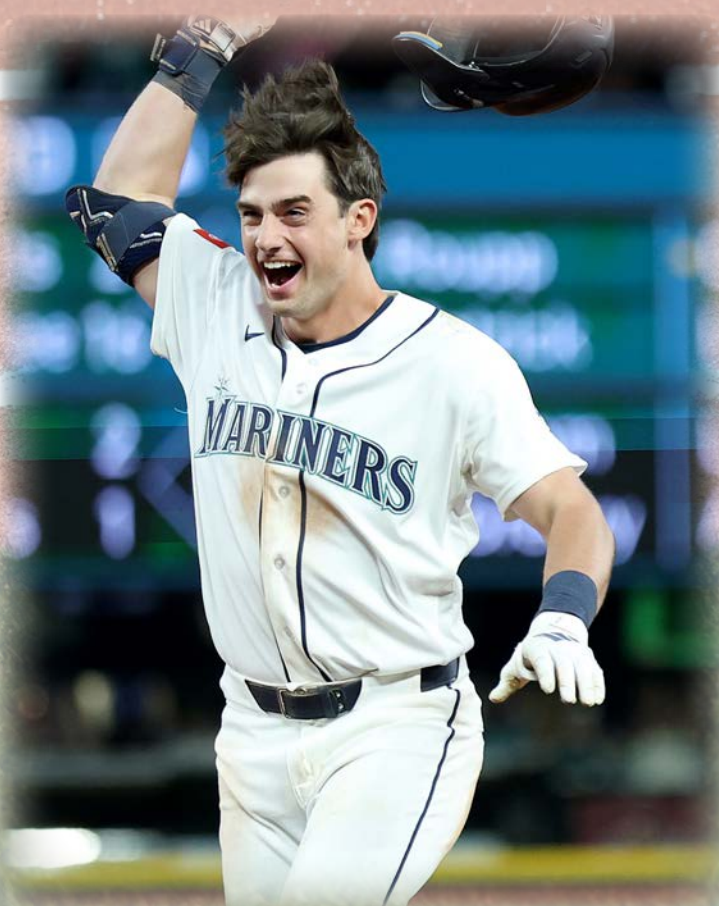




# MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL WEEKLY NOTES

June 4, 2026





# ANCHOR THE SHIP

The Los Angeles Dodgers pace Major League Baseball with a 3.01 ERA from their starting rotation this season, followed by the Milwaukee Brewers (3.07) and AL-leading New York Yankees (3.10). The Dodgers' rotation is on pace to have the seventh-best ERA in the last 30 years, trailing only the 2022 Dodgers (2.75); 2011 Philadelphia Phillies (2.86); 2021 Dodgers (2.93); 2022 Houston Astros (2.95); 2016 Chicago Cubs (2.96); and 2015 St. Louis Cardinals (2.99).

The Dodgers' rotation is anchored by two-way superstar Shohei Ohtani, who fired 6.0 scoreless innings last night to lower his ERA on the year to 0.74. Other notable Dodgers starters this season include Justin Wroblewski (2.61 ERA in 9 GS); Tyler Glasnow (2.72 ERA in 7 GS); and Yoshinobu Yamamoto (2.86 ERA in 11 GS). Per Sarah Langs, Ohtani's 0.74 ERA is the third-lowest mark through a pitcher's first 10 starts of a season since earned runs became official in 1913 (excluding openers), trailing only Jacob deGrom (0.56 ERA in 2021) and Juan Marichal (0.59 ERA in 1966). Dodgers' starters have permitted two-or-fewer runs in 43 of their 62 games, while their 29 games of one-or-zero runs lead the National League and are second-most in the Majors behind only the Chicago White Sox (30 GS, 8 of which have been 2.0 IP-or-less).

The Brewers' rotation has been led by Kyle Harrison (1.57 ERA) and Jacob Misiorowski (1.65 ERA). The pair are seeking to be the 11<sup>th</sup> set of teammates to qualify for the ERA title with an ERA of 1.70-or-better, a feat that has only been accomplished in 1915 when Ernie Shore (1.64 ERA) and Smoky Joe Wood (1.49 ERA) anchored the Boston Red Sox. Per OptaSTATS, the Brewers are the first club since ERA became official in 1913 to have at least two pitchers with at least 10 starts, a sub-2.00 ERA and 11.00 strikeouts per 9.0 innings at the end of any day in June-or-later. Milwaukee starters have permitted three runs-or-fewer in 52 of their 59 games this season, leading the Major Leagues.

The Yankees' rotation has been guided by Cam Schlichter, who has a 1.89 ERA across 13 starts. Four Yankees starters have made at least 10 starts this season and have an ERA under 3.60 with Schlichter joined by Max Fried (3.21 ERA in 10 GS); Will Warren (3.22 ERA in 12 GS); and Ryan Weathers (3.52 ERA in 11 GS).

Cristopher Sánchez of the Phillies, who leads qualified pitchers this season with a 1.46 ERA, finished off a dominant stretch last night as he extended his scoreless innings streak to 50.2 innings, marking the fifth-longest scoreless innings streak since the mound moved to its current distance in 1893 and the longest by a left-hander. Since Zack Wheeler returned to the Phillies rotation on April 25<sup>th</sup>, Philadelphia's 3.02 ERA by starting pitchers is second-best to only Milwaukee's 2.62 ERA during the stretch. Entering play on Thursday, each club has won 24 games since April 25<sup>th</sup>, tied for the most in the Majors.

2026 STARTING PITCHER ERA	
TEAM	SP ERA
Los Angeles Dodgers	3.01
Milwaukee Brewers	3.07
New York Yankees	3.10
Atlanta Braves	3.27
Tampa Bay Rays	3.51
Seattle Mariners	3.73
Detroit Tigers	3.76
Cleveland Guardians	3.77
Pittsburgh Pirates	3.84
Texas Rangers	3.98
Toronto Blue Jays	3.99
St. Louis Cardinals	4.05
Kansas City Royals	4.05
Philadelphia Phillies	4.06
Chicago White Sox	4.18
Arizona Diamondbacks	4.19
New York Mets	4.32
Boston Red Sox	4.33
Minnesota Twins	4.49
Athletics	4.55
San Diego Padres	4.55
Baltimore Orioles	4.60
Cincinnati Reds	4.64
Washington Nationals	4.64
Chicago Cubs	4.65
Los Angeles Angels	4.68
Miami Marlins	4.75
San Francisco Giants	4.84
Houston Astros	4.85
Colorado Rockies	6.03



# SITUATIONALLY SPEAKING

The Washington Nationals lead the Majors with 212 hits with no outs this season, while the Los Angeles Dodgers pace the Majors with 203 one-out hits and the Athletics lead the Majors with 180 two-out hits. The Atlanta Braves' 42 homers with no outs are the most in the Majors, while the Dodgers' 31 homers with one out lead MLB, and the New York Yankees' 28 two-out homers are the most among all 30 clubs.

Leadoff man James Wood of the Washington Nationals has produced 33 hits with no outs, while Minnesota Twins' leadoff man Byron Buxton has 12 longballs with no outs this season, the most in any situation. Luis Arraez of the San Francisco Giants, who has batted either second or third in 49 of the Giants' 62 games this season, paces the Majors with 34 one-out hits, the most in any situation. Otto Lopez of the Miami Marlins, who entered play on Thursday as MLB's leader in batting average (.336), has recorded a Major League-leading 30 two-out hits, in addition to his 30 hits with one out. Dillon Dingler of the Detroit Tigers and Christian Walker of the Houston Astros pace the Majors with 25 two-out RBI, the most of any split.

The Milwaukee Brewers lead the Majors with 70 hits with runners in scoring position and two outs, while their 100 RBI in those situations are tied for the most with the Houston Astros. Overall, the Pittsburgh Pirates have taken the most plate appearances with runners in scoring position (724), while the Brewers' 160 hits with RISP, regardless of number of outs, lead the Majors, with Pittsburgh's 148 such hits ranking third.

Of the last 16 World Series Champions since 2010, 11 have been ranked within the top-five of hits with RISP, including the 2011 St. Louis Cardinals, 2012 Giants, 2013 Boston Red Sox, 2015 Kansas City Royals, 2016 Chicago Cubs, 2017 Astros, 2018 Red Sox, 2019 Nationals, 2020 Dodgers, 2023 Texas Rangers and 2024 Dodgers. Of those 11 clubs, eight have also ranked within the top-five of two-out hits, including the 2013 Red Sox, 2015 Royals, 2017 Astros, 2018 Red Sox, 2019 Nationals, 2020 Dodgers, 2023 Rangers and 2024 Dodgers.

This season, the Braves, who also lead Major League Baseball with 42 wins entering play on Thursday, are the only club to rank top five in both categories, tallying 144 hits with RISP (T-4<sup>th</sup>) and 170 hits with two outs (t-3<sup>rd</sup>).



## 2026 INTERLEAGUE TRACKER

League	2026 Record	Batting Average	ERA
American League	129-162	.238 (2,307-for-9,695)	4.29
National League	162-129	.244 (2,379-for-9,756)	4.01

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

# PLAY BALL WEEKEND

PLAY BALL Weekend will feature events on six continents as part of a worldwide effort to inspire participation in baseball and softball through over 200 activities hosted by MLB, MLB Clubs, MiLB & Partner League Clubs, MLB's international offices and youth league partners this weekend.

MLB will host two launch events, beginning yesterday at Mount Rushmore in South Dakota. As part of MLB's larger America 250 initiative, participants in Rapid City, South Dakota participated in the diamond sports event before visiting Mount Rushmore. An event will be held tomorrow in Pittsburgh where Dick's Sporting Goods will host 5–12-year-olds at House of Sport in Ross Park. MLB Youth Ambassador, Coach Ballgame will lead both events, with former Pittsburgh Pirates players volunteering as coaches at the Pittsburgh Event.



One of the core focuses of PLAY BALL Weekend will be connecting with youth from different backgrounds, while closing equity gaps to accessing the game, and encouraging youth, families and communities to PLAY BALL. MLB's year-round PLAY BALL initiative is supported by Kansas City Royals All-Star shortstop Bobby Witt Jr., who was named MLB's first-ever Major League PLAY BALL Ambassador in 2025. All 30 Clubs will wear a special PLAY BALL patch on the side of their caps during the weekend.

## **PLAY BALL WEEKEND 'BY THE NUMBERS'**

60,000 Franklin PLAY BALL Sets will be distributed for casual play in communities, playgrounds and backyards. All 30 MLB Clubs, all 120 MiLB Clubs, 61 Partner League Clubs, and Hundreds of Mayors will host events in celebration of PLAY BALL Weekend.

## **CLUB ACTIVITY**

All 30 MLB Clubs: Whether at home or on the road, every Major League Club will host PLAY BALL Weekend activities in their communities and/or at their ballparks. A rundown of MLB Club PLAY BALL Weekend activities can be seen at [this link](#).



All 120 MiLB & Partner League Clubs: All 120 Minor League Baseball teams and 61 Partner Professional, and Amateur Development League Clubs will participate with activities in their home stadium or at a local youth field. For all Minor League PLAY BALL Weekend activities, please visit [this link](#).

## **GLOBAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING**

With events spanning six continents, Major League Baseball is working to grow baseball and softball participation around the world. In Asia, PLAY BALL Weekend will be celebrated in China, Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, Laos, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and India. In addition, events marking the occasion will take place in Australia, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Egypt, New Zealand and Nicaragua.

Leading into PLAY BALL Weekend, MLB and Disney launched a new multimedia spot, featuring All-Star shortstop Mookie Betts and his daughter Kynlee to promote Toy Story 5. Within the [30-second commercial](#), Betts and the Toy Story characters work together to encourage Kynlee to play ball with her dad.

In celebration of PLAY BALL Weekend, first ballot Hall of Famers CC Sabathia and Ken Griffey Jr., alongside former All-Star Harold Reynolds will co-host Play Ball Live powered by Zoom on MLB's YouTube channel and X account (@MLB). Held at the Jackie Robinson Training Complex in Vero Beach, Florida, the interactive two-hour stream aims to engage, excite and inspire youth baseball and softball players around the world. All-Stars Aaron Judge and Betts are among the special guests set to join the stream, alongside Griffey, Reynolds and Sabathia, who will offer tips on how to improve as a player, share instructional tips and offer insight into their playing days.

This year, PLAY BALL Weekend has been highlighted with a series of new marketing assets under the 'Let's All PLAY BALL' campaign, highlighting the shared joy and community of youth baseball and softball. Each piece of creative tells a different part of the PLAY BALL story, coming together to explain PLAY BALL program benefits, announce key dates, and showcase real participants having fun, making friends, and being themselves. Additionally, MLB is teaming up with new and existing partners to celebrate the event and incentivize play by launching PLAY BALL Weekend interactive social content on Zigazoo, a youth social platform for kids to connect and create in a safe environment, as well as executing a surprise glove giveaway of over 700 Rawlings baseball and softball gloves at three MiLB PLAY BALL events over the weekend.

## **BOBBY WITT JR. – PLAY BALL AMBASSADOR**



Bobby Witt Jr., Kansas City Royals shortstop and two-time All-Star, was named Major League Baseball's first-ever official PLAY BALL Ambassador on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year, the PLAY BALL ([www.PlayBall.org](http://www.PlayBall.org)) initiative was formed to encourage casual forms of baseball and softball play to help grow participation in the sport. As PLAY BALL Ambassador, Witt Jr. plays a central role in MLB's efforts to encourage youth participation in baseball and softball appearing in content across MLB media outlets inspiring the next generation of players and fans. As MLB's signature youth engagement effort, the PLAY BALL program debuted in 2015 during Commissioner Manfred's first year in the role as a response to declining participation in baseball and softball at the time.

## **VIRTUAL PLAY BALL Weekend WITH DIAMOND KINETICS**

MLB continues to expand the reach of PLAY BALL Weekend by hosting PLAY BALL events using the Diamond Kinetics mobile app. Kids can participate in PLAY BALL Weekend any place they can swing a bat. The Diamond Kinetics iOS mobile app allows kids to play virtual games, match their swing against Big League All-Stars, take interactive hitting lessons, and join challenges for a chance to win MLB prizes. The Diamond Kinetics App opens a whole new world of fun hitting experiences through PLAY BALL-themed activities that merge real-world swings with digital-mobile content and rewards.

**SwingMatch:** Kids take real swings and DK's SmartMotion technology uses the phone's camera to capture and compare their swing motion with MLB All-Stars. Kids will be able to see how closely their swing resembles a dozen MLB players, including Shohei Ohtani, Aaron Judge, Bobby Witt, Jr., and many others.

**Interactive Hitting Lessons:** With the intent of getting kids swinging more and smiling the whole time, the DK app provides a series of quick, fun, and easy PLAY BALL interactive lessons that teach basic hitting concepts intertwined with MLB game content.

**PLAY BALL Mini-Games:** Mini-games are a series of unique, lightweight, tap-based activities that use MLB game highlights to drive engagement, connect kids with MLB players & clubs, and teach aspects of the game.

**Gamifying the Game:** Participants earn experience points (XP), unlock rewards, and can customize their avatar with the MLB Club skins, card backgrounds, and PLAY BALL themed badges.

**Extending PLAY BALL Weekend All Season:** Many of the activities will remain in the Diamond Kinetics app year-round, so kids can have fun, get better and keep up with their favorite MLB players through unique interactive experiences, anywhere, anytime.

## **ADDITIONAL PARTNERS**

**Franklin Sports** – Through the long-term partnership with the family-owned and Boston-based licensee, over 60,000 PLAY BALL sets will be dispersed to youngsters throughout the course of PLAY BALL Weekend and totals more than 1 Million co-branded bat & ball sets donated since the Weekend's inception.

**U.S. Conference of Mayors** – Since 2015, the U.S. Conference of Mayors have been key supporters with customized, community based "Mayor's PLAY BALL" events that revolve around fun, non-traditional play and skills building.

**PLAY BALL Youth Partners** - Groups from Little League Baseball & Softball, Nike Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities (RBI) and more will participate in various PLAY BALL Weekend activities.

**RCX Sports** – The official operator of MLB's [Pitch, Hit & Run skills competition](#) is working with MLB, MiLB & Partner League Clubs, as well as local community organizations, to host over 100 Pitch, Hit & Run contests throughout PLAY BALL Weekend.

## **PLAY BALL INITIATIVE AND YOUTH PARTICIPATION BY THE NUMBERS**

MLB's PLAY BALL initiative, which launched in 2015 under the direction of Commissioner Manfred, is the League's signature youth engagement effort. Baseball and softball participation has grown significantly in the 11-year period since the PLAY BALL initiative was established, according to the most recent report from the Sports and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA). Since 2014, casual participation in baseball for ages 6+ has increased +144%. In each of the last five years, baseball and softball combined to be the overall most participated team sport in the U.S. among kids aged 6-12.



# 2026 ALL-STAR BALLOTING

Major League Baseball launched the 2026 KONAMI eBaseball™ MLB All-Star Ballot yesterday at 12:00 p.m. (ET) for the 2026 MLB All-Star Game presented by Mastercard, which will be held on Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at Citizens Bank Park, the home of the Philadelphia Phillies.

The 2026 MLB All-Star Ballot once again features two phases of fan voting to determine the All-Star starters. Beginning Wednesday, fans around the world can cast their votes exclusively online and via mobile devices at [MLB.com/vote](https://mlb.com/vote), all 30 Club web sites, the MLB App and the MLB Ballpark App until the voting period for Phase 1 concludes at 12:00 p.m. ET on Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. During the initial voting period from June 3<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, fans can submit up to five ballots each day on MLB platforms. Each day, after submitting a fifth vote on the ballot, fans will be given the option to be redirected to KONAMI's mobile game eBaseball™: MLB PRO SPIRIT for an exclusive opportunity to vote for a sixth time.



On Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, the top two vote-getters at each position (and the top six outfielders) in each league will be revealed on MLB Network at 6:00 p.m. (ET), and they will advance to the second phase of voting to determine who makes the All-Star teams and starts for each league. Once again, the leading vote-getter in each league during the first phase of voting will receive an automatic starting assignment at the All-Star Game and bypass the second phase of voting. If an outfielder is a league's leading vote-getter, Phase 2 voting at the position will still take place to determine the remaining two starters among the next four outfield finalists.

Phase 2 will begin at 12:00 p.m. (ET) on Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, with fans voting among the finalists at each position during a four-day window that concludes at 12:00 p.m. (ET) on Thursday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>. During this second phase of voting, in which fans can vote once per day on MLB platforms, vote totals will reset (i.e., vote totals from Phase 1 do not carry over) and the winner at each position (including three outfielders per league) will be named a starting position player for the 2026 Midsummer Classic.

The NL All-Star Team, which will be managed by Dave Roberts of the defending World Series Champion Los Angeles Dodgers, and the AL All-Star Team, led by John Schneider of the defending AL Champion Toronto Blue Jays, will each have nine elected starters via the fan balloting program. The pitchers and reserves for both squads – totaling 23 for each side – will be determined through a combination of “Player Ballot” choices and selections made by the Commissioner's Office. The full 2026 All-Star rosters, including the announcement of starters and reserves, will be revealed on the “MLB All-Star Game Selection Show presented by KONAMI” on Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. (ET) on FOX ahead of FOX's Baseball Night in America coverage of the St. Louis Cardinals visiting the Chicago Cubs at Wrigley Field and the New York Mets visiting the Atlanta Braves at Truist Park.

During each phase of voting, the 2026 MLB All-Star Ballot will offer audio CAPTCHA functionality for visually impaired fans. Spanish-language ballots will be available to fans via [MLB.com/vota](https://mlb.com/vota) and Japanese-language ballots will be available at [MLB.com/ja/vote](https://mlb.com/ja/vote).

Fans will once again have the opportunity to participate in the official voting for the Ted Williams All-Star Game Most Valuable Player Award. During the Midsummer Classic, fans can vote exclusively at MLB.com and the 30 Club sites – online or via their mobile devices – with the 2026 All-Star Game MLB.com MVP Vote, and their collective voice will represent 20 percent of the official vote determining this year's recipient of the Arch Ward Trophy.

The 96<sup>th</sup> Midsummer Classic will mark the celebration of the Semiquincentennial of American independence and follows suit from 1976, when Veterans Stadium hosted the All-Star Game in the year of the nation's Bicentennial. This year marks the fifth time that the City of Philadelphia will host the event, including the first time at their current ballpark. Previous Philadelphia sites to host the All-Star Game include Shibe Park, which staged the Midsummer Classic in 1943 (hosted by the Philadelphia A's) and 1952, and the aforementioned Veterans Stadium, which also hosted the 1996 All-Star Game.

MLB All-Star Week includes the MLB All-Star Game presented by Mastercard (July 14<sup>th</sup>); Gatorade All-Star Workout Day featuring the T-Mobile Home Run Derby (July 13<sup>th</sup>); All-Star Sunday featuring the All-Star Futures Game and MLBx: All-Star 3-on-3 (July 12<sup>th</sup>); the MLB Draft presented by Nippon Express (July 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>); the HBCU Swingman Classic (July 10<sup>th</sup>); and Capital One All-Star Village (July 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>). The 96<sup>th</sup> Midsummer Classic will be televised nationally by FOX Sports; in Canada by Rogers Sportsnet and TDA Sports; and worldwide by partners in more than 200 countries. FOX Deportes will provide Spanish language coverage in the United States. ESPN Radio will provide exclusive national radio coverage of the All-Star Game, while Univision will provide Spanish language coverage on radio. MLB Network and MLB.com will also provide comprehensive All-Star Week coverage. For more information about MLB All-Star Week, including ticket information and updates, please visit [allstargame.com](https://allstargame.com) and follow @MLB on social media.





# DEVELOPS

## DEVELOPS ON THE DIAMOND

**PACK JACKS:** In the University of Texas' 19-1 victory over Holy Cross in the NCAA Austin Super Regional Central tournament, MLB Develops alumni Anthony Pack Jr. had a career day and made program history in the process. The 19-year-old went 3-for-3 with three homers, a walk, four runs scored and five RBI. His three home runs mark the first time a Texas player recorded as many in a postseason game and is just the ninth occurrence in program history. Pack's homers were three of six on the day for the Longhorns, tying a program record. Additionally, with his third homer of the game, the freshman notched his 70<sup>th</sup> hit, 10<sup>th</sup> homer and 50<sup>th</sup> RBI of the season.



**NEVER FORGET YOUR FIRST:** Braden Montgomery, the Chicago White Sox second-best prospect and 23<sup>rd</sup> overall MLB prospect per *MLB Pipeline*, notched another career first on Thursday night. Now with the Triple-A Charlotte Knights following his promotion in early May, the Breakthrough Series, Hank Aaron Invitational and DREAM Series alumni slugged his first pro grand slam in the fourth inning of the Knights' contest against the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp. The blast broke open a 4-4 tie and led the Knights to a 12-5 at Truist Field. The 23-year-old is now slashing .300/.372/.460 with three homers, 13 RBI, seven doubles, 23 runs scored, 11 walks and two stolen bases across his 25 games in Triple-A.



**FIRST IN A DECADE:** The University of Miami's Rob Evans accomplished a program feat not seen in a decade. The Breakthrough Series, Hank Aaron Invitational and DREAM Series alumni became the first University of Miami pitcher to have a 10-win season since 2016 with his outing on May 20<sup>th</sup> in which he allowed two runs on four hits with two walks and six strikeouts across 7.0 innings. The southpaw also took the mound for the Hurricanes in the NCAA Gainesville Regional opener, firing 5.0 innings, allowing three runs on seven hits with two walks and four strikeouts.



**MOVING UP THE FARM:** ID Tour, Breakthrough Series Team, DREAM Series and High School All-American Game alumni Miguel Sime Jr. got the call up to High-A in the Washington Nationals organization on Monday. The promotion comes following 10 starts with the Single-A Fredericksburg Nationals. Across his 26.1 innings pitched, the Cambridge, Massachusetts native pitched to a 4.44 ERA with 54 strikeouts and 25 walks. The 19-year-old's 18.5 strikeouts per nine innings marks a significant jump from his 11.4 mark in his 8.2 innings pitched as a member of the Trenton Thunder of the MLB Draft League. Sime's 18.5 strikeouts per nine innings also represented the highest mark in all of Minor League Baseball (minimum 20 innings).



**LOOKING AHEAD TO BREAKTHROUGH:** At the Jackie Robinson Training Complex in Vero Beach, Florida from June 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 80 elite high school athletes will take part in the boys Breakthrough Series. Established in 2008, the Breakthrough Series is a joint effort of Major League Baseball and USA Baseball with a focus on developing players on

and off the field. Included on the roster are 62 players who have previously participated in an MLB Develops event, including 16 players who have participated in previous iterations of the Breakthrough Series. The coaching staff, which consists of 20 former MLB coaches and players, brings over 100 years of combined MLB coaching and playing experience. The Breakthrough Series has produced countless MLB players since its inception, including 17 current Major Leaguers, highlighted by 2022 National League Rookie of the Year Michael Harris II, Taj Bradley, Justin Crawford, Carlos Rodón and Nasim Núñez. See the 2026 Breakthrough Series preview [here](#).



## ATHLETES UNLIMITED SOFTBALL LEAGUE

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, the second season of the Athletes Unlimited Softball League officially begins. Following an incredible inaugural season that saw the Talons win the championship, six teams, including two new additions to the league, are set to take the field. With home stadiums, home cities, newly drafted college players, new partnerships and new investors, the second season of AUSL action is set to be must-see TV.

Earlier today, the AUSL announced that a new group of strategic investors led by the Milwaukee Brewers and Ryan Sanders baseball. The new investment group includes Brewers Chairman and Principal Owner Mark Attanasio, along with baseball legends and executives Nolan Ryan, Reid Ryan and Don Sanders of Ryan Sanders Baseball. The investment marks a new first for the AUSL, as the Brewers became the first Major League Baseball team to invest directly in the AUSL. CEO and Co-Founder of Athletes Unlimited Jon Patricof said of the investment, “This is a meaningful moment for the AUSL because it reflects growing belief from some of the most respected operators in baseball that professional softball has enormous long-term potential.”

Amongst the new additions to this year’s AUSL season, Rawlings has joined the fold as their iconic Rawlings Gold Glove will now be awarded to an AUSL athlete each season. Rawlings, which is already the official game ball, glove, helmet, face guard, base and equipment bag of Major League Baseball, is now the official bat, glove and base of the Athletes Unlimited Softball League. The introduction of the Award marks the second time the Rawlings Gold Glove Award has been awarded in professional softball, with the first being in 2016-19 in the now obsolete National Pro Fastpitch League. AUSL Commissioner Kim Ng said, “This partnership with Rawlings, a brand with a deep legacy in diamond sports, reinforces the caliber of talent and performance that defines the AUSL.” Rawlings and Easton also have endorsement deals with several AUSL athletes, including Jayda Coleman, Rachel Garcia, Tiare Jennings and more.

Prior to the start of the season at the Jackie Robinson Training Complex in Vero Beach, Florida, AUSL athletes reported to preseason camp. At the old Dodgertown, athletes of the Oklahoma City Spark, Utah Talons and Texas Volts trained and took part in media days, capturing photo and video content for broadcast, in-game video boards, website, partners and social media. See some behind the scenes of the media days [here](#) and [here](#).



2026 AUSL OPENING WEEK SCHEDULE			
DATE	MATCHUP	LOCATION	TV
June 9 <sup>th</sup>	Cascade @ Blaze	Smith Family Stadium	CBS Sports Network
June 9 <sup>th</sup>	Volts @ Spark	Tom Heath Field	ESPN 2
June 9 <sup>th</sup>	Bandits @ Talons	Dumke Family Softball Stadium	ESPN 2
June 10 <sup>th</sup>	Volts @ Spark	Tom Heath Field	MLB.TV
June 10 <sup>th</sup>	Cascade @ Blaze	Smith Family Stadium	ESPN 2
June 10 <sup>th</sup>	Bandits @ Talons	Dumke Family Softball Stadium	ESPN U
June 11 <sup>th</sup>	Cascade @ Blaze	Smith Family Stadium	CBS Sports Network
June 11 <sup>th</sup>	Volts @ Spark	Tom Heath Field	MLB.TV
June 11 <sup>th</sup>	Bandits @ Talons	Dumke Family Softball Stadium	ESPN U
June 13 <sup>th</sup>	Volts @ Blaze	Smith Family Stadium	ESPN
June 13 <sup>th</sup>	Spark @ Bandits	Parkway Bank Sports Complex	ESPN 2
June 13 <sup>th</sup>	Cascade @ Talons	Dumke Family Softball Stadium	CBS Sports Network
June 14 <sup>th</sup>	Spark @ Bandits	Parkway Bank Sports Complex	ESPN 2
June 14 <sup>th</sup>	Cascade @ Talons	Dumke Family Softball Stadium	MLB Network
June 15 <sup>th</sup>	Volts @ Blaze	Smith Family Stadium	ESPN 2
June 15 <sup>th</sup>	Cascade @ Talons	Dumke Family Softball Stadium	ESPN 2



# WELCOME TO THE SHOW

**Since May 28<sup>th</sup>, 13 players have made their Major League debut, including eight pitchers and five position players.**

There have now been 117 players to make their Major League debut this season, including 70 pitchers and 47 position players.

- 24-year-old Charles McAdoo, the Toronto Blue Jays 25<sup>th</sup> best prospect per *MLB Pipeline*, made his Major League debut on Friday against the Baltimore Orioles at Camden Yards. In Toronto's 6-5 win, the Walnut Creek, California native joined Al Woods (1977), Steve Staggs (1977) and J.P. Arencibia (2010) as the only players in Blue Jays' history to homer and tally at least two RBI in their debut game.
- 28-year-old TJ Shook made his Major League debut with the Colorado Rockies on Tuesday against the Los Angeles Angels at Angel Stadium. In the win, the Columbia, South Carolina native fired a scoreless frame, facing the minimum three batters. The University of South Carolina product fired another scoreless frame the next day, facing the minimum three batters. Shook's back-to-back innings made him one of four pitchers in Rockies' history to start their career with at least two consecutive games facing the minimum batters in an inning.

Overall, the Chicago White Sox pace the Majors with 11 players making their Major League debut this season, followed by the Blue Jays with eight and the Boston Red Sox and Miami Marlins with seven. The Cleveland Guardians and Minnesota Twins have had six players make their debut and the San Francisco Giants have had five. The teams with four players making their debut include the Orioles, Rockies, Milwaukee Brewers, New York Mets, New York Yankees, Pittsburgh Pirates, St. Louis Cardinals, Seattle Mariners and Texas Rangers. The teams with three players making their debut include the Arizona Diamondbacks, Cincinnati Reds, Houston Astros, Angels, Philadelphia Phillies and San Diego Padres. The Athletics, Atlanta Braves, Chicago Cubs, Detroit Tigers and Tampa Bay Rays have seen two players make their debut this season while the Kansas City Royals, Los Angeles Dodgers and Washington Nationals have each had one player make their debut.

**MLB Debut, May 28<sup>th</sup>-June 3<sup>rd</sup>**

PLAYER	CLUB	POSITION	DEBUT DATE
Cameron Weston	Baltimore Orioles	RHP	May 28 <sup>th</sup>
Charles McAdoo	Toronto Blue Jays	2B	May 29 <sup>th</sup>
Jonah Cox	San Francisco Giants	CF	May 31 <sup>st</sup>
Jacob Gonzalez	Chicago White Sox	1B	May 31 <sup>st</sup>
Hayden Juenger	Toronto Blue Jays	RHP	May 31 <sup>st</sup>
Mike Paredes	Minnesota Twins	RHP	May 31 <sup>st</sup>
Joshua White	Miami Marlins	RHP	May 31 <sup>st</sup>
Edwin Arroyo	Cincinnati Reds	2B	June 1 <sup>st</sup>
Wilkin Ramos	San Francisco Giants	RHP	June 1 <sup>st</sup>
Jase Bowen	San Diego Padres	RF/LF	June 2 <sup>nd</sup>
TJ Shook	Colorado Rockies	RHP	June 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Robby Ahlstrom	Texas Rangers	LHP	June 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Zach McCambley	Cincinnati Reds	RHP	June 3 <sup>rd</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

3,802 CHALLENGES  
2,006 OVERTURNED  
1,796 CONFIRMED

BATTERS  
**47%**  
OVERTURNS

1,764 CHALLENGES  
821 OVERTURNED  
943 CONFIRMED

FIELDERS  
**58%**  
OVERTURNS

2,038 CHALLENGES  
1,185 OVERTURNED  
853 CONFIRMED

## 2026 ABS CHALLENGE TOTALS

CLUB	CHALLENGES (BATTER)		CHALLENGES (FIELDER)		CHALLENGES (TOTAL)	
	Challenges	W-L	Challenges	W-L	Total Results (Batting & Fielding)	Win %
Detroit Tigers	69	35-34	53	38-15	122 (73 overturned, 49 confirmed)	59.8%
Texas Rangers	55	30-25	48	31-17	103 (61 overturned, 42 confirmed)	59.2%
Arizona Diamondbacks	51	26-25	53	35-18	104 (61 overturned, 43 confirmed)	58.7%
Cincinnati Reds	64	32-32	56	38-18	120 (70 overturned, 50 confirmed)	58.3%
Kansas City Royals	53	29-24	81	49-32	134 (78 overturned, 56 confirmed)	58.2%
Miami Marlins	46	25-21	111	66-45	157 (91 overturned, 66 confirmed)	58.0%
Athletics	58	34-24	85	48-37	143 (82 overturned, 61 confirmed)	57.3%
Chicago Cubs	57	24-33	67	47-20	124 (71 overturned, 53 confirmed)	57.3%
San Diego Padres	43	20-23	70	44-26	113 (64 overturned, 49 confirmed)	56.6%
St. Louis Cardinals	50	21-29	66	44-22	116 (65 overturned, 51 confirmed)	56.0%
Los Angeles Dodgers	52	26-26	60	36-24	112 (62 overturned, 50 confirmed)	55.4%
New York Yankees	69	33-36	70	42-28	139 (75 overturned, 64 confirmed)	54.0%
Houston Astros	67	40-27	69	33-36	136 (73 overturned, 63 confirmed)	53.7%
Minnesota Twins	81	36-45	80	50-30	161 (86 overturned, 75 confirmed)	53.4%
New York Mets	62	31-31	70	39-31	132 (70 overturned, 62 confirmed)	53.0%
Philadelphia Phillies	62	28-34	55	34-21	117 (62 overturned, 55 confirmed)	53.0%
Milwaukee Brewers	40	15-25	85	50-35	125 (65 overturned, 60 confirmed)	52.0%
Seattle Mariners	63	27-36	68	41-27	131 (68 overturned, 63 confirmed)	51.9%
Colorado Rockies	71	28-43	78	49-29	149 (77 overturned, 72 confirmed)	51.7%
Tampa Bay Rays	54	24-30	75	42-33	129 (66 overturned, 63 confirmed)	51.2%
Toronto Blue Jays	59	30-29	57	29-28	116 (59 overturned, 57 confirmed)	50.9%
Atlanta Braves	56	21-35	72	44-28	128 (65 overturned, 63 confirmed)	50.8%
Los Angeles Angels	67	27-40	76	45-31	143 (72 overturned, 71 confirmed)	50.3%
Baltimore Orioles	64	32-32	44	21-23	108 (53 overturned, 55 confirmed)	49.1%
Chicago White Sox	55	26-29	99	48-51	154 (74 overturned, 80 confirmed)	48.1%
San Francisco Giants	61	28-33	64	31-33	125 (59 overturned, 66 confirmed)	47.2%
Washington Nationals	54	23-31	69	33-36	123 (56 overturned, 67 confirmed)	45.5%
Cleveland Guardians	68	25-43	68	36-32	136 (61 overturned, 75 confirmed)	44.9%
Boston Red Sox	49	19-30	38	19-19	87 (38 overturned, 49 confirmed)	43.7%
Pittsburgh Pirates	64	26-38	51	23-28	115 (49 overturned, 66 confirmed)	42.6%



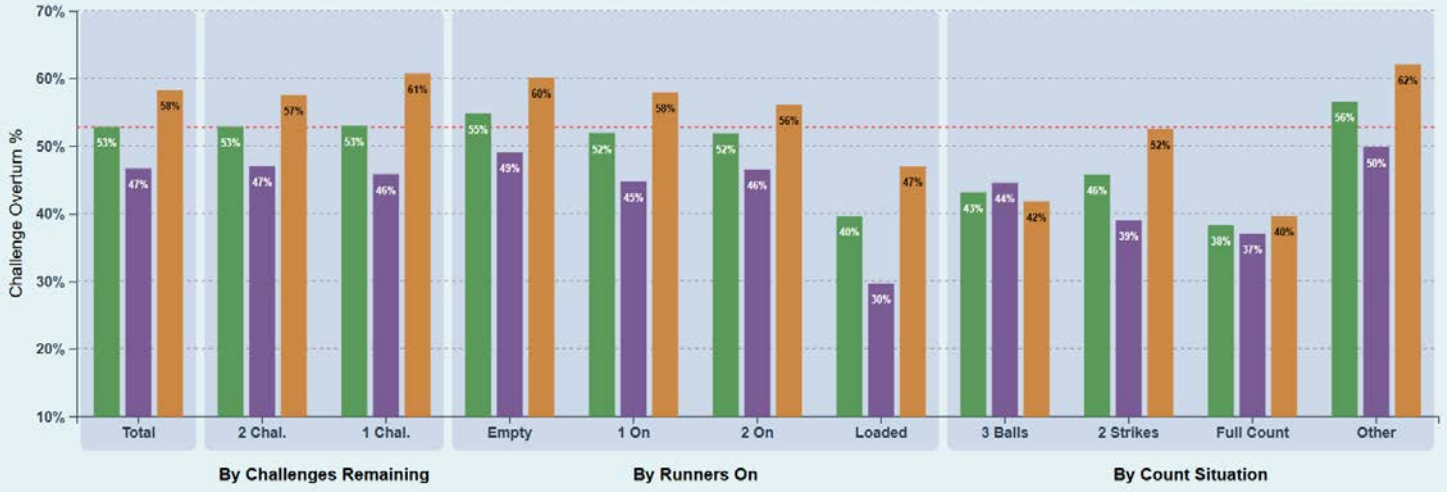
**AUTOMATED BALLS & STRIKES** Powered by **T-Mobile**



### ABS Overturn% Breakdown

2026 – MLB, Regular Season

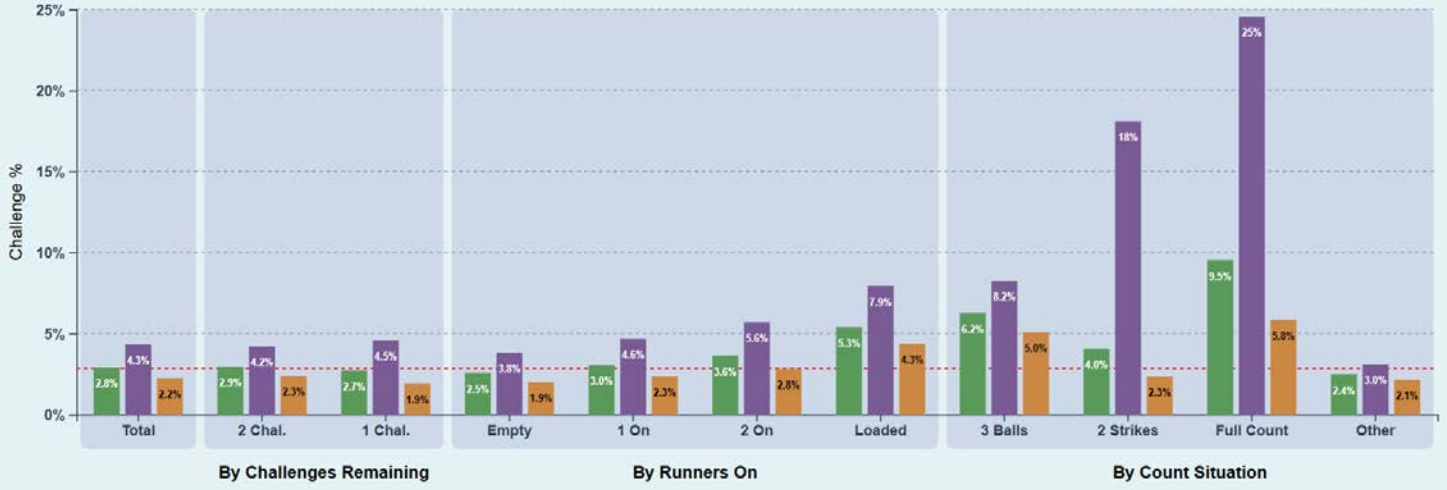
OVERTURNS  CHALLENGES  
SITUATION  INNINGS



### ABS Challenge% Breakdown

2026 – MLB, Regular Season

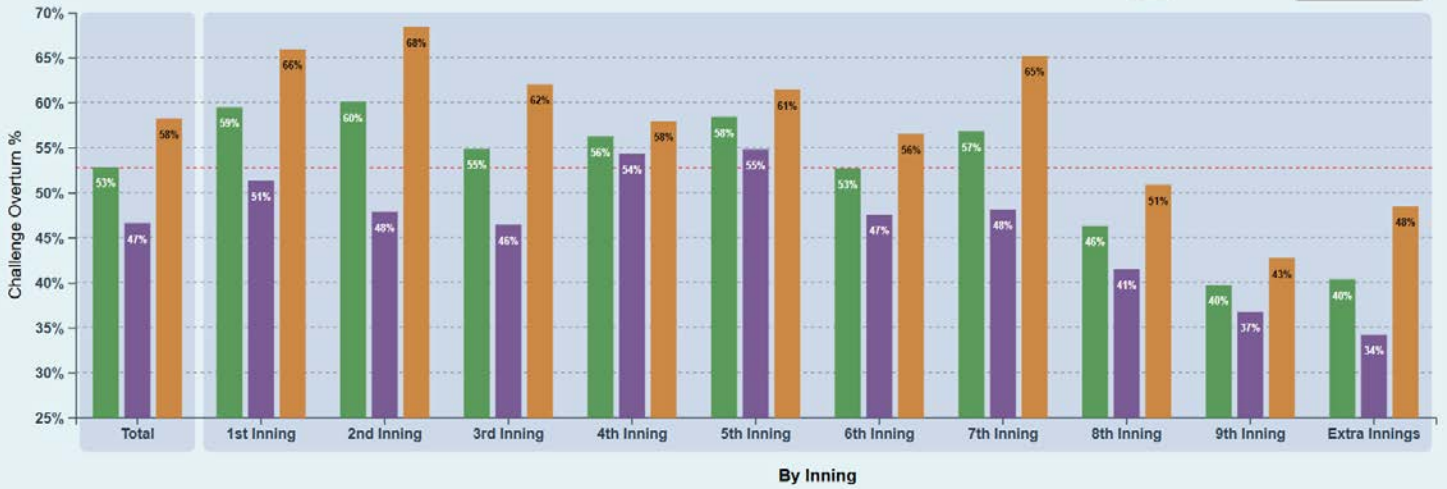
OVERTURNS  CHALLENGES  
SITUATION  INNINGS



### ABS Overturn% Breakdown

2026 – MLB, Regular Season

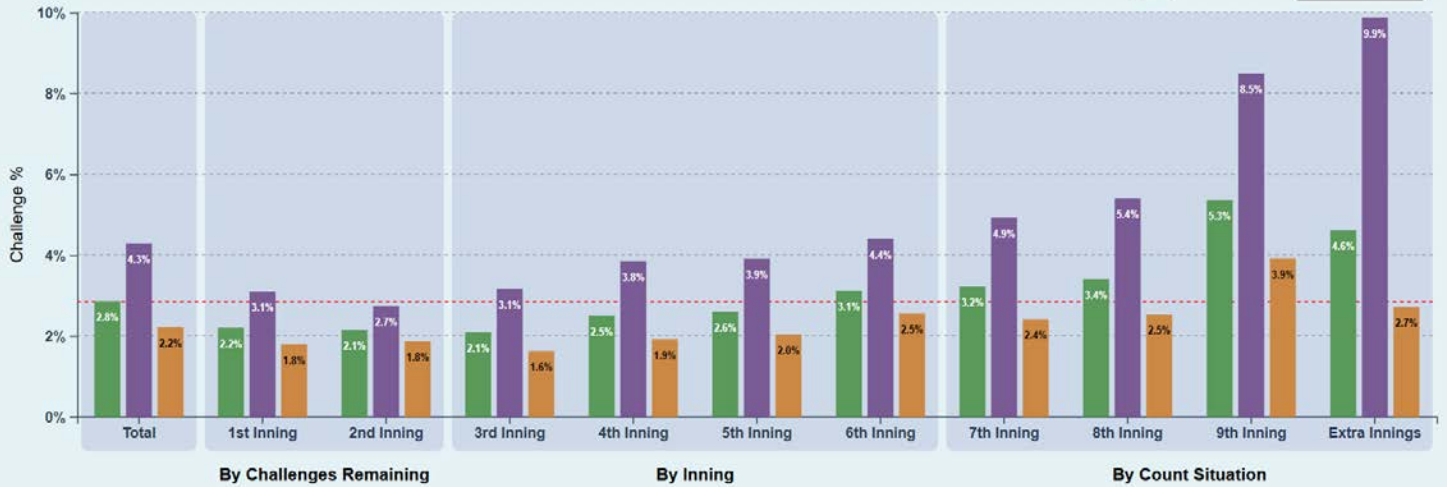
OVERTURNS  CHALLENGES  
SITUATION  INNINGS



### ABS Challenge% Breakdown

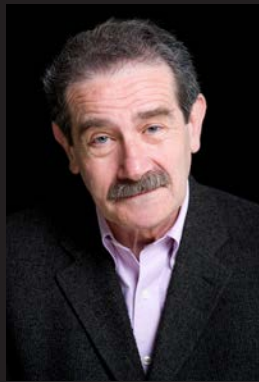
2026 – MLB, Regular Season

OVERTURNS  CHALLENGES  
SITUATION  INNINGS



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

# AMERICA'S NATIONAL GAME



**By John Thorn | Official Historian of Major League Baseball**

What makes a game great? Is it exposure, or reminiscence, or timing, or something else, like your first game with your dad (mine was May 12, 1957). A game in May is not the same as one in October. One that you have seen, in person or on television, may not bear equal weight with one you have only read about. But the game of October 3, 1951 remains legendary because you have all heard Russ Hodges' frantic call of Bobby Thomson's pennant-deciding home run, and because this was the first time a network (NBC) had telecast a sporting event nationwide.

I wrote about this game 45 years ago, for a book called *Baseball's Ten Greatest Games*. My editor discouraged me from including any nineteenth-century contests, or the game of June 14, 1870 would have been in there along with the others, beginning in 1907. Maybe it's time to update my list to include, say, Game 6 of the 2011 World Series, or Game 7 of the 2016 Series, or the brilliant conclusion to last year's exploits ... but in any recounting, this third game of the National League playoffs nearly 75 years ago would make the cut ... and might well retain my designation of it, way back when, as "The Greatest Game Ever Played."

Of course, in the age of television the audience for a baseball game is no longer limited to the seating capacity of the park. In fact, morning damp held our game's attendance to 34,320; the Polo Grounds had accommodated 88,228 paid spectators for a boxing match in 1923. For Game 6 of the 1975 Series, 62 million people could say, "I was there."

Full game action, from first pitch to last, for Game 3 of the 1951 NL playoff is here: <https://bit.ly/4dUMmt3>. But for this column, I'll lean upon the bottom of the ninth inning of and then the exposure it received.

Starting pitcher Don Newcombe, with a 4-1 lead, was running out of gas; manager Charlie Dressen sent him out for the ninth but alerted the bullpen to get some arms ready. Newk jammed Alvin Dark up and in but, with a protective, awkward swing, he looped a single to right. Next up was left-handed Don Mueller, like Dark hitless today, but he too singled.



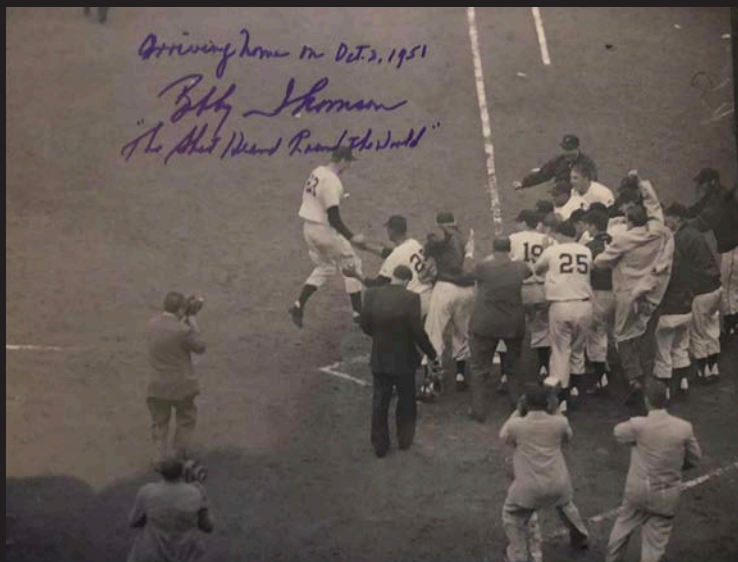
Don Newcombe

Monte Irvin lifted a pop to Hodges for the first out, then Whitey Lockman stroked the pitch down the left-field line for a double, scoring Dark and moving Mueller to third (after injury he was replaced by pinch runner Clint Hartung).

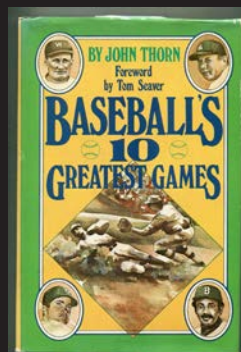
Dressen phoned his bullpen coach, Clyde Sukeforth. Carl Erskine and Ralph Branca had been warming up, but now Sukeforth tells him that while Erskine is bouncing his curve, Branca's fastball looks good. Erskine would later say, "Whenever I'm asked what my best pitch was, I say, the curveball I bounced in the Polo Grounds bullpen."

So as Newcombe walked off the mound, Branca came in. The batter was Bobby Thomson, with one man out and Willie Mays on deck. The thought crossed Dressen's mind whether, with men on second and third, to walk the dangerous Thomson intentionally and pitch to Mays, the overanxious rookie who had struggled at the plate this afternoon. But Dressen did not put the potential winning run on base.

Strike one cuts the plate. Lockman, perched on second, thought, "Oh, no, he'll never get another pitch like that again." And he was right. It is not a strike but a "purpose pitch" designed to set Thomson up for a curveball away. But he cut at it, met it squarely, and the ball sailed out in a low arc to left. Dodger left fielder Andy Pafko raced to the wall at the 315-foot mark, hoping the liner would start to drop.



Arriving Home, inscribed by Bobby Thomson



Baseball's 10 Greatest Games, 1981



Thomson rounds third, headed for home

It did not. In the Miracle of Coogan's Bluff, the Giants—who had trailed the Dodgers by 13.5 games on August 11—won the pennant.

Walking by himself to the center-field clubhouse, feeling the complete weight of the Dodger collapse on his shoulders, was Ralph Branca, who forever after would be the goat of this incredible game, just as Bobby Thomson would be its hero. One pitch, one swing, and the 156 games that had gone before, and the countless opportunities for victory along the way, were all forgotten.

Next, let's recall a day when radio was king and television a peasant. In 1946 the Yankees were the first club to have TV (DuMont, Channel 5) plus home and away radio *live*—ending road re-creations, which used Morse Code received in studio. One year later, Americans owned just 17,000 television sets vs. 58 million radios. Yet by 1951 TV was in 10 million homes. Russ Hodges and Ernie Harwell split the series between the competing media—radio station WMCA and the independent television station WPIX-TV (Channel 11), which for Game 3 permitted the NBC simulcast.

“We'd tossed a coin, and ole' Russ was going to be stuck on the radio,” Ernie recalled. “So I was feeling a little sorry for Hodges. There were *five* radio broadcasts and I was gonna be on TV, and I thought that I had the plum assignment.”



Over the years, Branca and Thomson did events together

Yet Harwell's call, like the kinescope of that first national telecast, has vanished. Hodges' radio call has survived, thanks to Laurence Goldberg, a restaurant waiter in Brooklyn who, leaving for work in the bottom of the ninth, asked his mother to hit the “record” button on his reel-to-reel contraption. Before the year ended, Chesterfield cigarettes released a record of “the most exciting moment in baseball history.”

At 3:58 the Giants, having scored a run, were still behind, 4-2, in the bottom of the ninth. Thomson awaited Branca's two-on, one-out pitch.

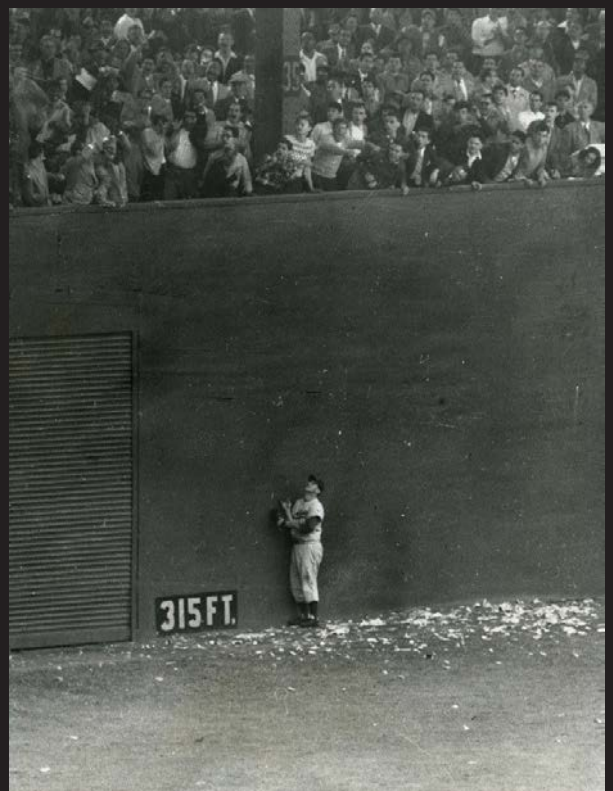
“Branca throws. There's a long drive!” Hodges shouted on WMCA. “It's going to be, I believe! ... The Giants win the pennant! The Giants win the pennant! The Giants win the pennant! The Giants win the pennant! Bobby Thomson hits into the lower deck of the left-field stands! The Giants win the pennant! And they're going crazy! They are going crazy! Oh-ohhh!” Hear the call at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WWIGfBQghJs>.



Chesterfield backed the center-field sign at the Polo Grounds, with its H and E signifying a hit or an error



This is how it ends, for the hero and the goat



Pafko at the Wall, immortalized by Don DeLillo

# WEEKLY AWARDS

Starting pitcher Jacob Misiorowski of the Milwaukee Brewers was selected the National League Player of the Week, and first baseman/designated hitter Ben Rice of the New York Yankees was named the American League Player of the Week.

Misiorowski earned his first career award, marking the first award for Milwaukee since his former teammate Isaac Collins won last year on August 11th. He is the first Brewers pitcher to win the award since Brandon Woodruff on May 31, 2021, and the third pitcher to win this season, joining José Soriano (April 13th) of the Los Angeles Angels and Cristopher Sánchez (May 11th) of the Philadelphia Phillies. Rice also earned his first career honor, marking the first award for the Yankees since Aaron Judge won the final award of 2025 on September 29th.



Kansas City Royals catcher Carter Jensen earned his first career Play of the Week Award, marking the second time a catcher has won the award since its inception in 2019, with Jensen joining Luis Torrens of the New York Mets, who won on June 10, 2024. It is the fifth honor for Kansas City, with Bobby Witt Jr. and Salvador Perez earning a joint honor on April 11, 2022, followed by awards to Michael A. Taylor on May 9, 2022; Witt on May 15, 2023; and Adam Frazier on April 29, 2024. With two outs in the bottom of the eighth inning and Kansas City holding onto a 6-4 lead, Michael Helman tried to lay down a bunt and popped it up into foul territory as Jensen chased it down and made a full-extension diving catch to end the inning and strand the potential tying run at second base.



**Ben Rice**  
New York Yankees



**Jacob Misiorowski**  
Milwaukee Brewers



**Carter Jensen**  
Kansas City Royals

## 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> .353 (6-for-17), 4 HR, 5 RBI, 5 R, .353 OBP, 1.059 SLG	<b>Sal Stewart, CIN</b> .700 (7-for-10), 1 HR, 2 RBI, 3 2B, 3 BB, 2 R, .769 OBP, 1.300 SLG	Nasim Nuñez's Acrobatic Diving Stop
April 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Yordan Alvarez, HOU</b> .471 (8-for-17), 3 HR, 8 RBI, 7 BB, 7 R, .615 OBP, 1.118 SLG	<b>Andy Pages, LAD</b> .583 (14-for-24), 2 HR, 7 RBI, 2 2B, 2 BB, 5 R, 1 SB, .615 OBP, .917 SLG	Jo Adell's <a href="#">Game-Saving Home Run Robbery</a>
April 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>José Soriano, LAA</b> 2-0, 0.60 ERA (1 ER/15.0 IP), 5 H, 3 BB, 20 K, 0.53 WHIP, .102 OPP AVG	<b>James Wood, WSH</b> .545 (12-for-22), 3 HR, 8 RBI, 6 BB, 8 R, 2 SB, .655 OBP, 1.091 SLG	Jordan Beck's <a href="#">Home Run Robbery</a>
April 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>José Ramírez, CLE</b> .364 (8-for-22), 4 HR, 5 RBI, 12B, 8 BB, 8 R, 5 SB, .533 OBP, .955 SLG	<b>Nico Hoerner, CHC</b> .346 (9-for-26), 2 HR, 11 RBI, 1 BB, 4 R, 2 SB, .357 OBP, .577 SLG	Jackson Merrill's <a href="#">Home Run Robbery</a>
April 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Carlos Cortez, ATH</b> .542 (13-for-24), 3 HR, 7 RBI, 2 2B, 13B, 4 R, .542 OBP, 1.083 SLG	<b>Ildemaro Vargas, AZ</b> .364 (8-for-22), 4 HR, 12 RBI, 12B, 13B, 7 R, 5 SB, .364 OBP, 1.045 SLG	Nico Hoerner's <a href="#">Heads-Up Barehanded Snag</a>
May 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Byron Buxton, MIN</b> .345 (10-for-29), 5 HR, 7 RBI, 12B, 3 BB, 9 R, 2 SB, .406 OBP, .897 SLG	<b>Alec Burleson, STL</b> .407 (11-for-27), 2 HR, 11 RBI, 3 2B, 4 BB, 8 R, .484 OBP, .741 SLG	Nathan Church's <a href="#">Game-Saving Leaping Catch</a>
May 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Bobby Witt Jr., KC</b> .407 (11-for-27), 3 HR, 4 RBI, 2 2B, 2 BB, 7 R, 2 SB, .448 OBP, .815 SLG	<b>Cristopher Sánchez, PHI</b> 2-0, 0.00 ERA (0 ER/15.0 IP), 9 H, 1 BB, 17 K, 0.67 WHIP, .170 OPP AVG	Jim Jarvis' <a href="#">Full-Extension Diving Catch</a>
May 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Angel Martínez, CLE</b> .368 (7-for-19), 4 HR, 7 RBI, 12B, 1 BB, 8 R, 3 SB, .429 OBP, 1.053 SLG	<b>Gavin Sheets, SD</b> .625 (10-for-16), 4 HR, 8 RBI, 12B, 7 BB, 6 R, 1 SB, .739 OBP, 1.438 SLG	Julio Rodríguez' <a href="#">Home Run Robbery</a>
May 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Willson Contreras, BOS</b> .458 (11-for-24), 2 HR, 8 RBI, 2 3B, 1 BB, 5 R, .480 OBP, .875 SLG	<b>Ketel Marte, AZ</b> .536 (15-for-28), 3 HR, 12 RBI, 4 2B, 3 BB, 11 R, .563 OBP, 1.000 SLG	Nico Hoerner's <a href="#">Home Run Robbery</a>
June 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Ben Rice, NYY</b> .462 (12-for-26), 1 HR, 11 RBI, 4 2B, 2 3B, 4 BB, 8 R, .533 OBP, .885 SLG	<b>Jacob Misiorowski, MIL</b> 2-0, 0.64 ERA (1 ER/14.0 IP), 5 H, 1 BB, 20 K, 0.43 WHIP, .106 OPP AVG	Carter Jensen's <a href="#">Inning-Ending Diving Catch</a>

# MONTHLY AWARDS

## PLAYERS OF THE MONTH

### MAY

#### AL – Nick Kurtz, Athletics

.333 (34-for-102), 5 HR, 26 RBI, 7 2B, 1 3B,  
21 BB, 21 R, 3 SB, .456 OBP, .569 SLG, 1.025 OPS

#### NL – JJ Bleday, Cincinnati Reds

.301 (31-for-103) 8 HR, 25 RBI, 8 2B, 1 3B,  
15 BB, 17 R, .387 OBP, .631 SLG, 1.018 OPS



## PITCHERS OF THE MONTH

### MAY

#### AL – Spencer Arrighetti, Houston Astros

4-1, 0.93 ERA (3 ER/29.0 IP), 5 GS  
16 H, 17 BB, 22 SO, 1.14 WHIP, .165 OPP. AVG

#### NL – Cristopher Sánchez, Philadelphia Phillies

4-0, 0.00 ERA (0 ER/39.0 IP), 5 GS  
25 H, 3 BB, 45 SO, 0.72 WHIP, .181 OPP. AVG



## ROOKIES OF THE MONTH

### MAY

#### AL – Munetaka Murakami, Chicago White Sox

.244 (22-for-90) 8 HR, 18 RBI, 4 2B,  
19 BB, 21 R, 1 SB, .382 OBP, .556 SLG, .938 OPS

#### NL – TJ Rumfield, Colorado Rockies

.310 (27-for-87) 4 HR, 12 RBI, 3 2B,  
10 BB, 13 R, .400 OBP, .483 SLG, .883 OPS



## RELIEVERS OF THE MONTH

### MAY

#### AL – Cade Smith, Cleveland Guardians

1.32 ERA (2 ER/13.2 IP), 13-for-13 SV,  
9 H, 1 BB, 25 SO, 0.73 WHIP, .184 OPP. AVG

#### NL – Mason Miller, San Diego Padres

0.00 ERA (0 ER/9.2 IP), 7-for-7 SV,  
4 H, 8 BB, 20 SO, 1.24 WHIP, .118 OPP. AVG



## OTHER 2026 AMERICAN LEAGUE PLAYERS OF THE MONTH

Month	AL Player of the Month	AL Pitcher of the Month	AL Rookie of the Month	AL Reliever of the Month
March/ April	<b>Yordan Alvarez, HOU</b> .356 (42-for-118), 12 HR, 27 RBI, 9 2B, 21 BB, 25 R, 1.199 OPS	<b>José Soriano, LAA</b> 5-1, 0.84 ERA (4 ER/42.2 IP), 7 GS, 24 H, 16 BB, 49 SO, 0.94 WHIP	<b>Kevin McGonigle, DET</b> .328 (38-for-116) 2 HR, 13 RBI, 11 2B, 2 3B, 19 BB, 22 R, .935 OPS	<b>Louis Varland, TOR</b> 0.56 ERA (1 ER/16.0 IP), 4/4 SV, 12 H, 4 BB, 26 SO, 1.00 WHIP

## OTHER 2026 NATIONAL LEAGUE PLAYERS OF THE MONTH

Month	NL Player of the Month	NL Pitcher of the Month	NL Rookie of the Month	NL Reliever of the Month
March/ April	<b>Ildemaro Vargas, AZ</b> .378 (34-for-90) 6 HR, 20 RBI, 6 2B, 2 3B, 3 BB, 19 R, 1.087 OPS	<b>Shohei Ohtani, LAD</b> 2-1, 0.60 ERA (2 ER/30.0 IP), 5 GS 17 H, 9 BB, 34 SO, 0.87 WHIP	<b>Sal Stewart, CIN</b> .281 (32-for-114) 9 HR, 29 RBI, 6 2B, 18 BB, 20 R, .943 OPS	<b>Mason Miller, SD</b> 1.17 ERA (2 ER/15.1 IP), 10/10 SV, 6 H, 3 BB, 29 SO, 0.59 WHIP

# 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.*

**HOMEWARD BOUND – IN MANY FORMS:** Ezequiel Tovar had himself a day on Friday, ending with two homers and a stolen base of home. His second homer was a walk-off, one of four on Friday which tied for the second-most on a day in MLB history. Tovar was the first player in history to have multiple home runs, with one coming as a walk-off, as well as a stolen base of home all in the same game, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

**WHAT A STRETCH:** Ronald Acuña Jr. had quite a four-game span through Sunday. He totaled five home runs and four stolen bases in just four games. He became the fourth player with at least five home runs and four stolen bases in a four-game span since the modern SB rule was adopted (1898), joining 2024 Shohei Ohtani, 1987 Eric Davis and 1958 Willie Mays. Acuña had seven walks in his span, the most of any on the list in those spans.

**NOBODY BEATS THE MIZ:** Jacob Misorowski pitched on Sunday and allowed an extra-base hit, his first since April 19. Over his last seven starts, Misorowski has 66 strikeouts and just one extra-base hit allowed. He's the only pitcher since at least 1900 with at least 55 strikeouts and no more than one extra-base hit allowed in a seven-game span. It was true of his previous seven starts entering Sunday, too.

**SUNDAY RUN-DAY:** The Yankees put on quite the show in the third inning on Sunday, scoring 13 runs without a home run on 11 hits. Those ended up being their only runs and hits of the game. The Yankees became the first team in MLB history to score 13 or more runs in a game with all of their runs and hits coming in the same inning, per Elias. Even without the hits part, it's tied for most runs in a game, all in one inning, in MLB history, with the Phillies on April 13, 2003 and Braves on Sept. 20, 1972.

**HARRISON THE HURLER:** Kyle Harrison had yet another great start for the Brewers on Tuesday, facing the Giants – his first MLB team. Harrison's 1.57 ERA is the second-lowest in a pitcher's first 11 starts with the Brewers, behind only 2008 CC Sabathia at 1.43. Harrison finished the outing with 12 strikeouts, 10 of which came in the first four innings. That tied the franchise record for the first four innings of a game, done twice by Misorowski and once by Corbin Burnes.

**ZEROS:** Cristopher Sánchez's scoreless streak finally ended on Wednesday, at a whopping 50.2 consecutive innings. That's the fifth-longest since the mound was moved to its current distance in 1893 and the longest by a lefty on that list, according to Elias. He trails only 1988 Orel Hershiser (59 IP), 1968 Don Drysdale (58 IP), 1913 Walter Johnson (55 2/3 IP) and 1910 Jack Coombs (53 IP).

**SCHWARBS:** Kyle Schwarber hit his MLB-leading 23<sup>rd</sup> home run of the season on Wednesday. That's also his 210<sup>th</sup> since joining the Phillies. He has the fourth-most home runs by a player in his first five seasons with a team, behind only Babe Ruth (NYY: 235), Mark McGwire (STL: 220) and Ralph Kiner (PIT: 215). And there's plenty of season left.

**ONE IS PLENTY:** The Giants won, 1-0, on Wednesday in Milwaukee. The run came on Victor Bericoto's first MLB home run. It was the third time in franchise history the Giants won a game 1-0 on a player's first career home run, per Elias. Bericoto joined Darren Lewis on Aug. 7, 1991 and Bill Taylor on June 10, 1954. Taylor, like Bericoto, did it in Milwaukee (against the Braves).

**SHOTIME:** Shohei Ohtani made his 10<sup>th</sup> pitching start of the season on Wednesday and his ERA now sits at 0.74. That's the third-lowest ERA in a pitcher's first 10 starts since earned runs became official in both leagues in 1913, behind only 2021 Jacob deGrom (0.56) and 1966 Juan Marichal (0.59). But he's Shohei Ohtani. He didn't just lower his ERA with six scoreless innings. He also reached base safely five times, four of those while in the game as pitcher. He became the fourth player since 1900 to have a scoreless start of at least six innings and reach base safely at least five times in the same game, joining Mel Stottlemyre on Sept. 26, 1964 Mel Parnell on May 23, 1951 and Hod Eller on July 30, 1920. Those three threw shutouts.

**CURRENT IRONMAN:** Matt Olson has played 844 consecutive games entering Thursday, dating to May 2, 2021. His streak is the 9th-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](#))**



# UPON FURTHER REVIEW

Through Wednesday night's games, Major League Baseball has had 584 replay reviews, which have taken an average of one minute and twenty-six seconds. The 584 replay reviews consist of 509 Manager Challenges and 75 Crew Chief Reviews.

<b>584 Replay Reviews</b>
124 Confirmed (21.2%)
167 Stands (28.6%)
291 Overturned (49.8%)
2 Rules Check (0.3%)
0 Record Keeping (0.0%)
1:26 Average Time

# LINE DRIVES

## Compiled from Club Game Notes

**D-FENSE:** The Red Sox lead the Majors in defensive runs saved (48), 27 more than any other AL club (Second: TB-21). The Sox also lead the Majors in outfield assists (14), Jarren Duran's five outfield assists are tied for most in the AL and second most in MLB, while Willyer Abreu ranks tied for third in the AL and tied for fifth in MLB with four. Ceddanne Rafaela was named a Defensive Player of the Month for May by Sports Info Solutions, along with LAD's Andy Pages and WSH's Jacob Young, Rafaela led CF and co-led all players during the month with 9 DRS.

**DON'T STOP ME NOW:** Jung Hoo Lee extended his hitting streak to 11 games on Wednesday, which is tied for the best mark of his career (also April 7-20, 2024). The streak is the longest by a Giants batter since Dominic Smith had a 15-game streak last season. Over this current 11-game streak, Lee is batting .488 (20-for-41) with eight runs, two doubles, a triple, a homer, six RBI and a 1.159 OPS. The last Giants batter with 20+ hits in an 11-game span was Brandon Crawford (July 2-18, 2021). The last Giants outfielder with 20+ hits in an 11-game span was Kevin Pillar with 21 hits from August 6-17, 2019.

**NOTHING LITTLE UP THE MIDDLE:** In 28 games since collecting his first Major League hit on May 2, Travis Bazzana is hitting .306 (33-for-108) with 9 doubles, 3 home runs, 15 RBI, 11 walks, 8 stolen bases and an .849 OPS. During this stretch, he ranks tied for fourth in the AL in hits (33) and eighth in batting average (.306). He's hit safely in eight of his 10 games since moving to the leadoff spot on May 23, posting a .300 (12-for-40) clip with nine extra-base hits and a .901 OPS. His nine extra-base hits during that stretch lead the American League and trail Andy Pages (11 extra-base hits) for the most in the Majors. Brayan Rocchio leads MLB hitters in the ninth spot of the lineup in hits (51), RBI (27) and total bases (74). The last MLB hitter with 51-or-more hits out of the ninth spot through his team's first 63 games was SEA's Yuniesky Betancourt in 2008 (60H). The last Clevelander to turn the trick was Omar Vizquel in 1996 (53H).

**ON-BASE ADLEY:** Adley Rutschman has reached base safely in a season-high 14 straight games since May 18, his longest streak since a 14-game stretch from March 27-April 13, 2025. He last reached base safely in 15 straight games during a career-best 16-game run from June 12-29, 2024. Despite recording a .235 (12-for-51) batting average during this period, he owns a .385 on base percentage and .777 OPS, recording three doubles, one triple, one home run, seven runs, six RBI, and 13 walks against six strikeouts. Prior to his current 14-game streak, Rutschman had two walks and 12 strikeouts over his previous 14 games from May 1-16.

**I'M WALKING HERE:** Mike Trout has drawn a Major League leading 58 walks on the year. He established a new franchise record for the most in a season before June 1, surpassing his own mark of 52 walks before June 1 in 2019. Trout's 56 walks before June 1 also finished as the second-most in a season in A.L. history, behind only Rickey Henderson's A.L. record of 58 in 1982 for the A's. Mike Trout is two singles shy of 1,000 for his career; five players have recorded 1,000+ singles for the Angels: Garret Anderson (1,572), Darin Erstad (1,082), Brian Downing (1,062), Tim Salmon (1,012) and Jim Fregosi (1,004).

**BACKSTOP BATS:** Drew Millas and Keibert Ruiz have been the most productive offense catching tandem in Major League Baseball since May 6. Combined, they lead all MLB catching groups in home runs (six), RBI (23), slugging percentage (.591), OPS (.934), batting average (.312) and hits (29). Ruiz has hit safely in 11 of his last 15 games, going 20-for-53 (.377) with seven doubles, four homers, 17 RBI, one walk, one stolen base and 12 runs scored. On the season, Ruiz is tied for first among Major League catchers with 12 doubles and among all catchers (min.100 PA) in slugging percentage (fourth, .496).

**SPIDER-MAN:** In each of Jhoan Duran's last four save opportunities, he is 4-for-4 and has faced the minimum in all 4 appearances – he has faced 12 batters and struck out 7, without allowing a baserunner. His four-save streak facing the minimum is tied for the longest in franchise history with a group of 4 others: Jonathan Papelbon in 2012, Brett Myers in 2007, Tom Gordon in 2006 and Heathcliff Slocumb in 1995. In save opportunities Duran is 14-for-14 this season, 30-for-33 since joining the Phils last season and 104-for-116 in his career. Since 2025 (with MIN and PHI), he's 46-for-51 in save opportunities and in those 51 games, he has posted a 1.07 ERA (6 ER, 50.1 IP) with 63 strikeouts against 8 walks (7.88 SO/BB ratio) and he has held the 188 hitters he has faced to a .168/.202/.235 slash line (.437 OPS).

**KC QUALITY:** The Royals lead the American League with 32 quality starts, 2nd most in the Majors to the Dodgers (35). This is despite being without two of their five seasonopening starting pitchers, including three-time Opening Day starter Cole Ragans and 2025 All-Star Kris Bubic. The Royals are 17-15 (.531) when posting a quality start and 7-23 (.233) when they don't. Their 15 team losses in quality starts are four more than any other team and their .531 winning percentage in quality starts is second-worst in the Majors.

**HIT PAREDES:** Isaac Paredes has 99 career homers and is looking to become just the fourth Mexican-born player in MLB history to reach 100. Paredes just reached another milestone on Sunday vs. MIL, becoming the 10<sup>th</sup> Mexican-born player in MLB history to reach 500 career hits.

**A's MANAGERS:** Mark Kotsay is scheduled to manage the 710th game of his career today, which ties Bob Geren for fifth most in Athletics history. Art Howe is fourth (1,133), Tony La Russa is third (1,471) and Bob Melvin is second (1,617). Kotsay would need to manage another 41 years to catch Connie Mack (7,396).

**WE HAVE LIFTOFF:** Henry Davis (grand slam) and Nick Gonzales (tworun) connected for home runs on Wednesday at Houston. Pittsburgh has homered in 10 straight games (since May 24 at Toronto) for the first time since June 21-30, 2022. The Pirates' only such streaks of at least 11 games in the Modern Era (since 1901) came from July 1-9, 1966 (12 games), June 19-July 3, 1994 (13 games), June 23-July 3, 2012 (11 games) and August 5-18, 2015 (12 games). Pittsburgh has also hit multiple home runs in five straight games (since May 29 vs. Minnesota) for the first time since August 22-26, 2014. The Pirates' only such streaks (within a single season) of at least six games during the Modern Era came from July 1-4 (G2), 1966 (six games) and May 23-31, 2006 (eight games).



# MLB ON-AIR THIS WEEK

(All Times ET)

<b>Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Pittsburgh Pirates @ Houston Astros	8:10 p.m.	FS1	
<b>Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Cleveland Guardians @ Texas Rangers Kansas City Royals @ Minnesota Twins	8:15 p.m. 8:15 p.m.	Apple TV Apple TV	
<b>Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Cleveland Guardians @ Texas Rangers Boston Red Sox @ New York Yankees	7:35 p.m. 7:35 p.m.	FOX FOX	
<b>Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Washington Nationals @ Arizona Diamondbacks San Francisco Giants @ Chicago Cubs	3:15 p.m. 8:30 p.m.	Peacock/NBCSN NBC/Peacock	
<b>Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>:</b>	New York Yankees @ Cleveland Guardians	6:40 p.m.	FS1	
<b>Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>:</b>	New York Yankees @ Cleveland Guardians	6:40 p.m.	TBS	
<b>Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Seattle Mariners @ Baltimore Orioles	7:05 p.m.	ESPN	

**NEW YORK YANKEES-BOSTON RED SOX RIVALRY TAKES CENTER STAGE ON SATURDAY NIGHT**

*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, June 4<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Cleveland Guardians @ New York Yankees	1:35 p.m.	
<b>Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>:</b>	San Francisco Giants @ Chicago Cubs Seattle Mariners @ Detroit Tigers New York Mets @ San Diego Padres	2:20 p.m. 6:40 p.m. 9:40 p.m.	
<b>Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Seattle Mariners @ Detroit Tigers Pittsburgh Pirates @ Atlanta Braves Los Angeles Angels @ Los Angeles Dodgers	1:10 p.m. 4:10 p.m. 10:10 p.m.	
<b>Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Chicago White Sox @ Philadelphia Phillies	1:35 p.m.	
<b>Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Washington Nationals @ San Francisco Giants	9:45 p.m.	
<b>Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Milwaukee Brewers @ Athletics	10:05 p.m.	
<b>Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>:</b>	New York Yankees @ Cleveland Guardians Cincinnati Reds @ San Diego Padres Philadelphia Phillies @ Toronto Blue Jays	1:10 p.m. 4:10 p.m. 7:07 p.m.	
<b>Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Arizona Diamondbacks @ Miami Marlins	1:10 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*

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Los Angeles Angels	Channel 853	New York Mets	Channel 858
Minnesota Twins	Channel 857	Philadelphia Phillies	Channel 860
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Seattle Mariners	Channel 864	San Diego Padres	Channel 862
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Toronto Blue Jays	Channel 868	Washington Nationals	Channel 869

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