



MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL WEEKLY NOTES

September 18, 2026





2026 POSTSEASON OUTLOOK

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2026 Postseason Television Schedule Sept./Oct.		September 29 ALWCA (G1) – NBC/Peacock ALWCB (G1) – NBC/Peacock NLWCA (G1) – NBC/Peacock NLWCB (G1) – NBC/Peacock	September 30 ALWCA (G2) – NBC/Peacock ALWCB (G2) – NBC/Peacock NLWCA (G2) – NBC/Peacock NLWCB (G2) – NBC/Peacock	October 1 ALWCA (G3) – NBC/Peacock ALWCB (G3) – NBC/Peacock NLWCA (G3) – NBC/Peacock NLWCB (G3) – NBC/Peacock	2	3 ALDS A (G1) – TBS ALDS B (G1) – TBS NLDS A (G1) – FOX/FS1 NLDS B (G1) – FOX/FS1
4 NLDS A (G2) – FOX/FS1 NLDS B (G2) – FOX/FS1	5 ALDS A (G2) – TBS ALDS B (G2) – TBS	6 NLDS A (G3) – FOX/FS1 NLDS B (G3) – FOX/FS1	7 ALDS A (G3) – TBS ALDS B (G3) – TBS NLDS A (G4) – FOX/FS1 NLDS B (G4) – FOX/FS1	8 ALDS A (G4) – TBS ALDS B (G4) – TBS	9 NLDS A (G5) – FOX/FS1 NLDS B (G5) – FOX/FS1	10 ALDS A (G5) – TBS ALDS B (G5) – TBS
11 NLCS (G1) – FOX/FS1	12 ALCS (G1) – TBS NLCS (G2) – FOX/FS1	13 ALCS (G2) – TBS	14 NLCS (G3) – FOX/FS1	15 ALCS (G3) – TBS NLCS (G4) – FOX/FS1	16 ALCS (G4) – TBS NLCS (G5) – FOX/FS1	17 ALCS (G5) – TBS
18 NLCS (G6) – FOX/FS1	19 ALCS (G6) – TBS NLCS (G7) – FOX/FS1	20 ALCS (G7) – TBS	21	22	23 World Series (G1) FOX	24 World Series (G2) FOX
25	26 World Series (G3) FOX	27 World Series (G4) FOX	28 World Series (G5) FOX	29	30 World Series (G6) FOX	31 World Series (G7) FOX

Notes:
All games listed as TBS are also available on truTV, HBO MAX and TUDN; All games listed as FOX/FS1 are also available on FOX One and FOX Deportes
ALWC/NLWC A – #3 seed vs. #6 seed; ALWC/NLWC B – #4 seed vs. #5 seed
ALDS/NLDS A – #1 vs. #4/5 seed; ALDS/NLDS B – #2 vs. #3/6 seed;
Italic – Game will be played IF NECESSARY

AMERICAN LEAGUE POSTSEASON PICTURE

Division Races

AL East	W-L	PCT.	GB
Tampa Bay	93-59	.612	—
New York	88-64	.579	5.0
AL Central	W-L	PCT.	GB
Chicago	78-75	.510	—
Cleveland	78-75	.510	—
Detroit	72-81	.471	6.0
Minnesota	71-82	.464	7.0
AL West	W-L	PCT.	GB
Houston	76-76	.503	—
Texas	76-77	.497	1.0
Seattle	71-82	.464	6.0



AL Wild Card Race

(GB column reflects games behind the third Wild Card team)



Club	W-L	PCT.	GB
New York	88-64	.579	—
Boston	83-70	.542	—
Cleveland	78-75	.510	—
Texas	76-77	.497	2.0
Toronto	76-77	.497	2.0
Baltimore	75-78	.490	3.0
Detroit	72-81	.471	6.0
Minnesota	71-82	.464	7.0
Seattle	71-82	.464	7.0

BOS trails NYY by 5.5 G
CLE trails BOS by 5.0 G; trails NYY by 10.5 G

American League Head-to-Head Records for Tie-Breakers

2026	BAL	BOS	CWS	CLE	DET	HOU	MIN	NY Yankees	SEA	TB	TEX	TOR
vs. BAL		9-4 (0)	2-4 (0)	4-3 (0)	2-4 (0)	1-5 (0)	3-3 (0)	8-2 (3)	4-3 (0)	5-8 (0)	4-2 (0)	6-4 (3)
vs. BOS	4-9 (0)		0-6 (0)	1-2 (3)	2-5 (0)	5-1 (0)	5-1 (0)	7-6 (0)	3-3 (0)	5-5 (3)	3-3 (0)	9-4 (0)
vs. CWS	4-2 (0)	6-0 (0)		6-7 (0)	3-7 (3)	5-2 (0)	5-8 (0)	4-3 (0)	3-3 (0)	4-2 (0)	2-4 (0)	1-5 (0)
vs. CLE	3-4 (0)	2-1 (3)	7-6 (0)		3-10 (0)	4-2 (0)	7-6 (0)	4-2 (0)	3-4 (0)	5-1 (0)	4-2 (0)	4-2 (0)
vs. DET	4-2 (0)	5-2 (0)	7-3 (3)	10-3 (0)		5-2 (0)	8-5 (0)	2-4 (0)	2-4 (0)	2-4 (0)	2-4 (0)	3-3 (0)
vs. HOU	5-1 (0)	1-5 (0)	2-5 (0)	2-4 (0)	2-5 (0)		4-2 (0)	3-3 (0)	9-2 (2)	4-2 (0)	4-9 (0)	3-3 (0)
vs. MIN	3-3 (0)	1-5 (0)	8-5 (0)	6-7 (0)	5-8 (0)	2-4 (0)		3-3 (0)	4-2 (0)	5-1 (0)	0-3 (3)	3-4 (0)
vs. NY Yankees	2-8 (3)	6-7 (0)	3-4 (0)	2-4 (0)	4-2 (0)	3-3 (0)	3-3 (0)		2-4 (0)	6-3 (4)	2-4 (0)	6-7 (0)
vs. SEA	3-4 (0)	3-3 (0)	3-3 (0)	4-3 (0)	4-2 (0)	2-9 (2)	2-4 (0)	4-2 (0)		5-1 (0)	8-5 (0)	4-2 (0)
vs. TB	8-5 (0)	5-5 (3)	2-4 (0)	1-5 (0)	4-2 (0)	2-4 (0)	1-5 (0)	3-6 (4)	1-5 (0)		3-4 (0)	4-9 (0)
vs. TEX	2-4 (0)	3-3 (0)	4-2 (0)	2-4 (0)	4-2 (0)	9-4 (0)	3-0 (3)	4-2 (0)	5-8 (0)	4-3 (0)		0-4 (3)
vs. TOR	4-6 (3)	4-9 (0)	5-1 (0)	2-4 (0)	3-3 (0)	3-3 (0)	4-3 (0)	7-6 (0)	2-4 (0)	9-4 (0)	4-0 (3)	

Note: Number in parentheses indicates number of games remaining between two teams

NATIONAL LEAGUE POSTSEASON PICTURE

Division Races

NL East	W-L	PCT.	GB
Atlanta	89-64	.582	—
Philadelphia	85-68	.556	4.0
NL Central	W-L	PCT.	GB
Milwaukee	95-58	.621	—
NL West	W-L	PCT.	GB
Los Angeles	93-60	.608	—



NL Wild Card Race

(GB column reflects games behind the third Wild Card team)

Club	W-L	PCT.	GB
Chicago	85-68	.556	—
Philadelphia	85-68	.556	—
San Diego	84-69	.549	—
Arizona	80-73	.531	4.0
Miami	76-77	.500	8.0
Pittsburgh	76-77	.490	8.0
St. Louis	75-78	.490	9.0

SD trails CHC/PHI by 1.0 G

National League Head-to-Head Records for Tie-Breakers

2026	AZ	ATL	CHC	LAD	MIA	MIL	PHI	PIT	SD	STL
vs. AZ		3-4 (0)	4-2 (0)	6-7 (0)	5-1 (0)	4-2 (0)	3-3 (0)	3-3 (0)	5-5 (3)	2-5 (0)
vs. ATL	4-3 (0)		3-3 (0)	1-5 (0)	2-8 (3)	3-3 (0)	4-9 (0)	1-5 (0)	4-3 (0)	4-2 (0)
vs. CHC	2-4 (0)	3-3 (0)		2-4 (0)	1-2 (3)	9-4 (0)	1-6 (0)	6-7 (0)	1-5 (0)	7-6 (0)
vs. LAD	7-6 (0)	5-1 (0)	4-2 (0)		4-2 (0)	4-3 (0)	2-4 (0)	1-5 (0)	3-7 (3)	4-2 (0)
vs. MIA	1-5 (0)	8-2 (3)	2-1 (3)	2-4 (0)		5-1 (0)	8-5 (0)	2-4 (0)	3-0 (3)	2-4 (0)
vs. MIL	2-4 (0)	3-3 (0)	4-9 (0)	3-4 (0)	1-5 (0)		1-2 (3)	7-6 (0)	4-2 (0)	2-8 (3)
vs. PHI	3-3 (0)	9-4 (0)	6-1 (0)	4-2 (0)	5-8 (0)	2-1 (3)		2-5 (0)	0-6 (0)	2-4 (0)
vs. PIT	3-3 (0)	5-1 (0)	7-6 (0)	5-1 (0)	4-2 (0)	6-7 (0)	5-2 (0)		3-3 (0)	6-4 (3)
vs. SD	5-5 (3)	3-4 (0)	5-1 (0)	7-3 (3)	0-3 (3)	2-4 (0)	6-0 (0)	3-3 (0)		4-3 (0)
vs. STL	5-2 (0)	2-4 (0)	6-7 (0)	2-4 (0)	4-2 (0)	8-2 (3)	4-2 (0)	4-6 (3)	3-4 (0)	

Note: Number in parentheses indicates number of games remaining between two teams

IF THE POSTSEASON BEGAN TODAY...

AL Wild Card Series

(best of three series, all at higher seed)



Cleveland (#6)

@



Houston (#3)



Boston (#5)

@



New York (#4)

AL Division Series

(best of five series)



HOU/CLE

@



Chicago (#2)



NYN/BOS

@



Tampa Bay (#1)

NL Wild Card Series

(best of three series, all at higher seed)



San Diego (#6)

@



Atlanta (#3)



Philadelphia (#5)

@



Chicago (#4)

NL Division Series

(best of five series)



ATL/SD

@



Los Angeles (#2)



CHC/PHI

@



Milwaukee (#1)

World Series Home Field Priority

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. Milwaukee | 7. Philadelphia |
| 2. Tampa Bay | 8. San Diego |
| 3. Los Angeles (NL) | 9. Boston |
| 4. Atlanta | 10. Chicago (AL) |
| 5. New York (AL) | 11. Cleveland |
| 6. Chicago (NL) | 12. Houston |



World Series

2026

Capital One



GUARDIANS OF SEPTEMBER

The Cleveland Guardians have climbed from 3.0 games back since the start of September 1st and enter play on Friday tied for the lead in the AL Central with the Chicago White Sox.

Since the start of 2022, Cleveland’s 77 victories in September are tied with the Los Angeles Dodgers and New York Yankees for the most in Baseball, while their .621 winning percentage is fourth-highest behind the Yankees (.658); the San Diego Padres (.635); and Dodgers (.626). Additionally, the Guardians have gone 44-17 against AL Central opponents in September since the start of 2022, the most wins of any club against a single division, followed by the Dodgers’ 42 wins against NL West opponents.

Not only have the Guardians had a lot of success in September across recent seasons, they have played well at home in the final weeks of the season. Since the start of 2022, Cleveland’s 43 wins at home in September are the most in Baseball, while the Guardians’ .632 winning percentage is the fourth-best mark in Baseball behind the Philadelphia Phillies (.661); Yankees (.655); and Dodgers (.644). Cleveland is one of 13 clubs with at least 60 September home games since the start of 2022.

In a dramatic victory on Tuesday night, Brayan Rocchio set up a rubber match in a crucial three-game series with the White Sox as he delivered Cleveland’s fourth walk-off of the month. In all, Rocchio’s walk-off two-run double marked his fourth walk-off plate appearance of the 2026 campaign and the seventh of his career, four of which have come in September. The Guardians have 12 walk-off wins in September alone since the start of 2022.

It also marked the 259th walk-off win in the history of Progressive Field, which opened in 1994. The 259 victories are the most of any active ballpark during that stretch and are second-most to any ballpark since 1994 behind only the Oakland Coliseum (263 walk-off wins). Other active ballparks to round out the top-five since 1994 include Dodger Stadium (250 walk-off wins); Angel Stadium (219 walk-off wins); Coors Field (218 walk-off wins); and Rate Field (218 walk-off wins).

Rocchio’s walk-off propelled the Guardians to within half a game of the division lead, which they siezed with a 6-3 victory over the White Sox on Wednesday. After the White Sox picked up a 3-1 win over Detroit to begin a four-game set yesterday, Chicago and Cleveland enter the weekend tied for the lead in the AL Central at 78-75.

2026 INTERLEAGUE TRACKER



League	2026 Record	Batting Average	ERA
American League	319-362	.241 (5,496-for-22,810)	4.32
National League	362-319	.248 (5,695-for-23,004)	4.04

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.



DODGER DOMINATION

The Los Angeles Dodgers claimed the NL West Divisional crown yesterday with an 8-2 win over the Cincinnati Reds at Great American Ball Park. The Dodgers have now won the NL West 13 times during their record-tying 14 consecutive seasons with a Postseason berth, finishing as a Wild Card in 2021.

It is just the second time in Baseball history that a club has qualified for the Postseason in 14 consecutive seasons, with the Dodgers joining the 1991-2005 Atlanta Braves, who also made 14 consecutive Postseasons.

Since Divisional play began in 1969, Los Angeles' 24 division titles are the most in Major League Baseball, followed by the Braves (23) and New York Yankees (21), with Atlanta having a chance to match them in 2026. At 93-60, the Dodgers are two games behind Milwaukee for the top record in the National League after Milwaukee claimed the top seed in 2025. Los Angeles is also bidding to become the third franchise to win three straight World Series, joining the 1972-74 Oakland Athletics and the New York Yankees who have achieved the feat three times, including four straight World Series from 1936-39, five consecutive championships from 1949-53 and the most recent three-peat from 1998-2000.

Since the National League adopted the 162-game format in 1962, the Dodgers have logged 48 winning seasons, excluding shortened seasons in 1981, 1994, 1995 and 2020, per Elias. Their 48 winning seasons are second-most to only the Yankees' 55. Both clubs produced winning records in the four shortened seasons mentioned above.

Additionally, the Dodgers have logged 31 90-win campaigns since 1962, second-most to the Yankees (33) and ahead of Atlanta (21); the Baltimore Orioles (21); Boston Red Sox (21); and St. Louis Cardinals (21). The Dodgers have recorded 13 straight 90-win seasons (excluding 2020), last falling below the 90 win mark with an 86-76 record in 2012. The Dodgers' 13 seasons of 90 wins since 2013 are the most in Baseball, followed by the Yankees seven seasons of at least 90 wins.

Since 1962, Los Angeles' 5,664 total wins are second-most in Baseball behind only the Yankees with 5,746 victories.



DEVELOPS

DEVELOPS ON THE DIAMOND

NEW HOME IN HIALEAH: On Monday, Major League Baseball and the Miami Marlins officially unveiled the Miami Marlins MLB Youth Academy in Hialeah, Florida. Developed through a partnership with the Miami Marlins Foundation, Major League Baseball and the City of Hialeah, with support from the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation, the Miami Marlins MLB Youth Academy features three turf fields, a high school-sized show field, an indoor skills facility, lights and more. Some highlights of the enhancements include the same Marlins logo behind home plate at loanDepot park and a shipping container installation. Local artist Vic Garcia reimagined the City Connect artwork with Jackie Robinson’s nine values, a bat-wielding flamingo and Marlins, Major League Baseball and City of Hialeah signage behind the center-field wall at Babcock Park.



CLEMENTE NOMINEES: On Monday, Major League Baseball released each Club’s nominee for the 2026 Roberto Clemente Award presented by Capital One, an award given annually to the player who best represents the game of Baseball through extraordinary character, community involvement, philanthropy and positive contributions, both on and off the field. Four MLB Develops alumni are among the nominees, as New York Yankees pitcher Carlos Rodón, Kansas City Royals shortstop Bobby Witt Jr., Washington Nationals infielder Nasim Nuñez and St. Louis Cardinals outfielder Jordan Walker were all nominated by their respective Clubs for the prestigious award. Rodón received his second consecutive nomination while Nuñez, Walker and Witt received their first career nominations. The leaguewide winner of the Roberto Clemente Award presented by Capital One will be honored at the 2026 World Series following selection by a blue-ribbon panel.



WELCOME TO THE SHOW: Scott Bandura, an alumni of Breakthrough Series, as well as an alumni of the Philadelphia Phillies Nike RBI team and Phillies Youth Academy made his Major League debut with the San Francisco Giants on Sunday against the San Diego Padres at Oracle Park. Bandura’s promotion to the Big Leagues comes following four seasons in the Giants organization, including 94 games with the Triple-A Sacramento River Cats this season. Since being selected in the seventh round of the 2023 Draft, Bandura has slashed .282/.379/.427 with 32 homers and 229 RBI across 370 contests. In Triple-A this season, the 25-year-old collected 10 homers, 28 doubles and 62 RBI while hitting .318 across 94 games prior to his promotion. Among all hitters in the Giants organization, he ranked first in hits; tied for first in RBI; second in runs scored; third in extra-base hits; third in doubles; tied for third in steals; and fourth in OPS. In his first Big League game, a 6-4 loss, the Princeton University product picked up his first hit, a single, in the sixth inning and later worked a walk in the eighth.



BEST IN THE BUSINESS: Four alumni of MLB Develops events earned the honor of being named Single-A All-Stars on Tuesday and Wednesday. On Tuesday, Xavier Neyens, who played in 68 games with the Single-A Fayetteville Woodpeckers and 35 games with the High-A Asheville Tourists was named a Single-A All-Star for the 2026 season. Neyens slashed .231/.429/.455 with 20 homers and 55 RBI across 103 contests in his first season in the Minors. On Wednesday, Cam Caminiti, Josiah Hartshorn and Eli Willits were named High-A All-Stars for the 2026 season. Caminiti, who started 17 of his 18 games with the Rome Emperors pitched to a 3.89 ERA with 93 punchouts through 83.1 innings of work. Harthorn played 83 games with the South Bend Cubs following his promotion from Single-A and slashed .297/.405/.660 with 18 homers, 85 RBI and 64 runs scored before his recent promotion to Double-A. Willits, the first overall pick in the 2025 Draft made his mark with the Wilmington Blue Rocks, slashing .230/.392/.420 with seven homers, 33 RBI, 31 stolen bases and 51 runs scored prior to his promotion to Double-A later in the season.





WELCOME TO THE SHOW

Since September 10th, six players have made their Major League debut, including one pitcher and five position players.

There have now been 250 players to make their Major League debut this season, including 143 pitchers and 107 position players.

- 21-year-old Josue De Paula, the Los Angeles Dodgers top prospect and sixth overall prospect in Baseball, per *MLB Pipeline* made his Major League debut on Friday against the Miami Marlins at loanDepot park. The Brooklyn, New York native connected on his first career homer on Sunday, becoming the youngest Dodger to hit a homer since Hall of Famer Adrian Beltr  did so at 19 years old in 1998.
- 23-year-old Emmanuel Rodriguez, the Minnesota Twins fifth ranked prospect per *MLB Pipeline*, made his Major League debut on Saturday against the Cleveland Guardians at Target Field. The Santiago, Dominican Republic native joined teammate Kaelen Culpepper as the second Twins hitter to homer in their debut this season, and the 17th hitter in franchise history to do so. Rodriguez's debut homer extended the record of homers hit in debuts this year to 16, surpassing the most in a single season since 13 homers were hit in debut games in 2022.
- 25-year-old Scott Bandura made his Major League debut with the San Francisco Giants on Sunday against the San Diego Padres at Oracle Park. The Philadelphia Phillies Youth Academy product became the fourth since 2000 and first since Austin Slater in 2017 to record at least a hit, run and walk in a debut game with the Giants.

Overall, the Giants pace the Majors with 16 players making their debut this season, followed by the Chicago White Sox and Toronto Blue Jays with 15. The Twins and St. Louis Cardinals have each had 13. The Colorado Rockies follow with 12 players making their debut, trailed by the Guardians and Washington Nationals with 10. The teams with nine players making their debut include the Detroit Tigers, Marlins, New York Mets and Texas Rangers. The teams with eight players making their debut include the Arizona Diamondbacks, Boston Red Sox, Houston Astros, Pittsburgh Pirates and Seattle Mariners, followed by the Cincinnati Reds, Los Angeles Angels and Milwaukee Brewers with seven each. The teams with six players making their debut include the Athletics, Baltimore Orioles, New York Yankees, Philadelphia Phillies and Tampa Bay Rays. The Chicago Cubs and Padres have each seen five players make their debut while the Atlanta Braves have seen four. The Dodgers have had three players make their debut and the Kansas City Royals are the lone team with two players making their Major League debut this season.

MLB Debuts, September 10 th -September 16 th			
PLAYER	CLUB	POSITION	DEBUT DATE
Josue De Paula	Los Angeles Dodgers	DH	September 11 th
Rudy Martin Jr.	Toronto Blue Jays	LF	September 11 th
Emmanuel Rodriguez	Minnesota Twins	CF	September 12 th
Scott Bandura	San Francisco Giants	LF	September 13 th
Brody Hopkins	Tampa Bay Rays	RHP	September 13 th
Brendan Cellucci	Toronto Blue Jays	LHP	September 15 th



ABS OVERVIEW

OVERVIEW

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

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

SEASON DATA

OVERALL

54%

OVERTURNS

9,954 CHALLENGES
5,367 OVERTURNED
4,587 CONFIRMED

BATTERS

49%

OVERTURNS

4,521 CHALLENGES
2,212 OVERTURNED
2,309 CONFIRMED

FIELDERS

58%

OVERTURNS

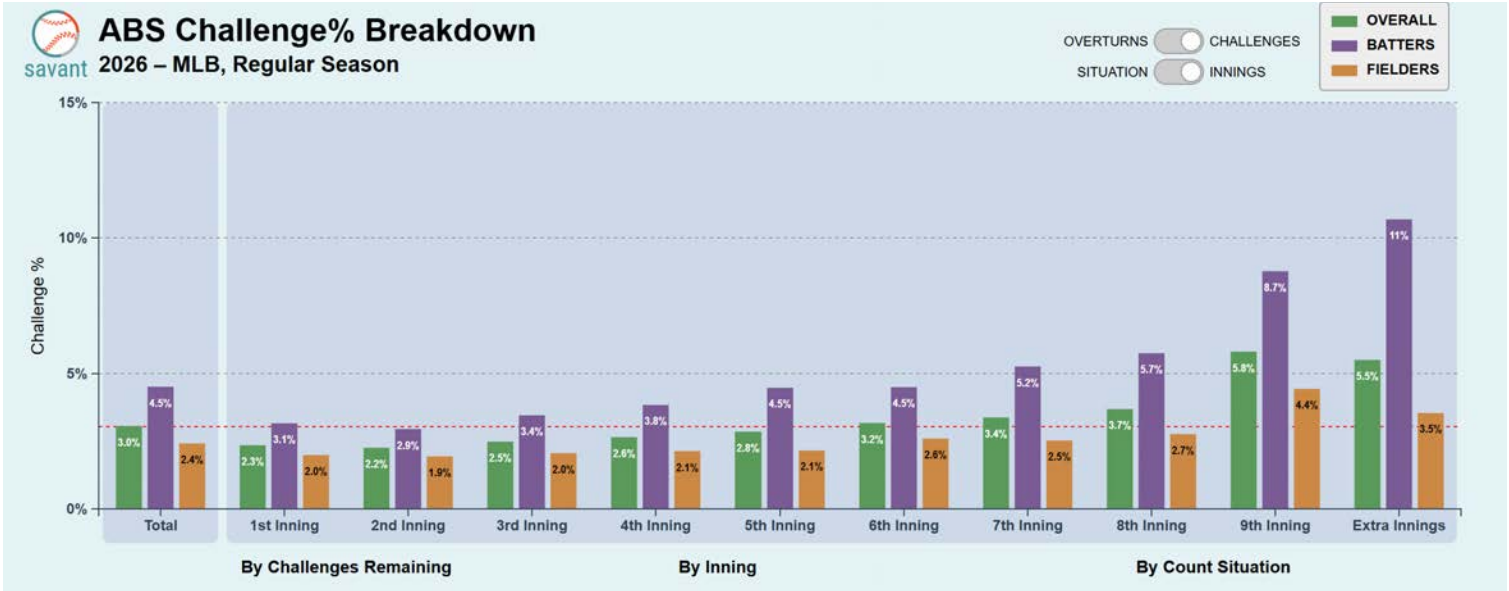
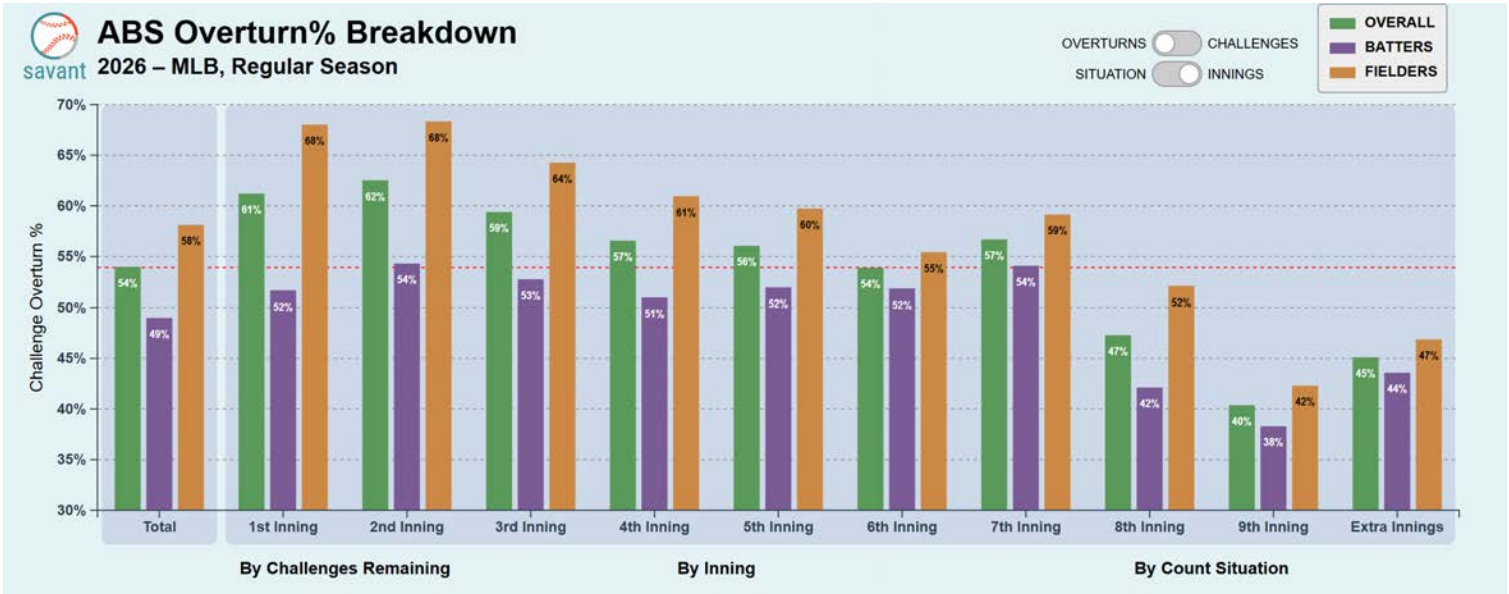
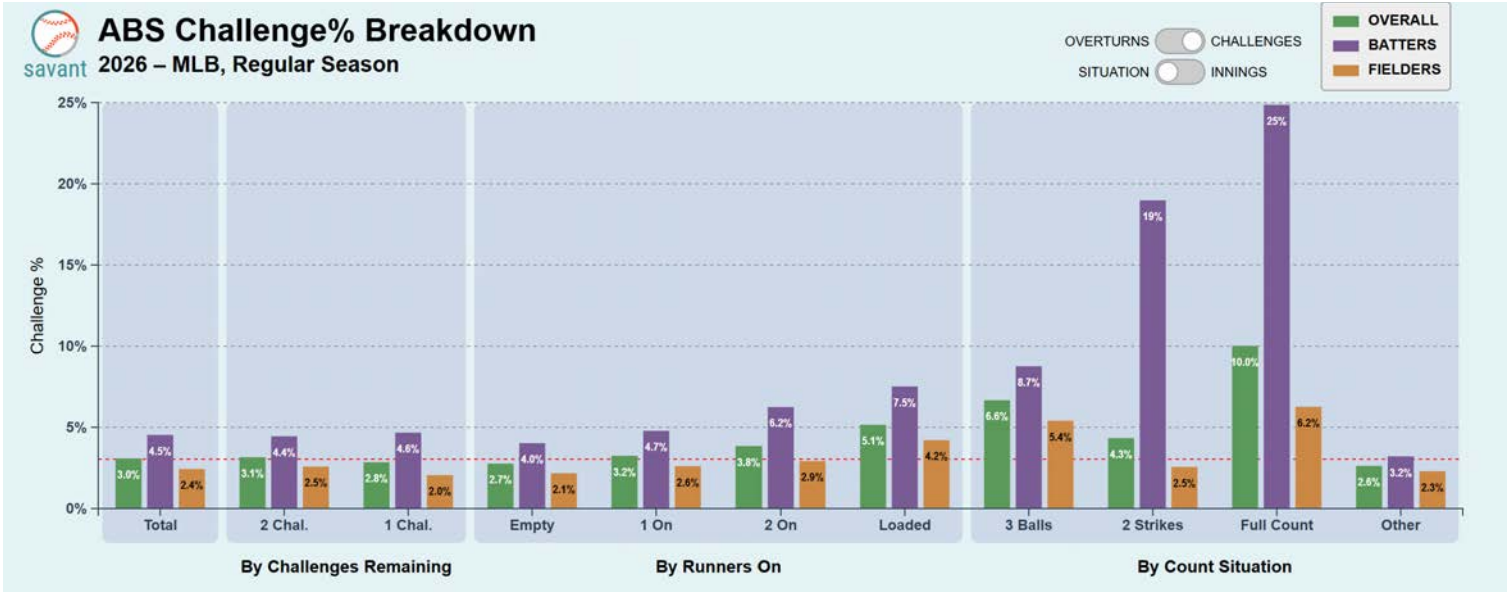
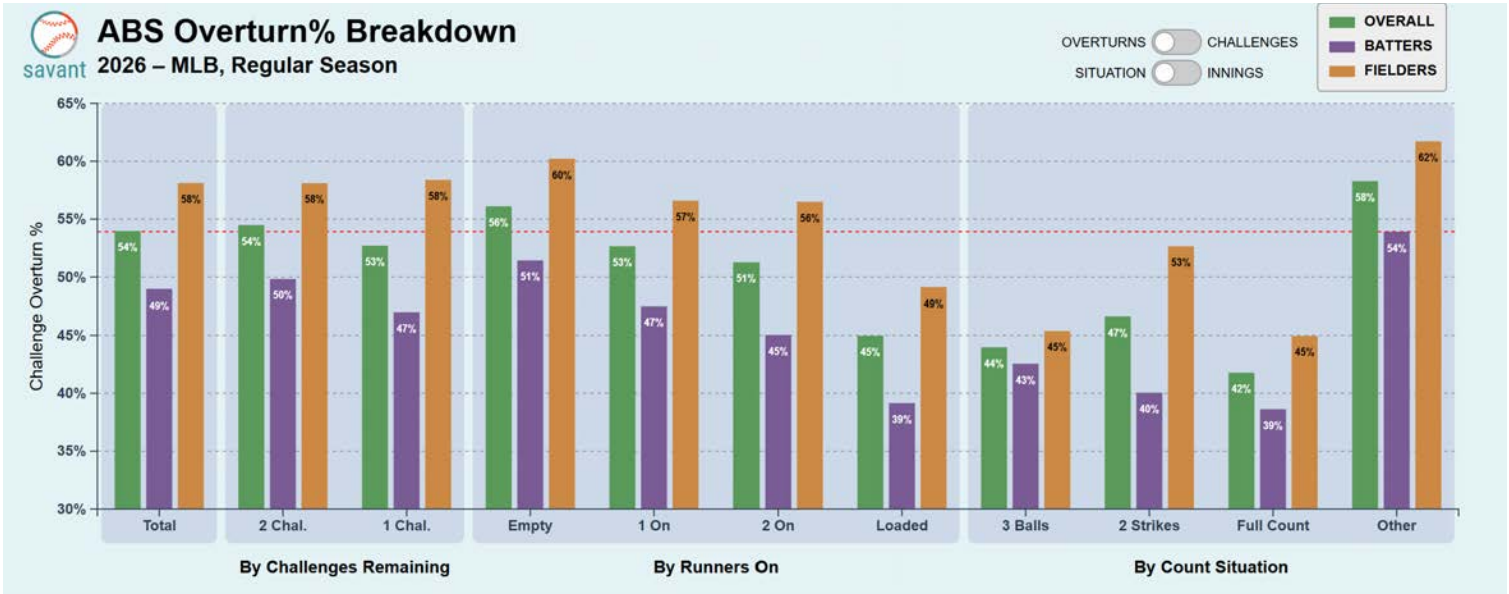
5,433 CHALLENGES
3,155 OVERTURNED
2,278 CONFIRMED

2026 ABS CHALLENGE TOTALS						
CLUB	CHALLENGES (BATTER)		CHALLENGES (FIELDER)		CHALLENGES (TOTAL)	
	Challenges	W-L	Challenges	W-L	Total Results (Batting & Fielding)	Win %
Cincinnati Reds	161	89-72	190	127-63	351 (216 overturned, 135 confirmed)	61.5%
Arizona Diamondbacks	138	79-59	153	96-57	291 (175 overturned, 116 confirmed)	60.1%
Athletics	140	77-63	210	133-77	350 (210 overturned, 140 confirmed)	60.0%
Chicago Cubs	152	76-76	168	112-56	320 (188 overturned, 132 confirmed)	58.8%
Detroit Tigers	162	86-76	149	95-54	311 (181 overturned, 130 confirmed)	58.2%
Texas Rangers	134	68-66	145	93-52	279 (161 overturned, 118 confirmed)	57.7%
Miami Marlins	149	76-73	231	139-92	380 (215 overturned, 165 confirmed)	56.6%
Kansas City Royals	145	81-64	165	92-73	310 (173 overturned, 137 confirmed)	55.8%
Philadelphia Phillies	176	83-93	136	91-45	312 (174 overturned, 138 confirmed)	55.8%
Toronto Blue Jays	146	81-65	179	100-79	325 (181 overturned, 144 confirmed)	55.7%
Los Angeles Dodgers	152	78-74	144	86-58	296 (164 overturned, 132 confirmed)	55.4%
New York Yankees	182	95-87	199	116-83	381 (211 overturned, 170 confirmed)	55.4%
Boston Red Sox	161	80-81	151	91-60	312 (171 overturned, 141 confirmed)	54.8%
Minnesota Twins	175	88-87	254	147-107	429 (235 overturned, 194 confirmed)	54.8%
Los Angeles Angels	166	77-89	185	113-72	351 (190 overturned, 161 confirmed)	54.1%
Tampa Bay Rays	144	67-77	175	105-70	319 (172 overturned, 147 confirmed)	53.9%
Colorado Rockies	171	70-101	198	127-71	369 (197 overturned, 172 confirmed)	53.4%
Atlanta Braves	117	48-69	168	103-65	285 (151 overturned, 134 confirmed)	53.0%
Houston Astros	176	91-85	186	99-87	362 (190 overturned, 172 confirmed)	52.5%
New York Mets	183	94-89	181	95-86	364 (189 overturned, 175 confirmed)	51.9%
Milwaukee Brewers	115	52-63	237	128-109	352 (180 overturned, 172 confirmed)	51.1%
San Diego Padres	125	57-68	190	104-86	315 (161 overturned, 154 confirmed)	51.1%
San Francisco Giants	141	67-74	173	93-80	314 (160 overturned, 154 confirmed)	51.0%
Seattle Mariners	154	63-91	157	92-65	311 (155 overturned, 156 confirmed)	49.8%
St. Louis Cardinals	127	58-69	142	76-66	269 (134 overturned, 135 confirmed)	49.8%
Baltimore Orioles	160	74-86	150	80-70	310 (154 overturned, 156 confirmed)	49.7%
Washington Nationals	125	54-71	193	103-90	318 (157 overturned, 161 confirmed)	49.4%
Chicago White Sox	150	74-76	260	128-132	410 (202 overturned, 208 confirmed)	49.3%
Cleveland Guardians	139	60-79	184	98-86	323 (158 overturned, 165 confirmed)	48.9%
Pittsburgh Pirates	155	69-86	180	93-87	335 (162 overturned, 173 confirmed)	48.4%



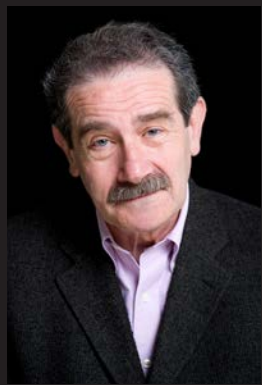
AUTOMATED BALLS & STRIKES

Powered by T Mobile



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

AMERICA'S NATIONAL GAME



By John Thorn | Official Historian of Major League Baseball



Negro League Baseball

Last week's post on rival leagues—the National League may be understood as one such—took us up to the founding of the American League in 1901. Today's essay focuses on Commissioner Rob Manfred's ruling by which seven Negro Leagues were recategorized as major leagues.

This action had a telling effect upon not only the official record but also reflected, more profoundly, MLB's belated intent to set the racial matter straight. Those who played in the Negro Leagues from 1920 through 1948 **knew** they were major leaguers if not for exclusion.

The Commissioner's move followed upon a Special Baseball Records Committee (SBRC) ruling of 1969 that established the major leagues as the National, American, Federal, and Players' leagues, plus the Union and American Associations. I promised last week to address the Federal League (FL) of 1914–1915; entire books have been devoted to this failed attempt to establish a third major league, but it will receive scant attention herein. The bigger story, for Baseball and for America, is that of 2020.

The FL is of consequence not only for its challenge but also for a legal case brought by the Baltimore Terrapins, unresolved for seven years after the other Federal clubs settled with the National and American Leagues.

A 1922 Supreme Court ruling quashed the Baltimore suit, reaffirming not only Organized Baseball's reserve clause, since reversed, but also its exemption from the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890. In another odd remnant of MLB's primordial past, the Cubs' Wrigley Field was built in 1914 as Weeghman Park, home of the Feds' Chicago Whales.

In 1969 the SBRC defined the onset of MLB as the founding of the National League in 1876. A prior professional circuit, the National Association of 1871–1875, long considered a major league, was demoted due to its "erratic schedule and procedures"—features that might have doomed the prospects of the Negro Leagues for consideration.



Weeghman Park, 1914

However, David Neft who, as principal editor of the forthcoming *Baseball Encyclopedia*, sat in on both of the SBRC meetings, recalls that the Negro Leagues never came up for discussion. Its players were invisible men.

Three years before MLB thus defined its component parts, Ted Williams had said in his Hall of Fame induction speech:

The other day Willie Mays hit his 522nd home run. [Williams retired with 521.] He has gone past me, and he's pushing, and I say to him, "Go get 'em, Willie." Baseball gives every American boy a chance to excel. Not just to be as good as someone else, but to be better. This is the nature of man and the name of the game. I hope that one day Satchel Paige and Josh Gibson will be voted into the Hall of Fame as symbols of the great Negro players who are not here only because they weren't given the chance.



Ted Williams at Hall of Fame, 1966

Paige was inducted in 1971 and Gibson in 1972, and other Negro Leagues stars followed, culminating in the 2006 induction of 17 African American worthies. Not among them was Buck O'Neil, a cofounder of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum who died that year but had attended the induction of his peers. (He was inducted posthumously in 2022.) Other early heroes of inclusion included authors

Robert Peterson, John Holway, Larry Lester, and Sol White—though long dead, a Hall of Famer himself in the Class of 2006.

However, for the thousands of Negro Leaguers, even those with bronze plaques, there was still a “separate but equal” cast to their status. The Hall of Fame and Major League Baseball were separate institutions: one was defined as exclusive and the other, after 1947, inclusive.

The 2020 season was marked by a challenge of historic dimension, in the name of Covid-19. Leaving to one side the death and destruction wrought on ordinary American life, in baseball both players and spectators were idled for months at a time, necessitating a 60-game season.

MLB had suffered precisely such a shortened season in 1877 and in 1878, for economic and structural reasons. Yet no one had ever argued that those seasons, or their statistics, be eliminated from the historical record.



Buck O’Neil’s jacket



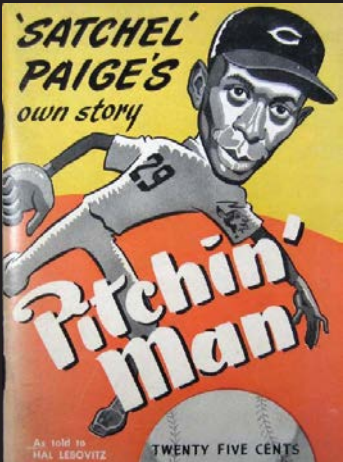
Rube Foster

The *challenge* presented by Covid-19 was matched by an *opportunity*. Not only was 2020 a shortened season, it was also the centennial of Rube Foster’s Negro National League; its champion, the Chicago American Giants, had played precisely 60 games to a decision.

The Commissioner and his advisers knew that African Americans had been compelled to create a league of their own in 1920 ... and that subsequently they were denied recognition again, in 1969, when defunct white leagues had been admitted into MLB’s record books.

On December 16, 2020, the Commissioner recategorized seven Negro Leagues from 1920 through 1948 as major leagues, fully equivalent to today’s National and American Leagues. He said: “It is MLB’s view that the [Special Baseball Records] Committee’s 1969 omission of the Negro Leagues from consideration was clearly an error that demands today’s designation.” In the press release that announced his decision, I added:

The perceived deficiencies of the Negro Leagues’ structure and scheduling were born of MLB’s exclusionary practices, and denying them Major League status has been a double penalty, much like that exacted of Hall of Fame candidates prior to Satchel Paige’s induction in 1971.



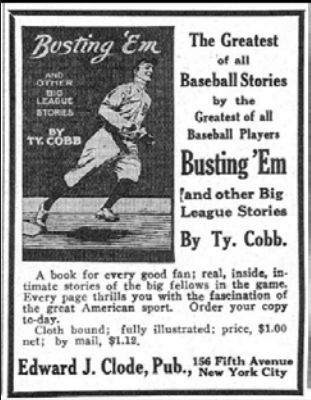
The seven leagues that comprised the Negro Leagues of 1920-1948 were the Negro National League (I) (1920–1931); the Eastern Colored League (1923–1928); the American Negro League (1929); the EastWest League (1932); the Negro Southern League (1932); the Negro National League (II) (1933–1948); and the Negro American League (1937–1948).

In the years following the 2020 edict, a team of statisticians and historians worked to include Negro Leagues stats into the historical record. As Anthony Castrovince wrote, at mlb.com:

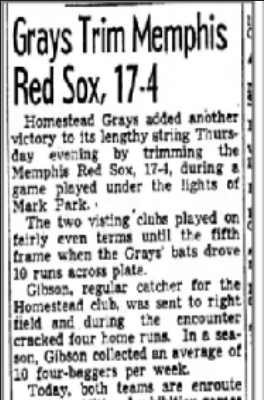
... shoehorning “new” data into the well-worn pages of the record book ... is an admittedly tricky exercise. But it’s one that serves an important role in bringing great Black players the recognition they were denied by the sin of segregation, and it’s also one that is in keeping with the malleability of MLB history.

Adjustments to the records of Christy Mathewson, Ty Cobb, Lou Gehrig and other luminaries were common and are ongoing. Negro Leaguers won’t be found on the leaderboards for counting stats, including career home runs and pitcher wins, because teams didn’t play as many official games as in MLB; like the NLers of 1877–1878, they were compelled to supplement their income with exhibitions against nonleague nines.

But Negro Leaguers have taken their place on leaderboards for rate stats, like batting average, slugging percentage, on base percentage, OPS, and ERA. Gibson and Paige rise to the top, while Oscar Charleston, Mule Suttles, and Turkey Stearnes also leap from the display.



Ty Cobb, *Busting ‘Em*



Josh Gibson’s four homers

MLB can only offer data for games in which box scores exist, so as to preserve its unique double accounting of offense and defense. So, for the moment, Willie Mays’ home run in a game with the Birmingham Black Barons on August 11, 1948—attested to in game accounts but not yet confirmed in a box score—will go unaccounted. Likewise for Josh Gibson’s four home-run game on July 28, 1938, in a game between his Homestead Grays and the Memphis Red Sox. These mysteries may yet be solved, but that is not the point of the larger endeavor, which has been to honor the experience of Negro Leagues players, their families, and their descendants.

Quoting the SBRC document of 1969: “Major League Baseball shall have one set of records, starting in 1876, without any arbitrary division into nineteenth- and twentieth-century data.” To this may now be added: “or that of skin color.”



WEEKLY AWARDS

Rookie outfielder Victor Mesa Jr. of the Tampa Bay Rays was named the American League Player of the Week, and center fielder Jackson Merrill of the San Diego Padres was selected the National League Player of the Week.

Mesa earned his first career honor, marking the Rays’ second award of the season after Junior Caminero garnered honors on June 29th. It is the first time a Rays rookie has won the award since Nathaniel Lowe on July 15, 2019 and the first time a Rays outfielder has been honored since Manuel Margot on May 9, 2022. Merrill earned the second award of his career after previously winning on August 12, 2024. It is San Diego’s third award of the season with Merrill joining his teammates Gavin Sheets (May 18th) and Fernando Tatis Jr. (August 24th).



**PLAYER
OF THE WEEK**



Victor Mesa Jr.
Tampa Bay Rays



Jackson Merrill
San Diego Padres

Milwaukee Brewers rookie outfielder Luis Lara earned his second career Play of the Week Award after also winning Milwaukee’s first award of the season on August 10th. It marks the Brewers’ 14th honor since the inception of the award in 2019, marking the second-most in the Majors behind only the Baltimore Orioles’ 16 awards. Other Brewers to win include Lorenzo Cain (3x – 3/28/2019, 4/26/2019, 7/22/2019); Jackie Bradley Jr. (5/17/2021); Luis Urías (2x – 6/7/2021 & 7/19/2021); Jonathan Davis (7/5/2022); Sal Frelick (4x – 9/11/2023, 5/20/2024, 6/24/2024 & 9/16/2024); and Jackson Chourio (5/19/2025). With no outs in the fifth inning and Milwaukee leading Cincinnati, 9-0, Eugenio Suárez hit a ball to the right-center gap as Lara chased the ball down and made an incredible leaping catch at the wall to take the home run away.



**PLAY
OF THE WEEK**



Luis Lara
Milwaukee Brewers

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, 1 2B 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, 1 3B, 4 R, .542 OBP, 1.083 SLG	Ildemaro Vargas, AZ .364 (8-for-22), 4 HR, 12 RBI, 1 2B, 1 3B, 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, 1 2B, 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, 1 2B, 1 BB, 8 R, 3 SB, .429 OBP, 1.053 SLG	Gavin Sheets, SD .625 (10-for-16), 4 HR, 8 RBI, 1 2B, 7 BB, 6 R, 1 SB, .739 OBP, 1.438 SLG	Julio Rodríguez's Home Run Robbery
May 26 th	Willson Contreras, BOS .458 (11-for-24), 2 HR, 8 RBI, 2 3B, 1 BB, 5 R, .480 OBP, .875 SLG	Ketel Marte, AZ .536 (15-for-28), 3 HR, 12 RBI, 4 2B, 3 BB, 11 R, .563 OBP, 1.000 SLG	Nico Hoerner's Home Run Robbery
June 1 st	Ben Rice, NYY .462 (12-for-26), 1 HR, 11 RBI, 4 2B, 2 3B, 4 BB, 8 R, .533 OBP, .885 SLG	Jacob Misorowski, MIL 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 Inning-Ending Diving Catch
June 8 th	Yordan Alvarez, HOU .476 (10-for-21), 2 HR, 9 RBI, 1 2B, 5 BB, 6 R, .577 OBP, .810 SLG	Pete Crow-Armstrong, CHC .440 (11-for-25), 4 HR, 6 RBI, 1 BB, 4 R, 2 SB, .481 OBP, .920 SLG	Miguel Rojas' Barehanded Stop and Throw
June 15 th	Bryon Buxton, MIN .458 (11-for-24), 4 HR, 7 RBI, 3 2B, 2 BB, 6 R, .500 OBP, 1.083 SLG	Jackson Chourio, MIL .448 (13-for-29), 5 HR, 10 RBI, 1.418 OPS Jacob Misorowski, MIL 1-0, 9.0 IP, 1 H, 15 SO	Brayan Rocchio's Diving Stop Double Play
June 22 nd	Logan Gilbert, SEA 2-0, 1.35 ERA(2 ER/13.10 IP), 5 H, 3 BB, 18 K, 0.60 WHIP, .116 OPP AVG	Pete Crow-Armstrong, CHC .550 (11-for-20), 4 HR, 7 RBI, 1 2B, 1 3B, 4 BB, 5 R, 2 SB, .600 OBP, 1.300 SLG	Colby Thomas' Home Run Robbery
June 29 th	Junior Caminero, TB .423 (11-for-26), 7 HR, 15 RBI, 4 2B, 4 BB, 8 R, .500 OBP, 1.231 SLG	Luis García Jr., WSH .526 (10-for-19), 6 HR, 9 RBI, 2 2B, 3 BB, 8 R, .591 OBP, 1.579 SLG	Derek Hill's Home Run Robbery
July 6 th	Yordan Alvarez, HOU .435 (10-for-23), 4 HR, 11 RBI, 2 BB, 4 R, .462 OBP, .957 SLG	Otto Lopez, MIA .500 (14-for-28), 3 HR, 7 RBI, 4 2B, 1 3B, 1 BB, 7 R, 1 SB, .500 OBP, 1.036 SLG	Casey Schmitt's Off-Balance Throw
July 13 th	Ben Rice, NYY .423 (11-for-26), 5 HR, 12 RBI, 1 3B, 4 BB, 6 R, .500 OBP, 1.077 SLG	James Wood, WSH .500 (10-for-20), 5 HR, 8 RBI, 1 2B, 9 BB, 11 R, .655 OBP, 1.300 SLG	Derek Hill's Diving Catch
July 20 th	Wilyer Abreu, BOS .357 (5-for-14), 4 HR, 6 RBI, 2 BB, 5 R, .471 OBP, 1.214 SLG	Drake Baldwin, ATL .714 (10-for-14), 3 HR, 8 RBI, 1 BB, 5 R, .733 OBP, 1.357 SLG	Brandon Young's Leg-Kick Deflection
July 27 th	Jeremy Peña, HOU .500 (13-for-26), 5 HR, 8 RBI, 10 R, .500 OBP, 1.077 SLG	CJ Abrams, WSH .577 (15-for-26), 6 HR, 12 RBI, 2 2B, 1 BB, 8 R, 2 SB, .593 OBP, 1.364 SLG	Nico Hoerner's Run-Saving Diving Play
August 3 rd	Ceddanne Rafaela, BOS .419 (13-for-31), 5 HR, 11 RBI, 2 2B, 2 SB, 7 R, 2 SB, .419 OBP, .968 SLG	Sandy Alcantara, MIA 2-0, 0.00 ERA(0 ER/13.0 IP), 8 H, 3 BB, 10 K, 0.85 WHIP, .167 OPP AVG	Dane Myers' Game-Ending Leaping Catch
August 10 th	Wilyer Abreu, BOS .438 (7-for-16), 3 HR, 9 RBI, 1 2B, 5 BB, 7 R, 1 SB, .522 OBP, 1.063 SLG	Jake McCarthy, COL .529 (14-for-27), 2 HR, 5 RBI, 3 2B, 8 R, 3 SB, .500 OBP, .852 SLG	Luis Lara's Run-Saving Leaping Catch
August 17 th	Pete Alonso, BAL .545 (12-for-22), 2 HR, 5 RBI, 1 2B, 4 BB, 5 R, .630 OBP, .864 SLG	Corbin Carroll, AZ .409 (9-for-22), 2 HR, 3 RBI, 3 2B, 2 3B, 5 R, 1 SB, .519 OBP, 1.000 SLG	Tyler Tolbert's Diving Catch
August 24 th	Zach Neto, LAA .500 (14-for-28), 2 HR, 9 RBI, 4 2B, 1 3B, 5 R, 2 SB, .500 OBP, .929 SLG	Fernando Tatis Jr., BAL .480 (12-for-25), 4 HR, 11 RBI, 2 2B, 1 BB, 6 R, 1 SB, .481 OBP, 1.040 SLG	Fernando Tatis Jr.'s Grand Slam Robbery
August 31 st	Cal Raleigh, SEA .389 (7-for-18), 5 HR, 6 RBI, 1 2B, 5 BB, 6 R, .522 OBP, 1.278 SLG	Daylen Lile, WSH .458 (11-for-24), 6 HR, 10 RBI, 2 2B, 1 3B, 5 BB, 7 R, 1 SB, .533 OBP, 1.000 SLG	Wade Meckler's Home Run Robbery
September 8 th	Carter Jensen, KC .421 (8-for-19), 3 HR, 6 RBI, 3 2B, 1 3B, 1 BB, 6 R, .476 OBP, 1.158 SLG	Rafael Devers, SF .385 (10-for-26), 6 HR, 13 RBI, 2 2B, 7 BB, 8 R, .515 OBP, 1.154 SLG	Colton Cowser's Game-Ending Home Run Robbery
September 14 th	Victor Mesa Jr., TB .556 (10-for-18), 3 HR, 6 RBI, 2 2B, 1 3B, 4 BB, 8 R, 2 SB, .636 OBP, 1.278 SLG	Jackson Merrill, SD .480 (12-for-25), 3 HR, 12 RBI, 3 2B, 1 3B, 1 BB, 5 R, .636 OBP, 1.278 SLG	Luis Lara's Home Run Robbery

MONTHLY AWARDS

PLAYERS OF THE MONTH

August

AL – Jac Caglianone, Kansas City Royals

*.411 (39-for-95), 6 HR, 26 RBI, 8 2B,
2 BB, 17 R, 3 SB, .429 OBP, .684 SLG, 1.113 OPS*

NL – Pete Crow-Armstrong, Chicago Cubs

*.280 (33-for-118), 14 HR, 28 RBI, 6 2B, 1 3B, 16 BB,
29 R, 6 SB, .366 OBP, .703 SLG, 1.069 OPS*



PITCHERS OF THE MONTH

August

AL – Noah Cameron, Kansas City Royals

*4-0, 1.87 ERA (7 ER/33.2 IP), 5 GS
18 H, 9 BB, 24 SO, 0.80 WHIP, .155 OPP. AVG*

NL – Jesús Luzardo, Philadelphia Phillies

*3-0, 1.31 ERA (5 ER/34.1 IP), 5 GS
21 H, 9 BB, 46 SO, 0.87 WHIP, .172 OPP. AVG*



ROOKIES OF THE MONTH

August

AL – Tristan Peters, Chicago White Sox

*.320 (24-for-75), 6 HR, 14 RBI, 6 2B,
10 BB, 14 R, .414 OBP, .640 SLG, 1.054 OPS*

NL – Sal Stewart, Cincinnati Reds

*.304 (35-for-115), 8 HR, 21 RBI, 2 2B,
7 BB, 21 R, .349 OBP, .530 SLG, .879 OPS*



RELIEVERS OF THE MONTH

August

AL – Josh Hader, Houston Astros

*0.00 ERA (0 ER/14.1 IP), 7-for-7 SV,
4 H, 1 BB, 15 SO, 0.35 WHIP, .085 OPP. AVG*

NL – Trevor Megill, Milwaukee Brewers

*0.00 ERA (0 ER/12.0 IP), 8-for-8 SV,
2 H, 3 BB, 7 SO, 0.42 WHIP, .053 OPP. AVG*



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	Ildemaro Vargas, AZ .378 (34-for-90) 6 HR, 20 RBI, 6 2B, 2 3B, 3 BB, 19 R, 1.087 OPS	Shohei Ohtani, LAD 2-1, 0.60 ERA (2 ER/30.0 IP), 5 GS 17 H, 9 BB, 34 SO, 0.87 WHIP	Sal Stewart, CIN .281 (32-for-114) 9 HR, 29 RBI, 6 2B, 18 BB, 20 R, .943 OPS	Mason Miller, SD 1.17 ERA (2 ER/15.1 IP), 10/10 SV, 6 H, 3 BB, 29 SO, 0.59 WHIP
May	JJ Bleday, CIN .301 (31-for-103) 8 HR, 25 RBI, 8 2B, 1 3B, 15 BB, 17 R, 1.018 OPS	Cristopher Sánchez, PHI 4-0, 0.00 ERA (0 ER/39.0 IP), 5 GS 25 H, 3 BB, 45 SO, 0.72 WHIP	TJ Rumfield, COL .310 (27-for-87) 4 HR, 12 RBI, 3 2B, 10 BB, 13 R, .883 OPS	Mason Miller, SD 0.00 ERA (0 ER/9.2 IP), 7/7 SV, 4 H, 8 BB, 20 SO, 1.24 WHIP
June	Pete Crow-Armstrong, CHC .381 (40-for-105) 11 HR, 20 RBI, 5 2B, 3 3B, 17 BB, 21 R, 1.249 OPS	Logan Webb, SF 3-1, 0.71 ERA (3 ER/38.0 IP), 5 GS 19 H, 4 BB, 29 SO, 0.61 WHIP	TJ Rumfield, COL .316 (30-for-95) 5 HR, 12 RBI, 9 2B, 1 3B, 12 BB, 14 R, .989 OPS	Jhoan Duran, PHI 1.64 ERA (2 ER/11.0 IP), 9/10 SV, 9 H, 1 BB, 18 SO, 0.91 WHIP
July	CJ Abrams, WSH .348 (31-for-89) 10 HR, 23 RBI, 5 2B, 11 BB, 21 R, 6 SB, 1.249 OPS	Chris Sale, ATL 4-0, 2.00 ERA (6 ER/27.0 IP), 5 GS 18 H, 4 BB, 34 SO, 0.81 WHIP	Esmerlyn Valdez, PIT .250 (23-for-92) 8 HR, 25 RBI, 5 2B, 1 3B, 15 BB, 17 R, .942 OPS	Mason Miller, SD 0.82 ERA (1 ER/11.0 IP), 7/7 SV, 5 H, 2 BB, 19 SO, 0.64 WHIP

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	Yordan Alvarez, HOU .356 (42-for-118), 12 HR, 27 RBI, 9 2B, 21 BB, 25 R, 1.199 OPS	José Soriano, LAA 5-1, 0.84 ERA (4 ER/42.2 IP), 7 GS, 24 H, 16 BB, 49 SO, 0.94 WHIP	Kevin McGonigle, DET .328 (38-for-116) 2 HR, 13 RBI, 11 2B, 2 3B, 19 BB, 22 R, .935 OPS	Louis Varland, TOR 0.56 ERA (1 ER/16.0 IP), 4/4 SV, 12 H, 4 BB, 26 SO, 1.00 WHIP
May	Nick Kurtz, ATH .333 (34-for-102), 5 HR, 26 RBI 7 2B, 1 3B, 21 BB, 21 R, 1.025 OPS	Spencer Arrighetti, HOU 4-1, 0.93 ERA (3 ER/29.0 IP), 5 GS, 16 H, 17 BB, 22 SO, 1.14 WHIP	Munetaka Murakami, CHW .244 (22-for-90), 8 HR, 18 RBI, 4 2B, 21 BB, 21 R, 1 SB, .938 OPS	Cade Smith, CLE 1.32 ERA (2 ER/13.2 IP), 13/13 SV, 9 H, 1 BB, 25 SO, 0.73 WHIP
June	Junior Caminero, TB .327 (32-for-98), 10 HR, 24 RBI 4 2B, 13 BB, 19 R, 1.075 OPS	Drew Rasmussen, TB 3-2, 0.82 ERA (3 ER/33.0 IP), 5 GS, 16 H, 4 BB, 39 SO, 0.61 WHIP	Kazuma Okamoto, TOR .286 (26-for-91), 7 HR, 20 RBI 4 2B, 8 BB, 15 R, .913 OPS	Jacob Latz, TEX 1.13 ERA (2 ER/16.0 IP), 11/11 SV, 9 H, 1 BB, 18 SO, 0.91 WHIP
July	Yordan Alvarez, HOU .360 (31-for-86), 9 HR, 22 RBI 4 2B, 17 BB, 15 R, 1.188 OPS	Dylan Cease, TOR 3-1, 1.00 ERA (4 ER/36.0 IP), 5 GS, 15 H, 11 BB, 46 SO, 0.72 WHIP	Chase DeLauter, CLE .298 (28-for-94), 4 HR, 14 RBI 6 2B, 11 BB, 12 R, .857 OPS	Aroldis Champan, BOS 0.78 ERA (1 ER/12.0 IP), 10/10 SV, 9 H, 5 BB, 17 SO, 1.17 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.

JO: Jo Adell crushed a 116.8 mph home run on Sunday. That's Cleveland's hardest-hit home run under Statcast (2015) and their second-hardest hit ball of any kind behind a 117.2 mph Jhonkensy Noel single on April 13, 2025. Adell currently has the hardest-hit ball this season for both Guardians (116.8 mph 9/13) and Angels (114.9 mph 5/22). Two players have finished a season with the hardest-hit ball for multiple teams in the same season under Statcast: 2023 Jake Burger (CHW/MIA) and 2021 Jorge Soler (KC/ATL), per MLB's Jason Bernard.

WALK THIS WAY: Tristan Peters worked an 18-pitch walk on Monday. That's tied for the fifth-most pitches in a plate appearance since pitch counts have been tracked (1988). It's tied for the most pitches in a plate appearance ending in a walk in that span, with Adam Kennedy on June 10, 2004.

"THAT ONE IS ON VACATION!": Bryce Eldridge crushed a 461-ft home run on Tuesday. It was his third homer of at least 450 feet this season, the second-most by a Giants player in a single year under Statcast, behind only Austin Slater's four in 2021. It's also tied for the second-most by a player at age 21 or younger in a season, behind Elly De La Cruz's four in 2023.

POLAR PETE: Pete Alonso hit his 300th career home run on Tuesday at Citi Field. Alonso became the third player to hit his 300th home run against a team for which he previously played at least 1,000 games, per the Elias Sports Bureau. He joined Willie Horton against the Tigers and Torii Hunter at the Twins. Alonso became the 20th player to hit his 300th against a team he played at least one game for prior.

MADE FOR THIS: After hitting a walk-off home run to clinch a playoff berth on Friday, Junior Caminero hit another walk-off homer on Tuesday. At 23 years and 72 days, he became the second-youngest player in MLB history with two walk-off home runs in a four-game span (age day of second), per Elias. He was older than only Nick Kurtz on June 19, 2025, at 22 years and 99 days old.

SCHWARBS: Kyle Schwarber hit his 45th home run of the season on Wednesday. That's his 232nd since joining the Phillies. That's the second-most home runs by a player in his first five seasons with a team, behind only Babe Ruth (NYY: 235). And the season still isn't over yet.

PCA: Wednesday was Pete Crow-Armstrong's sixth game with at least 10 total bases this season. That's tied with Nelson Cruz for the most in a season since at least 1900. He has 10 such games in his career. That's tied with Hank Sauer and Ernie Banks for the third-most among Cubs in that span, behind Billy Williams and Sammy Sosa with 12 each. Crow-Armstrong is up to 44 homers this season, the most by a lefty in a season in Cubs history and tied with Banks in 1955 for the most in a season at age 24 or younger in franchise history.

ROOKIE HISTORY: Ethan Salas hit the first two home runs of his career on Wednesday. At 20 years and 107 days old, Salas became the youngest catcher in MLB history with two home runs in a game. In the last 20 years, the only other players with at least one multi-homer game at that age or younger are Vladimir Guerrero Jr., Juan Soto, Manny Machado, Bryce Harper and Mike Trout. Talk about great company.

SANDY IN THE NINTH: Sandy Alcantara leads MLB with 206 innings. He got the save on Wednesday. He became the fourth pitcher to get a save on a day he entered with at least a share of the MLB lead in innings pitched (saves official since 1969), per Elias. He joined Orel Hershiser in May 1987, Phil Niekro in July 1978 and Andy Messersmith in May 1975. But finishing the season leading in innings and having recorded a save is an entirely different ballgame. The only pitcher to lead MLB in innings for an entire season where he got a save is Niekro. Alcantara will very likely join that list officially at season's end.

CURRENT IRONMAN: Matt Olson has played 935 consecutive games entering Friday, dating to May 2, 2021. His streak is the 8th-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 1,402 replay reviews, which have taken an average of one minute and twenty-five seconds. The 1,402 replay reviews consist of 1,222 Manager Challenges and 180 Crew Chief Reviews.

1,402 Replay Reviews
321 Confirmed (22.9%)
392 Stands (28.0%)
681 Overturned (48.6%)
4 Rules Check (0.3%)
4 Record Keeping (0.3%)
1:25 Average Time

LINE DRIVES

Compiled from Club Game Notes

THE CAMINER-SHOW: Between his walk-off home runs against the Athletics and Astros, Junior Caminero became the sixth Ray with multiple walk-off plate appearances in the same homestand and the first since José Lobaton on August 16 and 18, 2013. According to Elias, Caminero is the first player in franchise history to hit multiple walk-off home runs during the same homestand. He also joined Brandon Lowe (2023), Johnny Damon (2011), Evan Longoria (2011) and Carl Crawford (2003) as the only Rays with multiple walk-off home runs in a season. Caminero's most recent walk-off blast was his 41st home run of the season. Caminero remains the American League leader with 41 home runs, one ahead of Houston's Yordan Alvarez (40). Caminero is attempting to join Carlos Peña, who tied for the American League lead with 39 home runs in 2009, as the only Rays to earn at least a share of the league home run crown. He needs five home runs over Tampa Bay's final nine games to match Peña's franchise record of 46, set in 2007. Caminero has hit 22 of his 41 home runs at Tropicana Field, one shy of the franchise record for home runs at home in a single season, set by Peña with 23 in 2007.

I LIKE THE WAY HE ROCK IT: Ethan Salas, the Padres' top prospect and No. 23 overall prospect in MLB Pipeline's rankings, hit the first two home runs of his Major League career on Wednesday at 20 years, 107 days old. Salas became the youngest catcher in Major League history to record a multi-home run game. His first home run made him the youngest player to homer as a catcher since Iván Rodríguez on September 6, 1991. Salas also became the third-youngest Padre to hit his first career home run, trailing only Roberto Alomar and Fernando Tatis Jr. With his second home run in the fifth inning, Salas became the youngest player at any position to record a multi-home run game since Vladimir Guerrero Jr. in 2019. He is also the youngest Padre at any position to hit two home runs in a game. Salas became the youngest catcher in Major League history to record a multi-home run game, accomplishing the feat in San Diego's 9-3 win over Colorado.

ARENADO NEARING ANOTHER 25/75 SEASON: Nolan Arenado hit his 26th home run of the season on Tuesday night, a solo shot in the eighth inning against Miami, giving him 74 RBI on the year. He is now one RBI shy of recording his ninth career season with at least 25 home runs and 75 RBI. Arenado is looking to become the fifth third baseman since 1969, among players with at least 100 starts per season, with at least nine 25-home run, 75-RBI seasons. He would join Mike Schmidt (12 from 1974-87), Aramis Ramirez (10 from 2001-12), Manny Machado (10 from 2015-26) and Adrián Beltré (nine from 2004-16).

RANDY ON A RUN: Randy Arozarena went 1-for-3 with two walks and three runs scored on Wednesday night and has reached base safely in 16 consecutive games dating to August 31, tying the sixth-longest on-base streak of his career. During the 16-game streak, Arozarena is batting .349 (22-for-63) with 18 runs scored, four doubles, five home runs, 17 RBI, seven walks and three stolen bases. Arozarena is batting .278 (150-for-540) with 103 runs scored, 30 doubles, one triple, 25 home runs, 75 RBI, 23 stolen bases and 63 walks this season. He has already established a career high in runs scored and remains on pace for career highs in batting average, on-base percentage, slugging percentage, OPS, OPS+ and bWAR.

THE FIREMAN: Josh Hader is a perfect 26-for-26 in save opportunities this season. His 26 consecutive converted save opportunities to open the year are an Astros franchise record. Hader surpassed his previous club record of 25 consecutive converted save opportunities to begin a season. If he finishes the year without a blown save, he would become just the seventh pitcher in Major League history to record at least 26 saves without a blown save and the first since Ken Giles recorded 26 saves without a blown save in 2018.

10 FOR 10: The Nationals boast 10 players with at least 10 home runs this season: CJ Abrams (30), James Wood (30), Luis García Jr. (23), Daylen Lile (21), Curtis Mead (17), Andrés Chaparro (11), Dylan Crews (11), Brady House (10), Keibert Ruiz (10) and Jacob Young (10). Washington is tied with the Yankees for the second-most players in the Majors with at least 10 home runs this season, trailing only the Mets (11). The 2026 Nationals join the 2017 and 2019 clubs as the only teams in Nationals history, dating to 2005, with at least 10 players to hit at least 10 home runs in a season.

DEFENSE LIGHTS THE WAY: Per Baseball Savant, the Cubs lead the Majors this season in fielding run value (66) and Outs Above Average (68), while also leading the Majors with a .990 fielding percentage. Chicago's 66 fielding runs lead second-place Toronto (44), while its 68 Outs Above Average lead second-place Arizona (43). The Cubs also pace the Majors with 108 defensive runs saved, ahead of Tampa Bay (91). Chicago's 26 outfield assists are tied for the most in the National League and tied for fourth most in the Majors. Pete Crow-Armstrong leads the Majors in fielding run value (27) and Outs Above Average (26). Alex Bregman's eight Outs Above Average are tied for the second most among Major League third basemen.

THIS ONE GOES TO 11: The Mets have set a franchise record with 11 players reaching double-digit home runs in a single season. Francisco Alvarez, Brett Baty, Carson Benge, Bo Bichette, A.J. Ewing, Francisco Lindor, Luis Robert Jr., Marcus Semien, Juan Soto, Tyrone Taylor and Mark Vientos have each hit at least 10 home runs this season. The Mets are the only Major League team with 11 players to reach the 10-home run mark this season. The previous franchise record was 10 players with at least 10 home runs, set in 2017.

HIS NAME IS MY NAME TOO: Tuesday night's win began with Jacob deGrom allowing two runs over 5.0 innings before Jacob Latz closed things out with 1.2 scoreless innings to record his 30th save of the season. deGrom allowed three hits and one walk while striking out eight, improving to 11-9 on the year. Over his last four starts, deGrom is 2-0 with a 1.50 ERA, allowing four earned runs across 24.0 innings with two walks and 35 strikeouts while permitting just 12 baserunners. Only three pitchers in the Modern Era, dating to 1901, have recorded at least 35 strikeouts, two walks or fewer and 12 baserunners or fewer over a four-game span, with deGrom accomplishing the feat in three different seasons: 2021, 2022 and 2026. The others are Corbin Burnes in 2021 and Justin Verlander in 2019. Latz became the first left-handed pitcher in Washington/Texas franchise history to record a 30-save season since saves became an official statistic in 1969. He is also just the second Rangers pitcher in the last 10 seasons to record at least 30 saves in a season, joining Kirby Yates, who had 33 in 2024. Latz is 9-for-9 in save opportunities since August 7, while his 13 saves of at least four outs lead the Majors.



MLB ON-AIR THIS WEEK

(All Times ET)



Friday, September 18th:	Philadelphia Phillies @ New York Mets San Francisco Giants @ Los Angeles Dodgers	7:15 p.m. 10:15 p.m.	Apple TV Apple TV
Sunday, September 20th:	Milwaukee Brewers @ Baltimore Orioles	7:20 p.m.	Peacock/NBCSN
Tuesday, September 22th:	Tampa Bay Rays @ New York Yankees San Diego Padres @ Los Angeles Dodgers	7:05 p.m. 10:10 p.m.	TBS TBS
Thursday, September 24th:	Cincinnati Reds @ Atlanta Braves	7:15 p.m.	FS1

MLB ENTERS FINAL WEEK WITH POSTSEASON HOPEFULS IN NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

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

Thursday, September 17th:	Los Angeles Dodgers @ Cincinnati Reds Minnesota Twins @ Los Angeles Angels	12:40 p.m. 9:38 p.m.	
Friday, September 18th:	Chicago Cubs @ Cincinnati Reds	6:40 p.m.	
Saturday, September 19th:	Milwaukee Brewers @ Baltimore Orioles Atlanta Braves @ Houston Astros	4:05 p.m. 7:10 p.m.	
Sunday, September 20th:	Philadelphia Phillies @ New York Mets New York Yankees @ Arizona Diamondbacks	1:10 p.m. 4:10 p.m.	
Monday, September 21st:	Minnesota Twins @ San Francisco Giants	9:45 p.m.	
Thursday, September 24th:	St. Louis Cardinals @ Pittsburgh Pirates Arizona Diamondbacks @ Colorado Rockies San Diego Padres @ Los Angeles Dodgers	12:35 p.m. 3:10 p.m. 10:10 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



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!