

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL CARDS

INAUGURAL MLBC SEASON

# MLBC SEASON ONE

2022 GAME LOG



## SEASON PREVIEW

For the first time, Major League Baseball Cards has a season to play. Thirty clubs enter a forty-game sprint with no defending champion, no established hierarchy and no MLBC history to lean on. Every roster arrives as a theory waiting for the schedule to test it. Los Angeles carries the heaviest preseason expectation, while New York and Boston renew the sport's most familiar rivalry, Houston and Atlanta expect to contend, and San Diego, San Francisco, St. Louis and a long list of challengers believe the short race can belong to them. There will be no time to sleep through April, no long summer to erase a disastrous week and no reputation strong enough to bank wins in advance. Every four-game block consumes ten percent of the schedule; every sweep can redraw a division before a club has time to recover. The first standings, the first rivalries, the first records and the first champion are all still unwritten. The gates are open, the cards are on the table, and an entirely new baseball history is waiting on the other side of the first pitch. Opening Day will not simply begin a schedule. It will begin the league's memory.

*Because three of the best words in sports are...*

*It's Opening Day!*

## MLBC — WEEK 1

GAMES 1-4 • OPENING WEEK

## A LEAGUE COMES TO LIFE

*The first four games set an almost impossible standard.*

**THE LEAD** The inaugural MLBC season opened with no standings to defend and no history yet written. Kenta Maeda's first pitch to Akil Baddoo opened a 40-game sprint with marquee baseball everywhere: Chris Sale and Hyun Jin Ryu at Fenway, Gerrit Cole and the Yankees staring down Chicago, Clayton Kershaw opposite Shohei Ohtani in the Los Angeles rivalry, José Fernández against Max Scherzer, and Jacob deGrom waiting for the Cubs in Queens. Seattle drew Justin Verlander in Houston; San Francisco opened with Madison Bumgarner against Zack Greinke. Thirty clubs entered even. Four games later, the league already had a personality.

**THE WEEK** It took one night for the impossible to become the standard. Verlander no-hit Seattle for nine innings, yet Félix Hernández matched him at 0-0 until the bottom of the 9th, when Carlos Correa ended the duel with a 3-run walk-off HR. Then deGrom struck out 20 Cubs in a complete-game 2-hitter. The drama kept multiplying. Cedric Mullins finished Baltimore's opening sweep with a walk-off 3-run HR; Milwaukee erased late Pittsburgh leads twice before Willy Adames won it in the 12th; and Colorado stunned Los Angeles with back-to-back-to-back extra-inning HRs before completing the road sweep. The Mets simply bludgeoned the week, scoring 35 runs. Mike Piazza homered in all four games and drove in 10, Joey Gallo launched four HR for Texas, and Jeff McNeil drove in 10 as New York finished 3-1. Atlanta scored 12 in Washington, then was shut out the next day, another reminder that Opening Week would not sit still.

**THE STAKES** No club escaped Opening Week at 4-0. Instead, eleven teams crowded the top at 3-1, including Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Kansas City, Atlanta, Cincinnati, the Mets, San Diego, San Francisco and Washington. At the other end, Tampa Bay and Miami are already 0-4, while the Dodgers and Blue Jays leave at 1-3 with expectations suddenly carrying weight. Week 2 arrives with pressure built in: Baltimore goes into Yankee Stadium, Chicago visits Kansas City, Houston meets Texas, San Francisco carries its start into Dodger Stadium, and the Mets get Washington before traveling to Philadelphia. One week did not identify a favorite. It did something better: it gave the league stakes.

## TOP OF TABLE

11 clubs • 3-1

## HOT BAT

NYM • 35 runs

## EARLY TROUBLE

TBR / MIA • 0-4

## GAME OF WEEK

HOU 3 • SEA 0

## WEEKLY HONORS

## HITTER OF THE WEEK

**GOLD MIKE PIAZZA • NYM***HR in all 4 games • 10 RBI***SILVER JOEY GALLO • TEX***4 HR • 8 RBI • two 3-run HR on Opening Day***BRONZE JEFF McNEIL • NYM***10 RBI • 3-run comeback HR • Grand Slam*

## PITCHER OF THE WEEK

**GOLD JUSTIN VERLANDER • HOU***9 IP • 0 H • 1 BB • 10 K • no-hitter***SILVER JACOB deGROM • NYM***CG • 2 H • 0 BB • 20 K***BRONZE LUIS SEVERINO • NYY***CG SHO • 2 H • 0 BB • 11 K*

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 1 • TWINS SWEEP AT HOME • CRUZ GRAND SLAM • RED SOX SWEEP

## ROUND #1

## GAME #1 — DET 2 @ MIN 5

It's Opening Day! The Tigers vs Twins opened the 2022 season on 4/6/22. Kenta Maeda of the Twins threw the first pitch to Akil Baddoo, and the season was under way. Robbie Grossman had the first hit, a 1st inning 1B, but the Tigers were held scoreless. Byron Buxton led off for the Twins with a 2B, but he was stranded. Maeda pitched scoreless baseball until the 5th inning, when Spencer Torkelson hit the first HR of the season, and the first of his career, making it 1-0 for the Tigers. Matthew Boyd pitched scoreless baseball until the bottom of the 6th, when Eddie Rosario hit a 1-out 1B, Miguel Sano drew a 2-out walk, and Jorge Polanco hit a 3-run HR, putting the Twins up 3-1. The Twins added 2 more runs in the 8th inning, on a Luis Arraez 2-run 1B, and won Game #1, 5-2.

## GAME #2 — DET 5 @ MIN 6

Game #2 saw Tarik Skubal struck out 10 in 4 $\frac{2}{3}$  innings, but he gave up 2 runs in the 3rd inning, and 4 runs in the 5th. Down 2-0 in the 4th, the Tigers put together a rally, highlighted by a Robbie Grossman bases-clearing 3-run 2B, putting up 5 runs on Jose Berrios. But, in the bottom of the 5th, the Twins loaded the bases, and with 2 outs, Nelson Cruz hit a Grand Slam HR. The Tigers could not recover, and the Twins swept the home series with the 6-5 win.

## GAME #1 — TOR 1 @ BOS 7

Chris Sale was dominant against the Blue Jays in Boston. In the 5th inning, Sale gave up 3 singles, including an RBI by Lourdes Gurriel. Other than that, Sale only gave up 1 other hit across 7 innings, and Tanner Houck finished the game with 2 hitless innings. Xander Bogaerts followed a Rafael Devers single with a 2-run HR in the 2nd inning off of Hyun Jin Ryu, and in the 3rd inning, the Red Sox strung together 4 singles, including RBI from Devers and Bogaerts. In the 5th, David Ortiz hit a solo HR, and in the 6th, Wade Boggs had a sacrifice fly, and Dustin Pedroia followed with an RBI 1B, and the Red Sox dominated Game #1, 7-1.

## GAME #2 — TOR 4 @ BOS 5

Game #2 saw Wade Boggs lead off the game with a 1B, and score on a David Ortiz 2B, but in the 2nd inning Teoscar Hernandez hit a solo HR to tie the game. Aaron Sanchez and Eduardo Rodriguez held both teams scoreless in a pitching duel until the Red Sox got to Sanchez in the 7th. A Dustin Pedroia single scored Jackie Bradley, and then Ortiz broke open the game with a bases loaded 3-run 2B. Down 5-1, the Blue Jays fought back in the 8th against Garrett Whitlock with a Bo Bichette solo HR and a Jose Bautista 2-run HR, but Matt Barnes shut down the Blue Jays in the 9th, striking out the side for the save, and the Red Sox started the season with a home sweep.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 1 • MULLINS WALK-OFF • RUTSCHMAN FOUR RBI • KLUBER FANS 11

**GAME #1 — TBR 4 @ BAL 5**

The first surprise of the season came when the Baltimore Orioles swept the Tampa Bay Rays. John Means outdueled Tyler Glasnow, shutting down the Rays until the 6th inning, giving up only 2 runs and no walks in 8 innings. In the 4th inning, Eddie Murray and Cal Ripken Jr scored on Adley Rutschman's 1st MLBC hit, putting the Orioles up 2-0. In the 5th inning, Cedric Mullins hit the Orioles' first HR of the season, putting his team up 3-0. Kevin Kiermaier scored after his 2B on a Wander Franco RBI 1B in the 6th inning, and Mike Zunino added an RBI 1B in the 7th. Up 3-2 in the 8th, Adley Rutschman came through again with a 2-run 1B. In the 9th inning, the Rays fought back against Zach Britton, making the game 5-4, but Wander Franco ended the game with the bases loaded, and the Orioles won Game #1 at home.

**GAME #2 — TBR 5 @ BAL 6**

Game #2 started with the Rays' Wander Franco hitting a 1-out 2B off of Jordan Lyles, and scoring on Hunter Renfroe's 2-out 2B. Baltimore took the lead with 3 runs off of Shane McClellan in the bottom of the 1st, when Cedric Mullins led off with a 2B, scored on Trey Mancini's RBI 2B, and Ryan Mountcastle hit a 2-run 1B. Tampa Bay tied the game in the 4th when Franco hit an RBI 1B, and they took the lead in the 5th when Kevin Kiermaier drew a bases-loaded walk, and Franco hit an RBI 1B. Tampa Bay was expecting to even the series, taking a 5-3 lead into the bottom of the 9th, but Baltimore produced the first big moment of the season when Cedric Mullins continued his hot start, ending the game with a game-winning walk-off 3-run HR. It was a wild finish, and sent the Rays home with a disappointing 0-2 start. Cedric Mullins is off to a torrid start going 4 for 7, with a 2B, 2 HR, 4 RBI, 3 SB, and a walk-off game winner. Zach Britton picked up the win with a scoreless 9th.

**GAME #1 — KCR 5 @ CLE 4**

The Royals and Guardians were scoreless when Carlos Santana led off the bottom of the 4th inning with the first HR of the season for Cleveland. The Royals could not break through against Shane Bieber until the 6th inning, when George Brett hit a 2-run HR, giving the Royals a 2-1 lead. In the bottom of the 6th, Cleveland broke open the game with 4 hits and a walk off of Yordano Ventura, taking a 4-2 lead. But that lead did not hold up as the Royals broke through against Bieber with 4 singles in a row after a lead off walk, giving the Royals a 5-4 lead. Kansas City held onto the lead, winning Game #1 in Cleveland, 5-4. Daniel Lynch picked up the win in relief.

**GAME #2 — KCR 2 @ CLE 3**

George Brett continued his hot start to the season with a 1st inning solo HR, and the Royals held the 1-0 lead until the 5th inning, when Tyler Naquin hit a leadoff 3B off of Brad Keller, and scored on a Yan Gomes sacrifice fly. Corey Kluber pitched a dominant game, giving up only 1 run in 7 innings, while striking out 11. In the bottom of the 6th, with the score tied 1-1, Jim Thome hit a 2-run HR that provided the difference in Cleveland's 3-2 win. George Brett has started the season 5 for 10 with 2 HR and 4 RBI.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 1 • VERLANDER NO-HITTER • WHITE SOX SWEEP • GALLO TWO HOMERS

**GAME #1 — CHW 5 @ NYY 4**

The White Sox were up against a formidable task facing the Yankee lineup and Gerrit Cole, but they struck first in the 2nd inning with an Eloy Jimenez 2B, and a Yasmani Grandal RBI 1B. In the bottom of the 2nd inning the Yankees scored twice against Lucas Giolito, and they scored again in the 5th on an Alex Rodriguez solo HR. Gerrit Cole was cruising when Frank Thomas hit a 2-run 2B in the 6th inning, and Jimenez followed with a 2-run HR, giving the White Sox a sudden 5-4 lead. Chicago benefited from 4 scoreless innings from their bullpen, getting the Game #1 win in New York.

**GAME #2 — CHW 7 @ NYY 4**

The White Sox continued their hot start when Jose Abreu hit a 2-run HR in the 1st inning off of Masahiro Tanaka, but Don Mattingly answered in the bottom of the 1st with a solo HR off of Lance Lynn, and Giancarlo Stanton hit a solo HR in the 2nd inning, tying the game 2-2. In the 3rd inning Alex Rodriguez followed a Derek Jeter 2B with a 2-run HR, and the Yankees took a 4-2 lead. The White Sox tied the game in the 5th inning with a Yasmani Grandal solo HR, and a Nick Madrigal RBI 1B, and they took the lead in the 6th on a Yoan Moncada RBI 1B. The White Sox sealed the win in the 7th inning on RBI from Eloy Jimenez and Grandal, taking a 7-4 lead, riding their strong bullpen to the win. The White Sox bullpen has started the season with 7 scoreless innings as they swept the Yankees in New York.

**GAME #1 — OAK 7 @ TEX 13**

Texas started the season with a Joey Gallo 3-run HR in the 1st inning, and Juan Gonzalez went back-to-back with a solo HR, giving the Rangers a 4-0 lead on Chris Bassitt. Matt Chapman hit a 2-run HR off of Kyle Gibson in the 2nd inning, cutting the lead in half, but Nathaniel Lowe hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd, putting Texas up 6-2. The Rangers broke the game open in the 7th with 5 runs, highlighted by another 3-run HR from Joey Gallo. In the 8th inning, Adrian Beltre added a 2-run 2B to give the Rangers their 13th run. Oakland scored 4 runs in the 9th, but the game was long over.

**GAME #2 — OAK 4 @ TEX 0**

Frankie Montas turned the tide in Game #2, shutting out the Rangers over 9 innings, scattering 7 hits, giving up 1 walk, and striking out 9. It was a needed performance to give the A's the road split. Matt Olson handled the offense with a solo HR in the 3rd, and a 2-run 1B in the 4th off of Dane Dunning.

**GAME #1 — SEA 0 @ HOU 3**

NO-HITTER!! Justin Verlander opened his season with a no-hitter, breezing through the Seattle lineup, with the one blemish being a lone walk in the 4th, while striking out 10. What an event it was, because Felix Hernandez matched Verlander almost the entire game, holding the Astros scoreless until the bottom of the 9th. It was truly a pitching duel for the ages. One pitcher had a no-hitter through 9 innings, and still didn't have the lead. Hernandez succumbed to fatigue in the end, walking Michael Brantley, and giving up a single to Yuli Gurriel. The manager had no choice but to bring in closer Fernando Rodney, who promptly gave up a 3-run walk-off HR to Carlos Correa. It was truly one of the most dramatic baseball games ever played, and it was on Opening Day.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 1 • DEGROM FANS 20 • OHTANI FANS 12 • CONTRERAS WINS IN 12

**GAME #2 — SEA 3 @ HOU 6**

Joe Musgrove continued the Mariners' frustrating start to the season with 3 no-hit innings, and it wasn't until the 13th inning of the season that the M's secured their first hit, when Ken Griffey Jr hit a solo HR, giving the M's a 1-0 lead. Jeff Bagwell tied the game with a solo HR in the bottom of the inning, but Kyle Seager hit a solo HR in the 5th for the M's second hit of the season, taking a 2-1 lead. The Astros scored 3 runs in the bottom of the 5th against Marco Gonzales, highlighted by a Kyle Tucker RBI 3B, and 2 more runs in the 6th on RBI from Alex Bregman and Jose Altuve, giving the Astros a 6-2 lead. Mitch Haniger had a solo HR in the 7th, but the M's went quietly 6-3, securing only 4 hits in the 2-game series.

**GAME #1 — LAD 1 @ LAA 5**

The Opening Day matchup of Clayton Kershaw and Shohei Ohtani in a rivalry game had the crowd buzzing. The Dodgers got to Ohtani in the top of the 3rd inning with a Mookie Betts 2B, and a Max Muncy RBI 1B, but the Angels came back in the bottom of the 3rd when Albert Pujols hit a 3-run HR. Ohtani only gave up 1 other hit in his 7 innings, while striking out 12, leading the Angels to a 5-1 win. Pujols went 3-4 with 3 RBI & 2 runs scored.

**GAME #2 — LAD 5 @ LAA 2**

The Angels got 3 walks in the 2nd inning, and Andrelton Simmons hit a 2-run 2B off of Walker Buehler, giving the Angels a 2-1 lead. Patrick Sandoval had only given up 2 hits before the 6th inning, when Adrian Gonzalez connected for a 2-run HR, and Cody Bellinger followed with a solo HR, giving the Dodgers a 4-2 lead. Buehler was dominant, and finished 8 innings only giving up the lone Simmons hit and the 3 walks in the 2nd inning, leading the Dodgers to the 5-2 win.

**GAME #1 — CHC 1 @ NYM 8**

Jacob deGrom pitched one of the finest games in history with his MLB-record tying 20 strikeouts during a complete game 2-hitter. It was an utterly dominant pitching performance. deGrom finished with 0 walks and 20 strikeouts, while giving up one 1B from Ian Happ, and one solo HR from Anthony Rizzo. The Mets backed deGrom with 3 runs in the 4th, and 5 runs in the 6th. Mike Piazza hit a 3-run HR and David Wright had a 2-run 1B in the Mets thrilling 8-1 win.

**GAME #2 — CHC 9 @ NYM 6**

Game #2 saw the Cubs fight back behind a strong performance from Jake Arrieta. The Cubs broke through with 4 runs against Noah Syndergaard in the 3rd inning capped by a Kyle Schwarber 2-run 1B. Arrieta had only given up 1 hit in his first 4 $\frac{2}{3}$  innings when Jeff McNeil hit an RBI 1B, making it 4-1. Mike Piazza hit a solo HR in the 7th, making it 4-2, but the Cubs seeming put away the game in the top of the 8th with a Javier Baez 2-run HR. Going to the bottom of the 9th up 6-2, the Cubs felt good, until Jeff McNeil connected for a 3-run HR, pulling the Mets to 6-5 with only 1 out. Gary Carter followed with a 2B, and Francisco Lindor tied the game with a 2-out RBI 2B. The game remained 6-6 until the 12th inning, when Willson Contreras hit a 2-out 3-run HR to take a 9-6 lead. The Mets' dramatic 9th inning comeback was for naught, and the Cubs earned the road split. Jose Quintana earned the win in relief.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 1 • ROBLES WALK-OFF 2B • BRAVES HOME SWEEP • REDS BLANK CARDS

**GAME #1 — MIA 3 @ WSH 4**

Game #1 saw Jose Fernandez matched up against Max Scherzer. The game was scoreless into the 3rd inning, when Jazz Chisholm opened the scoring with a solo HR, but the lead didn't last long as Ryan Zimmerman hit a 2-run HR in the bottom of the 3rd. Garrett Cooper hit a solo HR in the 4th, making it 3-2, and the game went to the 8th inning, when Howie Kendrick added a solo HR to give the Nationals a 4-2 lead. Miguel Rojas hit a solo HR in the 9th, but it was not enough, and the Nationals won 4-3.

**GAME #2 — MIA 1 @ WSH 2**

Game #2 saw Stephen Strasburg and Sandy Alcantara both pitch strong games. The Nationals scored 1 run in the 4th inning on a Michael Taylor RBI 1B, but the Marlins tied the game in the 6th inning on a Jazz Chisholm RBI 1B. Strasburg finished his gem giving up only the lone run through 9 innings, but the game was still tied 1-1 going to the bottom of the 9th. Jayson Werth led off the 9th drawing a walk from Sixto Sanchez, and then scored the game-winner on a walk-off RBI 2B by Victor Robles, giving the Nationals the 2-1 win and the home sweep.

**GAME #1 — PHI 3 @ ATL 6**

The Braves' Travis d'Arnaud hit an RBI 1B in the bottom of the 2nd inning, only to have the Phillies rally with 2 runs in the top of the 3rd, with a Jean Segura solo HR, and a JT Realmuto RBI 2B, but the Braves tied the game in the bottom of the 3rd on a Chipper Jones RBI 1B. The game went to the bottom of the 6th inning tied 2-2, when d'Arnaud and Ronald Acuna both hit solo HRs, driving Zack Wheeler from the game. The Phillies fought back with 1 in the 7th, making it 4-3, but the Braves added 2 more runs in the 7th on a Marcell Ozuna RBI 1B, and a d'Arnaud RBI 2B. Will Smith and Craig Kimbrel came in to finish the Braves' 6-3 win, giving Max Fried the win.

**GAME #2 — PHI 4 @ ATL 5**

Game #2 saw Fred McGriff hit a 1st inning 2-run HR off of Aaron Nola, but the Phillies tied it in the 3rd inning when Rhys Hoskins hit a 2-run HR off of Charlie Morton. Freddie Freeman hit his own 2-run HR in the 5th, but it was negated in the 7th inning by an RBI 2B from Lenny Dykstra, and a Hoskins RBI 1B. Tied 4-4, Dansby Swanson won the game with a 2-out RBI 2B in the bottom of the 8th, AJ Minter got the win in relief, and Craig Kimbrel finished the 5-4 sweep with his 2nd save.

**GAME #1 — STL 0 @ CIN 5**

The Cardinals failed to capitalize on their opportunities against Luis Castillo. Castillo gave up 5 hits and 6 walks, but the Cardinals couldn't break through, and they suffered an opening day shutout. Tyler Stephenson hit a 2nd inning solo HR off of Jack Flaherty, and Joey Votto hit a solo HR in the 3rd. Mike Moustakas hit a 3-run HR in the 6th, and the Reds opened the season with a 5-0 home win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 1 • ADAMES WALK-OFF HIT • DARVISH SHUTOUT • PADRES HOME SWEEP

**GAME #2 — STL 3 @ CIN 4**

Nick Castellanos had an RBI 1B in the 1st inning, and a 2-run 1B in the 3rd, accounting for the Reds' 3-0 lead. Sonny Gray had a 4-hit shutout going into the 6th inning when he gave up a solo HR to Nolan Arenado, and then Gray got chased in the 8th when Paul Goldschmidt hit a solo HR, making the game 3-2. Nolan Arenado greeted Lucas Sims with his second solo HR of the game, tying the score at 3-3, and the Cardinals had new life. But it didn't last long, as Mike Moustakas had an RBI 1B in the bottom of the 8th, giving the Reds the home sweep.

**GAME #1 — PIT 4 @ MIL 8**

The Milwaukee Brewers had a great offensive start to the season, as Robin Yount and Christian Yelich both hit solo HRs in their first at-bats of the season, Keston Hiura hit an RBI 2B in the 2nd inning, Yount hit an RBI 3B, and Lorenzo Cain and Hiura had RBI in the 3rd. The Brewers had a commanding 7-1 lead on Jameson Taillon after 3 innings, allowing Corbin Burnes to cruise to the victory. Burnes had 11 strikeouts in 6 innings, giving up 2 runs, an RBI 2B by Josh Bell in the 3rd, and an RBI 1B by Kevin Newman in the 4th. Bell hit a solo HR in the 7th to make it 8-3, and in the 9th, the Pirates actually had a glimmer of hope, scoring 1 run and loading the bases, but the Brewers held on for the 8-4 win.

**GAME #2 — PIT 4 @ MIL 5**

Game #2 saw Chris Archer out-duel Brandon Woodruff. Both pitchers took shutouts into the 5th inning, but the Pirates scored first when Kevin Newman hit an RBI 1B in the 5th, and Josh Bell hit a 2-run 1B in the 6th. Up 3-0, Archer was allowed to go for the shutout in the 9th, but he promptly gave up a 3B to Ryan Braun. He was pulled for closer Mark Melancon, who gave up an RBI 1B to Willy Adames, a 2B to Lorenzo Cain, and a 2-run 1B to Jace Peterson, tying the game 3-3. The Brewers bullpen gave up a run in the 12th, after 4 scoreless innings, when Roberto Clemente hit what looked like the game-winner with an RBI 1B, but the Brewers would not be denied the sweep. Ryan Braun drew a walk, Rowdy Tellez hit a 2B, and Willy Adames hit a 2-run walk-off 1B off of David Bednar. The Pirates almost won the game twice, but the Brewers would not be denied the home sweep. Jake Cousins got the win in relief.

**GAME #1 — COL 0 @ SDP 5**

The San Diego Padres struck first when Manny Machado hit a sacrifice fly, and Dave Winfield hit a 3-run HR off of German Marquez, and that was all the Padres needed. Yu Darvish pitched a dominant 3-hit complete game shutout, with just 2 walks and 11 strikeouts. Fernando Tatis Jr hit a solo HR in the 3rd, and the Padres won the game easily 5-0.

**GAME #2 — COL 2 @ SDP 3**

Game #2 saw more of the same, no runs for the Rockies. The Padres scored 1 run in the 2nd inning when Wil Myers hit an RBI 1B off of Kyle Freeland, and 1 more in the 5th on a Tony Gwynn RBI 2B. The Padres took a 2-0 lead into the 8th inning, when Carlos Gonzalez got the Rockies on the scoreboard, after 16 scoreless innings to start the season, with a game-tying 2-run HR. The Rockies had new hope, but Dave Winfield quickly answered with a 2B, scoring on a Wil Myers 2-out RBI 1B. Kirby Yates made his season debut and closed out the game, but not without drama. Yates walked 2 before striking out Charlie Blackmon to end the game, giving the Padres the home sweep.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 1 • GIANTS SWEEP ARIZONA • MANCINI WALK-OFF • SEVERINO SHUTOUT

**GAME #1 — SFG 4 @ ARI 2**

Game #1 saw Zack Greinke and Madison Bumgarner engaged in a pitching duel until Mike Yastrzemski led off the 6th with a solo HR and then, after Barry Bonds hit a 1-out 1B, Buster Posey hit a decisive 2-run HR. Wilmer Flores added a solo HR in the 7th, giving the Giants a 4-0 lead. The Diamondbacks fought back with 1 run in the 7th inning, and made it interesting in the 9th when they scored 1 more run, and brought the winning run to the plate with no outs. With runners on 2nd and 3rd, and the winning run at the plate, Camilo Doval got 3 outs in a row, striking out 2, earning his first save of the season.

**GAME #2 — SFG 3 @ ARI 2**

Barry Bonds hit a 2-run HR in the top of the 1st inning to take a 2-0 lead off of Robbie Ray, but Arizona fought back with an RBI by Eric Chavez in the 1st, and an RBI 2B by Ketel Marte in the 2nd, tying the game 2-2. Kevin Gausman and Robbie Ray both settled in, each going 7 innings, and neither giving up any more runs. Buster Posey hit a go-ahead solo HR off of Brad Ziegler, which proved to be the game winner, as Arizona could not get a tying run against the Giants bullpen. Camilo Doval finished off the sweep with his second save.

**ROUND #2****GAME #3 — BOS 3 @ BAL 4**

Game #1 saw the Red Sox going into Baltimore, with veteran David Price facing young Keegan Akin. Bobby Dalbec hit a solo HR in the 2nd inning, but Akin only gave up that 1 run over 6 innings. Down 1-0 in the 6th, the Orioles rallied with a Cal Ripken Jr 2-run 1B. Dustin Pedroia hit a solo HR in the 7th inning, tying the game 2-2, and then scored the go-ahead run on a Xander Bogaerts' RBI 1B in the 9th off of Zach Britton, giving the Red Sox the 3-2 lead. Matt Barnes couldn't close out the game, as Adam Jones hit a game-tying RBI 3B, and then Trey Mancini won the game, hitting a walk-off RBI 1B, giving the Orioles a 4-3 upset.

**GAME #4 — BOS 5 @ BAL 4**

The Red Sox scored 2 runs in the 1st inning on RBI 1Bs by Rafael Devers and Xander Bogaerts, but they regretted leaving the bases loaded when Trey Mancini hit a go-ahead 3-run HR off of Nathan Eovaldi in the 3rd. The Red Sox rallied with 3 runs in the 5th on a 2-run 1B by Alex Verdugo and an RBI 1B by Jason Varitek, taking a 5-3 lead. The O's scored 1 run in the bottom of the 5th on a Cal Ripken Jr RBI 1B, but they couldn't do any more damage as the Red Sox bullpen pitched 3 shutout innings.

**GAME #3 — TBR 0 @ NYY 1**

The New York crowd was on edge as the Yankees came into the game 0-2, and were shutout into the 7th inning. Drew Rasmussen and Luis Severino were locked into a scoreless pitching duel, until Derek Jeter hit an RBI 1B in the 7th. Severino didn't give up a hit until the 5th inning, and finished the game with a 2-hit complete-game shutout, striking out 11, walking none. Rasmussen opened the game with 5 strikeouts in a row, and finished the game with 13 strikeouts in 7 innings. The Jeter hit proved decisive, and the Yankees averted the disaster of an 0-3 start with the 1-0 win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 1 • SEMIEN GRAND SLAM • TIGERS SCORE ELEVEN • ABREU HOMERS IN 10

**GAME #4 — TBR 2 @ NYY 10**

Game #2 was much more what the Yankee fans had been expecting as they scored 4 runs in the 1st inning off of Ryan Yarbrough, on 2-run 1Bs from DJ LeMahieu and Aaron Hicks, 3 in the 4th inning, on RBI from Don Mattingly, Aaron Judge, and Giancarlo Stanton, and 3 more runs in the 5th inning, taking a 10-1 lead. Jordan Montgomery gave up just 5 hits and 0 walks over 6 innings, while striking out 9, earning the win.

**GAME #3 — TOR 5 @ CLE 0**

JA Happ pitched a great game for the Blue Jays, giving up just 4 hits and 3 walks over 6 shutout innings. Lourdes Gurriel had a 2-run 1B in the 2nd inning, and Roberto Alomar hit a solo HR in the 3rd, giving the Blue Jays a 3-0 lead that they carried to the 8th inning. In the 8th, Marcus Semien had his third hit of the game, a 2-run HR, giving the Blue Jays a 5-0 win in Cleveland.

**GAME #4 — TOR 9 @ CLE 11**

Game #2 was a wild game. Franmil Reyes hit a 3-run HR off of Alek Manoah in the 1st inning to give Cleveland an early 3-0 lead, but in the top of the 2nd, Marcus Semien hit a Grand Slam HR off of Zach Plesac. The 4-3 lead was short-lived as Cleveland scored 1 in the bottom of the 2nd, tying the game 4-4, but Toronto took the lead back when Vladimir Guerrero Jr hit a 2-run HR, taking a 6-4 lead. But that too was short-lived, as Yan Gomes hit a 3-run HR in the bottom of the 6-run inning for Cleveland, who held a 10-6 lead after just 3 innings. Jose Bautista hit a 3-run HR in the 5th to make the game 10-9, but the Blue Jays could score no more. Jose Ramirez hit a solo HR in the 7th, and the Cleveland bullpen had 4 scoreless innings to preserve the 11-9 win.

**GAME #3 — CHW 3 @ DET 11**

Detroit started the game well against Carlos Rodon, hitting two 1Bs and drawing two walks, before Spencer Torkelson hit a 2-run 1B. Jeimer Candelario followed with a 3-run HR, giving the Tigers a 6-0 1st inning lead. Daz Cameron hit a solo HR in the 2nd inning, making it 7-0. The White Sox scored 2 runs in the 3rd inning on a Frank Thomas 2-run 2B off of Casey Mize, but Robbie Grossman hit a 4th inning solo HR, and it was 8-2. In the 7th inning the Tigers scored 3 more runs on a 2-run 1B from Victor Reyes, and an RBI 2B from Niko Goodrum, and they won the game in a rout, 11-3.

**GAME #4 — CHW 8 @ DET 5**

Jose Abreu hit a 2-run HR off of Matt Manning in the 1st, but the Tigers fought back in the 3rd inning with 3 runs off of Dallas Keuchel, when Victor Martinez hit a 2-run 1B, and Jeimer Candelario hit an RBI 1B, taking a 3-2 lead. In the 4th inning, Niko Goodrum hit a solo HR, but Frank Thomas hit a 2-run 2B in the top of the 5th to tie the game, 4-4. Victor Martinez hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 5th to take the lead back, but Frank Thomas hit a solo HR in the 8th to tie the game again, and the game went to the 10th inning. In the 10th, Jose Abreu hit a solo HR, and Yoan Moncada hit a 2-run HR, giving the White Sox the lead. The White Sox bullpen pitched their 5th scoreless inning of the game to close it out, winning 8-5. Liam Hendriks got the win in relief.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 1 • WITT WALK-OFF HR • LEWIS WINS IN NINTH • CANHA PINCH-HIT HR

**GAME #3 — MIN 2 @ KCR 6**

Brady Singer pitched a gem to lead the Royals to a 6-2 win, giving up only 3 hits and 1 run over 7 innings. Whit Merrifield led off the game with a solo HR, Bo Jackson hit a solo HR in the 5th, and Alex Gordon hit a 2-run 3B in the 6th to lead the Royals' offense against Jake Odorizzi. Minnesota was scoreless until the 8th when Byron Buxton hit a solo HR. Jorge Polanco added an RBI 2B in the 9th, but it was not enough as the Twins lost 6-2.

**GAME #4 — MIN 6 @ KCR 7**

Game #2 was quite a game. Jorge Polanco gave the Twins a 1-0 lead in the top half of the 2nd inning with a solo HR off of Kris Bubic, but Bobby Witt Jr had his second hit of the season in the bottom half, a 2-out 3-run HR off of Joe Ryan, giving the Royals a 3-1 lead. Josh Donaldson hit a solo HR in the 3rd, but Salvador Perez hit a 3-run HR in the bottom of the 3rd, giving the Royals a 6-2 lead. The Twins came back, scoring 3 runs in the 4th inning, on a Nelson Cruz solo HR, and a Luis Arraez 2-run 1B. In the 5th inning Cruz tied the game with an RBI 2B. It went 6-6 to the bottom of the 9th, when Witt sent the crowd into a frenzy with his first walk-off hit, a game-winning solo HR, giving the Royals a 7-6 win, and the home sweep. Greg Holland got the win in relief.

**GAME #3 — SEA 3 @ LAA 5**

Edwin Encarnacion hit an RBI 2B off of Andrew Heaney in the top of the 1st, but the Angels scored 2 runs in the 3rd inning on a Shohei Ohtani 2-run HR. The Angels added 2 more runs in the 4th on an RBI 1B from Justin Upton, and an RBI 2B from Max Stassi, and another run in the 6th on an RBI 1B from Andrelton Simmons, taking a 5-1 lead. In the 8th inning, Ken Griffey Jr hit a 2-run HR, but it wasn't enough as the M's lost 5-3.

**GAME #4 — SEA 5 @ LAA 3**

Ty France gave the M's the lead in the 2nd inning of Game #2 with an RBI 1B off of Garrett Richards, but Anthony Rendon hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 2nd to tie the game. Robinson Cano hit an RBI 2B in the 3rd, and Kyle Lewis made it 3-1 with an RBI 1B in the 5th. Rendon tied the game with a 2-run HR in the bottom half of the 5th, and it stayed 3-3 until the 9th inning, when Lewis hit a 2-out 2-run HR to win the game 5-3. Logan Gilbert got his first win, and Fernando Rodney got the save.

**GAME #3 — OAK 2 @ HOU 1**

Sean Manaea gave up a 1st inning solo HR to Jose Altuve, but that turned out to be the only run for Houston in this game. Lance McCullers pitched an even better game, giving up only a lone single before Seth Brown tied the game with a solo HR in the 5th. McCullers finished the game giving up only those 2 hits, and striking out 13 in 8 innings, however Ryan Pressly gave up a game-winning solo HR to Mark Canha, who won the game as a pinch hitter 2-1. Kendall Graveman got the win in relief.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 1 • GALLO FOUR IN FOUR • BELTRE WINS IN 10TH • CORREA SEALS WIN

**GAME #4 — OAK 5 @ HOU 7**

Matt Chapman gave Oakland the early lead with an RBI 2B off of Framber Valdez in the 1st inning, but Michael Brantley tied the game in the 2nd with an RBI 1B off of Cole Irvin. A solo HR by Starling Marte in the 3rd inning gave Oakland the lead again, but Carlos Correa tied the game with an RBI 1B. In the 6th inning Houston scored 4 runs highlighted by a 2-run 2B from Kyle Tucker, giving Houston a 6-2 lead. Khris Davis hit a 2-run 1B in the 7th inning, but Correa hit a solo HR in the bottom half to seal the 7-5 win.

**GAME #3 — TEX 5 @ ARI 4**

The Rangers began the scoring in the 2nd inning with Joey Gallo's league-leading 3rd HR, but Arizona fought back with a Geraldo Perdomo 2-run 2B in the 3rd, and another 2-run 2B in the 4th. The Diamondbacks took their 4-1 lead to the 8th, but the Diamondbacks' leaky bullpen could not finish the game, giving up a 2-run HR to Josh Hamilton in the 8th, and a run-scoring 2B by Isiah Kiner-Falefa to tie the game in the 9th. Then, Adrian Beltre hit a solo HR to win the game in the 10th. The Rangers' bullpen completed the comeback with 4 scoreless innings, and Joe Barlow earned the win.

**GAME #4 — TEX 4 @ ARI 5**

Game #2 saw Arizona come out strong. Kolby Allard struggled with three 1st inning walks, and an RBI 1B to Eric Chavez, Christian Walker added an RBI 1B in the 2nd, and Carson Kelly hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd, giving Arizona a 5-0 lead. Joey Gallo hit his 4th HR in his 4th game in the 7th inning, ending Merrill Kelly's shutout, and the Rangers scored 2 more in the 8th, on RBI 1Bs from Isiah Kiner-Falefa and Adrian Beltre. The game was 5-4, but the Rangers could not complete the comeback, and Archie Bradley sent the Rangers home earning the split for the Diamondbacks 5-4.

**GAME #3 — PHI 3 @ CIN 1**

The Phillies scored 3 runs in the 3rd when Tyler Mahle gave up 4 walks and 2 singles, RBI to Lenny Dykstra, Bryce Harper, and Ryan Howard. Nick Castellanos hit a solo HR in the 5th, but that was the only scoring for the Reds in the 3-1 loss. Cole Hamels pitched well in the win, giving up only the lone run in 6 innings. Jonathan Papelbon pitched a perfect 9th for his first save.

**GAME #4 — PHI 4 @ CIN 5**

The Reds took the lead with 3 runs off of Cliff Lee in the 2nd inning on a 2-run HR by Nick Senzel, and an RBI 2B by Joey Votto. The Phillies fought back with 3 runs in the 3rd inning when Bryce Harper hit a 2-out 3-run HR off of Anthony DeSclafani. The Reds took the lead back for good in the 5th, on RBI from Eugenio Suarez and Tyler Stephenson, and they held on for a 5-4 win, securing the home split.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 1 • RILEY TWO HR, FIVE RBI • METS SCORE 21 • NATS BLANK BRAVES

**GAME #3 — ATL 12 @ WSH 1**

The Braves routed the Nationals, and Ian Anderson and the Braves' bullpen pitched a strong game. Anderson gave up just 1 run while striking out 9 in 5 innings. The Braves offense scored 4 runs in the 2nd inning, with RBI from Ron Gant, Travis d'Arnaud, Dansby Swanson, and Ronald Acuna, 2 more runs in the 3rd when Austin Riley hit a 2-run HR, and 2 more in the 4th, on RBI from Marcell Ozuna and Riley. Atlanta was ahead 8-0 when Washington finally scored, an RBI 1B from Starlin Castro. Riley hit his 2nd HR of the game in the 7th, and then an RBI sacrifice fly in the 8th, finishing the game with 5 RBI. Gio Gonzalez had a regrettable opening game, giving up 8 runs in just 3½ innings.

**GAME #4 — ATL 0 @ WSH 2**

Game #2 was quite a turnaround for the Nationals. Jordan Zimmermann came up huge for Washington, pitching 7½ shutout innings, only giving up 4 hits. In the 3rd inning, the Nationals took the lead when Howie Kendrick hit a 2-out RBI 2B, and then Juan Soto hit a solo HR in the 8th to increase the lead. The Nationals bullpen shut the door, securing the 2-0 win and the home split.

**GAME #3 — MIA 5 @ NYM 7**

Gary Carter hit an RBI 2B off of Trevor Rogers in the 2nd inning to give the Mets an early 1-0 lead, but Jazz Chisholm hit an RBI 1B, and Jesus Sanchez hit a 3-run HR in the Marlins' 4-run 3rd inning. The Mets pulled within 1 run when Jeff McNeil hit a 2-run 1B, and in the 5th inning the Mets took a 6-4 lead on a Mike Piazza 2-run HR. Pete Alonso added a solo HR in the 7th, and the Mets' bullpen finished the 7-5 win. Marcus Stroman earned the win for the Mets.

**GAME #4 — MIA 5 @ NYM 14**

Game #2 saw the teams go to the 5th inning tied 1-1 when the Mets scored 5 runs against Pablo Lopez on RBI from Francisco Lindor, Mike Piazza, Darryl Strawberry, and Michael Conforto. 10 Mets came to the plate in the 5th inning, but then 11 more Mets came to the plate in the 6th. The 6th inning saw 2Bs by Brandon Nimmo and Lindor, a 2-run HR by Piazza, a solo HR by Strawberry, and a Grand Slam HR by Jeff McNeil, giving the Mets the 14-5 win. Mike Piazza and Jeff McNeil both had 6 RBI in the series, and the Mets put up 29 hits and 21 runs in the home sweep. Taijuan Walker pitched well for the Mets, giving up no walks, 5 hits, and only 1 run, earning the win.

**GAME #3 — CHC 1 @ PIT 4**

Game #1 saw the Pirates get the win against Jon Lester with a 3-run 3rd inning as Josh Bell hit an RBI 3B and Ke'Bryan Hayes hit an RBI 2B. JT Brubaker pitched a strong game for the win, giving up just 5 hits and 1 run to the Cubs. Jason Heyward hit a solo HR for the Cubs lone run.

**GAME #4 — CHC 8 @ PIT 3**

The Cubs broke out in Game #2 taking a 6-0 lead into the 7th. Kyle Schwarber and Jason Heyward hit HRs, and Kris Bryant and Javier Baez added RBI. Andy Van Slyke hit a 3-run HR to give the Pirates hope, but Willson Contreras hit a 2-run HR to seal the Cubs' 8-3 win. Wade Miley pitched a strong game, giving up 4 hits and 0 runs in 6 innings. Ke'Bryan Hayes went 4 for 7 with 3 2Bs in the series.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 1 • ROCKIES SWEEP IN LA • GRAY STRIKES OUT 13 • BONDS GRAND SLAM

**GAME #3 — MIL 4 @ STL 5**

Christian Yelich had a 1st inning RBI 1B off of Miles Mikolas, but Tyler O'Neill hit a 2-run 1B off of Freddy Peralta in the bottom half to take the lead. Paul Molitor hit a solo HR in the 3rd inning to tie the game, but Mark McGwire gave the Cardinals the lead back in the bottom half with an RBI 2B. Robin Yount hit a 2-run HR in the 5th to put the Brewers up 4-3, but McGwire answered again in the bottom of the 5th with an RBI 1B. The game went to the 8th inning tied 4-4, when Nolan Arenado hit a solo HR to give the Cardinals the 5-4 win, breaking through against Devin Williams. Trevor Rosenthal earned the win in relief.

**GAME #4 — MIL 5 @ STL 9**

Game #2 saw the game go to the 4th inning tied 1-1, after an RBI from Keston Hiura and a solo HR from Tyler O'Neill, when the Cards broke through with 5 runs against Adrian Houser. Yadier Molina hit a 3-run HR, and Kolton Wong hit a 2-run HR. Mark McGwire added a 2-run HR in the 7th inning, after the Brewers rallied to close it to 7-5 on RBI from Hiura and Paul Molitor. McGwire finished the series going 4 for 7 with 2 doubles, 1 home run, and 4 RBI. Kwang-Hyun Kim got the win for the Cardinals.

**GAME #3 — COL 5 @ LAD 2**

One of the first surprises of the season happened in LA, where the Rockies held the Dodgers to just 3 total runs in the series. Jon Gray pitched a gem giving up only 5 hits and 2 runs while striking out 13 in 7 strong innings. Julio Urias matched Gray, and the game went tied 2-2 to extra innings. In the 10th the Rockies' Brendan Rodgers, Dom Nunez, and Connor Joe hit back-to-back-to-back HRs, taking the 5-2 win. Chad Kuhl picked up the win in relief.

**GAME #4 — COL 2 @ LAD 1**

In Game #2, Antonio Senzatela matched Dustin May with a strong outing, with the game going to the 7th tied 1-1. Justin Morneau hit a solo HR in the 2nd inning, and Mookie Betts had an RBI in the 3rd. In the 7th inning, Corey Dickerson hit an RBI 2B, and that was all the Rockies needed to get the road sweep. The Dodgers starting pitchers gave up only 8 hits and 4 runs in 13½ innings, but they could not avoid the sweep as the Rockies outpitched them.

**GAME #3 — SFG 3 @ SDP 6**

Manny Machado hit a 3-run HR off of Logan Webb in the 1st inning, Jake Cronenworth hit an RBI 3B in the 4th, and Tony Gwynn added a 2-run HR in the 5th. The Padres took a 6-0 lead to the 8th, when Buster Posey and Evan Longoria had RBI, but the comeback stalled, and the Padres bullpen shut the door, securing the 6-3 win. Mike Clevinger pitched well, earning the win.

**GAME #4 — SFG 8 @ SDP 6**

Again the Padres jumped out to an early 3-0, when Eric Hosmer hit a solo HR, and Trent Grisham and Fernando Tatis Jr hit RBI 1Bs off of Johnny Cueto. The Giants broke through in the 5th against Dinelson Lamet, when Brandon Belt hit a solo HR, making it 3-1. In the 7th inning, Darren Ruf and Thairo Estrada had RBI 1Bs, and then, with the bases loaded, Barry Bonds hit a Grand Slam HR, giving the Giants a 7-3 lead. Evan Longoria added an RBI 1B in the 8th, which helped, as the Padres fought back with 3 runs in the 8th inning, with RBI 2Bs from Jake Cronenworth and Francisco Mejia. Camilo Doval shut down the Padres in the 9th inning, giving the Giants the 8-6 win and the road split.

## MLBC — WEEK 2

GAMES 5-8 • EARLY SEPARATION

## THE FIRST SEPARATION

*The Mets and Braves sprint away while Philadelphia falls through the floor.*

**THE LEAD** Opening Week left eleven clubs packed at 3-1, which made the second week feel less like a continuation than a sorting mechanism. Baltimore carried first-place confidence into Yankee Stadium, Chicago and Kansas City met at 3-1, San Francisco went to Dodger Stadium, and the Mets had four games against Washington and Philadelphia. Tampa Bay and Miami were searching for a first win. The Phillies, Blue Jays and Dodgers were 1-3 and under immediate pressure to prevent a short season from becoming shorter. With one-fifth of the season about to disappear, there was no harmless series left on the board.

**THE WEEK** Two clubs refused to wait. The Mets swept Washington and Philadelphia, while Atlanta won four straight, including two extra-inning games against Pittsburgh: Marcell Ozuna ended one with a walk-off Grand Slam and Ronald Acuña Jr. ended the next with a walk-off single. Both New York and Atlanta finished 7-1. Philadelphia suffered the opposite experience. Miami came into Citizens Bank Park 0-4 and swept the Phillies, then the Mets did the same; a presumed contender was suddenly 1-7. St. Louis found a thunderbolt in Tyler O'Neill, who drove in eight with three HR, while Boston kept winning behind J.D. Martinez and Rafael Devers. Pitching was even louder: Ian Anderson threw a 1-hit complete-game shutout, Johnny Cueto a 3-hit shutout, and Félix Hernández another complete-game zero. Eight games are already one-fifth of the regular season, making every sweep feel less like a hot streak and more like ground somebody else must spend weeks recovering.

**THE STAKES** The league now has its first real hierarchy. New York and Atlanta are 7-1; Kansas City, Cincinnati, Boston and San Diego are 6-2. Oakland has quietly taken the AL West lead at 5-3, while Philadelphia's 1-7 start has turned every upcoming series into something close to an emergency. Week 3 wastes no time testing the leaders: the Mets go directly to Atlanta, the Yankees visit Boston, the Dodgers travel to San Diego, and Philadelphia heads to Washington trying to discover whether its season can still be rescued. Eight games are enough to create distance. They are not enough to make it safe.

|                                 |                                 |                           |                                |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| TOP OF TABLE<br>NYM / ATL • 7-1 | PERFECT WEEK<br>NYM / ATL • 4-0 | EARLY CRISIS<br>PHI • 1-7 | WALK-OFFS<br>ATL • 2 in extras |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|

## WEEKLY HONORS

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>HITTER OF THE WEEK</b><br><b>GOLD TYLER O'NEILL • STL</b><br>3 HR • 8 RBI • <i>Grand Slam</i><br><b>SILVER J.D. MARTINEZ • BOS</b><br>2 HR • 4 RBI • <i>Boston keeps rolling</i><br><b>BRONZE RAFAEL DEVERS • BOS</b><br><i>Grand Slam • 5 RBI across the week</i> | <b>PITCHER OF THE WEEK</b><br><b>GOLD IAN ANDERSON • ATL</b><br>CG SHO • 1 H<br><b>SILVER JOHNNY CUETO • SFG</b><br>CG SHO • 3 H<br><b>BRONZE FÉLIX HERNÁNDEZ • SEA</b><br>CG SHO • 5 H |
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## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 2 • DEVERS GRAND SLAM • BOSTON HOME SWEEP • RAYS WIN 8-2

## ROUND #3

## GAME #5 — BAL 0 @ NYY 5

Gerrit Cole shut down the Orioles, giving up only 3 singles and 0 walks over 8 innings, striking out 11. Giancarlo Stanton hit a solo HR to give the Yankees a 1-0 lead they took to the 8th when they broke out with 4 runs, highlighted by 2Bs from Derek Jeter and Don Mattingly. John Means pitched well for the second game in a row, giving up only 1 run in 6 innings.

## GAME #6 — BAL 6 @ NYY 2

The Orioles started the scoring with an Adam Jones RBI 1B off of Masahiro Tanaka in the 3rd, but the Yankees tied the game on a Derek Jeter RBI 1B in the 5th, and the game went to the 6th inning tied 1-1. Jordan Lyles pitched well, and was rewarded in the 6th when Austin Hays hit a 3-run HR to take the 4-1 lead. In the 7th inning, Cedric Mullins sealed the victory with a 2-run HR, giving the Orioles an impressive win in New York, keeping Baltimore in 1st place after 6 games.

## GAME #5 — TBR 8 @ TOR 2

The Rays got their first win of the season in Game #1. They had only scored 11 runs through 4 games, but broke out for 8 runs against the Blue Jays. Randy Arozarena had an RBI 1B in the 3rd against Hyun Jin Ryu, but Vladimir Guerrero Jr had a 2-run 2B off of Tyler Glasnow to take the lead. The Rays tied the game with a Taylor Walls RBI 1B, and then took the lead for good with an Arozarena solo HR in the 5th. The Rays broke through with 5 runs in the 6th, when Yandy Diaz hit an RBI 1B, Wander Franco hit a 2-run 1B, and Hunter Renfroe had a 2-run HR, sealing the 8-2 win.

## GAME #6 — TBR 3 @ TOR 4

Tampa Bay took the early 2-0 lead in Game #2 when Wander Franco and Randy Arozarena hit back-to-back HRs off of Aaron Sanchez in the 1st inning. An RBI 2B by Teoscar Hernandez off of Shane McCannan trimmed the lead, but an RBI 1B by Franco in the 5th inning made it 3-1. The Blue Jays were looking at last place, when Vladimir Guerrero Jr hit his third 2B of the series to open a 3-run inning, where Hernandez, Marcus Semien, and Lourdes Gurriel all had RBI, giving Toronto a 4-3 lead. The Blue Jays bullpen finished the game, and they secured the home split, avoiding a 1-5 start.

## GAME #5 — DET 2 @ BOS 5

Boston jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the 1st inning on a Rafael Devers Grand Slam HR off of Matthew Boyd. Chris Sale pitched a dominant 6 innings, but was driven from the game in the 7th when the Tigers rallied for 2 runs, on RBI from Spencer Torkelson and Victor Reyes. That was all the Tigers could muster as they lost 5-2.

## GAME #6 — DET 2 @ BOS 6

The Tigers scored in the 1st inning on an RBI 1B from Victor Martinez, but the Red Sox took the lead 2-1 on a JD Martinez 2-run HR. The Tigers tied the game 2-2 in the 6th, giving them hope for a split, but Xander Bogaerts led off the bottom of the 6th with a solo HR to take back the lead. David Ortiz sealed the game with a 3-run HR in the 7th, sending Boston to the 6-2 win. The Red Sox bullpen pitched 5½ scoreless innings in the series. Eduardo Rodriguez defeated Tarik Skubal for the win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 2 • BASSITT SHUTOUT • MURPHY TWO HOMERS • TWINS WIN 1-0

**GAME #5 — MIN 1 @ CLE 7**

Game #1 started well for the Twins as Nelson Cruz hit a run-scoring double, but that was all the Twins could muster. Yan Gomes hit a 3-run HR off of Kenta Maeda in the 2nd to take the lead 3-1. Carlos Santana hit a solo HR in the 3rd, and Jason Kipnis hit a 3-run HR in the 6th to give Cleveland the 7-1 win. Shane Bieber pitched well, giving up 6 hits and just 1 run in 6 innings.

**GAME #6 — MIN 1 @ CLE 0**

Game #2 saw a pitcher's duel unfold between Jose Berrios and Corey Kluber. Berrios was dominant, taking a 1-hitter into the 7th, when he ran into a bases-loaded jam that Trevor May got out of. Eddie Rosario hit an RBI single in the 4th, one of only 3 hits that Kluber gave up over 8 strong innings. The Twins secured the road split 1-0, despite scoring only 2 runs in the series.

**GAME #5 — CHW 4 @ KCR 1**

Luis Robert started the scoring with a solo HR in the 1st inning off of Yordano Ventura, but he was matched by a solo HR from Bo Jackson. Eloy Jimenez followed in the 4th with a solo HR, and the White Sox added a run in the 6th on an RBI 1B by Adam Eaton, and the 9th on an RBI 1B from Tim Anderson, winning the game 4-1. Lucas Giolito pitched well giving up 5 hits over 7 innings, striking out 10, earning the win.

**GAME #6 — CHW 1 @ KCR 5**

Game #2 saw the White Sox take a 1-0 lead in the 3rd inning on an RBI from Tim Anderson, but George Brett hit a 2B in the 4th, and scored on a Salvador Perez 2B, who then scored on an Andrew Benintendi RBI 3B. The Royals added 3 more runs in the 8th inning on 5 hits, RBI from Brett, Perez, and Benintendi, winning the game 5-1. The Royals' first 7 hits of the game were extra-base hits, 5 doubles and 2 triples. Brad Keller pitched well for the win, out-pitching Lance Lynn to give the Royals the home split.

**GAME #5 — OAK 3 @ LAA 0**

Chris Bassitt pitched a gem in Game #1, giving up only 4 hits in a complete-game shutout of the Angels. He did give up 7 walks, but the Angels could not capitalize. The Angels had the bases loaded in the 1st inning, and in the 2nd inning, but they came away with 0 runs. Shohei Ohtani matched Bassitt, shutting out the A's until the 7th, when a Rickey Henderson RBI 1B scored Sean Murphy, giving the A's a 1-0 lead. Dylan Bundy relieved Ohtani in the 8th and proceeded to walk the first 3 batters, 2 of which scored on a Tony Kemp 2-run 2B, giving the A's the 3-0 win.

**GAME #6 — OAK 9 @ LAA 3**

Game #2 saw the A's roll against the Angels' Patrick Sandoval with 2 runs in the 1st inning, 1 run in the 2nd, 1 more in the 3rd, and 3 more in the 4th, for a 7-0 lead. Sean Murphy hit 2 HRs and 3 RBI during the spree, Khris Davis had 2 RBI, and Starling Marte and Matt Chapman had RBI. Frankie Montas pitched strong, only giving up 3 hits, until the Angels broke out in the 8th with 3 runs, on RBI from Mike Trout, Shohei Ohtani, and Jared Walsh. The A's added a Matt Olson RBI 2B in the 9th inning, securing the 9-3 win, and the important road sweep.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 2 • FELIX BLANKS ROCKIES • MIAMI ROAD SWEEP • ASTROS WIN 5-2

**GAME #5 — HOU 5 @ TEX 2**

Justin Verlander was coming off of a no-hitter in his previous start, but he gave up a solo HR to Adrian Beltre in the 1st inning. Verlander settled in, though, and only gave up 1 other hit, a single in the 7th. Verlander now has given up only 2 hits over 16 innings this season. Carlos Correa hit 2 doubles and scored on both of them, and Jeff Bagwell hit a 2-run HR in the 4th inning, giving the Astros a 5-2 road win.

**GAME #6 — HOU 1 @ TEX 2**

The Rangers only scored 2 runs again in Game #2, but Dane Dunning pitched well, giving up only 4 hits and 1 run to earn the win. Joey Gallo hit his league-leading 5th HR of the season to give the Rangers the early lead, and Josh Hamilton hit a run-scoring 3B to score Nick Solak in the 6th, giving Texas the 2-1 win, and the series split at home.

**GAME #5 — SEA 5 @ COL 0**

Felix Hernandez continued his strong start to the season pitching a complete-game 5-hit shutout to dominate the Rockies. The Rockies mustered only 1 extra-base hit, a Charlie Blackmon 2B. Ken Griffey Jr had a 2-run 1B in the 5th to take the lead, and the M's added 3 in the 8th on a Robinson Cano RBI 2B, and a Mitch Haniger 2-run 2B to seal the 5-0 win.

**GAME #6 — SEA 4 @ COL 2**

Kyle Lewis led off Game #2 with his 2nd HR of the season, but Charlie Blackmon continued to be the lone force for the Rockies, hitting a 2-run HR in the bottom of the 1st. Blackmon was the only Rockies' player to have an extra-base hit or an RBI in the series. Down 2-1, the M's added 3 runs in the 3rd inning, on RBI from Robinson Cano and Mitch Haniger, defeating the Rockies 4-2 to earn the sweep. Marco Gonzales pitched well for the win, and Fernando Rodney shut down Colorado in the 9th to earn the save.

**GAME #5 — MIA 7 @ PHI 3**

In one of the more surprising series of the young season, the Marlins swept the Phillies in Philadelphia. The Phillies were expected to contend this year, and this was seen as an easy match-up against the Marlins, but Miami got to Zack Wheeler with 9 hits and 4 runs in 6 innings. The Phillies felt good in the 1st inning when Mike Schmidt hit a 3-run HR to give Philadelphia an early 3-1 lead, but light-hitting Miguel Rojas hit a solo HR in the 2nd, and the Marlins scored 2 runs in the 4th to take the lead, 4-3. The Schmidt HR ended up being the only runs for Philadelphia in Game #1. Miguel Rojas hit his team-leading 3rd HR of the season in the Marlins' 3-run 9th, sealing the 7-3 win. Jose Fernandez pitched a strong game with 8 innings of 5-hit ball, only 2 of which came after the 1st inning.

**GAME #6 — MIA 3 @ PHI 2**

Game #2 saw the Phillies take a 1-0 lead in the 3rd against Sandy Alcantara, while Aaron Nola pitched a no-hitter into the 6th, when the Marlins got to him with 3 runs on 4 hits giving the Marlins a 3-2 win. AJ Ramos pitched the 9th for the save. Jazz Chisholm had the key hit of the game with a 2-run 2B, and then scored on a Jesus Sanchez 1B.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 2 • OZUNA WALK-OFF SLAM • LINDOR WINS IN 10 • METS HOME SWEEP

**GAME #5 — WSH 2 @ NYM 3**

The Mets continued their strong start to the season with a clutch 3-2 win in the 10th inning against the Nationals. The Nationals had 4 extra base hits against Jacob deGrom, preventing him from getting the win by tying the game 2-2 on a Keibert Ruiz solo HR in the 7th. The Mets had taken the lead in the 6th when David Wright broke apart the shutout by Max Scherzer with a 2-run 1B, scoring Francisco Lindor and Brandon Nimmo. The Mets bullpen pitched 3½ scoreless innings, earning the win when Lindor hit a walk-off RBI 2B, scoring Dominic Smith in the 10th.

**GAME #6 — WSH 4 @ NYM 10**

The Mets scored first, taking a 2-0 lead in the 3rd inning on a Mike Piazza 2-run HR. The Nationals scored in the 5th when Trea Turner had his first hit on the season, a solo HR, breaking an 0-21 slump. Keibert Ruiz turned the tide in the 6th with a 3-run HR, his second of the series. Things were looking up for the Nationals, but the Washington bullpen is quite a weak spot, and they gave up a monstrous 8-run 7th. The Mets had 9 hits and sent 13 batters to the plate in the 7th, and they coasted to a 10-4 win, getting the home sweep. The Mets are a MLBC best 5-1 after 3 series. Mike Piazza and Jeff McNeil both have 13 RBI on the young season. Jacob deGrom has a league-dominating 32 strikeouts through 2 games.

**GAME #5 — PIT 4 @ ATL 7**

The Braves took the early 1-0 lead on a Ronald Acuna RBI 1B after a Dansby Swanson 2B, but the Pirates came back on an Andy Van Slyke 3-run HR off of Max Fried. The Braves fought back for another run off of Jameson Taillon in the 6th inning, and the Pirates took a 3-2 lead to the bottom of the 9th, putting the game in the hands of closer Mark Melancon. Up came Austin Riley, who hit a solo HR, tying the game 3-3. The Pirates might have thought they were going to escape with the win when they scored in the top of the 11th, but the Braves took the game in the bottom half when they loaded the bases and Marcell Ozuna hit a game-winning walk-off Grand Slam HR, sending the home crowd into a frenzy.

**GAME #6 — PIT 5 @ ATL 6**

The Pirates started Game #2 with a 2-run 2B from Ke'Bryan Hayes, but the Braves struck back in the bottom of the 1st when Austin Riley hit his 4th HR in just 11 at bats. It was a 3-run shot, giving the Braves a 4-2 lead after 1 inning. The Pirates scored runs in the 2nd and 3rd to tie the game, before Freddie Freeman took the lead back for the Braves with a solo HR. The Pirates scored again in the 5th inning, tying the game 5-5, and the game went tied to the 10th inning. Deion Sanders led off the 10th with a 1B, and then stole second base. Ronald Acuna ended the game with an RBI 1B, giving the Braves the home sweep over the Pirates. The Braves won both games in extra innings with clutch hitting and a strong bullpen. Their bullpen gave up just 1 run over 10 innings. The Braves have started 5-1 to match the Mets for 1st place in the league.

**GAME #5 — MIL 5 @ CIN 10**

The Brewers thought they had a chance when they took an early 1-0 lead in the 1st inning on a Christian Yelich RBI 1B off of Luis Castillo, but they were wrong today. The Reds were not going to be denied on this day. Barry Larkin hit a 3-run HR in the 3rd inning off of Corbin Burnes, Nick Castellanos hit a 2-run 2B in the 5th, and the Reds broke out with 5 more runs in the 7th, winning 10-5.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 2 • MCGWIRE WALK-OFF HR • PADRES WIN 8-4 • BREWERS WIN 3-1

**GAME #6 — MIL 3 @ CIN 1**

Brandon Woodruff dominated the Reds, giving up just 1 run and 5 hits over 7 innings, while striking out 14 batters. Sonny Gray looked good until the 7th when the Brewers broke out with 3 runs on a Jonathan Lucroy 2B and a Robin Yount 3B, giving the Brewers a 3-1 win and the road split.

**GAME #5 — CHC 5 @ STL 4**

The Cubs scored in the 2nd inning when Anthony Rizzo scored on a Willson Contreras RBI 1B off of Jack Flaherty. Paul Goldschmidt tied the game in the 4th with a solo HR off of Kyle Hendricks, but the Cubs took the lead back in the 5th when Seiya Suzuki singled in Contreras. The Cardinals took hold of the game in the 7th, when Dylan Carlson and Ozzie Smith both hit 3Bs as part of a 3-run inning, taking a 4-2 lead. The Cubs fought back tying the game in the 8th when Anthony Rizzo hit a 2-run HR, and then they won the game in the 11th when Javier Baez hit a solo HR, giving the Cubs the 5-4 win. Rowan Wick got the win in relief.

**GAME #6 — CHC 4 @ STL 5**

The Cardinals came out hot in Game #2 when Kolton Wong led off the game with a 2B off of Jake Arrieta, scoring on a Nolan Arenado RBI 2B, and then Tyler O'Neill hit a 3-run HR, giving Adam Wainwright and the Cardinals an early 4-0 lead. But it didn't last as Anthony Rizzo hit a 2-run HR, and Kyle Schwarber and Javier Baez hit RBI 1Bs in the 4th. The pitching took over, and there was no more scoring until the 10th inning, when Mark McGwire sent the crowd home happy with a game-winning walk-off solo HR. Dakota Hudson pitched 3 no-hit innings to earn the win.

**GAME #5 — SDP 8 @ ARI 4**

The Padres scored 1 run in the 1st inning, and then 3 more runs in the 2nd. Fernando Tatis Jr had an RBI 1B, Francisco Mejia had a 2-run 1B, and Tony Gwynn hit an RBI 1B, and the Padres took the 4-0 lead to the 8th inning. Yu Darvish pitched well giving up only 6 hits over 6 shutout innings, but the Padres bullpen couldn't close it out, giving up a game-tying 4 runs in the 8th. Josh Rojas led off the inning with a solo HR, Ketel Marte and David Peralta hit 2Bs, and Eric Chavez hit a 2-run HR. The Diamondbacks went to the 9th with newfound hope, but it was short-lived as Archie Bradley faltered. After two walks, Manny Machado hit a 2-run 2B, and then Dave Winfield hit a 2-run HR, giving the Padres an 8-4 win.

**GAME #6 — SDP 2 @ ARI 7**

Manny Machado hit a solo HR off of Robbie Ray in the 2nd inning, giving the Padres an early 1-0 lead, but Carson Kelly hit a solo HR off of Blake Snell in the bottom of the 2nd, tying the game. The Diamondbacks took the lead with a run in the 3rd on a Christian Walker RBI scoring Geraldo Perdomo, and they added to it with 2 runs in the 7th on a Ketel Marte 2-run 3B. They added 3 more runs in the 8th inning with an RBI 2B from Kelly, and 2-run HR from Nick Ahmed, giving Arizona a 7-2 win and the home split. Ray pitched a dominant game giving up only 3 hits and 1 run over 8 innings to earn the win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 2 • DODGERS HOME SWEEP • DIAZ GRAND SLAM • YANKEES SCORE TEN

**GAME #5 — SFG 0 @ LAD 2**

The Dodgers came into the game needing some momentum, and needing to not fall behind the Giants in the race for the West. This was suddenly an important series for so early in the season. The Giants were coming in finishing a six-game road trip, and had a chance to make a statement, but it was not to be. Clayton Kershaw was dominant, pitching 7 $\frac{2}{3}$  shutout innings, and the bullpen finished the game, shutting out the Giants 2-0. Justin Turner broke through against Madison Bumgarner with a 2-run HR in the 7th that proved decisive. Bumgarner pitched well only giving up 4 hits, but it was not enough to prevent the Dodgers from taking Game #1.

**GAME #6 — SFG 2 @ LAD 5**

The Giants had hope in Game #2 when Evan Longoria connected against Walker Buehler in the 3rd inning with a solo HR, taking an early 1-0 for San Francisco, but it was short-lived as Will Smith tied the game in the 4th with an RBI single. The Dodgers took hold of the game against Kevin Gausman with 2 more runs in the 5th on an Adrian Gonzalez 2-run 1B. The Giants scored 1 run in the 6th on a Brandon Belt RBI, but it was not enough, as Will Smith hit a solo HR in the 8th, giving the Dodgers the 5-2 win and the home sweep.

**ROUND #4****GAME #7 — NYY 10 @ TOR 4**

Giancarlo Stanton hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd inning off of JA Happ, and Aaron Judge hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd. The Yankees made it 5-0 with a DJ LeMahieu solo HR in the 6th, and then they unloaded with 5 more in the top of the 8th for a 10-0 lead. The Blue Jays' Lourdes Gurriel and Alejandro Kirk both hit 2-run HRs in the bottom of the 8th, but the Jays got no closer than 10-4 in the loss. Luis Severino pitched a great game with 7 strong innings, giving up only 5 hits and 0 walks. Severino is now 2-0 with a 1.29 ERA, 20 strikeouts, and 0 walks.

**GAME #8 — NYY 2 @ TOR 4**

The Blue Jays scored 3 runs off of Jordan Montgomery in the 3rd inning, highlighted by a George Springer 2-run 3B. Giancarlo Stanton hit a solo HR in the 5th inning, but the Yankees went quietly, 4-2. Alek Manoah gave up just 5 hits and 0 walks, while striking out 11 over 7 strong innings. The Jays needed to get the split at home to stay in the race. Vladimir Guerrero Jr cooled off, going 1-8 in the series, ending his 6-game hitting streak. Jose Bautista was even colder going 0-7, ending his 5-game hitting streak. Derek Jeter had his league-leading 14th hit, and brought his average up to .412, while on an 8-game hitting streak. Stanton tied Joey Gallo for the league lead with his 5th HR of the season.

**GAME #7 — BOS 2 @ TBR 13**

Manny Margot led off the bottom of the 1st with a solo HR off of David Price, but the Red Sox equalized in the 2nd on a Dustin Pedroia solo HR off of Drew Rasmussen. The Rays broke open the game in the 2nd inning, when Yandy Diaz hit a Grand Slam HR, and Randy Arozarena hit a 2-run HR. The Rays added another run in the 3rd inning on a Margot RBI 1B, and then in the 4th inning, Hunter Renfroe hit a 3-run HR, and Kevin Kiermaier hit a 2-run HR, giving the Rays a 13-2 lead. David Price got lit up for 11 runs in just 3 innings. It was the Rays 2nd win of the season, and much needed.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 2 • TWINS SCORE SEVENTEEN • BOSTON WINS 9-8 • ROYALS SCORE TEN

**GAME #8 — BOS 9 @ TBR 8**

The Red Sox struck first in Game #2 when JD Martinez hit a 2-run HR and Alex Verdugo hit a 2-run 1B. The Red Sox went up 7-0 after a Jason Varitek 2-run HR in the 8th, but the Rays came storming back with 5 runs in the bottom of the 8th, on an Randy Arozarena Grand Slam HR, and a Hunter Renfroe solo HR, bringing the Rays within 2 runs. The Red Sox added 2 more runs in the 9th inning, on RBI from David Ortiz and Rafael Devers, which proved to be decisive as the Rays scored 3 more runs in the bottom of the 9th, losing the game only 9-8, with the tying and winning runs on base. Randy Arozarena moved into the AL lead with his 12th RBI. Nathan Eovaldi got the win, even though the bullpen gave up 5 runs.

**GAME #7 — BAL 2 @ MIN 3**

The Orioles took 2-0 lead on a Chris Davis RBI 1B in the 2nd inning, and an Adam Jones solo HR in the 3rd. The Twins scored 1 run in the 5th inning on a Joe Mauer RBI 1B, and then tied the game on a Byron Buxton HR in the 7th. They won the game with a Josh Donaldson HR in the 8th. The Orioles could only muster one hit after the 3rd inning, as the Twins' bullpen pitched 4 innings of hitless ball.

**GAME #8 — BAL 1 @ MIN 17**

The Orioles thought they had a chance when they took an early 1-0 lead in the 2nd inning on an Adley Rutschman RBI 1B off of Joe Ryan, but the Twins tied it in the bottom half on a Max Kepler RBI 1B, and then they sent 12 batters to the plate in a 9-run outburst in the 3rd inning. It began with a Kirby Puckett 2-run HR, and it ended with a Byron Buxton 3-run HR. Joe Mauer hit a 3-run HR in the 4-run 5th, and the Twins didn't stop, adding 1 run in the 6th, and 2 more runs in the 7th, piling it on for a 17-1 win. Cal Ripken Jr ended his hitting streak at 7 games. Jorge Polanco continued his hot start batting .429 with an 8-game hitting streak.

**GAME #7 — CLE 1 @ CHW 3**

Carlos Rodon and Carlos Carrasco both took shutouts into the 7th inning, when the White Sox got 2Bs from Jose Abreu, Eloy Jimenez, and Yasmani Grandal, taking a 3-0 lead. Rodon finished the game giving up just 3 hits while striking out 13. Liam Hendriks pitched a hitless 9th for the save.

**GAME #8 — CLE 7 @ CHW 1**

The White Sox took a 1-0 lead in the 3rd inning on a Jose Abreu RBI 2B off of Zach Plesac. In the 4th inning Cleveland scored 4 runs, on a Jim Thome solo HR, an RBI 2B from Yan Gomes, and a 2-run 1B from Omar Vizquel. Cleveland added 3 more runs in the 7th inning when Jim Thome connected again with a 3-run HR, giving the Guardians an easy 7-1 win.

**GAME #7 — KCR 10 @ DET 1**

The Royals scored 4 runs in the 4th, and 4 more runs in the 5th against Casey Mize. Salvador Perez hit an HR and Bobby Witt Jr hit a 3-run HR in the 4-run 4th, and George Brett, Jorge Soler, and Alex Gordon had RBI in the 4-run 5th, taking an 8-1 lead. The Royals added 2 more runs in the 7th on a 2-run 1B from Soler, and they cruised to a 10-1 win. Brady Singer pitched well earning the win with 5 strong innings.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 2 • ANGELS ROAD SWEEP • HEANEY FANS TEN • PADRES SCORE ELEVEN

**GAME #8 — KCR 8 @ DET 7**

Game #2 was quite a game. The Tigers took a 2-0 on a 2-run 2B from Willi Castro, but the Royals tied it on an RBI 1B from Nicky Lopez in the 4th, and a solo HR from Salvador Perez in the 5th. Tied 2-2, the Tigers struck for 4 runs in the 5th inning, with RBI from Victor Martinez, Spencer Torkelson, and Victor Reyes, but the Royals fought back immediately with 6 runs in the 6th, capped by a Bo Jackson 3-run HR. The Royals hung on for a well-earned 8-7 win, and the road sweep. The Royals bullpen pitched 8½ innings giving up only 1 run in the series. Salvador Perez hit his 5th HR of the season, tying for the league lead. Perez leads the AL in total bases with 28. Jorge Soler hit his 5th 2B, tying for the league lead.

**GAME #7 — LAA 2 @ TEX 1**

Josh Hamilton hit a solo HR in the 1st inning, but that was all the Rangers could muster against Andrew Heaney, who walked 0 with 10 strikeouts over 8 strong innings. The Angels broke through against Mike Minor in the 5th inning with 2 runs, on RBI from David Fletcher and Shohei Ohtani, and that was enough for the 2-1 win.

**GAME #8 — LAA 4 @ TEX 2**

Justin Upton and Max Stassi hit back-to-back HR off of Kolby Allard in the 2nd inning for a 2-0 lead. The Angels made it 3-0 after Upton and David Fletcher 2Bs in the 4th, but Josh Hamilton hit a 2-run HR in the 5th inning to make it 3-2. The Rangers could get no closer as Garrett Richards and the Angels bullpen shut down the Texas lineup. The Rangers came into the series 3-3 with some hope for the season, but a home sweep to the rival Angels has given pause to that hope. Juan Gonzalez, Nathaniel Lowe, and Joey Gallo all went 1-8 with lone 1Bs. Josh Hamilton was the only Ranger to show up for the series, going 4-8 with 2 doubles and 2 homers, scoring 2 of the 3 runs, and driving in all 3.

**GAME #7 — SEA 2 @ OAK 5**

The A's Ramon Laureano hit a solo HR in the 2nd inning to tie the game 1-1, and then Matt Olson and Adam Dunn both hit solo HR in the 4th inning, and the A's went on for the 5-2 win. Ty France hit a solo HR in the loss. Sean Manaea pitched well, and the Oakland bullpen gave up only 1 hit in 3 scoreless innings. Starling Marte tied for the league lead with his 5th 2B.

**GAME #8 — SEA 8 @ OAK 1**

Julio Rodriguez hit his first career HR in the 3rd inning, and Ken Griffey Jr hit a solo HR in the 4th. Ty France hit a 2-run HR in the 6th, giving the M's a 4-0 lead. The M's added 3 more runs in the 8th inning, on RBI 2Bs from France and Austin Nola, and an Edwin Encarnacion solo HR in the 9th for an 8-1 win. Yusei Kikuchi surrendered the shutout with 2 outs in the 9th, pitching a gem to get the M's the split.

**GAME #7 — HOU 6 @ SDP 11**

The San Diego Padres put up 7 runs in the 1st inning of Game #1 against Lance McCullers. Fernando Tatis Jr, Dave Winfield, and Eric Hosmer all had RBI, and it was capped by a Francisco Mejia 3-run HR. Yuli Gurriel hit a 2-run HR to trim the lead, but Tommy Pham and Trent Grisham both hit 2-run HR in the 5th to extend the lead to 11-2. Yordan Alvarez hit a 2-run HR in the 6th, and a solo HR in the 8th, but the Astros lost 11-6. Carlos Correa tied for the league lead with his 5th 2B.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 2 • ANDERSON ONE-HITTER • METS ROAD SWEEP • TATIS DECIDES 2-1

**GAME #8 — HOU 1 @ SDP 2**

Framber Valdez and James Shields both pitched well, taking shutouts into the 5th inning, when Fernando Tatis Jr hit a 2-run HR that ended up deciding the game for the 2-1 San Diego win. The Astros could only muster a lone run in the 7th, and the Padres bullpen sealed the sweep for San Diego. Carlos Correa tied for the league lead with his 14th hit, and leads the league with a .452 BA. Correa is also 3rd in OBP, and 3rd in SLG, leading the AL with a 1.291 OPS.

**GAME #7 — NYM 3 @ PHI 2**

This was a heartbreaking series. The Phillies needed to make their move to get back into contention before the season was suddenly lost. They had the division leading Mets at home, and they held the Mets to only 6 runs in the series, but it was not to be. The Phillies even held David Wright, Mike Piazza, & Darryl Strawberry to a combined 0-27 with 11 strikeouts, but it was not enough. Philadelphia scored single runs in the 1st and 3rd innings on two Lenny Dykstra 2Bs, Pete Alonso hit a solo HR in the 2nd, and the game went to the 8th inning with a 2-1 Phillies lead. Cole Hamels was pitching a gem against the powerful Mets, but suddenly the Mets put together 3 hits, a Michael Conforto 1B, a Brandon Nimmo RBI 2B, and a Francisco Lindor RBI 1B, taking a 3-2 lead. The Phillies went hitless in the 8th and 9th against the Mets' bullpen, and they lost a game they needed to win, 3-2.

**GAME #8 — NYM 3 @ PHI 2**

The Phillies again took an early lead, on a Mike Schmidt RBI 1B in the 1st inning, but the Mets scored and tied the game in the 5th on a JD Davis RBI. Both teams pitched extremely well, and the game went to extra innings tied 1-1. The Mets scored in the 10th, but the Phillies, desperate to avoid the sweep, had a clutch RBI 2B by Bryce Harper to tie the game. But it was still not to be, as Pete Alonso hit a solo HR in the 11th inning, giving New York a 3-2 win and the road sweep. Philadelphia has started the season a league worst 1-7, and the red-hot Mets are a league best 7-1. Lenny Dykstra went 4-7 with 3 doubles and scored all 4 of the Phillies runs in the series. Francisco Lindor is leading the league with 6 2Bs. Mike Piazza leads the NL with 5 HRs and 13 RBI.

**GAME #7 — ATL 2 @ MIA 0**

Ian Anderson pitched an absolute gem with a 1-hit complete-game shutout. Garrett Cooper got the lone single, and that was it for the Marlins. Trevor Rogers held the Braves scoreless until Ron Gant scored in the 8th, and Chipper Jones scored in the 9th for the Braves' 2-0 win.

**GAME #8 — ATL 5 @ MIA 1**

Fred McGriff hit a 3-run HR in the 3rd inning, and Ronald Acuna hit a solo HR in the 4th, and the Braves coasted to a 5-1 win, and a 2-game road sweep in Miami. Jazz Chisholm and Ichiro Suzuki had 4 hits in the series, and the rest of the entire Miami team had 2 lone 1B. Miami is scuffling at 2-6, and Atlanta kept pace with the Mets at 7-1. Mike Soroka pitched well in the win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 2 • O'NEILL GRAND SLAM • CARDS ROAD SWEEP • NATIONALS SCORE TEN

**GAME #7 — WSH 5 @ MIL 7**

The Nationals surged to an early 4-0 lead in the 3rd inning on the strength of a 2-run HR by Jayson Werth, but the Brewers fought back with 3 runs in the 5th inning, and then tied the game 4-4 in the 6th, highlighted by a 2-run 2B from Paul Molitor. Juan Soto hit a solo HR to take the lead back for the Nationals, but Doug Fister could not keep the lead, and the Brewers scored 3 in the 7th on RBI from Lorenzo Cain, Keston Hiura, and Tyrone Taylor, winning the game 7-5.

**GAME #8 — WSH 10 @ MIL 5**

Washington again scored first as Michael A. Taylor hit an RBI 3B, and they stretched it to 3-0 on a Jayson Werth 2B. But again the Brewers fought back with 2 runs in the 6th, on a 2-run 2B from Robin Yount, and then 1 more to tie the game in the 8th, on another Yount RBI. The bullpens took over and the game went all the way to the 13th tied 3-3, when Werth hit his second 2B of the game, and scored the go-ahead run. Facing defeat, the Brewers fought back yet again, scoring the tying run on a Yount RBI 3B, but they could not bring him home for the win, and the game continued. In the 14th inning, the Nationals finally took control, avoiding the sweep, when Ryan Zimmerman hit a 2-out 2-run HR, and followed by a solo HR from Werth, and then followed by a 3-run HR from Taylor, giving the Nationals a shocking 6 runs in the 14th, and a well-earned 10-5 win. Robin Yount had 4 of the Brewers' 5 RBI in the game as he went 4-6. Yount is leading the MLBC with 17 hits, and is second in average at .436, and leads the MLBC with 31 total bases. Trea Turner came into the series in a 1-23 slump, but went 7-13 with 6 SBs.

**GAME #7 — STL 6 @ PIT 5**

Tyler O'Neill hit a Grand Slam HR in the 1st to give St. Louis an early 4-0 lead that they took to the 4th inning. In the 4th, Josh Bell hit a solo HR, and then Bryan Reynolds hit a 2-run HR in the 5th, trimming the lead to 4-3. The Cardinals added 1 in the 6th on a Harrison Bader RBI 1B, and O'Neill hit his second HR of the game in the 8th, which ended up winning the game as the Pirates scored twice in the 8th, but it was not enough as St. Louis took the game, 6-5, giving Miles Mikolas the win.

**GAME #8 — STL 8 @ PIT 3**

St. Louis continued their hot hitting as Paul Goldschmidt hit a solo HR in the Cardinals 2-run 1st. Bryan Reynolds hit his second HR of the series to lead off the bottom of the 1st, but St. Louis added 1 run in the 2nd inning, on a Nolan Arenado RBI 1B, and 4 more runs in the 4th, on the strength of Goldschmidt and Arenado RBI, and a Mark McGwire 2-run HR. The Pirates added 2 runs in the 6th inning, but the St. Louis Cardinals won 8-3, and swept the Pirates in Pittsburgh.

**GAME #7 — CIN 4 @ CHC 3**

The Cubs came into the series with high hopes, but the Reds were the ones who left town as contenders. Ryne Sandberg gave the Cubs an early lead with a solo HR off of Tyler Mahle in the 1st, but the Reds tied the game in the 3rd on an RBI from Adam Duvall, and took the lead in the 5th on an RBI from Eugenio Suarez. The Cubs tied the game 2-2 in the 6th on a Javier Baez RBI 1B, and then took a 3-2 lead in the 8th on a Baez 3B and Kyle Schwarber RBI 1B, but the bullpen couldn't finish the game, as Joey Votto hit a 2-run HR to secure the 4-3 road win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 2 • CUETO SHUTOUT • DODGERS WIN 10-9 • REDS WIN 3-2 ON ROAD

**GAME #8 — CIN 3 @ CHC 2**

Nick Castellanos gave the Reds an early lead with a 2-run HR off of Wade Miley in the 1st inning, but Ian Happ hit solo HRs in the 1st and 3rd innings. The game went to the 9th inning tied 2-2, as the Cubs just could not break through against Anthony DeSclafani. Then Castellanos hit his second HR of the game, and the Reds completed the road sweep, 3-2.

**GAME #7 — LAD 10 @ ARI 9**

The Diamondbacks and Dodgers had a candidate for the game-of-the-year. Christian Walker hit a 2-run HR off of Julio Urias in the 1st inning, giving Arizona the early lead. The Dodgers cut the lead in half in the 2nd inning on a Joc Pederson RBI 2B, but the Diamondbacks unloaded for 5 runs in the bottom of the 2nd inning, capped by a 3-run HR by Walker, who had 5 RBI by the 2nd inning. Walker then hit an RBI 2B in the 4th inning to give Arizona a commanding 8-1 lead. Adrian Gonzalez hit an RBI 2B in the 5th, making it 8-2, but the game began to shift in the 6th inning when Chris Taylor hit a 3-run HR, making 8-5. Shelby Miller came into the game in the 8th, and the Dodgers went wild scoring 5 runs on 5 consecutive hits, crushing the Diamondbacks hopes for a Game #1 win, as the Dodgers came back from down 7, winning 10-9.

**GAME #8 — LAD 1 @ ARI 4**

Geraldo Perdomo hit a solo HR against Dustin May to lead off the game, his 2nd in the series, and Arizona added another run in the 4th. The Dodgers fought back with a lone run in the 5th, but Pavin Smith sealed the 4-1 win with a 2-run HR in the 5th. Merrill Kelly held the Dodgers to only 1 run, pitching into the 8th inning. Brad Ziegler finished the game for the save.

**GAME #7 — COL 8 @ SFG 2**

The Giants' slump continued in Game #1, as Charlie Blackmon hit an RBI 3B, and scored on an Andres Galarraga 1B. Galarraga hit a 2B in the 4th, and then scored to make it 3-0 against Logan Webb. Jon Gray held the Giants down, giving up only 4 1Bs until the 5th inning, when Buster Posey and Brandon Belt both hit 2Bs to make it 3-1. Corey Littell came into the game in the 8th inning, and promptly got lit up with 5 runs, beginning with a Galarragan HR, and ending with a Tom Murphy 2-run HR, giving the Rockies the 8-2 win. Andres Galarraga produced the first 5-5 day on the season, putting up 10 total bases in a single game; he came into the game in a 1-22 slump with 1 total base.

**GAME #8 — COL 0 @ SFG 4**

The Giants were desperate to get the split at home, and Johnny Cueto showed up big time, pitching a 3-hit complete-game shutout. The Giants scored 1 run in the 2nd on a Brandon Belt RBI 1B, and another run in the 6th, on a LaMonte Wade RBI 2B, and then Barry Bonds broke the game open in the 7th inning with a 2-run HR.

## MLBC — WEEK 3

GAMES 9-12 • THE COUNTERPUNCH

## A WEEK OF REVERSALS

*Philadelphia wakes up, Seattle surges, and the early leaders finally feel resistance.*

**THE LEAD** The Mets and Braves entered Week 3 at 7-1 and immediately met in Atlanta, the first collision between the league's two fastest starters. Boston, Kansas City, Cincinnati and San Diego followed at 6-2. At the other end, Philadelphia arrived at 1-7 with almost no margin left, while the Dodgers were still trying to look anything like the preseason favorite. In a 40-game season, this was already the point where a bad week could stop looking temporary. The schedule offered no shelter: Yankees-Red Sox, Dodgers-Padres and Mets-Braves all arrived before anyone could hide behind a soft stretch.

**THE WEEK** The week belonged to the teams that answered pressure. Philadelphia went 4-0, opening with a 12-0 win in Washington behind Zack Wheeler's 3-hit, zero-walk shutout and finishing by sweeping Pittsburgh. Seattle also went 4-0, with Ken Griffey Jr. starring in three wins while the staff stacked shutouts and climbed into first in the AL West. The Mets and Braves split their showdown, but New York then stumbled in San Diego as the Padres pushed to 9-3. Boston reached 9-3 after Chris Sale beat Gerrit Cole 1-0 with a complete-game shutout. Chicago went into Dodger Stadium and swept Los Angeles, deepening a season-long unease there. Tampa Bay found its own reversal as Austin Meadows erupted for 12 total bases and seven RBI in a sweep of Kansas City, while Trevor Story drove in seven for Colorado after entering the week without a HR or RBI. The first standings had finally been challenged from every direction.

**THE STAKES** San Diego, Atlanta and Boston now share the league's best record at 9-3. Seattle has surged to 8-4, and the Mets, Cincinnati and Oakland remain within striking distance. Philadelphia is only 5-7, but 4-0 feels radically different from 1-7; the season has not been saved, but it has been reopened. Week 4 brings the Subway Series, San Diego into Atlanta, Boston into Atlanta, Cleveland and Chicago continuing their Central fight, and Seattle carrying its new confidence into a difficult road week. The first two weeks created separation. Week 3 proved none of it was permanent. One clean week can still rescue a club, but the window for doing it is already shrinking.

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| <b>TOP OF TABLE</b><br><b>BOS / ATL / SDP • 9-3</b> | <b>SURGE</b><br><b>SEA • 4-0</b> | <b>REBORN</b><br><b>PHI • 4-0</b> | <b>GAME OF WEEK</b><br><b>BOS 1 • NYY 0</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|

## WEEKLY HONORS

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| <b>HITTER OF THE WEEK</b><br><b>GOLD AUSTIN MEADOWS • TBR</b><br>12 TB • 7 RBI • 2 HR<br><b>SILVER TREVOR STORY • COL</b><br>2 HR • 7 RBI<br><b>BRONZE MANNY MACHADO • SDP</b><br>two 3-run HR • 6 RBI | <b>PITCHER OF THE WEEK</b><br><b>GOLD ZACK WHEELER • PHI</b><br>CG SHO • 3 H • 0 BB<br><b>SILVER NOAH SYNDERGAARD • NYM</b><br>CG SHO • 4 H • 1 BB • 10 K<br><b>BRONZE CHRIS SALE • BOS</b><br>CG SHO • 1-0 rivalry win over NYY |
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## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 3 • HERNANDEZ GRAND SLAM • BOSTON WINS 1-0 • BLUE JAYS SWEEP

## ROUND #5

## GAME #9 — TOR 11 @ BAL 1

The Blue Jays took the lead in the 1st inning when Teoscar Hernandez hit a Grand Slam HR, after John Means walked the bases loaded. Trey Mancini hit a solo HR in the 1st for the lone O's run off of Hyun Jin Ryu. The Blue Jays added 1 run in the 4th on a Roberto Alomar RBI, and another run in the 7th on an Alomar solo HR. The Blue Jays finished it off with 4 more runs in the 8th for the easy 11-1 win.

## GAME #10 — TOR 6 @ BAL 5

Aaron Sanchez and Jordan Lyles both pitched well, taking shutouts into the 4th inning when the Blue Jays scored twice, RBI from Teoscar Hernandez and Lourdes Gurriel. The Blue Jays added 3 more runs in the 7th against Cole Sulser, highlighted by a 2-run 1B from Randal Grichuk, handing the bullpen a 5-0 lead. But, the lead didn't hold up, and the Orioles scored 5 runs in the bottom of the 7th, capped by a Trey Mancini 3-run HR. The game went tied 5-5 to the 9th, giving the O's hope for the split, but Roberto Alomar hit a solo HR to win the game, 6-5.

## GAME #9 — NYY 0 @ BOS 1

The AL East's premier rivalry, the Red Sox vs Yankees, took center stage, with Gerrit Cole facing Chris Sale. The pitching duel lived up to the hype as both pitchers took shutouts into the 8th inning. Cole flinched first in the bottom of the 8th, when Jason Varitek hit a leadoff 2B, and scored the winning run on a Dustin Pedroia RBI 2B. Chris Sale shut the Yankees down in the 9th for the complete-game shutout, and the Red Sox took Game #1, 1-0. Sale ended Derek Jeter's 8-game hitting streak. Chris Sale is 3-0, with 31 strikeouts in 21⅓ innings, and a 0.92 WHIP.

## GAME #10 — NYY 9 @ BOS 3

The Yankees came out strong with 4 runs in the 1st inning, on the strength of a Gleyber Torres 3-run HR off of Eduardo Rodriguez. Boston fought back with 1 run in the 1st off of Masahiro Tanaka, on a David Ortiz RBI 2B, and 2 more runs in the 2nd, on RBI from Jackie Bradley and Dustin Pedroia, to draw within 4-3. But, in the 3rd inning, New York stretched the lead with 3 more runs, RBI from Aaron Judge, Giancarlo Stanton, and Torres. The Yankees added 2 more runs in the 4th inning, on a 2-run HR from Judge, giving them a 9-3 lead. The New York bullpen pitched 4 hitless innings, giving the Yankees the valuable road split. David Ortiz tied for the lead in the AL with his 6th 2B.

## GAME #9 — KCR 2 @ TBR 12

The Rays got their offense rolling against the Royals and Yordano Ventura, as Austin Meadows ended his 2-20 slump with a solo HR in the 1st, and 3-run HR in the 2nd. Mike Zunino added a 2-run HR in the 2nd inning, giving Tyler Glasnow a 6-0 3rd inning lead. Jorge Soler hit a solo HR, and Bobby Witt Jr hit a solo HR, but it was all Kansas City could muster. The Rays added 6 more runs on the strength of a Zunino 3-run 2B, and an RBI 1B and solo HR from Brandon Lowe, and Tampa Bay got their 3rd win of the season, 12-2.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 3 • CLEVELAND ROAD SWEEP • TWINS WIN 8-4 • RAYS WIN 5-3 AT HOME

**GAME #10 — KCR 3 @ TBR 5**

The Rays struck first in Game #2 with a Yandy Diaz HR off of Brad Keller in the 3rd inning, and 2 more runs in the 4th, on RBI from Austin Meadows and Joey Wendle. The Royals fought back to tie the game with 3 runs in the 6th inning, highlighted by a 2-run 2B from Jorge Soler, but it was not enough. The Rays added 2 runs in the bottom of the 8th, on a 2-run 2B from Meadows, and they won Game #2, 5-3, getting the home sweep. Austin Meadows had 2 2Bs with 3 RBI, giving him 12 total bases and 7 RBI in the series. Wander Franco went 4-7, raising his average to .415, with just 1 strikeout in 41 at bats; he also leads the AL with 17 hits. Randy Arozarena leads the AL with 12 RBI, and is tied for the league lead with 29 total bases.

**GAME #9 — MIN 1 @ CHW 3**

Lucas Giolito pitched extremely well, giving up only 3 hits and walking 1 over 8 innings, giving the White Sox the win over the Twins. Frank Thomas hit a solo HR in the 3rd, but Joe Mauer hit a solo HR to tie the game 1-1 in the 6th. The White Sox broke through in the 8th with 2 runs, on RBI from Jose Abreu and Eloy Jimenez, winning the game 3-1.

**GAME #10 — MIN 8 @ CHW 4**

In Game #2 the Twins scored 4 runs in the 4th inning, when Josh Donaldson hit a solo HR, and Byron Buxton hit a 3-run HR. Alex Kirilloff led off the 6th inning with a solo HR, and Jorge Polanco followed him with a solo HR, and then Joe Mauer hit a solo HR, giving the Twins a 7-0 lead. Jose Berrios pitched a strong game giving up only 6 hits in 6 innings, but the White Sox made the Twins sweat, scoring 4 runs in the 7th, on RBI from Nick Madrigal, Tim Anderson, and Luis Robert. It was not enough in the end, as the Twins' 8-4 win created a 3-way tie for 1st place in the AL Central. Jorge Polanco leads the AL in slugging percentage at .784, with 29 total bases.

**GAME #9 — CLE 9 @ DET 8**

Detroit needed a win, before going on a four-game road trip, but it was not to be. Jose Ramirez hit a 2-run 3B to give Cleveland a 2-0 lead. Robbie Grossman trimmed it to 2-1 with a solo HR in the bottom of the 3rd, but the Tigers scored 5 runs in the 4th, capped with a Victor Reyes bases-loaded 3B. In the 6th inning, Cleveland hit 3 doubles in a row, scoring twice, but the Tigers got both runs back on a Victor Martinez 2-run HR in the bottom half of the 6th, giving the Tigers an 8-4 lead. The Tigers bullpen then imploded, and their offense didn't get another hit. Jose Ramirez hit a 3-run HR in the 7th, and Tyler Naquin hit a solo HR in the 8th to tie the game. Cleveland then scored 1 in the 10th on an RBI 1B from Omar Vizquel, winning the game 9-8, after facing a 4-run deficit twice. It was a heartbreaking loss for the 1-8 Tigers. Emmanuel Clase picked up the win in relief.

**GAME #10 — CLE 8 @ DET 2**

Cleveland carried the momentum into Game #2, running a streak of scoring in 7 out of 8 innings, as they scored 2 runs in the 1st, 3 runs in the 2nd, and 2 more runs in the 3rd. Franmil Reyes had a 2-run 1B, Jason Kipnis and Jose Ramirez had RBI 2Bs, Carlos Santana had an RBI 1B, and Josh Naylor hit a 2-run HR. That was all Corey Kluber needed, as he took a 2-hit shutout into the 9th inning. Jeimer Candelario hit a 2-run HR to ruin Kluber's shutout, but Cleveland won 8-2 getting the valuable road sweep in Detroit, moving into the 3-way tie for 1st place in the AL Central. Victor Reyes is tied for the league-lead with 17 hits, he moved into first place in batting average at .447, and he is tied for the AL lead with 12 RBI.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 3 • GONZALES SHUTOUT • MUSGROVE FANS 11 • MCGRUFF WALK-OFF HR

**GAME #9 — TEX 2 @ SEA 4**

Felix Hernandez gave up 1 run on a Sam Huff RBI in the 2nd inning, but that was it. The M's got the run back in the bottom half of the 2nd on an RBI 1B from Kyle Seager, added 1 run in the 4th on another Seager RBI 1B, and then 2 more in the 5th, on RBI from Edwin Encarnacion and Ty France. Josh Hamilton had an RBI 2B in the 9th inning, but the Rangers went down quietly after that, and the M's won, 4-2.

**GAME #10 — TEX 0 @ SEA 9**

Marco Gonzales pitched complete-game shutout, giving up only 5 hits and 0 walks. Ty France and Kyle Seager had 1st inning RBI, Julio Rodriguez and JP Crawford had 6th inning RBI, and Ken Griffey Jr hit an 8th inning 3-run HR to seal the 9-0 win, giving the M's the important home sweep, getting them back in the race. The Rangers only had 2 extra base hits in the series. Josh Hamilton is tied for the AL lead with 29 Total Bases.

**GAME #9 — LAA 2 @ HOU 3**

The series started well for the road Angels as Albert Pujols hit a 2-run HR off of Justin Verlander in the 1st inning, but, in the bottom of the 1st, Kyle Tucker hit a solo HR off of Shohei Ohtani, trimming the lead to 2-1. Ohtani and Verlander both settled in after this, and neither team scored again, until the bottom of the 8th inning, when Kyle Tucker hit a 2B, and Yordan Alvarez won the game with a 2-run HR. Alvarez and Tucker went 6-7 against Ohtani, and the rest of the team went 1-24. The Angels didn't have a hit after the 4th inning.

**GAME #10 — LAA 0 @ HOU 4**

Game #2 saw a pitcher's duel between Patrick Sandoval and Joe Musgrove go into the bottom of the 5th inning, when Jose Altuve hit an RBI 2B. Jeff Bagwell added to the lead with a 2-run HR in the 7th, and the Astros won 4-0, earning the home sweep. Musgrove pitched a complete-game shutout, giving up only 4 hits and 4 walks, while striking out 11. Altuve went 4-4, with 3 2Bs.

**GAME #9 — NYM 2 @ ATL 4**

This was the biggest series of the season to date, as the 7-1 Mets visited the 7-1 Braves. Jacob deGrom continued his un-hittable ways, giving up only 2 hits over 8 innings, but he walked 5. The Mets scored 1 run in the 4th inning against Charlie Morton on a Jeff McNeil RBI, and 1 run in the 5th, on an RBI 1B from Francisco Lindor, and they went to the bottom of the 9th leading 2-0. deGrom came out to try for the 1-hit shutout, but he walked Dansby Swanson and gave up an infield single to Deion Sanders, and the Mets brought in closer Edwin Diaz. Diaz got 2 outs, but he couldn't get Chipper Jones to close the game, as Jones hit an RBI single. Fred McGriff came to the plate with a chance to tie or win the game, while Diaz needed just 1 more out. McGriff won the battle, hitting a game-winning walk-off 3-run HR, sending the home crowd jubilant.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 3 • WHEELER SHUTOUT • SYNDERGAARD SHUTOUT • SANCHEZ WALK-OFF

**GAME #10 — NYM 5 @ ATL 0**

Noah Syndergaard wasn't going to be denied in Game #2. The Mets scored twice in the 2nd with 2Bs by Mike Piazza and Darryl Strawberry, and that was all Syndergaard needed, as he gave up only 4 isolated singles in his complete-game shutout. Syndergaard gave up just 1 walk while striking out 10, earning the road split for the Mets. The Braves were shutout in 17 of the 18 innings, and the Braves only had 1 extra-base hit in the series, but they got the split. Chipper Jones ended his 9-game hitting streak, going 0-4. Francisco Lindor leads the NL with 6 2Bs.

**GAME #9 — PHI 12 @ WSH 0**

Max Scherzer faced a desperate Phillies team and Zack Wheeler, and the Phillies struck first, scoring 2 runs in the 2nd inning, on RBI from Jean Segura and Bryson Stott. That was all Zack Wheeler needed, as he gave up only 3 hits and 0 walks over 9 innings, earning the complete-game shutout. The Nationals were reminded of their shaky bullpen in the 8th inning when Tanner Rainey and Tanner Roark both gave up 5 runs, as the Phillies unloaded during a 10-run inning. In the barrage, JT Realmuto hit a 2-run HR, Andrew McCutchen hit a solo HR, and Ryan Howard hit a 3-run HR. In that massive inning, Mike Schmidt went 2-2 with a 2B, 2 runs scored, and 3 RBI.

**GAME #10 — PHI 3 @ WSH 1**

Stephen Strasburg did all he could to get the Nationals the home split, but Aaron Nola matched him the whole way. Michael A. Taylor hit a solo HR in the 5th inning, giving the Nationals the 1-0 lead, but the Phillies were not to be denied. They scrapped for a tying run in the 8th, driving Strasburg from the game, getting into the weak Washington bullpen. Nola pitched 8 innings, giving up only 3 hits and 1 walk, and gave the ball to Jonathan Papelbon, who pitched 2 scoreless innings. In the top of the 11th, Jean Segura won the game with a 2-run HR, giving the Phillies the much needed road sweep. Starlin Castro tied for the lead in the NL with hit 6th 2B.

**GAME #9 — STL 1 @ MIA 2**

Jesus Aguilar gave the Marlins hope with a 1st inning solo HR, but Mark McGwire hit a solo HR in the 4th to tie the game, 1-1. Jack Flaherty and Jose Fernandez both pitched strong games, but Flaherty flinched first, as Jesus Sanchez won the game with a walk-off 1B in the bottom of the 9th inning.

**GAME #10 — STL 3 @ MIA 0**

We saw another pitching duel in Game #2, as Sandy Alcantara and Adam Wainwright both took shutouts into the 8th inning. Yadier Molina hit a 2-out 1B, Dylan Carlson walked, and suddenly Cardinals pinch-hitter Terry Pendleton had a chance to break the scoreless tie with a 2-run 3B. Wainwright finished the complete-game shutout, giving up only 5 hits and 2 walks.

**GAME #9 — CIN 5 @ PIT 3**

The Pirates came into the game with just 1 win, but Andy Van Slyke gave them hope with a 2-run HR in the 1st inning off of Luis Castillo. The Reds came back immediately with 2 runs in the 2nd inning, on solo HRs from Nick Castellanos and Adam Duvall. The game went to the 6th inning tied 2-2, when Van Slyke hit an RBI 3B, giving the Pirates the lead, but again the Reds tied the game in the next inning, on an Duvall RBI 1B. The game went to the 8th, tied 3-3, when Eugenio Suarez hit a 2-run 1B to win the game, 5-3, moving the 1st place Reds to 7-2.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 3 • ROCKIES HOME SWEEP • PIRATES WIN 5-4 • CUBS EARN 5-2 WIN

**GAME #10 — CIN 4 @ PIT 5**

The Reds scored first, on an RBI from Barry Larkin off of Chris Archer, but the Pirates scored 3 runs in the 2nd inning off of Sonny Gray, on RBI from Oneil Cruz, Bryan Reynolds, and Andy Van Slyke. The Reds responded with 1 run in the 3rd, on 2Bs from Joey Votto and Nick Castellanos, and the game went to the 8th, 3-2. Jesse Winker hit a solo HR to tie the game, 3-3, but the Pirates prevailed, as rookie Oneil Cruz hit a 2-run 1B. Tyler Stephenson hit a solo HR in the top of the 9th, to bring the game to 5-4, but Mark Melancon struck out Winker to end the game, and the Pirates earned the home split. Bryan Reynolds extended his hitting streak to a league-best 10 games.

**GAME #9 — MIL 5 @ CHC 4**

Robin Yount and Christian Yelich hit solo HRs in the 4th inning off of Kyle Hendricks, and Willy Adames followed with an RBI 2B, as the Brewers took a 3-0 lead. Corbin Burnes gave up only 3 singles, until Javier Baez connected for a solo HR in the 7th. Keston Hiura hit a 2-run HR in the 8th to extend the lead, and Sammy Sosa hit a solo HR in the bottom half to trim it to 5-2. Josh Hader came in to get the save in the 9th, but it was not easy. Ian Happ came up with the bases loaded and hit a 2-run 2B. With the winning run on 2nd base, Ryne Sandberg couldn't get it done, and the Brewers secured the Game #1 win, 5-4.

**GAME #10 — MIL 2 @ CHC 5**

Robin Yount did it again, hitting a 2-run HR off of Jake Arrieta in the 3rd inning, giving the Brewers a 2-0 lead. But the Cubs fought back against Brandon Woodruff, scoring 2 runs in the bottom of the 3rd, on RBI from Jason Heyward and Ian Happ. Happ hit a solo HR in the 5th, and then Javier Baez and Willson Contreras both hit solo HRs, giving the Cubs a 5-2 win, and the home split. Yount leads the NL with 20 hits, a .417 batting average, 14 RBI, and 40 total bases.

**GAME #9 — ARI 4 @ COL 6**

Trevor Story came into the series in a 3-29 slump, but he led the Rockies to 2 wins in a sweep of the Diamondbacks. Down 2-0, after a Josh Rojas RBI 2B, Story hit a 2-run HR off of Zack Greinke in the 4th inning. With the game tied 2-2 in the 7th, the Rockies broke open the game with 3 runs, capped by a Story 2-run 2B. Josh Rojas hit a 2-run HR in the 9th, but it was not enough for Arizona. Gabriel Marquez pitched well in the win, giving up only 2 runs in 7 innings.

**GAME #10 — ARI 1 @ COL 4**

Trevor Story hit a 3-run HR off of Robbie Ray in the 2nd inning, giving the Rockies a lead they would not relinquish. Kyle Freeland pitched extremely well, taking a shutout into the 8th inning, when Josh Rojas hit his 2nd HR of the series. Brendan Rodgers added a solo HR in the 7th inning, capping the Rockies 4-1 win. Story came into the series with 0 HR and 0 RBI, and he had 2 HRs and 7 RBI in the 2-game series.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 3 • FLEXEN SHUTOUT • MARINERS HOME SWEEP • OAKLAND WINS 8-2

**GAME #9 — LAD 1 @ SDP 6**

Yu Darvish came into the game having given up 0 runs on the season, and he pitched brilliantly against the Dodgers. He took a no-hitter into the 5th inning, when Adrian Gonzalez hit a 1B. In the 6th inning, the Dodgers broke through when Max Muncy hit a solo HR, giving LA the 1-0 lead. But it was short-lived, as Manny Machado hit a 3-run HR off of Clayton Kershaw, giving the Padres the 3-1 lead. Wil Myers hit a 3-run HR to secure the 6-1 win, keeping the Padres in 1st place in the NL West. Darvish has now pitched 23 innings, and he has given up just 11 hits and 1 run, while striking out 31.

**GAME #10 — LAD 4 @ SDP 3**

Walker Buehler gave up only 1 1B until the 6th inning, and Corey Seager hit a 3rd inning solo HR for the 1-0 lead. In the 6th, Fernando Tatis Jr hit a solo HR to tie the game, but the lead was short-lived, as AJ Pollock hit a 2-run HR to take the lead back for LA. With 2 outs in the bottom of the 7th, against a dominant Buehler, Francisco Mejia hit a 2-run HR, but in the top of the 8th, Mookie Betts hit a 2B, stole third, and scored on a Max Muncy sacrifice fly, giving the Dodgers the 4-3 win, and an important road split.

**GAME #9 — OAK 8 @ SFG 2**

Madison Bumgarner didn't have it today. Sean Murphy hit a solo HR in the 2nd to open the floodgates for Oakland. Rickey Henderson singled and scored on a Matt Olson RBI 1B in the 3rd, and then Henderson hit a 2-run HR in the 4th. Evan Longoria cut the lead in half with a 2-run HR off of Chris Bassitt in the 5th, giving the Giants hope, but the A's scored 4 more runs in the 6th against Bumgarner, winning the game 8-2. Henderson had 8 total bases, going 4-5, with 3 RBI and 3 runs.

**GAME #10 — OAK 2 @ SFG 5**

The Giants were suddenly 4-5, and Kevin Gausman showed up, giving up only 1 hit until the 6th. In the 5th inning, Barry Bonds hit a 3-run HR to give the Giants a 4-0 lead, which let them survive a Matt Olson 3-run HR in the 6th. Mike Yastrzemski hit a solo HR in the 7th to give the Giants a 5-3 lead, and Camilo Doval entered in the 8th, striking out 4 to earn the save. Matt Olson tied for the AL lead with his 12th RBI.

**ROUND #6****GAME #11 — BAL 1 @ SEA 2**

The Seattle Mariners are surging, having now won five games in a row. They also have 2 shutouts in their last 3 games, and have outscored their opponents 28-4 during the streak. The Baltimore Orioles are heading in the opposite direction. After a 3-game-winning to start a promising season, the O's have lost six games in a row, and have been outscored 44-10. Adley Rutschman was the only offense for the O's, hitting a solo HR in Game #1, which was the only run of the whole series. He had 3 of the 11 Baltimore hits, and 3 of the 4 extra base hits. Yusei Kikuchi pitched well over 7 innings, earning the win, and Ken Griffey Jr hit a solo HR in the 3rd inning for the first run, and Robinson Cano hit an RBI 1B for the winning run in the 7th.

**GAME #12 — BAL 0 @ SEA 5**

Chris Flexen pitched a gem with a 6-hit complete-game shutout. Robinson Cano hit a solo HR in the 1st, Ken Griffey Jr had an RBI 2B in the 3rd, and Ty France followed him with a 2-run 1B. The M's won easily, 5-0, getting the home sweep, and moving into 1st place in the AL West.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 3 • BAGWELL WALK-OFF 2B • YANKEES BLANK HOU • TIGERS WIN 7-5

**GAME #11 — NYY 5 @ HOU 6**

This was an important series for both clubs, as the Yankees were trying to catch up to the Red Sox, and the Astros needed to keep pace with the surging Mariners. Luis Severino gave up a first inning 3-run HR to Yordan Alvarez, giving the Astros an early 3-0 lead. Hideki Matsui hit a solo HR in the 2nd inning against Lance McCullers. to trim the lead, and Brett Gardner tied the game in the 4th, hitting a 2-run 2B. Giancarlo Stanton continued the surge with a 2-run HR in the 5th, Stanton's league-leading 6th HR. Severino settled in, and the Yankees took a 5-3 lead to the bottom of the 8th, where Yuli Gurriel tied the game with a clutch 2-out 2-run HR. Ryan Pressly gave up a leadoff 2B to Don Mattingly in the 9th inning, but then struck out the side. Aroldis Chapman got 2 easy outs, before walking Kyle Tucker, and then Jeff Bagwell came to the plate, and won the game with a walk-off RBI 2B.

**GAME #12 — NYY 4 @ HOU 0**

Derek Jeter hit a leadoff 2B for the Yankees, and then Giancarlo Stanton hit a 3-run HR off of Framber Valdez, giving New York the early 3-0 lead. Aaron Hicks hit a solo HR in the 2nd, giving Jordan Montgomery a 4-0 lead. Montgomery pitched a gem, giving up only 6 singles over 7 $\frac{1}{3}$  innings. Dellin Betances and Aroldis Chapman both faced tense situations with 2 runners on in both the 8th and 9th innings, but the Yankees prevailed, getting the 4-0 shutout, and the road split. Aaron Judge is in a slump going 0-10 with 5 strikeouts. It was Stanton's league-leading 7th HR; he also has a 9-game hitting streak.

**GAME #11 — DET 6 @ TOR 10**

The 1-9 Tigers came into Toronto desperate for a win, and it started well when Victor Reyes scored on a Miguel Cabrera RBI 2B off of JA Happ, but it was quickly over for Detroit, as Toronto scored 5 runs in the bottom of the 1st against Casey Mize. Roberto Alomar led off the bottom half with a solo HR, and Vladimir Guerrero Jr followed with a solo HR. Lourdes Gurriel hit a 2-run 2B, and then scored on a Marcus Semien RBI 1B. When the dust settled, the Blue Jays were up 5-1. Alomar hit a 2B in the 2nd inning, and scored on a George Springer RBI 1B, and then Semien hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd, and it was 8-1. The Blue Jays added 2 more runs in the 6th inning, on RBI from Springer and Guerrero, before the Tigers tacked on 5 runs over the last 3 innings to make the score more respectable.

**GAME #12 — DET 7 @ TOR 5**

Marcus Semien hit a solo HR off of Matt Manning in the 2nd inning, giving Alek Manoah a 1-0 lead. Manoah pitched a shutout through 5 innings, before Robbie Grossman hit a solo HR to tie the game. The Blue Jays drove Matt Manning from his best start of the season, scoring 2 runs in the 7th, RBI from George Springer and Teoscar Hernandez, taking a 3-1 lead. But the Blue Jays bullpen is a weakness, and the Tigers scored 4 runs in the 8th inning, RBI from Spencer Torkelson, Jeimer Candelario, and Willi Castro, and 2 more runs in the 9th, RBI from Victor Martinez and Torkelson, for a surprising 7-3 lead. Hernandez hit a 2-run HR in the 9th, but it was not enough, and the Jays went down, 7-5, giving the Tigers a much needed road split.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 3 • RED SOX HOME SWEEP • TWINS SCORE FIFTEEN • ANGELS SCORE TEN

**GAME #11 — TEX 7 @ BOS 10**

Boston came into the series with a chance to increase their lead over the Blue Jays and Yankees, both of whom split their series, and they did not disappoint their home fans. Rafael Devers started the scoring with a solo HR in the 2nd, and by the end of the 2nd, Boston was up 4-0. Juan Gonzalez hit a solo HR to trim the lead, but Boston unloaded in the bottom of the 4th with 6 more runs, capped by a Xander Bogaerts 3-run HR. The Rangers surprising bullpen only gave up 1 lone single after that, and Texas broke through against the Red Sox bullpen, but it was not enough as Boston won 10-7. Juan Gonzalez hit a second solo HR and a 2B, finishing the game with 10 total bases.

**GAME #12 — TEX 1 @ BOS 5**

Boston continued their surge with 3 runs in the 2nd on an RBI 1B from Dustin Pedroia and a 2-run 2B from Wade Boggs. Boston scored 1 in the 3rd and 1 in the 4th on David Ortiz and Jackie Bradley solo HRs. Nate Lowe hit a solo HR for Texas' lone run, and the Red Sox coasted to an easy 5-1 win and the home sweep. Nathan Eovaldi pitched well giving up only 4 hits and 1 run over 6 innings. The Rangers' bullpen finished the series with 6⅔ innings pitched giving up only 1 single and 0 runs.

**GAME #11 — MIN 2 @ TBR 3**

Drew Rasmussen pitched a strong game going 8 innings giving up just 5 hits and 2 runs. Nelson Cruz and Byron Buxton both hit solo HR, but they could not overcome one swing by Hunter Renfroe who hit a 3-run HR in the 3rd which proved decisive in the Rays' 3-2 win.

**GAME #12 — MIN 15 @ TBR 5**

Yandy Diaz led off the bottom half of the 1st with a solo HR, but the Twins unloaded for 5 runs in the 2nd, highlighted by a Byron Buxton 2 RBI 3B. The Twins did it again in the 4th with 4 more runs, highlighted by an Eddie Rosario 2 RBI 3B. The Rays tried to fight back with 1 in the 4th and 2 in the 5th, but Buxton hit an HR in the 7th and Josh Donaldson did the same in the 8th. In the 9th the Twins added 4 more runs when Mitch Garver hit a solo HR and Kirby Puckett hit a 2 RBI 3B. It was the second highest scoring output of the season, trailing the 17 runs the Twins put up in Game #8.

**GAME #11 — CHW 5 @ LAA 10**

The White Sox came into the road series against the Angels with high hopes, but they were dashed. Carlos Rodon was lit up again as Shohei Ohtani and the Angels pummeled him for 11 hits and 8 runs in 5⅓ innings. Ohtani went 3-4 with 4 runs, 4 RBI, 1 2B and 1 HR. Mike Trout also hit a 2-run HR in the 10-5 win. Anthony Rendon went 4-5. In the loss Eloy Jimenez and Jose Abreu both hit 2-run HRs. Andrew Heaney pitched well again.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 3 • OAKLAND ROAD SWEEP • ANGELS WIN 5-4 • CLEVELAND WINS 10-7

**GAME #12 — CHW 4 @ LAA 5**

The White Sox started hot with 4 runs in the 2nd on the strength of an Andrew Vaughn 2-run HR, and an RBI 2B from Yoan Moncada and an RBI 3B from Nick Madrigal, but the Angels cut the lead in half with 2 runs in the bottom half on a 2-run 1B from Justin Upton. The Angels added an RBI from Albert Pujols in the 5th to trim the lead to 4-3, and then tied the game in the 7th as Shohei Ohtani hit his third double of the series and scored on a Mike Trout RBI 1B. In the bottom of the 8th the comeback was completed when Andrelton Simmons hit an RBI 1B. Mike Mayers pitched both scoreless 9th innings in the home series sweep. The Angels have a new life on the season, and the White Sox are left wondering how to get it going.

**GAME #11 — OAK 3 @ KCR 2**

The Oakland A's put their claim on the AL West with a clutch series in Kansas City. Seth Brown started it off with a solo HR in the 2nd, and the A's added 1 in the 4th. Sal Perez hit his 6th HR on the season in the 4th, and Hunter Dozier tied the game in the 7th with an RBI 3B. The game went 2-2 into the 11th when Matt Olson drove in Elvis Andrus with a clutch 2-out RBI 1B against Wade Davis, and the A's squeaked out a 3-2 road win.

**GAME #12 — OAK 5 @ KCR 4**

Sean Murphy hit his 4th HR on the season with a 3-run shot in the 2nd inning, and Rickey Henderson hit a 2-run 1B in the 4th for a 5-0 lead. Sal Perez hit his league-leading 7th HR in the 4th, and then had a 2 RBI 1B in the 8th to close the lead, but it was as close as the Royals could get as the A's secured the 5-4 win and the road sweep, moving their record to 8-4. Cole Irvin pitched well in the win giving up only the Perez HR until the 6th inning. The A's bullpen pitched 7 innings giving up only 1 run. Matt Chapman has hit the skids with an 0-11 series with 5 strikeouts.

**GAME #11 — CLE 2 @ CIN 6**

Cleveland and Cincinnati faced off for Game #1 of their rivalry series. Eugenio Suarez hit a solo HR in the 2nd inning, and Nick Castellanos continued his MVP push with a solo HR in the 3rd. Cleveland fought back with a Jose Ramirez RBI 1B and a Jim Thome solo HR, but the Reds scored in the bottom of the 5th to take the lead back 3-2. Cleveland had hope but Aristides Aquino hit a solo HR, his first of the season, and then Suarez hit a 2-run HR for his 2nd HR of the game, giving the Reds the 6-2 win.

**GAME #12 — CLE 10 @ CIN 7**

Cleveland started the game hot with a 2-run 2B by Franmil Reyes and a 2-run HR by Tyler Naquin for a 4-0 lead, but the Reds shocked them by scoring 5 in the bottom half of the 2nd with Chris Sabo 2-run 2B and a Barry Larkin 3-run HR. Cleveland tied the game with an Omar Vizquel RBI 1B in the 4th, but the Reds took the lead back in the 6th on a Todd Frazier 2-run HR. Cleveland would not be denied though, as they scored 2 in the 7th to tie the game, and then Omar Vizquel hit a rare 2-run HR off of Lucas Sims to take the lead. Jim Thome capped it off with a solo HR in the 9th and Cleveland won a wild game 10-7 earning the road split, and keeping place with the Twins in 1st place.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 3 • PAVIN SMITH SLAM • HAMELS SHUTOUT • MARLINS HOME SWEEP

**GAME #11 — MIL 3 @ MIA 5**

The Brewers came into Miami with hopes of contending in the NL Central, but the Marlins showed up. Ichiro hit a solo HR in the 1st, and Jon Berti hit a solo HR in the 3rd, giving Miami a 2-0 lead. The Brewers came back with 1 in the 4th, but the Marlins answered with 2 more in the bottom of the 4th. The Brewers cut the lead to 4-3 in the 8th with 2 runs, but Jesus Sanchez capped the Marlins' 5-3 win with a solo HR. Trevor Rogers pitched strong in the win.

**GAME #12 — MIL 4 @ MIA 5**

Game #2 went scoreless to the 4th when Miguel Rojas hit an RBI 3B and scored on a Jon Berti 2B, who then scored on an Ichiro 1B, giving the Marlins a 3-0 lead. The Brewers immediately came back when Robin Yount took matters into his own hands and hit a 3-run HR. The Marlins scored twice more in the 6th when Rojas hit his second consecutive 3B and Berti hit him in again, and then scored on a Jazz Chisholm 1B. Yount again single-handedly led the Brewers comeback with a solo HR, his second consecutive. Both bullpens stepped up and the Marlins won 5-4 getting the unexpected home sweep. AJ Ramos and Sixto Sanchez pitched 3 $\frac{2}{3}$  scoreless innings, with Sanchez earning 2 saves. Jon Berti went 4-7 with 2 2B and 1 HR, 5 RBI, and 3 Runs, as he secured a starting role going forward.

**GAME #11 — ARI 10 @ ATL 3**

This was one of the surprising games of the season. Atlanta came in with a league-best 8-2 record at home against Arizona. Ronald Acuna hit a solo HR in the 1st, and Atlanta thought they were in command. Zac Gallen settled in and didn't allow another run over 6 innings. Ian Anderson pitched 5 shutout innings but gave up 1 run in the 5th on a David Peralta 2B scoring on a Pavin Smith RBI 1B. The 6th inning is where Atlanta lost control as Arizona scored 6 runs, capped by a Pavin Smith Grand Slam HR. Freddie Freeman hit a solo HR in the 7th, but it was not enough as the Diamondbacks added 3 more runs in the 9th and won 10-3.

**GAME #12 — ARI 2 @ ATL 7**

Chipper Jones had an RBI 2B to start the scoring for the Braves, but 2Bs from Daulton Varsho and Geraldo Perdomo tied the game 1-1. Nick Markakis hit a solo HR in the 4th to take the lead back, and the Braves added 2 more on a Dansby Swanson 2-run 1B. Arizona fought back with 1 in the 7th, but the Braves added 3 more in the 8th on a Swanson RBI 2B and a William Contreras 2-run HR securing the split with a 7-2 win.

**GAME #11 — PIT 0 @ PHI 4**

The Phillies came in desperate, at home, and against their rivals, the lowly Pittsburgh Pirates, and had high hopes. They needed a sweep. Cole Hamels took the ball and responded with a complete-game shutout, shutting down the Pirates offense. Ke'Bryan Hayes and Bryan Reynolds had 2Bs, but that was it for the Pirates as they failed to score. Lenny Dykstra scored twice, and Rhys Hoskins had an HR and 3 RBI. Mike Schmidt added the last run with a solo HR in the 3-run 3rd inning, and the Phillies coasted to a 4-0 win. Hamels lowered his ERA to 1.54.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 3 • MCMAHON WALK-OFF HIT • PADRES HOME SWEEP • CUBS BLANK LA

**GAME #12 — PIT 5 @ PHI 7**

Lenny Dykstra continued his strong season with a lead off solo HR, but the Pirates came back with 3 in the 2nd on a Gregory Polanco RBI 2B, and a Oneil Cruz 2 RBI 1B. The Phillies came right back with 3 of their own in the bottom half with a Dykstra RBI 1B and a Bryce Harper 2 RBI 1B. They added 2 more in the 3rd and 1 more in the 6th on 2 Jean Segura RBI 1Bs. The Pirates came close after an RBI 3B by Andy Van Slyke, and an RBI 2B by Roberto Clemente, but they couldn't close the gap any further, losing 7-5 as the Phillies got the much needed home sweep. Dykstra is now 2nd in hits (22) and average (.415) and runs (13) and has an active 8-game hitting streak. Jonathan Papelbon pitched the 9th for his 2nd save. He has given up just 2 hits and 0 runs over 7 $\frac{2}{3}$  innings on the season.

**GAME #11 — WSH 4 @ COL 5**

Trea Turner began the game with a 1B, a SB, and a RS. Jayson Werth added to it with a 3-run HR in the 3rd for a 4-0 Nationals lead, but Colorado came back. Brendan Rodgers hit a 2-run HR in the 5th, and Ryan McMahon hit a 2-run HR in the 7th to tie the game 4-4. Justin Morneau hit a 9th inning double, and McMahon had the walk-off hit with an RBI 1B for the 5-4 Rockies' win.

**GAME #12 — WSH 5 @ COL 4**

The Rockies scored twice in the 1st inning, but the Nationals took the lead with 3 in the 2nd on a Keibert Ruiz 2-run HR. Andres Galarraga tied the game in the 3rd with a solo HR, and in 5th inning Charlie Blackmon had an RBI 1B for the lead. But Jayson Werth took the victory for the Nationals with a 2-run HR in the 6th as Washington got the road split with a 5-4 win.

**GAME #11 — NYM 2 @ SDP 4**

The hot Mets cooled off in San Diego as the Padres announced themselves as true contenders. Fernando Tatis Jr had a 2-run 2B in the 3rd, and a solo HR in the 5th to pace the Padres. Mike Piazza was the Mets' lone weapon with a 2B that scored and a solo HR, but the Mets went down quietly 4-2.

**GAME #12 — NYM 3 @ SDP 7**

James Shields shut down the Mets for 5 innings before finally giving up a 2-run 2B to Jeff McNeil. Manny Machado handled the offense for the Padres with a 2B that scored and a 3-run HR. Dave Winfield added a 2-run 1B and the Padres secured an impressive home sweep with a 7-3 win over the Mets. Jeff McNeil is 2nd in the league with 16 RBI.

**GAME #11 — CHC 5 @ LAD 0**

The Dodgers came into the season as the heavy NL favorites, but had been only a .500 team through the first 10 games. This series at home against the slumping Cubs was seen as a chance to right the ship and get back in the race, but it was anything but. This was the shock of the early season. Struggling Julio Urias matched Jon Lester as both took shutouts into the 6th inning, when the Cubs unloaded for 5 runs. Jason Heyward and Seiya Suzuki both had 2 RBI and the Cubs took a 5-0 lead that would hold up for the win. Jon Lester didn't give up a run over 7 innings, and the Cubs' bullpen finished the shutout.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 3 • CUBS WIN 5-2 ON ROAD • CARDS WIN 6-2 • GIANTS EARN 5-4 WIN

**GAME #12 — CHC 5 @ LAD 2**

The LA fans were certain their powerful offense would return in time for the split, but it was not to be. Jason Heyward hit a 2-run HR and Anthony Rizzo had an RBI 1B and a 2-run HR for the Cubs. Justin Turner had an RBI 1B and Adrian Gonzalez hit a solo HR but it was all the Dodgers could put together against Wade Miley and the Cubs' bullpen as the Cubs won 5-2 and got an improbable road sweep in LA. The Cubs bullpen pitched 5⅔ scoreless innings in the series.

**GAME #11 — SFG 2 @ STL 6**

The Giants had a tough task to keep pace with the Padres in St. Louis, and the Cardinals proved it with 2 runs in the 1st and 4 more in the 2nd, as Nolan Arenado hit a 2-run HR, Yadier Molina hit a solo HR, and Paul Goldschmidt hit a 3-run HR. Logan Webb continued his struggles and the Giants could only get 2 runs back on a 2-run HR from Barry Bonds, as the Giants went down quietly 6-2.

**GAME #12 — SFG 5 @ STL 4**

San Francisco was desperate for the split and scored in the 2nd on an Evan Longoria 2B and a Wilmer Flores RBI 1B, but the Cardinals answered with a Nolan Arenado RBI 2B. The game went 1-1 to the 8th when Wilmer Flores hit a 2-run 2B and scored on a Brandon Crawford 1B and the Giants thought they were going to cruise to the win up 4-1 in the 9th with Camilo Doval coming in. But with 2 outs pinch-hitter Tommy Edman hit a 2-run 3B to tie the game and shock the Giants. In the 10th Will Clark came out of his horrible season-long slump with his 1st RBI of the year with a game-winning solo HR, and the Giants got the needed split 5-4 in 10 innings.

## MLBC — WEEK 4

GAMES 13-16 • FAULT LINES

## THE RACES TAKE SHAPE

*New York roars, Cleveland seizes control, and the league reaches its first real fault lines.*

**THE LEAD** Three teams entered Week 4 at 9-3: Boston, Atlanta and San Diego. Seattle had charged to 8-4, Philadelphia had just gone 4-0, and the Mets were trying to recover from their first uneven week. The schedule offered exactly the kind of collisions that could reorder everything: Mets-Yankees, Padres-Braves, Red Sox-Braves, Dodgers-Brewers, and Seattle against a White Sox club desperate to rejoin the AL Central race. Sixteen games in, the standings were beginning to look less like an opening snapshot and more like territory worth defending.

**THE WEEK** San Diego made the week's strongest statement. The 9-3 Padres went into Atlanta against a 9-3 Braves club and swept it, 5-2 and 9-5, with Yu Darvish controlling the opener and Manny Machado, Dave Winfield and Fernando Tatis Jr. driving the attack. The Yankees chose the same week to become dangerous, going 4-0 and sweeping the Mets after Aaron Judge ended a 15-inning Subway Series opener with a 2-run walk-off HR. Cleveland and the White Sox also ran perfect weeks. Franmil Reyes hit three HR and drove in seven as the Guardians swept the Angels, while Chicago stopped Seattle's seven-game winning streak cold. Washington supplied another road statement by sweeping St. Louis behind Max Scherzer's complete-game shutout and Stephen Strasburg. Félix Hernández authored the sharpest pitching line of all, a 2-hit complete-game shutout of Detroit.

**THE STAKES** Boston and San Diego are now 12-4, Cleveland is 11-5, and a dense pack of contenders sits at 10-6. San Diego has done more than keep pace; it has beaten a fellow leader on the road and made its contender status impossible to dismiss. The Yankees have transformed a 6-6 start into a legitimate run, while the Mets and Braves have both been pulled toward the crowd. The next four games take everyone to the halfway mark. Rivalry baseball arrives in Chicago, Milwaukee visits New York, the Yankees go to Anaheim, and Atlanta heads west to Colorado before Cincinnati comes to Georgia. The midpoint will tell us which early advantages are real and which were merely borrowed.

TOP OF TABLE  
BOS / SDP • 12-4

PERFECT WEEK  
NYY / CLE / CHW • 4-0

STREAK SNAPPED  
CHW sweeps SEA

ROAD SWEEP  
WSH sweeps STL

## WEEKLY HONORS

## HITTER OF THE WEEK

**GOLD** FRANMIL REYES • CLE

3 HR • 7 RBI • Grand Slam

**SILVER** RYAN BRAUN • MIL

2 HR • 6 RBI

**BRONZE** CARLOS GONZALEZ • COL

Grand Slam + 2-run HR • 6 RBI

## PITCHER OF THE WEEK

**GOLD** FÉLIX HERNÁNDEZ • SEA

CG SHO • 2 H

**SILVER** MAX SCHERZER • WSH

CG SHO • 4 H

**BRONZE** JOSÉ BERRÍOS • MIN

CG SHO • 7 H • 10 K

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 4 • HERNANDEZ GRAND SLAM • ROYALS HOME SWEEP • CLEVELAND SWEEPS

## ROUND #7

## GAME #13 — BAL 2 @ KCR 10

The Baltimore Orioles showed some promise early in the season at 3-0, but they have returned to earth, and didn't put up any fight in Kansas City as they lost their 8th game in a row. John Means got lit up for 8 runs as Sal Perez hit his league leading 8th HR, George Brett had 2 RBI, Bo Jackson had 2 RBI and Hunter Dozier and Bobby Witt Jr both had 3 hits including 2 2Bs each. Trey Mancini and Jahmai Jones both hit solo HR in the Royals' 10-2 win.

## GAME #14 — BAL 2 @ KCR 5

George Brett hit a solo HR in the 3rd inning and Bo Jackson hit a 3-run HR in the 5th to pace the Royals. Bobby Witt Jr added a solo HR in the 7th to secure the 5-2 win and the needed home sweep. The Royals' bullpen pitched 6 scoreless innings as the Royals stepped up into contention for the AL Central title.

## GAME #13 — TBR 3 @ CLE 8

Shane Bieber pitched well for Cleveland, giving up 0 runs through 5 innings. Jim Thome had a sacrifice fly in the 3rd for the 1-0 lead, but the Rays scored 2 in the 6th to take the lead for Tyler Glasnow. The Rays added another on a Randy Arozarenan HR to take a 3-1 lead to the bottom of the 8th, when Cleveland unloaded with 7 runs against the Rays weak bullpen. Josh Naylor hit a 2-run HR, Jose Ramirez hit a 3-run HR, and Jim Thome hit a 2-run HR as part of a huge Guardians' inning, giving Cleveland an 8-3 win.

## GAME #14 — TBR 2 @ CLE 3

Franmil Reyes started the sweep attempt well with a solo HR in the 2nd and an RBI 1B in the 3rd. The Rays tied the game with 2 runs in the 6th, breaking open Corey Kluber's stellar game. The game went to the bullpens and Emmanuel Clase shut down the Rays, and Colome was fallible as Jason Kipnis hit a pinch-hit 2B and scored on Jose Ramirez's game-winning RBI 1B, securing the series sweep and moving Cleveland into 1st place.

## GAME #13 — TOR 6 @ TEX 3

Juan Gonzalez gave the struggling Rangers some hope with a 2nd inning solo HR for the 1-0 lead. The Rangers have lost 6 in a row, and needed a win at home. Kyle Gibson pitched well taking a shutout into the 7th inning, when the Blue Jays woke up. Hyun Jin Ryu pitched well giving up only 3 hits and kept the Blue Jays in the game bringing it 1-0 to the 7th. In the 7th the Blue Jays loaded the bases and Teoscar Hernandez, who already has 1 on the season, hit another Grand Slam HR. Lourdes Gurriel added a solo HR afterward and Toronto score 6 times. Adrian Beltre added a 2-run 1B in the 9th, but it was not enough as Texas lost their 7th game in a row 6-3.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 4 • SALE ONE-HITTER • WHITE SOX ROAD SWEEP • ANGELS SCORE TEN

**GAME #14 — TOR 7 @ TEX 5**

In the previous game the Rangers had hope for a win, but in Game #2 hope was squashed early when Vladimir Guerrero Jr hit a 3-run HR in the 1st inning, and Danny Jansen added a 2-run 2B, his first hit on the season, and the Jays were up 5-0 before the Rangers even batted. Gurriel added another solo HR in the 3rd, his 2nd of the series, for the 6-0 lead, but the Rangers fought back with 3 on a Juan Gonzalez 2-run 1B. A Jonah Heim 2-run HR, his first of the season, brought the Rangers within 1 at 6-5, but that was as close as they could get as they went down 7-5, losing their 8th game in a row. The Blue Jays have won 6 of 7 to contend in the AL East. Teoscar Hernandez had his 10-game hitting streak ended with an 0-5 day.

**GAME #13 — HOU 0 @ BOS 4**

Chris Sale and Justin Verlander squared off in a duel of the leaders for the Cy Young award. Sale pitched a 1-hit complete-game shutout, and Verlander gave up a 2-run HR to JD Martinez and a solo HR to David Ortiz in the 1st. Xander Bogaerts added a solo HR in the 6th and the Red Sox won 4-0. Chris Sale is 4-0 with a 0.88 ERA and 44 strikeouts in the clear lead for the award.

**GAME #14 — HOU 2 @ BOS 5**

Yuli Gurriel and Kyle Tucker hit back-to-back solo HR in the 2nd inning, but David Ortiz tied the game with a 2-run HR in the 4th. The Red Sox added 3 runs in the 5th against Joe Musgrove on a 2-run 1B by Ortiz, and the Red Sox bullpen shut down the Astros for the 5-2 win.

**GAME #13 — CHW 2 @ OAK 1**

The White Sox came into Oakland scuffling, and Oakland was surging, and by the time these two games were over, the roles were reversed. Jose Abreu hit a solo HR in the 4th, and Matt Chapman matched him with his own solo HR tying the game 1-1. Chris Bassitt and Lucas Giolito had quite a pitching duel going, and the game went 1-1 to the 9th, when Frank Thomas hit the game-winning solo HR, giving Chicago the 2-1 lead.

**GAME #14 — CHW 4 @ OAK 3**

The White Sox started with 1 in the 1st on an RBI 1B from Jose Abreu, but the A's matched them with an RBI 2B from Starling Marte in the bottom half to tie the game. Oakland added 2 in the 2nd on RBI 1Bs from Rickey Henderson and Starling Marte, but the White Sox scored 3 times in the 3rd, on a 2-run 3B from Yoan Moncada and an RBI from Zack Collins, and that was all the scoring in the game. The bullpens gave up nothing, and the White Sox got the 4-3 win and the road sweep in Oakland to get back into the AL Central race. Starling Marte went 6-9 in the series. Lance Lynn pitched well for 6 innings to earn the win.

**GAME #13 — LAA 10 @ MIN 1**

Albert Pujols began the scoring for the Angels with a 2-run HR in the 1st inning, and the Angels never looked back. Shohei Ohtani pitched 5 innings giving up only 2 hits and 1 run. Mike Trout had an RBI 2B in the 4th and a solo HR in the 6th, and Pujols had 4 hits including 2 2Bs, and so did Anthony Rendon. The Angels added 1 in the 3rd, 1 in the 4th, 3 in the 5th, and 3 in the 6th for a 10-1. The Angels also drew 9 BB adding to their 15 hits. Byron Buxton hit a solo HR in the 5th as the lone Twins' run.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 4 • JUDGE WINS IN 15TH • FELIX TWO-HITTER • BERRIOS SHUTOUT

**GAME #14 — LAA 0 @ MIN 7**

Game #2 saw a reversal as Nelson Cruz hit a 2-run HR in the 1st inning. The Twins added 4 more in the 7th on a Byron Buxton 2-run HR and a Joe Mauer solo HR. Jose Berrios pitched a complete-game shutout giving up 7 hits and 3 walks, while striking out 10 for his best start of the year, giving the Twins the needed home split, having them keep pace in the race for the AL Central. Buxton has tied for the league lead with 8 HR.

**GAME #13 — DET 0 @ SEA 5**

The Tigers made it to Seattle, but they never actually showed up for the series setting a record for futility. In Game #1 Felix Hernandez pitched a 2-hit complete-game shutout. The Tigers got two lone singles and a walk, and that was it. Robinson Cano began the scoring for the M's with a solo HR in the 1st and then Austin Nola took over. Nola hit a solo HR in the 2nd, and then a 3-run HR in the 8th to give the M's a 5-0 shutout.

**GAME #14 — DET 0 @ SEA 2**

Marco Gonzales pitched 7 shutout innings and Diego Castillo and Fernando Rodney finished it out. Robinson Cano hit a 1st inning 2B and scored for the 1-0 lead, and Julio Rodriguez hit a solo HR in the 4th to give the M's the 2-0 win and the home sweep. The Seattle Mariners have won seven games in a row, scoring 35 runs and only giving up a remarkable 4 runs. This was the M's 3rd shutout in a row, and 4th in 5 games. They have given up just 1 run in the last 5 games. It is an utterly speechless performance as the M's have moved into 1st place in the AL West and announced themselves as contenders this year.

**GAME #13 — NYM 3 @ NYY 4**

The much anticipated subway series was here as the Mets played at Yankee stadium, and Gerrit Cole and Jacob deGrom squared off. Darryl Strawberry broke through first with an RBI 1B in the 1st inning, but DJ LeMahieu tied the game with a solo HR in the 2nd. Cole gave up another run in the 5th when Brandon Nimmo hit an RBI 2B scoring Jeff McNeil. deGrom took the 2-1 lead to the 8th, but gave up 3 singles in a row, and the Yankees tied the game 2-2 on a Giancarlo Stanton RBI 1B. The strong bullpens of both teams settled in with 6 scoreless innings each. The Mets finally scored in the 15th on a Strawberry solo HR, and the Mets thought they were going to steal one from the Yankees. But it was not to be as Aaron Judge hit a 2-run HR, giving the Yankees a terrific walk-off victory in the 15th inning.

**GAME #14 — NYM 0 @ NYY 3**

The depressed Mets couldn't do a thing in Game #2. Masahiro Tanaka pitched 6 innings of shutout baseball, and the Yankees bullpen finished the 3-0 shutout. Noah Syndergaard only gave up 4 hits, but one was a solo HR to DJ LeMahieu, and a 2-run HR to Giancarlo Stanton, his 8th on the season. The Yankees bullpen pitched 11 innings and gave up only 1 run.

**GAME #13 — PHI 3 @ ARI 1**

The Phillies came into Arizona on a 4-game-winning streak, looking to continue the surge to turn their season around. Zack Wheeler showed up and held the Diamondbacks to a lone run on a Geraldo Perdomo solo HR in the 6th. The Phillies scored once in the 4th on a Lenny Dykstra RBI 1B, and another in the 7th on a Rhys Hoskins solo HR. The Phillies put the cap on the 3-1 win with an RBI 2B by Bryce Harper in the 9th, and the Phillies won their 5th game in a row.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 4 • PHILLIES ROAD SWEEP • PADRES ROAD SWEEP • MIAMI BLANKS REDS

**GAME #14 — PHI 4 @ ARI 2**

Arizona took the lead in the 3rd on an Eric Chavez RBI 1B, but the Phillies came to life in the 6th with 3 runs on 2Bs by Hoskins and Mike Schmidt. Chavez hit an RBI 2B cutting the lead to 3-2, but Bryce Harper hit a solo HR in the 8th and the Phillies won their 6th in a row. Arizona has lost 5 of 6. Aaron Nola pitched well earning the win.

**GAME #13 — MIA 4 @ CIN 0**

The Reds were sky-high leading the NL Central and were looking for the sweep, but Jose Fernandez shut them out, giving up only 4 hits. Jesse Winker hit a 2B but that was it for the Reds. Jazz Chisholm had an RBI 1B in the 3rd, and Garrett Cooper hit a 3-run HR to give the Marlins a surprising 4-0 shutout win in Cincinnati.

**GAME #14 — MIA 4 @ CIN 7**

The Marlins came out strong again with 1 in the 1st, but this time the Reds answered with a 2-run 2B by Jesse Winker. The Marlins answered tying the game 2-2 in the 2nd and the game stayed that way until the 7th, when the Reds unloaded for 5 runs. Sandy Alcantara was lit up in the 7th, and Reds took over the game on 2-run 2Bs by both Eugenio Suarez and Tyler Stephenson. The Marlins got back 2 in the 9th on a Jazz Chisholm 2-run 1B against Raisel Iglesias, but it was not enough as the Reds won 7-4 and got the home split.

**GAME #13 — SDP 5 @ ATL 2**

The Braves came in at 9-3 looking to put their name in for the best record in the league with a home series. The Padres came in a surprising 9-3 and came into a road series hoping to get a split. Yu Darvish showed up and shutdown the Braves after giving up an RBI 2B to Fred McGriff in the 1st inning. Manny Machado hit a 2B and scored on a Dave Winfield RBI 1B, who then scored on a Francisco Mejia RBI 1B. Eric Hosmer hit a 2-run HR in the 6th and Fernando Tatis Jr hit a solo HR in the 7th for the Padres' 5-2 win.

**GAME #14 — SDP 9 @ ATL 5**

Manny Machado started the scoring for the hot Padres with an RBI 2B, and he scored on a Dave Winfield 1B. The Braves answered with an RBI 1B from Marcell Ozuna to trim the lead to 2-1. The Padres did the exact same thing as the 1st inning when Jurickson Profar hit a leadoff 2B, Machado hit a 2-out 2B scoring him, and Winfield finished it with an RBI 1B, giving the Padres a 4-1 lead. Austin Riley hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd, and a 2-run HR in the 8th, but it was not enough as the Padres scored 4 times in the 7th on a Fernando Tatis Jr RBI 2B and a Winfield 3-run HR. Tony Gwynn hit a solo HR in the 9th to finish off the 9-5 win and the huge road sweep in Atlanta. San Diego has announced themselves as true contenders at 11-3, tied for the best record in the league.

**GAME #13 — LAD 6 @ MIL 1**

The struggling Dodgers came into Milwaukee hoping for a boost, and they got it with a 4-hit game by Mookie Betts and an HR from Cody Bellinger. LA scored 2 in the 1st, 2 in the 3rd, 1 in the 4th, and 1 in the 5th for a 6-0 lead, backing a dominant performance by Clayton Kershaw. Kershaw pitched a 4-hit complete game and cruised to the 6-1 win. Lorenzo Cain hit a solo HR in the loss for the lone Brewer run.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 4 • SCHERZER SHUTOUT • GONZALEZ GRAND SLAM • BREWERS WIN 6-1

**GAME #14 — LAD 1 @ MIL 6**

Walker Buehler and Brandon Woodruff took shutouts into the 5th, but the Brewers broke through first with 2 runs. The Dodgers answered with 1 in the 6th, but the Brewers put up 4 in the 7th, driving Buehler from the game. Ryan Braun hit the capping 2-run 2B, and the Brewers cruised to an easy 6-1 win. Devin Williams and Josh Hader both struck out the side in the 8th and 9th, and the Brewers got the home split. Robin Yount cooled off on his MVP run with an 0-8 skid.

**GAME #13 — WSH 3 @ STL 0**

This was another very surprising series. The Cardinals came in on a high after almost sweeping the Giants and facing the struggling Nationals, but it was not to be. Max Scherzer showed up and dominated, pitching a 4-hit complete-game shutout. Jack Flaherty matched him until the 7th when Howie Kendrick stepped up with a game-winning 3-run HR to win Game #1 3-0.

**GAME #14 — WSH 7 @ STL 2**

The Cardinals came in eager for the split, but Ryan Zimmerman hit a solo HR in the 1st, and then the Nationals unloaded on Adam Wainwright for 6 hits and 5 runs in the 2nd. Daniel Murphy and Howie Kendrick hit RBI 1Bs, Trea Turner hit an RBI 2B, and Juan Soto capped the 5-run inning with a 2-run 1B. The Cardinals were down 6-0 before their first hit, a Tyler O'Neill solo HR. Mark McGwire added an HR in the 4th, but Stephen Strasburg didn't allow them anything else, securing the 7-2 win and the unlikely road sweep in St. Louis. Both teams left the series at 7-7.

**GAME #13 — PIT 5 @ COL 7**

The Pirates gave it their best effort in Game #1 with 1 run in the 1st and 3 more in the 2nd on the strength of a Bryan Reynolds 2-run HR. Trevor Story kept the Rockies close with a 2B that scored and a solo HR in the 3rd, before they broke out with 5 runs in the 5th on a Carlos Gonzalez Grand Slam HR and a Justin Morneau solo HR, and the Rockies won 7-5 in comeback fashion.

**GAME #14 — PIT 6 @ COL 5**

Chris Archer answered the call for the Pirates with 6 shutout innings, paced by a solo HR from Gregory Polanco and extra base hits from Josh Harrison, Bryan Reynolds, and Roberto Clemente, giving the Pirates a 3-0 lead, when the Rockies woke up. The Pirates bullpen got lit up with 5 Rockies' runs, capped by a Trevor Story 3-run HR, and Pittsburgh was looking at a sweep and two blown leads. But the Rockies gave the lead up in the 9th when Ke'Bryan Hayes hit a clutch 2-out 2-run HR to tie the game. Clemente hit a game-winning solo HR in the 10, giving the Pirates a 6-5 win, and a road split.

**GAME #13 — CHC 1 @ SFG 2**

Kyle Hendricks shut down the Giants in San Francisco, sending the Giants to a game under .500. Anthony Rizzo hit a solo HR off of Madison Bumgarner in the 4th, but the Giants answered with a run in the 6th on a Will Clark RBI 2B. Javier Baez connected in the 7th with a solo HR to tie the game and the game went to the 9th tied 2-2. Ryne Sandberg led off with a 2B, and Kris Bryant had a game-winning RBI 2B as the Cubs took Game #1.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 4 • ODOR GRAND SLAM • RANGERS ROAD SWEEP • GIANTS SCORE FOURTEEN

## GAME #14 — CHC 7 @ SFG 14

The Giants came into Game #2 needing the win and they saw Will Clark break out of his season-long slump with a 1st inning HR. Brandon Belt added an RBI 2B, and the Giants took an early 2-0 lead. In the second inning Will Clark hit a 3-run HR, and Barry Bonds followed with a solo HR for a 4-run inning and a 6-0 lead. The crowd exhaled, but then regretted it as the tenacious Cubs got to Kevin Gausman with 5 runs in the 3rd, highlighted by a Kris Bryant 2-run 2B, making it a 6-5 game. But the Giants were not going to lose this one. Mike Yastrzemski hit a solo HR in the 3rd, and then Barry Bonds padded the lead with a 2-run HR in the 4th, and the rout was on. The Giants added 3 runs in the 6th and 2 more in the 7th and the San Francisco crowd cheered an exciting 14-7 win. Bryant hit solo HRs in the 7th and the 9th for a 4-5 game with a season-high 11 total bases and 4 RBI.

## ROUND #8

## GAME #15 — TEX 3 @ BAL 2

Baltimore came into this game on an eight-game losing streak, and Texas came into this game on an 8-game losing streak. Something had to give. Keegan Akin has been a bright spot for the O's and pitched well, giving up only 3 runs, but Mike Minor outdueled him. Isiah Kiner-Falefa had an RBI 1B in the 2nd and Josh Hamilton had a 2-run HR in the 6th for the Rangers 3-0 lead. Cal Ripken Jr hit a clutch 2-out 2-run HR in the bottom of the 6th, but the Rangers bullpen finished the 3-2 win.

## GAME #16 — TEX 10 @ BAL 6

Baltimore came out hot in Game #2 determined for the split with a 2-run 1B from Cal Ripken Jr in the 1st, and a 2-run HR from Cedric Mullins in the 2nd for a 4-0 lead, but it was not enough. The Rangers immediately responded with a 3 in the 3rd on 2Bs from Sam Huff and Rougned Odor, and a 2-run HR from Adrian Beltre, and then 3 more in the 4th on a 2-run HR from Adolis Garcia and an Odor RBI 1B. Ripken had an RBI 2B in the 5th to trim the lead to 6-5 but the Rangers scored 4 in the 7th on an Odor Grand Slam HR. Ripken added his own solo HR in the 7th, but that was it, and the Rangers got the road sweep with the 10-6 win, extending the O's losing streak to 10 games. The 2-game sweep represents the Rangers' longest winning streak of the season. Sam Huff made his claim to take the Rangers' catcher position from Jonah Heim with 3 2Bs and 3 BB.

## GAME #15 — HOU 3 @ TBR 5

Drew Rasmussen stepped up and carried the Rays against the powerful Astros with 8 shutout innings. The Astros scored twice against Rasmussen in the 9th, but it was not enough. Randy Arozarena had a solo HR in the 3rd and an RBI 3B in the 7th to pace the Rays in their 5-3 win.

## GAME #16 — HOU 5 @ TBR 3

Houston came out focused scoring 3 runs in the 1st with 2Bs by Jose Altuve and Kyle Tucker, and Framber Valdez shut down the Rays. The Rays scored 1 in the 2nd, but that was it against Valdez. Hunter Renfroe hit a 2-run HR against Ken Giles to trim the lead, but Altuve had a solo HR and Tucker another RBI 2B, and the Astros secured the sweep with a 5-3 win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 4 • YANKEES ROAD SWEEP • TWINS WIN 7-4 • CLEVELAND WINS 5-4

**GAME #15 — NYY 6 @ DET 2**

The Yankees came into Detroit needing to take advantage of the weak matchup, and they did. Hideki Matsui had 2 RBI in the first 4 innings to match the 2-run HR from Miguel Cabrera and the game went 2-2 to the 9th, giving the Tigers hope. Casey Mize pitched 7 strong innings, and was matched by Luis Severino. Michael Fulmer walked 3 batters in the 9th, and it was over as Aaron Hicks hit a pinch-hit 2-run 1B and Derek Jeter hit a 2-run 2B, giving the Yankees the 6-2 win.

**GAME #16 — NYY 7 @ DET 3**

Alex Rodriguez and DJ LeMahieu had RBI 1Bs in the 1st, and Miguel Cabrera cut the lead in half in the bottom with a solo HR. Cabrera hit his 3rd HR of the series with a 2-run shot in the 3rd for a 3-2 lead, giving the Tigers hope for a split. LeMahieu and Matsui combined for a tying run and Don Mattingly took the lead with a 2-run HR in the 5th. LeMahieu added a 2-run HR in the 7th giving the Yankees the 7-3 win and the key road sweep. Miguel Cabrera had all 5 of the Tigers' RBI in the 2-game series. Cabrera had a season-high 15 total bases.

**GAME #15 — MIN 7 @ OAK 4**

The A's started well with an Adam Dunn RBI 1B, and the Twins took the lead in the 3rd with a Byron Buxton HR and a Josh Donaldson RBI 2B. It was Buxton's league leading 9th HR. Adam Dunn hit a 2-run HR in the bottom half taking the lead back 3-2, and Sean Murphy hit a solo HR in the 4th. Jorge Polanco continued his strong season with a solo HR in the 7th and the game went 4-3 to the 9th and in came Jake Diekman who had not given up a run on the season. Nick Gordon drew a walk, Polanco hit a 1B, Kirby Puckett hit an RBI 1B to tie the game, and Nelson Cruz stepped up and blasted a 3-run HR to win the game 7-4.

**GAME #16 — MIN 4 @ OAK 6**

Byron Buxton hit another HR to lead off the game, giving him 10 on the season. Mark Canha hit a 2-run HR for the A's in the 2nd, and then a solo HR in the 4th to single-handedly give the A's a 3-1 lead. The A's added 1 in the 5th before the Twins tied the game 4-4 in the 7th with 3 runs, highlighted by a Jorge Polanco RBI 2B and a Kirby Puckett 2-run 1B. The A's would not be denied the split, however, as Starling Marte hit a 2-run HR in the bottom half to secure the A's the 6-4 win and the home split.

**GAME #15 — LAA 4 @ CLE 5**

Anthony Rendon started the game well for the Angels with an RBI 2B and Shohei Ohtani hit a 2B and scored on a Mike Trout RBI 1B in the 3rd for a 2-0 lead. Yan Gomes hit a bases-loaded 3-run 2B to take the lead in the 4th, but Max Stassi hit a 2-run 1B in the 6th to take the lead back. The game went 4-3 to the 8th in favor of the Angels, but they could not hold the lead. Jim Thome followed a Jose Ramirez 2B with a game-winning 2-run HR for the 5-4 win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 4 • D'ARNAUD WALK-OFF • REYES GRAND SLAM • WHITE SOX SWEEP

**GAME #16 — LAA 4 @ CLE 9**

Justin Upton had an RBI 1B in the 1st, but an RBI 2B by Jim Thome tied the game. And then the Guardians unloaded. Franmil Reyes came up with the bases loaded and hit a Grand Slam HR. Tyler Naquin and Yan Gomes followed with solo HRs, and Cleveland put up 6 runs in the 3rd. Jose Ramirez hit a solo HR and Franmil Reyes hit another HR in the 4th and the 9-1 lead would hope up. The Angels scored 3 in the 5th highlighted by a 2-run 2B from Albert Pujols, but that was it and Cleveland won 9-4 and got the important home sweep and took 1st place in the AL Central. The Cleveland bullpen pitched 7 scoreless innings.

**GAME #15 — SEA 2 @ CHW 7**

The White Sox are among the slightly disappointing teams as Cleveland pulls away in the division, and the Mariners came into riding an incredible 7-game-winning streak. In this crucial series Chicago showed up. Carlos Rodon shut down the hot M's giving up only 2 runs, and the White Sox offense showed up. Jose Abreu went 3-4 with a solo HR in the 1st. Frank Thomas added a 2-run HR and Eloy Jimenez had a solo HR in the 3-run 5th inning, and the White Sox won easily 7-2.

**GAME #16 — SEA 1 @ CHW 6**

Luis Robert hit a solo HR in the 1st, and Frank Thomas hit a solo HR, and Yoan Moncada hit a 3-run HR in the 5-run 4th. Ty France hit a solo HR, but it was all the M's could do against Dallas Keuchel, and the White Sox won 6-1, getting the key home series sweep, moving back into contention and cooling of the red-hot M's. The 13 runs the White Sox scored were more than the M's had given up in the previous 10 games. It was also the fewest runs the White Sox had given up in a series.

**GAME #15 — BOS 4 @ ATL 7**

This was a matchup of 2 first place teams, and there was great interest in what would happen when the Red Sox came into Atlanta. The powerful Red Sox's offense got off to an early start when JD Martinez hit a 2-run HR in the first, and an RBI 2B in the 3rd. Ronald Acuna hit a leadoff HR and the game went 3-1 to the 8th, and it looked like the Red Sox were in command. In the bottom of the 8th Acuna hit an RBI 2B and Chipper Jones scored him with an RBI 1B to tie the game, energizing the Atlanta crowd. The game went to the 10th where Wade Boggs hit an RBI 2B scoring Jackie Bradley, quieting the Atlanta crowd. With 2 outs and no runners on, Drew Pomeranz was called in to get one out, Freddie Freeman. Freeman hit a single and Pomeranz walked Chipper Jones and Fred McGriff, loading the bases. With 2 outs and the bases loaded the Atlanta crowd stood as one roaring, hoping to inspire the pinch-hitter, catcher Travis d'Arnaud ... who responded, and with 1 swing d'Arnaud changed the series hitting a walk-off Grand Slam for the biggest hit of the season. It was the improbable 2nd Grand Slam walk-off for the Braves of the season.

**GAME #16 — BOS 10 @ ATL 1**

The angry Red Sox scored 4 in the first and 2 in the 3rd, driving Mike Soroka from the game. Nathan Eovaldi pitched 7 shutout innings and the Red Sox added 4 more in the 8th with a 3-run HR from Xander Bogaerts, giving him 5 RBI in the game, and the Red Sox won 10-1, getting the road split, keeping their place as the top team in baseball.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 4 • METS SCORE SIXTEEN • CARDS HOME SWEEP • PHILLIES WIN 3-2

**GAME #15 — TOR 7 @ PHI 6**

This was a great game. The Phillies came into the home series riding a 6-game-winning streak, and the Blue Jays had won 6 of their last 7 games. Lenny Dykstra hit a leadoff HR in the bottom of the 1st, but George Springer hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd, and Marcus Semien hit a 2-run HR in the 4th. Mike Schmidt answered with a solo HR in the bottom of the 4th, and JT Realmuto tied the game 4-4 with a 2-run 2B, and the game went 4-4 to the 13th. After 5 scoreless innings the Phillies bullpen cracked when Connor Brogdon gave up a 1B to Bo Bichette, and RBI 1B to Roberto Alomar, and a 2-run HR to Jose Bautista. The Phillies came up in the bottom of the 13th and Bryce Harper hit a 1-out 2B. Mike Schmidt walked, Realmuto struck out, and Ryan Howard drew a walk to load the bases. Andrew McCutchen hit a 2-run 1B to put the crowd on their feet for Didi Gregorius, but the Phillies couldn't finish the rally as Didi struck out to end the game and give the Blue Jays a thrilling 7-6 win.

**GAME #16 — TOR 2 @ PHI 3**

Alek Manoah and Cliff Lee took matching shutouts into the 6th inning when Teoscar Hernandez and Lourdes Gurriel hit 2Bs to give the Jays a 1-0 lead, but the Phillies answered with a 2-run 1B by Ryan Howard. Hernandez tied the game in the 8th with a solo HR and the game went to extra innings again. In the bottom of the 10th Rhys Hoskins drew a leadoff walk, and Mike Schmidt hit a game-winning walk off RBI 3B for the 3-2 win, giving Philadelphia the important home split.

**GAME #15 — KCR 6 @ STL 8**

The Royals came into rival St. Louis with high hopes to continue their strong start, and the Cardinals need a strong showing to keep pace with the surging Reds. George Brett hit a solo HR in the 1st for the 1-0 lead, but the Cardinals scored 3 in the 3rd with an RBI 2B from Nolan Arenado and a 2-run 1B from Mark McGwire. Salvador Perez hit his 9th HR on the season with a 2-run shot to tie the game, and Brett hit a 2-run HR to give the Royals a short-lived lead, as Arenado hit a 2-run HR in the bottom of the 5th. Harrison Bader hit a key 3-run HR in the 7th and the Cardinals won 8-6.

**GAME #16 — KCR 4 @ STL 5**

Bobby Witt Jr started the scoring with his 6th HR in the 2nd, and Andrew Benintendi had a 2-run 1B in the 4th for the 3-0 lead. Tyler O'Neill trimmed the lead with a 2-run HR and Dylan Carlson tied the game in the 6th with an RBI 1B. The game went 3-3 to the 8th when Mark McGwire and Tyler O'Neill hit back-to-back HRs, the second of which proved decisive as Whit Merrifield hit a solo HR in the 9th, and the Cardinals secured the 5-4 win and the home sweep in the Rivalry Series.

**GAME #15 — NYM 16 @ PIT 5**

The game started well for Pittsburgh with a leadoff solo HR by Bryan Reynolds, but Pete Alonso tied the game in the 2nd with his own solo HR. The game went 1-1 to the 4th when the Mets unloaded for 9 runs, highlight by David Wright with a solo HR and 2-run 1B. Bryan Reynolds hit his second HR of the game with a 2-run shot in the 5th, but the Mets continued to pour it on. Mike Piazza hit a 3-run HR in the 8th, and the Mets added 3 more in the 9th. Ke'Bryan Hayes hit a solo HR in the 8th, but it was not enough as the Mets finished the 16-5 blowout win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 4 • ARIZONA ROAD SWEEP • METS BLANK PIRATES • MARLINS WIN 8-6

**GAME #16 — NYM 5 @ PIT 0**

Taijuan Walker pitched 6 shutout innings, and the bullpen finished the job. Jeff McNeil had an RBI 2B and Gary Carter and a 2-run 1B to lead the Mets to an easy 5-0 win. The Mets had 21 runs and 27 hits in the series sending the lowly Pirates to 3-13.

**GAME #15 — ARI 11 @ WSH 5**

Perhaps the biggest surprise of the season has been Geraldo Perdomo. Slated as a back-up SS in his rookie season he quickly took the job, and then took the leadoff role. He began the game with a BB and scored the game's first run as part of a 2-run inning. Juan Soto answered in the bottom half with a solo HR and the Nationals added 3 more runs on the strength of a Trea Turner 2-run 2B. Washington added 1 more on a Howie Kendrick RBI 1B for a 5-2 lead. But in the 4th Perdomo hit a key 3-run HR to take the lead back. Arizona added 1 more in the 5th and then 3 in the 8th on a Ketel Marte 2-run 2B, and the Diamondbacks ran away with an 11-5 victory.

**GAME #16 — ARI 5 @ WSH 3**

Michael A Taylor hit an RBI 3B but Geraldo Perdomo again carried Arizona with a solo HR, his remarkable 5th on the season. The Diamondbacks added 3 in the 4th on an RBI 2B from David Peralta and a 2-run 1B by Eduardo Escobar and Arizona earned the sweep with a 5-3 win. Ketel Marte added a late RBI 1B going 5-8 with 2 walks on the series. Trea Turner went 5-10 in the sweep with 10 total bases and 3 RBI, but it was not enough.

**GAME #15 — SDP 4 @ MIA 2**

The Padres won the game in the 1st inning with 3 runs on consecutive RBI 1Bs by Dave Winfield, Eric Hosmer, and Wil Myers. The Marlins scored single runs in the 4th and 5th, but it was not enough as Mike Clevinger led San Diego to a 4-2, and their league-leading 12th win. Tony Gwynn added a late RBI 1B.

**GAME #16 — SDP 6 @ MIA 8**

Ichiro Suzuki took the game into his own hands with a rare display of speed, stealing a season-high 5 stolen bases, and using that to score 3 runs. The Marlins scored 3 in the 1st and 1 in the 2nd on the strength of a 2-run 2B by Miguel Rojas and 2 2Bs by Jesus Aguilar. The powerful Padres scored 4 runs in the 4th, highlighted by Wil Myers' 2-run 2B, but the Marlins fought back with Rojas' 2nd 2B of the game, scoring on a Jon Berti RBI 1B. The relentless Padres took the lead 6-5 with 2 runs in the 7th on 2Bs by Manny Machado and Dave Winfield, but a Brian Anderson RBI 2B tied the game. In the bottom of the 8th Ichiro single and stole 2nd. Jazz Chisholm walked and they performed a double steal, and then Jesus Sanchez won the game with a 2-run 1B for the 8-6 win and the series split at home.

**GAME #15 — COL 9 @ CHC 6**

Carlos Gonzalez started the game with a 2-run HR in the 1st inning, and the Rockies add 3 more runs for a 5-0 lead. The Cubs fought back with a Kyle Schwarber 3-run HR, but the Rockies added a 6th run in the 3rd. The Cubs scored a single run in the 3rd, and Sammy Sosa hit a solo HR in the 4th and Kyle Schwarber hit his 2nd HR of the game to tie the game 6-6, thrilling the home crowd. However, the Rockies would not be denied and scored 3 runs in the 9th to win the game 9-6.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 4 • CUBS SCORE FOURTEEN • DODGERS WIN 7-3 • BREWERS WIN 4-2

**GAME #16 — COL 2 @ CHC 14**

Raimel Tapia hit an RBI 3B and scored on an RBI 2B by Trevor Story to give the Rockies a 2-0 lead. Ryne Sandberg started his huge game with a 3B in the 3rd and scored on a Sammy Sosa RBI. Sandberg had an RBI 1B in the 5th to make the game 2-2 and then the Cubs unloaded for 9 runs. Kris Bryant hit a solo HR and a 3-run HR all in the same 6th inning surge, and Sandberg added a 2-run 2B. The Cubs added 3 more in the 7th on a Sosa 3-run HR, his 5th RBI in the game, and the Cubs ran away with the 14-2 rout.

**GAME #15 — LAD 7 @ CIN 3**

The Dodgers came into Cincinnati as the most disappointing team on the season, and needed to make a dent against the NL Central's 1st place Reds. Adrian Gonzalez hit a solo HR in the 4th, but Nick Castellanos answered in the bottom half with his own solo HR, and the game went 1-1 to the 8th as Tyler Mahle and Julio Urias held the offenses in check. The Dodgers took the lead with a single run in the 8th on 2Bs by Cody Bellinger and Gavin Lux, and Kenley Jansen came in to protect the 2-1 lead in the 9th. But it was not to be as the Reds scrapped for a tying run on an RBI 1B by Adam Duvall. The desperate Dodgers scored again in the 10th on a 2B by Joc Pederson and an RBI 1B by Bellinger, but Barry Larkin denied the Dodgers with an RBI single tying the game 3-3. In the 11th the Dodgers took the lead back with an RBI 1B by Peterson, and then Bellinger unloaded on a 3-run HR to make sure the lead would finally hold, and the Dodgers got a needed 7-3 victory.

**GAME #16 — LAD 2 @ CIN 3**

Tyler Stephenson hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd, and Cody Bellinger hit his second HR of the series in the 3rd to make it 2-1. Adam Duvall hit a solo HR in the 4th, which proved to be the game-winner as the Reds made it hold up in the 3-2 win. Anthony DeSclafani gave up 2 runs and only 4 hits and Raisel Iglesias finished the game for the save.

**GAME #15 — MIL 1 @ SFG 2**

Willy Adames hit a solo HR in the 2nd, but it was the only run Logan Webb and the Giants gave up. Brandon Crawford carried the Giants hitting solo HRs in the 2nd and the game-winner in the 6th, giving the Giants a 2-1 win.

**GAME #16 — MIL 4 @ SFG 2**

Ryan Braun single-handedly carried the struggling Brewers to the road win. Braun hit a 2-run HR in the 1st and a 2-run HR in the 6th to lead the Brewers to a 4-2 win. LaMonte Wade hit a leadoff HR in the 1st, and Will Clark hit a solo HR in the 5th, but it was not enough, and the Brewers got the important road split.

## MLBC — WEEK 5

GAMES 17-20 • HALFWAY

## HALFWAY, NOTHING SETTLED

*Twenty games in, Atlanta leads baseball while the middle of the league becomes a traffic jam.*

**THE LEAD** The midpoint arrived with Boston and San Diego at 12-4, Cleveland at 11-5, and six more clubs at 10-6. No one had created safety. Week 5 would close the first half and turn hot starts into actual position, or ordinary starts into second-half emergencies. Atlanta had to survive Colorado and Cincinnati; the Yankees went west to face the Angels; Oakland and Seattle were fighting for the AL West; and the middle of the standings had become so crowded that one sweep could change a club's entire summer. The week would measure depth as much as star power because every club had to survive two different opponents before the midpoint.

**THE WEEK** Atlanta made the strongest statement, going 4-0 to reach 14-6 and take the best record in MLBC. Oakland matched the perfect week and joined Boston, Cleveland, San Diego and Seattle at 13-7. The Yankees went the other direction, getting swept in Anaheim as Shohei Ohtani homered twice and the Angels climbed back to .500. Seattle kept pace in emphatic fashion, sweeping Minnesota on the road as Julio Rodríguez broke loose, scoring seven runs in the series and helping the Mariners score in eleven of eighteen innings. Toronto supplied the week's absurd scoreline, unloading 18 runs on Houston after dropping the opener and finishing the first half at 10-10. The pitching performances were almost unfair: Ian Anderson struck out 16 in a 2-hit complete-game shutout of Cincinnati, Wade Miley allowed one hit in a shutout of Washington, and Kyle Hendricks struck out 14 in a 1-0 complete-game shutout of the White Sox.

**THE STAKES** Atlanta owns the midpoint at 14-6. Boston, Cleveland, Oakland, San Diego and Seattle are 13-7, but seven different clubs sit exactly 10-10. That is the season in miniature: half the schedule gone, yet enough traffic remains that one strong week can still redraw a division. The second half opens with Boston visiting the Angels and then Oakland, the Yankees hosting Oakland and Cleveland, Atlanta traveling through Los Angeles and San Francisco, and Seattle carrying its share of first place into Tampa Bay. Twenty games are gone. From here forward, every four-game block consumes ten percent of the season.

TOP OF TABLE  
ATL • 14-6

PERFECT WEEK  
ATL / OAK • 4-0

HALFWAY PACK  
7 clubs • 10-10

OUTBURST  
TOR 18 • HOU 2

## WEEKLY HONORS

## HITTER OF THE WEEK

**GOLD BARRY BONDS • SFG**

2 HR • 7 RBI

**SILVER MIKE ZUNINO • TBR**

3 HR • 5 RBI

**BRONZE SHOHEI OHTANI • LAA**

2 HR • 5 RBI in the NYY sweep

## PITCHER OF THE WEEK

**GOLD IAN ANDERSON (2) • ATL**

CG SHO • 2 H • 16 K

**SILVER WADE MILEY • CHC**

CG SHO • 1 H

**BRONZE KYLE HENDRICKS • CHC**

CG SHO • 5 H • 14 K

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 5 • TWINS ROAD SWEEP • ROYALS ROAD SWEEP • ASTROS SWEEP O'S

## ROUND #9

## GAME #17 — HOU 3 @ BAL 2

The Astros scored 3 runs in the 2nd, and that was enough for Justin Verlander. Jose Altuve led the Astros with a 2-run 3B and Verlander gave up only 2 hits over 8 innings. One of the hits was Eddie Murray who hit his first HR of the year with a 2-run shot to trim the lead, but that was all they could do as Ryan Pressly closed the door on the 3-2 win.

## GAME #18 — HOU 8 @ BAL 4

Michael Brantley hit a 2-run 3B in the 3-run 2nd, and Yuli Gurriel hit a 2-run HR in the 6th. Kyle Tucker hit a 3-run HR in the 7th and the Astros led 8-0. In the bottom of the 9th Chris Davis broke out of his season-long slump with a 3-run HR, and Austin Hays hit a pinch-hit solo HR, but it was not enough as the Astros won 8-4 and got the road sweep in Baltimore.

## GAME #17 — KCR 2 @ TOR 1

The Royals got a nice road win with 2 runs in the 1st on RBI 1Bs from Salvador Perez and Hunter Dozier. George Springer hit an RBI 1B in the bottom half to make it 2-1, but that was the end of the scoring, for both teams. Yordano Ventura was strong over 7 innings to earn the win defeating Hyun Jin Ryu. Whit Merrifield went 3-4 with a stolen base in the win.

## GAME #18 — KCR 6 @ TOR 4

The Royals got the road sweep but it wasn't easy. George Brett hit an RBI 1B in the top of the 1st, but Marcus Semien hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 2nd to tie the game. In the bottom of the 6th, a wild pitch scored Jose Bautista, who then added an RBI 1B in the 7th, making it 3-1. The Royals responded in the top of the 8th with an RBI 1B from Bobby Witt Jr. and a 2-run 2B from Andrew Benintendi. Down 4-3 the Blue Jays responded, tying the game on an RBI 2B from Marcus Semien. The 4-4 game went to the 10th where Witt hit a 2-run 1B to win the game.

## GAME #17 — MIN 5 @ NYY 0

The New York Yankees had finally gotten some momentum going and were hoping to use a home series to gain some ground on the Red Sox who were in the road in Seattle, but it was not to be. Jorge Polanco hit a 3-run HR in the 4-run Twins' first and Kenta Maeda and the Twins' bullpen did the rest, shutting out the Yankees, 5-0. Josh Donaldson had a 1st inning RBI 1B and added a solo HR in the 6th for the Twins road win 5-0.

## GAME #18 — MIN 13 @ NYY 2

The Twins again struck first when Kirby Puckett hit a 2B and scored on a Nelson Cruz RBI 1B, but this time the Yankees responded when Alex Rodriguez hit a tying solo HR. But the Twins were on a hot streak. They have proven to be a high-scoring team, and they laid it on today. Byron Buxton hit his league-leading 11th HR with a 3-run shot, and Joe Mauer hit a solo HR directly after in the 4-run 2nd. The Twins added 3 more in the 3rd with 2Bs by Miguel Sano, Buxton, and Puckett. Nelson Cruz added a 2-run HR in the 6th, and Puckett hit a 3-run HR in the 9th, his 5th RBI of the game, and the Twins got the unexpected road sweep in New York with the 13-2 win. Jose Berrios pitched well over 6 innings to earn the win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 5 • OAKLAND HOME SWEEP • ANGELS SCORE ELEVEN • SEATTLE WINS 4-3

**GAME #17 — LAA 11 @ DET 1**

The Detroit Tigers season just gets worse and worse as they fell to 2-15 to the Angels and Shohei Ohtani. Ohtani gave up just 3 hits and 1 run, and the Angels offense had quite a day. Mike Trout had a 3-run HR and Max Stassi had 3 solo HRs to lead the Angels.

**GAME #18 — LAA 1 @ DET 4**

Tarik Skubal took matters into his own hands as he pitched the Tigers to their 3rd win of the season, giving up just 1 run in 7 innings. Akil Baddoo hit a clutch 2-run HR in a rare start and the Tigers got the home split.

**GAME #17 — BOS 9 @ SEA 2**

The game started well for the M's with 2 runs in the 1st, but the Red Sox answered with 5 runs in the 2nd. Alex Verdugo hit a solo HR and JD Martinez hit a bases-loaded 3-run 2B and scored on a David Ortiz 1B. Dustin Pedroia and Wade Boggs hit 2Bs to add a run in the 4th, and in the 5th, Pedroia hit a 2-run 2B. Alex Verdugo hit another solo HR to finish the 9-2 win. Felix Hernandez came into the game in contention for the Cy Young Award, but he was lit up for 8 runs in 4 $\frac{2}{3}$  innings. Chris Sale took the lead for the award and moved to 5-0.

**GAME #18 — BOS 3 @ SEA 4**

Ken Griffey Jr had an RBI sacrifice fly in the first, scoring Julio Rodriguez who led off the bottom of the 1st with a 2B. JD Martinez and Rafael Devers hit 2Bs to tie the game, but Kyle Seager hit a solo HR in the 5th to take the lead back 2-1. Martinez hit his 3rd 2B of the game in the 6th, and scored on a Devers RBI 3B, who scored on a Xander Bogaerts RBI 1B. But the M's would not be swept today, as Mitch Haniger stepped up and hit an RBI 2B and Austin Nola hit an RBI sacrifice fly to give the M's the 4-3 win.

**GAME #17 — CLE 6 @ OAK 9**

Cleveland came into Oakland with the 3rd best record in the league at 11-5, looking to make their push into the elite, but it was Oakland who did so. Shane Bieber got lit up for 9 runs into 4 $\frac{2}{3}$  innings and Oakland made their statement. It started well for Cleveland when Jose Ramirez hit a 2B and scored on a Carlos Santana 2B, and Oakland answered in the bottom half with an Adam Dunn RBI 1B. Ramirez hit another 2B, and was again scored by an RBI from Santana, and Matt Olson tied the game with a solo HR. Cleveland scored 2 times in the 4th but in the 5th the A's scored 7 runs to run away with the game, capped by a 3-run HR by Seth Brown. Starling Marte led the way going 3-5 with 2 RBIs and 2 SBs, scoring 2 runs. Chris Bassitt pitched 6 innings to earn the win.

**GAME #18 — CLE 3 @ OAK 5**

Oakland didn't mess around in Game #2 as they scored 1 in the 1st and 4 in the 2nd. Matt Olson had an RBI 1B and a 2-run 2B to lead the A's. Frankie Montas pitched 8 shutout innings before the Guardians scored 3 times. The A's held on for a 5-3 win and got the home sweep against a 1st place team, and moved themselves into 1st place in the AL West with Seattle.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 5 • HENDRICKS FANS 14 • RAYS SWEEP TEXAS • CARDINALS WIN 7-1

**GAME #17 — TBR 4 @ TEX 1**

The Tampa Bay Rays made their move in Texas. Facing a struggling and desperate Rangers team, the Rays could have easily let the opportunity slip away, but they did not. Hunter Renfroe hit a solo HR in the 4th, and Mike Zunino hit a solo HR in the 5th, giving the Rays a 3-0 lead. It was all Tyler Glasnow would need in his best start of the year, as he gave up just 3 hits and a single run, when Juan Gonzalez hit a solo HR. Mike Zunino added a second HR of the game, and the Rays won 4-1.

**GAME #18 — TBR 9 @ TEX 6**

Austin Meadows hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd, and Wander Franco hit a 2-run HR in the 5th, and the Rays lead 4-0. But the Rangers fought back with 4 in the 5th, led by a Jonah Heim 2-run HR. In the 6th the Rangers took the lead with a 2-run 2B by Adrian Beltre, and the Rangers had hopes for a split. It was not to be as Mike Zunino hit a 3-run HR as part of a 5-run 8th, and the Rays stole the game from the Rangers, getting the road sweep and moving into the wild card race. Shane Baz earned his first win with 2⅓ innings and giving up only 1 hit.

**GAME #17 — CHC 1 @ CHW 0**

Rivalry week has come to Chicago with the much anticipated series of two teams both needing wins. The star of the first game was Kyle Hendricks who pitched one of the best games of the year, and by far the most surprising. Hendricks came into the game at 0-2 with a 5.18 ERA, facing a strong team at home, and he pitched a gem. Hendricks gave up just 5 singles in a complete-game shutout while striking out 14. Lucas Giolito pitched well, but the lone run he gave up proved to be decisive. In the 5th inning Willson Contreras hit a 2B and was scored by an RBI 1B from Jason Heyward, and that was all the Cubs needed for the 1-0 win.

**GAME #18 — CHC 2 @ CHW 5**

The Cubs struck first again with a Kyle Schwarber RBI 2B, but this time the White Sox answered. In the 3rd inning Tim Anderson hit a 2B and was scored by an RBI 2B from Frank Thomas. The Cubs took the lead in the 6th with a Ryne Sandberg solo HR, but the White Sox would not be denied the split as they scored 4 runs in the bottom half, highlighted by a 2-run HR from Eloy Jimenez, and the White Sox got the needed split at home.

**GAME #17 — STL 2 @ PHI 3**

JT Realmuto struck the first blow in the game with a solo HR in the 2nd, to give Zack Wheeler and the Phillies the 1-0 lead. Yadier Molina hit an RBI 1B to tie the game in the 4th, but the Phillies scored 2 in the bottom half, which proved decisive. Realmuto hit a 1B and scored on an Andrew McCutchen RBI 2B, who then scored on a Jean Segura RBI 1B. Paul Goldschmidt hit an RBI 2B in the 5th, but that was all Wheeler would give up, and the Phillies took the first game 3-2.

**GAME #18 — STL 7 @ PHI 1**

Mike Schmidt hit an RBI 2B to score Bryce Harper in the 3rd to start the scoring, but the Cardinals were desperate for the split and scored 5 runs in the 4th on the strength of an RBI 2B by Tyler O'Neill, a 2-run 2B by Yadier Molina, and a 2-run 1B by Tommy Edman. Nolan Arenado hit a solo HR, and Dylan Carlson hit an RBI 3B in the 5th, to pace the 7-1 Cardinals' win. Adam Wainwright pitched well in the win, and Molina stretched his hitting streak to 15 games.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 5 • STRASBURG SHUTOUT • BREWERS ROAD SWEEP • PIRATES WIN 3-2

**GAME #17 — SDP 1 @ WSH 6**

The Padres hot in with the best record in the NL, but they had to face two of the best pitchers in the league. Max Scherzer did his job and shut down the Padres, giving up only 4 hits and 1 run in 7 innings. Eric Hosmer scored Manny Machado with an RBI 2B in the 4th, but that was it. In the 5th the Nationals caught fire and scored 4 times, started off with a solo HR by Keibert Ruiz. Michael A Taylor hit a 2-run 2B in the 7th, giving the Nationals a 6-1 win.

**GAME #18 — SDP 0 @ WSH 2**

Stephen Strasburg outdid Max Scherzer with a complete-game shutout, giving up only 5 hits and 1 walk. Strasburg had a perfect game through 5 innings, and he shut down the hot Padres. Trea Turner hit a solo HR in the 3rd and Howie Kendrick hit an RBI 1B in the 4th, and that was all the Nationals needed for the 2-0 win.

**GAME #17 — MIL 2 @ NYM 0**

This was a match-up of top pitchers with Jacob deGrom and Corbin Burnes, even though Burnes came into the game with a 5.25 ERA. The Mets were hoping for a strong showing after cooling since their hot start, but Burnes never let it happen. Both pitchers pitched extremely well, taking shutouts into the 8th inning, when the game turned on 1 pitch. Ryan Braun hit a 2-run HR and that was all the Brewers needed. Josh Hader came in and secured the shutout and the 2-0 road win. Corbin Burnes finished the game with 15 strikeouts in 8 innings.

**GAME #18 — MIL 3 @ NYM 2**

The Mets were eager for a split, but Rowdy Tellez hit a solo HR in the 5th, and Christian Yelich and Ryan Braun both hit solo HRs in the 6th to give the Brewers a 3-2 that would hold up. Brandon Woodruff gave up only 2 hits over 7 innings, even though one of them was a 2-run HR by Darryl Strawberry. Devin Williams and Josh Hader didn't give up a hit and the Brewers got a huge road sweep in New York, leaving the Mets reeling back to the back.

**GAME #17 — LAD 6 @ PIT 4**

The Dodgers came into Pittsburgh hoping to build momentum in their thus far lost season. Mookie Betts started with a single and a stolen base, and scored on a Corey Seager 2-run HR to support Clayton Kershaw. Andy Van Slyke hit a game-tying 2-run HR in the 3rd, but Adrian Gonzalez and Max Muncy hit 2Bs adding 1 run in the 5th, and Will Smith hit an RBI 2B in the 7th. Ke'Bryan Hayes hit a 2-run 2B in the bottom of the 8th, but Mookie Betts capped the 6-4 win with solo HR in the 9th.

**GAME #18 — LAD 2 @ PIT 3**

Chris Archer shut down the Dodgers, and Bryan Reynolds took care of the offense. Reynolds hit an RBI 2B in the 3rd, but the Dodgers tied the game with runs in the 5th and 6th with 2Bs from Cody Bellinger, Mookie Betts, and Joc Pederson. But that was all they would get against the Pirates, and Reynolds hit a game-winning solo HR in the 7th for the home split.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 5 • MARLINS ROAD SWEEP • BRAVES ROAD SWEEP • GIANTS WIN 5-4

**GAME #17 — MIA 12 @ ARI 1**

Jose Fernandez was coming off of a shutout, and he pitched another gem. The Marlins offense had quite a day to support him, and Zack Greinke just didn't have it today. Miguel Rojas hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd, and Ichiro and Jazz Chisholm hit 2Bs to add a 3rd run. A 5th run was added in the 5th with an RBI 1B from Jesus Sanchez. The Marlins then scored 6 runs in the 6th inning, highlighted by a 3-run HR by Jon Berti, and a 2-run HR from Jesus Aguilar. Jesus Sanchez added a 2-run HR in the 8th. Jose Fernandez was dominant and working on a shutout, but the young Diamondbacks star SS Geraldo Perdomo hit another improbable HR, his 6th on the season, and Fernandez was denied the shutout.

**GAME #18 — MIA 4 @ ARI 2**

Game #2 was much more competitive. Kole Calhoun hit a solo HR in the 3rd for the 1-0 lead, but a Brian Anderson 2B and an RBI 1B from Miguel Rojas tied the game. A Daulton Varsho RBI 1B took the lead back in the 4th, but a Jonathan Villar 2B and an RBI 1B from Ichiro tied the game again. Sandy Alcantara and Robbie Ray were locked in a 2-2 struggle, until Jesus Aguilar hit another HR, a 2-run shot in the 8th to give the Marlins the 4-2 win and the road sweep.

**GAME #17 — ATL 9 @ COL 5**

The Braves came into Colorado hoping for a good showing and got it. Ronald Acuna hit a 2-run HR in the 1st inning, and then the Braves opened it up with a 5-run 2nd. Freddie Freeman hit a 3-run HR and Nick Markakis hit an RBI 2B. Ozzie Albies added a solo HR in the 5th and the Braves cruised to a 9-5 win. Ryan McMahon hit a 2-run HR in the 8th inning of the loss.

**GAME #18 — ATL 5 @ COL 3**

Carlos Gonzalez hit a 2-run HR in the 1st inning, and the Braves tied the game with single runs in the 4th and 5th on RBI 1Bs from Austin Riley and Chipper Jones, and then took the lead with a Dansby Swanson solo HR in the 6th. The Rockies tied the game with 1 in the 7th on a Charlie Blackmon RBI, but the Braves would not be denied, as they scored 2 runs in the top of the 9th on RBI 1Bs from Chipper Jones and Marcell Ozuna, taking the game 5-3, and getting the key road sweep.

**GAME #17 — CIN 4 @ SFG 5**

Barry Larkin opened the series with a leadoff HR, but the Giants showed up in the bottom half with 3 runs, highlighted by an Evan Longoria 2-run 2B. Barry Bonds hit a 2-run 1B in the 2nd inning and the Giants enjoyed a 5-1 lead. Madison Bumgarner walked the bases loaded and, after a run-scoring double play, Barry Larkin hit an RBI 3B. In the 9th inning Todd Frazier hit a 2B, scored on a Nick Castellanos RBI 1B, and then Eugenio Suarez singled and Jesse Winker walked, loading the bases. Camilo Doval faced an extreme situation and got Mike Moustakas to ground out, securing the Giants 5-4 win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 5 • RIPKEN WALK-OFF 2B • MURRAY GRAND SLAM • CLEVELAND WINS 8-2

## GAME #18 — CIN 6 @ SFG 3

This was as unique a game as there ever has been. Barry Larkin hit a solo HR in the 1st, for the second straight game. Tyler Stephenson hit a solo HR in the 2nd. Eugenio Suarez hit a solo HR in the 3rd. Stephenson hit a solo HR in the 4th. And Jesse Winker hit a 2-run HR in the 5th. The Reds hit 5 HR in the first 5 innings, 1 in each inning. The Giants responded with solo HRs by Joe Panik and LaMonte Wade but it was not enough. The Reds and Sonny Gray beat Kevin Gausman and the Giants 6-3, getting the road split.

## ROUND #10

## GAME #19 — CHW 6 @ BAL 7

The magic of every new series is that no matter how things have gone, there is a new hope. And no matter how well things have gone, there is a need to do it again. The White Sox came in to Baltimore on a high winning 5 of 6 games, giving up only 10 runs in those 6 games. The Orioles came in the series having lost 12 games in a row, while scoring only 28 runs in those 12 games. The White Sox had two crafty, and potentially dominant lefties, and the Orioles brought in two rookies. The series started well for the White Sox with an RBI 1B by Eloy Jimenez in the 1st, and then a Nick Madrigal 2B, a Tim Anderson RBI 1B, and a 2-run HR by Jose Abreu in the 2nd, giving the White Sox a 4-0 to back Carlos Rodon. In the 3rd inning the game shifted. Adam Jones hit a leadoff 2B, and Eddie Murray hit a 2-run HR. Ryan Mountcastle walked, Cal Ripken Jr hit a 2B, and Austin Hays scored them both with a 2-run 2B, and he scored on an RBI 1B by Ramon Urias. When it was over the Orioles had a surprising 5-4 lead. In the 8th inning the White Sox tied the game when Jimenez hit a solo HR, but the pesky Orioles scored in the bottom half with 2Bs from Jahmai Jones and Adam Jones. The White Sox scored again in the 9th to tie the game, but in the bottom of the 11th Trey Mancini hit a 2B and scored on the game-winning walk-off 2B from Ripken.

## GAME #20 — CHW 3 @ BAL 9

The White Sox expected to get to Dean Kremer and gain the split, but the Orioles were now hot. They hit 3 1Bs in the 2-run first and then after 2Bs but Ramon Urias and Jonathan Schoop, Eddie Murray hit a Grand Slam HR, and the O's had a 7-0 lead. The White Sox got on the board with 2-run 1B from Adam Eaton and an RBI 2B by Eloy Jimenez but it was not enough. Trey Mancini and Murray added RBI 1Bs and the O's won 9-3, getting the home sweep against the powerful White Sox, and breaking their 12-game losing streak.

## GAME #19 — CLE 8 @ BOS 2

The Cleveland Guardians had won 8 of 9 before being swept in Oakland in the last series, and they came into Boston with most expecting them to drop future. Boston held the league's best record at 13-5, and it was expected they would increase that, but it was not to be. In the 1st inning Jim Thome hit a 2-run HR, and Jason Kipnis hit a 3B and scored in the 3rd. The Red Sox answered with a Wade Boggs 2-run 2B in the 5th, but Franmil Reyes hit a solo HR in the 6th, and another in the 8th for a 5-2 lead. The powerful Cleveland bullpen shut down the Red Sox and Carlos Santana hit a bases-loaded 3-run 2B in the 9th to seal the 8-2 win. Carlos Carrasco pitched well to earn the win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 5 • OAKLAND ROAD SWEEP • ROYALS WIN 1-0 • CLEVELAND WINS 8-5

**GAME #20 — CLE 8 @ BOS 5**

Most expected the Red Sox to get the split in the second game, but Jim Thome again started the scoring with an RBI 1B. Franmil Reyes hit 3rd solo HR of the series in the 4th for a 2-0 lead. In the bottom of the 4th the Red Sox finally showed up with a 2-run 2B from Alex Verdugo and a 2-run HR from Jackie Bradley, and the Red Sox were up 4-2. They added a 5th run in the 7th with an RBI 2B from David Ortiz, his 4th hit of the game, and the game went to the 9th inning and closer Matt Barnes. Barnes couldn't hold the game as Carlos Santana hit a game-tying 3-run HR to send the game to extra innings. The excellent Cleveland bullpen took over and shut down the Red Sox, and Cleveland score 3 in the 11th for the 8-5 comeback win, getting the huge road sweep in Boston, moving into 1st place in the power rankings.

**GAME #19 — OAK 7 @ DET 2**

This series was never close. Matt Chapman hit a 2nd inning solo HR and Mark Canha and Tony Kemp both hit 3Bs and the A's were up 3-0. The Tigers fought back with a single run in the 2nd on a Spencer Torkelson RBI 1B. Canha hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd and a solo HR in the 7th. Starling Marte hit a solo HR in the 5th and the A's ran away with a 9-2 win. Sean Manaea pitched well in the win giving up just 1 run in 7 innings.

**GAME #20 — OAK 7 @ DET 2**

Khris Davis hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd, Matt Olson hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd, and Sean Murphy hit a 2-run HR in the 6th and the A's were up 6-0. Cole Irvin pitched 6 shutout innings, but Akil Baddoo broke through in the 7th with a 2-run 3B. The A's added 2 more runs in the 9th and cruised to a 9-2 win.

**GAME #19 — TEX 7 @ KCR 3**

Texas came in needing a win, and they got one. Josh Hamilton hit a 2-run 1B in the 3rd and Juan Gonzalez hit a 2-run 1B in the 5th to back Mike Minor, who pitched 6 shutout innings. Andrew Benintendi finally got to Minor with a 3B and then scored, but the Rangers added 3 more in the 8th. Isiah Kiner-Falefa went 4-5 with 2 2Bs in the win.

**GAME #20 — TEX 0 @ KCR 1**

Kris Bubic had the start of his young career. He took a no-hitter into the 6th inning and only gave up 3 lone 1Bs and a walk over 8 innings. Greg Holland came in to finish the shutout. Bo Jackson had the lone RBI with a run-scoring 1B in the 3rd, scoring Bobby Witt Jr; Kolby Allard pitched well in the loss giving up only 1 run and 5 hits in 7 innings.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 5 • TORONTO SCORES 18 • MARINERS ROAD SWEEP • ASTROS WIN 5-3

**GAME #19 — SEA 15 @ MIN 6**

Seattle and Minnesota are the 2 most up-and-down teams so far this season. Today was the M's day. Julio Rodriguez started off the game with a solo HR, and Ty France followed with a 2-run HR for a 3-0 lead. The Twins answered with 3 in the 2nd on a Luis Arraez 2-run 1B and Byron Buxton RBI 2B, his second 2B in 2 innings. The M's added 1 in the 5th when Julio Rodriguez walked, stole a base, and scored on a Robinson Cano RBI 1B, and the Twins answered with a Nelson Cruz solo HR, tying the game 4-4. In the 6th the M's scored 3 runs highlighted by a JP Crawford 2-run 3B, and the Twins answered with 2 runs on yet another HR by Buxton, a 2-run shot, his 4th hit of the game and league-leading 12th HR in only 20 games. And then the M's turned up the heat. Kyle Lewis added a 2-run HR in the 7th, and Julio Rodriguez hit his second HR of the game with a 2-run shot in the 8th, and then Rodriguez and Griffey both had 2-run 2Bs in the 4-run 9th. When the dust settled the Mariners had won 15-6.

**GAME #20 — SEA 9 @ MIN 2**

Chris Flexen took a perfect game into the 5th, and didn't give up a run until Josh Donaldson hit a 2-run HR in the 7th. But by then the Twins were down 8-0. Mitch Haniger hit a solo HR in the 2nd, and Julio Rodriguez hit an RBI 2B in the 4th, and scored on a Robinson Cano 2-run 1B. Cano added another 2-run 1B in the 6th, and the M's scored 2 in the 7th and 1 more in the 8th for a 9-2 win and a huge road sweep, keeping up with the surging A's in a tie for 1st place. Seattle scored in 11 of the 18 innings in Minnesota. This was the coming out party for Julio Rodriguez. He scored 4 runs in one game, and 7 in the series, both season-highs, and 5 RBI in 1 game, and 6 in the series, both tying season highs; and he went 6-10, tying the season high.

**GAME #19 — TOR 3 @ HOU 5**

Roberto Alomar hit a 1B and stole 2nd and 3rd, and scored on a George Springer RBI 1B for the 1-0. But it was short-lived as Jeff Bagwell hit a 2-run HR in the bottom of the 1st. Jose Bautista hit and RBI 1B in the 3rd to tie the game, and an Alomar RBI 2B in the 4th took the lead 3-2. Toronto took the lead to the 7th when Kyle Tucker hit an RBI 1B to tie the game, and Jose Altuve hit a 2-run 1B to take a 5-3 lead and win the game. The Astros bullpen pitched 3 hitless innings.

**GAME #20 — TOR 18 @ HOU 2**

What a contrast this game was. Alek Manoah had a 1-hit shutout through 5 innings, and by then the Blue Jays were ahead 17-0, which tied a season-high for runs in a game for the whole league. Teoscar Hernandez set the tone with a 3-run HR in the first. Lourdes Gurriel and Jose Bautista hit solo HRs in the 3rd and 4th innings, and then the Blue Jays unloaded. The Blue Jays sent 14 batters to the plate in the 11-run 5th inning. Alomar and Springer had 2 RBI hits, Vladimir Guerrero Jr hit a 2-run HR, Bo Bichette had a 2-run 2B, and Danny Jansen hit a 2-run HR. Jansen went 4-5 after going 4-25 on the season. Every starter had an RBI, and 7 of the 9 starters had 2 RBI. It was the biggest offensive outburst of the season.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 5 • ANGELS HOME SWEEP • RAYS BLANK MIAMI • NATIONALS WIN 4-3

**GAME #19 — NYY 7 @ LAA 11**

The Yankees are in the hunt with the Los Angeles Dodgers as the most disappointing team this season. The Yankees had won 5 in a row to get back in the race, but they came into Anaheim having been sweep by the Twins at home. The Angels came in having lost 4 of 5, and most were expecting the Yankees to rebound, but it was not to be. Don Mattingly hit a 2-run HR in the 1st inning to give the Yankees the lead, but Anthony Rendon hit a matching 2-run HR to tie the game in the bottom half. Clint Frazier hit a 3-run HR in the 2nd, and it seemed the Yankees were determined behind Luis Severino, who was coming into the game with quality starts in all 4 games on the season. The Angels chipped away with an RBI 2B from Albert Pujols in the 3rd, and a solo HR from Jared Walsh in the 4th, making the game 5-4. In the 5th Shohei Ohtani tied the game with a solo HR, and Justin Upton hit a 2-run HR to take the lead. Ohtani and Mike Trout hit RBI 2Bs in the 6th to make it 9-5, and the Angels scored twice in the 8th to seal the game. Hideki Matsui hit a pinch-hit 2-run HR in the 9th, but it was not enough to stop the 11-7 win for the Angels.

**GAME #20 — NYY 3 @ LAA 5**

The Yankee fans were expecting the split but the Angels scored 5 runs in the 2nd to take the game early. Andrelton Simmons and Albert Pujols hit RBI 2Bs and Shohei Ohtani hit a 3-run HR. Garrett Richards pitched well giving up only a 2-run HR to Don Mattingly in the 3rd. The Angels cruised to a 5-3 win and the valuable home sweep.

**GAME #19 — MIA 6 @ TBR 5**

Drew Rasmussen and Trevor Rogers both had no-hitters through 3 innings, when the Marlins broke through with RBI 2Bs from Jesus Sanchez and Jesus Aguilar. The Rays came back with 1 run in the 5th, but Jazz Chisholm added an RBI 1B in the 6th to make the lead 3-1. Hunter Renfroe hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 6th, but Jacob Stallings hit a 2-run HR in the 7th, making it 5-2. In the bottom of the 7th Randy Arozarena hit a clutch game-tying 3-run HR and the game went to extra innings. Shane Baz pitched 4 scoreless innings, as did Jesus Luzardo. Garrett Cooper broke through with an RBI 1B in the 14th, and the Marlins got the road win in their rivalry series.

**GAME #20 — MIA 0 @ TBR 3**

Ryan Yarbrough came into the game struggling to even keep his spot in the rotation. This could have been his last start, but he pitched a gem. Yarbrough shut out the Marlins, striking out 14. Yarbrough only had 13 on the season coming into the game. Yandy Diaz hit a 2-run 2B and the Rays won 3-0 behind a pitching gem.

**GAME #19 — CHC 3 @ WSH 4**

The Cubs and Nationals both came in at .500 fighting for wild card spots, and the Cubs struck 1st with an RBI 1B from Sammy Sosa, but in the 4th the Nationals scored twice to take the lead on the strength of an RBI 2B from Ryan Zimmerman. The Cubs immediately tied the game with 2Bs by Seiya Suzuki and Willson Contreras, and then took the lead with a Sammy Sosa solo HR. The Cubs took the lead to the bottom of the 8th, but the Nationals stole the game against Hector Rondon with a game-tying solo HR from Juan Soto, followed by a 2B by Zimmerman, and then the game-winning RBI 1B from Jayson Werth. Brad Hand shut down the Cubs for the save and the Nationals took Game #1.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 5 • MILEY SHUTOUT • BRAVES TWO-HITTER • RILEY WALK-OFF DOUBLE

**GAME #20 — CHC 7 @ WSH 0**

Wade Miley pitched the best game of his season, moving to 4-0, dropping his ERA to 1.57 with a stellar complete-game shutout. The Nationals could only muster 1 lone single against Miley. Ryne Sandberg hit a solo HR and was followed by a Kris Bryant 3-run HR in the 4th. Willson Contreras hit a 3-run HR in the 6th, and the Cubs walked away with the road split after an easy 7-0 win.

**GAME #19 — CIN 0 @ ATL 4**

Ian Anderson pitched another brilliant game. This time a 2-hit complete-game shutout with 16 strikeouts, and against a powerful Reds team. Freddie Freeman hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd, and Chipper Jones hit a 2-run HR in the 8th, giving the Braves a 4-0 win.

**GAME #20 — CIN 3 @ ATL 4**

Freddie Freeman hit his second HR of the series in the 1st for a 1-0 lead, but Adam Duvall tied the game with his own solo HR in the 2nd. Chipper Jones hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd to regain the lead, and Dansby Swanson hit a solo HR in the 4th to give the Braves a 3-1 lead. In the 5th Mike Moustakas hit a solo HR and Eugenio Suarez hit an RBI 1B to tie the game. The game went to the 10th inning tied 3-3 when Austin Riley won the game with a game-winning walk-off RBI 2B. The Braves moved into 1st place in the power rankings at 14-6.

**GAME #19 — ARI 7 @ STL 3**

Geraldo Perdomo did it again. He led off the game with a 3B and scored on a Josh Rojas 1B, and then in the 5-run 6th, Perdomo hit a 3-run HR, his improbably 7th on the season. Eric Chavez added a solo HR in the 5-run inning, and the Diamondbacks won easily 7-3. Mark McGwire hit a solo HR in the 6th, and Paul Goldschmidt hit a 2-run HR in the bottom of the 8th, but it was not enough as the Cardinals fell at home.

**GAME #20 — ARI 1 @ STL 8**

Ozzie Smith hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd inning and then Geraldo Perdomo did it again. The rookie SS hit his 8th HR to tie the game. Perdomo is not only in the lead for the Rookie of the Year, he is making his claim to be in the running for NL MVP. But today the Cardinals would not be denied the split, as they scored 5 runs in the 4th inning. Mark McGwire and Dylan Carlson hit solo HRs in the 7th, and the Cardinals cruised to an 8-1 win, getting the key home split, tying the slumping Reds for 1st place in the NL Central.

**GAME #19 — COL 2 @ MIL 0**

Milwaukee missed a great opportunity in this game. Freddy Peralta had 16 strikeouts in just 7 innings, but he gave up a solo HR to Ryan McMahon in the 3rd. The home crowd expected that their team could overcome that one run, but it was not to be, as Jon Gray pitched a 3-hit complete-game shutout. The Rockies added a second run on a Trevor Story RBI 1B after Raimel Tapia singled and stole second.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 5 • MOLITOR WALK-OFF HIT • METS WIN 8-6 • PHILLIES WIN 7-6

**GAME #20 — COL 8 @ MIL 9**

The Brewers needed this win, but the Rockies scored 3 runs in the 1st inning, highlighted by a Trevor Story RBI 3B. The Brewers scored 2 runs in the bottom of the 1st to keep the game close with an RBI 2B by Ryan Braun, and an RBI 1B from Rowdy Tellez. Milwaukee tied the game in the 4th on a solo HR by Paul Molitor, but the pesky Rockies took the lead back in the 5th on a Carlos Gonzalez 2-run HR. The desperate Brewers came back, scoring 4 in the bottom of the 6th on the strength of a Christian Yelich 2-run HR. The game went to the 9th inning with the Brewers up 7-5 and Josh Hader coming in. But Josh Hader got hit. The Rockies stunned the crowd with 4 hits and 3 runs in the 9th, highlighted by an Andres Galarraga 2-run 2B. The Rockies needed just 3 more outs for the sweep, and in came Carlos Estevez, but he could not do it. Willy Adames hit the first pitch over the fence for a game-tying solo HR, and then Tyrone Taylor hit a 2B, representing the winning run. Paul Molitor came up and hit a game-winning walk-off RBI 1B to get the Brewers the dramatic split.

**GAME #19 — PHI 5 @ SDP 6**

After moving to 12-3 the hot Padres had cooled off having lost 3 in a row. The Phillies came into 2-2 after their hot streak to get back into contention. San Diego struck first with 3 in the bottom of the 1st with an RBI 2B from Manny Machado and a 2-run 1B from Dave Winfield. Bryce Harper hit a 3-run HR in the 5th to tie the game, but Fernando Tatis Jr hit a 2-run HR to take the lead back immediately after. Jake Cronenworth added a solo HR in the 7th as insurance, which paid off when JT Realmuto hit a 2-run HR in the 8th. But that was as close as the Phillies got as they lost 6-5. Mike Clevinger moved to an impressive 5-0, leading the league in wins.

**GAME #20 — PHI 7 @ SDP 6**

Fernando Tatis Jr hit another 2-run HR in the 1st to take an early lead, but the Phillies got one back in the 2nd, and tied the game in the 3rd on a JT Realmuto solo HR. Jurickson Profar hit a 2-run HR in the 4th to reclaim the lead, but the Phillies scored 4 runs in the 6th, highlighted by a 2-run 1B by Ryan Howard. The relentless Padres came back in this back-and-forth series with 2 runs in the 7th, tying the game 6-6. The Padres weak bullpen is their weakness and they gave up a bases-loaded walk to lose the game, giving the Phillies a 7-6 win and the important road split.

**GAME #19 — NYM 8 @ LAD 6**

The disappointing Dodgers had a chance to reclaim their season against the strong New York Mets. The Mets scored first with 3 runs in the 2nd with an RBI 2B to Jeff McNeil and a 2-run 2B to Gary Carter. The Dodgers scored twice in the 2nd, and then tied the game in the 3rd on a Corey Seager HR. The Mets immediately took the lead back with a Darryl Strawberry solo HR, and the Dodgers tied it 4-4 with a Jeff Turner RBI 1B. The see-saw game continued with another solo HR from Strawberry and an RBI 1B from Francisco Lindor to take a 6-4 lead. Will Smith hit an RBI 2B in the 7th to cut the lead in half, but David Wright hit a 2-run 1B in the 8th. Mookie Betts hit a solo HR in the 8th, but that was as close as they could get in the 8-6 loss at home.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 5 • GIANTS ROAD SWEEP • DODGERS WIN 6-1 • GIANTS SCORE ELEVEN

**GAME #20 — NYM 1 @ LAD 6**

The Mets scored in the 1st inning on 2Bs by David Wright and Mike Piazza, but that was all Dustin May and the Dodgers would give up. Will Smith hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd and the Dodgers added 2 in the 4th. Max Muncy broke out of his season-long slump with solo HRs in the 5th and 7th, and Cody Bellinger hit a solo HR in the 7th to put the final touch on an important 6-1 win, getting the home split, staying in the wild-card race.

**GAME #19 — SFG 9 @ PIT 5**

The Giants on paper have a strong team, but they have been mired in season splits the whole 1st half, coming into the game at 9-9, needing a sweep on the road in Pittsburgh. Game #1 was the easy half as Barry Bonds hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd and a 3-run HR in the 4th. Buster Posey added a 2-run 1B in the 6th, Mike Yastrzemski hit an RBI 3B in the 7th, and Will Clark hit a solo HR to make the lead 9-0. The Pirates managed 5 late runs on a 2-run HR by Andy Van Slyke and a solo HR from Josh Bell, but it was not enough as the Giants won 9-5. Logan Webb had his best start on the season giving up only 2 runs over 7 innings.

**GAME #20 — SFG 11 @ PIT 10**

Game #2 will be submitted for Game of the Year at the end of the season. Gregory Polanco hit a solo HR to take a 1-0, but the Giants scored twice in the 3rd, with RBI from Will Clark and Barry Bonds. And then the Pirates unloaded. The Pirates highest scoring game of the year was a single game where they scored 6 runs — and they scored 6 runs in the 4th inning against Johnny Cueto. Josh Harrison and Kevin Newman both had 2-run 1Bs. The Pirates added another run in the 5th with 2Bs from Francisco Cervelli and Newman, and the lead was 8-2, giving the home crowd hope for a rare win. Joe Panik hit a key 2-out 2-run 2B in the 6th to trim the lead, but Andy Van Slyke hit a solo HR to make it a 9-4 game going to the 7th. The Pirates began to crack under the pressure as they walked the bases loaded, and Evan Longoria hit a 2-run 2B, scoring 3 runs to make it a much closer 9-7 game. The home crowd was tense. The Pirates didn't score in the 7th for the first time since the 3rd inning, and the Giants pounced. Buster Posey hit an RBI 2B, and then Brandon Belt hit a 2-run HR to give the Giants an improbable 10-9 lead. Andy Van Slyke stepped up to the plate and hit his second consecutive solo HR to tie the game in the 8th, and the game went to extra innings. In the 12th inning LaMonte Wade hit a 1B and scored when Brandon Belt hit a clutch 2-out RBI 2B to win the game. It was a wild game, a heartbreaking loss for the Pirates, and a key win for the Giants who might hit the 2nd half with some newfound momentum.

## MLBC — ALL-STAR BREAK

20 GAMES COMPLETE • MIDSEASON CLASSIC

## THE AMERICAN LEAGUE OWNS THE CLASSIC

*Two showcase games, two American League wins, and a clean hinge at the midpoint.*

**THE STAGE** The regular season paused after twenty games for a two-game All-Star showcase, and the first half had supplied no shortage of stars. Chris Sale and Jacob deGrom opened Game 1 with the league's most intimidating possible pitching matchup, but the National League struck first: Carlos Gonzalez singled, Freddie Freeman doubled him home, Barry Bonds moved Freeman to third, and Manny Machado's sacrifice fly made it 2-0. Marcus Semien answered with a solo HR in the 3rd and Lourdes Gurriel tied it in the 5th. From there, the night became a parade of elite relievers and missed chances.

**THE SERIES** Game 1 stayed 2-2 all the way to the 11th. Jim Thome finally singled against Kirby Yates, and Salvador Perez followed with the swing of the night, a game-winning 2-run HR that gave the American League a 4-2 victory. Game 2 took a different route. Andy Van Slyke doubled home the first run and scored on Lenny Dykstra's RBI 1B, but the AL answered after Stephen Strasburg lost the zone. José Ramírez singled, then Joe Mauer, Ken Griffey Jr., Matt Olson and Kyle Tucker drew walks through the rally, with Hunter Renfroe's sacrifice fly pushing the AL ahead. Félix Hernández took over from there, striking out seven across three scoreless innings. Mauer added an RBI 1B later, and Renfroe's solo HR finished a 5-2 win.

**THE HINGE** The American League leaves the intermission with a 2-0 sweep, one extra-inning classic and one pitching showcase. Perez owns the signature swing; Hernández owns the signature mound performance. None of it changes the standings, which is precisely why the break works as a hinge instead of a conclusion. Twenty regular-season games are complete, twenty remain, Atlanta leads baseball at 14-6, five clubs sit one game back, and seven more are exactly 10-10. The first half established contenders. The second half will decide which of them can survive the shrinking runway.

| SERIES   | GAME 1               | GAME 2      | MIDPOINT          |
|----------|----------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| AL • 2-0 | AL 4 • NL 2 • 11 INN | AL 5 • NL 2 | 20 GAMES COMPLETE |

## ALL-STAR MOMENTS

|                                                                                                            |                                                                             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>GAME 1</b><br><b>SALVADOR PEREZ • AL</b><br><i>11th-inning game-winning 2-run HR • Star of the Game</i> | <b>GAME 2</b><br><b>FÉLIX HERNÁNDEZ • AL</b><br><i>3 scoreless IP • 7 K</i> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|

# MLBC — GAME LOG

ALL-STAR • PEREZ WINS IN 11 • FELIX FANS SEVEN • AL SWEEPS THE NL

## ALL-STAR GAME

### AL ALL-STARS 4 @ NL ALL-STARS 2

It was a warm August late afternoon as the season paused for the mid-summer classic. This game always has a special place in the hearts of baseball fans, and this game was no different. The crowd was buzzing as Chris Sale and Jacob deGrom were set to face the hottest hitters in the league. deGrom gave up a walk to Starling Marte in the 1st, but that was it. Sale showed nerves in the bottom as the National League struck first. Carlos Gonzalez hit a leadoff 1B, and Freddie Freeman scored him with an RBI 2B. A Barry Bonds 1B moved Freeman to third base, and Manny Machado hit a sacrifice fly to make the game 2-0. Sale had only given up 5 runs through 5 games, but the NL got to him for the early lead. Jim Thome walked against deGrom, but could not score. Sale gave up a 2B to Carlos Gonzalez, but he could not score. Marcus Semien hit a solo HR off of deGrom in the 3rd to trim the lead, and Sale gave up 1Bs to Mark McGwire and Nick Castellanos, but they could not score. Jose Fernandez came into the game for the NL and set down the AL in order in the 4th, and Justin Verlander did the same after giving up a 1B to Geraldo Perdomo and a 2-out walk to Barry Bonds. In the 5th Fernandez gave up a game-tying solo HR to Lourdes Gurriel, and the AL had new life. Max Scherzer, Kenley Jansen, and Edwin Diaz all pitched scoreless innings, and Jonathan Papelbon pitched a strong 2 innings to get the game to the 11th. Lucas Giolito, Jordan Romano, and Greg Holland all pitched single scoreless innings, and Liam Hendriks pitched a strong 2 innings to keep the game tied. In the 11th inning, against Kirby Yates, Jim Thome hit a 1B, and then Salvador Perez hit a game-winning 2-run HR to earn the Star of the Game. Aroldis Chapman pitched a scoreless 11th for the save.

### AL ALL-STARS 5 @ NL ALL-STARS 2

Stephen Strasburg set down the AL in order in the 1st. Shohei Ohtani gave up a walk to Paul Goldschmidt and a 1B to Nolan Arenado, but the NL could not score. Strasburg walked Kyle Tucker and Franmil Reyes in the 2nd, but the AL could not score. Ohtani walked Bryan Reynolds, and Andy Van Slyke hit an RBI 2B to take the lead, and then scored on a 2-out RBI 1B by Lenny Dykstra. Strasburg, however, could not keep the lead. After a 1B to Jose Ramirez, Joe Mauer, Ken Griffey Jr, Matt Olson, and Kyle Tucker all drew walks off of Strasburg. A sacrifice fly by Hunter Renfroe made the game 3-2. Felix Hernandez pitched 3 scoreless innings, striking out an impressive 7 batters, and Yu Darvish pitched 3 innings, striking out 4. Wade Miley gave up a 1B to Bobby Witt Jr, who stole second base, and scored on a Joe Mauer RBI 1B. Jose Berrios pitched a scoreless 7th, and Hunter Renfroe hit a solo HR against Josh Hader to ice the game. Ryan Pressly set down the NL in the 8th, Craig Kimbrel set down the AL in the 9th, and Emmanuel Clase closed the door for the AL, earning the save, giving the American League the All Star Series sweep.

## MLBC — WEEK 6

GAMES 21-24 • SECOND HALF

## BOSTON BREAKS AWAY

*The Red Sox go 4-0, J.D. Martinez detonates, and the second half acquires a favorite.*

**THE LEAD** The second half began with Atlanta at 14-6 and five teams sitting one game back at 13-7. Seven clubs were 10-10. Almost everybody could still tell themselves a hopeful story, but only twenty games remained to prove it. Boston drew a road week against the Angels and first-place Oakland; the Yankees hosted Oakland and Cleveland; Atlanta headed through Los Angeles and San Francisco; and Seattle carried the AL West lead into Tampa Bay. The standings were still crowded, but the calendar had stopped being patient. The second half began with every division receiving a direct test.

**THE WEEK** Boston did not merely pass the test. It flattened it. The Red Sox went 4-0, swept the Angels and Oakland on the road, and J.D. Martinez produced the week's most violent line: five HR and twelve RBI, including two 3-run HR in a 15-1 win and a Grand Slam in Oakland. Chicago also went 4-0, pulling even with Cleveland at 15-9 in the AL Central. The Yankees went 3-1 and began looking like the club everyone expected. San Francisco joined that 15-9 tier after splitting in New York and then sweeping Atlanta at home, with Logan Webb shutting out the league leader on 3 hits before Johnny Cueto held the Braves to two hits the next game. Tampa Bay, meanwhile, swept first-place Seattle in two dramatic games, including an 11th-inning comeback. Max Scherzer supplied the ace performance, throwing a 2-hit shutout with 15 strikeouts in Pittsburgh. Boston's separation mattered because it came entirely on the road and against two clubs that began the week with legitimate first-half standing.

**THE STAKES** Boston exits at 17-7, alone with the best record in baseball. Atlanta is 16-8; Chicago, Cleveland, San Diego and San Francisco are 15-9. The Yankees are back above .500 at 13-11, and the second half suddenly feels less forgiving for everyone chasing. Week 7 turns personal: Yankees-Mets, White Sox-Cubs and Cardinals-Royals all renew rivalries, while St. Louis visits Atlanta, Cincinnati goes to San Diego, and the Dodgers face Miami with their season near the edge. Sixteen games remain. The standings have stopped being interesting trivia and started becoming deadlines.

TOP OF TABLE  
BOS • 17-7PERFECT WEEK  
BOS / CHW • 4-0AL CENTRAL  
CHW / CLE • 15-9TAMPA TURN  
TBR sweeps SEA

## WEEKLY HONORS

## HITTER OF THE WEEK

**GOLD J.D. MARTINEZ • BOS**

5 HR • 12 RBI

**SILVER CARLOS CORREA • HOU**

3-run HR • 6 RBI in the KCR series

**BRONZE GIANCARLO STANTON • NYY**

2 HR • 5 RBI • Grand Slam

## PITCHER OF THE WEEK

**GOLD MAX SCHERZER • WSH**

2 H • 15 K • shutout

**SILVER GARRETT RICHARDS • LAA**

CG SHO • 3 H • 1 BB

**BRONZE TREVOR ROGERS • MIA**

CG SHO • 4 H • 12 K

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 6 • RAYS SWEEP SEATTLE • ORIOLES WIN 5-4 • DETROIT WINS 7-4

## ROUND #11

## GAME #21 — BAL 5 @ DET 4

Detroit opened up at home hoping to get something going in the second half against the Orioles, and it started well with a 4-run 3rd inning when Willi Castro hit a solo HR, Miguel Cabrera hit an RBI 2B, and Victor followed with a 2-run 2B. Matthew Boyd had a strong game going, giving up only 3 hits over 5 innings, but the O's broke through in the 6th with 3 runs highlighted by an Adam Jones 2-run 2B. The Tigers bullpen pitched 3 strong shutout innings, and Gregory Soto came in to secure the save in the 9th. But it was not to be. Trey Mancini led off with a 2B, and scored on a Cal Ripken Jr RBI 1B, and then Soto walked in the winning run with the bases loaded. The O's got a great comeback win 5-4 for their 3rd win in a row after their 12-game losing streak. Jonathan Schoop added 2 RBIs in the win.

## GAME #22 — BAL 4 @ DET 7

Miguel Cabrera hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd to take the lead, but Trey Mancini cut the lead in half with a solo HR in the 4th. Willi Castro hit his second HR of the series with a 2-run shot in the 6th to take a 4-1 lead. Cal Ripken Jr hit a solo HR in the 7th, but Victor Martinez hit a 3-run HR in the bottom of the 7th to seal the 7-4 win. Casey Mize pitched a strong 8 innings, giving up only 5 hits and 2 runs before faltering in his attempt to get the complete game.

## GAME #21 — SEA 3 @ TBR 4

This was a truly great series. The M's were looking to make their move, and the Rays were trying to get back into contention. Game #1 saw Felix Hernandez face off against Tyler Glasnow. Ken Griffey Jr hit a solo HR in the 1st, and then a 2-run 2B in the 3rd for a 3-0 Seattle lead. Taylor Walls started at 3B to provide strong defense, but somehow he had Felix's number. Through 7 innings Felix had given up only 2 hits, both to Walls, one of which was a 2-run HR in the 5th, his first on the season. Glasnow didn't give up another hit after the Griffey 2B, and only gave up a 1B to Austin Nola in addition to the 2 Griffey hits. Glasnow also struck out a season-high 13 batters. The game went to the bottom of the 8th and Taylor Walls singled, his 3rd hit of the game, and the only hits Felix gave up, and Kevin Kiermaier came up to the plate with a chance to tie it. And he did. Kiermaier hit an RBI 3B to tie the game, and then scored the winning run on a Yandy Diaz sacrifice fly.

## GAME #22 — SEA 4 @ TBR 5

Edwin Encarnacion hit an RBI 2B in the 1st inning, and red-hot Taylor Walls hit an RBI 1B to tie the game, his 4th consecutive hit. Julio Rodriguez hit a solo HR in the 3rd, and Joey Wendle tied the game again in the 4th with an RBI 1B, and the game went 2-2 to the 11th inning. Marco Gonzales pitched well, giving up only 2 runs over 7 innings, and Drew Rasmussen gave up only 2 runs over 8 innings. In the 11th inning the M's, looking for the road split, got a clutch 2-run 1B from Kyle Lewis, which looked to be the game winner. But the Rays showed true grit in their claim for contention. Pinch hitter Austin Meadows hit a clutch 2-run HR to tie the game, and the Wendle and Walls both singled. Fernando Rodney threw a wild pitch, and Kevin Kiermaier won his second consecutive game with a game-winning sacrifice fly, giving the Rays the huge home sweep against the 1st place M's. Walls finished 6-8 in the series.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 6 • STANTON GRAND SLAM • MONCADA WALK-OFF HR • BOSTON WINS 4-1

**GAME #21 — OAK 4 @ NYY 8**

The baseball world is afraid of the Yankees figuring it out and gaining momentum, and it might have started. The 1st place Oakland Athletics came into New York and got roughed up. It started well when Matt Olson hit an RBI 1B and Matt Chapman scored him with a 2-run HR in the 1st, but Don Mattingly hit a 2-run HR in the bottom of the 1st to shrink the lead to 3-2. DJ LeMahieu tied the game with an RBI 1B in the 3rd, and the Yankees took control of the game in the 4th when Jorge Posada hit an RBI 2B, and Derek Jeter hit a 2-run 2B. The Yankees went on to support Gerrit Cole's win and cruise to an 8-4 win.

**GAME #22 — OAK 3 @ NYY 8**

Again Oakland started well with a 2-run 2B from Khris Davis, but again the Yankees came back. Giancarlo Stanton started it off in the 2nd inning with a solo HR, Derek Jeter hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd, and Hideki Matsui hit an RBI 1B after an Aaron Judge 2B in the 4th, taking a 3-2 lead. In the 5th the Yankees broke open the game with a Grand Slam HR from Stanton, and New York cruised to another easy win, backing Luis Severino.

**GAME #21 — TEX 6 @ CHW 7**

This turned out to be quite a series. It looks like a lost season for the Texas Rangers, but the White Sox were hoping to use the series to make a move in their quest for the division. Texas started the scoring in the 3rd when Jonah Heim hit a 2B, Rougned Odor had an RBI 1B, Josh Hamilton hit an RBI 2B, and Adrian Beltre hit an RBI 1B. Luis Robert answered with a solo HR in the bottom of the 1st. Beltre had a 2-run 2B in the 7th to make the game 5-2, and it looked like Texas would win the game. But with 2 outs in the 8th inning Yoan Moncada singled, Adam Eaton singled, and Nick Madrigal then hit a 2-run 2B to draw the White Sox within 1 run. In the 9th inning with Joe Barlow brought in to close the door, Luis Robert hit another solo HR to tie the game. In the 10th inning Joey Gallo hit a solo HR, and it looked like the Rangers would take the victory they had earned, but with 2-outs in the 10th, Nick Madrigal singled, and Tim Anderson hit an RBI 3B to tie the game in dramatic fashion. Dylan Cease came out of the bullpen and kept the Rangers at bay in the 11th and 12th innings, but in the bottom of the 12th Yoan Moncada hit a game-winning walk-off solo HR, giving the White Sox a dramatic win at home.

**GAME #22 — TEX 4 @ CHW 5**

The White Sox scored first to back Carlos Rodon with 2 runs in the 3rd inning with an RBI 1B from Jose Abreu and an RBI 2B from Frank Thomas. Rodon had a 1-hitter going in the 5th when Nathaniel Lowe and Adolis Garcia hit back-to-back solo HRs to tie the game. In the 6th inning Eloy Jimenez hit a 2-run HR to get the lead back. Joey Gallo hit a 2-run HR in the 9th off of Liam Hendriks, but it was not enough as the White Sox won 5-4, getting the important home sweep.

**GAME #21 — BOS 4 @ LAA 1**

David Ortiz started the scoring with a 3-run HR off of Shohei Ohtani in the 1st inning, and the Red Sox never looked back. Chris Sale continued his push for the Cy Young Award, moving to 6-0, giving up only 1 run over 6 innings. The Red Sox coasted to a 4-1 win in Anaheim.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 6 • RED SOX SCORE FIFTEEN • ASTROS HOME SWEEP • TORONTO WINS 1-0

**GAME #22 — BOS 15 @ LAA 1**

Andrew Heaney started well enough, pitching a perfect game through 3 innings, but it fell apart after that. In the 4th inning the Red Sox scored twice with 2Bs from JD Martinez and Rafael Devers. The Angels responded with 1 run on a Justin Upton RBI 1B, but in the 5th the Red Sox ran away with the game. JD Martinez hit a 3-run HR and David Ortiz and Devers hit 2Bs as part of a 6-run inning, driving Heaney from the game. Martinez hit another 3-run HR in the 6th, and the rout was on. The Red Sox added 4 more runs and ran away with a 15-1 win, sweeping the Angels on the road, keeping 3 games up on the Yankees.

**GAME #21 — KCR 2 @ HOU 8**

Houston came into the 2nd half hoping for some momentum, and they found it. Kyle Tucker hit a solo HR in the 1st inning, and Andrew Benintendi matched him with a solo HR in the 2nd. In the 3rd the Astros scored 3 runs, highlighted by a Jeff Bagwell solo HR, and 3 more in the 4th, on a Carlos Correa 3-run HR, and they cruised from there with an easy 8-2 win, backing Justin Verlander's 7 strong innings.

**GAME #22 — KCR 7 @ HOU 10**

The Royals needed to keep pace, and Alex Gordon hit a Grand Slam HR in the 2nd, and the Royals had hope. But the Astros put together 6 straight base runners in a 5-run 4th, highlighted by a 2-run 2B by Yuli Gurriel and a 2-run 1B from Carlos Correa. The Royals surprised the home crowd with a comeback on a 2-run HR from star rookie Bobby Witt Jr, but again, the Astros had a 5-run inning to take the lead back. Yordan Alvarez tied the game with a solo HR, Correa had an RBI 2B, Michael Brantley hit a 2-run HR, and Martin Maldonado finished it off with a solo HR to win the game 10-7.

**GAME #21 — PHI 0 @ TOR 1**

This was a pitching duel for the ages. Zack Wheeler had a perfect game going into the 6th when Bo Bichette hit a 2B, but didn't score. Hyun Jin Ryu had a no-hitter going until the 4th when Andrew McCutchen had a lone 1B. The game went to the bottom of the 8th as a scoreless duel, when, with 2-outs, George Springer hit a game-winning solo HR. Jordan Romano pitched a hitless 9th for the save. Ryu pitched 8 shutout innings, giving up only 3 hits. Zack Wheeler gave up only 2 hits, but he lost the game 1-0.

**GAME #22 — PHI 4 @ TOR 3**

Ryan Howard hit a 2B in the 2nd inning, and scored on an RBI 1B by Jean Segura, and then Howard had a 2-run 1B in the 3rd after Aaron Sanchez walked the bases loaded. Danny Jansen hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd to trim the lead, and Bo Bichette tied the game in the 4th with a sacrifice fly. Ryan Howard continued his 1-man show with a solo HR in the 6th, which turned out to be the game winner in the 4-3 Phillies win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 6 • TWINS SCORE ELEVEN • CLEVELAND SHUTOUT • ROCKIES WIN 6-4

**GAME #21 — MIN 11 @ MIL 3**

The league's top offense faced off against Corbin Burnes in Milwaukee and were down 2-0 going to the 6th. Ryan Braun had a sacrifice fly in the 1st inning, and Rowdy Tellez hit a solo HR in the 3rd, against Jose Berrios. In the 6th inning Nelson Cruz connected for a game-tying 2-run HR. The top of the 7th inning was perhaps the most surprising inning ever. Corbin Burnes ran out of steam and gave up a walk, a single, and then surrendered the lead on a Luis Arraez RBI 2B to make it 3-2. In came the dominant Devin Williams who had a 1.59 ERA, giving up just 3 runs on the season. Devin Williams walked Byron Buxton, and then proceeded to give up a 2-run 2B by Joe Mauer. Williams struck out Kirby Puckett, but then Nelson Cruz hit a 2-run 2B. Jorge Polanco had an RBI 1B, Miguel Sano followed with an RBI 2B, and Max Kepler finished the barrage with his own RBI 2B. When it was over Burnes and Williams, two of the game's best, had given up 8 runs and 5 2Bs. The Twins added a run in the 8th when Joe Mauer had an RBI 1B after a Buxton 2B. Jose Berrios moved to 6-0.

**GAME #22 — MIN 1 @ MIL 3**

Kenta Maeda and Brandon Woodruff both took shutouts into the 4th inning, when Miguel Sano hit a solo HR, and Robin Yount hit a 2B and scored on a Ryan Braun RBI 1B. The game went 1-1 to the 8th when Christian Yelich hit a game-winning 2-run HR against Trevor May.

**GAME #21 — CIN 4 @ CLE 2**

Carlos Santana hit a solo HR in the 1st to give Cleveland the early lead, but Nick Castellanos hit a solo HR in the 4th to tie the game. Jason Kipnis hit an RBI 2B in the 5th to take the lead back, but Mike Moustakas hit a solo HR in the 8th to tie the game again. Luis Castillo pitched well, giving up only 2 runs over 7 innings, and Corey Kluber matched him, giving up only 2 runs over 8 innings. The game went to the bullpens and to extra innings, and the Reds won it on an Adam Duvall 2-run HR off of James Karinchak. Lucas Sims closed the door for the save.

**GAME #22 — CIN 0 @ CLE 6**

Sonny Gray and Shane Bieber both had shutouts going into the 6th inning, when Carlos Santana hit a 2-run 1B, and Franmil Reyes hit a 3-run HR. Bieber continued with his best start of the year, giving up 0 runs over 8 innings. Reyes hit another HR with a solo shot in the 8th.

**GAME #21 — COL 6 @ MIA 4**

It was a bad time for Jose Fernandez's worst start of the year. Ryan McMahon hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd, but Miguel Rojas hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd. The Rockies tied the game in the 3rd with a solo HR from Trevor Story, but the Marlins took the lead back in the bottom half with a sacrifice fly from Jesus Sanchez. The Rockies continued to strike against Fernandez with a solo HR from Justin Morneau in the 4th to tie the game, but the Marlins again took the lead right back with a sacrifice fly from Rojas. The Rockies tied the game once again in the 6th with a Raimel Tapia RBI 1B, and the scoring paused for a while. The game went 4-4 to the 11th inning when Sixto Sanchez gave up a 2-run 1B to Tapia, and the Rockies won 6-4 on the road.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 6 • SCHERZER FANS 15 • ARIZONA ROAD SWEEP • PIRATES WIN 1-0

**GAME #22 — COL 6 @ MIA 4**

Carlos Gonzalez hit a 2-run HR in the 1st for the early lead, and then Gonzalez added to the lead with an RBI 2B in the 3rd. Jesus Sanchez hit an RBI 1B in the bottom of the 3rd, but the Rockies got the run back in the 4th with an RBI 1B from Tapia. The Marlins made the game 4-3 in the 5th when Jonathan Villar hit a 2-run HR, and then they tied the game in the 8th with a clutch solo HR from Garrett Cooper. Again the game went 4-4 to the 11th, and again the Rockies scored twice, this time with a 2-run 1B from Carlos Gonzalez, and again the Rockies won 6-4. Gonzalez had 5 RBI in the Rockies win, and the Rockies left Miami with a key sweep.

**GAME #21 — WSH 3 @ PIT 0**

Trea Turner led off the game with a solo HR against Chris Archer, and it was all Max Scherzer needed. Archer didn't give up another run, but Scherzer didn't give up any. Juan Soto added a 2-run HR in the 9th, and Scherzer finished a dominant shutout with 15 strikeouts and giving up only 2 hits. Scherzer has moved into the lead for the NL Cy Young Award.

**GAME #22 — WSH 0 @ PIT 1**

Stephen Strasburg pitched just as well as Scherzer, giving up only 2 hits over 8 innings, but he gave up 1 run in the 4th on a Ke'Bryan Hayes RBI 2B. That was all Jameson Taillon would need, in the best start of his season. Taillon gave up only 5 hits and 0 runs over 8½ innings, and Mark Melancon closed the door with ⅓ innings in the 9th to get the save, securing the 1-0 win, and the series split; a split where they only scored 1 run and got only 4 hits.

**GAME #21 — ARI 4 @ CHC 1**

The Chicago Cubs wasted a great opportunity. Kyle Hendricks gave up only 2 runs over 7 innings, but the Cubs couldn't get the lead from Robbie Ray. Anthony Rizzo had an RBI 1B in the 1st, but that was the only run the Cubs would score. The Diamondbacks tied the game in the 6th when Daulton Varsho hit a 2B and scored on a Josh Rojas RBI 1B, and they took the lead in the 7th on a David Peralta solo HR. Christian Walker added a 2-run HR and the Cubs lost 4-1 at home.

**GAME #22 — ARI 4 @ CHC 3**

Geraldo Perdomo did it again. His 14-game hitting streak ended with an 0-5 in the game before, and he hit his improbable 9th HR on the season to lead off the game. Josh Rojas followed with a 2B and scored on a Ketel Marte RBI 1B. The Cubs fought back with a solo HR from Jason Heyward in the 3rd, but David Peralta hit a 3B in the 4th, and scored on a Carson Kelly RBI 1B. Sammy Sosa hit his own 3B in the bottom of the 4th, and scored on a Rizzo 1B, to make the game 3-2. Daulton Varsho added an RBI 2B in the 7th to give Zack Greinke a little margin, which mattered when Kris Bryant hit a solo HR in the 8th. Archie Bradley closed the door in the 9th earning the save, and the Diamondbacks got the road sweep, dashing the Cubs hopes for some momentum.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 6 • BRAVES ROAD SWEEP • ATLANTA BLANKS LA • PADRES WIN 5-4

**GAME #21 — ATL 1 @ LAD 0**

The Dodgers' season is slipping away. They came into the season as the favorites, and needed a strong showing at home, but they didn't get it. Their offense stayed dormant. Clayton Kershaw did all he could giving up only 1 single through 5 innings. The Braves finally scored in the 8th off a tiring Kershaw when Freddie Freeman hit a 2-out RBI 2B, and that was all the Braves needed. Charlie Morton pitched 6 $\frac{2}{3}$  scoreless innings, and Will Smith and Craig Kimbrel finished the shutout.

**GAME #22 — ATL 7 @ LAD 2**

Deion Sanders led off the game with a rare HR, but Justin Turner tied the game in the bottom half with an RBI 1B. The game went 1-1 with Walker Buehler and Max Fried dueling it out. In the 6th the Braves broke through with 4 consecutive hits, and RBI from Chipper Jones, Freddie Freeman, and Fred McGriff. The Braves added one more in the 7th and they were in command at 5-1. Corey Seager gave the Dodgers a sliver of hope with a solo HR in the 8th, but that was all they would get. Ronald Acuna hit a 2-run HR to seal the 7-2 win. In 12 of the 22 games the Dodgers have scored 2 or fewer runs. The Braves have given up 2 or fewer runs in 9 of 22 games.

**GAME #21 — STL 4 @ SDP 5**

What a series this was. Game #1 was tremendous, and Game #2 was an all-timer. The Cardinals came into the road series looking to surge into 1st place. The Padres were looking to extend their lead, and maybe make a claim for the top team in the league. Kolton Wong led off the game with a solo HR off of Yu Darvish. Ozzie Smith had an RBI 1B after a Dylan Carlson 2B. Nolan Arenado hit a solo HR, and the Cardinals had a 3-0 lead, scoring 1 run in each inning. Darvish set them down in the 4th, but the Cardinals scored a single run again in the 5th on a Mark McGwire sacrifice fly. Jack Flaherty pitched 5 shutout innings, and took a 4-0 lead into the bottom of the 6th, when Tony Gwynn hit a 1B, and the dangerous Fernando Tatis Jr hit a 2-run HR. Dave Winfield followed with a 3B, and scored on an Eric Hosmer sacrifice fly. Darvish settled down, and the bullpen kept the Cardinals at bay, and the game went 4-3 to the bottom of the 8th. Tatis hit a 1-out 2B and Manny Machado hit a game-winning clutch 2-run HR to send the crowd into a frenzy. Kirby Yates shut the door in the 9th for the save, and the Padres won 5-4 in comeback fashion.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 6 • CARDINALS WIN 12-10 • GIANTS BLANK METS • METS WIN 2-1

**GAME #22 — STL 12 @ SDP 10**

This will go down as one of the contenders for Game of the Year. Paul Goldschmidt hit a solo HR in the 1st inning for a 1-0 against Ian Snell. In the 2nd inning Harrison Bader walked, Ozzie Smith singled, Kolton Wong hit a 2-run 2B, Goldschmidt walked, and Nolan Arenado hit a 3-run HR. The Cardinals were up 6-0 in the second, and were hoping to cruise to a win and earn the road split. But the Padres had some fight in them. Manny Machado hit a solo HR to lead off the 2nd, Dave Winfield went back-to-back with his own solo HR, and Eric Hosmer scored on a Trent Grisham sacrifice fly, cutting the lead in half. In the bottom of the 3rd Adam Wainwright gave up 6 hits and 2 walks as the Padres scored 7 times, highlighted by a bases-clearing 3-run 2B from Tony Gwynn. Suddenly the game was 10-6 after 3 innings. In the 4th inning Kolton Wong hit a 2B, and Nolan Arenado hit a 2-run HR, for his second HR of the game, and 5th RBI. The game was 10-8 after 4 innings. The pitching settled down and the game went to the 8th inning. The Padres needed just 6 outs to get the sweep, and the Cardinals had to fight for 3 more runs to avoid the sweep. Yadier Molina led off the 8th with a 1B, and Harrison Bader walked. Kolton Wong hit an RBI 1B, his 4th hit and 4 RBI of the series, and up came all-star Paul Goldschmidt. Facing Andres Munoz, Goldschmidt hit a 3-run HR to re-take the lead, 12-10, which proved to be the final score. Giovanni Gallegos struck out the side in the 8th and escaped in the 9th with the 2-inning save, and the Cardinals got a well earned split.

**GAME #21 — SFG 3 @ NYM 0**

The Giants had a tough task facing Jacob deGrom on the road, but they did have the ultra-clutch Madison Bumgarner on their side. And Bumgarner showed up big time. deGrom had a perfect game going into the 5th, when Brandon Belt hit a 1B, Evan Longoria drew a walk, and Mike Yastrzemski hit a clutch 2-out RBI 1B, giving the Giants a 1-0 lead. In the 6th inning Will Clark hit a 1-out 2B, Barry Bonds followed with an RBI 2B, and Buster Posey followed that with an RBI 2B. It was the biggest outburst against deGrom this season, and the Giants had hope, because Bumgarner was dealing. Bumgarner went into the 9th having given up just 1 lone 1B, 2 BB, and 12 Ks. In the 9th Gary Carter hit a 1B, and Brandon Nimmo hit a 1B. Camilo Doval was ready in the bullpen, but the Giants left Bumgarner in to try to finish his masterpiece. Bumgarner got the last 3 outs, all with the tying runs at the plate each time, and the Giants won 3-0.

**GAME #22 — SFG 1 @ NYM 2**

Noah Syndergaard needed to step up and get the home split, and he did. Syndergaard pitched 7 shutout innings and the Mets broke through against Kevin Gausman in the 4th when David Wright hit a 1B, Mike Piazza hit a 2B, Darryl Strawberry hit an RBI 1B, and Pete Alonso hit an RBI 1B. The 2 runs were all the Mets would need as the Mets won 2-1, getting the home split.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 6 • GUERRERO GRAND SLAM • ANGELS ROAD SWEEP • WHITE SOX SWEEP

## ROUND #12

## GAME #23 — LAA 12 @ TOR 8

This was another one of those wild games. Mike Trout singled, stole second, and scored on an Anthony Rendon RBI 1B, and then Justin Upton hit a 2-run HR, for the 3-0 early. The Jays came back with a 2-run 2B from Teoscar Hernandez, and a 2-run 3B from George Springer, and the Jays were up 4-3 after the 1st inning. Justin Upton tied the game with his 2nd HR of the game, and then the Angels took the lead on RBI 1Bs from Trout and Albert Pujols. In the bottom of the 4th Vladimir Guerrero Jr hit a Grand Slam HR and the Jays were now up 8-6. Patrick Sandoval was pulled for Reid Detmers, and it changed the game. Detmers pitched 4 scoreless innings of 3-hit ball, and the Angels backed him up. Shohei Ohtani hit an RBI 2B in the 6th, and the game went to the 8th inning 8-7. In the 8th the Angels poured it on with 3 runs to take the lead, highlighted by an Upton 2-run 2B, his 5th RBI of the game, and then they added 2 more in the 9th to pad the lead with a 2-run 1B from Trout. It was a big game from the Angels who scored in 6 of the 9 innings to win 12-8.

## GAME #24 — LAA 5 @ TOR 0

Garrett Richards pitched a gem. He gave up 3 singles and a walk, and that was it. His 3-hit complete-game shutout masterpiece led the Angels, and Ohtani hit a 2-run HR and Andrelton Simmons hit a rare 3-run HR. Alek Manoah had a 1-hit shutout before finding trouble in the 6th. The Blue Jays missed a great chance getting swept in this home series against a mediocre opponent. The Angels moved into Wild Card contention.

## GAME #23 — HOU 2 @ CHW 4

This was a much anticipate match up between two top contenders. Houston was hoping for a split, and the White Sox could make a statement with a sweep. Yordan Alvarez began the scoring with an RBI 1B, scoring Kyle Tucker in the 1st inning, but the White Sox answered. Luis Robert hit a 2B, and after a walk to Jose Abreu, Frank Thomas hit a 3-run HR against Lance McCullers to take the lead. It turned out that was all Lance Lynn would need. Lynn didn't give up another run over 7 innings, and the White Sox added a run in the 6th with an RBI 2B from Eloy Jimenez. The Astros put up a fight against Liam Hendriks, scoring 1 run, but that was the end of their rally, and the White Sox won 4-2.

## GAME #24 — HOU 4 @ CHW 6

Jose Altuve hit a 3B to lead off the game, and scored on an RBI 1B from Jeff Bagwell. The White Sox answered with 2 in the bottom of the 1st with RBI from Jose Abreu and Eloy Jimenez. The Astros answered right back with an RBI 1B from Martin Maldonado, but the White Sox took the lead back in the bottom half with an RBI from Frank Thomas. The Astros tied the game in the 3rd inning of this see-saw affair on a Yordan Alvarez solo HR, and the game went 3-3 to the 5th. In the 5th inning Andrew Vaughn took the lead back with a solo HR, but again the Astros scored to tie the game with an RBI 1B from Jose Siri. And again the White Sox struck back taking the lead with an RBI 1B from Yoan Moncada. Chicago added an insurance run in the 7th with an RBI 2B from Abreu, and the bullpen closed the door with 3 hitless innings, giving the White Sox the 6-4 win and the important series sweep, moving them into 1st place in the AL Central.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 6 • RAMIREZ WALK-OFF HR • YANKEES SCORE 12 • RANGERS WIN 6-5

**GAME #23 — NYY 12 @ CLE 4**

This was yet another huge series during this round of play with the 1st place Cleveland Guardians hosting the New York Yankees. The Yankees come in desperate to find wins and get back in the race. New York started well with 3 runs in the 2nd, highlighted by a Hideki Matsui 2-run 1B. Cleveland answered right away, scoring 4 in the bottom half, with RBI 2Bs from Tyler Naquin and Omar Vizquel. The Yankees took the lead back in the 4th with RBI from Aaron Judge and Don Mattingly, and then added 2 more runs in the 5th on a 2-run 2B from Brett Gardner. Jordan Montgomery kept the Cleveland bats quiet, and the Yankees broke open the game with 5 more runs in the 6th, highlighted by a 3-run HR from Jorge Posada. New York cruised to an easy 12-4, looking more like the Yankees the league expected from the beginning.

**GAME #24 — NYY 5 @ CLE 6**

The Yankees kept the momentum going with an RBI 2B from Don Mattingly, and a 2-run HR from Alex Rodriguez to take a 3-0 lead. The Guardians answered immediately with a 2-run HR from Jim Thome, his 10th. Cleveland tied the game in the 5th with an RBI 1B from Carlos Santana, as Zach Plesac pitched well not giving up any more runs. The games went to the bullpens, two of the strongest in the league. Dominant James Karinchak gave up a single to Derek Jeter, and then Aaron Judge hit his 4th HR of the year, giving the Yankees a 5-3 lead to hand to the closer, Aroldis Chapman. Chapman had given up just 6 hits and 1 run on the season, and was almost unhittable. Yan Gomes hit a clutch 1-out 1B, and then with 2 outs Jason Kipnis battled for a walk. Up to the plate came Cleveland star Jose Ramirez with 2-outs and a chance to play the hero, but he had to face perhaps the most dominant pitcher in the game. Chapman threw the game's final pitch, and Jose Ramirez hit perhaps the biggest hit of the season in the whole league, an ultra-clutch 3-run game-winning walk-off HR, sending the home crowd into a frenzy.

**GAME #23 — MIN 5 @ TEX 1**

Kirby Puckett started the scoring for the Twins with a solo HR in the 1st inning, and the Twins added a second run in the 2nd inning with 2Bs from Max Kepler and Alex Kirilloff. Joe Ryan handled the rest with his best start of the season, pitching 7 $\frac{1}{3}$  innings and giving up only 1 run, in the 8th, and solo HR from Juan Gonzalez to spoil the shutout. The Twins added a run in the 6th with a solo HR from MVP candidate Jorge Polanco, and then 2 more in the 8th with a solo HR from Josh Donaldson, and an RBI 1B from Luis Arraez, and the Twins won easily 5-1.

**GAME #24 — MIN 5 @ TEX 6**

Jonah Heim handled the offense for the Rangers, starting with a solo HR in the 2nd, and a 3-run HR in the 6th. Adrian Beltre added a 2-run HR in the 6th, and the Rangers had a 6-1 lead after Josh Donaldson hit his second solo HR of the series. Miguel Sano trimmed the lead in the 7th with a 2-run HR, and Nelson Cruz hit a 2-run HR in the 8th, and suddenly the game was 6-5. Byron Buxton hit a 2-out 2B in the 9th, but Joe Barlow got Donaldson to end the game, giving the Rangers the home split.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 6 • MARTINEZ GRAND SLAM • WITT GRAND SLAM • BOSTON ROAD SWEEP

**GAME #23 — BOS 13 @ OAK 6**

The Boston Red Sox might be a juggernaut. They came into Oakland facing a 1st place team on the road, but they didn't even flinch. Jackie Bradley had an RBI 1B in the 3rd off of Sean Manaea, before JD Martinez broke the game open with a Grand Slam HR. Alex Verdugo added a 2-run HR in the 4th, and Jason Varitek added a 3-run HR in the 5th. David Price pitched effectively giving up only an RBI 1B and a 2-run HR to Matt Olson. Wade Boggs added an RBI 2B in the 8th, and then Bobby Dalbec followed with a 2-run HR. Oakland scored 3 times in the 9th, but it was not enough as the Red Sox crushed the A's 13-6.

**GAME #24 — BOS 5 @ OAK 4**

Cole Irvin gave up a 2-run HR to Bobby Dalbec in the 3rd, but Matt Chapman answered with his own 2-run HR off of Eduardo Rodriguez in the 4th. In the 5th the Red Sox took hold of the game with back-to-back solo HR from JD Martinez and David Ortiz. The A's got 1 run back in the 7th, but the Red Sox padded the lead with the second solo HR of the game from JD Martinez. It was necessary because Matt Barnes allowed a 3B to pinch hitter Seth Brown and an RBI 1B to Adam Dunn, but that was all the A's could do in their comeback bit, succumbing to a sweep at home to the powerful Red Sox.

**GAME #23 — KCR 9 @ SEA 3**

The M's came in with a chance to break the 3-way tie for 1st place in the AL West, and it started well. Ken Griffey Jr hit a 2-run HR, and Edwin Encarnacion went back-to-back with a solo HR, giving the M's a 3-0 lead. But it was short-lived. Bobby Witt Jr hit a Grand Slam HR in the 2nd, and then the Royals added 3 more in the 4th, highlighted by a 2-run 2B from Jorge Soler. In the 6th inning the Royals made it 9-3 with a 2-run 1B from Alex Gordon, and the Royals got Yordano Ventura the win, beating Yusei Kikuchi for the key road win.

**GAME #24 — KCR 1 @ SEA 2**

The M's need this game, and Ken Griffey Jr responded with another 1st inning HR for a 1-0 lead. Whit Merrifield had an RBI 1B to tie the game in the 3rd, and Kris Bubic and Chris Flexen took the pitching duel into the bottom of the 6th inning, when Mitch Haniger hit the game-winning solo HR. The M's won 2-1 and got the key home split, moving into the lead in the competitive AL West.

**GAME #23 — WSH 0 @ BAL 2**

Keegan Akin pitched 6 shutout innings, giving up only 3 lone singles, and 1 walk, while Gio Gonzalez almost matched him. In the 2nd inning Austin Hays hit a solo HR, and in the 6th inning Ramon Urias connected for his first HR of the season. The Orioles strong bullpen pitched 3 hitless innings, and the O's won 2-0, even though Gonzalez only gave up 3 hits.

**GAME #24 — WSH 4 @ BAL 3**

Trea Turner hit a leadoff HR to get the early lead, and Dean Kremer loaded the bases before Keibert Ruiz hit a 3-run base-clearing 2B, giving the Nationals a 4-0 lead that would hold up. Austin Hays hit an RBI 2B in the 1st, Adley Rutschman hit a solo HR in the 2nd, and Anthony Santander hit a solo HR in the 4th, making the game 4-3. The O's loaded the bases in the 5th with 1 out, but they couldn't score. They put 2 runners on in the 7th, but again couldn't score. They brought the tying run to 2nd base with 1 out in the 9th, but it was not to be today as the Nationals hung on for the 4-3 win and the road split.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 6 • ROGERS SHUTOUT • PHILLIES BLANK LA • MARLINS HOME SWEEP

**GAME #23 — TBR 0 @ MIA 3**

Trevor Rogers pitched his best game of the season, a 4-hit complete-game shutout, striking out 12. The Rays couldn't do anything against him today. Shane McClanahan battled, but he gave up an RBI 1B to Jesus Aguilar in the 4th, and 2 more runs in the 7th, highlighted by an Ichiro RBI 2B as the Marlins cruised to a 3-0 win.

**GAME #24 — TBR 5 @ MIA 7**

The Rays struck first with 2 runs in the 1st inning with an RBI 2B from Randy Arozarena and an RBI 1B from Hunter Renfroe. The Marlins cut the lead in half with 1 in the bottom of the 1st, and tied it in the 3rd on a Jazz Chisholm RBI 1B. The Marlins continued their surge and scored twice more in the 4th on RBI from Miguel Rojas and Jacob Stallings, taking a 4-2 lead. Pablo Lopez pitched well, not giving up another run until a Joey Wendle RBI 1B in the 8th to make it 4-3. Garrett Cooper provided some insurance with a solo HR in the bottom half, and Jon Berti sealed the game with a 2-run 1B. AJ Ramos struggled in the 9th, loading the bases and giving up a 2-run 1B to Austin Meadows. Ramos loaded the bases again, and the Marlins brought in Sixto Sanchez who got the save, as the Marlins got the 7-5 win and the home sweep against their rival.

**GAME #23 — PIT 3 @ DET 5**

Gregory Polanco started the scoring in the rivalry game with a solo HR in the 2nd, and the Tigers tied the game in the bottom half. The Tigers took the lead in the 5th with Riley Greene's first career HR, but the Pirates tied the game in the 6th on a Kevin Newman RBI 1B. The Pirates took the lead in the 7th on an Andy Van Slyke solo HR, but the Tigers stole the game in the bottom half when Miguel Cabrera hit a game-tying solo HR, and then Jeimer Candelario hit the game-winner with a 2-run HR. Tarik Skubal and JT Brubaker both pitched well, both giving up just 2 runs over 6 innings.

**GAME #24 — PIT 9 @ DET 2**

Josh Harrison hit a 3-run HR in the 2nd inning to take the early lead for the Pirates, and then the Pirates unloaded. 9 out of 10 batters reached base as part of a 6-run inning, driving Matt Manning from the game in the 5th. Josh Harrison had a 2-run 1B, his 5th RBI of the game. Mitch Keller had his best game of the season, only giving up a Riley Greene solo HR in the 5th, pitching 7 strong innings. The Pirates cruised to an easy 9-2 victory and got the road split in the first half of the 4-game series.

**GAME #23 — LAD 0 @ PHI 11**

The Dodgers came into Philadelphia needing to make a push to have a hope this season, and they got shutout yet again. Cole Hamels pitched 6 shutout innings, and Zach Eflin pitched 3 shutout innings to seal the blowout win. Matt Vierling got his first start of the season, and he answered with a leadoff 1B, and then a solo HR in the 3rd, and another solo HR in the 5th. Mike Schmidt added a 3-run HR in the 5th, Andrew McCutchen had an RBI 3B, and Bryson Stott had an RBI 2B in the 6-run inning. Rhys Hoskins and Bryce Harper added back-to-back solo HRs in the 8th, and the Phillies made a statement in their blowout win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 6 • METS ROAD SWEEP • DODGERS WIN 9-4 • PADRES EARN 6-3 WIN

**GAME #24 — LAD 9 @ PHI 4**

The Dodgers were almost in a must-win situation, and they showed up. AJ Pollock hit a solo HR in the 1st, but Lenny Dykstra matched it with his own solo HR in the bottom half. Corey Seager hit a 3-run HR in the 3rd to take the lead, but Ryan Howard hit a 2-run HR to shrink the lead to 4-3. The Dodgers broke the game open in the 5th with 4 runs, an RBI 1B from Adrian Gonzalez, and a key 3-run HR from Will Smith. The Dodgers bullpen pitched 4 shutout innings to seal the key win, and get the road split, keeping the Dodgers' hopes alive.

**GAME #23 — NYM 9 @ CIN 8**

This was another candidate for the best game of the year. Marcus Stroman walked the bases loaded in the 2nd and the Reds took advantage, scoring 6 runs in the inning, highlighted by a Joey Votto 2-run 2B and a Jesse Winker 2-run 1B. The Mets scored their first run in the 5th and an RBI 2B from Francisco Lindor. Curtis Granderson got his first start of the year for the slumping Brandon Nimmo, and he hit a 2-run HR to trim the lead to 6-3. The Reds answered with 2 more runs, RBI from Nick Castellanos and Eugenio Suarez, and the lead was 8-3 going to the 7th inning. Vladimir Gutierrez came into the game, and he couldn't get an out. He gave up a solo HR to Dominic Smith, and then loaded the bases. After 2 strikeouts by Tony Cingrani, Jeff McNeil hit a 2-run 1B, and the game went to the 8th suddenly 8-7. In the 8th inning Darryl Strawberry hit a 2-run HR to take the lead, completing an improbable comeback. The Mets bullpen closed the door, and the Reds let one get away.

**GAME #24 — NYM 3 @ CIN 2**

Mike Piazza had an RBI 2B in the 1st, and Pete Alonso hit a 2-run HR in the 4th. The Reds scored 1 in the 4th, and Joey Votto hit an RBI 2B to make it 3-2, but that was as close as they would get. Anthony DeSclafani pitched well in the loss, and Taijuan Walker gave up only 2 runs over 6<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings to get the win.

**GAME #23 — SDP 2 @ CHC 6**

Kyle Schwarber hit a 3-run HR in the 2nd inning, and Jon Lester held the Padres to just 1 run over 6 innings. The Cubs made it 5-0 in the 5th with RBI 1Bs from Ryne Sandberg and Kris Bryant, and the Cubs cruised to a 6-2 win, giving Mike Clevinger his first loss off the season.

**GAME #24 — SDP 6 @ CHC 3**

Wil Myers hit a solo HR in the 3rd, and then the Padres scored 5 in the 4th, highlighted by a 3-run HR from Francisco Mejia, and a solo HR from Trent Grisham. James Shields pitched 6 shutout innings, but gave up 1 run in the 7th on a solo HR by Sammy Sosa. Schwarber and Bryant hit solo HRs in the 8th, but that was not enough as Kirby Yates closed the door for his league-leading 10th save.

**GAME #23 — MIL 5 @ ARI 3**

Pavin Smith had an RBI 1B to give Arizona the early lead in the 2nd inning, but Rowdy Tellez hit a 2-run HR in the 4th to give Milwaukee the lead. Arizona took the lead back in the 7th with a 2-run HR from Ketel Marte, and Arizona took the 3-2 lead to the 9th. Zac Gallen pitched a strong 7 innings, and Archie Bradley came in to get the last 3 outs, but it was not to be. Tyrone Taylor hit a leadoff 2B, Jonathan Lucroy hit an RBI 2B to tie the game, and Lorenzo Cain hit a game-winning 2-run HR to shock the home crowd and steal the win. Josh Hader came in and finished the game with his 9th save.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 6 • MCGWIRE GRAND SLAM • GIANTS BLANK ATL • CARDS ROAD SWEEP

**GAME #24 — MIL 1 @ ARI 4**

Christian Yelich hit a solo HR in the 4th to give the Brewers the lead, but the Diamondbacks scored 3 times in the 5th on RBI 1Bs from Ketel Marte, Christian Walker, and David Peralta. Arizona added another run in the 6th on a Josh Rojas RBI 1B, and the Diamondbacks cruised to a 4-1 win. Merrill Kelly pitched 8 innings and gave up just the 1 run, 1 walk, and 5 hits.

**GAME #23 — STL 4 @ COL 3**

Paul DeJong got a rare start and rewarded the team with a 2-run HR. The Rockies cut the lead in half in the bottom of the 2nd on an RBI 1B from Ryan McMahon after a 2B from Brendan Rodgers. The Rockies took the lead in the 5th on a solo HR from Trevor Story, and an RBI 2B from Andres Galarraga. Jon Gray pitched a strong game, giving up only 2 runs over 6⅔ innings, and the bullpen took over. Chad Kuhl pitched 1⅓ hitless innings, and Carlos Estevez came in to get the save. Matt Carpenter hit a pinch-hit 2B, and Terry Pendleton hit a pinch-hit game-winning 2-run HR to douse the home crowd's hopes. Giovanny Gallegos pitched the 9th for the save, and the Cardinals escaped with a key road win.

**GAME #24 — STL 10 @ COL 9**

This was yet another game of the year candidate. Harrison Bader hit a 2-run 1B in the 2nd for the lead, but the Rockies tied the game in the bottom half on a 2-run HR from Andres Galarraga. Trevor Story hit a solo HR in the 3rd for the lead, and then hit an RBI 2B in the 5th to make it 4-2. The Rockies added 4 more runs in the 6th to make it 8-2, highlighted by a 2-run 1B from Raimel Tapia. The Cardinals had slim hopes, but Dylan Carlson hit a leadoff 2B and Paul DeJong hit a pinch-hit 1B. After a walk by Kolton Wong to load the bases, Matt Carpenter hit an RBI 1B, and up came Mark McGwire. With the bases loaded McGwire got the Cardinals back in the game with a massive Grand Slam HR. Down 8-7 the Cardinals broke through again in the 8th inning, scoring 3 runs to take a shocking 10-8 lead. Charlie Blackmon hit a solo HR in the 8th to make it 10-9, but that was it for the Rockies, and the Cardinals got the road sweep to move into 1st place in the NL Central for the first time this season.

**GAME #23 — ATL 0 @ SFG 2**

The Braves came in with the best record in the league, having won six games in a row, and Logan Webb pitched a gem. He shutout the top team in baseball, giving up only 3 lone singles and 3 walks. It was a masterpiece performance that electrified the home crowd. Mike Yastrzemski hit a solo HR against Ian Anderson in the 3rd, and it was the only run Anderson would give up. Buster Posey added some insurance with a solo HR off of AJ Minter. The Giants needed a win, and Logan Webb pitched one of the best games of the season.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 6 • BONDS TWO-RUN HR • LONGORIA TWO-RUN HR • GIANTS HOME SWEEP

**GAME #24 — ATL 3 @ SFG 4**

The Giants had been up and down the whole season, and the crowd was expecting a split against the league-leading Braves, but Barry Bonds put a charge in the crowd in the 1st inning with a 2-run HR off of Mike Soroka. Evan Longoria did the same in the 4th with a 2-run HR, and the crowd had hope. But, just like the Giants had been doing this year, they had to make the crowd sweat. Johnny Cueto had a no-hitter going in the 5th, when he walked Marcell Ozuna, and then Ron Gant got the first hit for the Braves, a 2-run HR to cut the lead in half. In the 6th inning Ronald Acuna got the Braves' second hit off of Cueto, a solo HR that make the game 4-3. But Cueto righted the ship and didn't give up another hit, and Camilo Doval came in and shut the door. The Braves only had the 2 hits in the game, as the Giants pitching staff stepped up big time in the home sweep of the powerful Braves. The Giants are now in contention.

## MLBC — WEEK 7

GAMES 25-28 • THE SURGE

## THE CONTENDERS ARRIVE

*Five clubs go 4-0 as the Angels, Astros, Padres, Giants and Cardinals all surge together.*

**THE LEAD** Boston carried the league's best record into Week 7 at 17-7, Atlanta followed at 16-8, and four clubs sat at 15-9. The schedule was built for movement. The Yankees and Mets met again, the White Sox crossed town to Wrigley, St. Louis went to Atlanta, and a desperate Dodgers club faced Washington and Miami. With sixteen games left, a sweep could now change a division race in forty-eight hours. Houston traveled through Minnesota and Texas, Cleveland went to Texas, and the Angels hosted Baltimore before Atlanta came to Boston. The schedule put division leaders, Wild Card hopefuls and clubs near the edge into the same narrow four-game window.

**THE WEEK** Five teams delivered perfect weeks. Houston, the Angels, San Diego, San Francisco and St. Louis all went 4-0. Mark McGwire was the week's wrecking ball, hitting five HR and driving in ten as St. Louis swept Atlanta and moved to 18-10. The Braves supplied the week's strangest reversal, sweeping Boston at Fenway, only to come home and be swept by the Cardinals. Shohei Ohtani homered three times in two wins over Tampa Bay while the Angels continued their climb. San Diego and San Francisco both reached 19-9, matching Boston for the best record. The Yankees swept the Mets and completed a 4-0 season series against their crosstown rival. Toronto stole two games late on Teoscar Hernández 2-run HRs, while the Dodgers finally showed a pulse, sweeping Miami to move within a game of the final NL Wild Card position. Dustin May's 3-hit complete-game shutout finished that Los Angeles sweep.

**THE STAKES** Three clubs now sit at 19-9: Boston, San Diego and San Francisco. St. Louis and Atlanta are 18-10, Houston is 17-11, and the Angels have surged to 16-12. Only twelve games remain. Houston's perfect week has pushed another contender into the upper tier at exactly the moment the AL West is tightening. The Dodgers have made themselves relevant; the Angels have turned a middling first half into a real run; and the NL West now has two teams tied for baseball's best record. Week 8 brings Atlanta into Milwaukee and Philadelphia, the Mets into St. Louis, San Diego into Dodger Stadium, and Boston through Minnesota and Toronto. The season is no longer waiting for contenders to identify themselves. They just did.

|                                           |                               |                             |                                      |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| TOP OF TABLE<br>BOS / SDP / SFG •<br>19-9 | PERFECT WEEK<br>5 clubs • 4-0 | RIVALRY<br>NYY • 4-0 vs NYM | RESCUE ACT<br>LAD • back in the race |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|

## WEEKLY HONORS

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| <b>HITTER OF THE WEEK</b><br><b>GOLD MARK MCGWIRE • STL</b><br>5 HR • 10 RBI<br><b>SILVER SHOHEI OHTANI • LAA</b><br>3 HR • 4 RBI<br><b>BRONZE TEOSCAR HERNÁNDEZ • TOR</b><br>two late 2-run HR • both game-winners | <b>PITCHER OF THE WEEK</b><br><b>GOLD DUSTIN MAY • LAD</b><br>CG SHO • 3 H<br><b>SILVER MIKE CLEVINGER • SDP</b><br>CG SHO • 5 H<br><b>BRONZE CHRIS FLEXEN • SEA</b><br>CG SHO • 6 H |
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## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • GLASNOW FANS 14 • SEVERINO SHUTOUT • HERNANDEZ WALK-OFF HR

## ROUND #13

## GAME #25 — CHW 0 @ TBR 3

Tyler Glasnow pitched his best game of the season with a 5-hit complete-game shutout, walking 3, and striking out 14. Jose Abreu had a 2B, but that was about all the White Sox could muster. Hunter Renfroe had an RBI 1B scoring Randy Arozarena in the 1st, and Brandon Lowe had an RBI 2B and Joey Wendle had an RBI 1B in the 7th, and the Rays won 3-0.

## GAME #26 — CHW 3 @ TBR 1

The White Sox turned the tables on the Rays with Carlos Rodon shutting them down. Rodon gave up a solo HR to Manuel Margot, but that was all the Rays would get. Yasmani Grandal hit a solo HR in the 2nd inning, Luis Robert hit a solo HR in the 4th, and Tim Anderson had an RBI 2B in the 5th, and the White Sox cruised to a 3-1 win, getting the road split. Shane Baz pitched 3 hitless innings in the loss.

## GAME #25 — SEA 2 @ NYY 1

This was a tremendous pitching duel. Felix Hernandez and Gerrit Cole both went the full 9 innings, both giving up just 5 hits and 1 run. Giancarlo Stanton drew a walk, went to 3rd on a Hideki Matsui 2B, and scored on a Jorge Posada sacrifice fly in the 2nd. Mitch Haniger hit a 3B in the 5th, and scored on a Kyle Seager RBI 1B, and the game went to the 12th inning. In the 12 Ty France drew a walk against Aroldis Chapman, and the game's hero Kyle Seager had an RBI 2B to win the game.

## GAME #26 — SEA 0 @ NYY 6

Luis Severino gave the Mariners nothing at all. Severino had a 3-hit complete-game shutout, giving up only 3 lone singles. Gary Sanchez took care of the offense in a rare start, hitting a 3-run HR in the 2nd, his first of the season. Aaron Hicks had an RBI 1B in the 4th, and a solo HR in the 7th to add to the 6-0 easy win, giving the Yankees a needed home split.

## GAME #25 — OAK 8 @ TOR 4

The Blue Jays came into their home series with Oakland needing to make a move. Roberto Alomar got things started with a solo HR to lead off the bottom of the first, but the A's tied it in the 4th on 2Bs from Khris Davis and Ramon Laureano. In the bottom of the 6th the Jays went back-to-back against Chris Bassitt when Vladimir Guerrero Jr and Jose Bautista hit solo HRs. The Jays were feeling good with a 3-1 lead, but Hyun Jin Ryu couldn't keep it. Sean Murphy hit a 2-run HR, and Matt Olson hit a 2-run HR as part of a 5-run 7th that won the road game for the A's, 8-4.

## GAME #26 — OAK 1 @ TOR 2

Oakland scored 1 in the first on a sacrifice fly from Matt Olson, but that was all they would get against Aaron Sanchez. Sanchez pitched 7 innings of 3-hit ball, all singles by Elvis Andrus. For the game Andrus was the only Athletic to get a hit. The problem for the Blue Jays was that Frankie Montas outpitched Sanchez. Montas took a shutout to the 9th. Montas got the first out, but gave up a single to Jose Bautista. It was a tense situation with a tired pitcher and a 1-0 lead, and the A's went to their bullpen with Kendall Graveman. Graveman faced just one batter, Teoscar Hernandez who hit a game-winning walk-off 2-run HR, giving the Blue Jays a huge win before their home crowd, getting the desperately needed split.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • ASTROS ROAD SWEEP • CLEVELAND WINS 7-1 • TEXAS WINS 4-3

**GAME #25 — HOU 3 @ MIN 2**

Here come the Astros. Suddenly the Astros have won 8 of 11, and this was perhaps their best series of the season. Justin Verlander looked human in Game #1 giving up a leadoff 3B to Byron Buxton, and then 2 singles, and 2 walks. The Twins send 8 batters to the plate, scoring 2 runs. It looked like it might not be the Astros day, but the responded with 2 runs of their own in the 2nd, and Verlander settled in. Jose Berrios matched Verlander, putting up zeros through 7 innings. The game went 2-2 to the 9th inning, when Alex Bregman, in a season-long slump, won the game with a 2-out solo HR against Tyler Duffy.

**GAME #26 — HOU 6 @ MIN 3**

The Astros continued their momentum with a 2nd inning run on a Michael Brantley RBI 2B. They added another run in the 5th when backup catcher Garrett Stubbs hit a solo HR. In the 5th the Twins broke through against Joe Musgrove with a 2-run HR from MVP candidate Byron Buxton. It was Buxton's 13th HR and 26th RBI. The Twins continued their push when Josh Donaldson hit a solo HR to give Minnesota the 3-2 lead. The game went to the 8th inning with Kenta Maeda dealing, but Jose Altuve hit a clutch game-tying solo HR. The game went to the bullpens, and to the 12th inning, when Carlos Correa stepped up and hit a 2-out 3-run HR off of Trevor May to win the game, and get the huge road sweep. The Astros have announced themselves as title contenders, while the Twins had a setback, moving to 13-13.

**GAME #25 — CLE 7 @ TEX 1**

Cleveland came into Texas needing to stay ahead of the surging White Sox. It started well for the Guardians with Jason Kipnis hitting a leadoff HR. Tyler Naquin hit a solo HR to lead off the 2nd, and Jose Ramirez added an RBI 1B after a Yan Gomes 2B. Texas cut into the lead with 1 in the 3rd on a Josh Hamilton RBI 1B, but that was all they would get against Corey Kluber. Cleveland added 3 more runs in the 6th on an RBI 2B by Ramirez and a 2-run 1B from Franmil Reyes, and then 1 in the 8th with 2Bs from Ramirez and Carlos Santana. Kluber pitched a dominant 7 innings, giving up only 3 hits in the 7-1 win.

**GAME #26 — CLE 3 @ TEX 4**

The Rangers scored first with a 2B from Josh Hamilton and an RBI from Adrian Beltre, but Cleveland scored twice in the 4th on a 2-run 1B from Omar Vizquel. Cleveland added another run in the 7th on an RBI 1B from Franmil Reyes. Shane Bieber almost matched the terrific performance from Kluber, and took the 3-1 lead into the 8th inning. Bieber had given up 5 hits and 1 run, but walked Hamilton and Beltre, and the Guardians went to James Karinchak, who failed. Juan Gonzalez hit a clutch 3-run HR to send the crowd home happy with a surprising win, giving the Rangers a home split.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • STASSI GRAND SLAM • TROUT WALK-OFF HR • FRIED SHUTOUT

**GAME #25 — BAL 3 @ LAA 13**

The Angels are making their push. Mike Trout started it off with a solo HR in the 1st, Jo Adell hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd, his first of his career, and then the Angels scored 3 more in the 3rd on a 2-run 1B from Max Stassi and an RBI 1B from Adell. The Angels scored 2 in the 4th, on RBI from Albert Pujols and Anthony Rendon, and another run in the 5th on an Andrelton Simmons RBI 1B. The Angels were up 9-1 after 5 innings, having scored in each of the 5. The O's scored 1 in the 4th on an RBI 1B from Eddie Murray after a 2B from Trey Mancini, and 2 in the 8th, on the strength of 2Bs from Cedric Mullins and Adam Jones, and an RBI 1B from Murray. Up 9-3 in the 8th, Max Stassi added to the barrage with a Grand Slam HR to seal the blowout home win. Shohei Ohtani pitched 7 strong innings for the win.

**GAME #26 — BAL 3 @ LAA 4**

Tommy LaStella had an RBI 1B in the 2nd to start the scoring, but Jonathan Schoop hit a solo HR in the 3rd to tie the game. The O's took the lead in the 5th, with another RBI from Schoop, and a sacrifice fly from Anthony Santander. The O's had hopes for the win and the split as Jordan Lyles pitched his best game of the year giving up only 1 run over 6 innings, and the game went to the bottom of the 9th, handed to dominant closer Zach Britton. Down 3-1, CJ Cron hit a 1B, and so did Shohei Ohtani, bringing up Mike Trout, with a chance. And a chance was all Trout needed as he hit the game-winning walk-off 3-run HR sending the crowd into a frenzy, giving the Angels the home sweep, moving them into contention for the AL Wild Card.

**GAME #25 — ATL 7 @ BOS 3**

This was the most anticipated series of the week, with the top team in each league facing off in their rivalry matchup. At first look, this appears to be a shocker. It was, but the keen observer may have seen it coming. The Braves were coming off getting swept in San Francisco, and the Red Sox had faced very little adversity all season. The shocker was that the Braves got to Chris Sale. Sale came in at 6-0, giving up only 6 runs in 6 games. Fred McGriff hit a solo HR in the 2nd, but the Red Sox answered on a Dustin Pedroia RBI 1B. Sale faltered in the 3rd, however, and the Braves pounced. Sending up 8 batters to the plate, the Braves scored 3 runs, highlighted by a Ronald Acuna RBI 3B. Charlie Morton pitched his best game of the season, shutting down the Red Sox through 6 innings. In the 7th the Braves struck again when Austin Riley hit a 2-run HR. The Red Sox scored twice in the 8th, on an HR from David Ortiz, and 2Bs from Xander Bogaerts and Alex Verdugo, but that was all they would get. Austin Riley had his 4th RBI of the game with a 2B in the 9th, and the Braves coasted to a 7-3 win.

**GAME #26 — ATL 9 @ BOS 0**

Like Sale, Nathan Eovaldi came into the game undefeated, owning a 5-0 record, and like Sale, the Braves ruined his day. Nick Markakis hit a solo HR in the 2nd, but it was in the 4th that the wheels came off. The Braves sent up 11 batters, scoring 7 runs, highlighted by 2-run HRs from Markakis and Freddie Freeman. Max Fried handled the rest, shutting out the Red Sox over 9 full innings in his complete-game shutout. The Red Sox were bound to have a hiccup this season, and the Braves were bound to come out swinging after being swept by the Giants, but still this road sweep in Boston was the surprise of the week. It was the first time this season the Red Sox had been shutout.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • MCGWIRE TWO HOMERS • CARDS ROAD SWEEP • PIRATES WIN 7-1

**GAME #25 — STL 6 @ KCR 2**

The Royals were looking for payback in their rivalry game against the Cardinals, after being swept in St. Louis earlier in the season, but it was not to be. Jack Flaherty was dominant, and Mark McGwire handled the offense. McGwire hit a 2-run HR in the 1st, and then again in the 6th, and that was all Flaherty needed, as he took a shutout into the 9th inning, getting his first win on the season. The Royals scored twice, spoiling the shutout, but it was not enough to matter in the Cardinals 6-2 road win.

**GAME #26 — STL 4 @ KCR 1**

Brady Singer pitched well, but Adam Wainwright pitched better. Nolan Arenado hit a solo HR in the 1st inning, and Paul Goldschmidt hit a 2-run HR in the 7th, and that was all Wainwright needed as he pitched a complete game, giving up only a solo HR to Salvador Perez with two outs in the 9th to spoil the shutout. It was only the 4th hit that Wainwright gave up in his gem. The Cardinals pitchers only gave up 8 hits in the 2-game series, and the Cardinals finished the 4-0 season sweep of their rivals, moving into a commanding position in the NL Central. After a strong start the Royals are fading, and this could represent the end of their playoff contention.

**GAME #25 — DET 1 @ PIT 7**

Josh Harrison started the scoring in the rivalry series between each league's weakest teams with an RBI 1B scoring Josh Bell, breaking through against Matthew Boyd. The game went to the 6th inning and Bell hit a sacrifice fly to score Andy Van Slyke. Chris Archer pitched well yet again, and this was perhaps his best game yet, giving up 0 runs and 5 hits over 7½ innings. In the 8th inning the Pirates sealed the win with 5 runs, with RBI 2Bs from Ke'Bryan Hayes, Gregory Polanco, and Josh Harrison, culminating in Oneil Cruz's 2-run HR, his first of his career.

**GAME #26 — DET 6 @ PIT 4**

The Tigers scored first in Game #2 on a groundout from Ian Kinsler scoring Victor Martinez, and the Pirates tied the game in the 3rd with another HR. In the 5th the Tigers took the lead again with an RBI 1B from Riley Greene, but it was in the 6th inning that the game was decided. The Tigers scored 4 runs, on an RBI 3B from Jeimer Candelario, an RBI 1B from Spencer Torkelson, and a 2-run HR from Kinsler. The Pirates made it a game with a 2-run HR by Josh Harrison in the 7th, and a solo HR from Andy Van Slyke in the 8th, but that was as close as they would get. The Tigers got the 6-4 win and the road split, giving the teams a split on the season for their rivalry series.

**GAME #25 — CHC 4 @ MIA 6**

This will be the series the Cubs regret when they look back on the season. This was likely the end of the Cubs contending this season. Facing a tough task in Jose Fernandez, the Cubs couldn't quite do it. Jon Berti and Jesus Sanchez both hit solo HRs in the 1st, but the Cubs tied the game in the 3rd on a Ryne Sandberg 2-run HR. It was the 4th inning the Cubs would regret. Miguel Rojas continued his strong season with an RBI 3B, and scored on a Jacob Stallings 2-run HR. The Cubs would trim the lead with runs in the 7th and 8th, but it was not enough, and the Marlins continued their surprising season, moving over .500 and into NL Wild Card contention.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • ANDERSON WALK-OFF 2B • METS HOME SWEEP • PADRES WIN 4-2

**GAME #26 — CHC 3 @ MIA 4**

Sandy Alcantara pitched a brilliant game, on the verge of being one of the best of the year. After a Miguel Rojas 2B, Jacob Stallings had an RBI 1B to make it 1-0 in the 2nd. Wade Miley kept the game close not giving up any more runs over 7 innings. In the 8th Garrett Cooper had an RBI 1B, and the Marlins took the game to the 9th with a 2-0 lead. Alcantara had only given up 2 singles and 0 walks going into the 9th, got the first out, and then got his 13th strikeout of the game. Needing just one more out for the 2 hitter, and the second best start of the season, Ryne Sandberg drew a walk. Suddenly the tying run was at the plate in the person of Sammy Sosa, who hit a clutch game-tying 2-run HR, shocking the home crowd. The game went to the bullpen and to the 13th inning, when the Cubs scored on an RBI 1B from Jason Heyward after a Willson Contreras 2B. The Cubs thought they would get the split and stay in contention, but Rowan Wick loaded the bases, and Brian Anderson hit a game-winning walk-off 2-run 2B, giving the Marlins the sweep and moving them firmly into the race for the NL Wild Card. It looks like the Cubs season has ended.

**GAME #25 — COL 3 @ NYM 6**

After moving to .500 and into contention for the NL Wild Card, the Rockies came into New York after being swept by St. Louis, and they had to face Jacob deGrom and Noah Syndergaard. It started well for the Rockies as they broke through against deGrom with a 1B from Charlie Blackmon and an RBI 2B from Carlos Gonzalez. The Mets tied the game on a solo HR from Michael Conforto in the 2nd inning, and deGrom settled in. DeGrom didn't give up another run over 7 innings, and the Mets scored 2 in the 6th inning, and 3 in the 3rd inning, highlighted by 2 2Bs and 2 RBI from Mike Piazza and a 2B and 2 RBI from Darryl Strawberry. Andres Galarraga hit a 2-run HR in the 9th, but it was not enough as the Mets won 6-3.

**GAME #26 — COL 0 @ NYM 8**

Noah Syndergaard pitched a gem, and finished it. He gave up only 3 hits and 0 walk in his complete-game shutout, and the Rockies went down quietly. The Mets scored 5 runs in the 1st inning, on a 2-run 1B from Pete Alonso, and a 3-run HR from JD Davis, and the game was essentially over. The Mets cruised to an easy 8-0 win and are back in the mix after winning their 5th game in a row.

**GAME #25 — SDP 4 @ MIL 2**

The Padres are for real, and the Brewers could have seen their season slip away. Corbin Burnes came in to his matchup against Yu Darvish with hopes to carry his team, but it was Darvish who succeeded. It was scoreless to the 4th when Burnes walked the bases loaded, and Jake Cronenworth hit a 3-run 2B. The Brewers fought back with 2 runs in the bottom of the 4th with an RBI 3B from Ryan Braun, and an RBI 1B from Rowdy Tellez. Fernando Tatis Jr hit a solo HR in the 5th, and that was all that Darvish would need, as he pitched 8 innings giving up only the 2 runs.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • CASTILLO SHUTOUT • PADRES WIN 8-3 • NATIONALS WIN 6-1

**GAME #26 — SDP 8 @ MIL 3**

Fernando Tatis Jr went deep again with a 2-run HR in the 1st, his 10th, but the Brewers scored in the 3rd, and then Ryan Braun hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd to give the Brewers the lead. Brandon Woodruff tried to keep the lead, but Manny Machado hit a 2-run HR in the 6th to give the Padres the lead. The Brewers just couldn't score again, and then the Padres scored 4 runs in the 9th to run away with the game, on a 2-run 3B from Trent Grisham, and a 2-run HR from Jake Cronenworth. The Padres are intent on keeping ahead of the surging Giants, and look to be among the best teams in the league. The Brewers have only the slimmest of hopes now as each game will be a must-win now.

**GAME #25 — CIN 3 @ ARI 0**

Luis Castillo shut down the Arizona Diamondbacks, giving up only 5 hits and 5 walks during his complete-game shutout. Robbie Ray pitched well, but gave up an RBI 2B to Barry Larkin and an RBI 1B to Todd Frazier in the 5th inning, and that was all the Reds needed. The Reds stayed in the race as the season winds down.

**GAME #26 — CIN 2 @ ARI 6**

Barry Larkin scored in the 1st inning on an Eugenio Suarez RBI 1B, but Ketel Marte hit a 2B and scored on an RBI 1B from Eric Chavez. The game was decided in the 2nd inning when Pavin Smith hit a 2-run HR, and Marte hit a 2-run 1B. Tyler Stephenson hit a solo HR in the 4th, but that was all the Reds would get. The Diamondbacks won 6-2 to dim the Reds' hopes for the postseason.

**GAME #25 — WSH 6 @ LAD 1**

The Dodgers desperately needed a home sweep to get into the NL Wild Card race, but they had to face Max Scherzer and Stephen Strasburg. Clayton Kershaw gave up an early run in the 1st inning when Ryan Zimmerman hit an RBI 1B, scoring Trea Turner after he stole 2nd and 3rd base. The Nationals added a second run in the 3rd inning and took a 2-0 lead to the bottom of the 5th when Will Smith and Joc Pederson both hit 2Bs. It was 2-1 going to the 8th, and the Dodgers held hope, but Ryan Zimmerman and Starlin Castro hit solo HRs off Blake Treinan in the 8th, and Trea Turner hit a 2-run HR off of Alex Wood in the 9th, making a close game an easy 6-1 win for the Nationals.

**GAME #26 — WSH 1 @ LAD 4**

This was pretty much a must-win game for the Dodgers, who were now in last place in their division, and holders of the second worst record in the NL. This was quickly becoming a dreadful season for the pre-season favorites. Facing Stephen Strasburg, Walker Buehler and the Dodgers needed a strong showing. Max Muncy did his job with an RBI 1B in the 3rd, scoring Cody Bellinger, and Walker Buehler did all he could to hold down the Nationals. In the first 6 innings, Buehler only gave up 1 lone single. In the 5th Corey Seager broke the game open with a 3-run HR, potentially ending Strasburg's NL Cy Young hopes. The Nationals scored 1 in the 8th off of Buehler, but that was as close as Washington got in the Dodgers' 4-1 win, giving the home team the split, and letting them cling to hope for another week.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • GIANTS ROAD SWEEP • OAKLAND WINS 6-4 • ORIOLES WIN 3-2

**GAME #25 — SFG 2 @ PHI 0**

The Giants came into Philadelphia with some momentum, hoping it would continue. The Phillies needed a strong showing to stay in the thick of the NL Wild Card race. The Giants had to face the hot Zack Wheeler, but the Phillies had to face the equally hot Madison Bumgarner. Wheeler didn't give up a hit until the 4th inning when Will Clark hit a 1-out 1B, and Barry Bonds took advantage, hitting a 2-run HR, giving the Giants a 2-0 that would end up being the final score. Bumgarner never gave up a run, although he faced danger in the 9th inning, with the tying runs on base, and Camilo Doval came in and got the last 2 outs, securing the win. Wheeler only gave up 4 hits in 8 innings, but the Bonds' shot was all that was needed, and the surging Giants moved one step closer to their playoff berth.

**GAME #26 — SFG 3 @ PHI 2**

The Phillies needed the split, and it started well as Rhys Hoskins had an RBI 1B off of Kevin Gausman, scoring Lenny Dykstra in the 1st inning. Bryce Harper added a second run for Aaron Nola with a solo HR in the 3rd, and the Phillies felt good. But Gausman settled down, and the Giants offense broke through when Evan Longoria and Joe Panik hit 2Bs in the 5th, scoring 1, and Brandon Belt hit an RBI 2B in the 6th, scoring Barry Bonds, tying the game 2-2. The game went to the 9th, and Jonathan Papelbon came into the game, having given up 0 runs on the whole season, and Barry Bonds won the game with an RBI 1B, scoring LaMonte Wade. Camilo Doval shut down the Phillies in the bottom of the 9th, and the Giants won 3-2 and got the important road sweep, almost securing a playoff spot. The Phillies have fallen 2 games back in the race for the last spot.

**ROUND #14****GAME #27 — OAK 6 @ BAL 4**

The Oakland Athletics are in the thick of a 4-way race, and each game might really matter in the end. Baltimore started well when Jonathan Schoop hit a 3-run HR for the lead. Matt Olson hit a 2-run HR in the 5th to trim the lead, and in the 7th Starling Marte hit a 2B, Matt Olson hit an RBI 1B, and Matt Chapman hit an RBI 3B, and the Oakland took a 4-3 lead. Oakland added a single run in the 8th, and Baltimore did the same on an Eddie Murray RBI 1B. Oakland added another run in the 9th on an RBI 2B from Khris Davis, and then won the game 6-4, giving Sean Manaea his 3rd win.

**GAME #28 — OAK 2 @ BAL 3**

Oakland scored first in the second game when Matt Chapman hit an RBI 2B, and Baltimore tied the game on 2Bs from Anthony Santander and Eddie Murray. Oakland took the lead on a Sean Murphy solo HR, and the O's tied it on a Ryan Mountcastle solo HR. The game was decided in the 3rd inning when Trey Mancini hit a 3B and Eddie Murray scored him on an RBI 2B, putting the O's up 3-2, which ended up being the final margin. Cole Irvin didn't give up another hit over 8 innings, and Dean Kremer pitched his best game of the year, giving up only 2 runs over 7 strong innings, getting the win. Zach Britton pitched the 9th for his 4th save.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • BOSTON SCORES 17 • KIPNIS GRAND SLAM • RANGERS BLANK DETROIT

**GAME #27 — KCR 7 @ BOS 17**

The Red Sox were coming off a surprising sweep against Atlanta, and showed up in force at home against the Royals. Wade Boggs hit a solo HR in the first inning, but the Royals took the lead in the 2nd when Hunter Dozier hit an RBI 3B and Alex Gordon scored him on an RBI 1B. Boston tied the game in the 2nd, and then took the lead in the 4th inning when JD Martinez hit a 3-run HR. The Royals tied the game in the 5th when Salvador Perez hit an RBI 1B and Jorge Soler hit a 2-run HR. Boston took the lead back with a 2-run 1B from Wade Boggs. In the 6th the Royals trimmed the lead to 7-6 when Bobby Witt Jr hit a 3B and scored on a Dozier hit a sacrifice fly. And then the Red Sox unloaded. The Red Sox scored an incredible 10 runs in the 7th inning. 14 batters came to the plate and the Red Sox turned a close game into an onslaught, highlighted by a David Ortiz 2-run 1B, a Jason Varitek 2-run 2B, and a Jackie Bradley 2-run 2B. The Red Sox drew a record 12 walks.

**GAME #28 — KCR 3 @ BOS 4**

The Red Sox scored first in the second game when David Ortiz hit an RBI 2B scoring Dustin Pedroia. The Royals scored twice in the 3rd and took the 2-1 lead when Whit Merrifield hit a 2B, George Brett hit an RBI 2B, and Sal Perez hit an RBI 1B. But the Red Sox took it back with 3 in the 4th when Bobby Dalbec hit a 2B, Xander Bogaerts hit a 2-run 2B, and Alex Verdugo hit an RBI 1B. The Royals brought the game to 4-3 when Whit Merrifield hit a solo HR in the 5th, but that was it. The Red Sox bullpen pitched 3 scoreless innings, and the Red Sox got the sweep, moving closer to the #1 seed.

**GAME #27 — CLE 0 @ HOU 2**

Lance McCullers and Carlos Carrasco engaged in a great pitching duel. Each pitcher took a shutout into the 8th inning. Carrasco blinked first, giving up a 1B to Kyle Tucker. Andrew Miller came into the high leverage situation and, after getting 1 out, gave up an RBI 2B to Yuli Gurriel, and then an RBI 1B to Carlos Correa. And that was it. That was all the Astros needed. Lance McCullers pitched a 2-hit complete-game shutout with 12 strikeouts.

**GAME #28 — CLE 7 @ HOU 8**

This was an incredible game. Jose Ramirez started it off with a solo HR in the 1st inning. In the 2nd inning Yan Gomes had an RBI 1B that scored Josh Naylor after his 2B. Kyle Tucker hit an RBI 2B scoring Jose Altuve, to trim the lead to 2-1. Cleveland, needing the win, was very pleased after Jason Kipnis hit a clutch 2-out Grand Slam HR, giving the Guardians a 6-1 lead. But it was not to last long as Yordan Alvarez hit a 3-run HR, and Carlos Correa hit a solo HR, making it a 6-5 game. Cleveland scored again in the 7th on a solo HR by Carlos Santana. Cleveland took a 7-5 lead to the bottom of the 8th, when Jose Altuve hit a huge game-winning 3-run HR. Ryan Pressly pitched the 9th for the save, and the Houston Astros secured the sweep. Houston has won 4 in a row, and has suddenly moved into 2 games of the top seed, and they have pulled ahead in the race for the AL West title.

**GAME #27 — DET 0 @ TEX 4**

This was a matchup of two teams who have lost hope for this year. Nathaniel Lowe hit a 3-run HR off of Tarik Skubal to pace the Rangers' win. Adolis Garcia put the final run on the board with a solo HR in the 4-0 Texas win. Dane Dunning pitched a strong 7 shutout innings, and the bullpen didn't give up a hit in their 2 innings.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • FLEXEN SHUTOUT • ANGELS SWEEP RAYS • BLUE JAYS WIN 7-5

**GAME #28 — DET 4 @ TEX 3**

The Tigers struck first with a Miguel Cabrera solo HR in the 4th against Kolby Allard, but the Rangers scored twice in the bottom half against Matt Manning. The Tigers took the lead again in the 7th with a 2-run HR from bench player Isaac Paredes, but Isiah Kiner-Falefa hit an RBI 1B to tie the game in the bottom half. The game went 3-3 to the 9th, when Paredes scored on a wild pitch to win the game. Both team are looking forward to next season.

**GAME #27 — TOR 7 @ SEA 5**

The Blue Jays are barely hanging on in the AL Wild Card race, and came into Seattle needed a good showing. The Mariners were suddenly looking up at the surging Astros, and likewise needed a strong showing. The game started well for Seattle when Julio Rodriguez hit a solo HR in the 3rd inning off of Ian Happ, and then Robinson Cano went back-to-back with his own solo HR. The Blue Jays fought back with a single run in the 4th, and then tied the game in the 6th off of Yusei Kikuchi. In the 7th inning the Blue Jays pulled ahead when Bo Bichette hit a 2-run HR, and Danny Jansen went back-to-back with a solo HR. The Blue Jays took a 5-3 lead to the bottom of the 9th, and had closer Jordan Romano in, but Julio Rodriguez tied the game with a clutch 2-run HR, his second of the game. The Blue Jays, facing life-support, stepped up in the 10th, and clutch hitter Teoscar Hernandez hit a 2-run HR to win the game, off of closer Fernando Rodney. It was a big win for the Jays.

**GAME #28 — TOR 0 @ SEA 1**

Chris Flexen pitched a strong 6-hit complete-game shutout, and Alek Manoah only gave up 1 run. Ken Griffey Jr hit a solo HR in the 4th, for the game's only run. The Mariners got the split, and stayed within 1 game of the Astros, and the Blue Jays may have seen their season end with the loss. A winning streak will be required to get them back in the mix for 2022.

**GAME #27 — TBR 3 @ LAA 6**

Here come the Angels. The winners of 6 in a row have now moved firmly into the playoff race. Suddenly tied in the AL Wild Card race, the Angels are now within 1 game of the Astros for the division title. It has been a stunning turnaround. The Angels came in with big hopes, and Shohei Ohtani delivered. Ohtani led off the bottom of the 1st with a solo HR off of Shane McCann, but the Rays scored 3 runs in the 2nd on a 3-run HR by Mike Zunino off of Patrick Sandoval. David Fletcher had an RBI 1B in the 2nd, and the game went 3-2 into the bottom of the 6th, when Albert Pujols and Justin Upton hit solo HRs to take a 4-3 lead. Ohtani added another solo HR in the 7th, and Anthony Rendon hit a solo HR in the 8th to seal the win, 6-3. The Angels hit 5 solo HRs.

**GAME #28 — TBR 4 @ LAA 5**

Hunter Renfro hit a 2-run HR in the 1st inning off of Garrett Richards, but Max Stassi trimmed the lead with an RBI 1B in the bottom half against Ryan Yarbrough. The Angels tied the game when Justin Upton hit an RBI 1B in the 4th, but the Rays took the lead back in the 4th when Randy Arozarena hit a 2B and scored on a Brandon Lowe sacrifice fly. The Rays were hoping for a split, but Andrelton Simmons hit an RBI 1B in the 6th to tie the game, and then Shohei Ohtani won the game with a go-ahead 2-run HR. Wander Franco made it a 1-run game with a solo HR in the 8th, but that was as close as the Rays would get, and the Angels got the home sweep, moving firmly into contention.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • JETER GRAND SLAM • YANKEES ROAD SWEEP • BREWERS ROAD SWEEP

**GAME #27 — MIL 10 @ MIN 2**

The Minnesota Twins came into their rivalry series with playoffs hopes, but they may look back on their season to this series. Needing a strong showing, from a top offense, the Twins failed. Robin Yount hit an RBI 3B and scored in the 2-run 1st, but the Twins scored 1 in the bottom half. The Twins tied the game in the 2nd on a Jorge Polanco hit a solo HR off of Freddy Peralta. The game went 2-2 to the 5th, when the Brewers unloaded on Joe Ryan, scoring 4 runs in the 5th, and 4 more runs in the 6th, taking a commanding 10-2 lead. Yount had 2 RBI and Rowdy Tellez had an RBI 1B and a 2-run HR in the spree. Milwaukee stayed in the playoff race, and hope for the Twins is waning.

**GAME #28 — MIL 3 @ MIN 2**

Byron Buxton hit a leadoff 2B and scored on a Joe Mauer RBI 1B off of Adrian Houser. The Brewers scored twice in the 2nd when Willy Adames hit a 2-run HR off of Jake Odorizzi. The Twins entered the bottom of the 6th trailing 2-1 when Mitch Garver hit a solo HR to tie the game. In the 8th inning of the 2-2 game Rowdy Tellez hit an RBI 2B, and the Brewers bullpen held the 3-2 win, getting the Brewers the important road sweep and back into the race. The Brewers won the rivalry season series 3-1.

**GAME #27 — NYY 10 @ NYM 3**

This was a much anticipated series, but as far as being competitive, it was a dud. But Yankee fans don't care. The Yankees are surging, now winner of 6 of the last 8. The Yankees scored 3 runs in the 2nd inning off of Marcus Stroman on an RBI 2B by Hideki Matsui and a 2-run 1B by Jorge Posada. In the 4th inning Derek Jeter put the game out of reach with a Grand Slam HR. Giancarlo Stanton added his 11th HR in the 5th, and the Yankees were up 8-0. Jordan Montgomery gave up a 3-run HR to Darryl Strawberry, but that was all the Mets would score. The Yankees added 2 more runs in the 8th, and won the game 10-3.

**GAME #28 — NYY 10 @ NYM 2**

The Yankees continued the onslaught with 2 runs in the 2nd off of Taijuan Walker, and a third in the 3rd inning on an Alex Rodriguez solo HR. Aaron Judge hit a 2-run HR in the 6th to give the Yankees a 5-0 lead before the Mets scored on a Pete Alonso solo HR. The Yankees responded with 3 more runs in the 7th, highlighted by a Judge 2-run 1B, and the rout was on. Francisco Lindor had an RBI 1B in the 7th, but Rodriguez hit another solo HR in the 8th, and Jeter had an RBI 1B in the 9th, sealing the 10-2 win. The Yankees have moved into the lead spot for the AL Wild Card race and Yankee fans can begin to breathe easier. The Mets are reeling, and may have lost the chance to win the NL East by getting swept at home. The Yankees won the season series of their rivalry 4-0, outscoring the Mets 27-8.

**GAME #27 — CHW 6 @ CHC 2**

The Cubs came in losing 5 of 6, and 8 of 10, dropping out of the playoff race. The White Sox came in winning 5 of 6, moving into 1st place in the AL Central. It started well for the Cubs when Ian Happ hit a 2-run 2B off of Lance Lynn, but Frank Thomas hit a 2-run HR, and Yasmani Grandal hit an RBI 1B off of Jon Lester, giving the White Sox a 3-2 lead. Grandal added another RBI 1B in the 5th, and Luis Robert and Jose Abreu added RBI in the 8th, giving the White Sox the 6-2 win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • CARDINALS ROAD SWEEP • ROCKIES SCORE TEN • CUBS WIN 7-2

**GAME #28 — CHW 2 @ CHC 7**

The struggling Dallas Keuchel started well, in what might be his last start for the White Sox, pitching 3 scoreless innings, when the White Sox took the lead in the 4th, as Yoan Moncada hit a 2-run 2B off of [Jake Arrieta](#). The Cubs broke through in the bottom of the 4th with a 2-run 1B from Willson Contreras, and a 3-run HR from [Anthony Rizzo](#) in the 5th. The Cubs added 2 more in the 8th when Javier Baez hit a 2-run HR, sealing the 7-2 win, and getting the season split 2-2 in their rivalry series.

**GAME #27 — STL 5 @ ATL 2**

The St. Louis Cardinals are hot. They came into Atlanta winning 5 straight, and 9 of 12. Atlanta came in winning 8 of 10, and having just swept the powerful Boston Red Sox. This was a much anticipated series, one that could foreshadow a playoff matchup. The game went scoreless to the 4th, when Mark McGwire hit a solo HR. Willson Contreras hit a solo HR in the 5th to tie the game, and the game went 1-1 to the 8th. Nolan Arenado hit an RBI 2B in the top of the 8th, and the game went 2-1 to the bottom of the 9th. With 2 outs and no runners on base, Austin Riley hit a clutch 2B, and Nick Markakis tied the game with an RBI 1B. The game went to the 11th when [Harrison Bader](#) hit a bases-loaded 3-run 3B to win the game, 5-2.

**GAME #28 — STL 11 @ ATL 5**

St. Louis came out hot in Game #2 as [Mark McGwire](#) hit a 2-run HR and Matt Carpenter hit a 2-run 1B to give the Cardinals a 4-0 lead. Contreras had an RBI 1B in the 4th, but Tommy Edman hit a 2-run HR in the 6th. Nick Markakis trimmed the lead with a solo HR in the bottom of the 6th, making it a 6-2 lead. Yadier Molina hit an RBI 1B after a Tyler O'Neill 2B in the 7th, and then Freddie Freeman made it 7-5 with a 3-run HR in the bottom of the 7th. The Braves had hope, but Paul Goldschmidt hit an RBI 1B, and then Mark McGwire hit a 3-run HR, his 3rd of the series, sealing the 11-5 win, and giving the Cardinals the important road sweep.

**GAME #27 — PHI 5 @ COL 3**

The Philadelphia Phillies are barely hanging on in the NL Wild Card race, and helped themselves with an important win in their first game in Colorado. Ryan Howard hit a solo HR in the 2nd inning, and Bryce Harper hit a solo HR in the 3rd inning, giving the Phillies a 2-0 lead against Jon Gray. The Rockies got one run off of Cole Hamels in the 3rd on a Charlie Blackmon RBI 1B after a Trevor Story 2B, but the Phillies scored in the 4th on a Matt Vierling RBI 1B. The game went 3-1 to the 7th when Connor Joe hit an RBI 2B after a Ryan McMahon 2B, and then in the bottom of the 9th, with 2 outs, Connor Joe tied the game with a clutch RBI 1B. The Phillies would not be denied their win, as [JT Realmuto](#) hit a 2-run HR in the 11th to win the game 5-3.

**GAME #28 — PHI 4 @ COL 10**

The Rockies unloaded on Cliff Lee in the second game, as Andres Galarraga hit a 3-run HR and Justin Morneau hit a solo HR in the 1st inning. The Phillies scored 3 in the 4th when Ryan Howard hit a 2-run HR and Realmuto hit a solo HR, but [Justin Morneau](#) hit a 3-run HR in the 5th to take a 7-4 lead for the Rockies. They added 2 more runs in the 7th as Carlos Gonzalez hit a solo HR, and Brendan Rodgers hit an RBI 3B, and then 1 more in the 8th when Charlie Blackmon hit an RBI 2B to give the Rockies a 10-4 win. [Antonio Senzatela](#) pitched a complete game, going all 9 innings, giving up 4 runs.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • MAY THREE-HITTER • CLEVINGER SHUTOUT • ARIZONA WINS 9-8

**GAME #27 — PIT 7 @ ARI 6**

In a battle of two teams out of the race, these were very entertaining games. Gregory Polanco hit a solo HR in the 2nd to give the Pirates the early lead off of Zac Gallen, and the Andy Van Slyke hit a 2-run 2B and Roberto Clemente hit an RBI 1B to add 3 more runs in the 4th. The Pirates made it a 5-0 lead in the 6th when Bryan Reynolds hit a solo HR, and then it was time for the Diamondbacks to make it interesting. Daulton Varsho hit a 2-run HR in the 7th, and David Peralta hit a 2-run HR and Carson Kelly hit a solo HR in the 3-run 8th, making the game suddenly 6-5. The Pirates added 1 more crucial run in the 9th on a Ke'Bryan Hayes RBI 2B after a Josh Bell 3B, because Kole Calhoun hit a solo HR in the bottom half, but the comeback fell 1 run short.

**GAME #28 — PIT 8 @ ARI 9**

The suddenly hot Pirates continued their production with a 2-run HR by Will Craig in the 2nd off of Merrill Kelly. Christian Walker hit a solo HR in the bottom half to trim the lead, but the Pirates scored 2 runs in the 3rd, and Bryan Reynolds hit a 3-run HR in the 4-run 4th, and the game was suddenly 8-1. The Diamondbacks scored 1 run in the 4th, but then unloaded for 6 runs in the 5th, highlighted by a 2-run 3B by David Peralta, tying the game 8-8. Kole Calhoun hit another solo HR in the 7th to win the game, completely the comeback, getting the home split.

**GAME #27 — MIA 0 @ LAD 3**

The Dodgers are on life-support, and needed a sweep to have hope remain, and the Miami Marlins didn't show up. Julio Urias pitched 8 shutout innings, and Kenley Jansen pitched the 9th for his 8th save. Will Smith handled the offense by himself, hitting a 3-run HR in the 6th off of Trevor Rogers, and that was enough for the 3-0 win.

**GAME #28 — MIA 0 @ LAD 6**

Dustin May pitched a 3-hit complete-game shutout, and Corey Seager hit a 3-run HR off of Pablo Lopez in the 5th inning. Gavin Lux added a solo HR in the 7th, and Justin Turner added a 2-run 2B later in the inning, giving the Dodgers a 6-0 win, and the important series sweep. The series was particularly important because the Dodgers were chasing the Marlins for the final NL Wild Card spot, and the Dodgers are suddenly 1 game back in the race for the final spot. The Dodgers are officially alive for another series.

**GAME #27 — CIN 0 @ SDP 1**

The hot start for the Reds seems like a long time ago now as they are struggling to stay alive in the playoff race. Once 8-3 the Reds have gone on to lose 12 of 17 games to fall behind in the race. Tyler Mahle pitched well, giving up only 1 run and 3 hits over 7 innings, but Mike Clevinger was better, giving up 5 hits in his complete-game shutout. Jake Cronenworth hit an RBI 1B in the 7th inning to break the scoreless tie, and that was all the Padres would need.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • GRISHAM WALK-OFF HR • GIANTS ROAD SWEEP • PADRES SWEEP REDS

**GAME #28 — CIN 2 @ SDP 5**

The Padres tied the Red Sox at 19-9 for the best record in baseball, as James Shields shut down the Reds. The Reds started well with a leadoff HR from Barry Larkin, and led 2-0, but that was all they would get. Wil Myers hit a 2-run 2B off of Anthony DeSclafani to tie the game in the bottom of the 1st, and the game went tied 2-2 all the way to the bottom of the 9th. Both teams got runners on during the game, but neither team could break through. In the bottom of the 9th Francisco Mejia drew a walk, Jake Cronenworth singled, and then Trent Grisham hit a game-winning walk-off 3-run HR, giving the Padres the sweep, and moving them into the top seed in the NL.

**GAME #27 — SFG 5 @ WSH 1**

The San Francisco Giants came in hot winning 7 of the last 8 games. The Nationals are in the thick of the race for the last NL Wild Card spot. Gio Gonzalez pitched great, only giving up 1 run in 7 innings, when Darren Ruf hit an RBI 1B in the 5th. Logan Webb pitched even better, giving up only 2 singles over 7 innings, but he ran into trouble in the 8th. Keibert Ruiz hit a 1B, and Howie Kendrick hit a 2B, setting up the game-tying sacrifice fly from Michael A. Taylor. The bullpens took over, and the game went to the 16th as the two bullpens combined for 14 scoreless innings. In the 16th Taylor Rainey walked Will Clark and Barry Bonds, and Buster Posey hit an RBI 2B, before Evan Longoria hit a 3-run HR to seal the 5-1 win.

**GAME #28 — SFG 12 @ WSH 6**

The Giants continued their hot streak with 5 runs in the 1st inning off of Jordan Zimmermann, when Posey had an RBI 1B, Brandon Belt hit a 3-run HR, and Brandon Crawford hit a solo HR. The Giants and Johnny Cueto thought they would cruise to another win, but the Nationals had some fight left in them. Taylor hit a solo HR, which was the first of 6 consecutive hits and the Nationals put up their own 5 spot on the board. In the 5th the Giants broke the 5-5 tie with an RBI 1B from Will Clark, and then they broke the game open in the 7th with RBI 2Bs from Bonds and Posey, and a 2-run HR from Evan Longoria. The Giants added 2 more in the 9th, and won easily 12-6, getting the road sweep, and moving within 1 game of the top seat held by the Padres, with their 9th win in 10 games.

## MLBC — WEEK 8

GAMES 29-32 • EIGHT TO GO

## SAN FRANCISCO TAKES THE WHEEL

*The Giants go 4-0, Los Angeles finally catches fire, and the playoff field begins to tighten.*

**THE LEAD** Boston, San Diego and San Francisco entered Week 8 tied at 19-9, with Atlanta and St. Louis only a game behind. Behind them, the races had begun to tighten in different directions. Chicago was surging, while Seattle was dropping. Milwaukee was clinging, while Toronto was sliding. Twelve games remained, and almost every series carried standings consequences. The Dodgers were finally alive and headed into St. Louis before hosting San Diego. Atlanta had Milwaukee and Philadelphia. The Mets traveled to St. Louis. One week later, only eight games would remain. Boston opened against Minnesota before traveling to Toronto, while the Yankees hosted Texas and Cleveland drew Seattle. In the National League, Pittsburgh faced San Diego, Miami went to San Francisco.

**THE WEEK** San Francisco seized the moment. The Giants went 4-0 to reach 23-9 and take the best record in MLBC, while Boston and San Diego settled at 22-10. The Dodgers finally looked like the preseason favorite, winning six straight at one point and pitching four shutouts in five games. Clayton Kershaw's 3-hit, 12-strikeout shutout helped anchor the surge. The Mets swept St. Louis and pulled even with Atlanta at 19-13 in the NL East. Ryan Howard produced the week's loudest individual game: an RBI single, a Grand Slam and a 3-run HR for eight RBI in only five innings of a 13-0 Philadelphia win over Atlanta. Arizona supplied the shock by walking into New York and beating Jacob deGrom and the Mets 13-0. Fernando Tatis Jr. supplied a walk-off winner for San Diego. Six different clubs finished 19-13.

**THE STAKES** Eight games remain. San Francisco controls the league at 23-9; Boston and San Diego are 22-10. Behind them, Atlanta, Chicago, Cleveland, Houston, the Mets and Yankees are all 19-13. Milwaukee has climbed to 17-15, while the Dodgers and Washington are 16-16 and still breathing. Week 9 begins the true stretch run: San Diego goes to Houston, Washington goes to Atlanta, Milwaukee goes to Philadelphia, and the Dodgers draw Arizona. San Francisco created separation at the top, but almost everything beneath the Giants became more congested. The margin between a bye, a Wild Card and an empty October has become very thin indeed.

TOP OF TABLE  
SFG • 23-9TRAFFIC  
6 clubs • 19-13SHOCK  
ARI 13 • NYM 0DODGER RUN  
LAD • 6 straight

## WEEKLY HONORS

## HITTER OF THE WEEK

**GOLD RYAN HOWARD • PHI**

2 HR • 8 RBI in 5 innings

**SILVER MICHAEL CONFORTO • NYM**

Grand Slam + 2-run HR • 7 RBI

**BRONZE FERNANDO TATIS JR. • SDP**

2 HR • 5 RBI • walk-off winner

## PITCHER OF THE WEEK

**GOLD CLAYTON KERSHAW • LAD**

CG SHO • 3 H • 12 K

**SILVER JAKE ARRIETA • CHC**

CG SHO • 3 H

**BRONZE COLE HAMELS • PHI**

CG SHO • 4 H

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • COLE FOUR-HITTER • MARTINEZ TWO HOMERS • RED SOX ROAD SWEEP

## ROUND #15

## GAME #29 — TEX 0 @ NYY 4

The Yankees are getting hot just at the right time. Gerrit Cole pitched a strong 4-hit complete-game shutout, striking out 11. Derek Jeter hit a sacrifice fly in the 3rd, and Giancarlo Stanton sealed the win with a 3-run HR in the 6th inning, giving Kyle Gibson the loss.

## GAME #30 — TEX 3 @ NYY 6

Jonah Heim hit an RBI 1B after an Adolis Garcia 2B off of Luis Severino in the 2nd inning, and the Rangers had hope, until the Yankees scored 3 runs off of Mike Minor in the 4th. Gleyber Torres hit a solo HR to tie the game, and then Gary Sanchez and Clint Fraser both hit RBI 2Bs. The Rangers tied the game in the 6th when Joey Gallo hit a 2-run HR, but the Yankees took the lead back in the bottom half on a Gary Sanchez solo HR. The Yankees added 2 more runs in the 7th, and won the game 6-3, getting the home sweep, moving firmly into a AL Wild Card spot. After a slow start to the season the Yankees have won 5 in a row, and 8 of 10.

## GAME #29 — BOS 8 @ MIN 6

The Red Sox keep rolling. The Twins came in with one tough task to get back in the playoff race, but it was not to be. JD Martinez has begun to make his case for the AL MVP award, and he had 1 double, 2 home runs, and 6 runs batted in the first game. Martinez hit an RBI 2B in the 1st inning off of Jose Berrios, and was followed by an RBI 2B from David Ortiz, giving the Red Sox a 2-0 lead. Mitch Garver hit a 2-run HR off of Chris Sale to tie the game in the 2nd inning. Martinez had a solo HR in the 3rd to take the lead back, and then added a 3-run HR in the 5th after Jackie Bradley hit a solo HR, giving the Red Sox a 7-2 lead. Max Kepler hit a solo HR in the 5th to try to fight back, but Martinez hit a sacrifice fly in the 6th to make it 8-3. In the bottom of the 8th pinch hitter Joe Mauer hit an RBI 3B, and scored on a Kepler RBI. In the 9th Byron Buxton hit his 14th HR, but it was not enough as the Twins lost 8-6.

## GAME #30 — BOS 6 @ MIN 5

David Ortiz hit an RBI 2B, his 15th 2B on the season, in the 1st inning off of Kenta Maeda, but the desperate Twins fought back. In the 4th inning Jorge Polanco hit a 2-run 3B and scored on a Luis Arraez RBI 2B, giving the Twins a 3-1 lead. But the Red Sox are a brutal team to face. They scored 2 runs in the 7th to tie the game, but the Twins again took the lead back on a Buxton RBI 3B, and a Joe Mauer RBI 1B. Ahead 5-3 going to the 9th the Twins playoff hopes were alive, but Alex Verdugo hit a 2B, and Dustin Pedroia hit an RBI 1B, as did Wade Boggs, and David Ortiz, giving the Red Sox 3 runs in the 9th to win the game 6-5 and effectively end the Twins season. After a very promising start, the Twins have lost seven games in a row, and 10 of 12. The Red Sox are hot again, winning 5 in a row, and 8 of 10.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • MADRIGAL WALK-OFF HR • BIEBER FANS 13 • WHITE SOX SWEEP

**GAME #29 — TOR 1 @ CHW 2**

The Blue Jays came into the season with high hopes, but they were finally dashed in the series in Chicago. Now losers of 7 of their last 9, the Blue Jays saw their season effectively end as the White Sox continued their surge to the AL Central title, now having won 8 of 10 games. The White Sox found a great time for strong pitching, and the Blue Jays will look back on this series wishing their offense had shown up at all. Lucas Giolito pitched a strong 8 innings of 5-hit ball, keeping the Blue Jays offense in check. Vladimir Guerrero Jr hit a solo HR in the 4th, but that was it. Hyun Jin Ryu pitched well, only giving up an RBI 1B to Yasmani Grandal over 6 innings. The game went 1-1 to the bottom of the 11th, when light-hitting Nick Madrigal hit a walk-off game-winning solo HR.

**GAME #30 — TOR 2 @ CHW 3**

Jose Bautista hit an RBI 1B in the 1st inning, but Tim Anderson hit a leadoff solo HR to tie the game. The Blue Jays scored a second run in the 2nd inning for the 2-1 lead, but that was all they would get off of Carlos Rodon. Jose Abreu hit a solo HR in the 4th to tie the game, and the scored a third run in the 7th on a wild pitch, a fitting end to the Blue Jays season. The White Sox are hot at the right time and in a great division race with Cleveland.

**GAME #29 — SEA 3 @ CLE 6**

The Mariners are fading, losing 7 of the last 10 now. Cleveland is hanging tough in the race for the AL Central. Corey Kluber pitched well, giving up only 1 run over 6<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings, and the Guardians got to Felix Hernandez. Edwin Encarnacion hit a solo HR in the 2nd, but Cleveland came back with 3 in the bottom half on an RBI 1B by Jason Kipnis and a 2-run RBI 2B from Jose Ramirez. Yan Gomes hit a solo HR in the 7th, and Tyler Naquin hit a solo HR in the 8th. Ty France hit a 2-run HR in the 8th, but it was not enough as the M's lost 6-3.

**GAME #30 — SEA 0 @ CLE 3**

Jim Thome and Franmil Reyes went back-to-back with solo HRs in the 2nd, and Carlos Santana hit an RBI 1B in the 5th against Marco Gonzales. Shane Bieber pitched a dominant 4-hit complete-game shutout, striking out 13 for the win, giving Cleveland the important home sweep, keeping pace with the White Sox.

**GAME #29 — LAA 2 @ KCR 3**

The Angels came in to the series in Kansas City winners of 6 in a row, having moved into the AL Wild Card race. The Royals came into the series with their season basically over. Andrew Benintendi hit an RBI 1B in the 1st inning off of Shohei Ohtani, but Max Stassi hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd off of Brad Keller to take the lead. The game went to the 7th when the Royals scored twice on RBI from Whit Merrifield and Benintendi, giving the Royals the 3-2 win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • BRETT WALK-OFF HR • ALVAREZ WALK-OFF HR • RAYS ROAD SWEEP

**GAME #30 — LAA 2 @ KCR 3**

The Angels needed the split, and got a strong start from Andrew Heaney, but Brady Singer pitched just as well. George Brett hit a solo HR in the 6th for the first run of the game, but Max Stassi hit a sacrifice fly to tie the game 1-1. Bobby Witt Jr took the lead back in the 7th with an RBI 1B, and the game went to the 9th. Needing a win, the Angels saw Albert Pujols and Justin Upton hit 2Bs to tie the game 2-2, and the game went to the 13th inning. In the bottom of the 13th, George Brett led off the inning with a walk-off game-winning solo HR, his second of the game. The Royals got the sweep and gave the tiniest bit of life into their playoff hopes. The Angels are still in the race, but they are going to need a strong stretch run.

**GAME #29 — DET 9 @ HOU 3**

This was one of the more surprising games of the year. On paper Justin Verlander against the worst team in the AL looked like an easy win. The Astros came in winners of four in a row, but the Tigers lit up Verlander. Miguel Cabrera and Victor Martinez hit RBI 1Bs in the 1st. Yordan Alvarez hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd, but the Tigers scored 3 times in the 4th on an RBI 2B from Akil Baddoo and a 2-run 1B from Victor Reyes. The Astros fought back with 2 runs in the bottom of the 4th on RBI from Jose Altuve and Kyle Tucker, but that was all they would score. The Tigers added 4 more runs in the 7th on a 2-run HR from Cabrera and a 2-run 1B from Ian Kinsler, and the Tigers won easily 9-3.

**GAME #30 — DET 1 @ HOU 3**

Kyle Tucker hit a solo HR in the 1st inning, but the Tigers tied the game in the 4th on an RBI 1B from Riley Greene. Casey Mize pitched his best game of the year for the Tigers, giving up only 4 hits and 1 run over 8 innings, and matched Joe Musgrove, and the game went 1-1 to the bottom of the 9th inning. Jeff Bagwell drew a 1-out walk, and Yordan Alvarez won the game with a walk-off 2-run HR, giving the first-place Astros the home split.

**GAME #29 — TBR 5 @ OAK 1**

This will likely be a series the Oakland Athletics will regret as they look back on what could have been. After winning 5 in a row, standing at 13-7, the A's have now lost 8 of 10 games, and fallen out of their AL Wild Card spot. Tyler Glasnow pitched a dominant game, giving up only 1 run, and that in the 9th inning, while striking out 15 batters. Chris Bassitt pitched a strong game, but faltered in the 7th. Tied 0-0, Hunter Renfroe hit a 2-run HR, and Mike Zunino followed with his own 2-run HR. Austin Meadows hit a solo HR in the 9th and that was more than the A's could overcome, as they could only score a lone run in the 9th on a Seth Brown RBI 2B. Tyler Glasnow has suddenly emerged as a strong AL Cy Young Award candidate, now at 6-1 and leading the AL in strikeouts. In an award that has looked like Chris Sale's the whole season, suddenly the race will come down to their last starts.

**GAME #30 — TBR 5 @ OAK 2**

Wander Franco hit a 2-run 1B in the 2nd off of Frankie Montas, but the A's fought back with a Seth Brown solo HR off of Drew Rasmussen in the bottom half. Hunter Renfroe hit a 3-run HR in the 5th, and that was more than the A's could overcome once again. The Rays got the unlikely road sweep in Oakland, and suddenly have the slimmest of hope going into the stretch run.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • ROBBIE RAY SHUTOUT • WHEELER SHUTOUT • NATIONALS SWEEP O'S

**GAME #29 — BAL 3 @ WSH 4**

Max Scherzer has likely wrapped up the NL Cy Young Award, and did nothing to hurt his case against Baltimore, giving up 3 runs and getting his 6th win on the season. Cedric Mullins appeared to have his number, hitting a leadoff HR in the 1st, and another solo HR in the 3rd. Trey Mancini hit a 3B and scored on a Cal Ripken Jr sacrifice fly in the 4th, but it was not enough as the Nationals hit 4 solo HRs off of John Means. Ryan Zimmerman hit 2 solo HRs, and Jayson Werth and Keibert Ruiz did likewise with his own solo HR, and the Nationals won 4-3.

**GAME #30 — BAL 1 @ WSH 2**

Cedric Mullins continued his damage with a leadoff 1B, scoring on another Trey Mancini 3B, but Howie Kendrick hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd off of Jordan Lyles to tie the games. Jayson Werth hit a solo HR in the 4th, and the 1st inning run was the only run Stephen Strasburg would give up. Strasburg tightened the NL Cy Young Award race with 8 innings of 1-run ball, getting his 4th win. The Nationals have stayed in the NL Wild Card race for the stretch run.

**GAME #29 — ARI 13 @ NYM 0**

At the end of the season the odds are this will stand alone as the most surprising of games. The weak Arizona Diamondbacks came into New York to face the mighty Jacob deGrom, and they destroyed him and the Mets. Robbie Ray turned the tide and pitched a road complete-game shutout in New York. Christian Walker hit an RBI 1B in the 1st, and Daulton Varsho hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd, but it was in the 5th inning that the game got out of hand as Eric Chavez hit a 3-run HR off of deGrom, driving him from the game. The Diamondbacks continued their showing against the Mets' bullpen with 5 runs in the 7th, on a 2-run 1B by Walker, and a 3-run HR from David Peralta. To finish it off, Arizona scored 3 more runs in the 9th, on an RBI 2B by Pavin Smith and a 2-run 1B by Daulton Varsho. It was truly an unexpected result.

**GAME #30 — ARI 2 @ NYM 5**

The Mets fought back in the second game, very much needing the split. Pete Alonso hit an RBI 1B in the 3r, and then an RBI 2B in the 5th. Darryl Strawberry hit an RBI 1B in the 5th, and Mike Piazza added an RBI 2B in the 6th. Francisco Lindor hit a solo HR to seal the 5-2 win. Noah Syndergaard pitched a needed strong game, giving up only 1 run over 7 $\frac{1}{3}$  innings.

**GAME #29 — PHI 9 @ CHC 0**

The Phillies are hanging by a thread in the NL Wild Card race, and needed a strong showing on the road in Chicago. They got it in Game #1. Mike Schmidt hit a solo HR to start it off in the 2nd inning, and Jean Segura and Bryson Stott both had RBI 1Bs as part of the 4-run outburst. Schmidt hit a second HR off of Kyle Hendricks, and Rhys Hoskins hit his own 2-run HR, making it 8-0. Hoskins added his second HR of the game in the 9th, giving the Phillies an easy 9-0 win. Zack Wheeler pitched his best game of the year with a 3-hit complete-game shutout.

**GAME #30 — PHI 2 @ CHC 3**

Aaron Nola pitched well, but he gave up a solo HR to Ian Happ in the 5th inning, and then 2 runs in the 6th on RBI 1Bs by Sammy Sosa and Javier Baez. Wade Miley continued his strong season with 8 shutout innings, but gave up 2 runs in the 9th. Down 3-0 going into the 9th, the Phillies made it interesting with a solo HR from Rhys Hoskins and an RBI 1B from Mike Schmidt, but it was not enough as the Cubs got the 3-2 win and the home split.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • GRAY FOUR-HITTER • KERSHAW SHUTOUT • REDS SCORE SEVENTEEN

**GAME #29 — ATL 2 @ MIL 3**

The Braves had a bit of a let-down, while the Brewers were at home and desperate. The Brewers were on the verge of seeing their season slip away, but they showed up, and they are suddenly in a position to fight for the last NL Wild Card spot. Corbin Burnes stepped up, giving up only 1 run in 7 innings, and Rowdy Tellez and Lorenzo Cain hit solo HRs off of Charlie Morton. Ryan Braun added an RBI 2B in the 6th inning, and the Brewers won an important game 3-2.

**GAME #30 — ATL 3 @ MIL 4**

Atlanta scored 2 runs in the top of the 3rd inning off of Brandon Woodruff on a 2-run 2B from Chipper Jones, but the Brewers rallied immediately with 4 runs in the bottom half, highlighted by a 2-run 1B by Christian Yelich off of Max Fried. The Braves added a run in the 6th inning on an RBI 2B by Austin Riley, but that was as close as they would get, losing 4-3, getting swept in Milwaukee. Suddenly the race for the NL East title is tight again.

**GAME #29 — COL 6 @ CIN 17**

The Cincinnati Reds had great hopes for the season in the first half, but they have had quite a slide and were suddenly fighting for their season. Thankfully they had the Rockies at home. It started well for the Reds when Eugenio Suarez hit an RBI 1B in the 1st, and then Aristides Aquino hit a 3-run HR for a 4-0 lead. The Reds were looking good, until suddenly Ryan McMahon hit a Grand Slam HR in the 5-run 5th inning. The Rockies added another run and it was 6-4 going to the bottom of the 7th. With the Reds facing the end of their season, they responded big time, scoring 8 runs, highlighted by a 2-run 2B from Jesse Winker, a 2-run 1B from Chris Sabo, and a 3-run HR from Nick Castellanos. The Reds went on to add 5 more runs in the 8th inning with a 3-run HR from Aquino, his second 3-run HR of the game, and a 2-run HR from Joey Votto. When the dust had settled, the Reds, once down 6-4 in the 7th, were up 17-6 by the end of the 8th. It was an impressive comeback and may have sparked a Reds' surge for the last playoff spot.

**GAME #30 — COL 0 @ CIN 6**

The Reds kept it going with Sonny Gray pitching a 4-hit complete-game shutout. Todd Frazier hit a solo HR, and Tyler Stephenson hit a 3-run HR, and the Reds won easily 6-0, getting the home sweep, moving back into the playoff race.

**GAME #29 — LAD 7 @ STL 0**

Here come the Dodgers. Stuck in a season long slump, the Dodgers were facing must-win games, in St. Louis, against the red-hot Cardinals, winners of 7 in a row, coming off of a sweep of the top seeded Braves. It could not have looked more dire for the Dodgers, and many were expecting this to signal the end of their season. But the Dodgers had Clayton Kershaw, and he showed up and pitched his best game of the season, pitching a 3-hit complete-game shutout, striking out 12. The Cardinals had not chance today against Kershaw. Corey Seager hit a 2-run 3B off of Jack Flaherty in the 3rd, and scored on a Justin Turner RBI 2B. Mookie Betts and Seager had RBI 1Bs in the 4th, and Will Smith added a solo HR in the 5th. Betts finished it off with a solo HR in the 9th, and the Dodgers stayed alive with a 7-0 road win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • TATIS WALK-OFF HR • PANIK WALK-OFF HIT • DODGERS WIN 3-1

**GAME #30 — LAD 3 @ STL 1**

No one expected the Cardinals to get swept at home, but they had the task of facing Walker Buehler, who showed up. Joc Pederson hit a solo HR in the 2nd off of Adam Wainwright, and the game went 1-0 to the 6th. The Dodgers scored 1 run in the 6th and 1 in the 7th, and Buehler took his shutout into the 8th inning. Paul DeJong hit a solo HR in the 8th, but that was all the Cardinals would get, and the Dodgers pulled it off, getting the road sweep in St. Louis. Suddenly the Dodgers are only 1 game back in the race for the last NL Wild Card spot. The Dodgers pitching staff have only give up 1 run in the last 4 games, and only 14 hits.

**GAME #29 — PIT 3 @ SDP 4**

The Pirates fight, but they have trouble winning, and the Padres have no trouble winning. The Pirates started well with a 1st inning run off of Yu Darvish, but Jake Cronenworth hit a solo HR in the 3rd, and Manny Machado hit an RBI 1B. Fernando Tatis Jr drew a bases-loaded walk from Chris Archer, the Padres took a 3-1 lead to the 6th. In the 6th inning Ke'Bryan Hayes hit a solo HR, and then Oneil Cruz hit a solo HR to tie the game. The fighting Pirates took the game to the 11th, but Fernando Tatis Jr hit a walk-off game-winning solo HR to give the Padres the 4-3 win.

**GAME #30 — PIT 3 @ SDP 6**

Dave Winfield hit a solo HR and Jake Cronenworth hit a 2-run HR off of Jameson Taillon in the 2nd inning, but the Pirates came back again. Bryan Reynolds hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd off of Blake Snell, and Ke'Bryan Hayes hit another solo HR in the 4th to tie the game. The game went 3-3 to 7th, when Fernando Tatis Jr did it again as he hit a game-winning 3-run HR, giving the Padres the sweep, and their 7th win in a row, as they held on to the top seed in the NL.

**GAME #29 — MIA 2 @ SFG 3**

The red-hot Giants started well against Jose Fernandez with 1 run in the 1st inning, and another run in the 2nd, but Brian Anderson connected against Madison Bumgarner with a 2-run HR in the 4th to tie the game. Both pitchers settled in and neither gave up another run. The game went tied 2-2 to the 11th when Evan Longoria hit a 1B, Brandon Crawford hit a 1B, and Joe Panik won the game with a walk-off RBI 1B.

**GAME #30 — MIA 2 @ SFG 10**

The Giants won their 8th game in a row, the longest streak of the season. Brandon Crawford hit a 3-run HR off of Sandy Alcantara in the 4th, and was followed by a back-to-back solo HR by Mike Yastrzemski. Evan Longoria had an RBI 1B in the 5th, and Brandon Belt hit a 2-run HR in the 7th. Miguel Rojas hit a 2-run HR for the Marlins in the 8th, but it didn't make a difference, as Joe Panik hit a solo HR in the 8th, and Darren Ruf hit a pinch-hit 2-run HR, and the Giants won 10-2, pretty much wrapping up the top NL Wild Card spot, and keeping maximum pressure on the Padres, winners of 7 in a row themselves. The Giants now have the second best record in the NL.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • MCCLANAHAN SHUTOUT • GURRIEL WALK-OFF • BOSTON WINS 6-5

## ROUND #16

## GAME #31 — BAL 0 @ TBR 9

The Orioles are playing the role of spoiler, while the Rays still have the slimmest of hope. The Rays needed a sweep to get back in the mix, and Game #1 went well. Shane McClanahan pitched a strange 10-hit complete-game shutout. He gave up a baserunner in every inning but one, but the O's just couldn't score. The Rays unloaded on Keegan Akin in the 3rd inning when Yandy Diaz hit a 2-run HR, Manny Margot hit a 3-run HR, and Taylor Walls, Kevin Kiermaier, and Diaz all had RBI 1Bs in the 8-run inning. Margot hit a second HR in the 4th, and the Rays cruised to a 9-0 win.

## GAME #32 — BAL 6 @ TBR 4

With a win the Rays could have moved to .500 and within a game of the last AL Wild Card spot, but it was not to be. Ryan Mountcastle hit a 2-run HR in the 1st inning to start it off for the O's. Josh Lowe, in a rare start, hit an RBI 1B to trim the lead, but Eddie Murray hit an RBI 2B in the 3rd to give the O's a 3-1 lead. The Rays tied the game in the bottom of the 3rd with RBI 1Bs from Brandon Lowe and Josh Lowe, and the game went 3-3 to the 6th. Adley Rutschman hit a 2-run HR for the O's and light-hitting Jahmai Jones hit a solo HR, and the Orioles won 6-4 and got the road sweep, putting the Rays season back on life support.

## GAME #31 — BOS 4 @ TOR 5

The Red Sox are in the lead for the top seed in the AL, and the Blue Jays are likely a loss or two away from being eliminated. With the smallest of hope, the Blue Jays showed up in the series. Danny Jansen hit an RBI 1B off of David Price, and JA Happ shut down the Red Sox until the 7th inning. Down only 1-0, the Red Sox hit 3 HRs, as Michael Chavis hit a solo HR, Dustin Pedroia hit a solo HR, and David Ortiz hit a 2-run HR. Facing the end of their season, the Blue Jays rallied. They scored 1 in the 7th on an RBI 2B from Roberto Alomar, and then with 2 outs in the bottom of the 8th, Bo Bichette hit a clutch game-tying 2-run 2B. Lourdes Gurriel hit a game-winning walk-off RBI 1B in the 10th to give the Blue Jays a big comeback win with their season on the line.

## GAME #32 — BOS 6 @ TOR 5

Toronto again took the early lead, this time with a solo HR from Vladimir Guerrero Jr off of Eduardo Rodriguez. George Springer add an RBI 1B in the 3rd, and Alomar had RBI 2B in the 5th, and Alek Manoah kept the powerful Red Sox offense in check for the first 5 innings. But in the 6th inning the Red Sox broke through when Rafael Devers hit a solo HR and Dustin Pedroia hit an RBI 1B, making it a 3-2 game. In the 7th JD Martinez hit a solo HR, and Alex Verdugo hit a 2-run HR, giving the Red Sox a 5-3 lead. In the bottom of the 8th, just like in the game before, the Blue Jays came back as Teoscar Hernandez hit a solo HR, Marcus Semien hit a 2B, and Alejandro Kirk hit a clutch RBI 1B, tying the game 5-5. But this time the Red Sox would score in the extra innings as David Ortiz hit a game-winning RBI 2B, effectively ending the playoff hopes for the Blue Jays.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • GORDON GRAND SLAM • TWINS WIN 7-1 • CLEVELAND SCORES TEN

**GAME #31 — NYY 4 @ KCR 3**

The Yankees won their 6th in a row behind Jordan Montgomery. Whit Merrifield hit a 2B and scored on a George Brett sacrifice fly, but the Yankees tied it on an Aaron Judge RBI 1B. Andrew Benintendi hit a solo HR in the 4th to get the lead back, but Yordano Ventura imploded in the 6th, walking 5 batters, giving up the lead. Derek Jeter sealed the win with a solo HR in the 9th, and the Yankees won 4-3.

**GAME #32 — NYY 4 @ KCR 13**

The Royals lay a beating on the Yankees, keeping their slimmest of hopes alive in the race for the last AL Wild Card spot. Salvador Perez hit a 2-run HR in the 1st inning. Whit Merrifield hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd, Perez had an RBI 1B, and then Alex Gordon blew open the game with a Grand Slam HR, putting the Royals up 9-0. Alex Rodriguez hit a 3-run HR in the 3rd, but it was not enough to overcome the Royals today. Bobby Witt Jr and Whit Merrifield hit solo HRs in the 6th, and the Royals kept their slim hopes alive, winning 13-4.

**GAME #31 — DET 5 @ CLE 4**

Cleveland is hanging tough in the race for the AL Central title, but they hit a snag against Detroit. Riley Greene hit an RBI 1B and Niko Goodrum hit a 2-run 2B in the 2nd inning, take a 3-0 lead against Carlos Carrasco. Tyler Naquin hit a solo HR in the bottom half of the 2nd to trim the lead, and then Oscar Gonzalez hit a 2-run HR to tie the game in his first start of the year. The game went 3-3 to the 8th, when James Karinchak gave up 2 runs. Franmil Reyes hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 9th, but it was not enough, as the Tigers won 5-4.

**GAME #32 — DET 5 @ CLE 10**

The Tigers scored 1 in the 2nd off of Zach Plesac, but the Guardians scored 4 runs in the bottom half, on an RBI 2B from Yan Gomes, and a 3-run HR from Andres Gimenez. The Tigers tied the game 4-4 in the 5th when Niko Goodrum hit a 2-run HR, and Riley Greene hit a solo HR. It was Goodrum's 5th RBI of the series, after having just 2 on the season. The Guardians came up in the bottom of the 6th and went back-to-back-to-back when Jim Thome, Franmil Reyes, and Tyler Naquin all hit consecutive solo HRs. They didn't stop there, as Jose Ramirez added an RBI 1B, and Carlos Santana hit a 2-run 2B, giving Cleveland a 10-4. Riley Greene hit his second consecutive solo HR in the 7th, and the Guardians got the split, and moved into 1st place in the AL Central. The Detroit Tigers have officially been eliminated from the playoffs for 2022.

**GAME #31 — CHW 1 @ MIN 7**

The Twins season is over, unless they can put together quite a winning streak. So far so good. The Twins showed up big time in a series that could have put the nail in the coffin. Facing the 1st place White Sox, with their backs against the wall, the Twins offense showed up. Josh Donaldson hit a 3-run HR in the 1st off of Lance Lynn to set the tone. Nelson Cruz and Donaldson went back-to-back with solo HRs in the 3rd, and Joe Ryan handled the rest. Ryan only gave up 1 run over 7 innings, a solo HR to Luis Robert in the 6th. Kirby Puckett finished the win with a 2-run HR in the bottom of the 6th, and the Twins stayed alive with a 7-1 win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • RICHARDS SHUTOUT • RANGERS BLANK SEA • ASTROS SCORE TEN

**GAME #32 — CHW 7 @ MIN 9**

This was a great game. Considering the stakes it may have been the best game of the year. Byron Buxton led off the game with a solo HR, his league-leading 15th. Adam Eaton took the lead for the White Sox with a 2-run HR in the 2nd, but the Twins took the lead right back in the bottom half with RBI 1Bs from Buxton and Kirby Puckett. The game went 3-2 to the 5th, when Luis Robert hit a solo HR to tie the game. Tied 3-3 the Twins stepped up yet again when Jorge Polanco hit a 2-run HR to take the lead back 5-3. Adam Eaton hit a 3B and scored on a Nick Madrigal RBI 1B to make it 5-4, but the Twins continued their surge with 2 more runs in the 7th on RBI 1Bs from Puckett and Mitch Garver, giving the Twins a 7-4 lead going into the 8th. In the 8th the White Sox quieted the crowd when Nick Madrigal tied the game with a 3-run HR. It was a stunning shot, and the game was suddenly tied yet again, 7-7. But this was the Twins series, and Max Kepler hit the game-winner with a solo HR. Luis Arraez hit a 2B and scored the insurance run on a Joe Mauer RBI 1B, and the Twins won 9-7, getting the sweep, and staying alive on life support in the race for the last AL Wild Card spot.

**GAME #31 — SEA 5 @ TEX 1**

The Mariners are in the thick of the AL Wild Card race, and came into Texas needing a strong showing against a team out of the race. In fact, with a sweep the M's would actually officially eliminate the Texas Rangers from the 2022 playoff race. It started well for the M's as Edwin Encarnacion hit an RBI 1B off of Dane Dunning in the 1st inning, but the Rangers got even in the bottom half with a leadoff solo HR from Nathaniel Lowe off of Yusei Kikuchi. The game went 1-1 to the 5th when Ken Griffey Jr hit an RBI 1B scoring Robinson Cano for the 2-1 lead. In the 7th the M's broke open the game when Mitch Haniger hit a 3-run HR to seal the 5-1 win.

**GAME #32 — SEA 0 @ TEX 3**

The M's will look back on this game as a missed opportunity if they fall short of the playoffs. Facing a weak team and a weak pitcher, the M's failed to show up and got shutout. Kolby Allard pitched an unexpected 8-hit complete-game shutout to stymie the Mariners and their fans. Juan Gonzalez hit a 2-run HR off of Chris Flexen in the 1st inning, and Nathaniel Lowe hit another solo HR in the 3rd, and that was all the Rangers would need for their 3-0 win.

**GAME #31 — HOU 10 @ LAA 6**

The Angels had quite a chance facing the division-leading Astros in Anaheim, but the Astros are a powerful team. Lance McCullers pitched a strong game, not giving up a run until the 8th inning when Jared Walsh connected for a 2-run HR. In the 2nd inning Houston unloaded on Patrick Sandoval with 6 runs, highlighted by a 2-run 1B from Jeff Bagwell, and a 2-run 1B from Yuli Gurriel. The Astros added 4 more in the 9th when Jose Altuve hit a 3-run HR. The Angels scored 4 runs in the bottom of the 9th, but it was not enough as the Astros won 10-6 and moved closer to the division title.

**GAME #32 — HOU 0 @ LAA 5**

Needing a win to stay even with the Seattle Mariners, Garrett Richards showed up, pitching a 6-hit complete-game shutout. The Astros had 12 base runners, but just could not score. Richards allowed baserunners in every inning but one, but he always got out of the trouble. Mike Trout hit a solo HR in the 1st off of Framber Valdez, and Anthony Rendon hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd. Albert Pujols hit a solo HR in the 6th to seal the 5-0 win, keeping the Angels tied in the race for the last AL Wild Card spot.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • HOWARD GRAND SLAM • CONFORTO GRAND SLAM • BRAVES WIN 4-3

**GAME #31 — WSH 1 @ MIA 6**

Both teams are still in the playoff race, with the Nationals 1 crucial game ahead, meaning, this could be a big swing series. The Marlins showed up well in the first game, as Lewis Brinson hit a 2-run HR off of Gio Gonzalez in the 2nd inning, taking a 2-1 lead after Starlin Castro's RBI 1B off of Trevor Rogers in the 1st. The Marlins went on to score 1 run in the 3rd, the 4th, the 5th, and the 8th. Meanwhile the Nationals couldn't push another run across the plate. The Marlins won 6-1, and moved into a tie with the Nationals.

**GAME #32 — WSH 5 @ MIA 3**

Michael A Taylor hit a solo HR off of Pablo Lopez in the 3rd inning, and was followed by Ryan Zimmerman hitting a 2-run HR, supporting starting pitcher Jordan Zimmermann. Jazz Chisholm hit an RBI 2B in the bottom of the 3rd inning, but the Nationals got the run back in the top of the 4th when Howie Kendrick hit a 2B and scored on a Daniel Murphy 3B. The Marlins added a run in the 5th, and a run in the 6th, but that was as close as they would get, as the Nationals won 5-3 and got the road split, staying 1 game ahead of the Marlins, and a game back of the Brewers for the last NL Wild Card spot.

**GAME #31 — ATL 0 @ PHI 13**

The Philadelphia Phillies are hanging by a thread in the playoff race, facing the division leaders in a must-win game, and they showed up big time. Ryan Howard had an RBI 1B in the 1st inning off of Ian Anderson, and then hit a Grand Slam HR in the 2nd. Matt Vierling hit a solo HR in the 3rd, and then Ryan Howard hit a 3-run HR in the 5th. Howard had a league-high 8 RBI, in only 5 innings. Cole Hamels pitched a 4-hit complete-game shutout, and given those two things together, this was a dominant win.

**GAME #32 — ATL 4 @ PHI 3**

Atlanta came out first in the second game, scoring 2 in the 1st inning, and then 1 in the 2nd on a Ron Gant HR. Mike Soroka pitched well, not giving up a run until the 6th inning, when Ryan Howard hit a 2-run HR, his 3rd in the series, and his 10th RBI of the series. But it was not enough. Rhys Hoskins tied the game in the 7th with an RBI 2B, but the Braves scored a single run in the top of the 8th to take a 4-3 lead, which they hung on to for the win, getting the road split, and sending the Phillies back into desperation mode.

**GAME #31 — NYM 8 @ STL 5**

The Mets still have hopes to win the NL East, especially after a strong showing in St. Louis. The Cardinals scored 2 in the 1st inning, but Darryl Strawberry cut the lead in half with a solo HR in the 2nd, and David Wright tied the game with a solo HR in the 3rd. The Cardinals took the lead back in the bottom of the 3rd with a single run, but the Mets again tied the game in the 6th on a Jeff McNeil RBI 1B. The game went 3-3 to the 7th when Michael Conforto hit a pinch-hit Grand Slam HR. The Cardinals fought back with 2 in the bottom of the 7th, but it was not enough as the Mets won 8-5.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • ARRIETA SHUTOUT • VOTTO WALK-OFF HR • METS WIN 7-6 ON ROAD

**GAME #32 — NYM 7 @ STL 6**

Michael Conforto hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd inning, but Paul DeJong hit a 3-run HR to take the lead in the bottom half. The Cardinals added another run in the 3rd on a Matt Carpenter RBI 2B, and then DeJong hit a 2-run HR, his second in a row. The Cardinals took a 6-2 lead to the 7th, eyeing the split, but the Mets scored 5 runs, on a 2-run 1B from Pete Alonso, an RBI 1B from Darryl Strawberry, and a 2-run HR from Conforto, giving the Mets a sudden 7-6 lead, shocking the home crowd. The Mets bullpen didn't allow a run, and closed the door on the win, getting the team the road sweep, moving the team into a tie for 1st place in the NL East.

**GAME #31 — PIT 6 @ CIN 2**

Cincinnati has fought their way back into the race for the last NL Wild Card spot with a massive sweep against the Colorado Rockies, and came into their home series against Pittsburgh with a great opportunity. But they blew it. Pedro Alvarez hit an RBI 1B in the 1st inning against Tyler Mahle, but Nick Castellanos tied the game in the bottom half with a solo HR against JT Brubaker. In the 5th inning Josh Harrison hit a solo HR to take the lead, but the Reds tied the game against on a solo HR by Aristides Aquino. It was in the 6th inning that the Reds lost the lead for good, when Will Craig hit a 3-run HR. Bryan Reynolds hit an RBI 1B in the 7th to seal the 6-2 win, putting a dent into the Reds hopes.

**GAME #32 — PIT 3 @ CIN 4**

The Pirates struck first when Andy Van Slyke hit an RBI 1B and Josh Bell hit a 2-run HR off of Anthony DeSclafani in the 1st inning. Mitch Keller pitched great, shutting out the Reds through 5 innings. In the 6th inning the desperate Reds, with their season on the verge of slipping away, responded with an RBI 1B from Tyler Stephenson and a 2-run 1B from Aquino to tie the game 3-3. The game went tied to the bottom of the 9th inning when Joey Votto stepped up and hit a game-winning walk-off solo HR, keeping the Reds 1 game back in the playoff race.

**GAME #31 — CHC 3 @ MIL 9**

The Milwaukee Brewers are firmly in the race, holding the last NL Wild Card spot by 1 game, while the Cubs were playing the role of spoilers. The Brewers showed up in Game #1, as Christian Yelich started it off with an RBI 1B off of Jon Lester. The Cubs tried to dash the Brewers' hopes with 3 runs in the 2nd inning when Willson Contreras hit an RBI 2B, and Ian Happ hit a 2-run 1B, but the Brewers responded. Tyrone Taylor hit a 2-run HR to tie the game, and Keston Hiura hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd, giving the Brewers a 5-3 lead they would not relinquish. Taylor added an RBI 1B in the 5th, and Robin Yount added an RBI 2B in the 6th. In the 8th Paul Molitor and Christian Yelich hit solo HRs to seal the 9-3 win. Freddy Peralta pitched a complete game giving up only 4 hits and 3 runs, while striking out 13.

**GAME #32 — CHC 15 @ MIL 0**

The Cubs took out their frustrations from the whole season on the Brewers in Game #2. It was scoreless going to the 3rd inning, but only one team would stay scoreless. Sammy Sosa hit an RBI 3B in the 3rd, and Ian Happ hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd, followed by a Jason Heyward 2B, and a Kyle Schwarber RBI 1B. The Cubs doubled their 4-0 lead when Heyward hit a 2-run 2B and Schwarber hit a 2-run HR in the 5th, and they added 1 more in the 6th when Heyward hit an RBI 1B. Anthony Rizzo hit a 3-run HR in the 7th, and Sosa hit a 3-run HR in the 8th, and when the dust had settled, the Cubs had scored in 6 consecutive innings, and were up 15-0. Jake Arrieta had his best game of the season with a 3-hit complete-game shutout.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • DICKERSON GRAND SLAM • DODGERS SHUTOUT • PADRES WIN 9-8

**GAME #31 — COL 8 @ ARI 3**

The Rockies took out their frustrations for a lost season on the Diamondbacks in Arizona. The Rockies scored 4 runs in the 1st inning off of Zac Gallen, and never looked back. Charlie Blackmon and Justin Morneau both hit RBI 2Bs, and the Rockies never trailed in the series after that. Eric Chavez hit an RBI 1B in the bottom of the 1st off of Jon Gray, and then the game went 4-1 to the 7th. In the bottom of the 7th David Peralta hit a 2-run 1B to make it 4-3, but the Rockies scored 4 more in the 9th, highlighted by RBI 1Bs by Trevor Story and Charlie Blackmon, and a 2-run 2B from Andres Galarraga.

**GAME #32 — COL 16 @ ARI 4**

Ryan McMahon started the scoring in Game #2 with an RBI 2B off of Merrill Kelly, and then the Rockies put up another 4 spot in the 3rd inning. David Dahl hit an RBI 1B, Sam Hilliard hit a 2-run HR, and McMahon added a solo HR, giving the Rockies a 5-0 lead. Raimel Tapia and Trevor Story hit solo HRs in the 6th, and Charlie Blackmon hit an RBI 1B in the 8th, and was followed by a 2-run 3B by Dahl, and it was 11-4. The Rockies finished it off with a Grand Slam HR by Corey Dickerson in the 5-run 9th, and the Rockies put up 16 runs and 21 hits, getting the road sweep in Arizona, moving out of last place in the division. Antonio Senzatela pitched well over 6 innings to pick up the win.

**GAME #31 — SDP 0 @ LAD 4**

This was the marquee series in the league for this week. The Dodgers were on a hot streak, finally, winning 5 in a row, with dominant pitching, and the Padres had won 7 in a row, and were holding the best record in the NL. Julio Urias showed up again and pitched 6 shutout innings, and the Dodgers' bullpen finished the shutout. The Dodgers won their 6th in a row, and pitched their 4 shutout in the last 5 games. The Dodgers pitching staff has given up just 2 runs during the 6 game-winning streak. Corey Seager hit a solo HR off of Mike Clevinger, and Will Smith added a solo HR in the 8th, sealing the 4-0 Dodgers win.

**GAME #32 — SDP 9 @ LAD 8**

The Padres scored 3 runs in the 1st inning of Game #2 with an RBI 1B by Manny Machado, and a 2-run 1B by Eric Hosmer off of Dustin May, but the Dodgers fought back. Max Muncy hit a solo HR in the 1st off of James Shields, and Cody Bellinger tied it with a 2-run HR in the 2nd. Justin Turner hit a 3-run HR in the 6th, and Dodgers were looking at suddenly tying for the last NL Wild Card spot. But it was not to be. Tony Gwynn hit a 3-run HR to take the lead back for the Padres in the 8th, and the Padres added 2 runs in the 9th for 9-6 lead. Bellinger hit another 2-run HR in the bottom of the 9th, but it was not enough as the Padres got the road split. The Dodgers remain 1 back with 8 games to play.

**GAME #31 — SFG 3 @ OAK 1**

The Giants are hot. The A's are not. The Giants have now won 10 in a row and moved into 1st place. The A's have lost 10 of 12, and have fallen from a prime playoff position, to out of the race. Logan Webb pitched well again, giving up only 4 hits and 1 run over 8 innings, while striking out 10. The A's struck first, with an RBI 1B by Sean Murphy in the 5th, but the Giants came right back with 2 runs in the 6th, on RBI 1Bs by Evan Longoria and Thairo Estrada, and a run in the 7th on a solo HR by Will Clark, leading the Giants to the 3-1 win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • BONDS TWO HOMERS • FLORES GO-AHEAD HIT • GIANTS WIN 8-6

**GAME #32 — SFG 8 @ OAK 6**

Barry Bonds is closing in on the NL MVP, and today he hit a 3-run HR in the 1st, and Buster Posey followed with a back-to-back HR, giving the Giants a 4-run lead. Matt Olson hit an RBI 2B in the bottom of the 1st, but the Giants got the run back when Barry Bonds hit his second consecutive HR, and the Giants were ahead 5-1. With Johnny Cueto on the mound, the Giants thought they could cruise to the win, but the A's had a surge in them. The A's scored 5 runs in the bottom of the 4th to take the lead. Tony Kemp hit an RBI 1B, Chad Pinder hit a 3-run HR, and Starling Marte hit an RBI 2B to give the home crowd something to cheer for. But the Giants are hot. Barry Bonds tied the game in the 5th, with a his 5th RBI of the game, an RBI 2B, and then Wilmer Flores put the Giants ahead for good with a 2-run 1B, sealing the Giants 8-6 win. The Giants winning streak has them now tied for 1st place in the NL West.

## MLBC — WEEK 9

GAMES 33-36 • STRETCH RUN

## THE STRETCH RUN ERUPTS

*Four games remain, Atlanta collapses, and the Wild Card races become a traffic jam.*

**THE LEAD** The final eight games began with San Francisco at 23-9, Boston and San Diego at 22-10, and six clubs stacked at 19-13. Philadelphia sat below .500 at 15-17 but remained on the fringe of the race. Every division still contained meaningful pressure, and the Wild Card races had almost no breathing room. Houston hosted San Diego, Washington went to Atlanta, Milwaukee went to Philadelphia, and the Mets and Nationals met with both the NL East and Wild Card picture in play. Baltimore opened in Boston, the Yankees went to Tampa Bay and Minnesota visited Toronto. Seattle and Oakland met in a direct AL West test.

**THE WEEK** Houston, Minnesota and Philadelphia all went 4-0. The Astros swept San Diego and Seattle to reach 23-13 and seize control of the AL West. Philadelphia swept Milwaukee and Miami, moving from 15-17 to 19-17 and straight into the NL scrum. Atlanta suffered the opposite fate: Washington crushed the Braves 8-1 and 13-0, then the Cubs swept them in Chicago. A club that had led much of the season finished 19-17 after losing nine of ten. The AL Cy Young race changed shape too. Baltimore battered Chris Sale for seven runs, while Tyler Glasnow answered by shutting out the Yankees 10-0 and moving to the front of the contemporary conversation. Luis Severino responded the next day with a 2-hit, 12-strikeout shutout, and Justin Verlander added another 2-hit zero for Houston. Even the award race was being compressed by the same late pressure as the standings.

**THE STAKES** Four games remain. San Francisco owns a 26-10 record and a three-game NL West lead. Boston is 24-12; Houston and San Diego are 23-13. The NL has become beautiful disorder: Atlanta, Cincinnati, Los Angeles, Philadelphia and Washington are all 19-17, while the Mets and Cardinals sit at 21-15. The final schedule could not be better designed: Philadelphia goes to the Mets and then hosts Washington; Milwaukee visits St. Louis before hosting Cincinnati; San Diego visits San Francisco; and the Dodgers finish in San Francisco. In the AL, Minnesota, Cleveland, Chicago, Seattle and the Angels remain entangled. Four games will decide almost everything.

|                             |                                       |                                |                                  |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| TOP OF TABLE<br>SFG • 26-10 | PERFECT WEEK<br>HOU / MIN / PHI • 4-0 | NL GRIDLOCK<br>5 clubs • 19-17 | COLLAPSE<br>ATL • 9 losses in 10 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|

## WEEKLY HONORS

|                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>HITTER OF THE WEEK</b><br><b>GOLD MIGUEL SANÓ • MIN</b><br>3 HR • 7 RBI • <i>Grand Slam</i><br><b>SILVER YORDAN ALVAREZ • HOU</b><br>3 HR • 6 RBI<br><b>BRONZE JOSH HAMILTON • TEX</b><br>2 HR • 6 RBI | <b>PITCHER OF THE WEEK</b><br><b>GOLD LUIS SEVERINO • NYY</b><br>CG SHO • 2 H • 12 K<br><b>SILVER JUSTIN VERLANDER • HOU</b><br>CG SHO • 2 H • 10 K<br><b>BRONZE TYLER GLASNOW • TBR</b><br>CG SHO • 5 H |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • GLASNOW SHUTOUT • SEVERINO FANS 12 • ORIOLES WIN 9-2

## ROUND #17

## GAME #33 — BAL 9 @ BOS 2

Did season-long frontrunner Chris Sale just lose the AL Cy Young award? That is why they vote at the end of the season. Sale was lit up by the Baltimore Orioles, giving up 7 runs over 5 $\frac{2}{3}$  innings. Sale was the undisputed winner in the first half, but suddenly he is maybe even not in the top 2 with Glasnow and Verlander dealing. The O's routed the Red Sox in Game #1. Trey Mancini hit a solo HR in the 1st, but that was it until the 6th. Sale had only given up 2 hits until the 6th, when the O's scored 7 runs. Austin Hays and Adam Jones hit 2-run 2Bs, Adley Rutschman, Trey Mancini, and Jahmai Jones hit RBI 1Bs, and the game was over. Hays added a solo HR in the 7th as the final run in a 9-2 win. John Means pitched a strong 7 innings to earn the win.

## GAME #34 — BAL 2 @ BOS 4

The Red Sox came back in Game #2 to get the split. Nathan Eovaldi pitched well giving up only 2 runs over 6 innings. Eddie Murray hit an RBI 1B in the 1st, and Trey Mancini hit an RBI 2B in the 3rd, but that was all the O's would get. Rafael Devers hit an RBI 3B off of Jordan Lyles in the bottom of the 1st, and JD Martinez tied the game with an RBI 2B in the 5th. In the 6th inning the Red Sox took the lead with 2 runs on RBI BBs from Jackie Bradley and Wade Boggs, and they got the split, maintaining their 3-game lead over the Yankees with just 6 games to play. With the win it looks like the number #1 seed will be theirs.

## GAME #33 — NYY 0 @ TBR 10

The Tampa Bay Rays are hanging onto to the slimmest of hopes, and now had to face the hot Yankees, winners of 6 of their last 7. Tampa Bay had to face Gerrit Cole, but they had Tyler Glasnow the new frontrunner for the AL Cy Young award. The Rays lit up Cole, and Glasnow pitched a 5-hit complete-game shutout to all but secure the award. Wander Franco hit a solo HR in the 1st, and the Rays added 2 more runs in the 3rd. Franco added an RBI 2B in the 5th, and scored on a Hunter Renfroe RBI 1B. Yandy Diaz hit an RBI 2B in the 6th, and then Brandon Lowe hit a 3-run HR. Renfroe added a final RBI 1B to seal the 10-0 blowout win.

## GAME #34 — NYY 6 @ TBR 0

Luis Severino responded for the Yankees with a start that was even better than Glasnow's. Severino pitched a dominant 2-hit complete-game shutout with 12 strikeouts. Hideki Matsui hit an RBI 2B in the 2nd, and DJ LeMahieu hit a 2-run HR in the 7th. Matsui added a solo HR in the 9th, and was followed by Aaron Hicks, who hit a pinch-hit 2-run HR to seal the 6-0 win. The Yankees have all but secured a playoff spot with the win, and the Rays are all but eliminated with the loss.

## GAME #33 — MIN 7 @ TOR 5

The Blue Jays and Twins both came in to this series with slim hopes, and the Blue Jays were all but eliminated, while the Twins are back into the race. The Blue Jays didn't even show up, not scoring until the 9th inning. Byron Buxton started it off with a 2B, and scored on a Joe Mauer RBI 1B. Mauer hit a solo HR in the 3rd, and then Nelson Cruz hit a 2-run 1B in the 3-run 5th. The Twins added 2 more runs in the 7th on a Jorge Polanco 2-run HR, giving the Twins a 7-0 lead. The Blue Jays fought back with a last-ditch effort, scoring 5 runs, even bringing the tying run to the plate, but it was not enough as the Blue Jays fell to the resurgent Twins.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • WITT WALK-OFF WALK • MIZE FANS ELEVEN • TWINS WIN 9-2

**GAME #34 — MIN 9 @ TOR 2**

Teoscar Hernandez hit an RBI 1B to start it well for the Jays, but Josh Donaldson took over. Donaldson hit a 2-run HR in the 4th, and a 3-run HR in the 8th, and then added a 2-run 1B in the 9th, finished the 9-2 Twins' win with 7 RBI. Kenta Maeda only gave up 4 hits, one of them a late HR to Bo Bichette. The Blue Jays' disappointing season is basically over, and the Twins are now 1 game back, after winning 4 clutch games in a row.

**GAME #33 — DET 8 @ KCR 9**

The Royals came in with very slim hopes, needed a sweep to stay in the race. Game #1 was an incredible game. Detroit scored 5 runs in the 1st and it looked like the Royals' season was over. But the Royals fought back with 3 runs in the 3rd, highlighted by a Bobby Witt Jr RBI 3B and an RBI 2B by Alex Gordon. The Royals added 1 in the 5th on an Andrew Benintendi RBI 1B, making it a 5-4 game. The game went to the bottom of the 9th with the Royals season on the line, and Bo Jackson, in a season-long slump, hit a solo HR to tie the game. The Tigers answered with a run in the 10th, but the Royals, with their season again on the line, scored again on a Witt RBI 1B. In the 13th inning that Tigers again scored, this time 2 runs, on a Jeimer Candelario 2-run 3B. But the Royals dug deep, facing the end of their season for the 3rd time, the Royals scored 3 runs, winning on a bases-loaded walk-off walk to Witt. The Royals held on the hope and won 9-8 in an incredible game.

**GAME #34 — DET 4 @ KCR 0**

And then it was over. The Royals used all their magic in the first game, and had nothing left. Casey Mize shut them down with a 6-hit complete-game shutout, striking out 11. Akil Baddoo and Miguel Cabrera had RBI 1Bs in the 3rd inning off of Brady Singer, and Spencer Torkelson hit a 2-run HR in the 6th, and the Tigers got the road split, having played .500 ball over their last 14 games. The Royals are now 2 games back with 6 to play.

**GAME #33 — CHW 10 @ CLE 7**

This series was a battle for 1st place in the AL Central, with both teams tied for 1st place, with just 8 games left. Tim Anderson started it off in the 2nd inning with a 2-run 1B off of Corey Kluber. The Guardians fought back and took the lead in the 4th after a 3-run HR by Tyler Naquin, but the White Sox took the lead back in the 5th when Luis Robert hit a solo HR and Yasmani Grandal hit a 2-run HR. The White Sox added 3 more runs in the 6th, highlighted by a Frank Thomas 2-run 2B, and the White Sox were up 8-3. Cleveland fought back with a 2-run HR by Yan Gomes in the 6th, and a 2-run HR by Carlos Santana in the 7th. Holding an 8-7 lead, Chicago added to it in the 8th inning when Nick Madrigal hit a 2-run 1B. Cleveland was out of runs, and lost the first game of the series to Lucas Giolito and the White Sox. Frank Thomas was 4-6 with 3 2Bs and 2 RBIs.

**GAME #34 — CHW 4 @ CLE 7**

Tim Anderson again started the scoring, this time with a solo HR in the 1st inning off of Shane Bieber, but Cleveland came back immediately with 4 runs in the bottom half on a 3-run HR by Franmil Reyes, and a solo HR by Tyler Naquin off of Carlos Rodon. Carlos Santana hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd, and Reyes hit another HR in the 3rd inning, and the Guardians held a 7-2 lead. Adam Eaton was the only White Sox's offense in Game #2 as he had an RBI 2B in the 2nd, an RBI 1B in the 4th, and an RBI sacrifice fly in the 8th, but it was not enough as the Guardians won 7-4, getting the split, and returning into a tie for 1st place with just 6 games left.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • VERLANDER SHUTOUT • ANGELS SCORE TEN • OAKLAND WINS 7-1

**GAME #33 — TEX 1 @ LAA 10**

The Angels are fighting tough for the last playoff spot, and showed up in Game #1 against the Texas Rangers. Mike Trout hit a 2-run HR in the 1st inning off of Kyle Gibson, and Shohei Ohtani shut down the Rangers hitters. The Rangers finally scored in the 6th inning when Isiah Kiner-Falefa hit an RBI 1B, and suddenly it was a 2-1 game. But the Angels were not going to let this one slip away and they scored 8 runs in the bottom of the 6th. Albert Pujols hit a 3-run HR, Justin Upton hit a 2-run HR, Max Stassi hit a solo HR, and Mike Trout finished it off with another 2-run HR, and the Angels won in a blowout, 10-1.

**GAME #34 — TEX 4 @ LAA 2**

The Angels let a great opportunity slip away in Game #2. Justin Upton hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 2nd, but Josh Hamilton tied it with an RBI 1B. Mike Trout hit a solo HR in the 3rd, but Juan Gonzalez tied it with a solo HR in the th. The game went 2-2 to the 7th, but Nathaniel Lowe hit an RBI 2B, and Josh Hamilton followed him with an RBI 2B, giving the Rangers a 4-2 win, putting the Angels back into a tie with the Seattle Mariners, and 1 game ahead of the surging Minnesota Twins.

**GAME #33 — OAK 1 @ SEA 2**

The Oakland Athletics came into Seattle having lost 5 in a row, and were on the verge of being eliminated from the playoff race, after being 13-7 at one point. Facing Felix Hernandez the A's could only score 1 run, a 7th inning RBI 1B by Matt Chapman. The M's scored 1 run in the 1st inning off of Chris Bassitt when Ty France hit an RBI 1B, and then again in the 3rd on another France RBI 1B. And that was all Hernandez needed, pitching a complete game, giving up only 4 hits and 1 run. The M's moved back into the last playoff spot with the win.

**GAME #34 — OAK 7 @ SEA 1**

The A's would basically be eliminated with a loss, but they responded. Matt Olson hit RBI 1Bs in the 1st and 3rd, and Mark Canha hit a solo HR in the 4th inning, and was followed by a 2-run 1B from Rickey Henderson. Chad Pinder added RBI 1Bs in the 5th and the 9th, and the A's won 7-1. Frankie Montas pitched well, giving up only 3 hits and 1 run over 6 innings, his only blemish being a solo HR from Edwin Encarnacion. With the win the A's stayed 2 game back with 6 to play, clinging to a last surge hope.

**GAME #33 — SDP 0 @ HOU 7**

The Houston Astros are making their claim to be the most feared team in baseball. Facing the top seed in the NL, the Astros showed what they could do in the playoffs. Justin Verlander pitched a dominant 2-hit complete-game shutout, striking out 10, moving back into the AL Cy Young race with 1 start left. Yordan Alvarez hit an RBI 2B in the 1st, an RBI 1B in the 3rd, and a 2-run HR in the 7th to pace the Astros in their 7-0 win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • STRASBURG SHUTOUT • NATIONALS ROAD SWEEP • METS WIN 3-2

**GAME #34 — SDP 1 @ HOU 4**

The Padres needed to get a split to stay ahead of the San Francisco Giants, but the Astros were on a mission. Tony Gwynn hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd, but that was the only run Joe Musgrove would give up over his 7 innings. Alex Bregman hit a solo HR in the 5th, and Jose Altuve won the game with a 3-run HR in the 6th inning. With the sweep, the Astros are now just 2 games back of the Red Sox for the top seed. With the sweep the Padres may suddenly be looking up at the Giants. After being the top seed in the NL all season, the Padres may end up as an NL Wild Card.

**GAME #33 — NYM 2 @ MIA 4**

The Mets let one get away, having Jacob deGrom giving up 4 runs to the Marlins in Miami. Jazz Chisholm hit a 2-run HR in the 1st inning, Jon Berti hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd, and Jacob Stallings hit an RBI 2B in the 4th, backing Jose Fernandez in the win. Michael Conforto hit a solo HR, and Brandon Nimmo hit an RBI 1B in the Mets' 2-run 2nd inning, but those were the only runs they would score, as the Mets lost 4-2, keeping the Marlins alive in the race.

**GAME #34 — NYM 3 @ MIA 2**

Jesus Aguilar hit a 2-run HR in the 1st inning, and it looked bad for the Mets. Jeff McNeil hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd, giving the Mets hope. With the series slipping away, Jeff McNeil hit a game-tying solo HR in the 8th inning, and Francisco Lindor hit a solo HR in the 9th to win the game. Noah Syndergaard pitched 8 innings, giving up only 2 hits and 2 runs, and Sandy Alcantara pitched 7 innings, giving up only 1 run. It was the Marlins shaky bullpen that gave up the game, but the Marlins have to be happy with the split, and they are alive for the next series, fighting another round with six teams for the last spot. The Marlins will likely need to go 6-0, but they live to fight another day.

**GAME #33 — WSH 8 @ ATL 1**

What a shocking series this was. Atlanta is in a fight for the NL East crown, and Washington is in a fight for the NL Wild Card, but this series threw it all into question. Max Scherzer again established himself as the best pitcher in the NL, pitching 8 innings, giving up only 4 hits and 1 run, striking out 13. Ryan Zimmerman hit a 2-run 2B in the 1st inning, and the Braves cut the lead in half when Fred McGriff hit an RBI 1B. No one would have guessed that this would be the last run the Braves would score in the entire series. Juan Soto hit an RBI 2B in the 2nd, while Keibert Ruiz hit an RBI 2B and Howie Kendrick hit an RBI 1B in the 5th inning. Zimmerman hit a solo HR in the 8th, and Daniel Murphy hit a 2-run 3B in the 8th, finishing off the 8-1 blowout win.

**GAME #34 — WSH 13 @ ATL 0**

Stephen Strasburg has been the second best pitcher of the year, and is making sure the NL Cy Young award will come down to the last start. Strasburg pitched a complete-game shutout, giving up 8 hits and striking out 11. The Nationals scored 7 in the 1st inning, and 3 more in the 2nd, driving Max Fried from the game. Trea Turner had a 2-run 1B and a 2B, Ryan Zimmerman and Jayson Werth hit RBI 2Bs, Starlin Castro hit an RBI 3B, and Howie Kendrick had an RBI 1B and a 3-run HR, making it a 10-0 lead. Werth would add a solo HR in the 6th, and Murphy added a 2-run HR in the 8th, giving the Nationals a resounding 13-0 win. With the road sweep, Washington is now 1 game ahead in the race for the last playoff spot. Suddenly the Braves are only 1 game ahead in the NL Wild Card race.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • WHEELER SHUTOUT • PHILLIES HOME SWEEP • CARDINALS SWEEP

**GAME #33 — MIL 0 @ PHI 3**

The Phillies had their backs against the wall, and they responded. The Brewers had a great opportunity before them, and they squandered it. The Phillies needed to take advantage of facing the team holding the spot they wanted, and this was an incredibly important series for all six teams in the race. Zack Wheeler moved himself into NL Cy Young consideration as he pitched his 3rd complete-game shutout of the year, giving up only 5 hits. Ryan Howard and JT Realmuto had RBI 1Bs, and the Phillies won a very important game.

**GAME #34 — MIL 2 @ PHI 8**

A split would put the Brewers back into a tie for the last playoff spot, and would put the Phillies back into desperation mode, but the Phillies showed up. Aaron Nola only gave up 2 runs over 6 innings, RBI 1Bs to Ryan Braun and Willy Adames, and the Phillies routed the Brewers with a 7-run 2nd inning. Lenny Dykstra, Rhys Hoskins, and Bryce Harper all had consecutive RBI 1Bs before Mike Schmidt struck the big blow with a 3-run HR. The Phillies strong showing at just the right time got them the sweep, tying them with the Brewers, both teams now 1 game back of the Washington Nationals.

**GAME #33 — PIT 2 @ STL 4**

The St. Louis Cardinals are struggling at the wrong time. A four-game losing streak has their lead in the NL Central trimmed to only 1 game. The Pirates are playing the role of spoiler, but the Cardinals came into their home series needed a home sweep. Pedro Alvarez started it off with a 2-run HR off of Jack Flaherty, and the Cardinals were suddenly forced to play catch up. Chris Archer was dealing, taking a shutout to the 5th, when the Cardinals broke out for 4 runs. Kolton Wong started it off with a leadoff 2B, and scored on a Paul Goldschmidt RBI 1B. Tyler O'Neill hit a 2-run 1B, and Dylan Carlson finished it off with an RBI 1B, giving the Cardinals the 4-2 lead. Flaherty and the bullpen finished the job, and the Cardinals got an important 4-2 home win.

**GAME #34 — PIT 2 @ STL 6**

Tyler O'Neill stepped up and hit a 3-run HR in the bottom of the 1st inning, and the Cardinals cruised to the win behind Adam Wainwright. Tommy Edman added a solo HR in the 5th, and Mark McGwire and O'Neill hit RBI 2Bs in the 8th. Andy Van Slyke hit an HR in the 5th and Gregory Polanco hit an RBI 2B in the 7th, but it was not enough and the Cardinals won 6-2, and got the crucial home sweep.

**GAME #33 — CHC 3 @ CIN 6**

This has become an incredibly important series for the Reds, facing a long-time nemesis in the Chicago Cubs. The Cubs are reduced to the role of spoilers, and they could indeed spoil the Reds' season with a strong showing. The Reds could move into a tie for the last playoff spot with a sweep. It started poorly, as Luis Castillo loaded the bases and walked in a run, with 0 outs. But he luckily got out of the inning with only the 1 run given up. The Reds started well in the bottom of the 1st, as Barry Larkin hit a leadoff 2B, scored on a Joey Votto RBI 2B, and then Eugenio Suarez hit a 2-run HR, giving the Reds a 3-1 lead. Luis Castillo loaded the bases again in the 2nd, and again got out of it. Ryne Sandberg hit a 2-run HR, and tied the game 3-3. Nick Castellanos took the lead back in the 5th with an RBI 2B, Joey Votto hit an RBI 1B in the 7th, and Jesse Winker hit a solo HR in the 8th, and the Reds got the 6-3 win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • DODGERS HOME SWEEP • REDS SCORE ELEVEN • ROCKIES WIN 5-4

**GAME #34 — CHC 2 @ CIN 11**

The Reds were a win away from tying in the final NL Wild Card spot, but they had to face Wade Miley, who was 3rd in wins and 5th in ERA in the NL. The Reds are hot, though, and they put up 4 runs in the 1st off of Miley. Nick Castellanos had an RBI 1B, Todd Frazier had an RBI 2B, and Adam Duvall hit a 2-run 1B, and the Reds were up 4-0 and just had to hold on. Sonny Gray took care of the rest, and took a no-hitter into the 6th inning, when Jason Heyward hit a solo HR. In the 5th inning the Reds scored 4 more runs, on an RBI 1B from Aristides Aquino, and a 3-run HR from Chris Sabo. Adam Duvall added a 2-run 2B in the 6th, and Sabo added another HR in the 7th, and the Reds won a blowout 11-2, getting the sweep, and moving into a tie for the last NL Wild Card spot.

**GAME #33 — ARI 2 @ LAD 3**

The Dodgers are hot. Their pitching staff is hot, and their sweep of the Diamondbacks would put them in a tie for the last NL Wild Card spot, winners of 8 of 9. Clayton Kershaw was great yet again, giving up only 2 runs over 7 innings. Carson Kelly hit a solo HR in the 5th, and Nick Ahmed hit an RBI 1B in the 7th, but it was not enough. Robbie Ray walked 8 batters in 5 innings, including walking in 2 runs in the 2nd. Max Muncy hit a solo HR in the 6th, which proved to be decisive, and the Dodgers won again.

**GAME #34 — ARI 3 @ LAD 4**

Ketel Marte scored on an Eric Chavez sacrifice fly, and Kole Calhoun hit a solo HR in the 2nd off of Walker Buehler, and the Dodgers were facing a 2-0 deficit. Cody Bellinger hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd, and Corey Seager hit a game-tying 2-run HR in the 3rd. In the 4th inning Carson Kelly hit an RBI 1B, but Gavin Lux took the lead back for the Dodgers with an RBI 2B. Up 4-3 the Dodgers pitching staff took over, and didn't allow another run. With the sweep the Dodgers are firmly in the hunt for the playoffs, now in a 3-way tie with the Washington Nationals and the Cincinnati Reds.

**GAME #33 — SFG 4 @ COL 5**

It was bound to come to an end at some point. The Giants 10-game-winning streak ended in Colorado as German Marquez never gave up the big hits. Buster Posey had an RBI 1B in the 1st, and Mike Yastrzemski hit a solo HR in the 2nd, but Marquez didn't give up any more runs over 7 innings. Madison Bumgarner struggled, giving up 7 hits and 4 runs over just 5 innings. Andres Galarraga hit a 2-run HR in the 1st, Trevor Story had an RBI 1B in the 2nd, and Galarraga added a sacrifice fly in the 3rd, and the Rockies were up 4-2. Galarraga added a solo HR in the 7th, which proved to be the game-winner, because the Giants fought back in the 9th when Will Clark hit a 2-run HR, but that was as close as the Giants would get. The Rockies won 5-4 and ended the longest winning streak of the year.

**GAME #34 — SFG 6 @ COL 4**

Andres Galarraga had yet another RBI with a 1B in the 1st, but the Giants scored twice in the 2nd when Wilmer Flores hit a 2-run HR. Carlos Gonzalez tied the game with an RBI 1B in the 3rd, Darren Ruf took the lead back in the 6th with a solo HR, and David Dahl tied it with an RBI 1B in the bottom of the 6th. The game went 3-3 to the 8th inning when Brandon Crawford hit a pinch-hit 2-run 3B. The Giants came back to get the split, winning 6-4, and moving into 1st place in the NL West, and currently holding the top seed in the NL.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • BLUE JAYS ROAD SWEEP • BOSTON WINS 4-3 • YANKEES WIN 8-6

## ROUND #18

## GAME #35 — NYY 8 @ BAL 6

Gary Sanchez started the scoring for the Yankees in Baltimore with a 2-run HR. Ryan Mountcastle trimmed the lead with a solo HR in the 2nd, but the Yankees got it back in the 3rd on a Derek Jeter solo HR. Trey Mancini hit an RBI 1B in the 4th, and the game went 3-2 to the 6th. In the bottom of the 6th the O's struck for 3 runs on an RBI 2B from Adam Jones, and RBI 1Bs from Anthony Santander and Austin Hays, but the Yankees got the runs right back. In the top of the 7th Giancarlo Stanton hit a 3-run HR, taking the lead back for the Yankees, Down 7-6, Adley Rutschman hit a solo HR to tie the game, and the game went tied to the 9th, when Giancarlo Stanton hit a 2-run HR off of Zach Britton to win the game.

## GAME #36 — NYY 4 @ BAL 6

Giancarlo Stanton hit a 3-run HR in the top of the 1st inning, his 3rd HR and his 8th RBI in his last 3 at bats. Jeter added another solo HR in the 5th and the Yankees were up 4-0. In the bottom of the 5th Santander hit a solo HR, and in the 6th, Rutschman and Chris Davis hit solo HRs, and suddenly it was a game. Cal Ripken Jr hit an RBI 1B in the 7th, and the game was tied 4-4. The O's added 2 more runs in the 8th inning when Dellin Betances walked in both runs, and the O's got the come from behind win 6-4, and getting the season split.

## GAME #35 — TOR 6 @ TBR 1

The Blue Jays are reduced to spoilers, and spoil they did. The Rays came into their home series with hopes for a split, which would put them 1 game back with 4 to play. But it was not to be. The Blue Jays scored 4 runs in the 2nd inning, highlighted by a Roberto Alomar 2-run 1B. Jose Bautista added a solo HR in the 7th, and Teoscar Hernandez added an RBI 2B in the 9th, but neither was needed as JA Happ completely shut down the Rays. Happ gave up only 1 run, and that was in the 9th inning on a Randy Arozarenan HR. The Rays saw their hopes slip away, and the game wasn't even close.

## GAME #36 — TOR 5 @ TBR 2

Alek Manoah pitched well, giving up only 2 runs over 7 innings, a Brandon Lowe solo HR in the 2nd, and a Randy Arozarena RBI 2B in the 6th. The Blue Jays showed up again as Jose Bautista hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd, and Lourdes Gurriel broke the game open in the 6th with a 3-run HR. George Springer added a solo HR in the 7th, and the Jays beat the Rays 5-2, ending the Rays season.

## GAME #35 — BOS 4 @ CHW 3

The Red Sox moved a step closer to securing the top seed by beating the AL Central leading White Sox in Chicago. Lance Lynn pitched 5 shutout innings, but Xander Bogaerts hit an RBI 1B in the 6th, and a 3-run HR in the 8th. David Price pitched 6 shutout innings, but gave up an RBI 1B to Nick Madrigal, and a 2-run 2B to Tim Anderson. It was the Red Sox who came out on top in Game #1, 4-3. With the win the Boston Red Sox have officially clinched a playoff berth.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • SANO THREE HOMERS • ROYALS HOME SWEEP • TWINS ROAD SWEEP

**GAME #36 — BOS 6 @ CHW 9**

The White Sox scored 2 runs in the 1st inning against Eduardo Rodriguez when he walked in 2 runs in a row, and then Frank Thomas added a third run with an RBI 1B in the 2nd. Nick Madrigal added an RBI 1B in the 3rd, and Andrew Vaughn hit a 2-run 1B in the 4th, and the White Sox were up 7-0 after 4 innings. Dallas Keuchel had his best start in a long time, giving up only 2 hits in 6⅓ innings, one of them a solo HR to Alex Verdugo. Down 9-2 going to the 9th, the Red Sox fought back with 4 runs, but it was just not enough to overcome the White Sox in Game #2, as they got the split, and moved closer to the AL Central title, up 1 game with 4 to play.

**GAME #35 — CLE 8 @ KCR 9**

The Royals are still technically alive, but they pretty much need to win out. It started well when Salvador Perez hit an RBI 2B in the 1st inning, but Cleveland dashed their hopes with 4 runs in the 2nd and 2 more in the 3rd. Yan Gomes and Andres Gimenez both had 2 RBI, and the Guardians held a 6-1 lead. Alex Gordon hit a solo HR in the 3rd, but Cleveland added 2 more runs in the 5th, and it was 8-2. The Royals were on the verge of elimination when they woke up, scoring 2 runs in the 5th on an RBI 2B by George Brett, and 5 more runs in the 6th, highlighted by another Brett RBI 2B. Suddenly it was a 9-8 Royals lead and the crowd was in a frenzy. The season had hope again, as the bullpen pitched 4⅓ innings of shutout ball, and the Royals held on for the surprising 9-8 win.

**GAME #36 — CLE 4 @ KCR 5**

The Royals kept it going in the second game, as Whit Merrifield hit a 2-run 1B, and George Brett added a 2-run HR. Cleveland fought back in the 6th, as Jim Thome hit a 2-run HR, and Roberto Perez added an RBI 1B. Sal Perez hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 6th, which proved to be the difference, as Jose Ramirez hit a solo HR in the 7th. Again the Royals bullpen sealed the win, and Kansas City has hope going into the last 4 games, only 1 game back after winning 6 of their last 8.

**GAME #35 — MIN 8 @ DET 1**

The Twins had lost 7 in a row, and they were all but mathematically eliminated, and not they have suddenly won 6 in a row, and actually are now tied for the final AL Wild Card spot. The offense showed up big time in Detroit, and the Tigers weak pitching staff just had no chance. Kirby Puckett hit a solo HR in the 3rd, and was followed by Nelson Cruz going back-to-back. In the 4th inning Byron Buxton hit a 2-run HR, his AL leading 16th, and was followed by Josh Donaldson hitting a 3-run HR. The lead was 7-0 when Jorge Polanco added a final run with his own solo HR, and the Twins won an easy blowout 8-1. Joe Ryan gave up only 4 hits and 1 run over 7 innings.

**GAME #36 — MIN 13 @ DET 3**

The Twins kept it going in the second game, but the Tigers had hope for a bit. Miguel Sano started at DH, giving Nelson Cruz a day off, and he showed up. Sano hit a solo HR in the 2nd, and the Twins were up 1-0. Backup catcher Jake Rogers hit an unexpected 3-run HR, and the Tigers had hope. But Buxton hit a 2-run 2B in the 4th, and Miguel Sano hit a 2-run HR in the 5th. Then the big blow came as Sano hit a Grand Slam HR, his 3rd HR of the game. Luis Arraez added a 2-run 2B in the 7-run 6th inning, and the Twins won another blowout 13-3. The Twins are now tied with the Los Angeles Angels for the last playoff spot, with just 4 games to play.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • ASTROS ROAD SWEEP • RANGERS WIN 7-4 • OAKLAND WINS 4-3

**GAME #35 — TEX 3 @ OAK 4**

Oakland is another team that needs to win out. It started poorly for the A's as Sam Huff hit an RBI 2B to give the Rangers a 1-0 lead. Texas made it 2-0 in the 5th when Adolis Garcia hit a solo HR. Facing the end of their season, the A's woke up. Rickey Henderson hit a sacrifice fly in the 5th, and then Mark Canha, Ramon Laureano, and Sean Murphy all went back-to-back-to-back with 3 solo HRs to give the A's the 4-2 lead. The Rangers fought back with 1 run in the 7th, but it was not enough, and the A's survived 4-3.

**GAME #36 — TEX 7 @ OAK 4**

Texas put a stranglehold on Game #2 early, when Josh Hamilton hit a 2-run HR, and Joey Gallo hit a 3-run HR in the 5-run 1st. Hamilton added another 2-run HR in the 2nd, and it was 7-1. Sean Murphy hit a solo HR in the 2nd, Starling Marte hit a solo HR in the 3rd, and Laureano hit a solo HR in the 6th, but it was not enough as the A's fell 7-4. The A's season pretty much ended with the loss. If they win out and get massive help, they have a chance to tie, but they will regret their play down the stretch in a season that could have been.

**GAME #35 — HOU 10 @ SEA 7**

The Houston Astros are good. The Seattle Mariners started the series tied for the last playoff spot, but they couldn't overcome their division's top seed. Yordan Alvarez hit a solo HR in the 2nd, and hit another solo HR in the 4th. Kyle Lewis hit a 2-run 2B for the M's in the 2nd, and JP Crawford hit an RBI 2B in the 4th to give the M's a 3-2 lead. And then the Astros got rolling. Jeff Bagwell hit a 3-run HR, and Yuli Gurriel hit a 2-run HR in the 5-run top of the 6th. The Astros added 2 more in the 7th, and 1 more in the 8th, and went to the 9th up 10-4. Ty France hit a 3-run HR in the bottom, but it was not enough to beat Houston today.

**GAME #36 — HOU 7 @ SEA 5**

Jeff Bagwell hit a solo HR in the 1st inning, but the M's scored 3 in the bottom half. Alex Bregman hit a solo HR in the 3rd, and Martin Maldonado hit a solo HR in the 5th, and the game went tied 3-3 to the 7th inning. In the bottom of the 7th Seattle hero Ken Griffey Jr rallied the crowd with a clutch 2-run HR, giving the M's the 5-3 lead, and giving the crowd visions of being tied again for the playoff spot. But Houston is good. Fernando Rodney came into the game, and promptly loaded the bases. With 2-outs in the 9th, Carlos Correa came up and hit a 3-run bases-clearing 2B, silencing the home crowd. The M's got the winning runs on base in the bottom half, but they couldn't score, and Houston swept the Mariners in Seattle, put a big kink in the M's playoff hopes, and putting the Astros just 1 game back of the top seed. Houston has now won 10 of 12 games, while the Mariners have lost 8 of 11. With the win the Houston Astros have clinched the AL West.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • NATIONALS BLANK METS • ANGELS WIN 2-1 • PHILLIES WIN 8-4

**GAME #35 — LAA 1 @ LAD 3**

This has suddenly become the most anticipated baseball game in LA vs LA history. The Angels and the Dodgers are both surging, and both can move into their league's final playoff spot with wins. The stakes could not be higher. Julio Urias showed up big time for a big time game. After struggling in the first half, Urias has found his groove, and today he took a no-hitter into the 8th inning. Enrique Hernandez hit an RBI 1B against Patrick Sandoval in the 1st inning, and Chris Taylor hit a clutch 2-out 2-run 2B in the 6th, giving the Dodgers a 3-0. The Angels scored 1 against Urias in the 8th, but Kenley Jansen pitched the 9th without giving up a run, getting the save, and giving the Dodgers a big time win. Justin Turner went 3-4 with a 2B and 2 runs scored to lead the offense.

**GAME #36 — LAA 2 @ LAD 1**

Austin Barnes was getting a rare start at catcher, and he rewarded the Dodgers with a solo HR in the 3rd, but Garrett Richards held the Dodgers completely scoreless after that. Dustin May pitched well, giving up only 4 runs, but he gave up a 2-run 1B to Anthony Rendon in the 6th, and that was all the Angels needed. The Dodgers may have let one slip away, but they are in it with 4 games left. The Angels won a huge game for them, and are tied with the Twins for the last spot with 4 games to play.

**GAME #35 — NYM 2 @ WSH 1**

The Nationals are the surprise team of the league at this point. With just a split they would leave tied for the last spot with 4 to play. The Mets were suddenly in 1st place, and could use a win or two to stay ahead of the Braves. Marcus Stroman showed up and only gave up a solo HR to Jayson Werth in the 7th. In the top of the 7th, Francisco Lindor hit an RBI 2B off of Gio Gonzalez, and the game went tied 1-1 to the 11th inning. In the 11th Pete Alonso hit the game-winner with a solo HR, and the Mets kept hold of 1st place.

**GAME #36 — NYM 0 @ WSH 4**

The Mets didn't show up in the second game, missing chance after chance against Jordan Zimmermann. Zimmermann gave up 9 hits in 8½ innings, but the Mets just could not score. Trea Turner started it off with a solo HR in the 1st off of Taijuan Walker, Keibert Ruiz added a solo HR in the 2nd, and Ryan Zimmerman hit an RBI 2B in the 3rd, giving the Nationals a 3-0 lead. Zimmerman added an RBI 1B in the 7th, and the Nationals won 4-0, moving into a tie with the Dodgers for the last playoff spot, with just 4 games to play.

**GAME #35 — PHI 8 @ MIA 4**

With a sweep the Phillies could move into a 3-way tie for the last spot, and, likewise, with a sweep the Marlins could stay in the race, lingering 1 game back. This was a crucial series for both teams, and a very important Game #1, and the Phillies showed up. Bryce Harper hit a 2-run HR in the 1st inning, but the Marlins fought back with 3 in the bottom half, on a 2-run 1B from Garrett Cooper, and an RBI 2B from Miguel Rojas. Philadelphia tied the game in the 2nd when Matt Vierling hit an RBI 1B, but the Marlins took the lead back again on a solo HR from Jon Berti. The Phillies tied the game again in the 3rd, on a JT Realmuto sacrifice fly, and the game went 4-4 to the 6th. In the 6th inning Vierling hit a 2B, Rhys Hoskins hit an RBI 2B, and Harper hit an RBI 2B, giving the Phillies a 6-4 lead. The Phillies added two more runs in the 9th when Realmuto and Lenny Dykstra went back-to-back with solo HRs, and the Phillies won 8-4.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • LEE SIX-HIT SHUTOUT • SCHWARBER WALK-OFF • BREWERS SCORE TEN

**GAME #36 — PHI 3 @ MIA 0**

The Marlins were desperate to win out, and Pablo Lopez pitched a strong game, but the Phillies couldn't get anything going against Cliff Lee. Lee pitched a 6-hit complete-game shutout, and the Phillies won easily. Ryan Howard hit a solo HR in the 4th, and Jean Segura hit a 2-run 2B in the 7th, and the Phillies took care of business. The Marlins are eliminated from the race, and the Phillies are suddenly right in the middle of the drama for the last 4 games, in an epic 4-way tie for the last playoff spots.

**GAME #35 — ATL 2 @ CHC 3**

This had become suddenly a crucially important series for the Atlanta Braves. Facing the spoiler Cubs in Chicago, a sweep could put them into a tie for 1st place in the NL East, and a sweep in the wrong way would put them into a 4-way tie for the last NL Wild Card spot. The whole season was suddenly riding on this series for the Braves, while the Cubs could really actually play the role of spoiler. The Braves looked like a lock for the playoffs halfway through the season, before losing 7 of their last 8. Anthony Rizzo hit an RBI 2B in the 1st, and the Braves began to stress. They tied the game in the 4th on an RBI 1B from Ozzie Albies, but the Cubs took the lead back in the 5th on a Kyle Schwarber sacrifice fly. The Braves tied the game again in the 7th on a Freddie Freeman RBI 1B, but again the Cubs took the lead back in the bottom half, on an RBI 1B from Ryne Sandberg, and the Cubs won 3-2, officially spoiling the Braves hopes for the division title.

**GAME #36 — ATL 4 @ CHC 5**

Next up for the Cubs was spoiling the Braves' Wild Card hopes, and Kyle Schwarber and Sammy Sosa hit solo HRs in the 1st inning, and the Cubs were up 2-0, and again the Braves were playing with maximum pressure. Ozzie Albies hit a clutch 2-run HR to tie the game in the 3rd, but yet again the spoiling Cubs took the lead back immediately, as Sammy Sosa hit a 2-run HR, his second of the game. The Cubs took a 4-2 lead to the 6th, and again the Braves tied the game, this time on back-to-back clutch solo HRs from Fred McGriff and Austin Riley. The Braves had life again, and both bullpens pitched dominant baseball, until the bottom of the 12th, when Schwarber hit a game-winning walk-off RBI 2B, giving the Cubs the sweep, and sending the Atlanta Braves to their 9th loss in the last 10 games. The Braves are suddenly in the 4-way tie for the last 2 spots, and after playing from ahead all season, they are now facing maximum pressure over the last 4 games. It has been a shocking slump at exactly the wrong time.

**GAME #35 — MIL 10 @ PIT 3**

The Brewers suddenly had a great chance to make a push. Facing the weak Pirates, the Brewers had high hopes for a sweep. It went well in Game #1. It was a 0-0 game going into the 4th, but the Brewers put up 7 runs against JT Brubaker. Ryan Braun had an RBI 1B, Willy Adames hit a 2-run 2B, Jonathan Lucroy hit a 2-run 1B, and Paul Molitor and Robin Yount added RBI 1B, and when the dust settled the Brewers had a 7-0 lead. The Pirates fought back with 3 runs, but the Brewers added 3 runs, and it was an easy 10-3 win for Milwaukee. Freddy Peralta pitched 5 innings and only gave up 2 hits and 2 runs to earn the win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • CRONENWORTH SLAM • MORNEAU WALK-OFF HIT • REDS SCORE TEN

**GAME #36 — MIL 1 @ PIT 6**

The Brewers will look back on this game when the season ends as the one that got away. Facing a weak pitcher in Mitch Keller, but the almost got no-hit. Keller didn't give up a hit until the 7th innings, and didn't give up a run until there were 2 outs in the 9th, when Ryan Braun hit a solo HR. Ke'Bryan Hayes had an RBI 1B in the 1st inning and scored on a Gregory Polanco RBI 2B. Roberto Clemente hit an RBI 3B in the 5th, and a 2-run 1B in the 7th, and Oneil Cruz hit a solo HR in the 8th in the Pirates 6-1 win. The Brewers enter the last 4 games 1 game back, but they have a cluster of teams ahead of them.

**GAME #35 — CIN 1 @ STL 3**

The Reds came into St. Louis winners of 5 of their last 6, and within grasp of a playoff spot. The Cardinals were hosting with a chance to move closer to a division title, and are now looking at a 1st round bye in the playoffs. It started well for the Cardinals when Kolton Wong hit a leadoff solo HR off of Tyler Mahle. The Reds tied the game in the 4th off of Kwang-Hyun Kim, but Wong hit a 2-run 1B in the bottom half of the 4th, and that was all St. Louis needed. Kim shut down the Reds, and the bullpen took it home, and the Cardinals won 3-1, moving into a tie with the Mets for the bye.

**GAME #36 — CIN 10 @ STL 3**

The Reds needed a win, which would put them in the big tie for the last spots, and they got it. Anthony DeSclafani pitched well, only giving up an RBI 1B to Nolan Arenado in the 3rd. Down 1-0 going into the 5th, looking at the season slipping away, the Reds roared back with a 7-run inning. Adam Duvall hit a clutch 2-run HR to take the lead, and Barry Larkin hit a solo HR. Eugenio Suarez added an RBI 1B, and Tyler Stephenson hit a 3-run HR to finish the scoring spree. Nick Castellanos hit a 3-run HR in the 6th, and the Reds finished the split, and moved into a tie for the last spot, with just 4 games to play.

**GAME #35 — SDP 14 @ COL 2**

The Padres, holders of the top seed all season, are suddenly looking up at the San Francisco Giants, and needed a sweep in Colorado. It started well with Fernando Tatis Jr hit a solo HR off of Jon Gray to give the Padres a 1-0 lead. In the 3rd inning San Diego took control when Dave Winfield hit a 3-run HR, and Wil Myers went back-to-back with a solo HR. Ryan McMahon hit a solo HR in the 3rd, and Andres Galarraga hit a solo HR in the 4th, but that was all Mike Clevinger would give up. In the 5th the Padres scored 5 more runs, and finished the job, highlighted by a Jake Cronenworth Grand Slam HR. CJ Abrams added a 2-run 3B to put the icing on the cake, and the Padres kept the pressure on the Giants with a 14-2 blowout win.

**GAME #36 — SDP 5 @ COL 6**

The Padres could stay within striking distance of the Giants with a win, and it looked good much of the game. Francisco Mejia hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd, but Connor Joe hit a solo HR in the 3rd, Andres Galarraga hit a solo HR in the 4th, and Tom Murphy hit a 2-run 2B after that to give the Rockies a 4-2 lead. Cronenworth hit an RBI 3B in the 5th to make it 4-3 and then Manny Machado hit a 2-run HR in the 8th. The Padres took a 5-4 lead to the bottom of the 9th and turned the game over to their closer, Kirby Yates. Yates proceeded to give up a 1B to David Dahl, a 2B to Carlos Gonzalez, and a game-winning walk-off 2-run 1B by Justin Morneau.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • GIANTS CLINCH BERTH • BELT WALK-OFF HR • WEBB SIX SCORELESS

**GAME #35 — ARI 0 @ SFG 9**

The San Francisco Giants could clinch a playoff spot with a win, and they did. Logan Webb pitched 6 shutout innings, and the Giants offense had quite a day. Will Clark and Barry Bonds had RBI 1Bs in the 2nd inning, and Brandon Crawford hit an RBI 2B, Joey Bart hit an RBI 3B, and Mike Yastrzemski hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd inning, and the Giants were up 5-0. Bonds hit a 2-run HR in the 6th, and is closing in on the NL MVP award. Wilmer Flores hit a solo HR in the 7th, and Steven Duggar hit a pinch-hit RBI 2B in the 8th. The Giants won 9-0, secured a playoff spot, and moved into position to claim the NL West title, holding a 2-game lead with 4 games to play.

**GAME #36 — ARI 5 @ SFG 6**

The Giants were due a letdown after a rousing Game #1 victory, and were losing 5-0 in the 6th inning. Eric Chavez hit a solo HR in the 2nd off of Johnny Cueto, and Daulton Varsho hit a solo HR in the 2-run 3rd inning. Carson Kelly hit a 2-run HR in the 6th, and the Diamondbacks were closing in on the win, when the Giants came back. Brandon Belt hit an RBI 2B, and Wilmer Flores hit an RBI 1B in the 6th, and LaMonte Wade hit a 2-run HR, and Darren Ruf hit a solo HR in the 7th, and the game was suddenly tied. The game went 5-5 to the bottom of the 9th when Brandon Belt hit a game-winning walk-off solo HR. The Giants are closing in on the #1 seed in the NL playoffs.

## MLBC — WEEK 10

GAMES 37-40 • FINAL WEEK

## THE FINAL FOUR GAMES

*Division titles flip, seasons end by inches, and Philadelphia completes an eight-game charge.*

**THE LEAD** Four games remained, and almost nothing was settled. San Francisco held the best record and a three-game lead in the West. Boston led the AL East at 24-12. Houston and San Diego were 23-13. The AL Central still had Chicago at 21-15, Cleveland at 20-16 and Minnesota at 19-17. The NL East belonged to the Mets at 21-15, but five clubs sat at 19-17 behind the broader playoff line. St. Louis led the NL Central by two games. Every scoreboard mattered. There was no scoreboard a contender could safely ignore.

**THE WEEK** Then the standings detonated. Philadelphia swept the Mets in Queens and Washington at home, finishing the season on an eight-game winning streak. Ryan Howard drove in nine during the week and ended Game #40 with a walk-off, division-clinching 2-run HR. Milwaukee was just as ruthless, sweeping St. Louis and Cincinnati; Jonathan Lucroy's 9th-inning walk-off 2B clinched the NL Central. Cleveland and Chicago finished tied at 22-18, with the Guardians taking the division on the tiebreaker after Kansas City swept the White Sox in Chicago. The sweep was damaging as Chicago needed a win and watched a division title slip away. Houston supplied another late escape against Texas to win 7-5, and secured the AL West title the game after. The Angels won three of four, including Shohei Ohtani's 3-hit, 12-strikeout shutout in Seattle, then clinched the final AL spot in Oakland. Even eliminated Pittsburgh found one last note to keep, sweeping Chicago for its first sweep of the season. San Francisco finished 28-12, Boston 27-13 and Houston 25-15.

**THE STAKES** The regular season is over, and October finally has names. Boston and Houston earn the American League byes; San Francisco and Philadelphia earn them in the National League. The Wild Card round sends the Angels to New York, the White Sox to Cleveland, St. Louis to San Diego and the Mets to Milwaukee. The Padres are 25-15 yet must start in the Wild Card round because San Francisco took the West. Philadelphia, once 1-7, is now the NL East champion and the hottest team in baseball. Forty games did not merely produce a bracket. They produced four elimination series with arguments already attached to every one.

|                            |                            |                              |                                  |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| BEST RECORD<br>SFG • 28-12 | FINISH<br>PHI • 8 straight | CLINCHERS<br>Howard / Lucroy | PLAYOFF FIELD<br>12 clubs remain |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|

## WEEKLY HONORS

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>HITTER OF THE WEEK</b><br><b>GOLD RYAN HOWARD (2) • PHI</b><br>3 HR • 9 RBI • <i>division-clinching walk-off</i><br><b>SILVER ONEIL CRUZ • PIT</b><br>3 HR • 7 RBI<br><b>BRONZE HUNTER RENFROE • TBR</b><br>2 HR • 5 RBI in the finale | <b>PITCHER OF THE WEEK</b><br><b>GOLD SHOHEI OHTANI • LAA</b><br>CG SHO • 3 H • 12 K<br><b>SILVER MADISON BUMGARNER • SFG</b><br>CG SHO • 4 H • 11 K<br><b>BRONZE JOHN MEANS • BAL</b><br>CG SHO • 3 H • <i>no-hitter into the 8th</i> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • JUDGE WALK-OFF HR • SEMIEN GRAND SLAM • BOSTON WINS 7-2

## ROUND #19

## GAME #37 — TOR 3 @ NYY 5

Here we go. Much will be decided in this round. The Blue Jays are clinging to the slimmest of hopes, needing to win out, and have everyone else lose out. Regardless, they needed a win in Game #1 against the Yankees, in New York, against Gerrit Cole, a tall task indeed. It started well, as George Springer came up to bat in the 4th. Cole was pitching a perfect game into the 4th when Springer hit a 1B, and Jose Bautista connected for a clutch 2-run HR, giving the Blue Jays and Hyun Jin Ryu the lead. Ryu kept the Yankees at bay, until the 6th inning, when Alex Rodriguez hit a 2-run HR to tie the game, and Giancarlo Stanton hit a solo HR to take the 3-2 lead. The Blue Jays were down to their last 9 outs on the season, but Bo Bichette stepped up and hit a clutch solo HR off of Gerrit Cole, tying the game 3-3. The game went to the 10th inning when Roberto Alomar got a 1B off of Aroldis Chapman and stole 2nd base. But the Blue Jays couldn't score him, and the game went to the bottom of the 10th. Pinch-hitter Hideki Matsui drew a walk against Jordan Romano, and Aaron Judge, mired in a season-long slump, stepped up and ended the Blue Jays season with a game-winning walk-off 2-run HR.

## GAME #38 — TOR 18 @ NYY 4

The Toronto Blue Jays, after being officially eliminated, emptied their bench, and took out all of their frustrations on a lost season on the Yankees. Kevin Pillar hit an RBI 2B in the 2nd, and Aaron Judge hit a 2-run HR to give the Yankees a 2-1 lead. The Blue Jays scored 3 in the 5th when Cavan Biggio hit a solo HR, and John Olerud, Vladimir Guerrero Jr, and Randal Grichuk all hit 2Bs. Leading 4-2 in the 6th, the Blue Jays unloaded for 7 runs, highlighted by a Marcus Semien Grand Slam HR. George Springer added a solo HR in the 7th, and John Olerud hit a Grand Slam HR in the 6-run 8th, the Blue Jays 6th Grand Slam of the year. When the dust settled, the Blue Jays scored 18 runs, putting an exclamation point on a lost season. At the end of the day, the Blue Jays pitching staff was never good enough for serious contention, and will hopefully be addressed in the offseason. With the loss the Yankees lost hope to tie for the AL East title. The Red Sox can win the division with just 1 win at home against the Rays.

## GAME #37 — TBR 2 @ BOS 7

The Tampa Bay Rays came into Boston all but mathematically eliminated. They would need to sweep the Red Sox in Boston to start with, and they had to face Chris Sale. A subplot was certainly the AL Cy Young race, as it seems Sale has lost it to Tyler Glasnow. The Red Sox could take out Glasnow by lighting him up, and that was certainly on their mind. But it was easier said than done. It started well for the Rays when Hunter Renfroe hit a solo HR in the 2nd inning off of Chris Sale, but that was the only hit the Rays would get in 8 innings off of Sale. Glasnow was not at his best, and gave up the lead in the bottom half of the 2nd inning with RBI 1Bs from Wade Boggs and Dustin Pedroia. Xander Bogaerts hit an RBI 2B in the 5th, and JD Martinez hit a 3-run HR in the 6th, perhaps solidifying himself as the AL MVP. Boggs added another RBI 1B in the 8th, and the Red Sox won 7-2. With the win, the Boston Red Sox won the AL East division title. The Tampa Bay Rays were officially eliminated with the loss. Even with the loss, Tyler Glasnow should end up the AL Cy Young award winner, unless Justin Verlander pitches another gem.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • MEANS THREE-HITTER • ORIOLES HOME SWEEP • RED SOX WIN 9-4

**GAME #38 — TBR 4 @ BOS 9**

The Boston Red Sox are getting ready for the playoffs. They scored 2 in the 1st inning, on an RBI 1B from JD Martinez, and an RBI 3B from Bobby Dalbec, and 2 more in the 2nd, on a 2-run 2B from Wade Boggs. The Rays fought back with 4 runs in the 3rd on an RBI 1B from Brandon Lowe, and a 3-run HR by Hunter Renfroe. But the Red Sox are rolling, and they put up 5 more runs in the 5th to make it a blowout win. Dalbec hit a solo HR, Jarren Duran hit an RBI 1B, and Boggs hit a 3-run HR to finish it off. The Red Sox secured a 1st round bye, and the only thing left is to get the top seed and the home field advantage. With another strong series JD Martinez will be the runaway winner of the AL MVP. The Rays have a lot of young talent, and they will turn their focus to preparing for next season.

**GAME #37 — CLE 0 @ BAL 3**

Baltimore gets to attempt to be spoilers, but the Cleveland Guardians have a lot riding on this series. Holding only a 1-game lead in the AL Wild Card race, and only 1 game back of the White Sox for the AL Central title, the Guardians were in the most important series of their season. John Means was the one who showed up. Corey Kluber gave up an RBI 1B to Anthony Santander in the 3rd, and a 2-run 2B to DJ Stewart in the 6th, and John Means didn't give up a hit until the 8th inning. Means flirted with a no-hitter, ending up with a 3-hit complete-game shutout. The Guardians are suddenly facing a must-win game.

**GAME #38 — CLE 7 @ BAL 10**

The Cleveland Guardians are in a slump at the worst time. This marked their 6th loss in their last 8 games, and now they are simply fighting for a wild card spot. It started well when Roberto Perez hit a 2-run HR, and Shane Bieber gave up only 1 hit over the first 3 innings. In the 4th Perez had another RBI, and Cleveland was ahead 3-0. In the 4th the O's got to Bieber when Anthony Santander hit a solo HR, and Ryan Mountcastle hit a 2-run HR to tie the game. Cleveland surged back in the 5th when Tyler Naquin hit an RBI 1B, and Josh Naylor hit a 2-run 1B, and Cleveland thought they had weathered the storm. But it was not Shane Bieber's day. In the bottom of the 6th the O's scored 4 runs, highlighted by an Adley Rutschman 2-run 1B, and in the 7th the O's scored 3 more runs, on a Rutschman 3-run HR. The Guardians were stunned, and swept in Baltimore in their most important series of the season. They will now have to travel to Minnesota and look for a sweep to make the playoffs. The Guardians have really tailed off in the 2nd half, losing 11 of their last 18 games. The Baltimore Orioles suddenly have hope for next season with a lot of young talent, having gone .500 over their last 20 games.

**GAME #37 — DET 4 @ CHW 9**

The White Sox host the Tigers, and can claim the AL Central title with a sweep at home. It started well as Tim Anderson hit a leadoff solo HR, and Frank Thomas followed him with another solo HR, giving the White Sox a 2-0 lead. Anderson added an RBI 1B in the 2nd, and then an RBI 2B in the 3-run 6th. Jose Abreu followed him with a 2-run 1B, and it was 7-0. Lucas Giolito pitched great, not giving up a run until a Willi Castro RBI 1B in the 7th. The White Sox ended up winning easily 9-4, moving 1 win away from the AL Central title.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • TWINS HOME SWEEP • TIGERS WIN 2-1 • MINNESOTA WINS 7-4

**GAME #38 — DET 2 @ CHW 1**

Casey Mize has been pitching well, and did so again, shutting down the White Sox, giving up only 1 run over 7 innings. A solo HR from Adam Engal was all the White Sox could muster against Mize. Jeimer Candelario hit a solo HR in the 2nd, and Spencer Torkelson hit an RBI 1B in the 6th, and that was all the Tigers would need in their 2-1 win. It was only the 3rd time all season the Tigers have allowed 1 run or less.

**GAME #37 — KCR 3 @ MIN 4**

This was basically a playoff series. Both teams came into the series fighting for the last playoff spot. Being down a game, the Royals needed a sweep, in Minnesota. A split would keep the Twins tied for the spot, but would still feel like a disappointment with this chance in front of them to control their own fate. It started well for the Twins when Joe Mauer hit a 2-run HR off of Brad Keller in the 1st inning. The Royals were looking at the end of their season, and fought back with an RBI 1B from Andrew Benintendi off of Jose Berrios in the 2nd, and a clutch solo HR from Jorge Soler in the 4th to tie the game at 2-2. Brad Keller didn't allow another hit after the Mauer HR until the 7th inning, when he gave up singles to Josh Donaldson and Jorge Polanco, and in came Wade Davis. Davis gave up an RBI 1B to Max Kepler and walked in a run with Joe Mauer, and the Twins were up 4-2, needing just 6 more outs. The Royals made a threat in the 9th, scoring 1 run on a Benintendi RBI 1B, but that was all, and the Royals lost 4-3. The Twins moved one huge step closer to securing a playoff spot, now tied in the race. The Royals need to win out and have everyone else lose. With the win, Jose Berrios finishes the season at 8-1.

**GAME #38 — KCR 4 @ MIN 7**

The Royals responded in Game #2 as Salvador Perez hit a 2-run 2B off of Kenta Maeda in the 3rd, and Andrew Benintendi hit a solo HR in the 4th, and the Royals were up 3-0. But the Twins came back in the bottom of the 4th. Josh Donaldson hit a solo, and then AL MVP candidate Byron Buxton hit a 3-run HR, his league-leading 17th on the season, and suddenly the Twins were ahead 4-3. But the lead didn't last long, as Whit Merrifield hit a solo HR in the top of the 5th, and the game was tied again, 4-4. But that lead didn't last long, as Nelson Cruz took the lead right back in the bottom half of the 5th with a 2-run HR, and the Twins were closing in on the sweep. Nelson Cruz added an RBI 2B in the 6th, and with the 7-4 lead for the Twins, the Royals were down to their last 9 outs on the season. The Twins bullpen came in and got all 9 outs. The Royals had won 6 of 8 to make a last surge, but the Twins swept them and ended their run. The Twins have now won 8 in a row, moving into a prime position to secure a spot. A crucial series with the Cleveland Guardians awaits. With the 8 game-winning streak, suddenly the AL Central title is still in play with a sweep of the Guardians.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • OHTANI SHUTOUT • OAKLAND HOME SWEEP • MARINERS WIN 8-4

**GAME #37 — HOU 4 @ OAK 5**

1 win would give the Houston Astros the AL West title, and send the Oakland Athletics into the offseason. The A's were hoping for a sweep to keep their slim hopes alive. If they win out and get some help, the A's could still make it. But the chances were slim, especially as they were facing Justin Verlander. It did not start well for the A's as Alex Bregman hit a 2-run HR off of Chris Bassitt in the 1st inning, but Matt Olson cut the lead in half with a solo HR in the bottom half. Kyle Tucker added an RBI 1B in the 5th, and Martin Maldonado hit a solo HR in the 8th. Going into the bottom of the 8th the A's were down 4-1, with 6 outs left for their season. Verlander tired and gave up 1Bs to Matt Olson and Matt Chapman, and the Astros brought in Ken Giles. Giles proceeded to give up an RBI 2B to Mark Canha, and then Ramon Laureano had the biggest hit of the A's season, an ultra-clutch 3-run HR to win the game. Jake Diekman shut down the Astros in the 9th, and the A's lived to fight another day.

**GAME #38 — HOU 3 @ OAK 10**

Here come the A's. Matt Olson started it off with a sacrifice fly off of Joe Musgrove in the 1st, and then in the 2nd inning, Tony Kemp hit a 3-run HR. Jose Altuve tried to fight back with a solo HR in the 3rd, but it was not enough as Ramon Laureano hit a 2-run HR, and Chad Pinder hit a 3-run HR in the 5-run 5th. Musgrove had walked 7, and at this point the A's had 10 runs on 5 hits, 3 of which were home runs. The A's were determined to not have their season end today, and the Astros will have to wait to clinch the AL West title if the Angels lose a game in Seattle. The road sweep also brought back into play the second playoff bye, as the White Sox are 1 game back with 2 to play. The A's will need to sweep the Angels at home, but they still have hope. With the Astros loss, the Boston Red Sox have clinched the home field advantage throughout the playoffs.

**GAME #37 — LAA 4 @ SEA 0**

This matchup is effectively a playoff series. The Mariners needed a home sweep to tie for the last spot, while the Angels with a sweep could move 1 game ahead of Cleveland with 2 to play. A split would keep the Oakland Athletics in the mix. The matchup between aces Felix Hernandez and Shohei Ohtani had the crowd buzzing. Hernandez gave up the first run in the 4th, on a David Fletcher RBI 1B, and the again in the 5th, on an Albert Pujols RBI 2B. Ohtani made the most of the 2-0 lead, and shutdown the M's with a 3-hit complete-game shutout, striking out 12. Justin Upton hit a 2-run HR in the 8th to seal the 4-0 win, moving the Angels 1 game closer to the playoffs. The Angels are now tied for the last playoff spot.

**GAME #38 — LAA 4 @ SEA 8**

The Angels scored first again on an Albert Pujols solo HR off of Marco Gonzales, and the Mariners had their backs against the wall. And they responded. Mitch Haniger had the biggest hit of the Seattle season with a clutch 3-run HR off of Andrew Heaney in the 2nd. The game went 3-1 to the 7th, and the M's scored again, on a Ken Griffey Jr RBI 1B. With a 4-1 lead in the 8th inning, it looked like the M's were going to secure the split, but the Angels came back. Shohei Ohtani hit a 2-run HR, and then Justin Upton hit an RBI 2B with 2 outs. Suddenly the game was tied 4-4. But the Angels weak spot is their bullpen, and they let the lead slip away. The M's put 6 consecutive base runners on in a 4-run bottom of the 8th, and they were able to secure the split, staying alive in the playoff race. The Mariners win will mean the playoff race will go down to the last series of the season, with five teams alive for 2 spots.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • BELTRE GRAND SLAM • GREINKE SHUTOUT • MARLINS WIN 2-1

**GAME #37 — ARI 6 @ TEX 13**

This was one of the few series with teams out of the race. Both teams were finishing the season, looking forward to next season, however this was one of the exciting games this round. Daulton Varsho hit a leadoff solo HR, and Ketel Marte hit a 2-run HR, in the 3-run 1st inning. Geraldo Perdomo got out of his slump, and hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd, and up 4-0, the Diamondbacks thought they might win this one behind Robbie Ray. But the Rangers unloaded in the 2nd, scoring 7 runs. It started with a solo HR from Juan Gonzalez, and it finished with a Grand Slam HR by Adrian Beltre. Isiah Kiner-Falefa hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd, and the rout was on. Sam Huff added a 2-run HR in the 7th, and the Rangers won 13-6.

**GAME #38 — ARI 7 @ TEX 0**

Zack Greinke had his best start of the season, completely shutting down the Rangers with a 3-hit complete-game shutout. Nick Ahmed hit a 3-run HR in the 4-run 2nd, and Ketel Marte hit a solo HR and Eduardo Escobar hit a 2-run HR in the 3-run 7th. The Diamondbacks cruised to an easy win, snapping their eight-game losing streak.

**GAME #37 — MIA 2 @ ATL 1**

The Braves are in a free-fall, and Jose Fernandez shut them down again. With this loss, the Braves have now lost 10 of their last 11 games. Fernandez gave up just 3 hits, and the only run a solo HR to Ozzie Albies. It was a close game throughout, but the Braves just couldn't get the big hit. Jazz Chisholm had an RBI 1B, and Lewis Brinson had an RBI 2B, both in the 5th inning off of Charlie Morton, and that was all the Marlins would need.

**GAME #38 — MIA 1 @ ATL 8**

The Atlanta Braves finally woke up in Game #2. Freddie Freeman hit an RBI 3B and Chipper Jones hit an RBI 2B in the Braves 3-run 1st. Fred McGriff hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd, and Jones hit a 2-run HR in the 6th, and the Braves routed Sandy Alcantara and the Marlins 8-1. Max Fried pitched well in his last start of the regular season, giving up only 1 run and 3 hits over 6 innings.

**GAME #37 — PHI 3 @ NYM 2**

This was a chance for the Mets to close the door on the NL East. A sweep would give them the title. But it was not to be. Zack Wheeler outdueled Jacob deGrom, and the Phillies played incredibly clutch baseball. Francisco Lindor hit a leadoff HR in the bottom of the 1st, but that was the only run they would get off of Wheeler. Ryan Howard connected for a solo HR off of deGrom, and Bryson Stott hit a clutch 2-out RBI 1B after Jean Segura stole 2nd base. The game went 2-1 to the 9th when the Phillies got an insurance run on a Rhys Hoskins RBI 2B. It was needed as the Mets rallied on a Mike Piazza solo HR, but that was as close as the Mets would get, losing 3-2.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • ARCHER FANS ELEVEN • PIRATES ROAD SWEEP • PHILLIES WIN 3-2

**GAME #38 — PHI 3 @ NYM 2**

Aaron Nola pitched a gem, and the Phillies are suddenly tied for the NL East title. This was unthinkable early in the season, but the Phillies have clawed all the back to the top. Bryson Stott hit an RBI 2B off of Noah Syndergaard in the 2-run 3rd, and the Phillies to the 2-0 lead all the way to the 8th. Again the Phillies added a late insurance run, and again it mattered. Bryce Harper hit a clutch 2-out RBI 2B, and the Phillies handed over a 3-0 lead to closer Jonathan Papelbon. The Mets, however, were determined to fight back. After scoring 1 run, David Wright hit an RBI 2B, making it 3-2, putting the tying runner on 3rd, and representing the winning run on 2nd. But Papelbon got Lindor and Jeff McNeil, and suddenly the Phillies had secured the sweep, and tied the Mets for the NL East title.

**GAME #37 — CIN 2 @ WSH 5**

Here we go with another playoff series. Both teams are in a dogfight for the last playoff spot. The problem for the Reds was the fact that they had to face both Max Scherzer and Stephen Strasburg, the top 2 pitchers in the NL. Max Scherzer did his part. Scherzer showed up and clinched the NL Cy Young award giving up only 3 hits and 2 runs over 7 innings, earning his 8th win. Daniel Murphy hit a sacrifice fly in the 1st, and Keibert Ruiz and Trea Turner had RBI 2Bs in the 3-run 4th. The Reds fought back with RBI 1Bs by Barry Larkin and Joey Votto, but it was not enough. The Nationals won 5-2 and moved closer to the playoffs.

**GAME #38 — CIN 4 @ WSH 3**

Washington led one get away. Howie Kendrick hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd to take the 1-0 lead. Joey Votto tied the game with a solo HR in the 5th, but the Nationals took the lead right back with a 2-run 1B from Daniel Murphy. Leading 3-1 going into the 9th inning, the Reds were desperate, and Adam Duvall hit a clutch 2-run HR to tie the game. Eugenio Suarez hit a solo HR in the 10th, and the Reds came back to save their season from the brink, and the Nationals let one get away. Strasburg gave up only 1 run over 7 innings, but did not get the win. The season for both teams will go down to the last series.

**GAME #37 — PIT 11 @ CHC 0**

These two teams are able to showcase a few younger players in the hopes of getting a head-start on next season. Today's game went in opposite directions, as Chris Archer completely shut down the Cubs, pitching a 3-hit complete-game shutout gem, with 11 strikeouts and just 1 walk. Oneil Cruz hit a 3-run HR in the 6-run 1st, and added an RBI 2B in the 4th. Roberto Clemente went 4-5 with 2 RBI, and Josh Bell hit a 2-run HR in the 8th, leading the way for the blowout 11-0 win.

**GAME #38 — PIT 5 @ CHC 2**

The Cubs struck first in the second game, with rookie Alfonso Rivas hitting a 2-run 2B, for a 2-0 lead. Wade Miley took a shutout into the 6th inning, but the lead would not hold. Josh Bell hit another HR, making it 2-1. In the 7th rookies Jack Suwinski and Rodolfo Castro both had RBI, and Clemente sealed it with an RBI 2B. Jameson Taillon didn't give up a run after the 1st inning, and the Pirates won 5-2, getting the road sweep, gaining a little momentum for next year. It was the Pirates first sweep of the season.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • GALARRAGA WALK-OFF • BREWERS ROAD SWEEP • BREWERS WIN 9-2

**GAME #37 — MIL 7 @ STL 5**

The Brewers have a very tough task ahead of them. They were stuck in a group of five teams fighting for just 1 spot, and they are on the road facing the 1st place St. Louis Cardinals. But they did have their aces Corbin Burnes and Brandon Woodruff, and they did have a chance. And they made the most of it. Tyrone Taylor showed up, hitting a 2-run 2B off of Jack Flaherty in the 3-run 4th, and an RBI 2B in the 6th. Burnes gave up a 2-run HR to Kolton Wong in the 5th, but that was all the Cardinals would get until the 8th. In the 7th the Brewers added 3 runs on a 2-run HR from Robin Yount, and a solo HR from Rowdy Tellez. The Cardinals made a game of it with 3 in the bottom of the 8th, on an RBI 1B from Wong, and a 2-run HR from Paul Goldschmidt, but Josh Hader came in and shut the door.

**GAME #38 — MIL 9 @ STL 2**

The Brewers didn't waste any time sweating this must-win game. Christian Yelich hit a 3-run HR off of Adam Wainwright, and Tyrone Taylor added a 2-run HR in the Brewers' 5-run 1st. Paul Goldschmidt added an RBI 2B in the 3rd, and Mark McGwire hit a solo HR in the 4th, but the Brewers were not going to be denied the sweep. Willy Adames and Taylor hit RBI 1Bs, and Paul Molitor added the final blow with a 2-run 1B in the 4-run 5th. The Brewers cruised to a 9-2 win, and getting the road sweep in the most important series of the season. Suddenly the NL Central title is in doubt for the Cardinals, as their lead is down to 1 game over the Reds and Brewers. Thankfully the Cardinals face the rebuilding Cubs, and the Reds and Brewers face each other.

**GAME #37 — LAD 5 @ COL 6**

The Dodgers came into Colorado with quite a chance. A sweep would put them into the last playoff spot, 1 game ahead of the 4 other teams competing for it. Normally a team can't exactly go on the road looking for a sweep, but the Dodgers had their 2 aces pitching against a weak and rebuilding Rockies team. If ever there was a chance, this was it. The Dodgers took advantage immediately, as Mookie Betts and Max Muncy led off the game with back-to-back solo HRs, and the Dodgers were up 2-0 before the first out was made. Clayton Kershaw didn't give up his first hit until the 4th inning, but ran into trouble in the 5th, when the Rockies scored 1 on a Brendan Rodgers RBI 1B. Will Smith got the run right back in the top of the 6th with a solo HR, but the Rockies got 1 back in bottom of the 7th when Corey Dickerson hit an RBI 2B. The game went 3-2 to the bottom of the 9th, and with 2 outs David Dahl hit a game-tying solo HR off of Kenley Jansen. It could have been a crushing blow to the Dodgers, but the rallied to score 2 runs in the 12th. Alex Wood was given the chance to save the game, but he couldn't. Once again the Rockies rallied as Ryan McMahon hit a game tying 2-run HR, and then Andres Galarraga hit a game-winning walk-off RBI 2B after 2 walks. It was a crushing blow to the Dodgers, and it puts their season on the brink. The Rockies got to have their moment of the season playing spoiler, sending the crowd home with a win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • BUMGARNER SHUTOUT • MACHADO GRAND SLAM • DODGERS WIN 5-4

**GAME #38 — LAD 5 @ COL 4**

The desperate Dodgers squandered a chance in the top of the 1st, and then Walker Buehler gave up a leadoff solo HR by Raimel Tapia. But the Dodgers struck back immediately with 3 runs in the 2nd, highlighted by an RBI 2B from Mookie Betts. Chris Taylor added a 2-run HR in the 4th, but the Rockies rallied for 2 runs in the bottom half. The game went 5-3 to the bottom of the 5th, when David Dahl hit an RBI 1B, making it 5-4. and that would be the final. The Dodgers bullpen shut down the Rockies, and the Dodgers got the split, but thought about what could have been. They will now have to travel to San Francisco and need to sweep their rivals on the road. The Game #1 loss to the Rockies will likely haunt the Dodgers the entire offseason.

**GAME #37 — SDP 0 @ SFG 6**

The San Francisco Giants and the San Diego Padres have a chance to duel head-to-head for the NL West division title. Madison Bumgarner and Yu Darvish got to pitch for their teams in the biggest game of the year. The Giants got to Darvish immediately with 2 runs in the 1st inning, and Bumgarner pitched his finest game of the season, a 4-hit complete-game shutout, striking out 11, while walking just 2. Barry Bonds and Brandon Belt hit RBI 2Bs in the 1st, and Brandon Crawford and Mike Yastrzemski hit RBI 2Bs in the 4th. Buster Posey added an RBI 1B in the 7th, and the Giants cruised to an easy 6-0 win behind Madison Bumgarner's gem. The Giants are 1 win away from the NL West title.

**GAME #38 — SDP 7 @ SFG 4**

It was oh so close for the Giants. Wilmer Flores hit an RBI 1B in the 4th, and the Giants took the 1-0 lead to the 6th. Kevin Gausman was cruising along having only given up 2 hits over 5 innings, but he loaded the bases, and then Manny Machado had the biggest hit of the Padres season, a Grand Slam HR. Blake Snell shut down the Giants, giving up only 2 runs over 6 innings, and the Padres went on to win 7-4. The Padres are still alive for the NL West title, with a sweep at home over the Diamondbacks, and a road sweep from the Dodgers in San Francisco. With any win or Padres loss, the Giants will secure the top seed in the NL, and the home field advantage throughout the playoffs.

**ROUND #20****GAME #39 — BAL 2 @ TOR 6**

And so the season ends. Both teams come in already eliminated, playing only for pride and rivalry, and to prepare for next season. The Blue Jays chose to give young right-hander Nate Pearson the start. The Orioles chose their young right-hander, prized prospect Grayson Rodriguez for the start. Pearson went 5 innings and gave up only 3 hits and 1 run, an RBI 1B by Cedric Mullins, scoring Austin Hays after his 2B. Rodriguez pitched 5 innings and gave up 5 hits and 2 runs on a 2-run 1B by Randal Grichuk. The game went to the 6th where the Blue Jays broke the game open with an RBI 2B from Kevin Pillar, and a 3-run HR from Alejandro Kirk. Chris Davis hit a solo HR in the 9th, but it was not enough as the Orioles lost to the Blue Jays 6-2.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • BLUE JAYS WIN 2-1 • BOSTON WINS 8-3 • YANKEES WIN 6-3

**GAME #40 — BAL 1 @ TOR 2**

DL Hall got the start for Baltimore, and pitched 5 innings, giving up only 3 hits and 1 run, an RBI 1B from Marcus Semien. Alek Manoah pitched a his best game of the year, going all 9 innings, giving up only 5 hits and 1 run, a solo HR from Cedric Mullins in the 3rd. The game was tied 1-1 in the 7th when Roberto Alomar came to the plate and hit a solo HR that proved the difference in the Blue Jays 2-1 win. Both teams with look to improve their team in the offseason and compete for the playoffs next season.

**GAME #39 — BOS 8 @ NYY 3**

What could have been a monumental matchup has been reduced to a playoff warmup. The Red Sox have wrapped up the home field advantage throughout the playoffs, and had nothing to play for but pride and rivalry. The Yankees would like to win to secure the very important home field for the 1st round. The Red Sox gave the start to rookie Tanner Houck, testing him at Yankee stadium, as the rookie has been solid all season, and could be in the rotation next year. AL MVP candidate Dustin Pedroia hit a 2-run 2B in the 3-run 2nd inning and that was enough as Houck allowed only 1 run over 5 innings, an Aaron Judge solo HR in the 3rd. In the 7th inning the Red Sox scored 4 times, highlighted by a Bobby Dalbec 2-run 2B, and the Red Sox cruised to an 8-3 win.

**GAME #40 — BOS 3 @ NYY 6**

The Yankees got the win they needed. Masahiro Tanaka pitched his best game of the season, going 6 innings, giving up only 4 hits and 1 run. Giancarlo Stanton hit his 17th HR of the season in the 4th, but Wade Boggs hit a solo HR in the 6th to tie the game 1-1. The Red Sox scored twice in the 7th, on a 2-run 2B from Xander Bogaerts, but the Yankees got the 2 runs back in the bottom half, on an RBI 2B from Jorge Posada, and an RBI 1B from Derek Jeter. The game went tied 3-3 to the bottom of the 8th when Posada hit a 2-run HR to give the Yankees the lead. Aaron Judge added an RBI 2B to seal the 6-3 win. The win should give the Yankees the crucial home field advantage in round 1, but also placing them in the Boston side of the playoff bracket. Stanton ends the season with an incredible 17 home runs, tying Byron Buxton for the lead.

**GAME #39 — TBR 4 @ DET 10**

For these two teams the season comes to a quiet close. Both are looking at younger players to get a head-start on next season. Young left-hander Tarik Skubal took his last start of the season for the Tigers, and Shane McClellan, who has been as disappointing as any pitcher this year, gets one more chance to get on track, albeit for next season. The Tigers had a day in Game #1, with Victor Martinez, Miguel Cabrera, and Spencer Torkelson all hitting 2-run HR, to support Tarik Skubal, who only allowed 3 runs over 6 innings. Hunter Renfroe had an RBI 1B in the 1st, and a solo HR in the 7th, as the Rays wind down their season, losing to the Tigers 10-4.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • ROYALS ROAD SWEEP • RAYS WIN 10-8 • KANSAS CITY WINS 3-1

**GAME #40 — TBR 10 @ DET 8**

The season finale was quite a game. Hunter Renfroe put his stamp on an all-time season with a 3-run HR in the 1st inning. Niko Goodrum and Victor Reyes hit RBI 1Bs in the 2nd, to make it a 3-2 game. The Rays made it 6-2 in the 5th when Brandon Lowe hit a 3-run HR, but the Tigers came back. Isaac Paredes hit an RBI 1B in the 5th to make it 6-3, and then in the 7th Spencer Torkelson hit an RBI 1B, making it 6-4. Up came one of the few bright spots in the Tigers season, Victor Reyes, who hit a 3-run HR, giving the Tigers a 7-6 lead. But the Rays were determined to end the season on a high note, and Randy Arozarena hit a solo HR to tie the game, Manny Margot hit an RBI 2B to take the lead back, and Hunter Renfroe put his final stamp on the season, hitting a 2-run HR to seal the 10-8 win. Renfroe ends the season with 16 HRs and 41 RBI, which could stand as Rays' records for a long time. Both marks put him in 2nd place in the AL, and he will get MVP votes.

**GAME #39 — KCR 8 @ CHW 3**

The White Sox came in needing a win to potentially win the AL Central, and a sweep would secure it. The Royals started young left-hander Daniel Lynch, and the White Sox thought it might be easy, but the Royals came in determined. A sweep by the Royals would give them a .500 record, which is certainly symbolic, and gives some momentum heading into next season. The Royals jumped all over Lance Lynn, scoring 8 runs in the first 3 innings. Nicky Lopez went 2-2 with 2 RBI, Hunter Dozier went 2-2 with a 2-run HR, and George Brett went 3-3 with a 3B and 2 RBI. Lynch pitched extremely well, and the White Sox just couldn't get anything going after being down 8-1. Zach Collins hit a late 2-run HR, but Chicago lost 8-3.

**GAME #40 — KCR 3 @ CHW 1**

This was suddenly a must-win game for the White Sox, and when the season ends they will look back on this game as the one they needed the most, as the loss in this game lost them the AL Central title. Getting to truly play spoilers, tied 1-1 in the 8th, the Royals scored 2 runs, an RBI 2B from George Brett, and an RBI 1B from Raul Ibanez. Dallas Keuchel had pitched his best game of the season, giving up only a solo HR to Vinny Pasquantino in the 5th, going 7 strong innings. Kris Bubic matched him, going 7 strong innings, giving up only 1 run and 5 hits. The Royals 2 runs in the 8th proved decisive, and the Royals got the sweep. Kansas City gets to go into the season as a .500 team, and with momentum. The Chicago White Sox have lost the AL Central, getting swept at home, but they will make the playoffs as one of the AL Wild Card teams. Hopefully the White Sox will use this loss to springboard a deep run into the playoffs. The big difference is that instead of hosting the Wild Card series, they will be on the road. This was a catastrophic series loss, getting swept at home with everything on the line. The White Sox will be on the road in Cleveland in the Wild Card round.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • NAYLOR GRAND SLAM • CLEVELAND ROAD SWEEP • ANGELS WIN 7-6

**GAME #39 — CLE 5 @ MIN 2**

This became the series for the AL Central title. Win a sweep Cleveland would win the division, and with just 1 win the Twins would hold the crown. With a single loss Cleveland could miss the playoffs, depending on the outcome of the Angels vs. Athletics. Byron Buxton showed up, hitting an RBI 2B in the 2nd, and a solo HR in the 5th, but that was all the Twins could muster. They just couldn't get the big hit. They ended the game with 12 runners left on base. Cleveland lived on the edge the whole game, but just like all season, they continued to find a way. Josh Naylor hit a solo HR in the 3rd to tied the game, and Jason Kipnis hit an RBI 1B in the 5th. Tied 2-2 in the 9th Kipnis once again came through, hitting an RBI 1B to take the lead, and then Jose Ramirez hit a 2-run 2B to seal the win. The season would go down to the final game, and the winner would win the division title.

**GAME #40 — CLE 7 @ MIN 3**

Here we go. The biggest game of the season, with a division title on the line for the winner of the game. The loser of the game could miss the playoff, or end up in a high-pressure 1-game winner-take-all game. The Twins broke through first, scoring 3 runs in the 1st inning. Zach Plesac walked the bases loaded, and walked in a run. Alex Kirilloff capitalized, hitting a 2-run 1B, and the Twins were up 3-0. But the Guardians would rally. Jake Odorizzi couldn't hold the lead, and in the 4th inning he walked the bases loaded, and Josh Naylor made him pay, with a huge Grand Slam HR, giving Cleveland a sudden 4-3 lead. In the 5th inning Franmil Reyes hit a 2-run HR, and suddenly Cleveland could see the finish line. Tyler Naquin added a solo HR in the 7th, and the Guardians needed just 9 outs for the division title. And they did it. The bullpen didn't allow the Twins to comeback, and Cleveland won 7-3. The Cleveland Guardians are the AL Central champions. The Minnesota Twins were eliminated when the Los Angeles Angels swept the Oakland A's. Cleveland will host the White Sox in the Wild Card round.

**GAME #39 — LAA 7 @ OAK 6**

And now the series that would decide the fate of the Twins. If the Angels sweep the A's in Oakland, the Angels are in the playoffs. If the Angels win 1, they play the Twins in a 1-game playoff. If the A's sweep at home, the A's will play the Twins in a 1-game playoff. The stakes could not be higher, especially for the A's who needed a sweep. It started well for the Angels, as Shohei Ohtani hit a 1st inning solo HR, and the Angels had their 1-0 lead. The Angels added a run in the 2nd, but in the 3rd inning the A's rallied. Sean Murphy hit a solo HR, Chad Pinder walked, Rickey Henderson hit a 2B, and Matt Olson hit a 2-run 1B, giving Oakland a 3-2 lead. Justin Upton didn't let the A's enjoy the lead, as he hit a solo HR in the top of the 4th, and the game was tied 3-3. The game went to the 7th, when David Fletcher hit a solo HR to give the Angels a 4-3 lead. The A's were down to their last 9 outs. It was Fletcher's first home run of the season. The A's didn't make the crowd wait long, as Starling Marte hit an RBI 1B, scoring Rickey Henderson to make it 4-4. And then the shock of shocks happened, when Andrelton Simmons hit a 3-run HR, sending the Angels to the brink. The A's had 6 outs left. The A's made it interesting, and came so close, scoring 2 runs in the bottom of the 8th, but they just couldn't do it, and the Angels won 7-6.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • ASTROS HOME SWEEP • MARINERS SCORE 12 • ROCKIES WIN 7-1

**GAME #40 — LAA 7 @ OAK 1**

Garrett Richards got the ball with a chance to send the Angels to the playoffs. James Kaprielian got the start for the A's and pitched well until the 4th. He had a perfect game with 1 out in the 4th, but gave up 2 singles, and then a 3-run HR to Anthony Rendon. Andrelton Simmons would add an RBI 2B, and Albert Pujols a 2-run 1B, in the 3-run 3rd, and it was suddenly 6-1. Richards and the bullpen cruised to a 7-1 win, and the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim are the 6th and final seen of the 2022 AL Playoffs. The Minnesota Twins and Seattle Mariners are both eliminated. The Angels will play on the road in New York against the Yankees.

**GAME #39 — TEX 5 @ HOU 7**

The Texas Rangers struck first with 5 runs in the 1st inning against Lance McCullers. Joey Gallo hit a 2-run 1B, and Sam Huff hit a 3-run HR. The Astros chipped away with 1 in the 3rd, on a solo HR by Chas McCormick, and 3 in the 4th, on an RBI 2B by Michael Brantley, and 2-run 2B by Garrett Stubbs. The game went to the bottom of the 8th with the Rangers ahead 5-4, but the Astros rallied. Kyle Tucker hit a game-tying solo HR, and Jose Siri hit a game-winning 2-run HR, and the Astros won 7-5.

**GAME #40 — TEX 3 @ HOU 6**

Leody Tavares hit a leadoff solo HR in the 1st, but Yordan Alvarez hit a 2-run HR in the bottom of the 1st to take the lead. Josh Hamilton hit a 2-run 1B in the 2nd to reclaim the lead, but the Astros tied the game in the 3rd on an RBI 3B by Jose Siri. In the 4th the Astros pulled ahead when Alvarez hit a 3-run HR, and the Astros won 6-3. The Houston Astros won the AL West by 3 games, and secured a first-round bye for the playoffs. The Astros have their eyes set on the title.

**GAME #39 — SEA 12 @ COL 6**

The Mariners season ended when the Angels won, but they had been 3-7 in their last 10 games. The 1st inning was big for the M's as they scored 3 runs, on an RBI 1B by Kyle Seager, and a 2-run 1B from Evan White. The Rockies fought back briefly when Dom Nunez and Trevor Story hit solo HRs, but in the 4th the M's scored 6 runs. Julio Rodriguez hit a 3-run 2B, and Mitch Haniger hit a 2-run 2B. Kyle Lewis finished it off with an RBI 1B, and added a 2-run HR in the 8th, putting the cap on the 12-6 win. Logan Gilbert got his first start and pitched well, giving up only 2 hits and 2 runs over 5 innings.

**GAME #40 — SEA 1 @ COL 7**

Antonio Senzatela pitched well in the finale, not giving up a run until the 6th inning when Kyle Seager hit an RBI 2B. Chris Flexen pitched great, until the 7th. Taking a shutout into the 7th, Flexen gave up a 3-run HR to Charlie Blackmon, and David Dahl hit a 3-run HR to finish off a 6-run inning. Tom Murphy finished off a 4-4 day with a solo HR in the 8th, and the Rockies finished the season on a high note, winning 7-1.

**GAME #39 — MIA 1 @ PIT 2**

JT Brubaker pitched a strong game, taking a shutout to the 9th, when Jazz Chisholm hit an RBI 1B, scoring Jon Berti after his leadoff 2B. Mark Melancon came in and shut the door, securing the 2-1 win for the Pirates. Brubaker gave up only 5 hits over 8 innings, while striking out 10. Trevor Rogers took a shutout to the bottom of the 6th, when Francisco Cervelli hit a 2-run 1B, which ended up winning the game.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • PHILLIES SCORE 12 • PIRATES WIN 8-4 • BRAVES WIN 6-5

**GAME #40 — MIA 4 @ PIT 8**

Jazz Chisholm hit a solo HR in the top of the 1st inning, and Miguel Rojas hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd, giving the Marlins a 2-0 lead. The Pirates came back with 2 runs, highlighted by a solo HR from Oneil Cruz. Cruz hit a 2-run HR in the 6th, and the Pirates took hold of the game. Roberto Clemente hit a 3-run HR in the 7th to put a cap on the 8-4 win. The Pirates end the season with a 5-game-winning streak, and a lot of hope for the next season. The Marlins head into the offseason with a lot of questions about their lackluster offense.

**GAME #39 — ATL 6 @ NYM 9**

Here we go. The NL East was about to be decided. With a sweep, the Mets win the division. Any other result will bring the Philadelphia Phillies into play. The Mets had a wild win in Game #1. They scored 4 runs in the 3rd, on an RBI 2B from David Wright, and a 3-run HR from Pete Alonso, and the crowd thought they might cruise to the win. But the Braves came roaring back. The Braves scored a shocking 6 runs in their reply, with 6 players all having RBI hits. The Braves had the momentum and hope, but the Mets took control again, this time with a 5-run inning. Michael Conforto and Gary Carter hit solo HRs, Wright hit an RBI 3B, and Mike Piazza hit a 2-run HR, and the bullpen pitched 5½ innings of scoreless baseball.

**GAME #40 — ATL 6 @ NYM 5**

The Mets were one win away from the division title. But the Braves put up 4 runs in the top of the 1st. Fred McGriff, Austin Riley, and Ozzie Albies had RBI 1Bs, and the Braves had a lead to give their season one last chance. Darryl Strawberry hit a solo HR in the 2nd, but Nick Markakis hit a solo HR in the 3rd, and the Braves took a 5-1 lead to the 4th. In the 4th the Mets came back again, this time Brandon Nimmo hit a 3-run HR, and in the 5th, Michael Conforto hit an RBI sacrifice fly to tie the game. The Braves were at the very end of their season, and in the 9th inning, Deion Sanders stepped up and hit a solo HR. Craig Kimbrel shut down the Mets in the 9th, and suddenly the Mets had lost the division. The Braves win would not be enough, as the sweep by the Milwaukee Brewers gave them the playoff spot, sending the Braves into the offseason. The Atlanta Braves will look back on a 3-11 stretch run, and look for ways to improve their team for next season. The New York Mets will make the playoffs as one of the NL Wild Card teams.

**GAME #39 — WSH 4 @ PHI 12**

The Philadelphia Phillies had a chance to win the NL East with a sweep of the Nationals. The sweep would also end the Nationals season. Most expected the Nationals to finally lose steam in a wholly unexpected run in contention, but they hung tough. The Nationals scored 2 runs in the 2nd, highlighted by a Michael A Taylor RBI 2B, and they added a 3rd run on a Juan Soto solo HR. The Phillies got 1 run back on 2Bs from Matt Vierling and Jean Segura, but Keibert Ruiz hit a solo HR. The Nationals took a 4-1 lead to the bottom of the 6th, when the Phillies broke out. Ryan Howard hit a 2-run 2B, and Vierling and Bryson Stott hit RBI 1Bs, giving the Phillies a sudden 5-4 lead. And then they poured it on. Ryan Howard hit a 2-run HR in the 7th, and then a 2-run 2B in a 5-run bottom of the 8th, and the Phillies ran away with a late 12-4 win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • HOWARD CLINCHING HR • CARATINI WALK-OFF • CARDS SCORE 11

**GAME #40 — WSH 3 @ PHI 5**

Jordan Zimmermann did all he could, taking a shutout into the 5th inning, when Bryson Stott hit a sacrifice fly scoring Jean Segura. The pesky Nationals scored 3 runs in the 6th to take the lead, on solo HRs from Trea Turner and Jayson Werth, and an RBI 1B from Starlin Castro. The Nationals had hope again, but it didn't last. JT Realmuto and Segura hit RBI 1Bs in the bottom of the 6th, and the game went to extra innings. The Phillies bullpen pitched 4 innings of no-hit baseball, and in the bottom of the 10th Phillies hero Ryan Howard hit a game-winning, walk-off, division clinching 2-run HR, sending the Phillies into the playoffs. It was as dramatic a win as could be. The Philadelphia Phillies are the NL East champions, and have earned a first-round bye by winning their last 8 games of the season. The Washington Nationals were eliminated, and will look to improve their team in the offseason. Ryan Howard has put himself firmly in the race for the NL MVP with his late push.

**GAME #39 — STL 3 @ CHC 5**

The Cubs are playing for next season, and the Cardinals are in the thick of the race. The Cardinals would win the NL Central with a sweep, but the rival Cubs could truly play the role of spoiler. And the Cubs did. The Cardinals offense just couldn't get going. Sammy Sosa hit an RBI 1B in the 1st, but Harrison Bader tied the game in the 2nd with an RBI 2B. Tyler O'Neill hit a 2-run 2B to give the Cardinals the lead, but Seiya Suzuki hit an RBI 2B, and Kris Bryant hit an RBI 1B, tying the game 3-3. The game went 3-3 all the way to the bottom of the 9th. The entire game the Cardinals just could not break through, and it was only a matter of time for the Cubs to steal the win and spoil the division title. With 2 outs and no runners on base in the bottom of the 9th, Cardinals reliever Giovanny Gallegos loaded the bases and then gave up a game-winning walk-off 2-run 2B to Victor Caratini. The loss squandered the division, and will be a game the Cardinals will regret the whole offseason. Caratini went 4-5 with 2 2Bs.

**GAME #40 — STL 11 @ CHC 2**

The Cardinals rebounded in Game #2, to still make the playoffs, but they missed out on the division. This felt like an angry game from the Cardinals hitters. The Cubs scored 2 runs in the 1st, but that was all, and the Cardinals woke up in the 3rd. Mark McGwire showed up and hit a 3-run HR in the 4th, and then a 2-run HR in the 8th. Harrison Bader hit a 2-run 1B in the 5-run 6th, and the Cardinals cruised to an 11-2 win, and will be one of the NL Wild Card teams. The Chicago Cubs got to look at some exciting young talent down the stretch, and will come into next season with renewed hope.

**GAME #39 — CIN 2 @ MIL 9**

The Milwaukee Brewers have fought tough all season for this one moment. With a sweep at home of the Cincinnati Reds they would win the NL Central division title. With a split they would be in a 1-game playoff. The Brewers fought all season to have a chance, and now they had it. Coming off of a sweep against St. Louis, this series suddenly had the division title at stake. Freddy Peralta showed up. He pitched a no-hitter into the 7th inning, and left the game giving up only 2 hits. Christian Yelich and Ryan Braun had a tandem game for the ages. In the first inning of the biggest game of the season, Yelich and Braun went back-to-back with solo HRs. But that was not all. In the 3rd inning Braun hit a 3-run HR, and in the 7th Yelich hit a 3-run HR. It was an incredible 2 man show, and the Brewers won 9-2.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • LUCROY CLINCHING HIT • TATIS WALK-OFF 2B • ARIZONA WINS 6-2

**GAME #40 — CIN 2 @ MIL 4**

So it all came down to this. A Brewers win and they were division champions. A Reds win and they would tie on the season and play in a 1-game playoff for the final spot. And Christian Yelich did it again. In the 1st inning of the season's final game, Yelich stepped up and hit a 3-run HR. But the Reds have fought back all season, and they fought back again. Barry Larkin hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd, and Nick Castellanos tied the game with an RBI 2B in the 5th, and the teams ensured a dramatic finish. Anthony DeSclafani was terrific, not giving up another run after the Yelich home run, and the dominant Devin Williams paired with Adrian Houser to send the game tied to the bottom of the 9th. With 2-outs, and 2 runners on, in the bottom of the 9th, in the season-defining game, Jonathan Lucroy hit a game-winning, walk-off, division-clinching RBI 2B, sending the home crowd into a frenzy. The Milwaukee Brewers swept the Cardinals and Reds in the last two series, and they are the NL Central champions. The Cincinnati Reds fought hard all season, but they will look to improve their team in the offseason, having missed the playoffs by just 1 game. Christian Yelich and Ryan Braun will be celebrated as heroes for their performance in this home series.

**GAME #39 — ARI 6 @ SDP 2**

The San Diego Padres had a longshot chance at the NL West title. They would need to sweep the Diamondbacks, and then have the Dodgers sweep the Giants in San Francisco. It did not start well as Daulton Varsho led off the game with a 2B, and scored on a Geraldo Perdomo RBI 1B. The Padres tied the game in the 2nd when Manny Machado hit a solo HR, but the Diamondbacks took the lead back in the 3rd on an RBI 2B by Kole Calhoun. The game, and the NL West was then decided in the 5th inning, when Calhoun hit another RBI 2B, and then Carson Kelly dealt the final blow, a 3-run HR, making it a 6-1 game. Eric Hosmer hit a solo HR in the 7th, but that was it, and the Padres lost 6-2. The San Diego Padres will be the top NL Wild Card and the #4 seed, hosting a playoff series. The San Francisco Giants are the NL West champions, and the #1 seed in the NL, with home field advantage throughout.

**GAME #40 — ARI 2 @ SDP 3**

Carson Kelly hit another HR, a 2-run shot in the 2nd, but that was the only runs James Shields would give up. CJ Abrams hit his first HR in the 3rd, and Fernando Tatis Jr hit a solo HR in the 8th to tie the game. Merrill Kelly pitched well, giving up only 4 hits and 1 run over 7 innings, but the bullpen could not hold the lead. The game went to the 10th tied 2-2, when Tony Gwynn hit a 2B, and scored on a Tatis game-winning walk-off RBI 2B. The Padres are poised to make a playoff run, and will host the St. Louis Cardinals in the first round.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • GIANTS WIN 7-2 • DODGERS WIN 2-1 • SAN FRANCISCO SPLITS

**GAME #39 — LAD 2 @ SFG 7**

The Dodgers came in with a clear goal. A sweep would put them in the playoffs. The Padres earlier loss gave the Giants the NL West title, and the top seed, so the Giants had nothing to play for, but spoiling the Dodgers season would always be something to play for. Also, the Giants would be well served to keep a powerful Dodgers team out of the title chase. It started well for the Dodgers as Joc Pederson hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd, and a solo HR in the 4th. Julio Urias took a shutout into the 5th, and the Dodgers had some hope. But the Giants crushed their hope. Buster Posey hit an RBI 1B, and Evan Longoria gave the Giants the lead with a 2-run 2B. In the 6th Steven Duggar hit a 2-run HR, and the Dodgers were in trouble. The Giants bullpen shut them down, and Will Clark and Posey hit RBI 1Bs in the 8th inning, and the Dodgers season was over. The Dodgers will look back on their slow start and think about what could have been. They were the top team going into the season, and are without a doubt the biggest disappointment in the league this season. Despite a huge surge late, the Los Angeles Dodgers missed the playoffs by 1 game.

**GAME #40 — LAD 2 @ SFG 1**

Darren Ruf hit a solo HR in the Giants finale, but that was all Dustin May would give up. Max Muncy hit a game-tying solo HR in the 3rd, and Chris Taylor hit a solo HR in the 4th, that ended up being the game winner. The Dodgers won a lackluster finale, and they will go into the off season thinking about what could have been.

## MLBC — WILD CARD ROUND

GAMES 41-43 • BEST-OF-THREE

## OCTOBER OPENS WITH CHAOS

*Four series go the distance, and two unlikely sluggers become instant postseason legends.*

**THE FIELD** Boston and Houston waited with American League byes; San Francisco and Philadelphia waited in the National League. Everyone else started with no room for a bad series. The Angels went to Yankee Stadium, the White Sox visited Cleveland for the true tiebreaker of their 22-18 seasons, St. Louis traveled to San Diego, a team that won 25 games but did not earn a bye, and the Mets went to Milwaukee after watching the NL East slip away in the final week. After 40 games of positioning, every matchup was now a best-of-three. Every matchup could erase an entire regular season with the smallest of margins. And every matchup reached a pivotal Game #3. The four series arrived with four different kinds of pressure.

**THE ROUND** The Angels shocked New York 2-1, and the deciding game became the Jared Walsh Game. Walsh, a .150 regular-season hitter with two HR all year, hit three HR in Game #3 alone and drove the Yankees into the offseason. Chicago and Cleveland traded wins before the White Sox took the decider 5-2 behind Lance Lynn and a late Tim Anderson HR. St. Louis survived San Diego when Mark McGwire hit three consecutive HR in Game #3. Milwaukee produced the wildest escape: the Brewers trailed the Mets 10-4 in the 6th inning of the winner-take-all finale, erased the deficit, then won 12-10 on Lorenzo Cain's walk-off 2-run HR. The round needed all twelve possible games to eliminate four clubs. Forty regular-season games had been reduced to a handful of swings.

**THE STAKES** Four road teams entered the round, and three advanced. The Angels move on to face top-seeded Boston after Jared Walsh became a postseason legend. Chicago gets Houston after defeating Cleveland, while Milwaukee's reward for surviving a comeback for the ages is going to Philadelphia, where the rested Phillies are holding an eight-game winning streak. St. Louis draws the league's best regular-season team in San Francisco, earning the right after Mark McGwire's three-HR eruption. The postseason has already changed reputations: Walsh, McGwire and Cain own elimination-game moments that will survive the season, while New York, Cleveland, San Diego and the Mets are gone after forty games of work and three games of judgment. October has already shown that reputation does not travel automatically. The clubs that survived did it by answering the exact moment in front of them.

| UPSET              | HERO               | COMEBACK        | ELIMINATION          |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| LAA def. NYY • 2-1 | Walsh • 3 HR in G3 | MIL • down 10-4 | 4 series • 4 Game 3s |

## ROUND RESULTS

| AMERICAN LEAGUE                                                                | NATIONAL LEAGUE                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>LAA def. NYY, 2-1</b><br><i>Jared Walsh: 3 HR in the deciding game</i>      | <b>STL def. SDP, 2-1</b><br><i>Mark McGwire: 3 consecutive HR in Game #3</i>  |
| <b>CHW def. CLE, 2-1</b><br><i>Central rivals require the full three games</i> | <b>MIL def. NYM, 2-1</b><br><i>Lorenzo Cain ends a 12-10 comeback classic</i> |

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WILD CARD • WALSH THREE HOMERS • PUJOLS GO-AHEAD HR • ANGELS ADVANCE

## PLAYOFFS

## WILD CARD ROUND

## GAME #41 — LAA 4 @ NYY 3

It is playoff time! The Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim fought the whole season for the right to be in the playoffs, and they made it by winning 4 of their last 5 games, sweeping the Oakland Athletics in Oakland to secure their spot. They went 12-6 down the stretch, and were rewarded with a playoff berth in the Wild Card round, but they had to go to New York and face the Yankees. The Yankees finished 10-5 and finished as the top wild card team. Game #1 had Angels' ace Shohei Ohtani against the Yankees' ace, Gerrit Cole. Both pitchers took shutouts into the 6th inning, when the Angels broke through against Cole, when Mike Trout hit a 2-run HR, giving the Angels a 2-0 lead. The Yankees scored against Ohtani in the bottom of the 6th when Don Mattingly hit an RBI 1B, and they tied the game in the 7th when Hideki Matsui hit an RBI 2B, and then took the lead on an Aaron Hicks RBI 1B. The game went to the 8th with the Yankees up 3-2, needing just 6 outs, and they brought in Dellin Betances. But, with 2 outs in the 8th inning, Albert Pujols hit the game-winner, a clutch 2-run HR. The Angels unlikely bullpen secured the 8th and 9th, and the Angels surprised the Yankees, winning 4-3, putting the Yankees suddenly in an elimination game.

## GAME #42 — LAA 1 @ NYY 5

The Yankees were in a must-win situation, and they responded in the 2nd inning when Derek Jeter hit an RBI 1B off of Andrew Heaney, and then Don Mattingly hit a 3-run HR, which proved to be the game-winner. Luis Severino pitched 6 innings, giving up only 5 hits and 1 run, an RBI 1B to Anthony Rendon in the 3rd. Giancarlo Stanton hit an RBI 1B in the 7th to finish off the 5-1 win. The Yankees lived to fight another day, and both teams went into the elimination game.

## GAME #43 — LAA 6 @ NYY 2

This will be known as the Jared Walsh Game. Derek Jeter hit a leadoff solo HR in the bottom of the 1st inning off of Garrett Richards, and the Yankees felt good. They had given the ball to Masahiro Tanaka to pitch to the right-handed heavy Angels lineup, and it will be a decision that they will forever wonder about. The only left-handed batter in the Angels lineup was Jared Walsh. Walsh came up in the 3rd inning, and responded with a game-tying solo HR. The Yankees took the lead back in the 4th on a Hideki Matsui RBI 1B, but Jared Walsh hit a 3-run HR in the 5th to give the Angels a 4-2 lead. The Yankees were desperate, but they couldn't score again off of Richards and the Angels bullpen. Walsh came up in the 8th inning, and went deep again, hitting a 2-run HR off of Dellin Betances. It was a stunning game from Jared Walsh, and a shocking loss for the Yankees, who suddenly face the offseason, wondering what if. Jared Walsh struggled mightily in the regular season, batting .150, hitting only 2 home runs, batting in 6. In this game alone he surpassed his entire season totals. Walsh's batting average was the lowest in the major leagues for qualified starters, and now he is forever a playoff hero. What an incredible game it was, and the Angels are moving on to face the Boston Red Sox in the Division Series.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WILD CARD • WHITE SOX ADVANCE • CARDS SCORE TWELVE • PADRES SHUTOUT

**GAME #41 — CHW 5 @ CLE 2**

The two rivals tied for the AL Central, but Cleveland took the title holding the edge in the tiebreaker. Both teams were evenly matched, and this would prove to be the real tiebreaker. Lucas Giolito pitched a very strong game, going 7 innings, giving up only 4 hits and 0 runs. Corey Kluber matched him until the 8th inning. Through 7 innings, Kluber had given up only 5 hits and 0 runs, but in the 8th the White Sox broke through with 5 runs. Luis Robert started it off with a 2-run HR and then the White Sox put together 5 consecutive hits, including an RBI 1B from Yasmani Grandal, and a 2-run 1B from Adam Eaton. The Guardians fought back in the bottom half, as Jim Thome hit a solo HR, and Josh Naylor hit an RBI 1B, but Cleveland ended the inning with the tying run at bat. Liam Hendriks shut them down in the 9th, and the White Sox won 5-2, putting the Guardians into an elimination game.

**GAME #42 — CHW 5 @ CLE 7**

Cleveland responded to their circumstance with 1 run in the 2nd, but Chicago tied the game in the 3rd on a Tim Anderson solo HR. The White Sox got to Shane Bieber in the 5th when Anderson and Luis Robert hit back-to-back RBI 2Bs, but Cleveland got to Carlos Rodon in the bottom half, on a 2B from Omar Vizquel, and an RBI 3B from Jason Kipnis. The game was tied 3-3 in the 6th when Cleveland broke the tie, highlighted by a Kipnis 2-run 1B. The White Sox drew within 1 run with 2 in the 8th on RBI 1Bs from Eloy Jimenez and Yoan Moncada, but it was not enough. Cleveland added an insurance run on a Jose Ramirez RBI 2B, and Cleveland won 7-5, surviving the elimination game, sending both team to a winner-take-all Game #3.

**GAME #43 — CHW 5 @ CLE 2**

Lance Lynn showed up and gave up only 4 hits and 2 run, pitching into the 6th inning, while Carlos Carrasco pitched 6 innings, giving up 6 hits and 3 runs. Frank Thomas started it off with an RBI 1B in the 1st inning, and then Chicago doubled their lead on a Nick Madrigal HR in the 3rd. Cleveland fought back in the 4th when Jose Ramirez hit a solo HR, and then tied the game when Omar Vizquel hit a solo HR. The game was decided in the 6th inning when Adam Eaton hit an RBI 2B, and Chicago put the game away in the 9th with a 2-run HR from Tim Anderson. Suddenly Cleveland's season was over, and the Chicago White Sox are moving on to the Division Series against the Houston Astros.

**GAME #41 — STL 12 @ SDP 5**

The Cardinals and the Padres both had disappointing ends to their season. Both teams spent the majority of the season in 1st place, and lost the division in the end. The Cardinals went from hosting a series to having to travel to San Diego, but they showed up. Nolan Arenado took matters into his own hands, hitting a 2-run HR in the 1st, and another in the 5th, both against Yu Darvish, who struggled. Mark McGwire hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd, and Dylan Carlson hit a 3-run HR in the 5-run 5th. Darvish was sent to the showers, and the game was lost for the Padres. Jake Cronenworth and Tony Gwynn hit solo HRs in the loss, but it was not enough as the Cardinals won 12-5. Jack Flaherty gave up 3 runs over 7 innings for the win.

**GAME #42 — STL 0 @ SDP 2**

The Padres, suddenly facing elimination after such a strong season, showed up behind Blake Snell. Snell pitched 7 $\frac{2}{3}$  innings of shutout ball, and the bullpen finished the 6-hit shutout. Tony Gwynn broke the scoreless tie in the 5th with a sacrifice fly, and Wil Myers hit a solo HR to seal the 2-0 win, and both teams went to the deciding winner-take-all Game #3.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WILD CARD • CARDINALS ADVANCE • BREWERS WIN 7-1 • METS WIN 4-3

### GAME #43 — STL 11 @ SDP 4

For St. Louis Cardinals fans, this will be the Mark McGwire game. Dylan Carlson thought it might be his game, as he hit a 2-run HR to take the lead 2-1 after Manny Machado had hit an RBI 2B to give the Padres the early lead. Mark McGwire hit a solo HR in the 5th, and the Cardinals were up 3-1. The Cardinals scored 2 more in the 6th on a Kolton Wong 2-run 2B, and the Padres tried to answer scoring 1 in the bottom half on a Wil Myers RBI 1B. But in the 7th inning McGwire hit another solo HR, his second consecutive. Then in the 8th inning Mark McGwire put the Cardinals up 9-2 with a 3-run HR, his third consecutive. Dylan Carlson hit another 2-run HR in the 9th, but it was the Mark McGwire game, as the Cardinals won 11-4. St. Louis scored runs in every inning from the 4th inning to the 9th, and the Padres had no chance today. The Padres go into the off-season wondering what happened, and the St. Louis Cardinals will move on to San Francisco.

### GAME #41 — NYM 1 @ MIL 7

The New York Mets lost the bye and the Division to the hot Philadelphia Phillies, and had to go to Milwaukee to face the streaking Brewers, and their stars Ryan Braun and Christian Yelich, and their strong pitching staff. The Mets faced an uphill climb on the road, and Game #1 went the Brewers way. Even with Jacob deGrom on the mound, the game wasn't close. Corbin Burnes pitched 8 innings, giving up only 4 hits and 1 run, a solo HR to Brandon Nimmo in the 8th. deGrom struggled giving up an RBI sacrifice fly to Ryan Braun in the 1st, an RBI 1B to Braun in the 4-run 3rd, and an RBI 2B to Braun in the 4th, and the Brewers were up 6-0, cruising to an easy 7-1 win.

### GAME #42 — NYM 4 @ MIL 3

Facing elimination the Mets needed to show up. Noah Syndergaard pitched 8 strong innings, giving up only 6 hits and 3 runs, a 2-run HR and an RBI 1B to Ryan Braun, Braun's 6th RBI of the series. Down 3-0 in the 5th the Mets fought back. David Wright and Mike Piazza hit RBI 1Bs, and in the 7th they tied the game on an RBI 2B from Wright. Tied 3-3 the game went to the 9th when Darryl Strawberry hit an RBI 2B against Devin Williams, and the Mets won the game, sending both teams to the winner-take-all Game #3.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WILD CARD • CAIN WALK-OFF HR • ALONSO TWO HOMERS • BREWERS ADVANCE

**GAME #43 — NYM 10 @ MIL 12**

Of all the crazy games in the 2022 season, this will go down as the craziest, and the most memorable. The Mets, facing elimination, showed up. Pete Alonso hit a 3-run HR in the 1st inning, and all the Mets needed to do was hang on behind Marcus Stroman. But they could not. Brewers legend Ryan Braun hit a 3-run HR in the 3rd, tying the game 3-3. It was Braun's 9th RBI in the 3-game series. Tied 3-3 in the 5th, Pete Alonso showed up again, hitting another 3-run HR, giving the Mets the 6-3 lead. The jubilant Mets' fans were expecting to call this the Pete Alonso game. Now facing elimination again, Christian Yelich got 1 run back with a solo HR in the 5th. But the Mets were not going to be denied today, as David Wright got that run back with an RBI 1B in the 6th, and then Mike Piazza hit a 3-run HR, making it 10-4. All the Mets needed was to get 12 outs and hang on. But they couldn't. No bullpen pitcher could seal the game. Rowdy Tellez began the comeback with a solo HR in the 4-run 6th. Jonathan Lucroy, Lorenzo Cain, and Robin Yount all showed up with RBI, and it was suddenly 10-8. In the 7th inning Tyrone Taylor and Cain had RBI, and the game was tied. The Mets were shocked. The game went tied 10-10 to the bottom of the 9th, and Lorenzo Cain hit a game-winning, series-winning, walk-off 2-run HR, sending the Milwaukee fans into a frenzy, and sending the New York Mets into the offseason. The Milwaukee Brewers are heading to Philadelphia, after winning the most incredible game of 2022, coming back from a 10-4 deficit in the 6th inning, in a winner-take-all elimination game.

## THE FAVORITES BLEED

*The Angels topple Boston, Houston survives five, Philadelphia sweeps, and San Francisco steadies.*

**THE FIELD** The four bye teams finally entered. Boston had been the American League's best club at 27-13; Houston had won the West at 25-15. San Francisco owned baseball's best record at 28-12, while Philadelphia arrived on an eight-game winning streak. Across from them stood four clubs already sharpened by elimination games: the Angels after Jared Walsh's three-HR decider in New York, the White Sox after settling their Cleveland tiebreaker, the Cardinals behind Mark McGwire's three-HR Game #3, and the Brewers after erasing a 10-4 deficit with its season on the line. The matchups placed regular-season authority against October momentum. Boston and San Francisco had led their leagues, Houston had controlled the AL West and Philadelphia had closed with eight straight wins, but their opponents all come in having survived elimination.

**THE ROUND** The Angels delivered the round's largest upset. Shohei Ohtani opened the Boston series by throwing a 1-hitter with 12 strikeouts while also homering, and Los Angeles eventually won Game #5 at Fenway after Jared Walsh's bases-clearing 3-run 2B flipped a 3-1 deficit. Houston had to survive even more directly: Chicago took a 2-1 series lead before the Astros won Games #4 and #5, with Joe Musgrove holding the White Sox to one run over seven innings in the decider. Philadelphia never faced an elimination game. Bryce Harper walked off Milwaukee in Game #1, then hit a walk-off Grand Slam in the 15th inning of a scoreless Game #2 before the Phillies completed a 3-0 sweep. San Francisco lost its opener to St. Louis, then won three straight, highlighted by Logan Webb's 3-hit complete-game shutout. Boston learned the bye's danger most brutally; Houston survived the same five-game distance only by proving it could win twice with elimination staring directly at it.

**THE STAKES** The league is down to four. Houston will host the Angels, whose postseason has become a study in refusing the expected ending. San Francisco will host Philadelphia, which has now won eleven consecutive games counting the regular season and postseason. Boston, the AL's best regular-season team, is gone. So is a White Sox club that held Houston at 2-1. The two championship series offer opposite questions: can the Angels keep extending a miracle, and can anyone interrupt Philadelphia's momentum before it becomes history? Philadelphia and San Francisco advanced by different routes, but both leave the round carrying something more valuable than seeding: proof that their best baseball still works under elimination pressure.

| UPSET              | SURVIVAL           | SWEEP              | ACE GAME            |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| LAA def. BOS • 3-2 | HOU def. CHW • 3-2 | PHI def. MIL • 3-0 | Ohtani • 1 H / 12 K |

## SERIES RESULTS

| AMERICAN LEAGUE                                                           | NATIONAL LEAGUE                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| LAA def. BOS, 3-2<br><i>Walsh flips Game #5; Ohtani dominates Game #1</i> | PHI def. MIL, 3-0<br><i>Two Harper walk-offs, then a road clincher</i> |
| HOU def. CHW, 3-2<br><i>Astros erase a 2-1 series deficit</i>             | SFG def. STL, 3-1<br><i>Three straight wins after dropping Game #1</i> |

## MLBC — GAME LOG

DIVISION SERIES • VERLANDER 8 IP • HOU WINS 2-1 • SOX WIN 5-4

## DIVISIONAL SERIES

## GAME #44 — CHW 4 @ HOU 1

The Chicago White Sox came into Houston feeling good after a big Game #3 elimination win in Cleveland against their rivals. The Houston Astros were perhaps a little rusty. Lucas Giolito pitched his 2nd strong playoff game, giving up only 5 hits and 1 run over 7 innings. It started well for the White Sox as Eloy Jimenez hit a 3-run HR in the 1st inning off of Justin Verlander. The Astros fought back with 1 in the bottom half when Carlos Correa hit an RBI 1B, but that was all Giolito would give up. Adam Eaton added an RBI 1B in the 8th to seal the 4-1 win for the White Sox, who suddenly had the home-field advantage in the short 5 game series.

## GAME #45 — CHW 5 @ HOU 6

The Astros were suddenly in a must-win situation, needing to avoid going back to Chicago down 0-2. Yordan Alvarez hit an RBI 1B in the 1st inning, and added 2 more in the 3rd, highlighted by a Michael Brantley 2-out RBI 1B. The White Sox fought back immediately, tying the game 3-3 in the 4th on 2Bs by Frank Thomas, Yasmani Grandal, and Adam Eaton. But the Astros needed this win, and Yuli Gurriel and Alex Bregman stepped up and hit back-to-back HRs to give the Astros a 5-3 lead. The excellent Astros bullpen came up, but in the top of the 8th, Frank Thomas hit a game-tying 2-run HR, and the crowd was nervous. With 2 outs in the bottom of the 8th, with the Astros needing a hero, Martin Maldonado stepped up and hit the game-winner, a solo HR, giving the Astros the 6-5 lead. Ryan Pressly did his job saving the game, even striking out the side to preserve the win. The teams would travel to Chicago tied 1-1.

## GAME #46 — HOU 4 @ CHW 5

Chicago struck first, scoring 3 runs in the bottom of the 1st inning, on RBI from Jose Abreu, Yasmani Grandal, and Yoan Moncada. The Astros trimmed the lead to 1 with 2 runs in the 4th when Yordan Alvarez hit an RBI 2B, and Carlos Correa hit an RBI 1B. Jose Abreu secured a 5-2 lead in the 5th when he hit a 2-run HR, but the Astros scored 2 in the 7th when Alvarez hit a 2-run 1B. The game was 5-4, and the game was given to the bullpens, both of whom didn't give up a run, and the Astros just couldn't get it done, falling 5-4 to the White Sox who now stand on the brink of moving on. Down 2-1 the Astros will be facing elimination.

## GAME #47 — HOU 2 @ CHW 1

This was a game where the Astros needed the best of Justin Verlander, and they got it. Verlander pitched 8 shutout innings, giving up only 4 hits. Michael Brantley hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd, and the Astros took a 1-0 lead to the 8th. Lucas Giolito pitched a third strong game in 3 starts, but he gave up a key solo HR to Jose Altuve, which proved to be the game-winner. Yasmani Grandal hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 9th off of Ryan Pressly, but that was all they could get, as the Astros survived on the 2-1 win, and would get to go back home for the deciding winner-take-all Game #5.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

DIVISION SERIES • HOU ADVANCES • OHTANI FANS 14 • BOSTON WINS 5-2

**GAME #48 — CHW 2 @ HOU 5**

Joe Musgrove showed up in the elimination game, giving up only 4 hits and 1 run over 7 innings. Yuli Gurriel hit a solo HR off of Carlos Rodon in the 2nd, and the game went 1-0 to the 6th. In the bottom of the 6th Yuli Gurriel stepped up and did it again, this time a crushing 3-run HR, and Alex Bregman followed with a solo HR, giving the Astros a sudden 5-0 lead with 3 innings to play. Jose Abreu hit a 2-run 1B in the 8th, but that was as close as the White Sox could get against the Astros bullpen, and the Houston Astros survived. The Chicago White Sox will head to the offseason, both feeling good about the season, but also thinking that the 2-1 lead against the Astros got away. The Houston Astros will host the first game of the ALCS, looking for a World Series berth.

**GAME #44 — LAA 2 @ BOS 0**

Game #1 of the ALDS series between the Angels and the Red Sox went to Shohei Ohtani. Ohtani had his best game of the year by far, at just the right time. As a pitcher he pitched a dominant 1-hitter, striking out 12, and only walking 2. Given the circumstances it was the biggest pitching performance of the year. As a hitter, Ohtani hit a solo HR in the 4th, and it proved to be the winning run. Ohtani won the game as a pitcher and as a batter. Mike Trout added an RBI 1B in the 5th, and the Angels won 2-0 on the back of a dominant Shohei Ohtani.

**GAME #45 — LAA 4 @ BOS 7**

Boston came in reeling from Game #1, and responded. But not before Jared Walsh went Jared Walsh. The new Angels hero led off the game with a solo HR, and then hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd, but the Red Sox were not going to be denied. Rafael Devers hit a 2-run 1B in the 3rd, and an RBI 1B in the 2nd. After 2 innings, it was Devers 3 and Walsh 3. Dustin Pedroia hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd to give the Red Sox the lead, and they would not relinquish it. Devers added a 2-run HR in the 6th, his 4th hit of the game, and the Red Sox recovered from Game #1 and earned the split, sending the series to Anaheim tied 1-1.

**GAME #46 — BOS 1 @ LAA 7**

The Red Sox thought they would get Game #3 when they scored first, on an RBI 1B from Rafael Devers, his 5th hit in a row, but that was the last run they would get. Garrett Richards pitched a complete game, giving up only 4 hits and 1 run. The Angels won the game in the bottom of the 1st when they sent 10 batters to the plate, scoring 4 runs. Albert Pujols, Anthony Rendon, Max Stassi, and David Fletcher all had RBI, and the Angels were up 4-1. Pujols added an RBI 2B in the 6th, and Mike Trout sealed the win with a 2-run HR in the 7th. The 7-1 win gave the Angels a 2-1 lead in the best-of-five series, putting the top-seeded Boston Red Sox suddenly in a must-win elimination game.

**GAME #47 — BOS 5 @ LAA 2**

Postseason star Rafael Devers hit a solo HR in the 2nd inning off of Shohei Ohtani, and David Ortiz hit an RBI 2B in the 2-run 3rd, and the Red Sox were up 3-0. Chris Sale gave up a run in the 4th on a Max Stassi RBI 1B, and then a second run on yet another Jared Walsh HR, his 6th of the postseason. But the Red Sox were not going to be denied. Ortiz and Xander Bogaerts had RBI in the 2-run 8th, and Boston won 5-2, sending the series back to Boston for a winner-take-all Game #5. Shohei Ohtani had 14 strikeouts, his 26th of the series, but Chris Sale got the Game #4 win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

DIVISION SERIES • HARPER SLAM • PHI WINS IN 15 • ANGELS ADVANCE

**GAME #48 — LAA 7 @ BOS 4**

The Boston crowd was buzzing with excitement and nervousness. The Angels were outmatched on paper, but were proving to be a tough out. The Red Sox loaded the bases in the 1st inning, but couldn't score. Dustin Pedroia hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd to give Boston the 1-0 lead, but the Angels tied the game in the 4th on a David Fletcher RBI 1B. In the bottom of the 4th Boston struck on a 2B from Alex Verdugo, an RBI 2B from Jason Varitek, and an RBI 1B from Jackie Bradley. The Red Sox just needed to hang on. But they couldn't. Angels postseason legend Jared Walsh did it again. Down 3-1 with the bases-loaded, the red-hot Walsh came up and took the lead with a bases-clearing 3-run 2B. With the Angels suddenly up 4-3, Mike Trout came up and put the nail in the Red Sox's coffin, hitting a 2-run HR. The Red Sox were stunned, and now down 6-3, and they couldn't recover. Anthony Rendon added a solo HR in the 7th, and the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim eliminated the Boston Red Sox, winning Game #5 in Boston, shocking the home crowd. Boston was the best team in the AL all season, and now they would watch the ALCS from home, wondering what happened. The jubilant Los Angeles Angels are heading to Houston with a trip to the World Series at stake.

**GAME #44 — MIL 1 @ PHI 2**

The Philadelphia Phillies are hot at just the right time. Against Milwaukee, another hot team, their pitching was lights out. In Game #1 Corbin Burnes and Zack Wheeler engaged in a high-stakes pitching duel, with Burnes only giving up 4 hits, but 1 run, an RBI 1B by Bryson Stott in the bottom of the 7th. Wheeler pitched 7½ innings, and didn't give up a run. Facing a 1-0 deficit, the Brewers found hope when Jonathan Lucroy hit a clutch 2-out RBI 1B, scoring Rowdy Tellez, tying the game. Both bullpens did their job, until the bottom of the 12th when Lenny Dykstra singled and stole second. With 1 out, Bryce Harper came through and hit a game-winning walk-off RBI 1B, and the Phillies won in 12, 2-1.

**GAME #45 — MIL 0 @ PHI 4**

Milwaukee needed to fight back, and they sent Brandon Woodruff to the mound. The Phillies, looking for a stranglehold on the series sent Aaron Nola. Both pitchers showed up, and big time. Woodruff didn't give up his first hit until the 4th, and pitched 9 scoreless innings, giving up only 4 lone singles. The problem was that Aaron Nola was just as good. In a feat rarely seen, Nola also pitched 9 scoreless innings of 4-hit ball. It was an epic pitching duel. And then both bullpens showed up. The Phillies' bullpen pitched 6 shutout innings, giving up only 1 hit, taking the game scoreless to the bottom of the 15th. The Brewers' bullpen was almost as good, but cracked first. In the bottom of the 15th Matt Vierling singled, and with 1 out, Bryson Stott drew a walk. Lenny Dykstra drew another walk to load the bases, but Rhys Hoskins couldn't bring home the winning run, and up came Phillies star, Bryce Harper. Harper hit the game-winning walk-off RBI in Game #1, and came up to the plate with a chance to do it again. And he did. Bryce Harper came up with 2 outs and the bases loaded, and he hit a walk-off Grand Slam home run, sending the crowd into a frenzy after 15 innings of scoreless baseball. The Phillies leave for Milwaukee with a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five series, and the Brewers are suddenly facing elimination, needing to win 3 in a row to survive.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

DIVISION SERIES • WEBB SHUTOUT • PHILLIES SWEEP • GIANTS ADVANCE

**GAME #46 — PHI 12 @ MIL 7**

The Phillies jumped on their chance to put the series away in the 1st inning, scoring 4 runs, highlighted by a 2-run 2B by Matt Vierling. The Brewers fought back against Cole Hamels in the bottom half of the 1st, on RBI 1Bs from Ryan Braun and Willy Adames, but Brewers starter Freddy Peralta just didn't have it today. Peralta gave up another 3 runs in the 2nd, highlighted by a Mike Schmidt 2-run 1B, and the Phillies were up 7-2 after 2 innings. They added an RBI 2B by Rhys Hoskins in the 4th, and a 2-run HR by Vierling, and the Phillies were up 10-2. The Brewers scored 3 runs in the 6th on a solo HR by Willy Adames, and a 2-run HR by Jonathan Lucroy, and then 2 more in the bottom of the 9th, but the lead was too large, and the Philadelphia Phillies swept the Milwaukee Brewers 3-0, and are moving on to the NLCS with a trip to the World Series on the line.

**GAME #44 — STL 5 @ SFG 3**

The Giants came into Game #1 ready to defend their top seed, but it was the Cardinals who showed up. Yadier Molina and Harrison Bader hit RBI 1Bs in the 2nd inning, and Jack Flaherty pitched a strong game, not giving up a run until the 6th inning. Trailing 2-0 in the 6th, the Giants finally scored on a solo HR by Barry Bonds. They tied the game in the 7th on an RBI 2B by LaMonte Wade, but Nolan Arenado ruined the day for the Giants in the 8th inning, hitting a 3-run HR to win the game. Buster Posey hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 8th, but that was as close as the Giants would get, falling in Game #1, 5-3.

**GAME #45 — STL 2 @ SFG 7**

The top-seeded Giants were suddenly facing a must-win game, and they showed up, hitting and pitching. Kevin Gausman pitched 8 shutout innings, only giving up a 2-run HR to Mark McGwire in the 9th when the game was already in hand. Brandon Crawford had an RBI in the 2nd, Barry Bonds had an RBI in the 3rd, and Evan Longoria hit a 2-run 2B in the 5th. Up 4-0 in the 6th, Bonds put the nail in the coffin with a 3-run HR to seal the 7-2 win.

**GAME #46 — SFG 3 @ STL 0**

Game #3 will be known as the Logan Webb game. Webb pitched the second best game of the playoffs, giving up only 3 lone singles during a 9-inning complete-game shutout. Will Clark hit a solo HR and Darren Ruf hit an RBI 2B, giving the Giants a 2-0 lead, and Barry Bonds hit yet another HR in the 5th, and the Giants cruised to a 3-0 win behind Logan Webb's gem.

**GAME #47 — SFG 7 @ STL 6**

The Cardinals now had a must-win game, facing elimination, and they showed up, scoring 3 runs in the 1st inning, on a Tyler O'Neill 3-run HR. The Giants fought back with 2 runs in the 2nd, on a 2-run 1B from Mike Yastrzemski, but the Cardinals scored again in the bottom half on a Dylan Carlson solo HR. The pitchers settled in and the game went scoreless to the 6th, when the Giants drew within 1 run on a solo HR by Brandon Belt, but the Cardinals got the run right back on a solo HR Yadier Molina. Down 5-3 in the 7th, the Giants struck when Will Clark hit a 2B, Buster Posey hit an RBI 2B, and then Brandon Belt hit the big blow, a 2-run HR to give the Giants a 6-5 lead. San Francisco added one in the 8th, which proved crucial, when Will Clark hit an RBI 1B. Nolan Arenado hit an RBI 2B in the bottom of the 9th, but the Cardinals could not score him, and the series ended with the San Francisco Giants moving on to the NLCS.

## MLBC — CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

GAMES 49-54 • BEST-OF-SEVEN

## TWO PENNANTS, TWO DIFFERENT ROADS

*Houston overwhelms the Angels while Philadelphia climbs out of a 2-0 hole and never looks back.*

**THE MATCHUPS** Houston entered the ALCS with the deeper bullpen, the stronger regular-season record and home field against an Angels team that had already survived New York and Boston. The NLCS offered a different contrast: top-seeded San Francisco against the hottest team in baseball. Philadelphia had won eleven straight entering the round. The Giants had won 28 regular-season games and looked built to stop a streak. No club remaining had arrived by quite the same route: Houston with structure, Los Angeles with survival, San Francisco with the league's best record and Philadelphia with momentum that had already outlived several elimination threats. One series matched structure against survival; the other matched the league's best record against a club that had forgotten how to lose.

**THE ROUND** Houston never allowed its series to become a question. The Astros won the first two at home, took Game #3 in eleven innings on Alex Bregman's 2-run 1B, then broke a 1-1 tie in the 9th inning of Game #4 when Carlos Correa hit a series-clinching Grand Slam. The Angels were swept 4-0, ending a remarkable run. The NLCS turned the other direction. San Francisco won Games #1 and #2, then led Philadelphia 7-2 in Game #3 and stood on the edge of a 3-0 series lead. Mike Schmidt changed the season: a 2-out, game-tying 3-run HR in the 9th, then a walk-off 3-run HR in the 11th. The Phillies won 10-7 and never lost again, outscoring the Giants 17-2 over the final three games. Houston's route was almost clinical. Philadelphia needed one of the defining performances of the season simply to keep its route alive.

**THE PENNANTS** Houston is the American League champion. Philadelphia is the National League champion. The Astros arrive in the World Series after a clean 4-0 championship series, with their pitching lined up and almost no October damage. The Phillies arrive by the stranger route: 1-7 after eight games, eight straight wins to end the regular season, a Division Series sweep, then four straight victories after falling behind San Francisco 0-2. The first MLBC pennants have been claimed. Houston looks inevitable. Philadelphia looks impossible. One series remains. Correa's Grand Slam removed any final doubt for Houston, while Philadelphia's last three wins came after Schmidt rescued Game #3 from the edge of defeat.

AL PENNANT  
HOU • 4-0NL PENNANT  
PHI • 4-2TURNING POINT  
Schmidt • Game #51CLOSING RUN  
PHI • 4 straight

## LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

## AMERICAN LEAGUE

## HOUSTON ASTROS

*Swept Los Angeles 4-0 in the ALCS*

## Series seal

*Carlos Correa Grand Slam, Game #52*

## NATIONAL LEAGUE

## PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES

*Won four straight after falling behind 0-2*

## Series turn

*Mike Schmidt: two 3-run HR in Game #51*

## MLBC — GAME LOG

ALCS • CORREA GRAND SLAM • ASTROS WIN PENNANT • HOUSTON WINS 9-6

## CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

## GAME #49 — LAA 6 @ HOU 9

The Angels came into Houston as the underdog, and it showed. Jared Walsh went deep yet again with a leadoff solo HR, his 7th of the postseason, but the Astros scored 1 in the 2nd, and another in the 3rd, taking a 2-1 lead. The Angels tied the game in the 6th on an Anthony Rendon RBI 2B, and then took the lead in the 7th on a bases-loaded walk to Shohei Ohtani. But then the Astros showed up, and the weakness of the Angels is their bullpen. Carlos Correa had a 2-run 1B, and Michael Brantley and Alex Bregman added RBI 1Bs, and the Astros were up 6-3. The Angels fought back with a run in the 8th on an RBI 1B from Max Stassi, but the Astros struck again when Jeff Bagwell hit a 2-run HR, and Yordan Alvarez went back-to-back with a solo HR. The Angels made the score closer with 2 runs in the 9th, but lost 9-6. The Angels scored in each of the last 4 innings, but they couldn't keep the game close, and the Astros took a 1-0 series lead.

## GAME #50 — LAA 2 @ HOU 4

The game started well for the Angels again as Mike Trout gave them a 1-0 lead with a solo HR off of Justin Verlander, and then David Fletcher made it 2-0 with an RBI 2B. But again the Astros storm back against Shohei Ohtani, scoring 3 in the bottom of the 2nd, highlighted by a Kyle Tucker 2-run 1B. Justin Verlander settled in and didn't give up another run, and Jeff Bagwell sealed the 4-2 win with a solo HR in the 7th inning. The 4-2 win gave the Astros a 2-0 lead with the series heading to Anaheim.

## GAME #51 — HOU 7 @ LAA 5

This was the game the Angels needed, but the Astros struck first this time as Carlos Correa hit an RBI 1B, and then Yuli Gurriel hit a 3-run HR. Jeff Bagwell added an RBI 1B in the 2nd, and the Astros were up 5-0. The Angels did come back, however, scoring 4 runs in the bottom of the 4th inning, highlighted by a Justin Upton 2-run 3B. The game went to the 8th inning, when Anthony Rendon hit a game-tying solo HR. The Angels had hope, and the game went to extra innings. But the main difference in this ALCS is the fact that the Astros bullpen is far superior, and the Angels did give up the lead and the game in the 11th, on a 2-run 1B from Alex Bregman. The Angels couldn't overcome the Bregman hit, and suddenly the series was 3-0.

## GAME #52 — HOU 5 @ LAA 1

Garrett Richards showed up again taking a shutout to the 7th inning in the Angels' elimination game, but Lance McCullers pitched just as well, taking his own shutout into the 7th as well. Kyle Tucker hit an RBI 3B in the top of the 7th, but Mike Trout hit a game-tying solo HR in the bottom of the 7th, and the game went tied 1-1 to the 9th. But again, in a game of bullpen vs bullpen, the Angels would be at a disadvantage. Mike Mayers loaded the bases in the top of the 9th and Carlos Correa came up to the plate, and he hit a clutch series-clinching Grand Slam HR. The Angels were simply overmatched, and even though they were swept 4-0, they have to be extremely happy with how the season went. They enter the offseason with a lot of hope. The powerful Houston Astros are heading to the World Series in a matchup with the Philadelphia Phillies. Jared Walsh ended the postseason with 7 HRs and 14 RBI in 12 games, giving the young player a lot of momentum heading into the next season.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

NLCS • CRAWFORD WALK-OFF • SCHMIDT WALK-OFF HR • WHEELER 8 SCORELESS

**GAME #49 — PHI 2 @ SFG 3**

The top-seeded Giants squared off against the red-hot Phillies in a showdown for the right to go to the World Series. Kevin Gausman outdueled Zack Wheeler, and Evan Longoria's 4th inning 2-run 1B and Barry Bonds' 6th inning solo HR carried the Giants to a tense 3-2 win. Jean Segura had an RBI 3B in the 5th, and Bryson Stott had an RBI 2B in the 7th, but the Phillies just could not get that third run to tie the game, and the Giants won Game #1 in San Francisco.

**GAME #50 — PHI 3 @ SFG 4**

Game #2 was another pitching duel as Logan Webb outdueled Aaron Nola. Webb didn't give up a run over 7 innings, while Nola gave up a 2-run HR to Buster Posey. The Giants added a third run in the 7th on an RBI 1B from Posey, and they took a 3-0 lead to the 8th inning, giving the game to their bullpen. But the bullpen could not hold the lead. Ryan Howard hit a 2-run HR, and Matt Vierling hit an RBI 1B, and the Phillies tied the game, 3-3. The game went to the bottom of the 9th, when Brandon Crawford hit a game-winning walk-off RBI 1B off of Jonathan Papelbon, giving the Giants a 2-0 NLCS lead.

**GAME #51 — SFG 7 @ PHI 10**

This is the game where everything changed. The Mike Schmidt game. Up 2-0, the San Francisco Giants had a chance to put a stranglehold on the series. It started well as Barry Bonds hit his 5th postseason HR, giving the Giants a 1-0 lead. The Phillies came right back on RBI 1Bs by Bryce Harper and Mike Schmidt. The Giants tied the game in the 4th on a solo HR by Darren Ruf, and then took the lead on a Mike Yastrzemski solo HR. Up 3-2 the Giants unloaded for 4 runs. Will Clark hit an RBI 2B, Buster Posey hit an RBI 1B, and the Phillies walked in 2 runs with the bases loaded. Up 7-2 in the 7th, the Giants were on the verge of a dominating 3-0 series lead. But, it was not to be. Bryson Stott hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 7th to trim the lead, but it was the bottom of the 9th when the magic happened for the Phillies. Jean Segura and Stott hit 1Bs, Lenny Dykstra hit an RBI 1B, but the next two hitters struck out. With 2-outs in the bottom of the 9th, down 7-4, with the series and the season on the line, Mike Schmidt stepped up to the plate, and hit a game-tying 3-run HR. The Philadelphia crowd was in a frenzy. Jonathan Papelbon set down the Giants in the 10th and the 11th innings, and in the bottom of the 11th it happened again. Mike Schmidt came up with 2 runners on, and hit a game-winning, walk-off 3-run HR. It was a stunning win for the Phillies, and a shocking defeat for the Giants, and the series was suddenly only 2-1.

**GAME #52 — SFG 0 @ PHI 8**

The Giants seemed deflated after the amazing comeback win for the Phillies, and Philadelphia cruised to an easy win. Zack Wheeler pitched a dominant 8 shutout innings, giving up only 4 hits and 1 walk, and the Phillies offense got to Kevin Gausman. Rhys Hoskins hit a solo HR in the 1st inning, and Ryan Howard hit a 2-run 1B in the 3rd. JT Realmuto added an RBI 1B in the 5th, and in the 7th inning Bryce Harper hit a solo HR, and Howard added a 2-run HR. The Phillies cruised to an 8-0 win, tying the series 2-2.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

NLCS • HOSKINS TWO HR • HAMELS EIGHT INNINGS • PHILLIES WIN PENNANT

### GAME #53 — PHI 5 @ SFG 1

The Giants seemed to have lost their mojo in that epic Phillies Game #3 comeback. The Phillies again cruised to a win, and have pushed the Giants to the brink. JT Realmuto hit a 2-run 1B in the 1st inning, and the Giants couldn't overcome it. Aaron Nola pitched 8 strong innings, giving up only 6 hits and 1 run, an RBI 1B to Brandon Crawford in the 2nd inning. Rhys Hoskins added an RBI 2B in the 2nd and a solo HR in the 7th, and the Phillies won 5-1, suddenly looking incredibly strong.

### GAME #54 — SFG 1 @ PHI 4

Facing elimination the Giants needed to show up, and in the 1st inning it looked like they would, as Will Clark hit a 2B, and scored on a Barry Bonds RBI 2B, but that was it. Cole Hamels shut down the powerful Giants, giving up only that 1 run over 8 innings. In the bottom of the 1st inning Rhys Hoskins hit a solo HR to tie the game, and in the 3rd Hoskins hit a 2-run HR to take the lead. Hoskins added an RBI 1B in the 8th, and alone outscored the Giants 4-1. The Giants went meekly into the offseason being outscored 17-2 over the last 3 games, and 25-2 since their 7-2 lead in the 7th inning of Game #3. It was a stunning reversal and the Giants will head to the offseason trying to figure out how to make it back to the NLCS and find a different result. The Philadelphia Phillies, after starting the season 1-7, are headed to the World Series.

## MLBC — WORLD SERIES

GAMES 55-59 • THE FALL CLASSIC

## PHILADELPHIA FINISHES THE STORY

*The team that began 1-7 beats Houston in five and becomes the first champion in MLBC history.*

**THE STAGE** Houston hosted Game #1 as the American League champion and the more conventional favorite. Philadelphia carried something less measurable: a season that had spent weeks refusing to end. The Phillies had closed the regular season with eight straight wins, swept Milwaukee, then recovered from an 0-2 NLCS deficit by winning four straight. Zack Wheeler opened against Justin Verlander with the first MLBC championship on the line. Houston had the cleaner route; Philadelphia had the longer memory of survival. Houston had swept the ALCS and could arrange its rotation cleanly; Philadelphia arrived after four straight wins with Wheeler, Nola and a bullpen that had repeatedly protected narrow leads.

**THE SERIES** Philadelphia stole both games in Houston. Wheeler and the bullpen held Game #1 to 2-1; in Game #2, J.T. Realmuto's 2-out, 3-run HR in the 1st gave Aaron Nola all the room he needed in a 4-2 win. Houston answered in Philadelphia behind Jeff Bagwell, Alex Bregman and Kyle Tucker, but the response lasted one night. The road team had won the first three games before Philadelphia finally held home field in Game #4. The Phillies built a 6-0 lead in Game #4, survived Houston's charge to 6-5, and won 7-5. Back in Houston for Game #5, the Astros led 2-0 early. Philadelphia finally broke through in the 6th, took the lead on Bryson Stott's RBI 2B, then Ryan Howard sealed the season with a 2-out, 3-run HR in the 9th. Jonathan Papelbon got the final outs of a 7-3 clincher. Winning the first two in Houston changed the geometry of the matchup; surviving Game #4 made the return trip feel like an appointment rather than a hope.

**THE CHAMPIONS** Philadelphia wins the World Series 4-1. J.T. Realmuto is the official World Series MVP after batting .421 with a 1.132 OPS; Aaron Nola is the official runner-up. Houston's season ends one step short despite an AL pennant and a dominant ALCS. The Phillies leave Houston as the first champions in league history, and the defining image is impossible to separate from where they began: a 1-7 team holding the trophy after winning the games that mattered most. By the time Ryan Howard's final HR disappeared, every early-season flaw had become part of the championship story. Philadelphia, you are the 2022 MLBC champions, forever.

|                                            |                                                     |                                             |                                         |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>SERIES</b><br><b>PHI def. HOU • 4-1</b> | <b>ROAD START</b><br><b>PHI wins first 2 in HOU</b> | <b>FINAL BLOW</b><br><b>PHI • 3-run 9th</b> | <b>CLINCHER</b><br><b>PHI 7 • HOU 3</b> |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|

## WORLD SERIES HONORS

|                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>CHAMPIONSHIP</b><br><b>PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES</b><br><i>2022 MLBC World Series Champions</i><br><b>Series result</b><br><i>Defeated Houston, 4-1</i> | <b>OFFICIAL HONORS</b><br><b>WORLD SERIES MVP • J.T. REALMUTO</b><br><i>.421 AVG • 1.132 OPS</i><br><b>RUNNER-UP • AARON NOLA</b><br><i>Official World Series MVP runner-up</i> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WORLD SERIES • PHILLIES WIN 2-1 • PHILLIES WIN 4-2 • HOUSTON WINS 4-2

## WORLD SERIES

## GAME #55 — PHI 2 @ HOU 1

The 2022 season has come to this, the pinnacle, the World Series, with the Houston Astros hosting the Philadelphia Phillies. The Astros were favored, but it was the Phillies pitchers who showed up. Zack Wheeler pitched 7 strong innings, giving up only 4 hits and 1 run, an RBI 1B to Alex Bregman in the 2nd inning. Justin Verlander was not at his best, walking 6 batters, only lasting 5 innings, and giving up 2 runs. Bryce Harper hit an RBI 1B in the 1st, and then Matt Vierling broke the 1-1 tie with an RBI 1B in the 5th, and the Phillies bullpen didn't give up the lead in 2 hitless innings. The Phillies struck first, taking a 1-0 lead in the 2022 World Series.

## GAME #56 — PHI 4 @ HOU 2

The Phillies wasted no time, scoring 4 runs in the top of the 1st inning against Joe Musgrove. Mike Schmidt hit an RBI 1B, and then JT Realmuto hit a clutch 2-out 3-run HR, and that was all Aaron Nola would need. Nola pitched into the 8th inning, giving up only 5 hits and 2 runs, an RBI 1B to Kyle Tucker in the 3rd, and a solo HR to Carlos Correa in the 4th. Again the Phillies bullpen sealed the win, and the 4-2 win gave the Phillies a surprising 2-0 lead in the 2022 World Series, winning both games in Houston, heading home with a chance to put the Astros to the brink.

## GAME #57 — HOU 4 @ PHI 2

The Houston Astros were facing a must-win game in Philadelphia, and they showed up. Jeff Bagwell hit a solo HR in the 3rd inning off of Cole Hamels, Alex Bregman hit an RBI 2B in the 4th, and Kyle Tucker added a solo HR in the 5th. Down 3-0 in the 6th, the Phillies scored twice on RBI 1Bs by Bryson Stott and Lenny Dykstra, but that was as close as they would get. Jose Altuve sealed the game with a solo HR in the 9th, and the Houston Astros are back in the series with a 4-2 road win.

## GAME #58 — HOU 5 @ PHI 7

And just like that, the Philadelphia Phillies are on the verge of an unexpected title, and the Houston Astros are on the brink. Rhys Hoskins hit a solo HR in the 1st, Bryson Stott added RBI in the 2nd and in the 3rd. JT Realmuto, Matt Vierling, and Jean Segura added RBI 1Bs in the 4-run 3rd, and the Phillies were up 6-0 against Justin Verlander. The home crowd could taste the impending victory. The Astros fought back against Zack Wheeler with a 3-run 2B from Jeff Bagwell in the 3rd, an RBI 1B from Martin Maldonado in the 5th, and a solo HR in the 6th from Kyle Tucker. Suddenly it was a 6-5 game. Mike Schmidt added a solo HR in the 7th, making it 7-5, and the Phillies bullpen finished the game with 3 scoreless innings. The Philadelphia Phillies are up 3-1, traveling back to Houston with the title in sight. The Houston Astros head home with quite a task, needing to win 3 elimination games.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WORLD SERIES • PHILLIES CHAMPIONS • HOWARD 3-RUN HR • REALMUTO MVP

## GAME #59 — PHI 7 @ HOU 3

It all came down to this. The Houston Astros needed to win. Yordan Alvarez hit a 2-run HR in the bottom of the 1st inning against Aaron Nola, and the Astros had hope. Joe Musgrove shut out the Phillies through 5 innings, but faltered in the 6th. Ryan Howard hit an RBI 1B, JT Realmuto hit an RBI 1B to tie the game, and Bryson Stott hit an RBI 2B to take the lead. Time was suddenly running out for the Astros, especially after Mike Schmidt hit an RBI 2B in the 7th. Marwin Gonzalez added an RBI off the bench in the bottom of the 7th, but that was all the Astros would get. The Phillies even got to ace closer Ryan Pressly in the 9th inning of what was a close game. Ryan Howard hit a 2-out 3-run HR which sealed the clinching Game #5 victory. Jonathan Papelbon closed the door in the bottom of the 9th, and it was over. The **Philadelphia Phillies** won the game 7-3, and they are the 2022 World Series Champions, defeating the Houston Astros 4-1 in 5 games. Congratulations to the Phillies. Every team going forward will have hope watching the team that started 1-7 hoist the trophy. JT Realmuto was named the World Series MVP, batting .421 with an OPS of 1.132. The Phillies will look for a way in the offseason to strengthen their championship team, as the rest of the league will be coming for them, but for now, the Phillies head to the winter knowing they are the World Series Champions of 2022.

## MLBC — SEASON IN REVIEW

2022 • INAUGURAL SEASON

## THE SEASON MLBC BECAME REAL

*Forty games created the races. Forty-four postseason games turned the first season into history.*

**THE SEASON** The inaugural season began with Justin Verlander throwing a no-hitter and Jacob deGrom striking out 20, then spent forty games refusing to settle into one shape. Boston emerged as the American League's best regular-season club at 27-13. San Francisco went 28-12 to lead all of MLBC. J.D. Martinez won the AL MVP; Barry Bonds won the NL MVP. Tyler Glasnow took the AL Cy Young and Max Scherzer the NL Cy Young. Around them, the short schedule did exactly what it promised: slumps became emergencies, sweeps changed divisions, and almost every final-week scoreboard mattered.

**THE TURN** No team embodied the season's volatility more completely than Philadelphia. The Phillies fell to 1-7 after being swept at home by Miami and then by the Mets. They recovered to 10-10 at the midpoint, kept hanging around, then closed with eight straight wins to take the NL East at 23-17. October amplified the pattern. Philadelphia swept Milwaukee, fell behind San Francisco 0-2, then won four straight to take the pennant. Against Houston, the Phillies won the World Series 4-1. A club that looked finished after eight games became the first champion.

**THE LEGACY** The postseason produced its own heroes. Jared Walsh, a .150 regular-season hitter, became the official Playoff MVP after a seven-HR run that began with three HR in the Wild Card decider at Yankee Stadium. Mike Schmidt finished runner-up after changing the NLCS with two 3-run HR in Game #3. J.T. Realmuto became World Series MVP, with Aaron Nola runner-up. The first MLBC season did more than produce standings and awards. It established a baseball logic: enough structure for excellence to matter, enough volatility for a 1-7 club to keep believing, and enough pressure for every four-game week to feel like a chapter.

AL MVP  
**J.D. MARTINEZ**

NL MVP  
**BARRY BONDS**

AL CY YOUNG  
**TYLER GLASNOW**

NL CY YOUNG  
**MAX SCHERZER**

## POSTSEASON HONORS

## PLAYOFF AWARDS

**PLAYOFF MVP • JARED WALSH***LAA • 1.183 postseason mark***RUNNER-UP • MIKE SCHMIDT***PHI • 0.821 postseason mark*

## WORLD SERIES AWARDS

**WORLD SERIES MVP • J.T. REALMUTO***PHI • .421 AVG / 1.132 OPS***RUNNER-UP • AARON NOLA***PHI • official World Series runner-up*

## PENNANTS &amp; CHAMPIONSHIP

AMERICAN LEAGUE CHAMPION  
**HOUSTON ASTROS**

NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPION  
**PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES**

2022 MLBC WORLD SERIES CHAMPION

**PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES**