



MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL WEEKLY NOTES

May 21, 2026





THE WHIZ KIDS

Entering play on Thursday, Jacob Misorowski leads Major League Baseball with 88 strikeouts on the year, following his eight-strikeout start on Tuesday night at Wrigley Field. Philadelphia's Cristopher Sánchez ranks third in the Majors with 80 strikeouts after his 13-strikeout start on Saturday at Pittsburgh, trailing only Misorowski and Toronto's Dylan Cease (84 SO).

Misorowski has struck out at least seven batters in all but one of his starts this season, including four double-digit strikeout performances. Sánchez has registered at least seven strikeouts in all but two of his starts this season, which features three starts of at least 10 strikeouts. Misorowski's nine starts of at least seven strikeouts and four starts of at least 10 strikeouts pace the Majors, while Sánchez ranks second with eight starts of at least seven punchouts and matches Cease with three 10-strikeout games.

Additionally, Misorowski's 38 strikeouts on pitches of at least 100 MPH are more than triple the next closest pitcher this season (Mason Miller - 12 SO of 100+ MPH). Misorowski's 38 such strikeouts are already the 13th-most in a single season in the Pitch-Tracking Era (since 2008), with Aroldis Chapman holding each of the top five seasons (87 SO of 100+ MPH in 2015; 69 SO in 2014; 61 SO in 2016; 57 SO in 2023; and 56 SO in 2013).

The 24-year-old Misorowski will enter his next start on a 24.1 scoreless innings streak that began with his start on May 1st. The 29-year-old Sánchez, who will take the ball for the Phillies against the Guardians on Friday night, is riding Major League Baseball's longest active scoreless innings streak with 29.2 scoreless frames since April 30th.

The pair are seeking to join a group of 11 pitchers since 1969 to throw at least 20.0 innings in a single scoreless month. The group includes: Ryan Dempster (22.0 IP in June 2012); Bill Landrum (22.2 IP in June 1989); Orel Hershiser (55.0 IP in September 1988); Mark Clear (20.0 IP in August 1986); Ray Searage (22.1 IP in September 1984); Larry Anderson (20.0 IP in July 1984); Tom Waddell (20.0 IP in September 1984); Bob Stanley (23.1 IP in August 1980); Rich Gossage (22.0 IP in September 1977); Larry Gura (20.1 IP in September 1976); Paul Lindblad (21.2 IP in June 1975); and Mudcat Grant (20.0 IP in May 1971).



HOMER HAPPY

Kyle Schwarber enters play on Thursday with 20 home runs, leading all of Major League Baseball, while Munetaka Murakami of the Chicago White Sox paces the American League with 17 homers. Schwarber and Murakami, along with New York Yankees sluggers Aaron Judge and Ben Rice are all on pace to eclipse 50 home runs this season, which would match the Major League record. Previously, four players have hit at least 50 home runs in 1998 (Ken Griffey Jr., Mark McGwire, Sammy Sosa & Greg Vaughn); 2001 (Barry Bonds, Luis Gonzalez, Alex Rodriguez, Sosa); and 2025 (Judge, Shohei Ohtani, Cal Raleigh, Schwarber).

Schwarber hit the 20-homer mark with a two-homer game last Friday at Pittsburgh. He hit his 20th home run in his 45th game of the season, becoming the second-fastest player in franchise history to reach 20 home runs in a single season, trailing only Cy Williams who did so in his 44th game in 1923. Schwarber's 20th homer was the earliest by any player in a season, eclipsing the previous date of May 17th by Gonzalez for the Arizona Diamondbacks in 2001. Chase Utley held the previous Phillies record in terms of date, connecting on his 20th homer of the 2008 campaign on June 1st.

Schwarber is on pace to hit 64 home runs this season, which would match Sosa's 2001 campaign for the fifth-most in Major League history. Following his 56-homer season in 2025, Schwarber could become the 12th player in Major League history with multiple seasons of at least 50 longballs and the eighth player with consecutive 50-homer seasons, joining Hall of Famer Griffey Jr. (1997-98); Judge (2024-25); McGwire (1996-99); Rodriguez (2001-02); Hall of Famer Babe Ruth (2x: 1920-21 & 1927-28); Sosa (1998-01); and Ohtani (2024-25).

Murakami is on pace for 56 home runs in 2026, which would break the home run record for a rookie, set by Pete Alonso with 53 homers for the New York Mets in 2019. Judge is the only other player with a 50-homer season in his rookie campaign and currently holds the record for an American League player, connecting on 52 roundtrippers in 2017 with the Yankees. Currently, José Abreu holds the White Sox home run record for a rookie, hammering 36 home runs in his debut campaign in 2014.

Judge and Rice have accounted for 32 (43.8%) of the Yankees' Major League leading 73 home runs this season. They are seeking to become the second pair of teammates in Major League history with at least 50 home runs in a single campaign, joining fellow Yankees Hall of Famer Mickey Mantle (54 HR) and Roger Maris (61 HR). If both players reach the 40-homer mark, it would be the 34th time in Major League history that at least two players on a single team hit 40-or-more home runs and the first time since Judge and Juan Soto achieved the feat for the Yankees in 2024.

Entering play on Thursday, there had been five inside-the-park home runs across Major League Baseball, including James Wood's inside-the-park grand slam for the Washington Nationals on Tuesday night. Brandon Lowe of the Pittsburgh Pirates added the sixth inside-the-parker with his first-inning homer earlier today. Through 743 Major League games on Wednesday, the five inside-the-park home runs put Major League Baseball were on pace for 16 this season, which would be the most since the 20 inside-the-park home runs in 2017.



2026 INTERLEAGUE TRACKER

<u>League</u>	<u>2026 Record</u>	<u>Batting Average</u>	<u>ERA</u>
American League	102-138	.236 (1,878-for-7,970)	4.30
National League	138-102	.246 (1,984-for-8,064)	3.96

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.



DEVELOPS

DEVELOPS ON THE DIAMOND

LITTLE LEAGUE!?: Milwaukee's David Hamilton and Atlanta's Dominic Smith pulled off a feat rarely seen in MLB, on the same day - a Little League home run. In the second inning of Wednesday's contest against the Cubs, Hamilton ripped a single up the middle. The hit, which came off of Hamilton's bat at 106 MPH, got past Cubs center fielder Pete Crow-Armstrong and rolled all the way to the warning track. Sal Frelick and Joey Ortiz crossed the plate before Hamilton came all the way around the bases and reached home himself, tallying the Little League homer. The three-RBI day for the Breakthrough Series alumni raised his total on the season to 21. In Miami, Florida, Breakthrough Series, Compton Nike RBI and Compton Youth Academy alumni Dominic Smith also tallied a Little League home run, as part of his two-hit, three-RBI game. In the eighth inning of Atlanta's 9-1 victory, Smith ripped a triple into deep right-center field. While credited with a triple on the play, a throwing error from Marlins centerfielder Estuary Ruiz allowed Smith to round third and make it safely into home (see Hamilton's Little League homer [here](#) and Smith's [here](#)).



MOVING AND GROOVING: LuJames Groover, the Arizona Diamondbacks 10th overall prospect, per MLB Pipeline, has been making waves with the Triple-A Reno Aces this season. Beginning on April 3rd, the Breakthrough Series alumni reached base safely in 36 consecutive contests, a streak that marks the third-longest in all of professional baseball this season. The streak that came to an end on Sunday against the Las Vegas Aviators, falls behind only the Athletics Nick Kurtz, who owns an ongoing 43-game on-base streak, and Chad Stevens of the Albuquerque Isotopes who owns an ongoing 39-game on-base streak this season. Since beginning the season in Triple-A, Groover has slashed a .312/.413/.424 with a homer, 33 RBI, 14 doubles, a triple, a stolen base and 31 walks across 45 contests.



ROCK N'ROLL: Texas Rangers starting pitcher Kumar Rocker, now in his third year with the Club, had a career day on Tuesday against the Colorado Rockies. In his winning effort, the DREAM Series alumni fired 7.2 scoreless innings, allowing just three hits and three walks with seven strikeouts in the 10-0 shutout victory. The Watkinsville, Georgia native's 7.2 innings marked a new career high, surpassing his previous of 7.0 innings which he set in April of last season. His seven strikeouts tied his outing in September of 2024, and trail only his career high of eight, which he recorded in his 7.0-inning outing in April of last season. Rocker's outing is one of 21 in MLB this season in which a pitcher threw 7.2-or-more innings and struck out seven-or-more. Rocker joined teammate Nathan Eovaldi's outing on May 6th as the only such games by a Rangers pitcher this season.



RUNNING IT BACK IN BIRMINGHAM: On May 7th, Hall of Famer CC Sabathia and Dellin Betances joined Chris Young for a special segment on MLB Network to announce the rosters for the third annual East-West Classic. Three retired MLB Develops alumni will turn back the clocks on Juneteenth at the historic Rickwood Field in Birmingham, Alabama. The game, which serves as a powerful tribute to the legacy of the Negro Leagues and its enduring cultural impact on baseball will feature two teams, again led by captains Sabathia and Young. Young, an alumni of the Houston Nike RBI program will be joined by Norfolk Nike RBI alumni Justin Upton and Compton Youth Academy alumni Aaron Hicks. The game will be preceded by a PLAY BALL event at Rickwood Field where over 150 kids from the AEB Legacy Nike RBI and Ron 'Papa Jack' Jackson Nike RBI programs will receive special coaching from the MLB legends on the Classic roster. Also prior to the Classic will be a home run derby which will feature the East's Pedro Alvarez, Jerry Hairston and Aaron Hicks, as well as the West's Miguel Montero, Nick Swisher and the reigning champion Prince Fielder (See the full roster [here](#)).





WELCOME TO THE SHOW

Since May 14th, seven players have made their Major League debut, including four pitchers and three position players.

There have now been 90 players to make their Major League debut this season, including 55 pitchers and 35 position players.

- 25-year-old Adam Macko, the Toronto Blue Jays 22nd overall prospect per MLB Pipeline toed the rubber for his Major League debut on Monday against the New York Yankees at Yankee Stadium. Across his two appearances since his debut, the southpaw has fired 1.2 innings in relief, keeping opponents scoreless, allowing one hit, tallying a strikeout and not issuing a free pass against the six batters he has faced. Born in Bratislava, Slovakia, Macko became the first Slovakian-born player to ever debut in the Majors since Slovakia became an official country in 1993. Additionally, Macko appeared in three games for Team Canada in the 2026 World Baseball Classic.
- 26-year-old Yovanny Cruz made his Major League debut with the New York Yankees on Wednesday against the Toronto Blue Jays at Yankee Stadium. The Dominican Republic native fired two perfect innings in relief and became one of nine pitchers in Yankees' history to record three strikeouts and not issue a free pass in two innings of work or less in a debut outing.
- 20-year-old Colt Emerson, the Seattle Mariners top prospect and sixth-best prospect in MLB, per MLB Pipeline made his debut on Sunday against the San Diego Padres at T-Mobile Park. Through his first two Big League games, the lefty-batter racked up his first career homer, three RBI and two runs scored, making him one of six in Mariners' history to record at least three RBI and two runs scored in their first two Major League games.
- 28-year-old Chase Solesky made his Major League debut with the Tampa Bay Rays on Monday against the Baltimore Orioles at Tropicana Field. The Fort Pierce, Florida native became one of four players in franchise history to record four strikeouts in 3.0 innings-or-less in a Major League debut with the club.

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

MLB Debuts, May 14 th -May 20 th			
PLAYER	CLUB	POSITION	DEBUT DATE
Sterlin Thompson	Colorado Rockies	RF	May 15 th
Colt Emerson	Seattle Mariners	SS	May 17 th
Adam Macko	Toronto Blue Jays	LHP	May 18 th
Chase Solesky	Tampa Bay Rays	RHP	May 18 th
Nick Morabito	New York Mets	LF	May 19 th
Yovanny Cruz	New York Yankees	RHP	May 20 th
Zach Thornton	New York Mets	LHP	May 20 th



ABS OVERVIEW

OVERVIEW

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

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

SEASON DATA

OVERALL
53%
OVERTURNS

3,055 CHALLENGES
1,629 OVERTURNED
1,426 CONFIRMED

BATTERS
47%
OVERTURNS

1,419 CHALLENGES
668 OVERTURNED
751 CONFIRMED

FIELDERS
59%
OVERTURNS

1,636 CHALLENGES
961 OVERTURNED
675 CONFIRMED

2026 ABS CHALLENGE TOTALS

CLUB	CHALLENGES (BATTER)		CHALLENGES (FIELDER)		CHALLENGES (TOTAL)	
	Challenges	W-L	Challenges	W-L	Total Results (Batting & Fielding)	Win %
Texas Rangers	47	29-18	35	22-13	82 (51 overturned, 31 confirmed)	62.2%
Kansas City Royals	44	27-17	66	41-25	110 (68 overturned, 42 confirmed)	61.8%
Cincinnati Reds	52	27-25	43	31-12	95 (58 overturned, 37 confirmed)	61.1%
Arizona Diamondbacks	36	17-19	45	31-14	81 (48 overturned, 33 confirmed)	59.3%
Chicago Cubs	45	21-24	58	40-18	103 (61 overturned, 42 confirmed)	59.2%
Detroit Tigers	56	27-29	39	29-10	95 (56 overturned, 39 confirmed)	58.9%
Athletics	49	28-21	68	40-28	117 (68 overturned, 49 confirmed)	58.1%
Los Angeles Dodgers	41	20-21	47	31-16	88 (51 overturned, 37 confirmed)	58.0%
St. Louis Cardinals	39	18-21	55	35-20	94 (53 overturned, 41 confirmed)	56.4%
San Diego Padres	30	14-16	63	38-25	93 (52 overturned, 41 confirmed)	55.9%
Minnesota Twins	67	31-36	64	42-22	131 (73 overturned, 58 confirmed)	55.7%
Miami Marlins	34	16-18	94	55-39	128 (71 overturned, 57 confirmed)	55.5%
New York Yankees	56	27-29	62	37-25	118 (64 overturned, 54 confirmed)	54.2%
Colorado Rockies	57	25-32	69	42-27	126 (67 overturned, 59 confirmed)	53.2%
Houston Astros	53	31-22	51	24-27	104 (55 overturned, 49 confirmed)	52.9%
Toronto Blue Jays	55	29-26	42	22-20	97 (51 overturned, 46 confirmed)	52.6%
Atlanta Braves	47	18-29	62	39-23	109 (57 overturned, 52 confirmed)	52.3%
Philadelphia Phillies	46	21-25	42	25-17	88 (46 overturned, 42 confirmed)	52.3%
New York Mets	46	22-24	52	29-23	98 (51 overturned, 47 confirmed)	52.0%
Milwaukee Brewers	34	11-23	71	43-28	105 (54 overturned, 51 confirmed)	51.4%
Seattle Mariners	58	24-34	53	33-20	111 (57 overturned, 54 confirmed)	51.4%
Baltimore Orioles	56	27-29	34	19-15	90 (46 overturned, 44 confirmed)	51.1%
Tampa Bay Rays	42	19-23	62	34-28	104 (53 overturned, 51 confirmed)	51.0%
Los Angeles Angels	58	23-35	57	35-22	115 (58 overturned, 57 confirmed)	50.4%
San Francisco Giants	44	21-23	51	24-27	95 (45 overturned, 50 confirmed)	47.4%
Washington Nationals	41	17-24	51	26-25	92 (43 overturned, 49 confirmed)	46.7%
Chicago White Sox	42	21-21	79	35-44	121 (56 overturned, 65 confirmed)	46.3%
Boston Red Sox	36	14-22	30	16-14	66 (30 overturned, 36 confirmed)	45.5%
Pittsburgh Pirates	52	22-30	43	20-23	95 (42 overturned, 53 confirmed)	44.2%
Cleveland Guardians	56	21-35	48	23-25	104 (44 overturned, 60 confirmed)	42.3%



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



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

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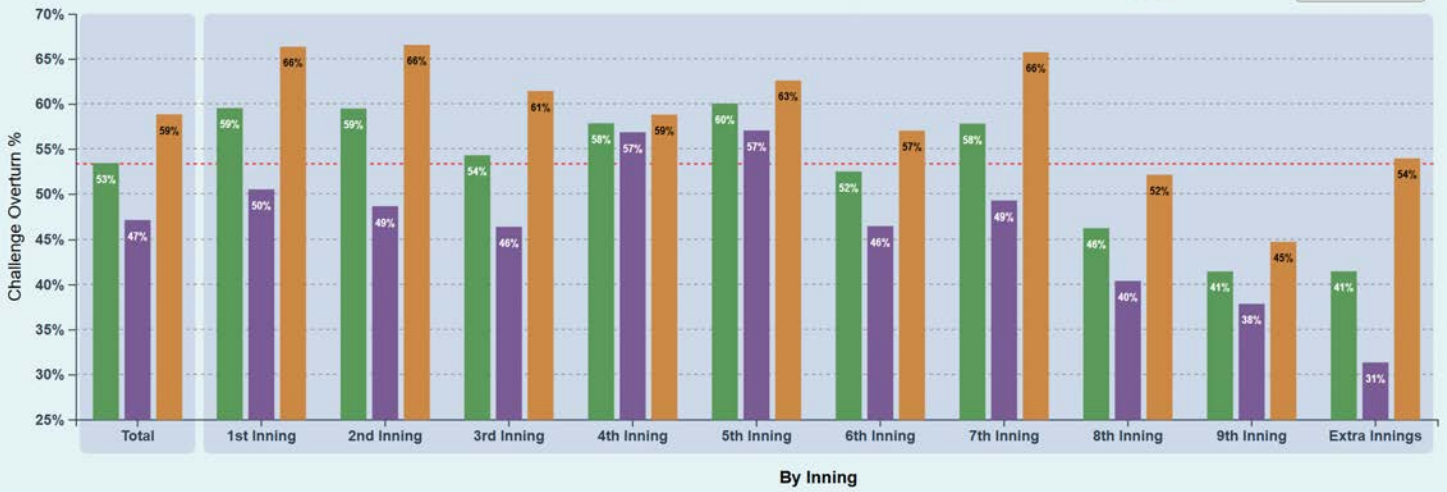


ABS Overturn% Breakdown 2026 – MLB, Regular Season

OVERTURNS CHALLENGES

SITUATION INNINGS

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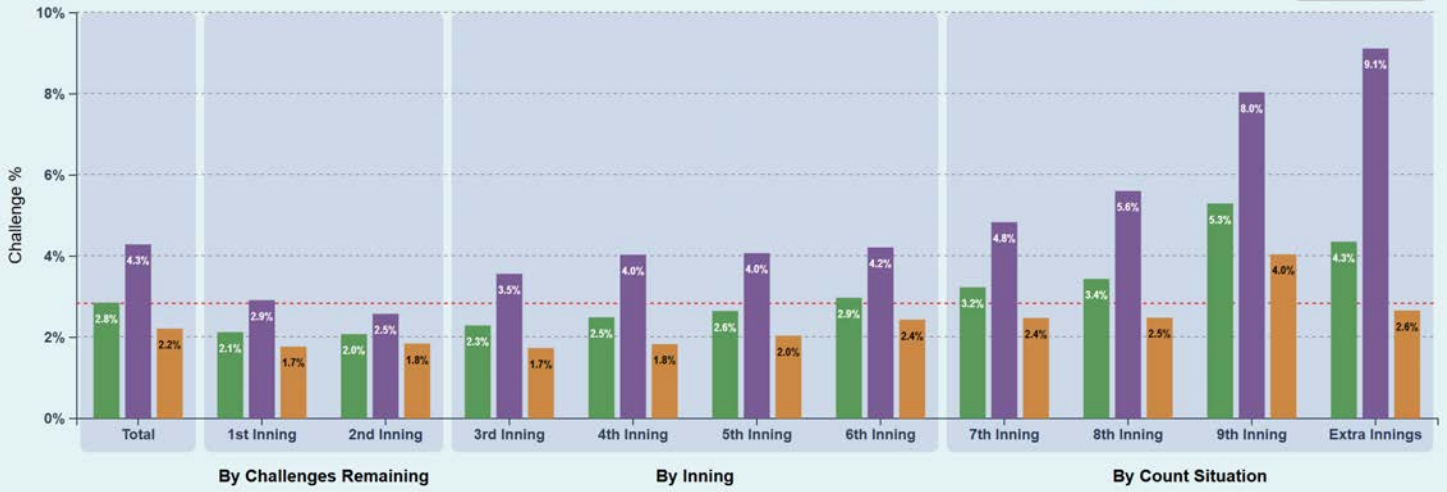


ABS Challenge% Breakdown 2026 – MLB, Regular Season

OVERTURNS CHALLENGES

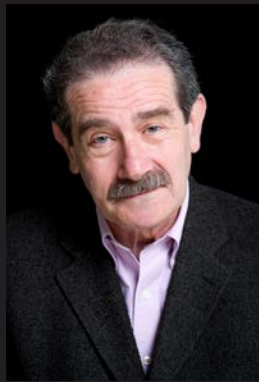
SITUATION INNINGS

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

AMERICA'S NATIONAL GAME



By John Thorn | Official Historian of Major League Baseball

Last week we regaled you with the Merkle Game and its aftermath, hardly the only notable baseball event that year. The Mills Commission had announced in March that Abner Doubleday was baseball's inventor, an idea that eventually fell into disfavor, with scholars and within MLB.

May 2, 1908 provided the launch of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," instantly baseball's anthem, which preceded America's adoption of "The Star Spangled Banner" by 23 years. So much has been written about the later twists and turns of "Take Me Out"—from Gene Kelly to Harry Caray and on—that for this column I will stick to its creation and the years immediately thereafter.

Reflect that "Take Me Out" is peaceable if not bucolic, while "The Star Spangled Banner" is a wartime anthem, written by Francis Scott Key after the defense of Fort McHenry in 1814. Not only were the SSB's lyrics an answer to rockets' red glare, they were set to the tune of an earlier drinking song ("To Anacreon in Heaven," 1779). Whenever you sing "the land of the free, and the home of the brave" ... you are secretly singing "the myrtle of Venus, with Bacchus's vine."

But I have grown distracted. Back to the old ball game.



Charles Blaney purchased Brooklyn's Amphion Theater in 1906



Jack Norworth in 1900

Jack Norworth was an aspiring vaudeville performer and lyricist when, at age 21 in 1898, he married aspiring actress Louise Dresser. They made their vaudeville debuts together a year later. She would become the bigger star, earning \$1750 a week, but he would win baseball immortality.

Fifty years after he wrote the words to "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," Norworth told baseball writer Harold Rosenthal of *The Sporting News* that in April of 1908 he had been riding an elevated train in New York City when he spotted a sign that read "Ball Game Today—Polo Grounds." (The Giants' only home games that month were against Brooklyn, four games on April 22-25.) He claimed he had never been to an actual game but that he needed a song for his act at the Amphion Theater in Brooklyn, an 1880s opera house that had tilted to vaudeville and moving pictures.

Before the half-hour's train ride was finished, the masterpiece sprang to life. He brought the lyrics to composer Albert Von Tilzer, who set them to music.

At that time, Norworth was locked in a dispute with his wife over the terms of their divorce. Meanwhile, he had been carrying on a romance with suffragette songstress Trixie Friganza ("No Wedding Bells for Me") that had begun in 1907; her birth name was Delia O'Callahan, making her the likely inspiration for Katie Casey, the song's Irish heroine.

For Norworth, the song laid an egg at the Amphion; the audience sat on its hands. He reported back to Von Tilzer: "The song's okay. Don't worry. I was fumbling for the lyrics and I did it dead-panned. I'll do better next time."

Soon after Von Tilzer's York Music Company copyrighted the song on May 2, more than thirty vaudeville stars performed it at theaters and nickelodeons; each was featured on the cover of a different sheet music edition. Bayes and Norworth are represented on Von Tilzer's sheet music (as is Trixie Friganza, whom Louise Dresser had thought would be her estranged husband's next wife). Unknown to her, Miss Friganza had been replaced in Norworth's affections by Nora Bayes (born Rachel Goldberg), who had joined him as co-stars in Flo Ziegfeld's *Follies of 1908*.

On June 21 Bayes and Norworth married and became a songwriting couple—no longer for York Music Company but through the Jerome Remick firm. Their most notable composition is "Shine On, Harvest Moon," but they also tried to emulate the success of "Take Me Out to Ball Game" one year later with "Let's Get the Umpire's Goat."

Brilliantly, Von Tilzer contracted with DeWitt C. Wheeler to create magic-lantern slides of action at the Polo Grounds in early May 1908. These hand-colored song slides were intended to fill gaps between the acts in theaters, or the reels in cinemas.

The model for the fictional Katie Casey was Marie Murray, the same woman who had appeared in Edwin S. Porter's 1903 films *The Great Train Robbery* and *A Romance of the Rail* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YsstyTvrJd8>). In the latter film she reprised her role in advertising as Phoebe Snow, whose white dress was unsullied because the Lackawanna Railroad had embraced anthracite.

The song was a smash, on the stage, in theaters, in sheet-music sales, and even in the song slides, which were sold at the Polo Grounds during a hot pennant race between the Cubs, the Giants, and the Pirates. But the first recorded version did not come out until August (by Harvey Hindermyer); then came a cylinder-roll version by Edwin Meeker in September; and perhaps the best of the three, on disc in October by The Haydn Quartet (Harry MacDonough, John Bieling, S.H. Dudley, and William F. Hooley).

Copycat songs abounded, most notably George M. Cohan's "Take Your Girl to the Ball Game." His comparatively passive ditty was registered for copyright on May 8, six days after "Take Me Out to the Ball Game"; both were advertised in *Variety's* weekly issue of May 2. Lantern slides for Cohan's song were shot one month after Norworth's (also by DeWitt C. Wheeler) at the Highlanders ballpark.

Other baseball songs seeking to capitalize upon Norworth's success included "My Old Man Is Baseball Mad" by Albert Von Tilzer's older brother, Harry, who had a separate music business.

Among the many rivals to "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," besides Cohan's:

"Come On Play Ball with Me Dearie," 1909

"I Want to Go to the Ball Game," 1909

"Back to the Bleachers for Mine," 1910

"You've Made a Home Run with Me," 1911

"I've Been Making a Grand Stand Play for You," 1911

"That Marquard Glide," 1912.

The Essanay Film Manufacturing Company came out with a motion picture in 1910 entitled "Take Me Out to the Ball Game." Though it does not survive, we have a few still photographs and a plot synopsis that has nothing whatsoever to do with the song. Katie Casey ("Fanny") was played by Neva Don Carlos, aided by a bulldog pup.

Finally for now, in April 1958, the same month in which Jack Norworth told his story to Harold Rosenthal, he also appeared on the *Ed Sullivan Show* with four New York Yankees (Whitey Ford, Yogi Berra, Mickey Mantle, Bill Skowron). They and the audience sang "Take Me Out to the Ball Game." See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drOdOCuWNRy>.



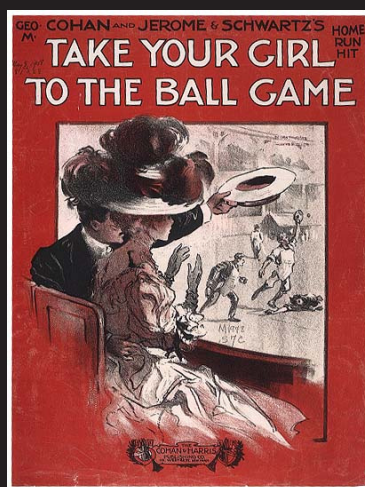
Trixie Friganza in white chapeau, leaving a suffrage rally at City Hall, October 28, 1908



Vaudeville stars promoted the sheet music and received royalties



Harry Von Tilzer as Ty Cobb



Take Your Girl to the Ball Game, by George M. Cohan



Take Me Out to the Ball Game, an Essanay comedy; from *The Nickelodeon*, Jul-Dec 1910



DeWitt Wheeler songslide, Polo Grounds



Charles Blaney purchased Brooklyn's Amphion Theater in 1906

WEEKLY AWARDS

First baseman/outfielder Gavin Sheets of the San Diego Padres was selected the National League Player of the Week, and outfielder Angel Martínez of the Cleveland Guardians was named the American League Player of the Week.

Sheets won his first career award and is the first Padres player to win since his teammate Fernando Tatis Jr. earned the honor on April 21st last season. Martínez also won his first career award, marking the third honor for the Guardians this season. Martínez joins his teammates Chase DeLauter (March 30th) and José Ramírez (April 20th) as winners this season, marking the first time the Guardians have garnered three awards in a single season since 2022. It is the first time three separate Cleveland players have won in a single season since 2018, when Ramírez won alongside Edwin Encarnación and Francisco Lindor (2x).



PLAYER OF THE WEEK



Angel Martínez
Cleveland Guardians



Gavin Sheets
San Diego Padres



PLAY OF THE WEEK



Julio Rodríguez
Seattle Mariners

Seattle Mariners center fielder Julio Rodríguez earned his first career Play of the Week Award, marking the fifth honor for Seattle since the award's inception in 2019. Other Mariners to win the award include Kyle Lewis (9/21/2020); Jake Fraley (6/14/2021); Dylan Moore (10/2/2023); and Jorge Polanco/Leo Rivas (8/12/2024). With the Mariners trailing 7-4 in the top of the ninth inning, Rodolfo Durán, who hit his first career home run in his previous at-bat, hit a ball to deep center field as Rodríguez made a leaping catch and brought the home run back.

2026 WEEKLY AWARDS

DATE	AL PLAYER OF THE WEEK	NL PLAYER OF THE WEEK	PLAY OF THE WEEK
March 30 th	Chase DeLauter, CLE .353 (6-for-17), 4 HR, 5 RBI, 5 R, .353 OBP, 1.059 SLG	Sal Stewart, CIN .700 (7-for-10), 1 HR, 2 RBI, 3 2B, 3 BB, 2 R, .769 OBP, 1.300 SLG	Nasim Nuñez's Acrobatic Diving Stop
April 6 th	Yordan Alvarez, HOU .471 (8-for-17), 3 HR, 8 RBI, 7 BB, 7 R, .615 OBP, 1.118 SLG	Andy Pages, LAD .583 (14-for-24), 2 HR, 7 RBI, 2 2B, 2 BB, 5 R, 1 SB, .615 OBP, .917 SLG	Jo Adell's Game-Saving Home Run Robbery
April 13 th	José Soriano, LAA 2-0, 0.60 ERA (1 ER/15.0 IP), 5 H, 3 BB, 20 K, 0.53 WHIP, .102 OPP AVG	James Wood, WSH .545 (12-for-22), 3 HR, 8 RBI, 6 BB, 8 R, 2 SB, .655 OBP, 1.091 SLG	Jordan Beck's Home Run Robbery
April 20 th	José Ramírez, CLE .364 (8-for-22), 4 HR, 5 RBI, 12B, 8 BB, 8 R, 5 SB, .533 OBP, .955 SLG	Nico Hoerner, CHC .346 (9-for-26), 2 HR, 11 RBI, 1 BB, 4 R, 2 SB, .357 OBP, .577 SLG	Jackson Merrill's Home Run Robbery
April 27 th	Carlos Cortez, ATH .542 (13-for-24), 3 HR, 7 RBI, 2 2B, 13B, 4 R, .542 OBP, 1.083 SLG	Ildemaro Vargas, AZ .364 (8-for-22), 4 HR, 12 RBI, 12B, 13B, 7 R, 5 SB, .364 OBP, 1.045 SLG	Nico Hoerner's Heads-Up Barehanded Snag
May 4 th	Byron Buxton, MIN .345 (10-for-29), 5 HR, 7 RBI, 12B, 3 BB, 9 R, 2 SB, .406 OBP, .897 SLG	Alec Burleson, STL .407 (11-for-27), 2 HR, 11 RBI, 3 2B, 4 BB, 8 R, .484 OBP, .741 SLG	Nathan Church's Game-Saving Leaping Catch
May 11 th	Bobby Witt Jr., KC .407 (11-for-27), 3 HR, 4 RBI, 2 2B, 2 BB, 7 R, 2 SB, .448 OBP, .815 SLG	Cristopher Sánchez, PHI 2-0, 0.00 ERA (0 ER/15.0 IP), 9 H, 1 BB, 17 K, 0.67 WHIP, .170 OPP. AVG	Jim Jarvis' Full-Extension Diving Catch
May 18 th	Angel Martínez, CLE .368 (7-for-19), 4 HR, 7 RBI, 12B, 1 BB, 8 R, 3 SB, .429 OBP, 1.053 SLG	Gavin Sheets, SD .625 (10-for-16), 4 HR, 8 RBI, 12B, 7 BB, 6 R, 1 SB, .739 OBP, 1.438 SLG	Julio Rodríguez's Home Run Robbery

MONTHLY AWARDS

PLAYERS OF THE MONTH

MARCH/APRIL

AL – Yordan Alvarez, Houston Astros

*.356 (42-for-118), 12 HR, 27 RBI, 9 2B,
21 BB, 25 R, 1 SB, .462 OBP, .737 SLG, 1.199 OPS*

NL – Ildemaro Vargas, Arizona Diamondbacks

*.378 (34-for-90) 6 HR, 20 RBI, 6 2B, 2 3B,
3 BB, 19 R, .398 OBP, .689 SLG, 1.087 OPS*



PITCHERS OF THE MONTH

MARCH/APRIL

AL – José Soriano, Los Angeles Angels

*5-1, 0.84 ERA (4 ER/42.2 IP), 7 GS
24 H, 16 BB, 49 SO, 0.94 WHIP, .164 OPP. AVG*

NL – Shohei Ohtani, Los Angeles Dodgers

*2-1, 0.60 ERA (2 ER/30.0 IP), 5 GS
17 H, 9 BB, 34 SO, 0.87 WHIP, .160 OPP. AVG*



ROOKIES OF THE MONTH

MARCH/APRIL

AL – Kevin McGonigle, Detroit Tigers

*.328 (38-for-116) 2 HR, 13 RBI, 11 2B, 2 3B,
19 BB, 22 R, 2 SB, .426 OBP, .509 SLG, .935 OPS*

NL – Sal Stewart, Cincinnati Reds

*.281 (32-for-114) 9 HR, 29 RBI, 6 2B,
18 BB, 20 R, 7 SB, .373 OBP, .570 SLG, .943 OPS*



RELIEVERS OF THE MONTH

MARCH/APRIL

AL – Louis Varland, Toronto Blue Jays

*0.56 ERA (1 ER/16.0 IP), 4-for-4 SV,
12 H, 4 BB, 26 SO, 1.00 WHIP, .214 OPP. AVG*

NL – Mason Miller, San Diego Padres

*1.17 ERA (2 ER/15.1 IP), 10-for-10 SV,
6 H, 3 BB, 29 SO, 0.59 WHIP, .118 OPP. AVG*



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.

EXTRA INNINGS, EXTRA RUNS: The Mets scored 10 runs in the top of the 12th inning on Monday. That was tied for the fourth-most runs in an extra inning in MLB history, trailing a 12-run 15th by the 1983 Rangers, an 11-run 10th by the 1969 Twins and an 11-run 12th by the 1928 Yankees, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. It was the seventh double-digit extra-inning frame and first since the aforementioned Rangers.

IT'S NOT OVER TIL IT'S OVER: After the Angels had no hits through eight innings, Zach Neto hit a walk-off homer on Monday for the team's second hit. It was the third time a player hit a walk-off home run in a game in which his team had no hits through at least eight innings in the Expansion Era (1961), along with Josh Harrison in 2017 vs the Dodgers and Don Lock in 1963 against the White Sox, per Elias.

HE IS SPEED: James Wood had an inside-the-park grand slam on Tuesday. There have now been three inside-the-park grand slams in the last 10 years, two of those by Nationals in D.C. — along with Michael A. Taylor in 2017. The other during that span was Raimel Tapia in 2022.

NOBODY BEATS THE MIZ: Jacob Misiorowski pitched on Tuesday and yet again didn't allow a run or an extra-base hit. Over his last four outings, Misiorowski has 37 strikeouts, zero runs allowed and zero extra-base hits allowed. He is the second pitcher with at least 30 strikeouts with no extra-base hits and no runs allowed in a four-outing span since at least 1900, joining Ed Walsh in 1910. Walsh made four appearances in eight days, including two nine-inning shutouts and one 16-inning shutout in a game that ended in a tie due to darkness.

ROOKIE POWER: Sal Stewart hit his 12th home run of the season on Wednesday. That's the second-most home runs by a Reds rookie in the team's first 50 games of a season, behind only Frank Robinson, with 13 in 1956. The only other Reds rookie with double digit home runs at that point in a season was Joey Votto, with 10 in 2008.

POWER AND SPEED: Dominic Smith had two very different trips around the bases on Wednesday. First, he homered in a 12-pitch at-bat. Then, he hit a Little League homer, racing home on a triple. Smith became the sixth Braves player in the divisional era (1969) with an over-the-wall home run and either an inside-the-park or Little League homer (non-HR PA he scored on) in the same game, per Elias. He joined July 27, 1993 Fred McGriff (ITP), July 18, 1986 Andres Thomas, May 1, 1979 Gary Matthews Sr. (ITP), June 26, 1977 Jeff Burroughs and June 18, 1974 Ivan Murrell.

SHOTIME: Shohei Ohtani made his eighth pitching start of the season on Wednesday and lowered his ERA to 0.73. Before he even threw a pitch, though, he hit the second leadoff homer by a pitcher in MLB history, joining himself in 2025 NLCS Game 4. He went on to throw five scoreless innings. It was the seventh time in his career Ohtani had a scoreless start and hit a home run in the same game, including the postseason. That broke a tie at six with Bob Gibson for the most such games since at least 1900.

TRE(Y) BIEN: Trey Yesavage faced the Yankees for the second time in his career on Wednesday night, following up his electric start against them in the 2025 Postseason. Through these two appearances, he's up to 19 strikeouts and he's still yet to allow a run. Yesavage is the third pitcher with at least 15 strikeouts and no runs allowed in his first two career games against the Yankees, including the postseason. He joined Ray Culp (21 strikeouts) and Cristian Javier (18).

CHURNITUP: Nick Kurtz extended his on-base streak to 43 games on Wednesday. Entering Thursday, that's tied with 1917 Ping Bodie for the third-longest single-season on-base streak in A's franchise history. He trails 1996 Mark McGwire (48 games) and 1932 Jimmie Foxx (37).

CURRENT IRONMAN: Matt Olson has played 832 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 465 replay reviews, which have taken an average of one minute and twenty-five seconds. The 465 replay reviews consist of 402 Manager Challenges and 63 Crew Chief Reviews.

465 Replay Reviews
99 Confirmed (21.3%)
135 Stands (29.0%)
229 Overturned (49.2%)
2 Rules Check (0.4%)
0 Record Keeping (0.0%)
1:25 Average Time

LINE DRIVES

Compiled from Club Game Notes

BENGE WATCH: Carson Benge has hit safely in five straight games (11-24, .458) and nine of 10 (19-46, .413) and 14 of his last 16, with a .391/.443/.516 slashline with one home run, five doubles, 11 RBI and 16 runs during that span. He has recorded multiple hits in six of his last nine games, including three hits in three of his last five contests. He had a career-high three RBI and scored a career-high three runs Monday night. Benge has a .355 batting average since April 23, ranking fifth in the majors (min. 75 at-bats). He also is tied for third in the majors with 19 runs during that stretch. Over 24 games during that span, Benge is batting .355 (33-93) with 19 runs, six doubles, two homers, 14 RBI, five walks, two stolen bases and an .878 OPS.

A NIFTY FIFTY: Riley Greene has played in all 50 Tigers games this season and has reached base safely in 46 of them, becoming only the third Tiger to reach base safely in at least 46 of the team's first 50 games since the year 2000, the first since Miguel Cabrera reached base safely in 47 of the first 50 team games in 2013. Brandon Inge (46 of the first 50 in 2005) rounds out this trio. Greene is the first left-handed hitting Tiger to reach base safely in at least 46 of the team's first 50 games of a season since Rusty Staub in 1978 (46 of the first 50). Greene is the only player in all of baseball to reach base safely in as many as 46 different games this season. Greene has reached base safely in 29 of his last 30 games.

PITCHING IN: The Dodger starting staff ranks third in the National League with a 3.23 ERA (100 ER/278.2 IP) and a .213 batting average against. Dodger starters lead the NL with 278.2 innings pitched, 20 wins and a 1.07 WHIP. L.A.'s starters have struck out 277 batters, which also leads the NL. The Dodger bullpen worked 5.0 scoreless innings last night and their 3.11 ERA leads the National League, while ranking third in the Majors. Since Edwin Díaz's last appearance on April 19, the Dodger bullpen has posted a 2.49 ERA, which is the best in the Major Leagues over that time. In that time, Dodger relievers have held the opposition to a .194 average, also good for the best in baseball. Since April 19, Kyle Hurt, who tossed a shutout frame Monday night, has gone 12 straight scoreless innings, giving up five hits and two walks with 13 strikeouts in 12 games.

CARDIAC CARDS: The Cardinals lead the Major Leagues in extra inning victories (seven), share the lead in last at-bat wins (nine) and in one-run wins (10), while ranking 2nd in walk-off wins (five) and tied for third in comeback victories (14). Nineteen of the 28 Cardinals wins have been by two runs or fewer, most in MLB. St. Louis has won seven of its first eight extra inning games for the second time in franchise history. The 1974 Redbirds started 7-1 in extras before losing their ninth extra-inning game (finished 13-4 in extras).

KING KONNOR: Konnor Griffin went 4-for-5 with three runs scored in Wednesday's 7-0 win at Busch Stadium. It was his second four-hit game (also May 2 vs. Cincinnati). He was the first Pittsburgh rookie with at least four hits and three runs scored in a game since Jared Triolo on September 23, 2023 at Cincinnati. Griffin is batting .348 (32-for-92) with nine extra-base hits, 12 RBI, 16 runs scored and a .918 OPS over his last 24 games, dating back to April 24 at Milwaukee (his 20th birthday). He ranks tied for third among all Major League hitters in hits and fifth in batting during that stretch.

MONDAY NIGHT HISTORY: Monday night, the Angels earned their third walk-off win of the year on a two-run walkoff HR by Zach Neto in the bottom of the ninth inning. It marked Neto's second career walk-off hit and his first career walk-off homer. It was the Angels first victory when being no-hit through eight innings since June 16, 1986 vs. Texas. The game was also the first to feature a ninth inning walk-off HR for a team that was being no-hit through eight innings since Don Lock hit a walk-off HR for the Washington Senators on July 29, 1963 vs. White Sox (ELIAS).

43 FOR THE BIG AMISH: Nick Kurtz extended his reaching base to 43 games yesterday, which is tied for fourth longest in Athletics history. It is the longest single-season streak by a Major Leaguer since Paul Goldschmidt had a 46-game streak for St. Louis in 2022. Kurtz is batting .301 (47-for-156) with a .455 on-base percentage (42 walks, two hit by pitches) during the streak. He leads the Majors in on-base percentage (.434), ranks second in walks (46) and batting with runners in scoring position (.485), tied for eighth in RBI (35) and 13th in OPS (.920).

CUBAN MISSILE: On Monday, Aroldis Chapman recorded his 378th career save, passing Joe Nathan for 10th on the all-time list. He has converted his last 26 consecutive save opportunities, dating back to 7/26/25. It is tied with Raisel Iglesias for MLB's longest active streak. In save opportunities during that span, Chapman has allowed no runs and two hits in 24.0 IP (.026 AVG). It is the third-longest streak of successful save chances in Red Sox history (saves became official in 1969), trailing Tom Gordon's 54 in a row from 4/19/1998-5/31-1999 and Koji Uehara's 31 in a row from 7/9/2013-6/16/2014.

READY, SET, GO: With two stolen bases yesterday, the Miami Marlins now have produced 17 games with multiple stolen bases, which is the most in Major League Baseball and also have the most stolen bases as a team (59). Miami's 59 stolen bases through the first 49 games of a season trails only the 2003 World Series champion club, for most in franchise history, who swiped 70 bags over the same span. The Fightin' Fish are also tied with Tampa Bay for the most players with at least five stolen bases on the season with five players. Jakob Marsee is tied for sixth in MLB (third in NL) with 13 stolen bases this season, while SS Otto Lopez sits second on the team with eight swiped bags, followed by OF Esteury Ruiz, whose seven stolen bases are the fourth-most in the Majors since he joined the active roster on April 24.

WHITE HOT OFFENSE: The White Sox lead the Major Leagues since 4/17 in home runs (51), rank second in on-base percentage (.344), slugging percentage (.460) and OPS (.804) and rank third in runs per games (5.3), average (.257) and runs scored (154). The Sox are tied for second in the Major Leagues with 67 homers in 2026 after finishing 23rd in 2025 with 165. They are on pace to hit 226, which would be their most since 2008 (235). The White Sox are the only team in the major leagues to feature three players with 10-plus home runs: Munetaka Murakami (17), Colson Montgomery (13) and Miguel Vargas (11). Montgomery, Murakami and Vargas are just the third trio in Sox history to homer in the same game four times in a season, joining Joe Crede, Paul Konerko and Jose Valentin in 2004 (MLB-record tying five times), and Konerko, Magglio Ordóñez and Frank Thomas in 2002 (four).



MLB ON-AIR THIS WEEK

(All Times ET)

Friday, May 22nd:	Houston Astros @ Chicago Cubs Detroit Tigers @ Baltimore Orioles	2:20 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	Apple TV Apple TV	
Saturday, May 23rd:	Seattle Mariners @ Kansas City Royals St. Louis Cardinals @ Cincinnati Reds Los Angeles Dodgers @ Milwaukee Brewers	4:10 p.m. 7:15 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	FS1 FOX FOX	
Sunday, May 24th:	Pittsburgh Pirates @ Toronto Blue Jays Texas Rangers @ Los Angeles Angels	12:15 p.m. 7:20 p.m.	Peacock/NBCSN Peacock/NBCSN	
Monday, May 25th:	New York Yankees @ Kansas City Royals	3:40 p.m.	ESPN	
Tuesday, May 26th:	Atlanta Braves @ Boston Red Sox	6:45 p.m.	TBS	
Wednesday, May 27th:	Tampa Bay Rays @ Baltimore Orioles	6:35 p.m.	FS1	

Four of MLB's Six Division Leaders Featured on Upcoming National Slates

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

Thursday, May 21st:	Cleveland Guardians @ Detroit Tigers Toronto Blue Jays @ New York Yankees	1:10 p.m. 7:05 p.m.	
Friday, May 22nd:	Los Angeles Dodgers @ Milwaukee Brewers	7:40 p.m.	
Saturday, May 23rd:	Texas Rangers @ Los Angeles Angels	10:05 p.m.	
Sunday, May 24th:	Washington Nationals @ Atlanta Braves	4:10 p.m.	
Monday, May 25th:	Chicago Cubs @ Pittsburgh Pirates Seattle Mariners @ Athletics	1:35 p.m. 9:40 p.m.	
Tuesday, May 26th:	Arizona Diamondbacks @ San Francisco Giants	9:45 p.m.	
Wednesday, May 27th:	Washington Nationals @ Cleveland Guardians Colorado Rockies @ Los Angeles Dodgers	1:10 p.m. 10:10 p.m.	
Thursday, May 28th:	Los Angeles Angels @ Detroit Tigers Atlanta Braves @ Boston Red Sox	1:10 p.m. 4:10 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

SiriusXM

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

Channel 89

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