



# MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL WEEKLY NOTES

April 23, 2026



# 2026 MEXICO CITY SERIES

MLB's Mexico City Series returns this weekend, featuring two games between the Arizona Diamondbacks and San Diego Padres on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. The contests at Estadio Alfredo Harp Helú Béisbol, which will be the latest installment of MLB's WORLD TOUR, will be D-backs home games and will mark the third regular season visit by MLB to Mexico's capital city following the 2023 series between the Padres and San Francisco Giants, and the 2024 set between the Houston Astros and the Colorado Rockies.

Arizona last played internationally in a two-game series against the Rockies in Monterrey, Mexico in 2019. Prior to that series, the D-backs also played in the 2014 season-opening two-game series against the Dodgers in Sydney, Australia; and in exhibition games in Hermosillo, Mexico against the Rockies (2015 and 2010), Team Mexico (2009), Chicago White Sox (2008), Kansas City Royals (2003), Padres (2002), Oakland Athletics (2001), Anaheim Angels (2000), and Milwaukee Brewers (1998-99).

For the Padres, this will mark their first international trip since playing two games against the Los Angeles Dodgers in Seoul, South Korea to open the 2024 season. San Diego has also played in the aforementioned twogame series in Mexico City against the Giants in 2023; in a three-game regular season series in Monterrey in 2018 against the Dodgers; in a pair of exhibition games in Mexico City in 2016 against the Astros; in two exhibition games against the Dodgers in Beijing, China in 2008; in a 2002 exhibition game against the D-backs in Hermosillo; in a 2001 exhibition game against the Rockies in Culiacan, Mexico; in the 1999 season-opener against the Rockies in Monterrey; and in a three-game regular season set in 1996 against the Mets in Monterrey.

| GAMES PLAYED IN MEXICO BY MAJOR LEAGUE CLUBS |             |                |  |
|--|-------------|----------------|--|
| DATE   | CITY        | TYPE           | RESULT   |
| August 16, 1996                              | Monterrey   | Regular Season | San Diego Padres 15, New York Mets 10          |
| August 17, 1996                              | Monterrey   | Regular Season | New York Mets 7, San Diego Padres 3            |
| August 18, 1996                              | Monterrey   | Regular Season | San Diego Padres 8, New York Mets 0            |
| March 15, 1998                               | Hermosillo  | Exhibition     | Arizona Diamondbacks 9, Milwaukee Brewers 5    |
| March 20, 1999                               | Hermosillo  | Exhibition     | Milwaukee Brewers 5, Arizona Diamondbacks 2    |
| April 4, 1999                                | Monterrey   | Opening Day    | Colorado Rockies 8, San Diego Padres 2         |
| March 18, 2000                               | Hermosillo  | Exhibition     | Arizona Diamondbacks 11, Anaheim Angels 3      |
| March 16, 2001                               | Culiacan    | Exhibition     | Colorado Rockies 6, San Diego Padres 5         |
| March 17, 2001                               | Mexico City | Exhibition     | Pittsburgh Pirates 8, Tampa Bay Devil Rays 6   |
| March 18, 2001                               | Hermosillo  | Exhibition     | Arizona Diamondbacks 7, Oakland Athletics 4    |
| March 18, 2001                               | Mexico City | Exhibition     | Tampa Bay Devil Rays 9, Pittsburgh Pirates 6   |
| March 17, 2002                               | Hermosillo  | Exhibition     | San Diego Padres 12, Arizona Diamondbacks 7    |
| March 15, 2003                               | Mexico City | Exhibition     | New York Mets 16, Los Angeles Dodgers 11       |
| March 16, 2003                               | Hermosillo  | Exhibition     | Arizona Diamondbacks 15, Kansas City Royals 1  |
| March 16, 2003                               | Mexico City | Exhibition     | Los Angeles Dodgers 20, New York Mets 10       |
| March 13, 2004                               | Mexico City | Exhibition     | Florida Marlins 6, Houston Astros 1            |
| March 14, 2004                               | Mexico City | Exhibition     | Florida Marlins 2, Houston Astros 2            |
| March 2, 2008                                | Hermosillo  | Exhibition     | Arizona Diamondbacks 7, Chicago White Sox 6    |
| March 6, 2009                                | Hermosillo  | Exhibition     | Arizona Diamondbacks 4, Team Mexico 2          |
| March 15, 2010                               | Hermosillo  | Exhibition     | Arizona Diamondbacks 8, Colorado Rockies 7     |
| March 29, 2015                               | Hermosillo  | Exhibition     | Colorado Rockies 11, Arizona Diamondbacks 10   |
| March 26, 2016                               | Mexico City | Exhibition     | Houston Astros 11, San Diego Padres 1          |
| March 27, 2016                               | Mexico City | Exhibition     | San Diego Padres 21, Houston Astros 6          |
| May 4, 2018                                  | Monterrey   | Regular Season | Los Angeles Dodgers 4, San Diego Padres 0      |
| May 5, 2018                                  | Monterrey   | Regular Season | San Diego Padres 7, Los Angeles Dodgers 4      |
| May 6, 2018                                  | Monterrey   | Regular Season | San Diego Padres 3, Los Angeles Dodgers 0      |
| March 9, 2019                                | Monterrey   | Exhibition     | Colorado Rockies 5, Arizona Diamondbacks 1     |
| March 10, 2019                               | Monterrey   | Exhibition     | Arizona Diamondbacks 5, Colorado Rockies 2     |
| April 13, 2019                               | Monterrey   | Regular Season | Cincinnati Reds 5, St. Louis Cardinals 2       |
| April 14, 2019                               | Monterrey   | Regular Season | St. Louis Cardinals 9, Cincinnati Reds 5       |
| May 4, 2019                                  | Monterrey   | Regular Season | Houston Astros 14, Los Angeles Angels 2        |
| May 5, 2019                                  | Monterrey   | Regular Season | Houston Astros 10, Los Angeles Angels 4        |
| April 29, 2023                               | Mexico City | Regular Season | San Diego Padres 16, San Francisco Giants 11   |
| April 30, 2023                               | Mexico City | Regular Season | San Diego Padres 6, San Francisco Giants 4     |
| March 24, 2024                               | Mexico City | Exhibition     | Diablos Rojos del Mexico 4, New York Yankees 3 |
| March 25, 2024                               | Mexico City | Exhibition     | Diablos Rojos del Mexico 8, New York Yankees 5 |
| April 27, 2024                               | Mexico City | Regular Season | Houston Astros 12, Colorado Rockies 4          |
| April 28, 2024                               | Mexico City | Regular Season | Houston Astros 8, Colorado Rockies 2           |
| March 24, 2025                               | Monterrey   | Exhibition     | Boston Red Sox 10, Sultanes de Monterrey 1     |
| March 25, 2025                               | Monterrey   | Exhibition     | Boston Red Sox 12, Sultanes de Monterrey 8     |

# DECISION FOR THE DIAMOND

*With the NFL Draft beginning tonight, here is an annual look at some notable players throughout Major League Baseball who have passed on pursuing football careers as well as NFL stars who chose the gridiron over the diamond.*

## Current/Recent MLB players:

- New York Yankees outfielder **Aaron Judge** was a three-sport athlete (baseball, football and basketball) at Linden High School in California. As a wide receiver his senior year he set Linden's single season records for receiving yards (969) and touchdown receptions (17). Before attending Fresno State to play baseball, he received offers to play football at Notre Dame, Stanford, UCLA and Washington, among others.
- Baltimore Orioles catcher **Adley Rutschman** played both baseball and football at Sherwood High School in Oregon, serving as a running back, linebacker and kicker for the football team. He pursued an opportunity his freshman year to be the place kicker at Oregon State University, averaging 59.5 yards per kick with 20 touchbacks. While he ultimately decided to give up football after his freshman season, he was left with the lifetime memory of tackling current San Francisco 49ers running back Christian McCaffrey in their game against Stanford (see him the tackle [here](#)).
- New York Yankees designated hitter **Giancarlo Stanton** was a three-sport star (baseball, football and basketball) at Notre Dame High School in southern California. He accepted a scholarship to play baseball for USC before being selected 79<sup>th</sup> overall by the Marlins in the 2007 MLB Draft. Stanton also received offers from USC, UCLA and UNLV to play football.
- Tampa Bay Rays starting pitcher **Ryan Pepiot** was a three-sport athlete at Westfield High School in Indiana, where he played quarterback for all four years and earned multiple football scholarship offers, including Ball State University. Pepiot compares his playing style to retired Pittsburgh Steeler Ben Roethlisberger because he was "basically a fullback who could throw." Ultimately, he attended Butler University to play baseball, where he was drafted from by the Los Angeles Dodgers in the third round of the 2019 Draft.
- Milwaukee Brewers outfielder **Sal Frelick** was named the 2017-18 Gatorade Massachusetts Football Player of the Year after he passed for 30 touchdowns and rushed for 20 more, averaging 13.2 yards per carry at Lexington High School (see his senior year highlights [here](#)). In addition to his offer to play baseball at Boston College, he was offered a scholarship to play football at BC.
- Philadelphia Phillies outfielder **Brandon Marsh** was a three-sport athlete at Buford High School in Georgia, playing wide receiver and cornerback on the AAAA state championship team in 2012 and 2013 (see his senior year highlight tape [here](#)). After a breakout junior year on the diamond which included a 2015 state championship and another run to the state championship game in 2016, Marsh declined numerous Division I offers to play football and intended to play baseball at Kennesaw State University. He was ultimately drafted in 2016 and signed with the Angels.
- Atlanta Braves third baseman **Austin Riley** was quarterback as a freshman and sophomore at DeSoto Central High School in Mississippi, before his focus shifted to baseball and he elected to stay on the football team as a kicker for his junior and senior year. He had a walk-on offer from Mississippi State, where his dad was a punter from 1987-1991 and Austin was committed for baseball, before the Braves drafted him in 2015.
- Before the Arizona Diamondbacks selected outfielder **Alek Thomas** in the second round of the 2018 Draft, he verbally committed to attend Texas Christian University to pursue both baseball and football after playing both sports at Mount Carmel High School in Chicago, Illinois.
- Arizona Diamondbacks second baseman **Tim Tawa** set state records in Oregon for all-time passing yards (11,352), completions (714) and passing touchdowns (143) at West Linn High School (see his senior year highlights [here](#)). He was named Gatorade Oregon Football Player of the year in 2015, 2016 and 2017, leading the school to the 6A state title with a perfect 14-0 season in 2017. His head coach in high school was Chris Miller, a 10-year NFL quarterback, who called Tawa "the greatest quarterback in state history. No doubt about it." Tawa decided as a high school sophomore to pursue baseball at Stanford University, where he played before was drafted in the 11<sup>th</sup> round of the 2021 Draft.
- **Casey Kelly**, who is currently pitching in the Diamondbacks organization and was a centerpiece of the deal that sent Adrián González to the Boston Red Sox prior to the 2011 season, was a standout quarterback in high school in Sarasota, Florida. He was headed to the University of Tennessee before being selected by the Red Sox as the 30<sup>th</sup> pick in the first round of the 2008 MLB Draft.
- Pittsburgh Pirates starting pitchers **Bubba Chandler** and **Braxton Ashcraft** both had college offers to play football before the Pirates drafted them. Chandler played quarterback for three seasons at North Oconee High School in Georgia, where he passed for 1,842 yards and 18 touchdowns while also rushing 79 times for 548 yards and six touchdowns as a senior (see his highlight tape [here](#)). He was committed to Clemson for both baseball and football before being selected in the third round in 2021. Ashcraft had 34 touchdown catches as a sophomore and 37 touchdown receptions among his 104 catches and 2,090 yards as junior at Robinson High School in Texas (see his junior year highlights [here](#)). He was offered multiple offers to play football collegiately before he was drafted in 2018.
- Chicago Cubs starting pitcher **Cade Horton** attended Oklahoma and was originally committed to play baseball and offered a walk-on opportunity for football. The standout quarterback, who was the fifth overall selection in the 2022 Draft by the Cubs, threw for 3,084 yards, rushed for 1,149 yards and scored 41 total touchdowns as a senior at Norman High School in Oklahoma.

- Miami Marlins pitching prospect **Robby Snelling**, who is currently ranked as Miami's second-best prospect per *MLB Pipeline*, was a four-star football recruit as a linebacker out of Robert McQueen High School, where he played for his father, Jim, who was the head coach (see his high school highlights [here](#)). Snelling originally committed to the University of Stanford for baseball in his freshman year, but decommitted in his junior year when he received 15 full-ride football scholarship offers from the likes of Notre Dame, Oregon, UCLA, Nebraska, Virginia and Ole Miss. He eventually committed to play both baseball and football for Arizona, but decommitted when baseball coach Jay Johnson left to coach at LSU, with Snelling following to play baseball, but ultimately foregoing the offer when he was selected 39<sup>th</sup> overall by the San Diego Padres in the 2022 MLB Draft.

### **Former/Retired MLB players:**

- Hall of Famer **Mickey Mantle** was a three-sport athlete at Commerce High School in Oklahoma, playing baseball, basketball and football. He received a football scholarship from the University of Oklahoma.
- Hall of Famer **Harmon Killebrew** was an All-American quarterback at Payette High School in Idaho, earning 12 varsity letters. He was offered a football scholarship from the University of Oregon.
- Hall of Famer **Frank Thomas** played football as a freshman tight end for Auburn, catching three passes for 45 yards, but he then focused only on baseball for the rest of his college career.
- Hall of Famer **Jim Rice** was a three-sport athlete at T.L. Hannah High School, playing baseball, basketball and football. Rice was an all-state kick returner, defensive back and wide receiver, leading to football scholarships from Clemson, North Carolina and the University of Nebraska.
- Hall of Famer **Ryne Sandberg** was a three-sport star at North Central High School in Spokane, Washington and was named to Parade Magazine's High School All-America team. He originally signed a letter of intent with Washington State University, but opted not to attend after the Philadelphia Phillies drafted him in the 20<sup>th</sup> round of the 1978 MLB Draft.
- Hall of Famer **Reggie Jackson** was a star athlete at Cheltenham High School in Pennsylvania, excelling in baseball, football, basketball and track and field. Jackson accepted a football scholarship from Arizona State University, while receiving additional offers from Alabama, Georgia and Oklahoma. Following one season on the football team, Jackson decided to switch to baseball full-time during his sophomore season when he would become a First Team All-American. Mr. October was the second overall pick by the Kansas City Athletics in the 1966 MLB Draft.
- Hall of Famer **Jackie Robinson** was a four-sport star at John Muir High School in Pasadena, California, playing baseball, football, basketball and track and field. After thriving in each sports at Pasadena Junior College, Jackie enrolled at UCLA, where he became the school's first athlete to letter in four varsity sports. In 1941, Robinson pursued a career with the Los Angeles Bulldogs of the Pacific Coast Football League. Following his military career, Robinson ultimately accepted a contract from the Kansas City Monarchs in the Negro Leagues and would thus begin his historical professional baseball career.
- Hall of Famer **Dave Winfield** was drafted by four teams in three different sports following his college career. The San Diego Padres selected him fourth overall in the 1973 Draft, four years after the Baltimore Orioles selected him out of high school in the 40<sup>th</sup> round. Despite not playing football in college, Winfield was chosen by the Minnesota Vikings in the 17<sup>th</sup> round of the 1973 NFL Draft. Winfield was also selected in the 1973 NBA Draft by the Atlanta Hawks.
- Rockies Hall of Fame first baseman **Todd Helton** was the signal-caller for the University of Tennessee. Slated to be the Vols' backup quarterback in 1994, Helton took over for the injured Jerry Colquitt in the season opener at UCLA and started the next three games. Helton suffered a sprained Medial Collateral Ligament in the first half of Tennessee's September 24<sup>th</sup> game at Mississippi State, and a freshman named Peyton Manning took over from then on.
- Twins Hall of Fame backstop **Joe Mauer**, a six-time All-Star and the 2009 American League Most Valuable Player, was Gatorade's National Player of the Year as a quarterback at Cretin-Derham Hall High School and signed a letter of intent to play at Florida State.
- Hall of Fame starting pitcher **CC Sabathia**, a six-time All-Star and 2007 AL Cy Young Award winner, signed a letter of intent to play as a tight end at the University of Hawaii, but he signed with Cleveland after being a first round pick in 1998.
- Former MLB pitcher **Jeff Samardzija** was a wide receiver at the University of Notre Dame, catching a total of 24 passes in his first two seasons before emerging as a star in his junior season in 2005. He finished the year with 77 catches and single-season records in both receiving yards (1,215) and touchdown receptions (15) with numerous All-America selections. After a senior season in 2006 with 12 touchdowns, Samardzija finished as the school's all-time leader in reception yards with 2,593 and was one of three finalists for the Fred Biletnikoff Award for the nation's top wide receiver.
- **Bo Jackson**, a Heisman Trophy winner, played four seasons in the NFL with the Oakland Raiders from 1987-1990, and played eight years in the majors from 1986-1994. Bo was named Comeback Player of the Year in 1993, after he had missed the 1992 season due to hip replacement surgery which would force him to retire during the 1994 season. Jackson was the first athlete to be named an All-Star in two major sports. He was selected on three occasions in the MLB Draft -- first out of high school by the New York Yankees in the second round in 1982; then by the Los Angeles Angels in the 20<sup>th</sup> round in 1985; and finally in the fourth round in 1986 by the Kansas City Royals. Jackson was the first overall selection of the 1986 NFL Draft by the Tampa Bay Bucs, but refused to sign with the team, and was again selected in 1987 in the seventh round by the Los Angeles Raiders.



- Like Jackson, **Deion Sanders** had success in both MLB and the NFL. “Prime Time” played nine seasons in the Majors, leading the league in triples in 1992 and hitting .533 in the 1992 World Series. Deion recorded 53 career interceptions in 13 NFL seasons and was selected to the Pro Bowl eight times. Sanders was drafted by the Atlanta Falcons with the fifth overall selection in the 1989 NFL Draft, and selected by the New York Yankees in the 30<sup>th</sup> round of the 1988 Amateur Draft. He is the only athlete to play in a World Series and a Super Bowl.



- Retired slugger **Adam Dunn**, who signed with the Reds after being drafted in the second round in 1998, accepted a scholarship to play football at the University of Texas, but after the school’s spring football game in 1999, he decided to play baseball full-time. A high school quarterback, Dunn resisted a position change after being informed he would not be the Longhorns’ starting quarterback in the upcoming season.
- Former Major League outfielder and manager **Kirk Gibson** was a wide receiver at Michigan State University, where he was named to the 1978 College Football All-America Team. He was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals in the seventh round of the 1979 NFL Draft.
- Outfielder **Billy Hamilton**, who is currently a free agent, was an all-state athlete in baseball, football and basketball at Taylorsville High School in Mississippi. He was a top wide receiver prospect, but turned down a football scholarship from Mississippi State University and was drafted by the Reds in the second round of the 2009 MLB Draft.
- Free agent reliever **Archie Bradley**, who was the seventh overall selection in the 2011 Draft, passed on the opportunity to play quarterback at the University of Oklahoma.
- Former outfielder **Matt Holliday** signed a letter of intent to play quarterback at Oklahoma State University after earning All-American honors in his senior season at Stillwater High School, but decided to sign with the Colorado Rockies after they drafted him in 1998.
- Former outfielder **Seth Smith** was a quarterback in college, serving as the backup at Mississippi for three seasons behind Eli Manning.
- Retired outfielder **Jeff Francoeur** led Parkview High School in Georgia to two state championships in both baseball and football and was slated to play both at Clemson University, whose baseball team also had received commitments from D-backs right-hander Zack Greinke and former Major League outfielder Jeremy Hermida. All three were first round choices, however, and each signed to play professional baseball.
- Retired outfielder **Carl Crawford** was recruited by Nebraska as an option quarterback, but the Houston native signed with the Devil Rays out of Jefferson Davis High School as a second round pick in 1999.
- Former All-Star outfielder **Darin Erstad** played baseball and football at the University of Nebraska and was the punter on the Cornhuskers’ 1994 national championship team.
- Former All-Star outfielder **Grady Sizemore** was recruited to play both baseball and football, as a quarterback, at the University of Washington. At Everett’s Cascade High School, Sizemore set school records with 3,081 rushing yards and 16 career interceptions. He also was recruited by Arizona State, Cal, Clemson and Washington State. Sizemore signed with the Montreal Expos after being selected 75<sup>th</sup> overall in the third round of the 2000 MLB Draft.
- Former Major League outfielder **Trot Nixon** signed a letter of intent to play quarterback at North Carolina State, but he signed with Boston after being the seventh overall pick in the 1993 Draft.
- Former Major League outfielder **Elijah Dukes** was offered a scholarship to play linebacker at North Carolina State.
- Former Major League infielder **Josh Fields**, who played in 100 games for the Chicago White Sox in 2007, earned three letters as quarterback of Oklahoma State’s football team where he holds the school record for most career touchdown passes with 55. Fields tied a Big 12 record (since broken) with seven touchdown passes in a 52-6 win at SMU on September 20, 2003, and set a Cotton Bowl record with 307 passing yards vs. Mississippi on January 2, 2004. The following June, Josh was selected as the 18<sup>th</sup> pick overall by the White Sox.
- Former Major League infielder/outfielder, MLB Network analyst and Team USA manager **Mark DeRosa** played baseball and football at the University of Pennsylvania where he was the Quakers starting quarterback from 1993-1995. Mark was selected in the seventh round of the 1996 MLB Draft by the Atlanta Braves.
- Former Major League outfielder **Gabe Gross** played baseball and football at Auburn. After starting six games at quarterback as a freshman in 1998, he began to concentrate on baseball in his sophomore year. Gross was Toronto’s first round pick in 2001.
- Former Major League outfielder **Nick Stavinoha** played football and baseball at Jersey Village High School in Texas where he helped lead his baseball team to three district championships and the football team to two district titles before attending the University of Houston for football. Nick, who appeared in 79 games for the Cardinals in 2010, later switched to San Jacinto College as he began his transition to baseball.
- Former Major League outfielder **Joe Borchard** played baseball and football at Stanford. He was considered the leading candidate to start at quarterback for the Cardinals in 2000, but he signed with the White Sox after being their first round pick (12<sup>th</sup> overall) that June.

- Former Major League outfielder **Bubba Thompson** was a standout quarterback at McGill-Toolen Catholic High School, garnering offers from Troy, Memphis, Ole Miss, UCF and Tennessee among others before committing to the University of Alabama for baseball. His college plans went to the wayside when the Rangers selected him 26<sup>th</sup> overall in 2017. Thompson announced his return to college football in January 2025. The 27-year-old is attempting to walk-on at the University of South Alabama.
- Former Major League outfielder **Monte Harrison** was a three-sport athlete at Lee's Summit High School in Missouri. He was committed to playing baseball and football at the University of Nebraska prior to being selected 50<sup>th</sup> overall in the 2014 MLB Draft by Milwaukee. After playing 50 Major League games from 2021-2022 with the Miami Marlins/ Los Angeles Angels, Harrison retired at age 29 and announced in May 2024 that he would attend the University of Arkansas to pursue his four years of eligibility as a wide receiver.
- Former MLB outfielder **Brian Jordan** was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals 30<sup>th</sup> overall in the 1988 Amateur Draft. While in the Minor Leagues, Jordan was a safety for the Atlanta Falcons from 1989-1991 before turning his attention to baseball full-time.
- Former Major League outfielder **Bubba Starling**, the fifth overall selection of the 2011 Draft by the Kansas City Royals, chose to sign with the Royals rather than play quarterback at the University of Nebraska.
- Former Minor League outfielder **Donavan Tate**, the son of former NFL running back Lars Tate, was San Diego's third overall selection out of Cartersville High School in Georgia in 2009. Tate was an all-state selection as quarterback at Cartersville and had committed to play both baseball and football at the University of North Carolina prior to being drafted.
- Former Minor Leaguer **Brandon Jacobs** was selected by the Boston Red Sox in the 10<sup>th</sup> round of the 2009 Draft. Jacobs had committed to play football at Auburn University prior to the draft following a senior season in which he rushed for over 1,500 yards with 19 touchdowns and was named to the Georgia 5A All-State team.
- Former Minor Leaguer **Chad Jones** was a third round selection out of LSU by the New York Giants in the 2010 NFL Draft. Jones was originally drafted out of high school in the 13<sup>th</sup> round of the 2007 MLB Draft by the Houston Astros. He was again drafted in 2010 by the Milwaukee Brewers in the 50<sup>th</sup> round, and taken a third time in the ninth round of the 2013 Draft by the Reds.
- Former Minor Leaguer **Tim Tebow** was a Heisman Trophy winner (2007) at the University of Florida. Tebow quarterbacked the Gators to two National Championships (2006, 2008) and was drafted by the Denver Broncos in the first round (#25 overall). He signed a Minor League contract with the Mets on September 8, 2016.

#### Current/Recent NFL players:

- **Kyler Murray**, the first overall selection in the 2019 NFL Draft, was selected as an outfielder by the Athletics with the ninth overall selection in the 2018 MLB Draft. Murray became the first person ever to be selected in the first round of both the NFL and MLB Draft. Led by the 2018 Heisman Trophy winner, the Oklahoma Sooners won the Big 12 Championship and were selected to the College Football Playoff, competing in the 2018 Orange Bowl.
- Kansas City Chiefs quarterback **Patrick Mahomes**, the 10<sup>th</sup> overall selection in the 2017 NFL Draft, was selected by the Detroit Tigers in the 37<sup>th</sup> round of the 2014 MLB Draft out of high school. The three-time Super Bowl Champion is the son of former big league pitcher Pat Mahomes, and earned the NFL's MVP Award in 2018 and 2022. He joined the Royals ownership group in 2020, becoming at the time the youngest part-owner of a major professional sports franchise.
- Free agent quarterback **Russell Wilson**, who was drafted by the Colorado Rockies in the fourth round of the 2010 Draft, was the starting quarterback at North Carolina State and he led the Seattle Seahawks to a Super Bowl win in his second season after the team drafted him 75<sup>th</sup> overall in the 2012 NFL Draft. The New York Yankees, who currently have the baseball rights to Wilson after acquiring him via trade from the Texas Rangers in the 2018 offseason, had Wilson participate in 2018 Spring Training games (see him face off against Max Fried of the Braves [here](#) during 2018 Spring Training)
- Philadelphia Eagles wide receiver **A.J. Brown**, who was selected by the Tennessee Titans in the second round of the 2019 NFL Draft, was selected by the San Diego Padres in the 19<sup>th</sup> round of the 2016 MLB Draft out of Starkville High School in Mississippi. He occasionally dabbles in the batting cages, [posting this video](#) to his accounts in 2022.
- Jacksonville Jaguars tight end **Jordan Akins** first pursued a Baseball career after he was drafted out of Union Grove High School in Georgia by the Texas Rangers in the third round of the 2010 MLB Draft. He played in the Rangers' system for four seasons before attending the University of Central Florida from 2014-2018. The Houston Texans selected Akins 98<sup>th</sup> overall in the 2018 NFL Draft where he played the first five years of his NFL career before joining the Cleveland Browns in 2023.
- Free agent quarterback **Colin Kaepernick** was drafted by the Chicago Cubs in the 43<sup>rd</sup> round of the 2009 Draft.



- New York Giants quarterback **Jameis Winston**, who led his Florida State team to a national championship in 2013, was a two-sport star for the Seminoles. Winston made 24 relief appearances on the mound in 2014 for the Seminoles, going 1-0 with a 1.08 ERA and 31 strikeouts in 33.1 innings pitched while holding opposing hitters to a .154 batting average. In addition, he recorded a team-high seven saves, which was tied for eighth-most in the conference. Winston was a part of Netflix's coverage on Opening Night between the San Francisco Giants and New York Yankees.
- Buffalo Bills linebacker **Shaq Thompson** was drafted by the Boston Red Sox in the 18<sup>th</sup> round of the 2012 Draft. Thompson played one year for Boston's rookie-level Club in 2012 prior to being taken in the first round by the Carolina Panthers in the 2015 NFL Draft.



### Former/Retired NFL players:

- Former New England Patriots and Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback **Tom Brady** played football, baseball and basketball at Junipero Serra High School in California. He was drafted as a catcher by the Montreal Expos in the 18<sup>th</sup> round of the 1995 Draft following his high school career. Brady did not sign and went on to play football at the University of Michigan before turning pro and accumulating seven Super Bowl wins.
- Hall of Fame quarterback **John Elway** was drafted by the Kansas City Royals in the 1979 Amateur Draft, but did not sign with the club. He was again selected in the 1981 Amateur Draft by the New York Yankees. Elway signed with the club and played right field for the Oneonta Yankees in 1982. He hit .318 in 42 games before giving up baseball for professional football. He was selected number one overall in the 1983 NFL Draft by the Baltimore Colts before being traded to the Denver Broncos. Elway played 16 seasons as the quarterback of the Broncos and led the team to Super Bowl titles in 1998 and 1999. John was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2004.
- Hall of Fame quarterback **Dan Marino** was drafted by the Kansas City Royals in the 1979 Amateur Draft, but decided to play college football instead. Marino would go on to become one of the greatest NFL quarterbacks of all time.
- Hall of Fame NFL running back **Jim Thorpe** played for four Major League teams from 1913-19, but ultimately embarked on an eight-year football career that began in 1920. Thorpe was First Team All-Pro in 1923 and was named to the NFL 1920's All-Decade Team. Considered one of the greatest athletes in American history, Thorpe also won two gold medals at the 1912 Summer Olympics in Stockholm.
- Former NFL quarterback **Daunte Culpepper** was drafted as an outfielder out of high school by the New York Yankees in the 26<sup>th</sup> round of the 1995 Draft, but did not sign. Culpepper would go on to play quarterback at the University of Central Florida where he set more than 30 school quarterback records. Daunte was drafted by the Minnesota Vikings with the 11<sup>th</sup> overall selection in the 1999 NFL Draft.
- Retired wide receiver **Golden Tate** was a 42<sup>nd</sup> round selection of the Arizona Diamondbacks out of high school in 2007 and a 50<sup>th</sup> round selection of the San Francisco Giants out of Notre Dame in 2010 after he was a second round choice of the Seattle Seahawks in the 2010 NFL Draft.
- Former NFL quarterback **Matt Moore** was drafted by the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim in the 22<sup>nd</sup> round in the 2004 Draft.
- Former NFL quarterback **Michael Vick** was drafted by the Colorado Rockies in the 30<sup>th</sup> round of the 2000 Draft.
- Former NFL wide receiver **Eric Decker** was selected in the 2008 MLB Draft in the 39<sup>th</sup> round by the Milwaukee Brewers, and again in 2009 in the 27<sup>th</sup> round by the Minnesota Twins.
- Former NFL wide receiver **Hines Ward** was a high school outfielder taken in the 73<sup>rd</sup> round of the 1994 MLB Draft. The 2006 Super Bowl MVP did not sign and went on to become a star football player at the University of Georgia.
- Former NFL lineman **Kyle Long** was drafted by the Chicago White Sox in the 23<sup>rd</sup> round of the 2008 Draft. Long did not sign and honored his football commitment to Florida State University and was eventually drafted 20<sup>th</sup> overall in the 2013 NFL Draft. by the Chicago Bears.
- Former Tennessee Titans quarterback **Jake Locker**, who was also a 10<sup>th</sup> round selection by the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim in 2009, had his rights signed by the Angels while he returned to the University of Washington for his junior season. Locker was selected eighth overall by Tennessee in the 2010 NFL Draft.
- Heisman Trophy winner **Ricky Williams** was drafted by the Philadelphia Phillies in the eighth round of the 1995 MLB Draft. Williams spent four years in professional baseball, never moving up beyond Single-A, before turning his attention to professional football.
- Peyton and Eli's father **Archie Manning**, a former NFL quarterback, was taken in the third round of the 1971 Amateur Draft by the Chicago White Sox, but did not sign. He was also selected in the 1971 NFL Draft by the New Orleans Saints with the second overall selection. Archie played 13 NFL seasons and was selected to the Pro Bowl in 1978 and 1979.
- Former NFL wide receiver **Antwaan Randle El** was selected by the Chicago Cubs in the 14<sup>th</sup> round of the 1997 Draft.
- Former NFL running back **Cedric Benson** was also a high school outfielder taken in the 12<sup>th</sup> round of the 2001 MLB Draft. He played in nine games for the Gulf Coast Dodgers before going on to star at the University of Texas at Austin, where he received the Doak Walker Award as the nation's top running back in 2004. Boston Red Sox outfielder Darnell McDonald was recruited by the University of Texas to play baseball and football but chose to play professional baseball leading to the school's recruitment of Benson.

- Former Atlanta Falcons quarterback **Doug Johnson** was a second round draft pick in 1996 for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, playing as an infielder in their Minor League system in 1996 and 1997 before suffering a rotator cuff injury and leaving to concentrate on football full-time.
- Former NFL tight end **Hayden Hurst** was drafted in the 17<sup>th</sup> round of the 2012 MLB Draft by the Pittsburgh Pirates before attending the University of South Carolina and going 25<sup>th</sup> overall to the Baltimore Ravens in the 2018 NFL Draft.
- Former NFL quarterback **Drew Henson** was selected in the sixth round of the 2003 NFL Draft by the Houston Texans. Henson played in nine games over two seasons from 2004-05 with the Dallas Cowboys and Detroit Lions. Prior to his NFL stint, he was also selected by the New York Yankees in the third round of the 1998 MLB Draft with the 97<sup>th</sup> overall selection. Henson played in over 500 Minor League games over six seasons and appeared in eight Major League games with the Yankees between 2002-03, collecting one hit in nine at-bats.
- Former NFL quarterback **Chad Hutchinson** signed with the Dallas Cowboys as an undrafted free agent in 2002. Hutchinson played in the NFL for three seasons between the Cowboys (2002-03) and Chicago Bears (2004). The St. Louis Cardinals selected him in the second round (48<sup>th</sup> overall) of the 1998 MLB Draft, and he spent four seasons in the their minor league system.
- Former NFL quarterback **Kerry Collins** was drafted three times by MLB clubs. The Detroit Tigers drafted him out of high school in the 26<sup>th</sup> round of the 1990 MLB Draft, but Collins decided to attend Penn State University. The Tigers drafted him again in the 60<sup>th</sup> round of the 1991 MLB Draft, and he was selected in the 48<sup>th</sup> round of the 1994 MLB Draft by the Toronto Blue Jays, but did not sign in either instance. Collins was ultimately drafted in the first round of the 1995 NFL Draft by the Carolina Panthers, would make two Pro Bowl Teams (1996, 2008) and play for 17 seasons.
- Former NFL quarterback **Chris Weinke** played six seasons (1991-96) in the Toronto Blue Jays Minor League system after being selected by the Jays in the second round of the 1990 MLB Draft. After the 1996 season, Weinke accepted a football scholarship at Florida State University, winning the Heisman Trophy in 2000. He was drafted by the Carolina Panthers in the fourth round of the 2001 NFL Draft.
- Former NFL quarterback **Steve McNair** was drafted by the Seattle Mariners in the 35<sup>th</sup> round of the 1991 MLB Draft. A three-sport athlete at Mount Olive High School in Mississippi, McNair did not sign with the Mariners, but opted to attend Alcorn State University. He was drafted by the Houston Oilers with the third overall pick in the 1995 NFL Draft and would go on to win the 2003 MVP Award.
- Former NFL running back **D.J. Dozier** was originally drafted out of high school by the Detroit Tigers in the 18<sup>th</sup> round of the 1983 Amateur Draft. He opted to go to Penn State and play football where he scored the game-winning touchdown of Penn State's 1987 Fiesta Bowl victory over Miami. D.J. was drafted 14<sup>th</sup> overall by the Minnesota Vikings in the 1987 NFL Draft and finished his football career in 1992 with the Detroit Lions. In 1990, the New York Mets signed him as an amateur free agent. He spent 1990 and 1991 in the Minors, and was called up to the Major Leagues in 1992 where he would play in 25 games.
- Former Miami Dolphins quarterback **Pat White** helped lead his high school team to two state championships as a pitcher and outfielder before attending the University of West Virginia for football. White was drafted by Major League organizations on four different occasions, but never did sign. The Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim drafted him in the fourth round of the 2004 MLB Draft, and again in the 27<sup>th</sup> round in 2007. The Cincinnati Reds selected Pat in the 49<sup>th</sup> round in 2008 and the New York Yankees picked him in the 48<sup>th</sup> round in 2009. White signed a Minor League deal with the Kansas City Royals in September 2010 after being released by the Dolphins, and has since retired from the diamond.
- Former quarterback **Brandon Weeden** was drafted by the New York Yankees in the second round of the 2002 Draft. He played parts of five Minor League seasons for the Yankees, Dodgers and Royals.
- Former quarterback **Matt Cassel** was selected by the Oakland A's in the 36<sup>th</sup> round of the 2004 MLB Draft after playing one season of baseball at USC. He also played for the Northridge baseball team that reached the finals of the 1994 Little League World Series.

#### Other:

- Former head coach **Urban Meyer**, who won two BCS Championships at the University of Florida (2006 and 2008) and one at Ohio State University (2014), was selected by the Atlanta Braves in the 13<sup>th</sup> round of the 1982 MLB Draft. He went on to play two seasons as a shortstop in the Braves organization.
- Former defensive coordinator **Jack Del Rio** was a 22<sup>nd</sup> round selection of the Toronto Blue Jays in the 1981 MLB Draft out of Hayward High School in California.



*Earlier this week, the Miami Marlins invited Fernando Mendoza to throw out the first pitch. The Miami native, who won the 2025 Heisman Trophy and quarterbacked the National Champion Indiana Hoosiers, is expected to be the first overall pick in this year's NFL Draft by the Las Vegas Raiders.*



# MILESTONE MEN

**José Ramírez** of the Cleveland Guardians hit his 290<sup>th</sup> career home run on Sunday, notching a two-homer game against the Baltimore Orioles. The third baseman became the 11<sup>th</sup> player in Major League history to eclipse 290 career home runs and stolen bases, and is seeking to become the ninth player in Major League history with at least 300 career homers and stolen bases, needing nine home runs and two steals to reach the marks.



Per Elias, Ramírez joined Hall of Famers Craig Biggio (291 HR/414 SB with HOU) and Willie Mays (646 HR/336 SB with NYG/SF) as the third player all-time to record at least 290 career home runs and stolen bases with a single franchise. The seven-time All-Star is aiming to join Mays as the only players to reach 300 career homers and stolen bases with a single franchise, and Ramírez would be the first player in Major League history to record his first 300 career home runs and stolen bases with one franchise (Mays recorded his first career stolen base with the Birmingham Black Barons in 1948).

**Max Scherzer** of the Toronto Blue Jays will toe the rubber on Friday night against the Guardians. The three-time Cy Young Award winner takes the mound with 3,499 career strikeouts to his name, needing just one strikeout to become the 11<sup>th</sup> pitcher in Baseball history with 3,500 career strikeouts, and the ninth right-hander to reach the mark. The eight-time All-Star needs 17 strikeouts to surpass Hall of Famer Walter Johnson (3,515 SO) for 10<sup>th</sup> all-time.



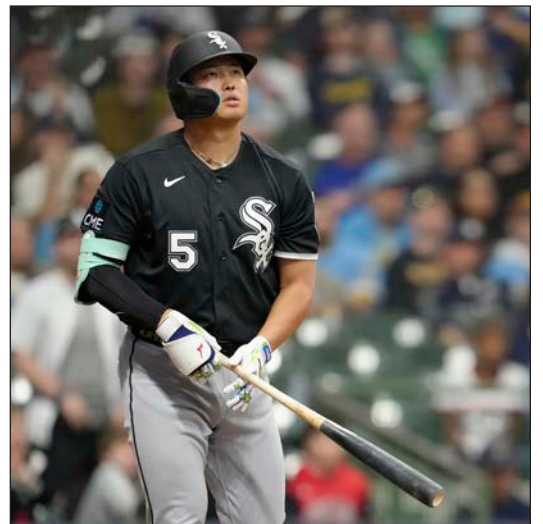
Since the start of 2024, Scherzer has recorded just seven starts of six-or-more strikeouts, with his last start of at least 10 strikeouts coming on July 27, 2025, when he struck out 11 at Comerica Park in Detroit. Overall, Scherzer's 114 career games of at least 10 strikeouts are third-most all-time, trailing only Hall of Famers Nolan Ryan (215 G) and Randy Johnson (212 G).

**Mason Miller** of the San Diego Padres enters play on Thursday with a 32.2 scoreless innings streak that dates back to August 6, 2025. During the stretch he is 1-0 with 10 saves in 31 appearances, permitting just six hits with a 0.52 WHIP, a .059 opponents' batting average and 19.01 strikeouts per 9.0 innings. Overall, he has struck out 69 of the 112 batters he has faced (61.6%), including 27 of the 38 batters he has faced in 2026 (71.1%). Per Sarah Langs, his strikeout rate is the highest by a pitcher through his first 11 appearances of a season since at least 1900.



Miller's streak is the second-longest in Padres' franchise history behind only Cla Meredith's 33.2 innings streak from July 18-September 12, 2006. Per [MLB.com](https://www.mlb.com) and Elias, if Miller can tie Meredith, his streak would be tied for the eighth-longest streak as a reliever in the Expansion Era (since 1961), also matching Philadelphia's Chris Short (1963-68). With another scoreless appearance, Miller will match the seventh-longest streak of scoreless appearances since 1900, joining Wade Davis (2014 Royals); Arthur Rhodes (2010 Reds); Scott Eyre (2007-08 Cubs); and Mark Guthrie (2002 Mets).

**Munetaka Murakami** of the Chicago White Sox has homered in five consecutive games and now has 10 homers on the season, matching Washington's James Wood for second-most in the Majors behind only Yordan Alvarez (11 HR). Murakami's current streak matches the franchise record, joining five-game streaks by A.J. Pierzynski (2012); Paul Konerko (2011); Carlos Lee (2003); Hall of Famer Frank Thomas (2x in 1994); Ron Kittle (1983); and Greg Luzinski (1983). Per Elias, Murakami's streak matches the Major League record for a rookie, accomplished 13 times overall and last by San Francisco's Tyler Fitzgerald in 2024.



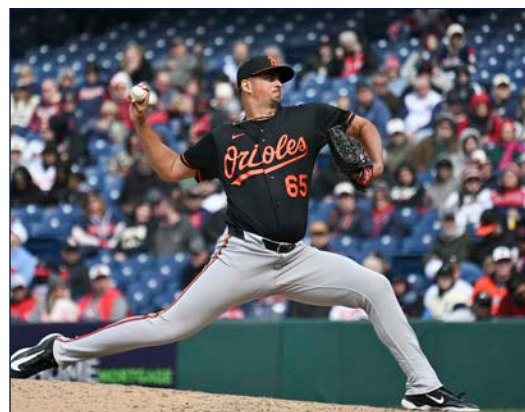
The White Sox have hit 15 home runs across their last five games, also being powered by **Colson Montgomery** and **Miguel Vargas**. Montgomery has homered in each of his last four games, while Vargas has homered in each of his last three games entering play on Thursday. Per STATS, Murakami and Montgomery are the first pair of teammates in MLB history to homer in four consecutive team games. Additionally, Chicago is the first club to concurrently have players on home run streaks of five, four and three games. They are the third trio of teammates in Major League history with a home run in three straight team games, joining Colorado's Dante Bichette, Vinny Castilla and Larry Walker (August 1995); and Kansas City's Carlos Beltrán, Raul Ibañez and Mike Sweeney (June-July 2001).



# DEVELOPS

## DEVELOPS ON THE DIAMOND

**DREAM DEBUT:** 27-year-old Cameron Foster made his debut with the Baltimore Orioles on Thursday against the Cleveland Guardians at Progressive Field. The Houston native is a 2017 DREAM Series alumni, former Houston Astros Nike RBI participant and Astros Youth Academy member. In his debut outing, Foster fired 1.2 scoreless innings in relief, ending his debut allowing two hits, one walk and firing three strikeouts against the 12 batters he faced. The Develops alumni became one of five in Orioles' franchise history, and the first since 2021 to deliver three strikeouts in 1.2 innings pitched or less in a debut outing.



**MIKE CHECK:** Michael Harris II, the Hank Aaron Invitational, Breakthrough Series, DREAM Series and Atlanta Braves Nike RBI program alumni has caught fire from the plate. In his last six games, the 2022 National League Rookie of the Year Award winner has hit .526 with an on-base percentage of .571 and slugging of 1.211 while posting 10 hits, four homers, a double, seven RBI, two walks and no strikeouts. Among all players this season, Harris is the only one to have a stretch of six games with 10 hits and four homers while not striking out.



**TAJ TIME:** Breakthrough Series, Hank Aaron Invitational and DREAM Series alumni Taj Bradley has been nearly unhittable to start the 2026 season. Through the 25-year-old's five starts this year, he has given up just five runs and 10 walks to go along with 34 strikeouts through 27.2 innings pitched. Among all qualified players, his 1.63 ERA ranks sixth-best. The Los Angeles native also joined New York (AL)'s Cam Schlichter, San Francisco's Landen Roupp, Kansas City's Seth Lugo and Seattle's Bryan Woo as one of just five pitchers this season to have thrown at least 27.0 innings this season without allowing a home run. Among all pitchers this season, his 34 strikeouts rank 12<sup>th</sup> most while his three wins are tied for sixth most.



**KING OF THE HILL:** Colorado Rockies relief pitcher Jaden Hill, a 2017 Breakthrough Series alumni has been a staple of the Rockies bullpen to start this season. In his 11 appearances, the right-hander has thrown 10.0 innings, allowing just two runs on six hits with 11 strikeouts while pitching to a 1.80 ERA. Thanks to a dominant start to the season, Hill has become one of 21 pitchers in Rockies franchise history to allow one run-or-less and five hits-or-less in his first 10 outings of a season. The Arkansas native also became one of 22 pitchers this season to allow two-or-less earned runs and six-or-less hits through his first 11 appearances of the season.



**TRAILBLAZER RECAP:** This past weekend at the Jackie Robinson Training Complex in Vero Beach, Florida, 92 girls, aged 12-14 took part in the ninth iteration of MLB and USA Baseball's Trailblazer Series. The two-day on-field event featured the athletes partaking in development, games, and volunteering at a special Jackie Robinson PLAY BALL event for over 190 kids from local Indian River County. The athletes were coached by an elite staff of women in baseball, led by MLB Girls Baseball Ambassador Veronica Alvarez and featuring eight USA Baseball Women's National team alumni.





# GOLDEN TICKET SEASON

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, Texas Tech pitcher NiJaree Canady received the first 'Golden Ticket' for the 2026 AUSL College Draft. Delivered by softball legends, AUSL ambassadors or league leadership, these Golden Tickets are presented to college softball players to signify they have been drafted to AUSL. Since Canady received the first Golden Ticket, 14 more have been handed out to the top collegiate softball players in front of their teammates, coaches and family members. The AUSL College Draft is set to take place on Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. ET on ESPN2. Not only do the Golden Tickets recognize the future of professional softball, they are given out in style and celebration. Click the links below the chart to see the best in the world find out they are going to the pros. Recipients of Golden Tickets so far include:



| 2026 AUSL GOLDEN TICKET RECIPIENTS |                          |            |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Player                             | College                  | Position   |
| NiJaree Canady                     | Texas Tech University    | Pitcher    |
| Reese Atwood                       | University of Texas      | Catcher    |
| Leighann Goode                     | University of Texas      | Infielder  |
| Sydney Stewart                     | University of Arizona    | Catcher    |
| Karlyn Pickens                     | University of Tennessee  | Pitcher    |
| Dakota Kennedy                     | University of Arkansas   | Outfielder |
| Kenzie Brown                       | Arizona State University | Pitcher    |
| Taryn Kern                         | University of Stanford   | Infielder  |
| Maya Johnson                       | Belmont University       | Pitcher    |
| Jocelyn Erickson                   | University of Florida    | Catcher    |
| Kenleigh Cahalan                   | University of Florida    | Infielder  |
| Jordan Woolery                     | UCLA                     | Infielder  |
| Megan Grant                        | UCLA                     | Utility    |
| Taylor Tinsley                     | UCLA                     | Pitcher    |
| Amari Harper                       | University of Oregon     | Utility    |

- [Patrick Mahomes joins Kim Ng in giving first Golden Ticket to NiJaree Canady](#)
- [Sabrina Ionescu announces Amari Harper's Golden Ticket](#)
- [Natasha Watley and Jen Schroeder deliver Golden Tickets to three UCLA players](#)
- [Holly Rowe surprises Kenzie Brown with a Golden Ticket](#)
- [Karlyn Pickens receives her Golden Ticket from Jennie Finch](#)

# NEW SEASON, NEW TEAMS

The inaugural AUSL season, which ended with the Talons capturing the league championship and Bandits infielder Erin Coffel taking home league MVP honors, exceeded all expectations. The league soldout 24 games, merchandise sales topped \$1 million, the Championship Series averaged 230,000 viewers on ESPN, and the league received over 237 million social media impressions and 450,000 new followers gained. In October, AUSL and ESPN inked a multiyear deal, solidifying ESPN, which will carry 50 exclusive games as well as the best-of-three Championship Series, as the home of the league.

Building on the immense success of the AUSL's inaugural season, the league wasted no time upgrading. New in the 2026 season: home stadiums and two new teams. Beginning on June 9<sup>th</sup>, the Oklahoma City Spark and Portland Cascade will join the existing Carolina Blaze, Chicago Bandits, Texas Volts and Utah Talons for the AUSL's first six-team season. The Blaze will call Smith Family Stadium in Durham, North Carolina home, while the Chicago bandits will play at The Stadium at the Parkway Bank Sports Complex in Rosemont, Illinois, The Spark will host games at Tom Heath Field at Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the Cascade will play at Hillsboro Ballpark in Hillsboro, Oregon, the Volts will play at Dell Diamond in Round Rock, Texas and the Talons will play home games at Dumke Family Stadium at University of Utah in Salt Lake City, Utah.

A number of AUSL players will throw out first pitches at MLB games in the coming weeks, including Michaela Edenfield (4/25 at TEX); Jayda Coleman (4/25 at MIL); Mary Lakopo (4/26 at CWS); Alyssa Brito (TBD, MIN); Sydney Sherill (5/5 at PHI); Ana Gold (5/6 at NYY); and Sharlize Palacios (5/7 at SD).





# WELCOME TO THE SHOW

**Since April 16<sup>th</sup>, 10 players have made their Major League debut, including seven pitchers and three position players.**

There have now been 50 players to make their Major League debut this season, including 30 pitchers and 20 position players.

- 26-year-old Eduardo Rivera, the Boston Red Sox 26<sup>th</sup> best prospect per *MLB Pipeline*, toed the rubber for his Major League debut yesterday against the New York Yankees at Fenway Park. The Puerto Rico native tossed 3.1 innings in relief, facing the minimum 10 batters and keeping the Yankees off the board. In the process, the 2021 11<sup>th</sup> round Draft pick tallied three strikeouts and allowed just one hit, joining Hugh Bedient as the only pitchers in franchise history to pitch at least 3.1 innings, strike out three-or-more and allow one hit-or-less in a debut outing.
- 25-year-old Félix Reyes made his Major League debut with the Philadelphia Phillies on Saturday against the Atlanta Braves at Citizens Bank Park. In his first career at bat, the Bani, Dominican Republic native sent a 2-0 fastball into the right field seats, registering his first career hit, home run and RBI. With the longball, the left fielder and first baseman became one of 14 Phillies, and the first since Weston Wilson in 2023 to record a homer in their club debut.
- 25-year-old Connor Prielipp, the Minnesota Twins fifth-best prospect per *MLB Pipeline*, took the mound for his Major League debut yesterday against the New York Mets at Citi Field. The southpaw became the third in franchise history, and first since 2019 to pitch at least 4.0 innings, strike out at least six batters and not issue a free pass in a Major League debut.

Overall, the Chicago White Sox pace the Majors with seven players making their debut, followed by the Red Sox with five and the Cleveland Guardians, Milwaukee Brewers, Twins, Phillies and Toronto Blue Jays with three players making their debut. The Clubs with two players making their debut include the Baltimore Orioles, Detroit Tigers, Houston Astros, Los Angeles Angels, Pittsburgh Pirates, St. Louis Cardinals and Texas Rangers. The teams that have seen one player make their Major League debut this season include the Arizona Diamondbacks, Chicago Cubs, Cincinnati Reds, Colorado Rockies, Los Angeles Dodgers, Miami Marlins, Mets, San Francisco Giants and Tampa Bay Rays. The Clubs without a player making their debut this season include the Athletics, Braves, Kansas City Royals, Yankees, San Diego Padres, Seattle Mariners and Washington Nationals.

## MLB Debuts, April 16<sup>th</sup>-April 22<sup>nd</sup>

| PLAYER          | CLUB                  | POSITION | DEBUT DATE             |
|-----------------|-----------------------|----------|------------------------|
| Cameron Foster  | Baltimore Orioles     | RHP      | April 16 <sup>th</sup> |
| Coleman Crow    | Milwaukee Brewers     | RHP      | April 17 <sup>th</sup> |
| Hao-Yu Lee      | Detroit Tigers        | 2B       | April 17 <sup>th</sup> |
| Félix Reyes     | Philadelphia Phillies | RF       | April 18 <sup>th</sup> |
| Wilber Dotel    | Pittsburgh Pirates    | RHP      | April 19 <sup>th</sup> |
| Ryan Ward       | Los Angeles Dodgers   | LF       | April 19 <sup>th</sup> |
| Trevor Martin   | Tampa Bay Rays        | RHP      | April 20 <sup>th</sup> |
| Connor Prielipp | Minnesota Twins       | LHP      | April 22 <sup>nd</sup> |
| Eduardo Rivera  | Boston Red Sox        | LHP      | April 22 <sup>nd</sup> |
| Kendry Rojas    | Minnesota Twins       | LHP      | April 22 <sup>nd</sup> |



# 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  
**53%**  
OVERTURNS

1,493 CHALLENGES  
797 OVERTURNED  
696 CONFIRMED

BATTERS  
**46%**  
OVERTURNS

684 CHALLENGES  
316 OVERTURNED  
368 CONFIRMED

FIELDERS  
**59%**  
OVERTURNS

809 CHALLENGES  
481 OVERTURNED  
328 CONFIRMED

## 2026 ABS CHALLENGE TOTALS

| CLUB                  | CHALLENGES (BATTER) |       | CHALLENGES (FIELDER) |       | CHALLENGES (TOTAL)                 |       |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|------------------------------------|-------|
|                       | Challenges          | W-L   | Challenges           | W-L   | Total Results (Batting & Fielding) | Win % |
| Kansas City Royals    | 20                  | 13-7  | 33                   | 22-11 | 53 (35 overturned, 18 confirmed)   | 66.0% |
| Arizona Diamondbacks  | 15                  | 8-7   | 26                   | 18-8  | 41 (26 overturned, 15 confirmed)   | 63.4% |
| New York Mets         | 20                  | 11-9  | 21                   | 15-6  | 41 (26 overturned, 15 confirmed)   | 63.4% |
| Cincinnati Reds       | 20                  | 12-8  | 18                   | 12-6  | 38 (24 overturned, 14 confirmed)   | 63.2% |
| Chicago Cubs          | 22                  | 10-12 | 25                   | 19-6  | 47 (29 overturned, 18 confirmed)   | 61.7% |
| St. Louis Cardinals   | 19                  | 10-9  | 26                   | 17-9  | 45 (27 overturned, 18 confirmed)   | 60.0% |
| San Diego Padres      | 16                  | 8-8   | 31                   | 20-11 | 47 (28 overturned, 19 confirmed)   | 59.6% |
| Texas Rangers         | 18                  | 11-7  | 19                   | 11-8  | 37 (22 overturned, 15 confirmed)   | 59.5% |
| Detroit Tigers        | 29                  | 13-16 | 17                   | 14-3  | 46 (27 overturned, 19 confirmed)   | 58.7% |
| Los Angeles Dodgers   | 14                  | 7-7   | 29                   | 18-11 | 43 (25 overturned, 18 confirmed)   | 58.1% |
| Seattle Mariners      | 25                  | 10-15 | 32                   | 22-10 | 57 (32 overturned, 25 confirmed)   | 56.1% |
| Philadelphia Phillies | 19                  | 8-11  | 21                   | 14-7  | 40 (22 overturned, 18 confirmed)   | 55.0% |
| Athletics             | 24                  | 14-10 | 38                   | 20-18 | 62 (34 overturned, 28 confirmed)   | 54.8% |
| Minnesota Twins       | 38                  | 18-20 | 35                   | 22-13 | 73 (40 overturned, 33 confirmed)   | 54.8% |
| Los Angeles Angels    | 30                  | 13-17 | 27                   | 18-9  | 57 (31 overturned, 26 confirmed)   | 54.4% |
| Colorado Rockies      | 32                  | 11-21 | 38                   | 27-11 | 70 (38 overturned, 32 confirmed)   | 54.3% |
| Miami Marlins         | 21                  | 7-14  | 46                   | 29-17 | 67 (36 overturned, 31 confirmed)   | 53.7% |
| Houston Astros        | 24                  | 12-12 | 30                   | 16-14 | 54 (28 overturned, 26 confirmed)   | 51.9% |
| Milwaukee Brewers     | 19                  | 7-12  | 35                   | 21-14 | 54 (28 overturned, 26 confirmed)   | 51.9% |
| New York Yankees      | 34                  | 15-19 | 20                   | 13-7  | 54 (28 overturned, 26 confirmed)   | 51.9% |
| Tampa Bay Rays        | 25                  | 12-13 | 33                   | 17-16 | 58 (29 overturned, 29 confirmed)   | 50.0% |
| Toronto Blue Jays     | 25                  | 11-14 | 22                   | 12-10 | 47 (23 overturned, 24 confirmed)   | 48.9% |
| Boston Red Sox        | 14                  | 7-7   | 13                   | 6-7   | 27 (13 overturned, 14 confirmed)   | 48.1% |
| Baltimore Orioles     | 33                  | 16-17 | 19                   | 9-10  | 52 (25 overturned, 27 confirmed)   | 48.1% |
| Chicago White Sox     | 19                  | 10-9  | 40                   | 18-22 | 59 (28 overturned, 31 confirmed)   | 47.5% |
| Atlanta Braves        | 26                  | 10-16 | 26                   | 13-13 | 52 (23 overturned, 29 confirmed)   | 44.2% |
| Pittsburgh Pirates    | 25                  | 11-14 | 21                   | 9-12  | 46 (20 overturned, 26 confirmed)   | 43.5% |
| San Francisco Giants  | 18                  | 8-10  | 25                   | 10-15 | 43 (18 overturned, 25 confirmed)   | 41.9% |
| Cleveland Guardians   | 25                  | 8-17  | 21                   | 11-10 | 46 (19 overturned, 27 confirmed)   | 41.3% |
| Washington Nationals  | 15                  | 5-10  | 22                   | 8-14  | 37 (13 overturned, 24 confirmed)   | 35.1% |



### ABS Overturn% Breakdown

2026 – MLB, Regular Season

OVERTURNS  CHALLENGES  
SITUATION  INNINGS

OVERALL  
BATTERS  
FIELDERS

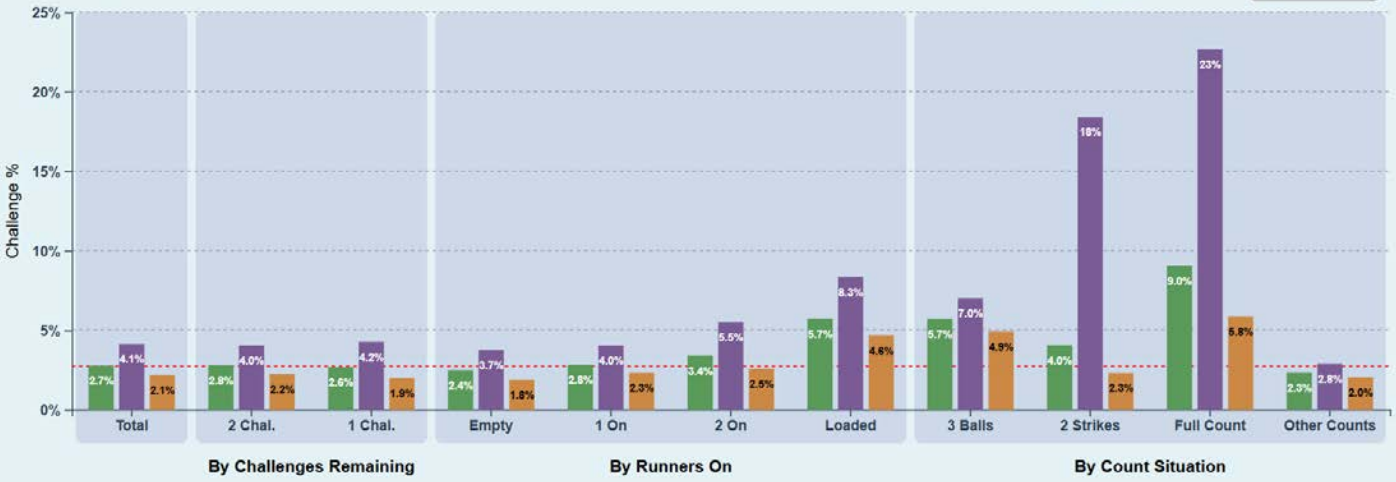


### ABS Challenge% Breakdown

2026 – MLB, Regular Season

OVERTURNS  CHALLENGES  
SITUATION  INNINGS

OVERALL  
BATTERS  
FIELDERS

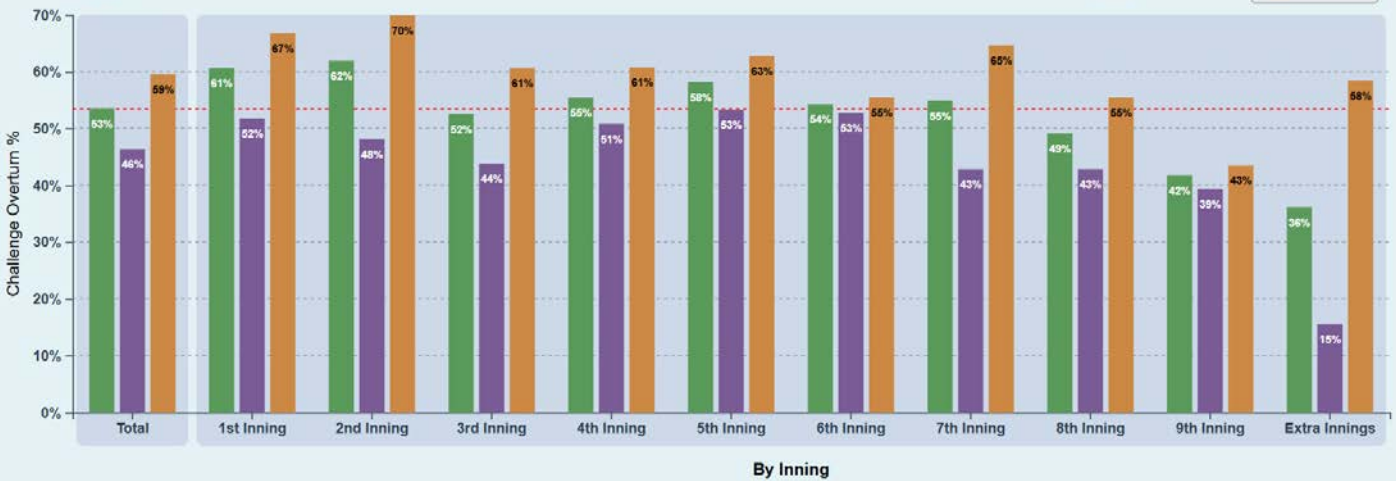


### ABS Overturn% Breakdown

2026 – MLB, Regular Season

OVERTURNS  CHALLENGES  
SITUATION  INNINGS

OVERALL  
BATTERS  
FIELDERS

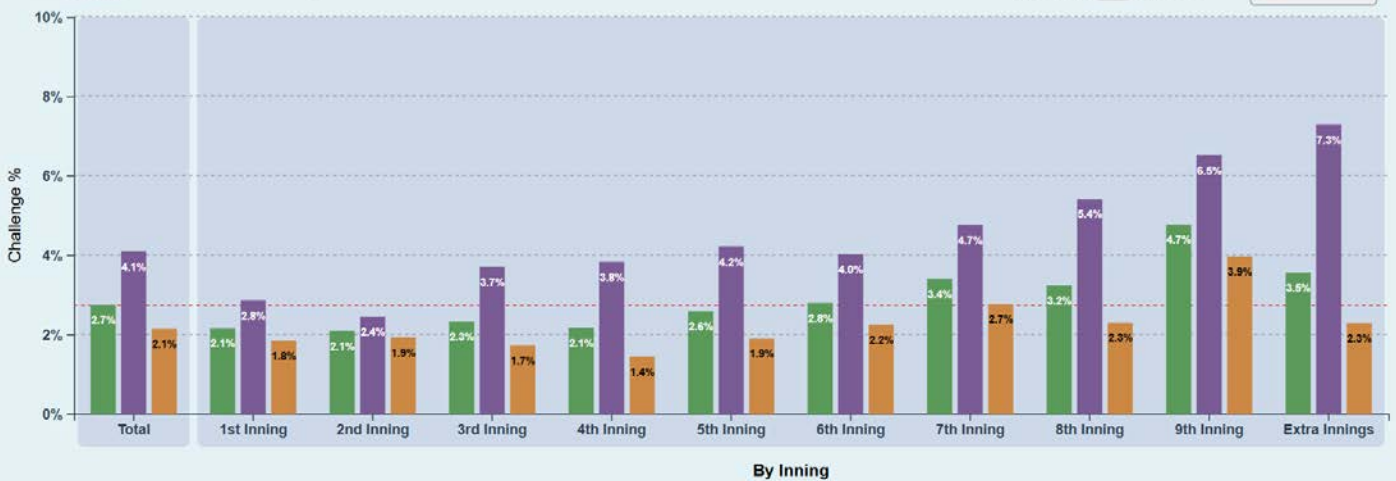


### ABS Challenge% Breakdown

2026 – MLB, Regular Season

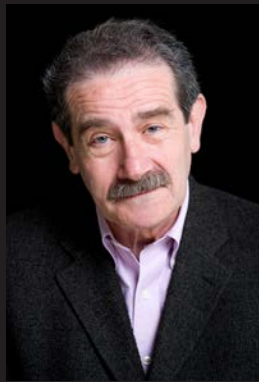
OVERTURNS  CHALLENGES  
SITUATION  INNINGS

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**

Today, baseball is played in more than 100 nations. In addition to MLB's annual World Series, 20 nations compete for the World Baseball Classic (WBC) title, every third or fourth year. In 2026, when Venezuela won, the WBC brought together such distant regions as Europe, Asia, Australia, the Caribbean, South America, and the Middle East. Albert Spalding's vision of baseball—that such a great game must be shared globally—has been borne out.

It was not always so. In July 1874, Spalding and Harry Wright first brought their baby back home to its Mother Country, all grown up. Brits were mystified by this challenge to cricket, their national game. Unlike its leisurely pace, baseball seemed a lightning game, completed in a little over two hours ... not days. The Boston and Philadelphia clubs boarded steamers and broke away from their National Association schedule to play 14 games in England and Ireland, plus cricket exhibitions sandwiched in between. All in all, the clubs missed nearly two months of pennant pursuit back in America.

The cricketers from Great Britain had been a sensation when they crossed the Atlantic in 1859, and a return tour was planned for 1862, but our Civil War got in the way. To that point there had been frequent mention in the press of our "national games," reflecting the equal stature of cricket and baseball. By War's end, baseball alone had become the national pastime.

Regional junkets had been undertaken by the Brooklyn Excelsiors (1860), Washington Nationals (1867), and others but the first transcontinental tour was that of the Cincinnati Red Stockings (1869). Next, in the first international expedition since England, Frank Bancroft took an array of professionals to Cuba in 1879. This tour—like another to that island nation seven seasons later—was a financial and promotional flop, as might have been said of the 1874 trip, too.

These attempts to share the wonders of our national pastime gave Spalding, now retired as a player, the implausible idea of making baseball an international pastime, thus boosting his sporting-goods empire. His World Tour, with the Chicago White Stockings and a bunch selected from other teams in both leagues, termed the All-Americans, began as merely an Australian Tour. The players departed from Chicago by rail on October 20, 1888, with a stated intention to return from Sydney on February 23, 1889.

On their way west, the barnstormers played games in St. Paul and Minneapolis, then meandered through Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, Omaha, Hastings, Denver, Colorado Springs, and Salt Lake City. They reached California in early November, buttressed by such stragglers as John Ward and Cannonball Crane, who had been detained in St. Louis to complete the New York Giants' victory over the Browns in the World Series.



*The transatlantic cricketers of 1859 comprised six of the All-England XI and six of the United All-England XI*

The tourists' first overseas stop was in Hawaii, where they arrived a day late and, because of blue laws, were unable to stage a Sunday game (or meet with Alexander Cartwright, who had been a pioneer with the Knickerbocker Club before heading west in the Gold Rush, never to return east). While aboard the steamship Alameda, Spalding expanded the tour to include Melbourne, Adelaide, and Brisbane before sailing to Colombo, Aden, and Egypt, playing a formal game before the Sphinx. A reporter traveling with the tour noted:

The surface of the Desert was hard and firm, not unlike the snow crust of the North, and formed a by no-means-poor ground for ball playing. Ward's forces were again "out for blood," and though Anson made a good start by the capture of two runs in the opening inning, All-America by good stiff batting piled up seven runs in the second and secured a lead which Chicago could not afterwards approach.

After stops at Naples, Florence, and Rome, the world tourists spent ten days in Paris and another ten in London. Ward, shortstop of the All-Americans and leader of the Base Ball Brotherhood, ditched the English leg of the journey to return home, having been advised while overseas not only of the Brush Classification Plan to regulate player salaries, but also his own sale (for \$12,000) from New York to Washington.

John B. Day, owner of the Giants, declared that he was opposed to the "Spalding classification plan," a remark that made it seem the tour's major domo had something to do with it after all. National League president Nick Young was given the duty of classifying the players according to skill and general dependability, from Class E at \$1,500 up to Class A at \$2,500, the top figure. The unhappiness of many players on the Spalding tour led directly to the formation of a Players' League for 1890.



*Boston vs Philadelphia, England Tour; Harper's Weekly 1874*

The returning heroes were honored at a banquet at Delmonico's restaurant in New York on April 8, 1889, where former National League president Abraham G. Mills opined that the game was purely an American invention, and Mark Twain declared baseball to be "the very symbol, the outward and visible expression of the drive and push and rush and struggle of the raging, tearing, booming nineteenth century."

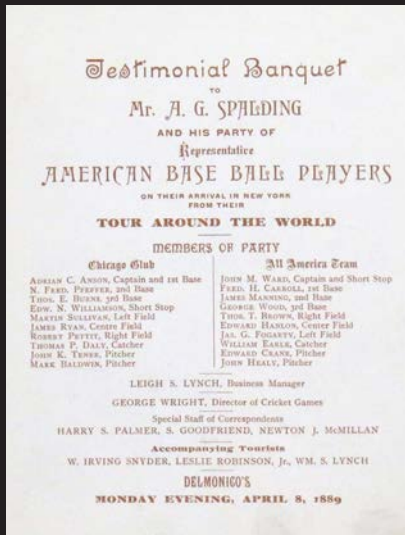
In the years to come, Spalding ballyhooed the importance of his two tours, but in truth both were artistic, financial, and ideological flops. The game took off in places visited not by ambassadors of baseball but by our military and our missionaries—Japan, Cuba, Mexico. Spalding didn't much care, as he candidly explained to sportswriter Harry Palmer, who had documented the tour. "In undertaking such a trip I do so more for the purpose of extending my sporting goods business to that quarter of the globe and creating a market for goods there, rather than with any idea of realizing any profit from the work of the teams I take with me."

The first regular-season MLB game played outside the United States was not until 80 years later, on April 14, 1969, when the Expos opened their season in Montreal. The first outside North America was when the Mets and Padres played a three-game series in Monterrey, Mexico, in 1996. (A Mexico City series is coming up this very weekend, at Estadio Alfredo Harp Helú.)

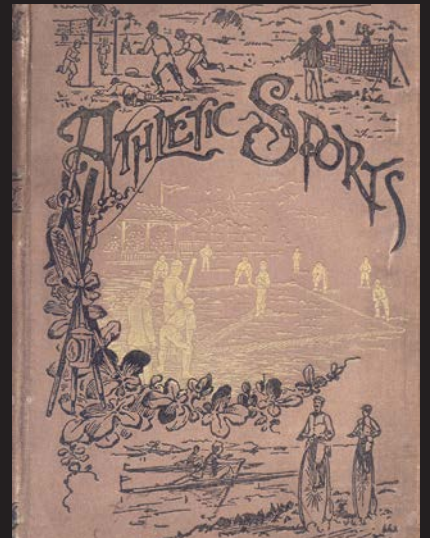
After several offseason tours, the first MLB games in Japan took place in 2000, when the Mets and Cubs opened the season in Tokyo. There was even a London Series in 2019; for some of us, it revived thoughts of 1874, 1889, and Spalding.



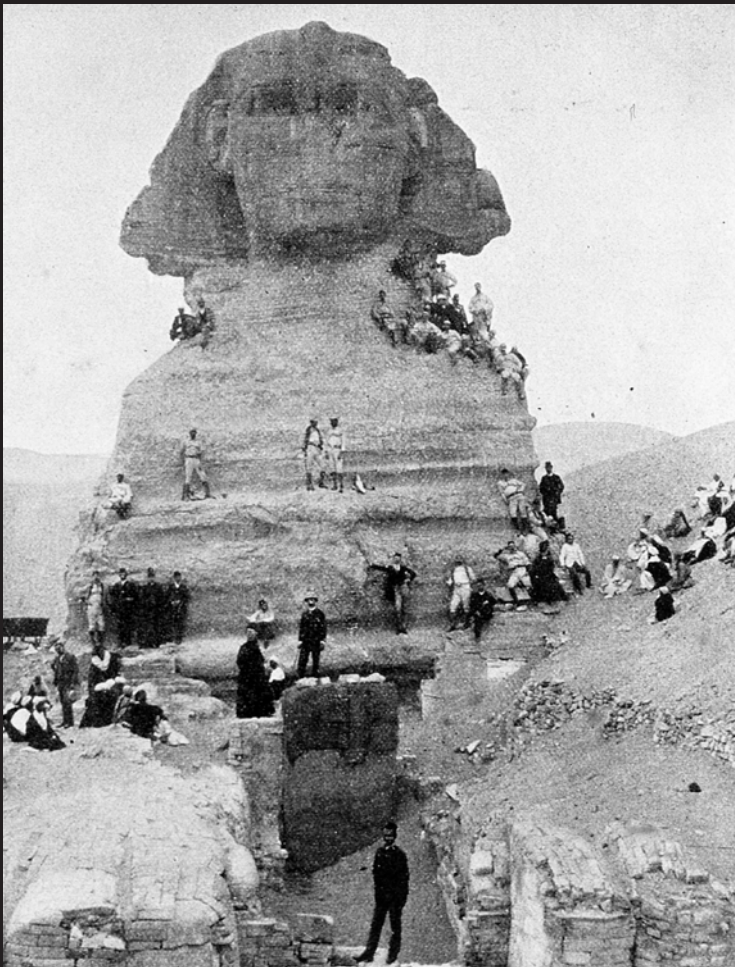
Spalding's Australian Base Ball Tour, as it was called at first



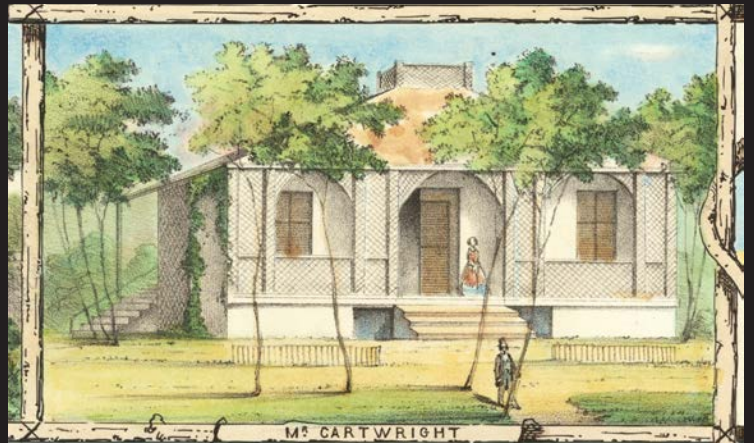
The banquet was held at Delmonico's at Beaver and South William Streets, on April 8, 1889



Harry Clay Palmer, Athletic Sports in America, England and Australia, 1889



Baseballists at the Sphinx



The Honolulu residence of Alexander Cartwright; from Paul Emmert, Views of Honolulu (No. 5), 1854



The tourists played at the Villa Borghese in Rome

# WEEKLY AWARDS

Third baseman José Ramírez of the Cleveland Guardians was selected the American League Player of the Week, and second baseman Nico Hoerner of the Chicago Cubs was named the National League Player of the Week.



Ramírez won his ninth career award after previously winning on July 14, 2025; September 30, 2024; May 31, 2022; April 18, 2022; September 20, 2021; July 16, 2018; September 4, 2017; and June 19, 2017. His nine career honors are fifth-most among active players, trailing only Aaron Judge (15); Shohei Ohtani (11); Freddie Freeman (10); and Justin Verlander (10). Additionally, his nine career awards extended his franchise record and he now accounts for six of the last nine Weekly Awards for Cleveland dating back to 2021. It marks the second award for the Guardians this season following rookie Chase DeLauter's Opening Weekend honor on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Hoerner earned his first career honor and is the first Cubs player to win since Seiya Suzuki on September 29<sup>th</sup> of last season. Overall, it marks the fifth award for Chicago since the start of the 2025 season.



**José Ramírez**  
Cleveland Guardians



**Nico Hoerner**  
Chicago Cubs



**Jackson Merrill**  
San Diego Padres

San Diego Padres center fielder Jackson Merrill earned his first career Play of the Week Award, marking the sixth honor for San Diego since the award's inception in 2019. Other Padres to win the award include Fernando Tatis Jr. (3x: 7/12/2021, 9/25/2023 & 8/25/2025) and Manny Machado (2x: 4/12/2019 & 7/14/2025). With San Diego leading Seattle, 2-0, in the top of the third inning on Jackie Robinson Day, Julio Rodríguez hit a ball to deep center field as Merrill ranged back and made a leaping catch to bring the ball back into the yard. Later in the evening, Merrill capped off the Padres' 7-6 win with a walk-off two-run double.

## 2026 WEEKLY AWARDS

| DATE                   | AL PLAYER OF THE WEEK   | NL PLAYER OF THE WEEK   | PLAY OF THE WEEK   |
|------------------------|---|---|--|
| March 30 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Chase DeLauter, CLE</b><br>.353 (6-for-17), 4 HR, 5 RBI,<br>5 R, .353 OBP, 1.059 SLG               | <b>Sal Stewart, CIN</b><br>.700 (7-for-10), 1 HR, 2 RBI,<br>3 2B, 3 BB, 2 R, .769 OBP, 1.300 SLG      | Nasim Nuñez's<br><a href="#">Acrobatic Diving Stop</a>     |
| April 6 <sup>th</sup>  | <b>Yordan Alvarez, HOU</b><br>.471 (8-for-17), 3 HR, 8 RBI,<br>7 BB, 7 R, .615 OBP, 1.118 SLG         | <b>Andy Pages, LAD</b><br>.583 (14-for-24), 2 HR, 7 RBI, 2 2B,<br>2 BB, 5 R, 1 SB, .615 OBP, .917 SLG | Jo Adell's<br><a href="#">Game-Saving Home Run Robbery</a> |
| April 13 <sup>th</sup> | <b>José Soriano, LAA</b><br>2-0, 0.60 ERA (1 ER/15.0 IP), 5 H,<br>3 BB, 20 K, 0.53 WHIP, .102 OPP AVG | <b>James Wood, WSH</b><br>.545 (12-for-22), 3 HR, 8 RBI,<br>6 BB, 8 R, 2 SB, .655 OBP, 1.091 SLG      | Jordan Beck's<br><a href="#">Home Run Robbery</a>          |
| April 20 <sup>th</sup> | <b>José Ramírez, CLE</b><br>.364 (8-for-22), 4 HR, 5 RBI, 12B<br>8 BB, 8 R, 5 SB, .533 OBP, .955 SLG  | <b>Nico Hoerner, CHC</b><br>.346 (9-for-26), 2 HR, 11 RBI,<br>1 BB, 4 R, 2 SB, .357 OBP, .577 SLG     | Jackson Merrill's<br><a href="#">Home Run Robbery</a>      |

# 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.*

**MILLER TIME:** Mason Miller has been on another level this year. Through his appearance on Sunday, he's thrown 32.2 consecutive scoreless innings dating to last season. That's the longest active streak in MLB and the second-longest streak in Padres history, per Elias. He trails only 2006 Cla Meredith (33 2/3 IP). Miller has 27 strikeouts in 38 batters faced this season. That 71.1% strikeout rate is the highest by a pitcher in his first 11 appearances of a season since at least 1900.

**RUSHING ONTO THE HOME RUN LEADERBOARD:** Dalton Rushing hit two homers on Monday to bring his season total to seven. It was just his eighth game of the year. That tied 2016 Trevor Story for the second-most in a player's first eight games of a season since at least 1900, behind only 1976 Mike Schmidt, who had eight.

**OUCH:** In a streak that ended on Tuesday, rookie JJ Wetherholt was hit by a pitch in five consecutive games. That tied 1903 Doc Gessler for the second-longest such streak since at least 1900. Only Carlos Quentin had a longer streak, with six straight in 2008.

**WHAT A START:** Nolan McLean made his 13<sup>th</sup> career start on Tuesday, and had a perfect game bid through five innings...again. McLean is the first pitcher in at least the expansion era (1961) with multiple perfect bids of at least five innings in his first 13 career starts, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. They've both been this season — with the other coming on April 3. McLean is the third pitcher in at least the expansion era with two perfect bids of at least five innings in his first 5 starts of a season, joining 1988 Kelly Downs and 1966 Juan Marichal, per Elias.

**CHURN UP THE WALKS:** Nick Kurtz has drawn a walk in 13 consecutive games through Wednesday. That's tied with 1929 Mickey Cochrane for the fourth-longest streak in Athletics history. He only trails 1993 Rickey Henderson, 1933 Max Bishop and 1905 Topsy Hartsel, at 15 each.

**HOW LOW CAN HE GO?:** With another scoreless outing on Wednesday, José Soriano now has a 0.24 ERA. That's the lowest ERA in a pitcher's first six starts of a season since earned runs became official in both leagues in 1913, minimum 30 IP. Soriano is also the first pitcher since at least 1900 to allow one or no total runs in his first six starts of a season, excluding openers.

**THE GREATEST SHO:** Shohei Ohtani made his fourth pitching start of the season on Wednesday and did not allow a run. He has thrown 24 innings this season and has allowed just one earned run. It is the fifth time a Dodgers pitcher has thrown at least 20 innings and allowed one or no earned runs in his first four appearances of a season since earned runs became official in the National League in 1912. He joined 2016 Kenta Maeda, 1985 Fernando Valenzuela, 1981 Valenzuela and 1916 Wheezer Dell.

**HE HAS POWER:** Munetaka Murakami hit his 10<sup>th</sup> home run of the season on Wednesday in just his 24<sup>th</sup> career MLB game. He has four more home runs than any other Japanese-born player in his first 24 MLB games, ahead of Ohtani, who had six in his first 24 games as a hitter. Murakami also hit a home run in five straight games through Wednesday, tied for the longest streak by an MLB rookie all-time and tied for the White Sox franchise record.

**WOOD WORK:** With a 112.2 mph opposite-field home run on Wednesday, James Wood now has four oppo home runs with at least a 110 mph exit velocity this season, tied for second-most in a season under Statcast (2015), behind only 2017 Aaron Judge (five). It's only April. Speaking of which...three have been this month, tied with June 2017 Judge for the most in a calendar month in that span.

**CURRENT IRONMAN:** Matt Olson has played 808 consecutive games entering Friday, dating to May 2, 2021. His streak is the 11<sup>th</sup>-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 ([@SlangsonSports](https://twitter.com/SlangsonSports))**



# UPON FURTHER REVIEW

Through Wednesday night's games, Major League Baseball has had 228 replay reviews, which have taken an average of one minute and twenty-six seconds. The 228 replay reviews consist of 196 Manager Challenges and 32 Crew Chief Reviews.

| <b>228 Replay Reviews</b> |
|---------------------------|
| 46 Confirmed (20.2%)      |
| 64 Stands (28.1%)         |
| 117 Overturned (51.3%)    |
| 1 Rules Check (0.4%)      |
| 0 Record Keeping (0.0%)   |
| 1:26 Average Time         |

*Through 24 games played this season, the Dodgers have yet to initiate a replay review. According to Elias, Los Angeles is the first team to not challenge within the first 22 games of a season since the start of replay review (2014). Previously, the 2014 Cardinals and the 2021 and 2025 Brewers held the longest such stretch to begin a season (all challenging for the first time in their 22nd game of the season). The Dodgers had a total of 55 challenges in each of the last two seasons, ranking fourth-most in 2025 and third-most in 2024.*

# LINE DRIVES

*Compiled from Club Game Notes*

**GO VARGY GO:** Ildemaro Vargas' career-best 20-game hitting streak since Sept. 26, 2025 is the Majors' longest active streak since 2025. His 20-gamer is tied for MLB's third-longest hit streak since 2025, with Jackson Chourio's 20-gamer (July 3-27), behind José Ramírez's 21-gamer (May 7-28) and Bobby Witt Jr.'s 22-gamer (April 8-May 1). He is the sixth D-back ever to have a 20+ game hit streak. Vargas is the first D-back (11<sup>th</sup> overall) to homer in three-or-more straight plate appearances (April 21 in Bot 9, Weds in Bot 2 & 3) since Eugenio Suárez's four-homer game on April 26, 2025 vs. Braves.

**HE'S TOO GOOD FOR HIS HOME:** Since the start of the 2024 campaign, Tarik Skubal is 20-2 with a 2.04 ERA (48 ER/212.0 IP) in 33 starts at home, the lowest home ERA and the second-most wins in the A.L., while his .909 winning percentage is the best home mark of any pitcher in all of baseball. Last year Skubal went 9-1 with a 2.13 ERA (24 ER/101.1 IP) in 16 starts at Comerica Park, the lowest home ERA in the A.L. and the fourth-lowest home mark in the Majors.

**STILL LOOKING UP AT THE DUKE:** Dodger designated hitter Shohei Ohtani saw his record-tying on-base streak snapped at 53 last night as he went 0-for-4. Ohtani tied Shawn Green for the longest on-base streak in Los Angeles Dodgers' history (since 1958) and fell five games short of catching Hall of Famer Duke Snider's run in 1954. During his on-base streak, Ohtani reached base 99 times (57 hits), hit 16 homers and went hitless in 13 of the 53 games. His longest hitting streak during the run was a nine-gamer last year (Sept. 13-21). Ohtani had the longest on-base streak in the Major Leagues since Orlando Cabrera reached base safely in 63 straight games from April 25-July 6, 2006. Ohtani now holds the longest on-base streak by a Japanese-born player at 53 games, surpassing Hall of Famer Ichiro Suzuki (43, 2009).

**WIN STREAK:** José Soriano is the first Angels pitcher to win each of his first five games of a season since Jered Weaver won his first six in 2011. José Soriano has an active 24.2 inning scoreless streak since allowing his only run of the year (Drake Baldwin solo HR for Braves); the streak is the longest in the Majors this year (Sandy Alcantara - 20 IP). With a scoreless start against the Blue Jays yesterday, he became the first starting pitcher in MLB history (excluding Openers) to allow one-or-fewer total runs through his first six starts of a season.

**FIRST PITCH SWINGING:** As a team, the Rockies are slashing .431/.456/.716 on the first pitch of an at-bat, all the highest marks in the Majors, they also lead the Majors in first-pitch hits (47) and OPS (1.172) while ranking third with 16 extra-base hits and tied for third with seven home runs. The Rockies 38.5 first pitch swinging percentage is tied with the Athletics for the highest in the Majors. Ezequiel Tovar is tied for fifth in the Majors with eight first-pitch hits this season while OF Mickey Moniak is tied for fourth with two home runs. Overall, the Rockies 3.78 pitches-per-plate-appearance are tied for 28<sup>th</sup> in the Majors.

**DYNAMIC DUO:** Aaron Judge (nine home runs) and Ben Rice (eight home runs) are only the fourth pair of Yankees teammates in franchise history to each hit at least eight home runs in the club's first 23 games of a season. Judge (eight home runs) and Anthony Rizzo (nine home runs) accomplished the feat in 2022, Judge (nine home runs) and Luke Voit (eight home runs) did so in 2020, and Yogi Berra (ten home runs) and Mickey Mantle (11 home runs) also accomplished the feat in 1956.

**GOOD WOOD:** James Wood leads Major League Baseball in on-base percentage (.506), slugging percentage (1st, .774), OPS (1.282) and home runs (T1st, 8) since April 5. He ranks among MLB leaders in walks (second, 19) and RBI (fourth, 17) over this Stretch. Four of his last five hits have been home runs. On Tuesday night, Wood became the second National in team history (since 2005) to draw four walks and hit a home run in the same game, joining Bryce Harper (April 2, 2018 at ATL). He is one of three players Major League Baseball with more than one batted ball greater than 116.0 MPH this season with Yordan Alvarez (3) and O'Neil Cruz (3). Wood's 37 batted balls over 100 MPH are the most in Major League Baseball and his average exit velocity of 96.9 MPH ranks third in MLB.

**FROM THE ASHES:** Braxton Ashcraft allowed two runs and struck out five batters over 7.0 innings on Wednesday at Texas. He has pitched at least 5.0 innings and allowed two-or-fewer earned runs in each of his first five starts this season, joining Ian Snell (2007, five), Erik Bedard (2012, six), A.J. Burnett (2015, nine) and Trevor Williams (2018, six) as the only Pirates pitchers during the 21st century to do that in each of their first five starts of a season.

**PEN TO PAPER:** The Giants' bullpen has allowed just two earned runs over their last eight games (0.66 ERA, 27.1 IP, 29 strikeouts and 10 walks). Since April 7, the bullpen has a 1.74 ERA (8 ER/41.1 IP) over its last 13 games, opponents have hit .172 in that time with a .530 OPS. The 1.74 ERA in that span is best in the Majors, with the next closest team being the Reds (2.34). Overall, the Giants' bullpen has a 3.28 ERA (29 ER/79.2 IP) for the season, sixth-lowest in the Majors and fifth-lowest in the National League entering play today. In terms of hard-hit rate, the bullpen's 34.3% mark is fifth-lowest in MLB (SIS).

**NO SOPHOMORE SLUMP:** Colson Montgomery has hit 28 home runs in his first 95 games, the second-highest total in White Sox history behind José Abreu (31 in 2014). His 73 RBI through 95 games are fifth-most in Sox history behind Abreu (86), Zeke Bonura (86), Ping Bodie (77), and Smead Jolley (75). Montgomery is tied for second in the majors since the 2025 All-Star Break with 28 home runs and 71 RBI. He hit his 10<sup>th</sup> career home run in his 32<sup>nd</sup> game on 8/11/25 vs. Detroit, the fourth-fastest pace in Sox history.

**HARP ON THIS ONE:** Two-time MVP Bryce Harper enters today's game with 799 extra-base hits. With one more, he will become only the 27<sup>th</sup> player in MLB history to reach 800 XBH before turning 34 years old. Of the previous 26 to do it, 17 are enshrined in Cooperstown. Harper would also become only the 10<sup>th</sup> left-handed hitter to reach 800 extra-base hits before turning 34 – in alphabetical order: Barry Bonds, Carlos Delgado, Freddie Freeman, Lou Gehrig, Ken Griffey Jr., Eddie Mathews, Stan Musial, Mel Ott and Babe Ruth.

**EIGHT IS GREAT:** The Cubs extended their season-long win streak to eight-straight games since April 14 following last night's 7-2 victory vs. the Phillies. Chicago has outscored opponents 58-20 (+38) during this eight-game run, which is the largest run differential in the majors since April 14, ahead of Atlanta (+17). Chicago's eight-game stretch is the longest active win streak in the majors, and is tied for the longest win streak by any team in Major League Baseball this season (also: eight-straight wins by San Diego from April 8-16). Tee streak marks the Cubs first win streak of at least eight games since an eight-game run from July 21-29, 2023. It is their longest win streak within the month of April since April 14-27, 1970 (11 consecutive victories).



# MLB ON-AIR THIS WEEK

(All Times ET)

|   |   |                                     |                      |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
|   | <b>SUNDAY NIGHT BASEBALL</b>  | <b>TUESDAY</b>                      |                      |
| <b>Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>:</b> | New York Yankees @ Boston Red Sox   | 6:10 p.m.                           | FOX                  |
| <b>Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>:</b>   | Philadelphia Phillies @ Atlanta Braves<br>Chicago Cubs @ Los Angeles Dodgers                                      | 7:15 p.m.<br>10:15 p.m.             | Apple TV<br>Apple TV |
| <b>Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>:</b> | Cleveland Guardians @ Toronto Blue Jays<br>Detroit Tigers @ Cincinnati Reds<br>Chicago Cubs @ Los Angeles Dodgers | 2:15 p.m.<br>7:15 p.m.<br>7:15 p.m. | FS1<br>FOX<br>FOX    |
| <b>Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>:</b>   | Los Angeles Angels @ Kansas City Royals   | 7:20 p.m.                           | Peacock/NBCSN        |
| <b>Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>:</b>   | Tampa Bay Rays @ Cleveland Guardians  | 6:10 p.m.                           | FS1                  |
| <b>Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>:</b>  | Detroit Tigers @ Atlanta Braves   | 7:15 p.m.                           | TBS                  |

**FIVE OF THE TOP-SIX RECORDS ACROSS MLB 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*

|  |  |                         |  |
|--|--|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>:</b>  | Philadelphia Phillies @ Chicago Cubs   | 2:20 p.m.               |  |
| <b>Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>:</b>    | New York Yankees @ Houston Astros  | 8:10 p.m.               |  |
| <b>Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>:</b>  | San Diego Padres @ Arizona Diamondbacks  | 6:05 p.m.               |  |
| <b>Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>:</b>    | Boston Red Sox @ Baltimore Orioles   | 1:35 p.m.               |  |
| <b>Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>:</b>   | Chicago Cubs @ San Diego Padres  | 9:40 p.m.               |  |
| <b>Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>:</b> | Tampa Bay Rays @ Cleveland Guardians<br>San Francisco Giants @ Philadelphia Phillies | 1:10 p.m.<br>6:40 p.m.  |  |
| <b>Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>:</b>  | Detroit Tigers @ Atlanta Braves<br>Kansas City Royals @ Athletics                    | 12:15 p.m.<br>3:05 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

| <u>American League SiriusXM Channels</u> |             | <u>National League SiriusXM Channels</u> |             |
|--|-------------|--|-------------|
| 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

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