger) on April 3, Moniak is slashing .265/.278/.706 with five home runs and nine RBI. He is tied for the second-most home runs in the Majors since April 3 while ranking ninth in slugging percentage. He leads the club in both home runs and RBI despite missing the first six games of the year. Overall since June 1, 2025, ranks fourth in the Majors (first in NL) with a .600 slugging percentage and eighth (third in NL) with a .924 OPS (min. 300 PA).



MLB ON-AIR THIS WEEK

(All Times ET)

	SUNDAY NIGHT BASEBALL	TUESDAY	
Friday, April 17th:	Tampa Bay Rays @ Pittsburgh Pirates Detroit Tigers @ Boston Red Sox	6:45 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	Apple TV Apple TV
Saturday, April 18th:	Texas Rangers @ Seattle Mariners Atlanta Braves @ Philadelphia Phillies	7:15 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	FOX FOX
Sunday, April 19th:	Atlanta Braves @ Philadelphia Phillies	7:20 p.m.	NBC/Peacock
Monday, April 20th:	Baltimore Orioles @ Kansas City Royals	7:40 p.m.	FS1
Tuesday, April 21th:	New York Yankees @ Boston Red Sox	6:45 p.m.	TBS

AL WEST, AL EAST & NL EAST SHOWDOWNS IN NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Please note: Games on FS1 and TBS are available locally on Regional Sports Networks and/or via Club DTC products for fans watching in the Clubs' market

Thursday, April 16th:	Toronto Blue Jays @ Milwaukee Brewers Seattle Mariners @ San Diego Padres	1:40 p.m. 8:40 p.m.	
Friday, April 17th:	New York Mets @ Chicago Cubs Atlanta Braves @ Philadelphia Phillies Texas Rangers @ Seattle Mariners	2:20 p.m. 6:40 p.m. 9:40 p.m.	
Saturday, April 18th:	New York Mets @ Chicago Cubs	2:20 p.m.	
Sunday, April 19th:	Detroit Tigers @ Boston Red Sox	1:35 p.m.	
Monday, April 20th:	Detroit Tigers @ Boston Red Sox Cincinnati Reds @ Tampa Bay Rays Toronto Blue Jays @ Los Angeles Angels	11:10 a.m. 6:40 p.m. 9:38 p.m.	
Tuesday, April 21st:	Athletics @ Seattle Mariners	9:40 p.m.	
Wednesday, April 22nd:	Houston Astros @ Cleveland Guardians New York Yankees @ Boston Red Sox	1:10 p.m. 6:45 p.m.	
Thursday, April 23rd:	Philadelphia Phillies @ Chicago Cubs	2:20 p.m.	

Please note: Most games are available locally on Regional Sports Networks and/or via Club DTC products for fans watching in the Clubs' market

SiriusXM

American League SiriusXM Channels		National League SiriusXM Channels	
Athletics	Channel 841	Arizona Diamondbacks	Channel 840
Baltimore Orioles	Channel 843	Atlanta Braves	Channel 842
Boston Red Sox	Channel 844	Chicago Cubs	Channel 845
Chicago White Sox	Channel 846	Cincinnati Reds	Channel 847
Cleveland Guardians	Channel 848	Colorado Rockies	Channel 849
Detroit Tigers	Channel 850	Los Angeles Dodgers	Channel 854
Houston Astros	Channel 851	Miami Marlins	Channel 855
Kansas City Royals	Channel 852	Milwaukee Brewers	Channel 856
Los Angeles Angels	Channel 853	New York Mets	Channel 858
Minnesota Twins	Channel 857	Philadelphia Phillies	Channel 860
New York Yankees	Channel 859	Pittsburgh Pirates	Channel 861
Seattle Mariners	Channel 864	San Diego Padres	Channel 862
Tampa Bay Rays	Channel 866	San Francisco Giants	Channel 863
Texas Rangers	Channel 867	St. Louis Cardinals	Channel 865
Toronto Blue Jays	Channel 868	Washington Nationals	Channel 869

Channel 89

Visit <https://www.mlb.com/watch> for details on where to watch!