

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL CARDS

THE LEAGUE RETURNS

# MLBC SEASON TWO

2023 GAME LOG



## SEASON PREVIEW

MLBC returns with history attached to every expectation. Philadelphia owns the first championship and the target that comes with it. Houston remembers reaching the World Series and stopping one step short. San Francisco won twenty-eight games before losing a two-game NLCS lead; Boston carried the American League's best regular-season record into October and never reached the pennant. The Dodgers and Yankees still look built for larger stages, while Toronto, Atlanta, St. Louis, San Diego and the rest now understand exactly how little room a forty-game season gives them. Season One proved that a terrible start can be rescued, a great record can disappear in a weekend, and reputation guarantees nothing once elimination arrives. Season Two begins with everybody wiser and nobody safer. The league has a past now, which means every new game can answer an old question, reopen an old wound or create the next piece of history. A championship exists to defend. A standard exists to chase. And for thirty clubs, the clock starts again.

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

*It's Opening Day!*

## MLBC — WEEK 1

GAMES 1-4 • OPENING WEEK

## SAN FRANCISCO STARTS PERFECT

*Season Two opens with one unbeaten club, a shelf of ace performances, and no shortage of late drama.*

**THE LEAD** Season Two opened with Philadelphia defending the first MLBC championship and Houston carrying the memory of a World Series loss, but nobody carried a standing into Opening Week. The schedule immediately supplied heavyweight tests: Boston at New York, Atlanta at the Mets, San Francisco across the Bay against Oakland, and Toronto opening against Baltimore. Minnesota debuted a reshaped club, Texas arrived in Anaheim with major additions, and the Dodgers began another season trying to make their talent match the expectation. Four games were enough to establish urgency without establishing certainty.

**THE WEEK** San Francisco made the cleanest statement, going 4-0. Buster Posey erased a 4-1 deficit against Oakland with a Grand Slam, then won the same game with a 2-run HR in the 12th. The Yankees and Red Sox opened by trading blows in New York, splitting a series in which each team scored 14 runs. Toronto opened behind Alek Manoah's 3-hit shutout with 12 strikeouts, only to be swept by the Yankees later in the week. Jacob deGrom answered with a 2-hit, zero-walk shutout and 13 K, while Spencer Strider struck out 14 in 7½ scoreless innings. Colorado supplied the first true surprise, starting 3-1 behind Jon Gray's shutout of Los Angeles. Philadelphia avoided an ugly opening when Kyle Schwarber turned a 4-1 deficit into a 5-4 win with one huge Slam. Texas scored 22 runs in two games at Anaheim, Cincinnati swept the Cubs, and late drama seemed to be everywhere before the standings had even learned their shape.

**THE STAKES** The Giants leave the first four games alone at 4-0. Nine clubs sit at 3-1, including the Yankees, Twins, White Sox, Rangers, Phillies, Brewers, Cardinals, Rockies and Dodgers. Detroit, Chicago and Arizona are already 0-4, a dangerous place in a forty-game season. Toronto's 2-2 start contains both a dominant opening sweep and a sobering Yankees answer; Colorado's 3-1 says the same thing in reverse about preseason assumptions. Week 2 sends Cleveland into Yankee Stadium, Toronto through Tampa Bay and Chicago, the Dodgers into San Diego, and San Francisco home to Colorado before traveling to San Diego. Four games cannot prove a season. They can absolutely establish what needs proving next.

TOP OF TABLE  
SFG • 4-0CHASE PACK  
9 clubs • 3-1EARLY TROUBLE  
DET / CHC / ARI • 0-4ONLY PERFECT  
SFG • 4 straight

## WEEKLY HONORS

## HITTER OF THE WEEK

**GOLD WILLIE STARGELL • PIT**

3 HR • 6 RBI

**SILVER KYLE SCHWARBER • PHI**

2 HR • 6 RBI • Grand Slam

**BRONZE BUSTER POSEY • SFG**

Grand Slam • walk-off 2-run HR

## PITCHER OF THE WEEK

**GOLD JACOB deGROM • NYM**

CG SHO • 2 H • 0 BB • 13 K

**SILVER ALEK MANOAH • TOR**

CG SHO • 3 H • 12 K

**BRONZE SPENCER STRIDER • ATL**

7½ scoreless IP • 14 K

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 1 • BO BICHETTE 2-RUN HR • DON MATTINGLY 2-RUN HR • BADER RBI 1B

## ROUND #1

## GAME #1 — BAL 0 @ TOR 5

It's Opening Day! The Orioles vs Blue Jays opened the 2023 season on 6/4/23. Alek Manoah matched up against John Means and faced Cedric Mullins with the first pitch of the season. Top rookie Gunnar Henderson made his debut for the Orioles, while Matt Chapman and Dalton Varsho highlighted the Blue Jays' offseason additions. Toronto comes into 2023 as a title contender, looking for a hot start after a disappointing 2022 when they missed the playoffs by 3 games, finishing 19-21. Roberto Alomar led off the bottom of the 1st with a 1B, and scored the season's first run on a 2-run HR from Bo Bichette. Means escaped trouble in the 2nd and 3rd, but Bichette got to him again with an RBI 2B in the 5th. Teoscar Hernandez added an RBI 1B, and after a wild pitch by Means, the Blue Jays were ahead 5-0. Meanwhile, Alek Manoah was dealing, taking a no-hitter into the 8th inning, when Ryan Mountcastle had the first hit. Manoah gave up 2 more singles in the 9th, finishing a masterful Opening Day shutout, posting 12 strikeouts.

## GAME #2 — BAL 1 @ TOR 4

George Springer got his season off to a hot start with a 2-run HR in the first, and another 2-run HR in the 5th, giving the Blue Jays a 4-1 lead. Gunnar Henderson got his first career hit with an RBI 1B in the 2nd, but that was all the O's would get off of Kevin Gausman. Yimi Garcia, Erik Swanson, and Jordan Romano each pitched a scoreless inning to close the game, with Romano earning his first save of the season. The Blue Jays got the 2-0 home start they were looking for, while the Orioles will move to Tampa Bay to try to secure their first win. The Blue Jays will host the Yankees for an important early season matchup.

## GAME #1 — BOS 2 @ NYY 7

It's Opening Day! The crowd was buzzing with the premier matchup, featuring Chris Sale against Gerrit Cole. Gleyber Torres gave the Yankees a 1-0 lead with a solo HR in the 2nd, and Harrison Bader doubled the lead with a solo HR in the 5th. The Yankees blew open the game with 4 runs in the 7th against Tanner Houck, on an RBI 3B from Derek Jeter, an RBI 1B from DJ LeMahieu, and a 2-run HR from Don Mattingly. Bader added an RBI 1B in the 8th, his 4th hit of the game, and Gerrit Cole earned the win, even though he could not finish the shutout. Xander Bogaerts hit a 2-run HR in the 9th, driving Cole from the game.

## GAME #2 — BOS 12 @ NYY 7

The Yankees looked on track for the home sweep when they scored 3 runs in the 2nd and 1 more in the 3rd, on 2 RBI from DJ LeMahieu and another solo HR from Gleyber Torres, but the Red Sox came back. Masataka Yoshida hit his first MLBC HR with a 2-run shot in the 4th, and Alex Verdugo drew the Sox within 1 with a solo HR afterward. LeMahieu hit an RBI 1B in the 6th, giving the Yankees a 5-3 lead that they gave to the bullpen, but it was not to be. The Red Sox batted around scoring 7 runs in the 7th. Dustin Pedroia started it with a solo HR, and finished it with a 2-run 2B. David Ortiz, Yoshida, and Verdugo had RBI in the big inning. Don Mattingly added a 2-run 2B in the 8th, but Jason Varitek sealed the 12-7 win with a 2-run HR in the 9th. The series ended with a fitting split, with each team scoring 14 runs. The pennant race has begun. DJ LeMahieu finished the series 6-9, and Harrison Bader 5-8.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 1 • COREY KLUBER FANS 13 • DYLAN CEASE FANS 9 • MARTINEZ RBI 2B

**GAME #1 — KCR 3 @ TBR 4**

It's Opening Day! The Royals came in with new hopes, promoting rookie Vinny Pasquantino, while the Rays brought back the same team, with the focus of getting over the hump. Both teams were close, but on the outside-looking-in when the playoffs started. Whit Merrifield hit the first HR of the season in the 1st inning, connecting off of reigning Cy Young winner, Tyler Glasnow. Merrifield added an RBI in the 2nd, and the Royals gave Zack Greinke a 2-0 lead he took to the 5th. Joey Wendle hit a solo HR to get the Rays on the board, but Andrew Benintendi hit an RBI 2B in the 7th to keep the 2-run lead. The Rays won the game in the 7th when they scored 3 runs, tying the game on a Wander Franco RBI, and taking the lead on a Randy Arozarena RBI.

**GAME #2 — KCR 4 @ TBR 15**

Alex Gordon gave the Royals hope with a 2-run 1B in the 2nd inning, but it was the Rays' day. Yordano Ventura got lit up as the Rays scored 9 runs in the 3rd and 4th innings, and then they added 5 more runs in the 6th. Yandy Diaz, Randy Arozarena, Hunter Renfroe, and Joey Wendle all had 2 RBI, while Austin Meadows paced the team with 4 RBI and 2 2Bs, backing the easy win for Shane McClellan.

**GAME #1 — DET 1 @ MIN 5**

It's Opening Day! The Tigers came in with new hope after adding Mickey Tettleton, Cecil Fielder, and Javier Baez, but the trio went 1-11, with no offense. The new-look Tigers went cold in the opening series, getting only 6 singles in Game #1 off of Sonny Gray. Kirby Puckett led the Twins with an RBI 2B in the 1st, and a 2-run 1B in the 7th to put away the game. Jorge Polanco hit the Twins' first HR of the season with a solo shot in the 4th.

**GAME #2 — DET 1 @ MIN 3**

It's a Twins' sweep! Pablo Lopez continued the strong start for the Twins pitching staff with 7 solid innings. The Tigers could only get 1 run, on a pair of 2Bs from Victor Martinez and Isaac Paredes, while the Twins got solo HRs from Torii Hunter, Byron Buxton, and Kirby Puckett to earn the home sweep. The Twins have championship hopes after adding Torii Hunter, Carlos Correa, and Sonny Gray in the offseason.

**GAME #1 — CLE 0 @ CHW 5**

It's Opening Day! The division rivals came into Chicago with both teams remaining intact from their pennant race last year, ready to resume. Dylan Cease dominated with a CG SH, giving up only 1 hit, striking out 9. It was a dominant performance to support the Yasmani Grandal 3-run HR in the 2nd. Eloy Jimenez added a solo HR in the 8th, sealing the 5-0 win.

**GAME #2 — CLE 5 @ CHW 0**

It was Corey Kluber who took control of Game #2, pitching his own CG SH, giving up only 2 hits, striking out 13, evening the series. Jim Thome hit a 2-run 2B in the 1st, and the Guardians cruised to a 5-0 victory, reversing in every way Game #1.

**GAME #1 — SEA 3 @ HOU 2**

It's Opening Day! The Mariners came into the premier pitching duel between Felix Hernandez and Justin Verlander with new addition Edgar Martinez, while the Astros had only added Jeremy Pena to replace the lost Carlos Correa. Alex Bregman hit a solo HR in the 1st, but the M's tied the game in the 6th. The game went to the bullpen, where Matt Brash got the win after Martinez hit an RBI 2B in the 10th.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 1 • DEGROM FANS 13 • POSEY GRAND SLAM • ALVAREZ WALK-OFF HR

**GAME #2 — SEA 1 @ HOU 2**

Framber Valdez pitched 7 strong innings, only giving up an RBI 2B to Kyle Seager, but it tied the game, as the Astros had only gotten a lone run against Robbie Ray. The game again went to the bullpens, tied 1-1, when Yordan Alvarez had enough, hitting a walk-off solo HR, giving the Astros the 2-1 win, securing the home split.

**GAME #1 — TEX 8 @ LAA 4**

It's Opening Day! The Rangers come into 2023 with big hopes after adding Corey Seager, Marcus Semien, Ivan Rodriguez, and Nathan Eovaldi. The Angels had an incredible run at the end of last season, and came in with the same team, looking to do it again. Shohei Ohtani didn't have it on this day, as the Rangers scored 3 runs in the 2nd, and a fourth in the 6th. The Angels fought back with 2-run HRs from Andrelton Simmons and Logan O'Hoppe, but the Rangers just kept pouring it on as Juan Gonzalez, Josh Hamilton, and Seager all hit solo HRs to put the game out of reach.

**GAME #2 — TEX 14 @ LAA 0**

It was the Rangers' day in Game #2, as they scored 8 runs in the 1st inning off of Patrick Sandoval. Juan Gonzalez and Joey Gallo had 2 RBIs in the inning, and the Rangers never looked back, as Mike Minor pitched a 5-hit CG SH. Adrian Beltre went 5-5, with 10 total bases, and 3 RBIs.

**GAME #1 — SFG 4 @ OAK 2**

It's Opening Day! The Giants returned the same team that came so close to the championship last season, except they swapped out Kevin Gausman for Carlos Rodon, while the A's seemed to have taken a step back, losing Matt Chapman and Matt Olson, while only gaining Eric Chavez. Chris Bassitt matched Rodon with 7 strong innings, giving up only a solo HR to Evan Longoria. In the 7th, Sean Murphy gave the A's the lead with a 2-run HR, but the Giants rallied. In the 9th inning Longoria struck again, hitting a game-winning 2-run HR, giving Camilo Doval the win.

**GAME #2 — SFG 9 @ OAK 7**

The Giants got the result they needed, but it wasn't easy. Sean Murphy hit a 3-run HR to give the A's a 4-1 lead, but the Giants responded with a Buster Posey Grand Slam HR in the 7th. The Giants made it 6-4 going to the bottom of the 9th, where Rickey Henderson tied the game with a 2-out 2-run HR. The game went to the 12th inning, where Posey struck again, hitting a game-winning 2-run HR. The Giants got the hot start they sought in their rivalry series, while the A's are left scrambling a bit.

**GAME #1 — ATL 0 @ NYM 9**

It's Opening Day! The Braves came into NY with the tough task of facing Jacob deGrom. deGrom showed up, pitching a brilliant 2-hit CG SH, walking 0, striking out 13. Michael Conforto paced the offense with a 3-run HR in the 4th, and a 2-run HR in the 5th. Jeff McNeil added a solo HR in the 8th, and the Mets got the start they needed at home.

**GAME #2 — ATL 2 @ NYM 0**

It was a coming out party for prized rookie Spencer Strider, who struck out 14, while giving up 0 runs over 7½ innings. Austin Riley hit a solo HR, while Matt Olson went 3-4 with 2 2Bs.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 1 • KYLE SCHWARBER GRAND SLAM • REDS WIN 3-2 • REDS WIN 5-1

**GAME #1 — WSH 2 @ PHI 1**

It's Opening Day! The Nationals came in with new 1B Josh Bell, but they lost star Trea Turner. The Phillies added John Kruk as they faced reigning Cy Young winner, Max Scherzer, who did not disappoint. Backed by a 1st inning Ryan Zimmerman 2-run HR, Scherzer did the rest, only giving up a solo HR to Rhys Hoskins. The bullpen held, and the Nationals dashed the Phillies' hopes for a hot start after their incredible World Series run.

**GAME #2 — WSH 4 @ PHI 5**

Ryan Howard hit a solo HR in the 2nd, but the Nationals scored 4 runs in the 4th, highlighted by a Keibert Ruiz 2-run 2B. The Phillies were looking at a disastrous start to the pennant-defending season, when Kyle Schwarber hit a Grand Slam HR in the 7th to turn the 4-1 deficit into a 5-4 win.

**GAME #1 — STL 3 @ MIA 5**

It's Opening Day! The Cardinals come into the season focused to make a run, adding only Jordan Montgomery. Miami felt much improved in the person of Gary Sheffield. Jazz Chisholm took the first turn with a 2-run 2B, and Garrett Cooper did the same in the 5th. Lars Nootbaar and Matt Carpenter went back-to-back with HRs in the 6th, but it was not enough to stop Jose Fernandez from getting the win.

**GAME #2 — STL 6 @ MIA 4**

Jesus Aguilar hit a solo HR in the 2nd, and Garrett Cooper added a solo HR in the 3rd. The Marlins took a 3-0 lead to the 8th, where the Cardinals were looking at a very disappointing opening sweep. Rookie Lars Nootbaar made a name for himself, hitting a clutch 2-out, game-tying, 3-run HR. The Cardinals lost the lead in the bottom of the 8th, but they added 3 more runs in the 9th, and escaped with a hard-fought road split.

**GAME #1 — PIT 0 @ MIL 4**

It's Opening Day! The Pirates felt improved about their team with the additions of Willie Stargell and Andrew McCutchen, but Corbin Burnes shut them out with an 8-hit CG SH. Jonathan Lucroy hit a 2-run 1B in the 3rd, and the Brewers cruised to a 4-0 win.

**GAME #2 — PIT 2 @ MIL 4**

Brandon Woodruff only allowed a Roberto Clemente RBI 1B in the 3rd before Jonathan Lucroy tied the game 1-1 with a clutch solo HR. Rowdy Tellez hit a 3-run HR to win the game in the 8th, and Josh Hader got the save despite giving up a solo HR to Willie Stargell. Corbin Burnes and Woodruff, Devin Williams and Hader, combined to walk 0 Pirates over the 2-game series.

**GAME #1 — CIN 5 @ CHC 1**

It's Opening Day! The Reds were excited to debut Eric Davis, while the Cubs seemed to have fallen behind, losing Kris Bryant and Javier Baez. Tyler Stephenson and Jesse Winker both had 2-run hits in the 4-run 5th, while Luis Castillo completely shut down the Cubs in a CG 4-hitter.

**GAME #2 — CIN 3 @ CHC 2**

It started well for the Cubs with a Sammy Sosa RBI 2B, but Eugenio Suarez and Jonathan India hit back-to-back HRs in the 3rd. Hunter Greene took care of the rest, and the Reds got the important road sweep against their rivals.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 1 • ERIC HOSMER 3-RUN HR • MAX MUNCY SOLO HR • BAL WINS 4-3

**GAME #1 — COL 9 @ SDP 7**

It's Opening Day! The Rockies come in with an utterly stacked lineup after adding Todd Helton, Larry Walker, and Kris Bryant. It's a fearsome lineup, but the Rockies' weak pitching staff had the Padres excited for a hot start to the season. Game #1 went just like the Rockies hoped, a back-and-forth slugfest. The Rockies scored 2 in the 1st, while the Padres answered with 1 in the 1st, 2 more runs in the 2nd, and 1 in the 3rd, taking a 4-2 lead to the 7th. Larry Walker hit a bases-loaded 3-run 2B to take a 5-4 lead. Todd Helton hit a 2-run HR in the top of the 9th, but Eric Hosmer hit a game-tying 3-run HR. The Padres' hopes were dashed in the 10th, as Charlie Blackmon hit a 2-run 3B to win the game.

**GAME #2 — COL 4 @ SDP 1**

The Padres left Game #2 scratching their heads. Kyle Freeland shut them down, allowing only an RBI 1B to Wil Myers. Carlos Gonzalez and Ryan McMahon both had 2 RBI and an HR. The Padres were swept at home by what most considered the weakest team in the league due to their pitching staff.

**GAME #1 — ARI 2 @ LAD 4**

It's Opening Day! The Dodgers were excited to get last season in the past, and live up to their talent and hype. They added premium talent with Freddie Freeman and Trea Turner, giving them the strongest offensive lineup in baseball, to combine with a very strong pitching staff. Arizona gained Luis Gonzalez and Matt Williams, giving them a significant boost. Max Muncy hit the first HR of the year for the Dodgers, and Freeman put the game away in the 8th with a solo HR. Clayton Kershaw pitched a strong 7 innings for the win. Luis Gonzalez hit the Diamondbacks' first HR in the loss.

**GAME #2 — ARI 2 @ LAD 6**

It was the Dodgers' day in Game #2 as Will Smith, Freddie Freeman, and Adrian Gonzalez, all hit solo HR, Smith hitting 2. Walker Buehler shut down the Arizona attack, giving up only 1 run over 7 innings.

**ROUND #2****GAME #3 — BAL 6 @ TBR 1**

Baltimore reversed their course with a surprising sweep on the road. Anthony Santander hit a 2-out base-loaded 3-run 2B, and Ryan Mountcastle hit a 3-run HR to seal the 6-1 win. Grayson Rodriguez pitched a very strong game in his debut, giving up only a solo HR to Wander Franco.

**GAME #4 — BAL 4 @ TBR 3**

Anthony Santander did it again, hitting a 2-run HR in the 2nd inning, and Adley Rutschman hit a solo HR in the 3rd, pacing the O's 4-3 win. Dean Kremer gave up 3 hits and 2 RBIs to Wander Franco, but he held on to earn the win.

**GAME #3 — NYY 1 @ TOR 0**

Luis Severino pitched a gem with a 4-hit CG SH, striking out a league-high 15. Jorge Posada hit an RBI 1B to give the Yankees the lead that they would not lose.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 1 • AARON JUDGE 3-RUN HR • JIM THOME 2-RUN HR • PUCKETT 2-RUN HR

**GAME #4 — NYY 8 @ TOR 3**

Dalton Varsho hit a solo HR in the 3rd, giving the Blue Jays a needed lead, but the Yankees tied the game in the 5th inning. In the 7th the Yankees pulled away with back-to-back solo HR from Jorge Posada and Aaron Hicks, and DJ LeMahieu hit a 2-run HR later in the inning. Aaron Judge added a 3-run HR in the 9th. Masahiro Tanaka pitched a strong 7 innings to earn the win.

**GAME #3 — BOS 9 @ MIN 6**

JD Martinez and Xander Bogaerts hit solo HRs to give Boston a 2-0 lead, when the Twins unloaded with 6 runs in the 7th. Carlos Correa hit a 2-run HR and Torii Hunter hit a 3-run HR, giving the Twins a sudden 6-2 lead. But David Ortiz hit a 3-run HR leading an incredible 7-run inning in response.

**GAME #4 — BOS 6 @ MIN 8**

David Ortiz hit another 3-run HR in the 1st inning, and Masataka Yoshida hit a solo HR, giving Boston a 4-1 lead. But the Twins did it again, scoring 5 runs in a comeback, on a 2-run 3B from Byron Buxton, and a 2-run 2B from Kirby Puckett. The powerful Red Sox responded to tie the game, with Yoshida hitting his second HR of the game, but the Twins would not be denied the split, as Puckett hit a 2-run HR to win the game.

**GAME #3 — KCR 8 @ CLE 6**

Cleveland started well, with a Carlos Santana 2-run 2B, and a Yan Gomes RBI 1B, but the Royals answered with an RBI from Alex Gordon, and a 2-run 1B from Whit Merrifield. Then the Royals broke open the game with a 5-run 3rd inning, highlighted by a Bobby Witt Jr. 2-run HR. Jim Thome hit a 2-run HR, but it was not enough as the Royals won 8-6 behind Brady Singer.

**GAME #4 — KCR 1 @ CLE 2**

Carlos Santana hit a solo HR in the 1st, but Vinny Pasquantino tied it with an RBI 1B in the 5th. The game went tied 1-1 to the bottom of the 9th, when Jose Ramirez hit a walk-off solo HR, salvaging a very important split at home for the Guardians.

**GAME #3 — CHW 9 @ DET 1**

Luis Robert hit a solo HR in the 1st, Yasmani Grandal hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd, and Frank Thomas hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd, and the White Sox cruised to a 9-1 win behind Lucas Giolito, who pitched a strong 8 innings. Thomas and Andrew Vaughn both hit 2-run HRs to seal the win.

**GAME #4 — CHW 8 @ DET 1**

Luis Robert hit another 1st inning solo HR, and Yasmani Grandal went 3-4 with 2 RBI. Michael Kopech pitched solid to earn the win, as Chicago added 4 runs in the 4th to blow open the game. Detroit has scored 4 runs through 4 games.

**GAME #3 — TEX 5 @ OAK 1**

Martin Perez took a shutout to the 9th, but gave up a solo HR to Eric Chavez. Josh Hamilton hit a solo HR in the 5th to break the tie, and then Ivan Rodriguez and Joey Gallo hit back-to-back solo HR in the 8th, and Rodriguez hit a 2-run 2B in the 9th, securing the 5-1 win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 1 • JOE MUSGROVE FANS 10 • SHOHEI OHTANI 8 RBI • PADRES WIN 7-1

**GAME #4 — TEX 2 @ OAK 9**

Oakland answered in Game #2 when Starling Marte hit a 2-run HR in the 1st, and was followed by a Khris Davis solo HR. Tony Kemp and Elvis Andrus hit back-to-back HRs, and Eric Chavez hit a 2-run HR in the 5-run 2nd, and it was over. Adrian Beltre hit a 2-run HR late in the loss, and rookie JP Sears picked up a win in his debut.

**GAME #3 — SEA 3 @ LAA 8**

Jared Walsh, Mike Trout, and Shohei Ohtani went 6-10 with 8 RBI. Walsh hit a 3B, and Trout and Ohtani hit HRs in the 8-3 win. Garrett Richards pitched 6 innings to get the win.

**GAME #4 — SEA 10 @ LAA 4**

Robinson Cano hit a 2-run HR in the 1st, and a solo HR in the 2nd, and the M's were up 7-0. George Kirby gave up 4 runs over 6 innings, including a 2-run HR to Albert Pujols, but Julio Rodriguez hit solo HRs in the 6th and 8th innings, while Mitch Haniger hit 2 HRs as well.

**GAME #3 — NYM 5 @ PHI 7**

In a major series of heavyweights, the Phillies came out with a sweep. They jumped all over the Mets in Game #1 with 3 runs in the 1st, and 2 runs in the 3rd and 4th. Mike Schmidt had 2 RBI, and Ryan Howard and John Kruk both hit 2-run HRs. The Mets got to Cole Hamels in the 8th when David Wright hit an RBI 3B and Pete Alonso hit a solo HR, but it was not enough.

**GAME #4 — NYM 6 @ PHI 9**

Francisco Lindor hit a solo HR in the top of the 1st inning, but the Phillies unloaded. JT Realmuto hit a bases-loaded 3-run 2B, and Bryson Stott hit 2-run HRs in the 2nd and 4th. The Mets clawed back, but Kyle Schwarber hit a 2-run HR to seal the 9-6 win.

**GAME #3 — HOU 4 @ SDP 0**

Joe Musgrove pitched a shutout into the 8th inning, giving up only 3 hits while striking out 10. Jeremy Pena hit a 2-run HR to seal the 4-0 win.

**GAME #4 — HOU 1 @ SDP 7**

Michael Brantley hit a solo HR, but Tony Gwynn hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd. Sean Manaea stepped up, giving up only the 1 run through 6, when the Padres put together 4 hits in a row, scoring 5 runs, sealing the 7-1 win.

**GAME #3 — WSH 5 @ MIA 2**

Brian Anderson hit a 2-run HR in the 4th and Trevor Rogers gave up only 1 run in 7 innings, but the Nationals struck in the 9th with 4 runs, highlighted by a Josh Bell bases-loaded 3-run 2B. Gio Gonzalez pitched 8 strong innings to get the win.

**GAME #4 — WSH 7 @ MIA 10**

Ryan Zimmerman hit a 1st inning solo HR, and Howie Kendrick, Starlin Castro, and Keibert Ruiz hit 2Bs in the 2nd. Brian Anderson hit a solo HR in the 3rd, and Jesus Aguilar hit a solo HR in the 5th, before 4 more runs, highlighted by a Gary Sheffield 2-run 2B. Garrett Cooper added a 3-run HR in the Marlins' 10-7 win. Rookie Edward Cabrera pitched 3½ shutout innings to earn the win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 1 • GRAY 3-HIT SHUTOUT • TAYLOR WALK-OFF HIT • MUNCY 3-RUN HR

**GAME #3 — ATL 3 @ MIL 4**

Matt Olson had an RBI 1B in the 3rd, but Willy Adames hit a 2-run 1B in the bottom half. William Contreras hit a 2-run HR in the 4th, but Adames answered in the 7th with an RBI 2B. The game went to the 11th inning when Tyrone Taylor hit a walk-off 1B, scoring Robin Yount after a Ryan Braun 2B.

**GAME #4 — ATL 5 @ MIL 2**

Austin Riley hit solo HRs in the 1st and 3rd innings, and Matt Olson hit an RBI 2B in the 5th. Kyle Wright pitched 6 solid innings, and William Contreras sealed it with a 2-run HR in the 8th. Lorenzo Cain hit a solo HR in the loss.

**GAME #3 — CHC 1 @ PIT 5**

The Cubs are in a tailspin. Roberto Clemente hit a 2-run HR in the 1st, and Willie Stargell hit a solo HR in the 3rd, and the Pirates cruised to an easy 5-1 win. JT Brubaker pitched strongly, taking a shutout into the 8th inning.

**GAME #4 — CHC 2 @ PIT 9**

Roberto Clemente went 4-5 with 3 RBI, 1 3B, and 2 2Bs. Willie Stargell added a 3-run HR to his RBI 1B, and the Pirates routed the Cubs. Mitch Keller pitched well, giving up only 1 run over 5 innings.

**GAME #3 — STL 8 @ CIN 3**

The Cardinals showed up, and the Reds did not. Paul Goldschmidt hit an RBI 2B in the 1st, and the Cardinals rolled from there, scoring in 6 of 8 innings. Kolton Wong hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd, and a solo HR in the 6th, and Mark McGwire hit a 2-run HR in the romp. Jordan Montgomery pitched 8 strong innings, giving up only a solo HR to Nick Castellanos.

**GAME #4 — STL 6 @ CIN 1**

Paul Goldschmidt hit a solo HR in the 1st, and Miles Mikolas took care of the rest. Nolan Arenado went 4-5, leading off the 4-run 5th with a 1B, and hitting a solo HR in the 8th for the final blow in the 6-1 win and road sweep. Eugenio Suarez hit a solo HR in the loss.

**GAME #3 — COL 2 @ LAD 0**

The surprising Rockies moved to 3-0 with a brilliant 3-hit CG SH from Jon Gray. Julio Urias matched him until the 7th, when Brendan Rodgers hit a solo HR. Andres Galarraga hit a solo HR in the 9th to finish the 2-0 win.

**GAME #4 — COL 5 @ LAD 6**

Max Muncy hit a 3-run HR, but the Rockies came back to take a 5-4 lead on 3 RBI from Charlie Blackmon. The surprising Rockies were on the verge of a sweep in LA, moving to 4-0, an inconceivable outcome, plunging the Dodgers' season into early chaos, when Justin Turner hit an ultra-clutch 2-run HR in the 8th to win the game. Kenley Jansen shut down the Rockies in the 9th for the save.

**GAME #3 — ARI 2 @ SFG 5**

The Giants needed a sweep to move into the lead, and they got it. Brandon Crawford went 3-4 with an RBI 3B in the 2nd and a 2B in the 8th. Buster Posey added 2 RBI backing a strong outing from Logan Webb, who gave up only 4 hits, 1 run, while striking out 9.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 1 • MIKE YASTRZEMSKI 5 RBI • BARRY BONDS SOLO HR • SFG WINS 13-4

### GAME #4 — ARI 4 @ SFG 13

The Giants finished the sweep by scoring 3 runs in the 4th, and then 6 more runs in the 6th, highlighted by a 3-run HR from LaMonte Wade. Arizona scored 3 in the 7th, but the Giants answered with 4 more runs in the 8th on solo HRs from Barry Bonds and Mike Yastrzemski, who went 3-4 with 5 RBI. Josh Rojas went 2-4 with 2 2Bs and 3 RBIs in the loss.

## MLBC — WEEK 2

GAMES 5-8 • EARLY SEPARATION

## THE FIRST SEPARATION

*St. Louis and San Francisco reach 7-1 while Toronto, the Angels and the Cardinals all sweep the week.*

**THE LEAD** San Francisco entered Week 2 as the league's lone 4-0 club, with nine teams tucked behind at 3-1. Toronto had Tampa Bay and the White Sox, the Dodgers went to San Diego, St. Louis moved through Pittsburgh and Milwaukee, and the Giants hosted Colorado before heading south to San Diego. At the bottom, Detroit, Chicago and Arizona needed proof that Opening Week had not already become a hole. The second four-game block was the first chance for an early surprise to become position.

**THE WEEK** Toronto, the Angels and St. Louis all went 4-0. Bo Bichette powered the Blue Jays with four HR, while the Angels answered their opening disappointment by sweeping Houston and then the Dodgers. Patrick Sandoval shut out the Astros, Shohei Ohtani helped beat Justin Verlander in extra innings, and Los Angeles finished the week with a 10th-inning win at Dodger Stadium. San Francisco split with Colorado, then swept San Diego to finish 3-1 and match St. Louis at 7-1. St. Louis had needed some late theater of its own during a perfect week. Atlanta found Chipper Jones in spectacular fashion: after an 0-for-20 start, Jones went 8-for-10 against Miami and hit three HR in a 17-run eruption. Dylan Cease threw his second 1-hit shutout in two starts, Blake Snell blanked the Dodgers with 10 strikeouts, Steven Kwan hit for the cycle in a loss, and Seattle needed seventeen innings to finish a home win over Texas. Week 2 did not simply reward the fast starters; it introduced several different ways to recover.

**THE STAKES** St. Louis and San Francisco now share the best record at 7-1. Toronto and Minnesota are 6-2, and the Blue Jays own the early AL East lead. The AL West is already compressed, with Seattle and the Angels at 5-3. The Dodgers have fallen to 3-5 after being swept in San Diego and then twice by the Angels, while Houston's offense has opened quietly enough to create its first question. Week 3 brings Boston to Toronto, Minnesota to Cleveland, Cincinnati through Milwaukee and Atlanta, and San Francisco into Dodger Stadium before hosting St. Louis. Eight games are enough to create distance. They are also enough to show which teams can answer when the first version of their season goes wrong.

|                                               |                                                     |                                    |                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <b>TOP OF TABLE</b><br><b>STL / SFG • 7-1</b> | <b>PERFECT WEEK</b><br><b>TOR / LAA / STL • 4-0</b> | <b>AL EAST</b><br><b>TOR • 6-2</b> | <b>ROUGH WEEK</b><br><b>LAD / PIT • 0-4</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|

## WEEKLY HONORS

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>HITTER OF THE WEEK</b><br><b>GOLD CHIPPER JONES • ATL</b><br><i>8-for-10 • 3 HR • 7 RBI</i><br><b>SILVER BO BICHETTE • TOR</b><br><i>4 HR • 7 RBI</i><br><b>BRONZE LARS NOOTBAAR • STL</b><br><i>3 HR • 6 RBI</i> | <b>PITCHER OF THE WEEK</b><br><b>GOLD DYLAN CEASE • CHW</b><br><i>CG SHO • 1 H</i><br><b>SILVER CORBIN BURNES • MIL</b><br><i>CG SHO • 3 H</i><br><b>BRONZE BLAKE SNELL • SDP</b><br><i>CG SHO • 4 H • 10 K</i> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 2 • BIEBER FANS 10 • COLE SHUTOUT • DUSTIN PEDROIA 2-RUN HR

## ROUND #3

## GAME #5 — BAL 3 @ BOS 0

John Means pitched a gem with a 5-hit CG SH against the Red Sox in Boston. Eddie Murray paced the O's with a solo HR in the 5th, and rookie Gunnar Henderson hit his first career HR with a solo shot in the 9th.

## GAME #6 — BAL 10 @ BOS 15

The O's opened strong with 3 runs in the 1st, on the strength of a Cal Ripken 2-run HR, and then a 4th run in the top of the 2nd. But the Red Sox stormed back with 6 runs in the bottom half. Xander Bogaerts hit a solo HR, Jason Varitek had an RBI 2B, Dustin Pedroia hit a 2-run 1B, and JD Martinez finished it with a 2-run HR. But Baltimore took the lead right back in the 3rd with 3 runs, highlighted by a Gunnar Henderson 2-run 2B. Up 7-6 in the 5th, the O's scored 3 more on an Eddie Murray 3-run HR. The Red Sox fought back with 2 runs in the bottom half, and then in the bottom of the 6th the Red Sox scored 7 runs, highlighted by a David Ortiz Grand Slam HR. Boston won 15-10 in a wild game. Drew Pomeranz and Garrett Whitlock combined for 4 scoreless innings, giving up only 2 hits.

## GAME #5 — TOR 6 @ TBR 4

The Blue Jays scored 4 runs off of Tyler Glasnow in the 3rd, and a 5th run an inning later on a Bo Bichette solo HR. The Rays fought back off of Alek Manoah with a Mike Zunino 2-run HR, and a Hunter Renfroe solo HR, but the Jays held on for the win. Jordan Romano struck out the side in the bottom of the 9th for the save.

## GAME #6 — TOR 9 @ TBR 6

The Rays scored 3 runs in the bottom of the 1st, on a Randy Arozarena RBI 3B, and a Brandon Lowe RBI 2B, but the Jays tied the game in the 2nd, on a 2-run 1B from Alejandro Kirk. With the game tied 3-3 in the 5th, Bo Bichette hit a 2-run HR, and then opened up a 4-run 8th with a solo HR, his third of the 2-game series. Jose Bautista hit a 2-run HR, and Teoscar Hernandez added a solo HR, and the Jays were up 9-3. Hunter Renfroe hit a 2-run HR and Brandon Lowe added a solo HR, but the Jays swept the Rays at home in a key early series of contenders. New addition Kevin Gausman earned the win.

## GAME #5 — CLE 0 @ NYY 1

A terrific pitching duel unfolded between Shane Bieber and Gerrit Cole. Bieber pitched 9 shutout innings, gave up only 4 hits and 1 walk, while striking out 10. Cole pitched 9 shutout innings giving up only 3 hits and 2 walks, striking out 8. The game went to extra innings, where the teams combined for another 9 shutout innings. It was 0-0 in the bottom of the 15th when Giancarlo Stanton ended it with a walk-off solo HR.

## GAME #6 — CLE 3 @ NYY 1

Corey Kluber perhaps outpitched both pitchers from the prior game, taking a shutout into the 8th, striking out a league-high 16. Josh Naylor had an RBI 1B, Steven Kwan had an RBI 1B, and Franmil Reyes hit a solo HR, and the Guardians won 3-1.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 2 • CEASE 1-HIT SHUTOUT • KINSLER WALK-OFF HIT • TWINS WIN 8-7

**GAME #5 — KCR 13 @ DET 8**

Game #1 was an offensive outburst. Alex Gordon went 3-5 with a 2B, a 3B, and 3 RBI. George Brett went 4-5 with a 2B, HR, and 3 RBI. The Royals scored in 6 of the final 8 innings of the game, scoring consistently against the Tigers pitching staff. Javier Baez had a 2-run 2B, and Isaac Paredes hit a 3-run HR, while Riley Greene, Miguel Cabrera, and Cecil Fielder all had solo HR, but it was not enough as the Royals won by 5.

**GAME #6 — KCR 6 @ DET 7**

The offenses continued in Game #2 with the Tigers scoring in 4 straight innings, highlighted by a 2-run HR from Miguel Cabrera. The Royals scored in 3 of the same, highlighted by an Alex Gordon 2-run 2B, and the game was tied 6-6. The game went tied to the 11th, when Ian Kinsler hit a walk-off RBI 1B. Victor Martinez went 4-6 and scored the winning run. Martinez is batting .519 on the young season.

**GAME #5 — CHW 5 @ MIN 0**

Dylan Cease pitched a second 1-hit shutout, taking the early lead for the Cy Young Award. The White Sox scored 4 runs in the 2nd inning on 5 hits and 2 2Bs, and coasted to the win. Eloy Jimenez went 3-4 and hit a solo HR in the 8th to seal the 5-0 win. Cease had pitched 18 innings and given up just 2 hits and 8 walks, striking out 18, in perhaps the most impressive 2-game run a pitcher could have.

**GAME #6 — CHW 7 @ MIN 8**

The Twins scored 4 runs in the 3rd, but the White Sox scored 1 in the 4th and 4 more in the 5th to take a 5-4 lead. Eloy Jimenez hit a 2-run HR to take the lead, but the Twins added a 3-run 2B from Jorge Polanco to take a 7-5 lead, with the final run on a Kirby Puckett RBI 3B, winning 8-7 in the end, surviving a 2-run HR from Frank Thomas. Lance Lynn has been terrific, now with the dubious and improbable season line of 10 $\frac{2}{3}$  innings pitched and 10 hits, 10 runs, 10 walks, and 10 strikeouts.

**GAME #5 — SEA 0 @ OAK 2**

Chris Bassitt outpitched Felix Hernandez, pitching 7 shutout innings. Sean Doolittle came in to save the game with 2 no-hit innings. Hernandez only gave up 4 hits over 8 innings, but 2 were RBI 1Bs from Eric Chavez and Starling Marte.

**GAME #6 — SEA 8 @ OAK 4**

The Mariners scored 2 runs in the 2nd, and then added 5 more in the 5th, highlighted by a Cal Raleigh 2-run 1B, his 3rd RBI of the game. Robbie Ray only gave up a 2-run HR from Mark Canha over 5 innings, and the M's cruised to an 8-4 win.

**GAME #5 — LAA 3 @ HOU 1**

In a match-up of aces, Shohei Ohtani pitched a strong 8 innings, giving up only an RBI 1B to Jeff Bagwell, while Justin Verlander only gave up an RBI 2B to Andrelton Simmons over 7 innings. The game went 1-1 to the 10th, when Mike Trout took the lead for the Angels with an RBI 1B, and then scored an insurance run on an Ohtani RBI 3B. The Angels won 3-1 for a huge road win in Houston.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 2 • SCHWARBER 3-RUN HR • JOSH BELL 2-RUN HR • JOEY GALLO SOLO HR

**GAME #6 — LAA 3 @ HOU 0**

The Angels have recovered from the home sweep by the Rangers by sweeping the Astros on the road. Patrick Sandoval pitched a 4-hit CG SH, striking out 10. Shohei Ohtani hit a 2-run 2B in the 6th, and the Angels swept the Astros on the road, making a big statement against the team that beat them in the ALCS last season. Houston has scored just 10 runs in the first 6 games. Mike Trout went 3-4 with a solo HR. Sandoval rebounded well after giving up 10 hits and 10 runs in 2 innings in his previous start.

**GAME #5 — ARI 4 @ TEX 3**

Texas wasted a great opportunity in Game #1. The Rangers scored 3 runs in the 1st inning, on a 2-run 1B from Ivan Rodriguez, but the Diamondbacks tied the game in the top of the 2nd, on a 2-run 2B from Carson Kelly, and took the lead in the 3rd with an RBI 1B from Lourdes Gurriel. The Rangers just couldn't tie the game, and were shut out over the final 8 innings of the game by Zac Gallen, Brad Ziegler, and Archie Bradley.

**GAME #6 — ARI 4 @ TEX 6**

Matt Williams hit a solo HR in the 2nd inning, but Juan Gonzalez hit a 3-run HR in the bottom of the 3rd. Joey Gallo added a solo HR in the 4th, and Carson Kelly matched him with a solo HR in the 5th, and then the Diamondbacks tied the game on back-to-back HRs from Williams and Christian Walker. Tied 4-4 in the bottom of the 8th, Adolis Garcia won the game for the Rangers with a 2-run 2B.

**GAME #5 — WSH 6 @ ATL 1**

Max Scherzer did his thing, pitching 8 strong innings, giving up only 5 hits, 1 run, and 1 walk, while striking out 12. Josh Bell hit a solo HR, and Ryan Zimmerman went 3-5 with a 2-run HR and a 2-run 2B to give the Nationals an important road win.

**GAME #6 — WSH 1 @ ATL 5**

Matt Olson hit a solo HR in the 2nd, and Austin Riley hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd, giving the Braves a 4-0 lead. Spencer Strider took a shutout into the 8th, striking out 12, giving up a solo HR to Ryan Zimmerman, and the Braves got the needed home split. Strider has 26 strikeouts in 15 innings, giving up only 1 run, taking the early lead for the Cy Young Award. Zimmerman is 10 for 24 with 3 doubles, 4 home runs, and 11 RBI.

**GAME #5 — PHI 10 @ MIA 3**

The Phillies played like champions today, riding the back of Kyle Schwarber's big day. Schwarber hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd, a solo HR in the 4th, and a 3-run HR in the 5th. Rhys Hoskins added a 3-run HR, and Bryce Harper capped the 10-3 with a solo HR in the 6th. Zack Wheeler had an easy day, giving up 2 runs over 5 innings.

**GAME #6 — PHI 1 @ MIA 7**

The Marlins evened the series in a key home win in Game #2. Garrett Cooper had an RBI 1B in the 1st, and a 3-run HR in the 7th, backing Sandy Alcantara's strong game.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 2 • YADIER MOLINA 3-RUN HR • WIL MYERS 2-RUN HR • RIZZO SOLO HR

**GAME #5 — CIN 5 @ NYM 3**

The Reds got to Jacob deGrom in the 1st inning with solo HRs from Eric Davis and Nick Castellanos. Luis Castillo gave up a leadoff HR to Brandon Nimmo, but that was it. Up 3-1 in the 9th the Reds added 2 more insurance runs, which paid off when the Mets' rally of 2 runs fell short in the bottom of the 9th.

**GAME #6 — CIN 4 @ NYM 5**

David Wright had an RBI 1B in the 1st inning, and a 2-run HR in the 3rd to take a 3-2 lead. The Reds scored 2 runs early, and then tied the game late on solo HRs from Nick Castellanos and Eugenio Suarez. Going to the bottom of the 9th the desperate Mets turned to Gary Carter who promptly hit a walk-off solo HR. The Mets needed the home split.

**GAME #5 — STL 3 @ PIT 2**

The Cardinals took control of the NL Central with a road sweep in Pittsburgh. Yadier Molina hit a 3-run HR, which was all that Jack Flaherty needed. Oneil Cruz and Bryan Reynolds both had RBI 2Bs, but it was not enough.

**GAME #6 — STL 10 @ PIT 5**

The Pirates had hope after RBI 1Bs from Willie Stargell and Bryan Reynolds put them up 3-1, but the Cardinals scored 3 runs in the 4th, highlighted by a solo HR from Mark McGwire and an RBI 3B from Lars Nootbaar. The Pirates tied the game on a Josh Harrison solo HR, the Cardinals took the lead back on a Nootbaar solo HR, and the Pirates tied it again on a Reynolds solo HR. The game was tied 5-5, and the Cardinals just kept rolling. Nolan Arenado hit an RBI 3B to take the lead back, and scored on a Matt Carpenter RBI 2B. Nootbaar capped off his impressive game with a 3-run HR, giving him 11 total bases and 5 RBI.

**GAME #5 — CHC 0 @ MIL 4**

Corbin Burnes pitched a dominant 3-hit CG SH. Ryan Braun handled the rest, hitting a 2-run HR in the 4th, and a solo HR in the 6th. Tyrone Taylor added a solo HR in the 4th.

**GAME #6 — CHC 8 @ MIL 0**

Kyle Hendricks took the ball and matched Corbin Burnes with a 4-hit CG SH. Brandon Woodruff took his shutout into the 6th, when Sammy Sosa hit a 2-run HR. Anthony Rizzo hit a solo HR in the next at-bat, and Seiya Suzuki finished the 7-run outburst with a bases-loaded 3-run 2B. Rizzo added another solo HR in the 9th to finish the 8-0 win, getting the road split.

**GAME #5 — LAD 0 @ SDP 4**

Needing a big win, Yu Darvish pitched a gem against the powerful Dodgers with a 4-hit, no-walk, CG SH, striking out 8. Clayton Kershaw took his shutout into the 6th inning, when Manny Machado took the lead with an RBI 2B. The Padres added 3 more runs, and took a key 4-0 home win against their rival.

**GAME #6 — LAD 0 @ SDP 3**

The Dodgers turned to Walker Buehler to get the split, but Wil Myers hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd, and Tony Gwynn added an RBI 1B, part of his 3-3 day. Blake Snell took care of the rest, with his own 4-hit CG SH, with 10 strikeouts, and the Padres got back in the hunt with a huge home sweep of the Dodgers, shut out the powerful offense for the entire series.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 2 • BO BICHETTE 2-RUN HR • TOM MURPHY 2-RUN HR • RAYS WIN 7-2

**GAME #5 — COL 8 @ SFG 4**

The Rockies moved into 1st place in the NL West at 4-1, giving the Giants their first loss on the season. Tom Murphy hit a 2-run HR to take the lead, but Evan Longoria cut the lead in half in the bottom of the inning with a solo HR. The Giants took the lead with 3 runs in the bottom of the 4th, highlighted by a 2-run 1B from LaMonte Wade. The Rockies added a run in the 5th, but went to the 9th down 4-3. With 2 outs in the 9th, Trevor Story tied the game with an RBI 1B, and the game went to the 11th, tied 4-4. Tom Murphy took the lead back with another HR, and then the Rockies unloaded for 3 more runs, highlighted by a 2-run 3B from Carlos Gonzalez. The beleaguered Rockies bullpen pitched 7 shutout innings on the road to get the win.

**GAME #6 — COL 2 @ SFG 7**

The Rockies took the lead in the 2nd, but the Giants tied the game 1-1 on a Buster Posey RBI 1B. LaMonte Wade hit a solo HR to take the lead, but Larry Walker tied the game with a solo HR in the 6th. Then the Giants pulled away with Evan Longoria hitting a 2-run HR, Posey adding a 2-run 2B, and Mike Yastrzemski finishing it with a solo HR in the 8th. Madison Bumgarner kept the Rockies at 2 runs over his 6 innings, and the Giants moved back into 1st place at 5-1 after getting the home split. The Rockies are the surprise team of the early season.

**ROUND #4****GAME #7 — NYY 5 @ BAL 2**

Rookie Grayson Rodriguez delighted the home crowd with 8 shutout innings, taking a 2-0 lead to the 9th. Jonathan Schoop had hit a 2-run HR in the 5th, and the O's were on the verge. But the Yankees fought back, as Don Mattingly tied the game with a 2-run 2B in the 9th, and Hideki Matsui won the game with another 2-run 2B afterward. Aroldis Chapman struck out the side in the 9th for the save, and the Yankees escaped with a key road win.

**GAME #8 — NYY 1 @ BAL 4**

The O's scored 1 in the 2nd and then 3 more in the 3rd, on RBI 2Bs from Eddie Murray and Anthony Santander and an RBI 1B from Trey Mancini. Dean Kremer pitched a strong game, giving up only 3 hits and 1 run over 6 innings. The O's bullpen gave up only 1 more hit, and the Orioles got the home split.

**GAME #7 — TBR 7 @ BOS 2**

The Rays got one in Boston, scoring 3 runs in the 4th, and single runs in the 5th, 7th, 8th, and 9th. Randy Arozarena went 4-5 with a 2B, HR, and 3 RBI. Jeffrey Springs gave up only a 2-run HR from David Ortiz over his 7 innings, and the Rays won 7-2.

**GAME #8 — TBR 2 @ BOS 4**

David Ortiz hit another 2-run HR in the 3rd, and Tanner Houck only gave up 1 run over his 6⅔ innings. Yandy Diaz hit a solo HR in the 7th, but it was not enough as the Red Sox won 4-2 and got the home split.

**GAME #7 — TOR 5 @ CHW 3**

Vladimir Guerrero hit a 2-run HR in the 1st, and Bo Bichette hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd, and the Blue Jays backed up Hyun-Jin Ryu's 6⅔ shutout innings. Tim Anderson and Jose Abreu hit HRs late, but it was not enough as the Blue Jays got a nice road win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 2 • REYES 3-RUN HR • BUXTON 2-RUN HR • IAN KINSLER 2-RUN HR

**GAME #8 — TOR 4 @ CHW 1**

Yoan Moncada hit an RBI 1B to take an early lead, but Bo Bichette and Vladimir Guerrero hit RBI 2Bs to take a 2-1 lead. Jose Berrios pitched a strong game, giving up only 1 run over his 6 innings. The surging Jays added 2 more runs in the 9th, securing the big road sweep against a contending team.

**GAME #7 — DET 2 @ CLE 9**

Cleveland took control early when Carlos Santana hit a solo HR in the 1st, Franmil Reyes and Yan Gomes hit solo HRs in the 2nd, and Reyes hit a 3-run HR in the 3rd. Jim Thome hit a 2-run HR in the 7th, giving Triston McKenzie the win. Victor Martinez went 4-4.

**GAME #8 — DET 7 @ CLE 6**

Rookie Steven Kwan had a big day, hitting for the first cycle of the season. Kwan hit a 1B in the 1st, a 2-run HR in the 3rd, a 3B in the 6th, and an RBI 2B in the 7th. It was a memorable performance, but it came in a loss. Akil Baddoo and Ian Kinsler hit 2-run HR, and Cecil Fielder hit a solo HR, giving the Tigers a 7-6 road win. Victor Martinez is batting .529 on the season, and had his 1st strikeout of the season in Game #8.

**GAME #7 — MIN 11 @ KCR 3**

Game #1 was close. George Brett hit an RBI 3B and Jorge Soler hit an RBI 2B to take a 2-0 lead in the 1st inning. Carlos Correa hit a solo HR in the 2nd inning, and scored the tying run after hitting a 2B in the 5th. Salvador Perez hit an RBI 2B in the 5th to take the lead, but the Twins tied the game in the 7th on Torii Hunter's 2nd RBI of the game. With the game tied 3-3 the Twins unloaded with 8 runs in the top of the 9th, highlighted by a Grand Slam HR from Josh Donaldson. The Twins bullpen pitched 4 shutout innings, giving up only 1 hit. Correa went 5-5.

**GAME #8 — MIN 13 @ KCR 1**

The Twins kept rolling, scoring 4 runs in the top of the 1st, when Byron Buxton hit a leadoff HR, and Nelson Cruz hit a 3-run HR. Kenta Maeda was cruising when Salvador Perez hit a solo HR, but the Twins scored 6 more runs in the 4th, Kirby Puckett and Josh Donaldson both hitting RBI 1Bs. Joe Mauer added an RBI 3B in the 5th, and Buxton hit a 2-run HR in the 7th, capping the blowout 13-1 win. The Royals seem to be falling out of contention early with the sweep at home dropping them to 2-6. Meanwhile the Twins on the high of a road sweep sit at 6-2, matching Toronto for the best record in the American League. Nelson Cruz went 4-6, with 2 2Bs, HR, 4 RBI.

**GAME #7 — TEX 3 @ SEA 4**

The Mariners made their statement, getting the key home sweep from the Rangers. Mitch Haniger hit a solo HR in the 4th to tie the game, and Ty France hit a solo HR in the 7th to again tie the game, and the game went tied 2-2 to the 12th. Marcus Semien hit a solo HR in the 12th, but the M's responded by tying the game in the bottom half on a bases-loaded walk, and then won the game in the bottom of the 17th on a bases-loaded walk. It was a blow to the early hopes of the Rangers, and a big boost to the early season slump of the M's.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 2 • KYLE TUCKER 2-RUN HR • TY FRANCE 2-RUN HR • ATL WINS 6-5

**GAME #8 — TEX 6 @ SEA 9**

The Mariners poured it on with 4 runs in the 2nd, and 3 runs in the 3rd. Robinson Cano hit a 2-run 1B, Ken Griffey Jr hit a 2-run 2B and an RBI 1B, and Ty France hit a 2-run HR. The Rangers fought back with HRs from Juan Gonzalez, Nathaniel Lowe, and Adolis Garcia, but it was not enough as the M's got the big home sweep, moving into a tie with the Angels for 1st place at 5-3. The Rangers dropped from 1st, falling to 4-4. George Kirby pitched well over 6 innings getting the win.

**GAME #7 — OAK 7 @ HOU 5**

The disappointing Houston Astros fell to 2-5 with a terrible loss to the Oakland A's, their 3rd home loss in a row. Alex Bregman and Michael Brantley both hit 2-run HRs, and the Astros were up 4-1 after 7 innings. Eric Chavez hit a solo HR in the 1st, and another solo HR in the 8th, after Starling Marte hit a 2-run HR, and the A's proceeded to add 3 more runs to steal a road win in Houston.

**GAME #8 — OAK 3 @ HOU 5**

Jeff Bagwell hit a solo HR in the 1st to give the Astros the early lead, but the A's took the lead in the 5th with a bases-loaded 3-run 2B. The Astros tied the game on a 2-run HR from Kyle Tucker, and then took the lead with an RBI 1B from Jeremy Pena, giving the Astros the much-needed home split. Houston has scored only 20 runs on the season, by far the lowest in MLBC.

**GAME #7 — LAA 2 @ LAD 1**

The Angels are still riding the momentum of their run in the postseason, and pull off an incredible upset, sweeping the Dodgers in Los Angeles. Garrett Richards gave up only 1 run in 8 $\frac{2}{3}$  innings, while rookie Logan O'Hoppe and Albert Pujols hit RBI 1Bs to pace the win. Julio Urias only gave up 1 run over his 7 innings, but the Angels squeezed out an impressive road win.

**GAME #8 — LAA 6 @ LAD 3**

Freddie Freeman hit a 2-run HR in the 1st, and an RBI 1B in the 3rd, to give the Dodgers a 3-2 lead that held to the 9th inning. Dustin May pitched well, giving up only 2 runs over his 7 innings, but again the Dodgers' bullpen couldn't hold the game. Clutch Andreton Simmons hit an RBI 1B with 2 outs in the 9th to tie the game against Kenley Jansen, and then Anthony Rendon hit a 3-run HR to win the game in the 10th. It was the surging Angels' 4th win in a row as they move into 1st place in the AL West. The Dodgers are suddenly 3-5 after a 3-1 start, bringing up memories of their horribly disappointing year last season.

**GAME #7 — MIA 5 @ ATL 6**

The Braves and Marlins came into the series both 3-3, but only 1 kept pace in the hunt. The Braves jumped out early with 2Bs from Ronald Acuna and Austin Riley in the 2-run 1st inning, and an RBI 2B from Matt Olson and a 2-run 1B from William Contreras in the 3-run 3rd. Chipper Jones added an RBI 1B in the 4th, and the Braves were up 6-0. Jazz Chisholm hit a 3-run HR in the 8th, but it was not enough to stop the Braves from getting the home win. Charlie Morton only gave up 1 run and 3 hits over 7 innings. Chipper Jones went 4-5. Chipper Jones came into the game hitting 1 for 24.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 2 • JASON HEYWARD 3-RUN HR • JONES 3-RUN HR • MCNEIL 2-RUN HR

**GAME #8 — MIA 2 @ ATL 17**

Even though he went 4-5 with 2 RBI in Game #1, Game #2 was the Chipper Jones Game. Jones hit a 3-run HR in the 3rd, a 2-run HR in the 6th, and a solo HR in the 8th. Jones went 4-5, with 13 total bases, 3 HR, 6 RBI, giving him a dominant home series. Dansby Swanson added a 2-run HR and an RBI 1B, Ozzie Albies added an RBI 2B and 2-run 1B, and Austin Riley added an RBI 2B and a solo HR punctuating the 17-run outburst. Kyle Wright pitched well over 5½ innings to get the win. After an 0-20 start to the season, Chipper Jones is on fire. Nick Markakis is not, stuck in an 0 for 26 start to the season.

**GAME #7 — NYM 10 @ WSH 2**

The Mets needed a key road sweep to get back in contention, and they did it. David Wright hit a 2-run 2B in a 3-run 1st inning, but the Nationals made a game of it with a Ryan Zimmerman 2-run 1B in the 3rd. The game stayed close until the 8th inning when Michael Conforto hit a 2-run HR. The Mets broke open the game with a 5-run 9th, highlighted by another Conforto 2-run HR. Pete Alonso went 2-4, with a 2B, 3 RBI. Kodai Senga pitched well in the win, giving up only 2 runs over 7 innings. Michael Conforto hit back-to-back multiple run HRs in Game #1, and he did it again in Game #7.

**GAME #8 — NYM 7 @ WSH 3**

Francisco Lindor hit an RBI 3B in the 1st inning and scored, giving the Mets an early 2-0 lead. The Nationals tied the game in the 4th on a 2-run HR from Keibert Ruiz. Jeff McNeil hit a solo HR in the 7th to take the lead, and Lindor followed with a 2-run HR. McNeil hit a 2-run HR in the 8th, and the Mets ran away with a big road sweep to get back in the race. Taijuan Walker pitched well giving up only 2 runs over 6 innings.

**GAME #7 — PHI 6 @ CHC 7**

The champion Phillies thought they had this game sealed up after a 6-run 2nd, when Bryson Stott and John Kruk had 2-run 2Bs, but the Cubs needed a win and fought back. Jason Heyward hit a 3-run HR in the 2nd inning, and Sammy Sosa hit a solo HR in the 3rd to make it 6-4. Patrick Wisdom hit a solo HR in the 7th, and the Cubs tied the game in the 8th. After the big 2nd inning, the Phillies just couldn't score again. Both bullpens showed up, and the game went tied 6-6 to the 13th inning, when Seiya Suzuki won the game with a walk-off RBI 1B.

**GAME #8 — PHI 6 @ CHC 2**

Bryce Harper hit a solo HR in the 6th to break a 1-1 tie, but a solo HR from Sammy Sosa in the 7th tied the game at 2-2. The game went to the bullpens and the 10th inning, when Kyle Schwarber won another game, hitting a 3-run HR giving the Phillies the road split, keeping them in 1st place. The Cubs were happy with the split, in a series that could have gone either way.

**GAME #7 — PIT 2 @ CIN 3**

The Reds needed a strong showing at home, and they got it. Bryan Reynolds broke a scoreless tie in the 4th inning with a 2-run 1B, but Eugenio Suarez cut the lead in half with a solo HR. JT Brubaker pitched a strong game, giving up only 2 runs over 7 innings, but the Pirates couldn't close the door. The Reds scored 2 runs in the 8th, and Raisel Iglesias pitched a hitless 9th for the save.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 2 • TOM MURPHY 2-RUN HR • TYRONE TAYLOR 2-RUN HR • REDS WIN 9-7

**GAME #8 — PIT 7 @ CIN 9**

Willie Stargell continued his hot start with a 3-run HR in the 1st inning, but the Reds fought back. Joey Votto hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 1st, and Tyler Stephenson and Eric Davis hit 2-run 2Bs in the 2nd. Eugenio Suarez hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd, and the Reds rode the 6-3 lead to the finish line. Nick Castellanos and Stephenson hit late HRs, and the Reds moved back into contention at 5-3.

**GAME #7 — MIL 2 @ STL 4**

The Brewers were hoping for a strong road series, but they didn't get it. Tyrone Taylor hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd inning, but that was all the Brewers would get against Jordan Montgomery. Hot rookie Lars Nootbaar hit another solo HR, and then Tommy Edman tied the game in the 8th inning with an RBI 1B. Edman then stepped up big time hitting a walk-off 2-run HR to dash the Brewers' hopes.

**GAME #8 — MIL 1 @ STL 4**

Miles Mikolas gave up only an RBI 1B from Willy Adames over 6 strong innings. Nolan Arenado and Yadier Molina hit RBI 1Bs, and Tyler O'Neill finished it off with a 2-run HR. St. Louis got the key home sweep, and moved to 7-1 at the top of the league.

**GAME #7 — ARI 6 @ COL 4**

The surprising Rockies missed out on a great opportunity at home. Tom Murphy hit another solo HR, Trevor Story added a solo HR, and Larry Walker hit a 2-run HR, but they could not overcome the Diamondbacks who got a 3-run HR from Jake McCarthy, and won 6-4 in Denver.

**GAME #8 — ARI 0 @ COL 5**

Antonio Senzatela pitched a great 8-hit CG SH to give the Rockies the home split. Brendan Rodgers hit a 2-run HR, and Larry Walker and Todd Helton hit RBI 2Bs, giving the Rockies an easy win.

**GAME #7 — SFG 7 @ SDP 5**

The San Francisco Giants stayed hot. The Padres had hope after a 3-run 2nd, highlighted by a Francisco Mejia 2-run 2B, but the Giants scored 4 runs in the 4th, highlighted by an Evan Longoria 3-run HR. The Padres took the lead back on a Manny Machado 2-run HR, but the Giants are on a roll. Will Clark hit a 2-run 1B to take the lead back, and Wilmer Flores hit an RBI 1B to finish off the 7-5 road win.

**GAME #8 — SFG 5 @ SDP 4**

The Padres fought back in Game #2 with 4 runs in the 3rd inning, on a Fernando Tatis 3-run HR and a Manny Machado solo HR, but the Giants again rallied with a big inning, putting up 5 runs in the 5th on a 2-run 2B from Will Clark, an RBI 2B from Buster Posey, and RBIs from Casey Schmidt and Barry Bonds. The bullpen held, and neither team could score again, and the Giants left with a big road sweep, moving into a tie with the Cardinals at 7-1. The Padres dropped to a disappointing 3-5.

## MLBC — WEEK 3

GAMES 9-12 • TWO AT THE TOP

## TWO TEAMS TAKE THE TOP

*Toronto and San Francisco reach 10-2 while four perfect weeks scramble both leagues beneath them.*

**THE LEAD** St. Louis and San Francisco started Week 3 at 7-1, Toronto and Minnesota at 6-2, and the middle of the standings remained broad enough for one sweep to change a division. Toronto drew Boston and Texas, Cleveland saw Minnesota and Boston, Cincinnati had Milwaukee and Atlanta, and San Francisco hosted St. Louis after a trip to Dodger Stadium. The Dodgers were already 3-5 after entering the season with enormous expectations, while Houston's quiet opening had created its first real question after a World Series appearance. The Cubs entered at 2-6 and Boston at 4-4, already close to the point where a bad week could become an identity.

**THE WEEK** Toronto, Tampa Bay, Cleveland and the Cubs all went 4-0. The Blue Jays climbed to 10-2 and San Francisco matched them, taking a road split from the Dodgers before sweeping St. Louis. Chicago supplied the sharpest reversal: the Cubs swept St. Louis and Washington to climb from 2-6 to 6-6, while the Cardinals fell from 7-1 to 7-5. Cleveland swept Minnesota and Boston, scoring 20 runs in the Minnesota set before taking two more at Fenway. Anthony Santander won consecutive games against the White Sox with 11th-inning walk-off HRs, Jesse Winker drove in seven for Cincinnati, and Buster Posey homered in three straight games. Jacob deGrom worked nine scoreless innings before the Mets won in the 11th; Drew Rasmussen threw a 2-hit shutout. Boston, Texas, Miami and St. Louis all went 0-4, proof that one week could still rearrange an entire quarter of the table.

**THE STAKES** Toronto and San Francisco now share baseball's best record at 10-2. Cleveland and Cincinnati are 8-4, while Atlanta, the Mets and Philadelphia sit together at 7-5 in the NL East. Boston has fallen to 4-8 and St. Louis has tumbled all the way from 7-1 to 7-5. Chicago, meanwhile, has turned 2-6 into .500 before the season's first quarter can harden into a verdict. Week 4 brings Boston to Houston and Atlanta, the Angels into Yankee Stadium, the Dodgers to the Mets, San Francisco to Chicago and Milwaukee, and a Subway Series in Queens. The fast starters still own the top. The more important development is how many clubs have already demonstrated that the table can move violently underneath them.

|                                                |                                             |                                                |                                     |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>TOP OF TABLE</b><br><b>TOR / SFG • 10-2</b> | <b>PERFECT WEEK</b><br><b>4 clubs • 4-0</b> | <b>NL EAST</b><br><b>ATL / NYM / PHI • 7-5</b> | <b>REVERSAL</b><br><b>STL • 0-4</b> |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

## WEEKLY HONORS

|                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>HITTER OF THE WEEK</b><br><b>GOLD JESSE WINKER • CIN</b><br><i>3 HR • 7 RBI</i><br><b>SILVER EDGAR MARTINEZ • SEA</b><br><i>2 HR • 6 RBI</i><br><b>BRONZE BUSTER POSEY • SFG</b><br><i>3 HR • 4 RBI</i> | <b>PITCHER OF THE WEEK</b><br><b>GOLD JACOB deGROM (2) • NYM</b><br><i>9 scoreless IP • 4 H</i><br><b>SILVER DREW RASMUSSEN • TBR</b><br><i>CG SHO • 2 H</i><br><b>BRONZE YORDANO VENTURA • KCR</b><br><i>CG SHO • 7 H</i> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 3 • MCCLANAHAN FANS 12 • TIGERS ROAD SWEEP • BLUE JAYS SWEEP

## ROUND #5

## GAME #9 — DET 7 @ BAL 1

Detroit came into Baltimore at 2-6, on the verge of having their young season lost already. Baltimore came in at 4-4 and had hopes of moving into contention with an easy series at home, but it was not to be. Detroit had their highest scoring series of the season, and the Baltimore offense didn't show up. Tarik Skubal gave up only a solo HR to Jonathan Schoop, which did give the O's a 1-0 lead going to the 5th inning. Cecil Fielder hit a solo HR to tie the game, Mickey Tettleton hit a 2B, and Isaac Paredes hit an RBI 1B, and the Tigers had the lead. John Means got hit hard in the 6th, as Fielder had a 2-run 1B, and Ian Kinsler hit a 3-run HR, sealing the 7-1 win. Schoop is leading the O's with 3 HR on the young season.

## GAME #10 — DET 7 @ BAL 1

Javier Baez had an RBI 1B in the 2nd, and Casey Mize only gave up 1 run, after a Cedric Mullins 3B in the 6th. Victor Martinez continued his red-hot start with a 3-5 game, an HR, and 2 RBI. Mickey Tettleton added a 2-run HR, and Ian Kinsler added an RBI 1B, and the Tigers got a surprising road sweep. Cal Ripken went 0-7 ending his 8-game hitting streak. Martinez went 5-10 in the series, and holds a .522 batting average with a 10-game hitting streak.

## GAME #9 — BOS 3 @ TOR 5

The Red Sox are in a bit of trouble to start the season. At 4-4 they needed to get at least a split, but the division-leading Blue Jays swept them, convincingly, and moved 4 games ahead of Boston, after only 10 games. The Blue Jays look like this could be their year. Jose Bautista hit a 2-run 1B, and Teoscar Hernandez hit a 2-run HR, and the Blue Jays put up 4 runs against Chris Sale in the 1st inning. Hernandez added an RBI 2B in the 4th, and the Jays cruised behind Alek Manoah. Rafael Devers and Wade Boggs hit solo HRs, but it was not enough as the Toronto bullpen gave up 0 hits over 2 innings.

## GAME #10 — BOS 5 @ TOR 9

The Blue Jays exploded for 7 runs in the first inning off of David Price, and it was over before the Blue Jays made their 3rd out. Bo Bichette hit a 2-run HR, Teoscar Hernandez hit an RBI 2B, Matt Chapman hit an RBI 1B, and Alejandro Kirk capped it with a 3-run HR. Rafael Devers hit a 3-run HR in the loss, and the Blue Jays rolled. Toronto scored 11 runs in the 1st innings of the 2 games. Kevin Gausman got his 3rd win of season.

## GAME #9 — TBR 3 @ NYY 2

This series will go down as one of the more surprising results of the season. The Rays came into New York hoping to get back in the race, while the Yankees were looking to make their move to keep up with the Blue Jays. No one expected the Yankees to get swept at home scoring only 3 runs. Tyler Glasnow shut down the powerful Yankees, giving up only a solo HR to Giancarlo Stanton and an RBI 1B by Gleyber Torres. The Rays got to Gerrit Cole in the 3rd on a 2-run 1B by Austin Meadows, and Meadows added the winning solo HR in the 7th, giving the Rays an uplifting key victory.

## GAME #10 — TBR 3 @ NYY 1

Shane McClellan dominated the Yankees taking a shutout into the 8th inning, giving up only an RBI 1B to Hideki Matsui, while striking out 12. Kevin Kiermaier hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd, and an RBI 1B in the 8th, keying the Rays road sweep.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 3 • JIM THOME WALK-OFF HR • LANCE LYNN SHUTOUT • CHW WINS 7-6

**GAME #9 — CHW 7 @ KCR 6**

This was an exciting back-and-forth game. Nick Madrigal gave the White Sox an early lead with a 2-run 2B in the 3rd, but Salvador Perez hit a 2-run HR in the bottom half, the first runs against Dylan Cease on the season. Cease certainly came back to the pack in the Cy Young race. The White Sox took a 3-2 lead in the 5th on an RBI 3B from Madrigal, but the Royals took a 4-3 lead in the 7th on a Whit Merrifield 2-run HR. The White Sox recovered with a sacrifice fly from Frank Thomas to tie the game, and then they took the lead 6-4 in the top of the 9th when Andrew Vaughn hit a 2-run HR. Liam Hendriks came in, but gave up a game-tying 2-run HR from Bobby Witt Jr. The White Sox would not be denied having taken the lead four times already, and Eloy Jimenez hit an RBI 1B scoring Luis Robert, giving Chicago a tough and needed win. Liam Hendriks had his third bad outing in a row, taking 2 losses and blowing the save in this game.

**GAME #10 — CHW 0 @ KCR 3**

Lance Lynn pitched a solid game, but Yordano Ventura pitched a gem, a 7-hit shutout. Jorge Soler hit a 2-run HR in the 4th, and Bobby Witt added a solo HR in the 8th, giving the Royals a 3-0 shutout win, and a home split.

**GAME #9 — MIN 2 @ CLE 14**

The Twins jumped out to an early lead with an RBI 1B from Kirby Puckett and an RBI 2B from Josh Donaldson. Shane Bieber gave up 3 hits in the 1st, but only 1 more after, settling in to dominate the Twins. The Guardians offense came alive with 4 runs in the 2nd, and 3 runs in the 3rd, then adding 7 more runs after the 6th inning. Franmil Reyes went 5-5 with 2 RBI, Omar Vizquel went 4-4 with 3 RBI, but Yan Gomes hit 2 HR and had 4 RBI to lead Cleveland to a blowout win.

**GAME #10 — MIN 4 @ CLE 6**

The Twins stormed back with 4 runs in the top of the 2nd, on a solo HR from Josh Donaldson, and Torii Hunter hit a 3-run HR. The Twins were planning to get the road split, but Josh Naylor hit a 2-run 1B in the 4th, and Andres Gimenez hit a 2-run HR in the 7th to tie the game. Corey Kluber didn't give up any runs after the 2nd, and the game went tied 4-4 to the 12th. The Twins couldn't break through, but Cleveland did when Jim Thome hit a dramatic 2-run walk-off game-winning HR. The Cleveland pitching staff only gave up runs in 2 of the 21 innings. Corey Kluber has 40 strikeouts in 23⅓ innings.

**GAME #9 — HOU 7 @ TEX 3**

The Rangers came into their rivalry game with home field advantage and hope, but it was not to be. Justin Verlander shut down the Rangers offense, giving up only HRs to Joey Gallo and Nathaniel Lowe. Alex Bregman led the Astros going 3-5 with an HR and 3 RBI. 6 of the 9 Astros hitters had an RBI.

**GAME #10 — HOU 8 @ TEX 3**

Houston took an early lead again, but Adrian Beltre drove in 3 runs off Framber Valdez to take the lead for the Rangers. But the Astros were too tough today, as Yuli Gurriel led the way going 4-4 with a 2B, an HR, and 3 RBI. Alex Bregman added a solo HR to cap the Astros' key road sweep, moving them back into the race, and sinking the Rangers' hope.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 3 • JOSE FERNANDEZ FANS 13 • OHTANI FANS 13 • CANHA SOLO HR

**GAME #9 — OAK 2 @ LAA 9**

Mike Trout and Shohei Ohtani carried the Angels together, with Trout hitting a 3-run HR in the 4-run 3rd, and Ohtani hitting a 2-run HR in the 5th. Ohtani also, incredibly pitched a 4-hit CG, striking out 13. Ohtani also scored the 9th run of the game, after hitting a 2B in the 7th.

**GAME #10 — OAK 12 @ LAA 7**

Oakland scored 3 in the first, Eric Chavez hitting a 2-run HR, but Mike Trout hit a 2-run HR in the bottom half. Albert Pujols added a 3-run HR in the 3rd, and it was 6-3. Mark Canha hit a 2-run 2B, and Tony Kemp hit a game-tying RBI 1B. The game went tied 6-6 to the 10th when Canha hit a solo HR to take the lead, but David Fletcher hit a game-tying 2-out RBI 1B. Oakland roared in the 11, scoring 5 runs. Ramon Laureano hit a 2-run HR to take the lead, and then Elvis Andres hit a 3-run HR to seal it, 12-7 in 11.

**GAME #9 — SEA 2 @ COL 3**

Colorado continued its strong start with a great performance from German Marquez, with a CG 4-hitter. Robinson Cano hit a solo HR in the 1st, but Charlie Blackmon led the way back for the Rockies with an RBI 1B, a 3B, and 2 runs scored.

**GAME #10 — SEA 5 @ COL 4**

Cal Raleigh hit a solo HR in the 2nd, but Larry Walker and Todd Helton both had 2 RBI, and the Rockies were up 4-2. Robinson Cano hit another solo HR, and then the M's took the lead in the 7th on RBI from Mitch Haniger and Kyle Seager, giving the M's a 5-4 comeback win, and a road split.

**GAME #9 — MIA 0 @ NYM 1**

The Mets needed a strong showing to get back in the race, and they got it. Jacob deGrom showed up and pitched 9 innings of 4-hit baseball, but Jose Fernandez took a shutout into the 9th, striking out 13. In the 11th inning the Mets broke the scoreless tie when David Wright hit a walk-off RBI 3B.

**GAME #10 — MIA 1 @ NYM 3**

Noah Syndergaard pitched a strong game, giving up only 2 runs over 6 innings. Francisco Lindor hit a solo HR, but Gary Sheffield tied the game in the 6th with an RBI 1B. Then Mike Piazza capped the series winning the game with a 2-out 2-run HR in the 8th inning. Edwin Diaz closed the door and the Mets got the home sweep, moving in the right direction.

**GAME #9 — ATL 5 @ PHI 4**

Max Fried took a shutout into the 8th, with the Braves up 5-0, after a strong offense game from the team, including a solo HR from Travis d'Arnaud, but the Phillies mounted a comeback. Rhys Hoskins hit a 2-run HR in the 8th, and Kyle Schwarber drove in 2 runs in the 9th, but it was not enough and the Phillies fell short 5-4. It was Schwarber's 6th HR and 15th RBI in 9 games.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 3 • HARPER WALK-OFF HR • WERTH 3-RUN HR • FRAZIER WALK-OFF HIT

**GAME #10 — ATL 3 @ PHI 6**

The Braves jumped out to a 3-0 lead on RBI from Austin Riley in the 2nd, Ronald Acuna in the 3rd, and Matt Olson in the 5th. Spencer Strider took a shutout into the 8th inning, but gave up a solo HR to JT Realmuto in the 8th. The Braves went to the 9th with their dominant closer Craig Kimbrel, but Ryan Howard connected for a 2-run HR in the bottom of the 9th to tie the game. Bryce Harper finished the comeback with a walk-off game-winning 3-run HR. This series was full of excitement and it could be quite a race in the NL East.

**GAME #9 — PIT 2 @ WSH 3**

Max Scherzer pitched a strong 7 innings, giving up only 3 hits, but RBIs to Andy Van Slyke and Bryan Reynolds. Washington took the lead in the 6th, on solo HRs from Keibert Ruiz and Michael A. Taylor, and Ryan Zimmerman finished off the 3-2 win with a solo HR in the 7th to seal the win. It is Zimmerman's 5th HR on the season.

**GAME #10 — PIT 2 @ WSH 4**

The Pirates scored 2 in the 3rd on an RBI from Andy Van Slyke and a solo HR from Bryan Reynolds, but that was all Stephen Strasburg would give up. In the 5th inning Jayson Werth hit a 3-run HR to change the outcome. Keibert Ruiz added an RBI 1B in the 8th, and the Nationals got the home sweep to keep their season alive. The Pirates are already out of the race at 2-8.

**GAME #9 — MIL 5 @ CIN 6**

Joey Votto hit an RBI 1B in the 1st inning, but Rowdy Tellez tied the game in the 2nd with a solo HR. The Brewers loaded the bases against Luis Castillo, but couldn't break through. In the bottom of the 2nd the Reds broke it open on an RBI 1B from Barry Larkin and a Grand Slam HR from Eric Davis. Ryan Braun fought back by himself, hitting back-to-back 2-run HRs in the 5th and the 7th, but it was not enough as the Reds bullpen pitched 3 shutout innings to preserve the 6-5 win.

**GAME #10 — MIL 4 @ CIN 5**

Luis Urias hit a solo HR in the 3rd, and Ryan Braun hit another HR in the 6th, and the Brewers were up 2-0 behind Brandon Woodruff. But the Reds struck back when Jesse Winker hit a 3-run HR to take a 3-2 lead. Christian Yelich and Robin Yount hit back-to-back 2-out RBI 2Bs, and the Brewers took a 4-3 lead to the 9th, where they had dominant Josh Hader waiting. With 2-out, and no one on base, Tyler Stephenson hit a game-tying solo HR off the best reliever in the game. In the 10th Hader walked Eric Davis and Joey Votto, and then gave up an infield 1B to Jesse Winker. With 2-outs and the bases loaded, Todd Frazier hit a walk-off RBI 1B, giving the Reds a very exciting home sweep, vaulting them into contention.

**GAME #9 — CHC 6 @ STL 3**

The 2-6 Cubs were in danger of falling out of contention before the 10th game mark, while the Cardinals were looking at a dominant start at 7-1. But this was a rivalry game, and this is baseball. Marcus Stroman pitched well enough, and Willson Contreras hit a 2-run HR. Sammy Sosa added a solo HR, and Jason Heyward and Ian Happ added RBI. Kolton Wong hit a solo HR, but the Cardinals just couldn't keep up with the Cubs today.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 3 • FREEMAN 3-RUN HR • BARRY BONDS SOLO HR • TOMMY PHAM SOLO HR

**GAME #10 — CHC 2 @ STL 1**

Kyle Hendricks took a shutout into the 9th inning when Matt Carpenter spoiled the shutout by hitting a solo HR, but it was not enough to overcome the solo HR by Willson Contreras and Christopher Morel, in his first start. The Cubs added to the surprising results of the season by sweeping the 7-1 Cardinals at home. The Cubs have moved back into the fringe of contention, fighting off the loss of their season in a strong showing.

**GAME #9 — SDP 3 @ ARI 1**

The Padres have been among the disappointing teams, but they rallied for a win in Arizona. Tommy Pham hit a solo HR in his first start of the season in the 2nd inning, and Zac Gallen took a shutout into the 8th inning. Rookie Corbin Carroll singled in the 8th and then stole second, then scoring on a Ketel Marte RBI 1B to tie the game 1-1. But that was all the Diamondbacks could muster, as the Padres scored 2 runs in the 11th, taking the first game of the series. At 2-7 the Diamondbacks are looking at the end of their season already. The Padres moved back into the race at 4-5.

**GAME #10 — SDP 1 @ ARI 2**

San Diego just could not score against Merrill Kelly, getting only an RBI 1B from Dave Winfield. Blake Snell pitched well, but gave up 2 RBI to last season's star rookie Geraldo Perdomo.

**GAME #9 — SFG 3 @ LAD 6**

The Giants-Dodgers series was here. Like the Cardinals, the Giants came in at 7-1, but the Giants were on the road. The Dodgers were again off to a slow start. Clayton Kershaw outdueled Carlos Rodon, and Freddie Freeman took care of the offense. Freeman hit a solo HR in the 1st, and then a 3-run HR in the 3rd. Barry Bonds hit a solo HR in the top of the 1st, but it was not enough as the Giants fell 6-3.

**GAME #10 — SFG 4 @ LAD 2**

The Giants scored 3 runs in the top of the 1st and didn't look back. Madison Bumgarner gave up only 2 runs over 6 innings, an RBI 1B from Justin Turner and a solo HR from Will Smith. Buster Posey sealed the 4-2 win with a solo HR in the 8th. Barry Bonds went 2-3 with an RBI and run scored, and the Giants secured the needed road split, sitting at 8-2, tied with the surprising Blue Jays for the best record in the league. The Dodgers go into the second quarter of the season with the need for urgency.

**ROUND #6****GAME #11 — CHW 3 @ BAL 4**

The Orioles came into this home series after a very disappointing home sweep to the Detroit Tigers, losing 14-2. The White Sox have suddenly lost 4 of 5, and both teams come in needing wins after strong starts. Eloy Jimenez continued his hot start with a 2-run HR in the 2nd inning, but Trey Mancini tied it with a 2-run HR in the 4th. Gunnar Henderson followed with an RBI 2B, and the O's were up 3-2, until Yoan Moncada tied it with an RBI 2B. The game went to the 11th, where Anthony Santander won it with a walk-off solo HR.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 3 • DAVID ORTIZ 2-RUN HR • LUIS ROBERT 2-RUN HR • RAMIREZ RBI 1B

**GAME #12 — CHW 4 @ BAL 5**

Cal Ripken gave the O's the lead with an RBI 2B in the 4th, but the White Sox responded. Tim Anderson hit an RBI 2B to tie the game, and then Luis Robert hit a go-ahead 2-run HR. Yasmani Grandal made it 4-1 with a solo HR in the 6th, and the White Sox thought they would get the road split. But up came Eddie Murray who hit a 3-run HR to tie the game. The game again went to the 11th, and again, incredibly, Anthony Santander stepped up and hit a walk-off solo HR. The O's are back in the race, and the White Sox are left with big questions, and Anthony Santander made quite a name for himself in one series.

**GAME #11 — CLE 13 @ BOS 7**

Cleveland came in at 6-4 coming off a big division sweep of the Twins, outscoring them 20-6, while the Red Sox at 4-6 had a very disappointing slow start coming off a sweep in Toronto. Most expected the Sox to get right at home, but it was not to be. Boston took the early lead against Triston McKenzie, but then Cleveland unloaded. Omar Vizquel hit an RBI 2B, Steven Kwan hit a 2-run 2B, and Jose Ramirez added an RBI 1B in the 4-run 4th. Oscar Gonzalez hit a solo HR in his first start, and Franmil Reyes added a solo HR. Cleveland added 4 in the 9th on 2-run hits from Carlos Santana and Jim Thome. David Ortiz hit a 2-run HR and Jason Varitek added a 3-run HR, but Cleveland won in a blowout, 13-7.

**GAME #12 — CLE 5 @ BOS 4**

Boston came out determined scoring 3 runs in the 2nd, highlighted by a 2-run 1B from Alex Verdugo, but Cleveland responded with 3 runs in the 3rd, on a Jim Thome 2-run 1B and an RBI from Jose Ramirez. Yan Gomes gave Cleveland the lead with a solo HR in the 4th, but Verdugo hit a game-tying RBI 2B. Boston had hope, but Ramirez hit an RBI 1B in the 7th to win it, giving Cleveland a huge road sweep, and an 8-4 record. Boston is suddenly in last place and out of contention in a shocking fall.

**GAME #11 — TBR 2 @ LAA 1**

The Rays are hot. After sweeping the Yankees in New York, they swept the Angels in LA. Jeffrey Springs pitched 9 innings only giving up 1 run, an RBI 2B to Albert Pujols in the 1st. Kevin Kiermaier tied the game with an RBI 3B and the game went tied 1-1 to the 11th. Garrett Richards matched Springs with 9 innings of 1-run ball, but Hunter Renfroe hit a solo HR in the 11th to win the game.

**GAME #12 — TBR 8 @ LAA 0**

Reid Detmers took a shutout into the 5th inning, but Randy Arozarena and Austin Meadows hit back-to-back solo HR, Hunter Renfroe walked, and Brandon Lowe hit a 2-run HR. Lowe hit another HR in the 8th, and Renfroe hit a 3-run bases-loaded 2B. Drew Rasmussen pitched a gem, a 2-hit CG SH.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 3 • MARTINEZ 3-RUN HR • AARON JUDGE 2-RUN HR • DET WINS 3-1

**GAME #11 — HOU 2 @ NYY 1**

The Yankees coming off a shocking sweep at home to the Rays found themselves again on the wrong side in another low-scoring duel. Joe Musgrove led the Astros pitching with 8 shutout innings, while Luis Severino did the same. Houston broke through in the top of the 9th taking a 1-0 lead on a wild pitch by Aroldis Chapman. The Yankees fought back in the bottom half when Giancarlo Stanton hit a game-tying RBI 1B, but Chapman walked the bases loaded in the 10th, and Yordan Alvarez drove in the winning run with a groundout. The Yankees are in danger of falling behind at 5-6. Michael Brantley went 3-4 in the win. The Yankees have lost 4 in a row, scoring just 5 runs in the 4 games.

**GAME #12 — HOU 5 @ NYY 8**

The Astros took the lead in the 3rd, on a solo HR by Jose Altuve and an RBI 2B by Yordan Alvarez. Garrett Stubbs and Alex Bregman both hit solo HRs in the 5th, giving the Astros a 4-1 lead. The slumping Yankees finally fought back in the bottom of the 5th when they unloaded for 7 runs. DJ LeMahieu hit a 2-run HR, Aaron Judge hit an RBI 2B, Giancarlo Stanton hit a 2-run HR, and Jorge Posada hit a 2-run 2B, giving the Yankees and Masahiro Tanaka a much-needed win.

**GAME #11 — TOR 6 @ TEX 3**

Toronto came into Texas hoping to keep their dominant lead in the AL East, while Texas was hoping to get their season back on track. Toronto took the early lead in the 4th on a solo HR by Vladimir Guerrero, but the Rangers took the lead in the 6th on a 3-run HR by Juan Gonzalez. Facing a loss, the Blue Jays rallied in the 8th scoring 3 runs, on RBI from Kevin Pillar, George Springer, and Jose Bautista. The Blue Jays moved to 9-2 while the Rangers dropped to 4-7.

**GAME #12 — TOR 7 @ TEX 5**

Toronto struck early when Dalton Varsho hit a 3-run HR in the 2nd, and George Springer hit a 2-run HR in the 4th, and the Jays were up 6-1. The Rangers fought back with solo HRs by Adolis Garcia and Josh Hamilton, but it was not enough to stop the rolling Blue Jays who now sit atop the AL at 10-2 in an incredible and unexpected start to what could be a great season in Toronto. Texas is mired in a six-game losing streak.

**GAME #11 — SEA 7 @ DET 3**

Edgar Martinez had a dominant game, singlehandedly beating the Tigers in Detroit. Martinez hit a 3-run HR in the 1st, a solo HR in the 5th, and an RBI 2B in the 6th. Logan Gilbert pitched 6 innings only giving up an RBI to Miguel Cabrera and a solo HR to Spencer Torkelson.

**GAME #12 — SEA 1 @ DET 3**

Edgar Martinez hit an RBI 1B in the 1st inning, but that was all the M's would get against Matt Manning. The Tigers tied the game in the 6th on an RBI by Javier Baez, and then took the lead in the 8th on another Baez RBI. The Tigers have now won 5 of 7.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 3 • LUIS URIAS WALK-OFF HR • LAUREANO 2-RUN HR • TWINS WIN 3-2

**GAME #11 — KCR 4 @ OAK 3**

This game seemed normal enough, but ended up going down in the record books. Oakland took the lead in the 1st on an Eric Chavez RBI, and made it 3-0 in the 3rd on RBI from Starling Marte and Adam Dunn. The Royals fought back on an RBI by Salvador Perez in the 5th, and then tied the game in the 8th on an RBI 2B by Vinny Pasquantino and an RBI 1B from Bobby Witt Jr. The game went tied 3-3 to extra innings, and then stayed tied. The two bullpens combined for a remarkable 10 consecutive scoreless innings. The 3-3 game went to the 20th inning when Jorge Soler sent the teams home with a game-winning solo HR. Whit Merrifield and Andrew Benintendi went 1-17 at the top of the order. Bo Jackson continued his terrible start with an 0-9 day with 4 strikeouts.

**GAME #12 — KCR 8 @ OAK 11**

Oakland came out with an early lead, scoring 4 runs in the 1st inning on RBI 1Bs from Eric Chavez and Ramon Laureano, and a 2-run 2B by Shea Langeliers in his first start. The Royals attempted a comeback, making it 4-3 on an RBI 1B by Alex Gordon and a 2-run HR from George Brett, but the A's were determined to get the home split. In the 5th inning Laureano hit a 2-run 2B, Mark Canha hit an RBI 1B, and Langeliers hit a 2-run HR. Laureano added a 2-run HR in the 7th, and the A's got the needed home split behind 6 quality innings from JP Sears. Hunter Dozier went 0-5 with 5 strikeouts.

**GAME #11 — MIN 3 @ MIL 2**

The Twins came into Milwaukee looking to keep pace with the surging Guardians, and scored early in the 1st inning when Byron Buxton scored. The Twins made it 2-0 in the 5th on an RBI 1B by Nelson Cruz, and then 3-0 on an RBI 2B by Torii Hunter. Ryan Braun hit a 2-run 2B in the 8th, but Rowdy Tellez struck out, and the Twins won 3-2 behind a strong start from Joe Ryan.

**GAME #12 — MIN 3 @ MIL 4**

Byron Buxton again scored the first run of the game, hitting a solo HR, but Ryan Braun struck again, hitting a 2-run HR in the 3rd. Alex Kirilloff hit a game-tying solo HR in the 4th, and then the Twins took the lead in the 7th on an RBI from Nelson Cruz. Facing a sweep at home the Brewers tied the game with a run in the 8th, and took the game to extra innings, tied 3-3. In the bottom of the 11th Luis Urias hit a game-winning walk-off solo HR. The Brewers escaped with the split and stayed on the fringe of contention at 5-7.

**GAME #11 — CIN 4 @ ATL 8**

Cincinnati came into Atlanta riding a four-game winning streak, and tied for 1st in the NL Central after the Cubs swept the Cardinals. Atlanta came in hoping to make a move in the NL East, or at least keep pace with the Phillies and Mets. Joey Votto had an RBI 1B in the 1st off of Charlie Morton, but the Braves took a 2-1 lead on a Matt Olson 2-run 1B. The Reds tied the game on a Jesse Winker solo HR, and then took the lead in the 6th on a Tyler Stephenson solo HR. The Reds were hoping to hang on to the 3-2 lead, but the Braves roared back with 4 runs in the bottom half on RBI 2Bs from Chipper Jones and Austin Riley. William Contreras extended the lead with a 2-run HR in the 7th, and the Braves cruised to an 8-4 win. Ronald Acuna went 3-4 with 2 runs scored, 2 SB, and an RBI 1B in the win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 3 • DUSTIN MAY SHUTOUT • JON LESTER SHUTOUT • IAN HAPP 2-RUN HR

**GAME #12 — CIN 9 @ ATL 7**

Eric Davis hit a solo HR in the top of the 1st, but Ronald Acuna matched him with a solo HR in the bottom half of the inning. Nick Castellanos gave the Reds the 2-1 lead with an RBI 1B in the 3rd, but Chipper Jones hit a 2-run HR after a Deion Sanders 3B. Down 4-2 in the 7th, looking at a road sweep, the Reds stormed back with a 7-run outburst, highlighted by a 3-run HR from Jesse Winker. William Contreras and Michael Harris added HRs for the Braves, but it was not enough, and Cincinnati got the road split, moving into 1st place in the NL Central.

**GAME #11 — CHC 7 @ WSH 2**

Here come the Cubs. The Cubs got to Gio Gonzalez in the 3rd scoring 5 runs, on an RBI 1B from Sammy Sosa, a 2-run 2B from Anthony Rizzo, and a 2-run HR from Ian Happ. Jake Arrieta only gave up 1 run over 5 innings, and Ryne Sandberg and Seiya Suzuki went back-to-back with solo HRs in the 7th to seal the 7-2 win.

**GAME #12 — CHC 9 @ WSH 2**

Anthony Rizzo hit an RBI 2B in the 1st, and Seiya Suzuki and Sammy Sosa went back-to-back with solo HRs in the 6th. Jon Lester pitched his best start taking a shutout into the 8th inning before Josh Bell hit a 2-run HR. Sosa added another solo HR, Ian Happ added a solo HR, and Rizzo finished it with a 2-run HR in the 9th. The Cubs have won 4 straight, outscoring their opponents 24-8, moving back to .500 and into the race after a dismal 2-6 start.

**GAME #11 — SDP 5 @ NYM 1**

Fernando Tatis Jr hit a 2-run HR in the top of the 1st, and then Eric Hosmer did the same with 2 outs in the top of the 1st inning, hitting a 2-run HR, and the game was over. Mike Clevinger gave up only 3 hits over 7 innings, with a solo HR to Darryl Strawberry the only run.

**GAME #12 — SDP 0 @ NYM 5**

The rolls were reversed in the second game as Brandon Nimmo hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd, and then Pete Alonso matched him with 2 outs, hitting a 2-run HR. Francisco Lindor added a solo HR in the 5th, and Taijuan Walker pitched a masterful 4-hit CG SH.

**GAME #11 — MIA 0 @ LAD 4**

The Dodgers got their pitching and hitting to show up in the same game as Julio Urias pitched a 4-hit CG SH gem. Trea Turner hit a 2-run HR and Mookie Betts hit a 2-run HR to lead the Dodgers to an easy 4-0 win.

**GAME #12 — MIA 2 @ LAD 11**

The Dodger offense showed up with 3 runs in the 1st, 2 runs in the 2nd, and 2 more runs in the 3rd. Max Muncy and AJ Pollock hit 2-run HRs, and Mookie Betts went 3-5 with 2 RBI. Dustin May pitched a shutout into the 7th. The Marlins offense didn't show up as the Marlins got swept on the road to fall to 3-9 on a six-game losing streak. The Dodgers have pulled back to .500 after a sluggish start. The Marlins have scored only 3 runs in the last 4 games. The Dodgers have pitched 11 quality starts in their first 12 games.

**GAME #11 — PHI 3 @ ARI 2**

Jake McCarthy hit a 2-run 2B in the 4th inning off of Cole Hamels, but Mike Schmidt hit a clutch 2-out 3-run HR in the 5th as a response. The Philadelphia bullpen held and the Phillies won on the road.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 3 • CLARK 3-RUN HR • BRANDON BELT 2-RUN HR • WILL CLARK RBI 3B

**GAME #12 — PHI 3 @ ARI 6**

Jake McCarthy did it again, hitting an RBI 2B in the 3-run 2nd giving the Diamondbacks the lead. But again Mike Schmidt responded a half inning later hitting a 2-run HR to tie the game. Tied 3-3 in the bottom of the 8th the Phillies bullpen did not hold as Matt Williams hit a clutch 2-run HR. Christian Walker sealed the win with a back-to-back solo HR and the Diamondbacks got the home split. Mike Schmidt had 5 of the 6 Phillies RBI.

**GAME #11 — COL 3 @ PIT 5**

The fast start for the Rockies crashed in Pittsburgh. JT Brubaker limited the Rockies to 2 runs, while Bryan Reynolds hit a 2-run 1B and Willie Stargell hit a 2-run HR in the 5-run 3rd.

**GAME #12 — COL 2 @ PIT 5**

Mitch Keller kept the Rockies offense quiet giving up just a solo HR to Trevor Story and an RBI 1B from Andres Galarraga. Oneil Cruz had a 2-run 2B and Bryan Reynolds hit a 2-run HR, and the Pirates cruised to an easy home sweep. Bryan Reynolds has a 12-game hitting streak going.

**GAME #11 — STL 4 @ SFG 5**

A classic matchup was in the works with the Cardinals coming into San Francisco at 7-3, but having been swept at home by the Cubs after starting 7-1. The Giants come in looking to match a record start. Logan Webb didn't give up a run until a Nolan Arenado solo HR in the 6th. Barry Bonds had an RBI 1B in the 3rd, and then Buster Posey hit a 2-run HR to open up a 3-0 lead, and then Brandon Belt hit a 2-run HR to break it open. The Cardinals made it close in the end on a 2-run 2B from Paul Goldschmidt but Camilo Doval got the last out and the save.

**GAME #12 — STL 4 @ SFG 12**

Buster Posey hit another HR giving the Giants a 1-0 lead off of Miles Mikolas, but Nolan Arenado tied the game with his own solo HR off of Johnny Cueto. The game went tied 1-1 to the bottom of the 5th when Mike Yastrzemski hit a 2-run HR and Will Clark hit an RBI 3B, giving the Giants a 5-1 lead. The Cardinals made it 5-4 on a 3-run HR from Mark McGwire, but the Giants unloaded in the 6th for 5 more runs, on a 2-run 1B from LaMonte Wade and a 3-run HR from Clark. Wilmer Flores added a 2-run HR in the 8th, sealing the 12-4 victory and the home sweep, making the Giants an NL best 10-2, tied with the Toronto Blue Jays for the best record in MLBC. The 7-5 Cardinals have suddenly lost 4 in a row and have given up 1st place to the 8-4 Reds.

## MLBC — WEEK 4

GAMES 13-16 • COMPRESSION

## THE RACES COMPRESS

*Nobody goes 4-0, the Subway Series turns blue and orange, and three clubs leave tied for the league lead.*

**THE LEAD** Toronto and San Francisco entered Week 4 at 10-2, with Cleveland and Cincinnati two games back and the NL East packed at 7-5. This was the first week without much room for a soft landing. Boston had Houston and Atlanta. The Angels went to New York. The Dodgers met the Mets. San Francisco faced a surging Cubs club and then Milwaukee. The Yankees and Mets closed the week against each other at 7-7, one rivalry series carrying two seasons that still lacked definition. Behind the leaders, the season had begun producing genuine danger zones: Boston was already 4-8 and St. Louis had fallen from 7-1 to 7-5.

**THE WEEK** Nobody went 4-0, but that did not make the week quiet. The Mets supplied the loudest local statement, sweeping the Yankees in Queens and scoring 24 runs in two games as Pete Alonso hit three HR. San Francisco finally gave ground: the Giants were swept at Wrigley, including a 14-inning loss, then split in Milwaukee to finish 1-3 and fall back toward the field. Houston went into Toronto and swept the 11-3 Blue Jays, another reminder that the defending AL champion's slow start had not erased its weight. Baltimore kept climbing behind Grayson Rodriguez's 3-hit shutout and Adley Rutschman's power. Evan Longoria drove in eight for San Francisco despite the losing week, while Spencer Strider threw a 3-hit, 13-strikeout shutout in San Diego. Philadelphia swept Pittsburgh to move into first in the NL East, and the Dodgers briefly found momentum before Washington swept it away.

**THE STAKES** Toronto, San Francisco and Cincinnati all exit at 11-5. Cleveland and Philadelphia are 10-6, and eight more clubs remain within two games of that line. The AL West has Seattle and Houston tied at 9-7; the NL East has Philadelphia one game ahead of Atlanta and the Mets. San Francisco's 1-3 week matters because the first real cushion at the top disappeared without anyone else needing to dominate. Week 5 takes everyone to the halfway checkpoint, with Baltimore visiting Houston, the Angels going to Toronto, Minnesota visiting Seattle, Los Angeles heading to Philadelphia, and Atlanta drawing Pittsburgh before a trip to Los Angeles. Sixteen games have produced leaders. None has produced safety.

|                                               |                                            |                              |                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| TOP OF TABLE<br><b>TOR / SFG / CIN • 11-5</b> | NO PERFECT WEEK<br>every club takes a loss | NL EAST<br><b>PHI • 10-6</b> | SUBWAY SERIES<br><b>NYM sweeps NYY</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------------|

## WEEKLY HONORS

|                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>HITTER OF THE WEEK</b><br><b>GOLD EVAN LONGORIA • SFG</b><br>2 HR • 8 RBI<br><b>SILVER PETE ALONSO • NYM</b><br>3 HR • Subway sweep<br><b>BRONZE ADLEY RUTSCHMAN • BAL</b><br>2 HR • 4 RBI | <b>PITCHER OF THE WEEK</b><br><b>GOLD SPENCER STRIDER • ATL</b><br>CG SHO • 3 H • 13 K<br><b>SILVER WALKER BUEHLER • LAD</b><br>CG SHO • 2 H<br><b>BRONZE CHARLIE MORTON • ATL</b><br>8 scoreless IP |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 4 • BO BICHETTE 2-RUN HR • RAMON URIAS 2-RUN HR • BAL WINS 7-2

## ROUND #7

## GAME #13 — BAL 7 @ MIN 2

The O's came into Minnesota hoping for a road split to keep pace in the AL, while the Twins could move back into the lead with a home sweep. It turned in Baltimore's favor with an unexpected road sweep. Gunnar Henderson hit a Grand Slam HR in the 2nd inning, and the O's cruised behind John Means.

## GAME #14 — BAL 5 @ MIN 4

The Twins are facing a bit of a crisis suddenly with their third loss in a row. Torii Hunter hit a solo HR in the 2nd but Ramon Urias hit a 2-run HR. Adley Rutschman hit a 2-run 1B in the 7th, and the O's survived a late Byron Buxton 3-run HR to win 5-4 behind Tyler Wells. The Orioles have won 4 in a row at 8-6.

## GAME #13 — TOR 6 @ DET 1

The Blue Jays came into Detroit at 10-2 looking to leap ahead, while the Tigers could be a surprising .500 with a home upset sweep. Toronto took the first game easily as Teoscar Hernandez and Alejandro Kirk hit solo HRs. Alek Manoah only gave up an RBI 1B from Mickey Tettleton in the 3rd over his 7 innings. Jose Bautista took over in the late innings with a 2-run HR in the 6th and a solo HR in the 8th.

## GAME #14 — TOR 3 @ DET 4

It looked like the Blue Jays were going to get the road sweep as they took a 3-1 lead to the bottom of the 9th and gave the ball to Jordan Romano. Bo Bichette hit a solo HR in the 4th and a 2-run HR in the 6th. With 2 outs and nobody on base it looked like Romano would shut the door but Spencer Torkelson drew a BB, Kerry Carpenter hit an infield 1B, and then Akil Baddoo tied the game with a huge 2-run 3B. Ian Kinsler won the game with a walk-off RBI 1B. Kevin Gausman pitched well giving up only 3 hits over 7 innings but the Jays couldn't get the sweep.

## GAME #13 — BOS 3 @ HOU 11

Boston is in trouble. The Astros scored 6 runs in the 3rd inning off of Chris Sale, before Justin Verlander even gave up a hit. Jose Altuve went 4-5 with records 4 2Bs and 4 runs scored. Boston is 4-9 while Houston is making their move at 7-6 after a slow start. Yordan Alvarez had an RBI 2B and a 2-run HR.

## GAME #14 — BOS 6 @ HOU 5

This was a strange game. Yuli Gurriel hit a Grand Slam HR against David Price in the bottom of the 1st inning and everyone thought the sweep was on. Price settled in and didn't give up another hit until a solo HR from Michael Brantley, putting the Astros up 5-2. But in the 8th inning the Red Sox woke up. Masataka Yoshida hit a 2-run HR to make it 5-4, Dustin Pedroia hit a 1B, Wade Boggs hit an RBI 2B to tie the game, and JD Martinez hit an RBI 1B to take the game 6-5 in surprising comeback fashion. The Red Sox are on life support at 5-9, but they were almost 4-10 and maybe this is the turnaround.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 4 • SHANE BIEBER FANS 9 • ADAM DUNN 2-RUN HR • RAYS WIN 5-3

**GAME #13 — LAA 3 @ NYY 2**

Shohei Ohtani and Gerrit Cole locked up in a pitching duel of aces at the top of their game. Cole gave up only 2 hits until the 8th when Mike Trout ended the duel with a massive 3-run HR to win the game for the Angels with one swing. Ohtani took a shutout until the bottom of that 8th inning when Don Mattingly and Giancarlo Stanton hit 2Bs, but the Yankees could not score the tying run from 2nd base and the Angels took a very important game in New York.

**GAME #14 — LAA 0 @ NYY 4**

This time Nestor Cortes finished the job pitching a CG SH. Gleyber Torres was the one to hit the 3-run HR and the Yankees got the split. Mike Trout's HR accounted for the only runs the Yankees gave up in the series.

**GAME #13 — MIA 3 @ TBR 5**

Tyler Glasnow gave up an RBI 1B to Jacob Stallings in the 1st inning, but Kevin Kiermaier tied the game with a solo HR off of Jose Fernandez. Jazz Chisholm took the lead for the Marlins with a 2-run 2B, but Brandon Lowe tied the game with a 2-run HR in the 6th. The Marlin bullpen gave up the lead in the 8th, and it was a tough loss for Miami while it boosted the surging Rays to 8-5.

**GAME #14 — MIA 2 @ TBR 1**

Shane McClanahan and Sandy Alcantara took a spectacular pitching duel to the 0-0 8th when Gary Sheffield broke out of his season long slump with an RBI 2B. Luis Arraez added an RBI 1B in the 9th, which proved decisive as the Rays took the shutout away from Alcantara in the bottom of the 9th.

**GAME #13 — OAK 2 @ CHW 4**

Ramon Laureano hit an RBI 1B off of Dylan Cease in the 1st inning, but Frank Thomas tied the game with an RBI in the bottom half. Eloy Jimenez took care of the rest hitting a 3-run HR in the 3rd to take a 4-1 lead.

**GAME #14 — OAK 5 @ CHW 2**

Eric Chavez hit an RBI 2B and Adam Dunn hit a 2-run HR in a 3-run 1st inning, and Sean Murphy hit a solo HR in the 2nd, and the A's cruised to a win and a road split. Frankie Montas took a shutout into the 5th when Nick Madrigal hit a solo HR. Both teams sit at 6-8 hoping to make a push.

**GAME #13 — CLE 6 @ TEX 0**

Shane Bieber pitched a CG SH giving up 8 hits and striking out 9. Omar Vizquel and Steven Kwan had RBI 1Bs in the 2nd, and Franmil Reyes, Jose Ramirez, and Carlos Santana hit solo HR in the easy road win. Texas has lost 7 in a row as the season is slipping away after a promising start.

**GAME #14 — CLE 2 @ TEX 6**

Texas woke up scoring 4 runs in the bottom of the 1st, highlighted by a Nathaniel Lowe 3-run HR. Mike Minor took a shutout into the 7th inning and Juan Gonzalez and Adolis Garcia hit solo HRs in the easy win to give the Rangers a needed home win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 4 • BRYCE HARPER 2-RUN HR • JT REALMUTO 2-RUN HR • KCR WINS 8-6

**GAME #13 — KCR 0 @ SEA 6**

Felix Hernandez pitched a dominant 4-hit CG SH shutting down the struggling Royals. Ken Griffey Jr, Kyle Seager, Edwin Encarnacion, and Robinson Cano all hit solo HRs in the easy home win.

**GAME #14 — KCR 8 @ SEA 6**

The Royals needed a win and got it. Salvador Perez walked and scored in the 2nd, hit a 3-run HR in the 5-run 5th, and a solo HR in the 8th to seal the win. Yordano Ventura struggled giving up a 2-run HR to Ken Griffey Jr but got the win. Robinson Cano hit a solo HR in the 6th and an RBI 2B in the 8th as the comeback fell just short and the M's missed a chance to gain a game on their peers.

**GAME #13 — LAD 3 @ NYM 1**

Here come the Dodgers. The Dodgers began a six-game road trip having to face Jacob deGrom in New York having Clayton Kershaw on the mound. deGrom gave up an RBI 1B to Freddie Freeman, who went 3-5. Kershaw took a shutout to the bottom of the 8th inning when Brandon Nimmo hit a game-tying solo HR. But in the 9th, against Edwin Diaz, Trea Turner hit an RBI 2B and Freeman had an RBI 1B. Joc Pederson scored the winning run after going 4-4. Kenley Jansen shut down the Mets for the save.

**GAME #14 — LAD 4 @ NYM 0**

The Mets are cold again. Walker Buehler shut them down with a 2-hit CG SH, but with a shocking 7 walks. The Mets just could not get the big hit while Mookie Betts and Max Muncy led the Dodgers. The Mets scored just 1 run against the two Dodger aces, getting swept at home and falling back to .500. The Dodgers are finally enjoying a good stretch having won 4 in a row.

**GAME #13 — PHI 4 @ PIT 2**

Zack Wheeler gave up an early HR to Ke'Bryan Hayes but nothing after that. The Phillies scored 2 runs in the 3rd on RBI from Rhys Hoskins and Bryce Harper and they took the 2-1 lead to the bottom of the 9th. With 2 outs in the bottom of the 9th Hayes came through again hitting a game-tying RBI 1B scoring Roberto Clemente after his 2B. It was a short-lived comeback as JT Realmuto hit a 2-out 2-run HR in the top of the 10th to win the road game for the Phillies.

**GAME #14 — PHI 6 @ PIT 4**

Bryce Harper hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd to lead the Phillies but Andy Van Slyke hit a 2-run HR in the bottom half. Tied 2-2 the Phillies opened up the game in the 5th as Lenny Dykstra, Rhys Hoskins, Mike Schmidt, and John Kruk all had RBI. Oneil Cruz added a solo HR in the bottom of the 9th but it was not enough as the Phillies got the road sweep moving into 1st place in the NL East.

**GAME #13 — WSH 1 @ MIL 2**

Washington came into Milwaukee at 3-6 over their last 9, but the Brewers have been even worse at 2-7, in danger of falling out of contention. Corbin Burnes showed up giving up 0 runs over 6½ innings, handing the game over to Devin Williams and Josh Hader who shut the door. Robin Yount hit an RBI 1B in the 6th and Tyrone Taylor hit a sacrifice fly in the 7th to lead the Brewers to the win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 4 • KYLE FREELAND SHUTOUT • CHIPPER JONES 3 RBI • REDS WIN 4-3

**GAME #14 — WSH 5 @ MIL 1**

It looked like the Brewers were going to get the split as Brandon Woodruff was dealing, taking a no-hitter into the 6th inning. Jonathan Lucroy hit a solo HR to lead the Brewers to a 1-0 lead, but Ryan Zimmerman hit an RBI 1B to tie the game in the 7th. The game went to the 11th tied 1-1 when the Nationals put together 5 1Bs in a row to score 4 runs. Jayson Werth hit the game winner with an RBI 1B that opened the floodgates.

**GAME #13 — ATL 1 @ SDP 2**

Yu Darvish outpitched Max Fried going 7 innings giving up only an RBI 2B to Chipper Jones in the 1st inning. Manny Machado hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd, and again in the 5th to lead the Padres.

**GAME #14 — ATL 6 @ SDP 0**

Spencer Strider pitched another dominant game giving up only 3 hits in a CG SH with 13 strikeouts. Strider has moved his sights past the Rookie of the Year to the NL Cy Young. Ronald Acuna got on base 3 times and scored twice, while Chipper Jones went 3-4 with 3 RBI. Ozzie Albies added a 3-run HR in the 9th to seal the win and get the road split for the Braves.

**GAME #13 — CIN 6 @ ARI 0**

The Reds came into Arizona with a chance to take a lead in the NL Central and they did. Luis Castillo pitched a gem giving up only 4 hits and 1 walk during his CG SH win. Barry Larkin hit a solo HR to lead off the game, and it turned out to be the game-winner. Joey Votto, Chris Sabo, and Todd Frazier all added HRs in the easy road win. Zac Gallen had an off day walking 7.

**GAME #14 — CIN 4 @ ARI 3**

This was an exciting game. Cincinnati took the lead with RBI 1Bs from Nick Castellanos and Jesse Winker in the 1st inning. Chris Sabo added an RBI 1B in the 2nd, and Adam Duvall added an RBI 1B in the 3rd. Rookie Gabriel Moreno hit a 2-run 3B in the 2nd, but that was all the Diamondbacks would get until the 9th. Raisel Iglesias came in to save the game, but a Corbin Carroll RBI 1B made it a 1-run game. The Diamondbacks would not be able to score the tying run and Iglesias and the Reds escaped with the win and the road sweep. The Reds are 10-4 and looking to make a run this season.

**GAME #13 — STL 5 @ COL 7**

The Cardinals are in trouble. They scored 3 early runs against German Marquez, but that was it as the Rockies took control. Paul Goldschmidt hit a 2B, and Nolan Arenado and Lars Nootbaar hit 3Bs, but the Rockies erased the lead on a Brendan Rodgers base-loaded 3-run 2B in the 5th inning. The Rockies kept piling up runs and they took an easy 7-5 win at home.

**GAME #14 — STL 5 @ COL 9**

Kyle Freeland pitched a gem for the Rockies at home taking a shutout into the 7th inning. Yadier Molina had 3 RBI but the Rockies kept rolling. Brendan Rodgers hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd and Carlos Gonzalez hit a Grand Slam HR in the 3rd to blow the game open. Gonzalez added an RBI 3B in the 7th. The Rockies are a surprising 8-6 with great starting pitching so far. The Cardinals are in trouble losing 6 in a row and getting no pitching.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 4 • CARLOS RODON SHUTOUT • SAMMY SOSA 3-RUN HR • TROUT 2-RUN 2B

**GAME #13 — SFG 2 @ CHC 3**

San Francisco took their NL best record into Chicago to face the Cubs who had suddenly won 6 of 7 to fight back into contention after a disastrous 0-5 start and this game did not disappoint. It will be in the running for the game of the year at the end of the season. Marcus Stroman and Carlos Rodon pitched dueling gems both taking shutouts into the 9th inning. Stroman had only given up 2 hits going into the 9th but he gave up a 1B to Will Clark and an RBI 2B from Brandon Belt. The Giants went to the bottom of the 9th suddenly up 1-0 but Carlos Rodon walked Ryne Sandberg. Camilo Doval came in but walked Anthony Rizzo. Ian Happ hit an RBI 2B to tie the game, but Barry Bonds threw out the game winning run with Rizzo at the plate in the bottom of the 9th with 2 outs, saving the game and sending it to the 10th. In the top of the 10th Mike Yastrzemski had an RBI 2B to give the Giants the lead, but again Doval gave up an RBI 2B with 2 men on base, and incredibly Austin Slater threw out a runner at the plate to keep the game tied in the 10th. The game went tied 2-2 to the 14th when Willson Contreras hit a walk-off game winning solo HR sending the Cubs to their 5th win in a row. It is Contreras' 3rd star of the game in just 7 wins.

**GAME #14 — SFG 2 @ CHC 6**

The Cubs got to Madison Bumgarner early with RBI 2Bs by Anthony Rizzo and Ian Happ taking a 2-0 lead. In the 4th the Giants tied it on 5 consecutive 1Bs off of Kyle Hendricks but the Cubs took over the game in the 6th. Sammy Sosa hit his league leading 8th HR, and Christopher Morel hit a 3-run HR to seal the win and the home sweep against the Giants. Chicago is suddenly firmly in the race. San Francisco scored only 4 runs in the series with Barry Bonds slumping with a 2-11 showing. Evan Longoria and Brandon Crawford both went 1-9.

**ROUND #8****GAME #15 — LAA 0 @ BAL 2**

Grayson Rodriguez showed up for the O's pitching his best game as a pro giving up only 3 hits in his CG SH. Garrett Richards pitched well but gave up a solo HR to Adley Rutschman which proved to be decisive. Jonathan Schoop added his team leading 4th HR in the 8th.

**GAME #16 — LAA 9 @ BAL 5**

Dean Kremer got lit up. Mike Trout walked and Shohei Ohtani hit a 2-run HR. Later in the inning Justin Upton hit a 3-run HR and Logan O'Hoppe hit a solo HR and it was 6-0 before the O's batted. Reid Detmers only gave up two runs, an RBI 1B to Trey Mancini and a solo HR to Adam Jones. Mancini added a 2-run 1B in the 7th and Adley Rutschman hit another solo HR. Trout added a 2-run 2B and Ohtani an RBI 1B in the 6th to seal the 9-5 win.

**GAME #15 — HOU 6 @ TOR 3**

Toronto came in riding a high at 11-3 but the Astros are tough and it was not to be. Houston scored first with an Alex Bregman RBI 2B. Toronto took the lead in the 4th on a Teoscar Hernandez 2-run HR but a Jeff Bagwell RBI 1B in the 5th and an RBI 2B from Chas McCormick gave the Astros the 3-2 lead. Toronto tied it on a dramatic RBI 2B from Alejandro Kirk but a Kyle Tucker RBI 1B gave the Astros the 4-3 lead. Jose Altuve hit a 2-run HR in the 9th to seal the win for Joe Musgrove who pitched 7 strong innings.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 4 • PETE ALONSO 3-RUN HR • JOSH LOWE 2-RUN HR • ATL WINS 3-1

**GAME #16 — HOU 4 @ TOR 2**

Houston got the road sweep and have surged back into contention. The Blue Jays came back to earth. Garrett Stubbs and Jeff Bagwell hit solo HRs in the 3rd and Jeremy Pena hit an RBI 2B in the 4th to lead the Astros. Lance McCullers pitched well only giving up an RBI 2B to Teoscar Hernandez. Alex Bregman hit a solo HR in the 8th and George Springer matched him with a solo HR in the bottom half but it was not enough and the Astros got the road sweep. This may end up being a revealing series. The Astros again look like the team to beat.

**GAME #15 — TBR 10 @ CLE 2**

Tampa Bay has moved into contention. Hunter Renfroe hit a 2-run HR and then Randy Arozarena sealed the win with a Grand Slam HR. Austin Meadows went back-to-back with a solo HR and the Rays were in a rout. Josh Lowe hit a 2-run HR in the 8th and Jeffrey Springs cruised to a win only giving up an RBI 1B to Yan Gomes.

**GAME #16 — TBR 3 @ CLE 4**

The Rays were on the verge but Jim Thome came through in the clutch. Austin Meadows hit a solo HR in the 4th but Jose Ramirez turned it around when he hit a 2-run HR in the 6th. The Rays stole the hope right back in the 7th when Hunter Renfroe and Brandon Lowe hit back-to-back solo HR giving the Rays a 3-2 lead. Then Jim Thome turned it around again in the bottom of the 8th hitting a 2-run 1B with the bases loaded and the Guardians squeezed out a split at home.

**GAME #15 — BOS 1 @ ATL 3**

The struggling Red Sox come into Atlanta when the Braves needed a showing to keep pace in the NL East. There was tension in the air with the Red Sox desperate at 5-9 and Eduardo Rodriguez facing Charlie Morton. Charlie Morton showed up pitching 8 strong shutout innings and Austin Riley gave the Braves an early lead with a solo HR in the 2nd. Ronald Acuna and Riley hit RBI 2Bs in the 6th and Atlanta cruised to a win while the Red Sox offense stayed quiet.

**GAME #16 — BOS 7 @ ATL 1**

The Red Sox finally woke up and got the split. Tanner Houck shut down the Braves offense with 8 innings and only 1 run. The Red Sox offense had a big day. Dustin Pedroia led off the game with a solo HR during his 3-5 day. Wade Boggs had an RBI 1B as part of his 3-6. The star of the game was Masataka Yoshida. Yoshida was amazing with an RBI 2B in the 2nd, and RBI 1B in the 5th, and a solo HR in the 7th as part of his 4-5 day with 8 total bases. Atlanta went quietly failing to make the surge needed.

**GAME #15 — NYY 3 @ NYM 12**

This series will either say a lot about the season for both teams or it will be an anomaly. The 7-7 Mets absolutely rocked Shea Stadium crushing the 7-7 Yankees. Pete Alonso hit an RBI 2B in the 1st inning and Brandon Nimmo hit a 2-run 3B in the 2nd. Gary Carter and Mike Piazza hit 2-run 1Bs in the 4th and the Mets were up 7-0 on Luis Severino backing Kodai Senga who only gave up an RBI 2B by Don Mattingly and an RBI 1B to Aaron Judge. Pete Alonso added a 3-run HR in the 8th and then Michael Conforto hit a 2-run HR to finish off the 12-3 win. Brandon Nimmo went 5-5 with 8 total bases.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 4 • WRIGHT 3-RUN HR • BOBBY WITT JR 2-RUN HR • TONY KEMP SOLO HR

**GAME #16 — NYY 6 @ NYM 12**

Derek Jeter hit a lead-off solo HR to try to jump start the Yankees to a split. Harrison Bader hit a 2-run 1B in the 2nd and the Yankees had hope. But in the 5th inning Pete Alonso hit a 2-run HR, Mike Piazza had an RBI after a 3B from David Wright to tie the game, and then the Mets went wild. In the 7th inning the Mets 13 hitters to the plate and scored 9 runs. Darryl Strawberry hit a solo HR, Gary Carter and Brandon Nimmo had RBI 1Bs, Wright hit a 3-run HR, Alonso hit another HR, and Michael Conforto and Jeff McNeil hit RBI 2Bs. The Mets are surging and the Yankees are left embarrassed. The next subway series will be highly anticipated.

**GAME #15 — TEX 3 @ KCR 4**

The Texas Rangers have fallen out of contention in 2023 after a hopeful start. 1-9 in their last 10 Texas saw their chance to crawl back in vanish in Kansas City. George Brett hit an RBI 2B in the 3rd while Texas took the lead in the 4th on RBI 1Bs from Nathaniel Lowe and Joey Gallo. The Royals took it right back in the bottom of the 5th on an RBI 3B from Andrew Benintendi who scored on a Brett RBI. Lowe tied it in the 6th and the back-and-forth game went to the 11th when Bo Jackson hit a 1B and stole 2nd and 3rd base and scored the winning run on a Whit Merrifield RBI 1B.

**GAME #16 — TEX 4 @ KCR 7**

Bobby Witt Jr hit a 2-run 2B and Bo Jackson followed with a 2-run HR. Andrew Benintendi hit a solo HR in the 3rd and Salvador Perez sealed the win early with a 2-run HR. The Rangers tried to fight back against Kris Bubic with a solo HR from Corey Seager and a 3-run HR from Nathaniel Lowe but it was not enough and the Royals got the home sweep. The Royals suddenly have hope at 7-9 while the 5-11 Rangers are wondering what happened to their season.

**GAME #15 — OAK 1 @ MIN 3**

The Twins took the first game behind a strong performance from Joe Ryan only giving up an RBI 2B to Starling Marte in the 3rd. Carlos Correa hit a 2-run HR in the 4th. Nelson Cruz added a solo HR in the 8th and the Twins won a low scoring game at home.

**GAME #16 — OAK 9 @ MIN 8**

This was an amazing game. It probably won't end up the game of the year but it could. Joe Mauer hit an RBI 1B in the 1st but Starling Marte and Adam Dunn had RBI in the 3rd to take the lead for Oakland. Kirby Puckett tied the game with an RBI 1B in the 3rd and then Nelson Cruz made it 4-2 with a 2-run HR. Torii Hunter hit a 2-run HR in the 7th and it looked like the Twins were going to get the sweep. But in the 8th inning Sean Murphy stepped up and hit a 3-run HR to make it 7-5 and then Eric Chavez hit a game-tying 2-run HR in the top of the 9th off of Jhoan Duran. The game was suddenly tied 7-7 and went that way to the 14th inning when Tony Kemp hit an RBI 1B but Nelson Cruz hit a clutch solo HR in the bottom of the 14th to tie the game again. In the 18th inning Seth Brown hit a solo HR that would hold. The A's got the split on the road and have been .500 in their last 14 games. The Twins seem to be stuck in mediocrity but still have hope for a surge.

**GAME #15 — CHW 4 @ SEA 0**

Seattle went into this home series with the hope of a sweep and 1st place in the AL West but it didn't happen. Tim Anderson hit a 2-run 1B in the 5th and Lucas Giolito took a 2-hitter to the 9th. Giolito gave up 2 hits in the 9th but preserved his CG SH.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 4 • ROANSY CONTRERAS SHUTOUT • JOSH BELL 3-RUN HR • PIT WINS 3-1

**GAME #16 — CHW 5 @ SEA 7**

Seattle came back in the second game highlighted by a 3-run HR from Edwin Encarnacion. Cal Raleigh added a solo HR and George Kirby survived a rocky start. Jose Abreu and Yoan Moncada hit HRs in the loss and Seattle got the needed split at home.

**GAME #15 — DET 1 @ PIT 3**

This was an exciting series. Matthew Boyd and JT Brubaker both took shutouts into the 9th inning. The bullpens took over and the Tigers scored what looked like the winning run on a solo HR from Akil Baddoo but Alex Lange walked the first 2 batters of the inning and Josh Harrison hit an RBI 1B to tie the game. Then Andy Van Slyke launched one into the alley and the Pirates won on a 2-run 3B.

**GAME #16 — DET 0 @ PIT 5**

The Pirates pitching continued to dominate with Mitch Keller pitching 6 shutout innings. Roansy Contreras pitched the 7th and 8th and David Bednar closed it out in the 9th for the shutout win. Oneil Cruz gave the Pirates the lead in the 4th with a 2-run HR. Willie Stargell added a 2-run HR in the 8th and Ke'Bryan Hayes finished it with a solo HR.

**GAME #15 — LAD 4 @ WSH 7**

Just when the Dodgers began to get some real momentum with a four-game winning streak they get swept on the road by the Nationals. Gio Gonzalez gave up an RBI 2B to Mookie Betts before he got the first out of the game and then Will Smith hit a 3-run HR in the 3rd giving the Dodgers a 4-0 lead. Things were looking great for the Dodgers who were looking for five wins in a row but suddenly the Nationals had a power surge. Josh Bell hit a 3-run HR in the 6th, Howie Kendrick hit a 2-run HR in the 7th, and Keibert Ruiz hit a 2-run HR in the 8th and suddenly the Nationals had a 7-4 lead and win as Josiah Gray pitched 3 innings of 1-hit ball.

**GAME #16 — LAD 2 @ WSH 3**

Again the Dodgers took the lead but again the Nationals took it away. Freddie Freeman and Will Smith had RBI 1Bs in the 1st inning but rookie CJ Abrams tied the game with a 2-run 2B and then scored the winning run on a Daniel Murphy RBI 2B. Dustin May only gave up 6 hits but 5 were 2B. The Dodgers had runners on base in 7 of the 9 innings but just couldn't score off of Jordan Zimmermann. The Nationals had 13 hits in the series, 5 1Bs, 5 2Bs, 3 HRs. Both teams move on at .500.

**GAME #15 — SDP 5 @ PHI 4**

The Phillies jumped out to an early lead with an RBI 2B from Jean Segura and a 3-run HR from Bryson Stott. Fernando Tatis hit an RBI 3B in the 3rd and then Manny Machado hit a solo HR to make it 4-2. Then in the 9th inning against Seranthony Dominguez, Manny Machado and Dave Winfield hit RBI 1B to tie the game 4-4. In the top of the 10th Ha-Seong Kim hit a solo HR to win the game 5-4.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 4 • JOHN KRUK 2-RUN HR • KRIS BRYANT 2-RUN HR • SCHMIDT 2-RUN HR

**GAME #16 — SDP 5 @ PHI 9**

Sean Manaea and Ranger Suarez both pitched a strong 4 innings but did not survive the 5th. In the top half Trent Grisham hit an RBI 2B, Fernando Tatis Jr hit a 2-run 1B, and Tommy Pham and Eric Hosmer hit RBI 1B and the Padres were up 5-0 and looking for a road sweep. But in the bottom half JT Realmuto hit an RBI 1B, John Kruk hit a 3-run 2B, Rhys Hoskins hit an RBI 1B to make it 5-5 and then Mike Schmidt hit a 2-run HR to take a 7-5 lead. Schmidt hit another 2-run HR in the 7th to make it 9-5 giving the Phillies the home split.

**GAME #15 — MIA 2 @ CIN 3**

Jazz Chisholm hit an RBI 1B after a Luis Arraez 3B in the top of the first and Ichiro Suzuki made it 2-0 in the 3rd with an RBI 2B scoring Jon Berti. Eric Davis hit a solo HR in the 4th and then Chris Sabo tied the game 2-2 with a solo HR in the 5th and Joey Votto gave the Reds the lead with an RBI 2B scoring Barry Larkin which proved to be the winning run. Nick Lodolo pitched a strong 7 innings for the win.

**GAME #16 — MIA 9 @ CIN 6**

Gary Sheffield hit an RBI 1B in the 1st but Barry Larkin and Nick Castellanos hit 2-run HRs in the 3rd to give the Reds a 4-1 lead as they eyed the sweep. But the Marlins fought back with 6 runs in the 5th highlighted by a 3-run 2B from Jacob Stallings. Sheffield added another RBI 1B in the 6th and Ichiro Suzuki added an RBI 2B in the 7th to give the Marlins the win and the road split. Cincinnati has to be very happy at 11-5 after 16 games.

**GAME #15 — ARI 3 @ STL 4**

Matt Williams hit an RBI 2B in the 1st and Ketel Marte hit a 2-run 3B in the 2nd and Arizona had a 3-0 lead. In the 4th inning the Cardinals tied the game on a solo HR from Mark McGwire and RBI from Kolton Wong and Paul Goldschmidt. Yadier Molina hit an RBI 2B in the 5th to give the Cardinals the lead they would keep. Jordan Montgomery pitched a strong 7 innings for the win.

**GAME #16 — ARI 4 @ STL 1**

Corbin Carroll hit a lead-off solo HR to start the game, Ketel Marte hit a 2B, Luis Gonzalez hit an RBI 1B, and Alex Thomas hit an RBI 1B to give Arizona a 3-0 lead before the Cardinals batted. Christian Walker hit a solo HR and Ryne Nelson pitched a strong 5 innings for the win.

**GAME #15 — CHC 5 @ COL 3**

Two surprising teams met in Colorado at 8-6. The Cubs riding the momentum of a six-game winning streak while the Rockies were going off of a home sweep of the Cardinals. Ryne Sandberg led off the game with a solo HR but Andres Galarraga took the lead for the Rockies with a 3-run HR in the 4th inning. Nico Hoerner hit a 2-run HR to tie the game in the 5th and then with the game tied 3-3 in the 9th Hoerner hit an RBI 1B to take the lead. Sandberg added an RBI 1B afterward and the Cubs shut down the Rockies 5-3.

**GAME #16 — CHC 6 @ COL 8**

Ryne Sandberg again led off the game with a solo HR. Willson Contreras, Seiya Suzuki, and Ryne Sandberg had RBI, while Ian Happ hit a solo HR to give the Cubs a 5-1 lead in the 6th, but the Rockies fought back. Kris Bryant hit a 3B, Brendan Rodgers hit an RBI 2B, and Trevor Story hit a 2-run HR to make it a 5-4 game. In the bottom of the 7th Andres Galarraga hit a 2-run 2B and Bryant hit a 2-run 1B and the Rockies won an 8-6 comeback.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 4 • ROWDY TELLEZ 3 RBI • JOEY BART 2-RUN HR • GIANTS WIN 9-6

**GAME #15 — SFG 9 @ MIL 6**

The San Francisco Giants kept on rolling in Game #1 with Barry Bonds hitting a 3-run HR in the 1st inning and Evan Longoria hitting a 2-run HR in the 5th and a Grand Slam HR in the 7th giving the Giants a win for Logan Webb. Rowdy Tellez went 3-4 with 3 RBI in the loss.

**GAME #16 — SFG 5 @ MIL 6**

The Giants again scored 3 runs in the top of the 1st with a 2-run 1B from Evan Longoria and an RBI 2B from Wilmer Flores. The Giants made it 5-0 after a 2-run HR from Joey Bart and the Brewers were looking at a sweep at home. But Robin Yount hit a 2-run HR in the 6th and then Rowdy Tellez hit a game-tying 3-run HR in the bottom of the 8th. The game went to the 10th inning when Ryan Braun won it for the Brewers with a walk-off RBI 2B.

## MLBC — WEEK 5

GAMES 17-20 • HALFWAY

## TORONTO OWNS THE MIDPOINT

*The Blue Jays reach 15-5, four clubs sweep the week, and the halfway standings finally show real distance.*

**THE LEAD** The midpoint arrived with Toronto, San Francisco and Cincinnati tied at 11-5 and a crowded layer of contenders directly behind them. Four games remained before every team could look at exactly half a season. Toronto had the Angels and Kansas City, Baltimore drew Houston and Washington, Atlanta saw Pittsburgh and Los Angeles, and the Yankees faced Texas and Minnesota. Boston entered 6-10 before beginning the week's work, close enough to the edge that a turnaround had to become visible immediately.

**THE WEEK** Toronto, Baltimore, Boston and Atlanta all went 4-0. The Blue Jays reached 15-5 and became the first club to create real distance over the field, with Alek Manoah moving to 5-0 with a 1.70 ERA and Bo Bichette reaching ten HR. Baltimore surged to 13-7 behind two more wins over Washington, including Cal Ripken Jr.'s 11th-inning walk-off HR, and Atlanta swept Pittsburgh and Los Angeles to reclaim the NL East. Boston completed the week on a five-game winning streak, climbing from 5-10 to 10-10 and turning a near-collapse into a second-half invitation. San Francisco and Cincinnati held at 14-6. Max Fried threw a 2-hit complete-game shutout, Kodai Senga a 3-hit shutout, and Jacob deGrom a 1-hitter. Houston, the Angels and Arizona went 0-4. At the midpoint, the league finally had a leader and several equally convincing examples of how quickly a season could still reverse.

**THE STAKES** Toronto owns the halfway line at 15-5. San Francisco and Cincinnati are 14-6; Atlanta and Baltimore are 13-7; Tampa Bay, the Mets, Cleveland and the Cubs sit at 12-8. Boston has dragged itself back to 10-10. Meanwhile, the Yankees reach the break at 9-11 and last in the AL East. The AL West remains the opposite of separation, with Seattle first at only 11-9. Week 6 opens the second half with Toronto at Cleveland, the Yankees visiting Oakland and Seattle, Atlanta hosting San Francisco after its Boston series, the White Sox crossing town to Wrigley, and the Mets finishing the week in Colorado after San Francisco. Twenty games remain. From here, a four-game sweep no longer changes only the standings; it consumes one-fifth of the schedule that is left.

|                            |                                       |                                |                       |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| TOP OF TABLE<br>TOR • 15-5 | PERFECT WEEK<br>TOR / BAL / BOS / ATL | NL CHASERS<br>SFG / CIN • 14-6 | AL WEST<br>SEA • 11-9 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|

## WEEKLY HONORS

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>HITTER OF THE WEEK</b><br><b>GOLD MIGUEL CABRERA • DET</b><br><i>2 HR • 5 RBI • Grand Slam</i><br><b>SILVER MATT OLSON • ATL</b><br><i>2 HR • 5 RBI</i><br><b>BRONZE MIGUEL SANÓ • MIN</b><br><i>2 HR • 4 RBI</i> | <b>PITCHER OF THE WEEK</b><br><b>GOLD MAX FRIED • ATL</b><br><i>CG SHO • 2 H</i><br><b>SILVER KODAI SENGU • NYM</b><br><i>CG SHO • 3 H</i><br><b>BRONZE JACOB deGROM • NYM</b><br><i>1-hitter • one run allowed</i> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 5 • ALEK MANOAH SHUTOUT • KYLE TUCKER 2-RUN 3B • VARSHO SOLO HR

## ROUND #9

## GAME #17 — BAL 3 @ HOU 1

This round is the final push for the All-Star Team. Justin Verlander is one of the candidates and he got to host Baltimore. The Orioles come in with a surprising 9-7 looking to keep the momentum going with a split in Houston. But they did more than that. They pushed into contention. Jeff Bagwell hit an RBI 1B in the first inning after an Alex Bregman 3B and Justin Verlander pitched 8 shutout innings. But in the 9th inning the O's changed the outcome when rookie Gunnar Henderson hit a base-loaded 2-run 1B to give the O's a surprising road win. John Means pitched a gem with 8 innings of 3-hit baseball. Means only gave up 1 1B after the 1st inning.

## GAME #18 — BAL 13 @ HOU 6

The Orioles unleashed their offense in the 1st inning sending 11 hitters to the plate scoring 6 runs. The Astros were desperate for a split and scored 3 runs in the bottom of the 2nd inning on a Kyle Tucker solo HR and 2Bs from Michael Brantley and Jeremy Pena. Then Cedric Mullins and Adley Rutschman both hit 2-run HRs and Eddie Murray hit a solo HR in the 5-run 3rd. Kyle Tucker hit a 2-run 3B in the bottom half and it was 11-5 going into the 4th. Anthony Santander drove in 2 runs to finish out and Jeff Bagwell hit a solo HR to make the final score 13-6, extending his hitting streak to 12 games.

## GAME #17 — LAA 0 @ TOR 1

The Blue Jays are hot. Against the Angels they showed off hitting and pitching and clutch performance. Alek Manoah pitched 8 shutout innings while George Springer finally got to Shohei Ohtani who had a shutout into the 8th inning with an RBI 1B scoring Alejandro Kirk. Manoah has positioned himself at the top of the AL Cy Young race now sitting at 5-0 with a 1.70 ERA.

## GAME #18 — LAA 5 @ TOR 12

Roberto Alomar hit a solo HR in the 1st inning but Albert Pujols hit a 3-run HR in the 3rd. Jose Bautista hit a solo HR in the 4th but Anthony Rendon hit a 2-run HR in the 5th and it was 5-2 with the Angels looking for a road split. Then Toronto changed the game. Dalton Varsho hit an RBI 2B, George Springer walked in a run, and then Vladimir Guerrero Jr hit a Grand Slam HR making it 8-5. Varsho hit a solo HR in the 6th, Bo Bichette hit a solo HR in the 7th, and Matt Chapman hit a solo HR to finish off the home sweep.

## GAME #17 — DET 2 @ BOS 5

The Boston baseball world stabilized as the 6-10 Red Sox showed up at home. Dustin Pedroia hit a leadoff 2B and scored and then hit a 2-run HR, and then hit an RBI sacrifice fly in the 3rd. Chris Sale didn't give up a run until a solo HR from Akil Baddoo in the 5th, and then a solo HR from Javier Baez in the 6th. The Red Sox needed this win to keep their season alive.

## GAME #18 — DET 1 @ BOS 5

Rafael Devers hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd off of Casey Mize and Alex Verdugo hit a solo HR in the 4th. David Ortiz added a solo HR in the 5th and the Red Sox cruised to a very needed home sweep. Detroit is left to looking forward to next season now at 6-12. David Price had his best start of the season giving up only 1 run over 7 innings.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 5 • JIM THOME 2-RUN HR • SETH BROWN SOLO HR • MIKE ZUNINO RBI 1B

**GAME #17 — NYY 7 @ TEX 3**

Gerrit Cole gave up 2 runs in the 1st inning on an RBI 2B from Corey Seager and an RBI 1B from Josh Hamilton. The Yankees fought back in the 4th on an RBI 2B from Aaron Judge and an RBI 1B from Giancarlo Stanton. The Yankees took the lead in the 5th inning on an RBI 1B from Derek Jeter but the Rangers tied the game in the 6th on a solo HR from Juan Gonzalez. The game went tied 3-3 to the 9th inning when Gleyber Torres hit a 3-run HR to win the game for the Yankees. Gary Sanchez followed with a solo HR and the Yankees won on the road.

**GAME #18 — NYY 2 @ TEX 3**

The Yankees took an early lead on RBI 1Bs from Aaron Judge and Hideki Matsui off of Mike Minor but Juan Gonzalez hit a 2-run HR in the 4th to tie the game. Nestor Cortes and Minor both went 7 innings giving up only the 2 runs and the game went to the bottom of the 9th tied 2-2. With 2 outs in the bottom of the 9th Josh Hamilton stepped up and hit a walk-off game-winning solo HR. The Yankees missed a chance to reach .500 and fell to 8-10 and again on the fringes of contention. Nathaniel Lowe extended his hitting streak to 14 games and is competing for an All-Star spot. The Texas Rangers did not draw even 1 walk from the Yankees pitching staff in the series.

**GAME #17 — CHW 1 @ TBR 3**

Dylan Cease and Tyler Glasnow faced off in a duel of aces with teams heading in opposite directions. Glasnow gave up a leadoff solo HR to Tim Anderson but gave up nothing but 2 hits after that. The Rays finally got to Cease in the 5th when Hunter Renfroe hit a 2-run 2B and then Randy Arozarena sealed it with an RBI 1B.

**GAME #18 — CHW 2 @ TBR 3**

The White Sox offense never showed up in Tampa Bay and the Rays are surging now at 11-7. The White Sox have fallen to 7-11 and might have fallen out of the race. Oscar Colas hit an RBI 1B and Yoan Moncada hit an RBI 3B but it was not enough. Kevin Kiermaier hit an RBI 1B in the 1st inning, Hunter Renfroe hit an RBI 2B in the 3rd, and Mike Zunino hit an RBI 1B to put the Rays ahead 3-2. Shane Bieber pitched a strong 7 innings to earn the win. The Rays are surging and the Sox are sinking reversing what most expected at the start of the season.

**GAME #17 — OAK 5 @ CLE 4**

The A's are still in contention. Down 1-0 against Shane Bieber Eric Chavez hit a 3-run HR after a Starling Marte RBI 1B to give the A's a 5-1 lead. The Guardians fought back to tie the game on an RBI 1B from Yan Gomes and solo HR from Carlos Santana and Franmil Reyes but Seth Brown hit a solo HR in the top of the 9th to win the game for the A's.

**GAME #18 — OAK 2 @ CLE 7**

Cleveland got the home split in the second game even after they fell behind again. Tony Kemp and Rickey Henderson hit RBI 1Bs in the 2nd but Jose Ramirez and Jim Thome hit 2-run HR, and then Ramirez hit a 2-run 3B in the 4th and Cleveland cruised to a win behind Corey Kluber. Andres Gimenez hit a solo HR to make it 7-2.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 5 • KERSHAW 5-HIT SHUTOUT • CRUZ 3-RUN HR • RODRIGUEZ 2-RUN 2B

**GAME #17 — MIN 1 @ SEA 10**

The Mariners unloaded in the 1st inning. Julio Rodriguez started it off with a solo HR and then finished it with a 2-run 2B. Cal Raleigh also had a 2-run 2B in the 6-run 1st. The M's added 2 in the 2nd on RBI from Edgar Martinez and Mitch Haniger, then Cal Raleigh hit a solo HR in the 5th and Kyle Seager finished it off with an RBI 1B in the 6th. Felix Hernandez pitched another gem giving up only a solo HR to Byron Buxton in the 4th over his 8 strong innings. Hernandez has made a strong case to make the All-Star team.

**GAME #18 — MIN 8 @ SEA 3**

Byron Buxton hit his 8th HR of the season to lead off the game. Carlos Correa hit a solo HR in the 2nd inning to make it 2-0, and then an RBI 1B in the 4th, and Pablo Lopez cruised to the 7th up 3-0. In the bottom of the 7th Edgar Martinez hit a 2B and Mitch Haniger hit an RBI 2B, and in the bottom of the 8th Martinez had a 2-run 1B to tie the game. But it was not to be for the M's as the Twins woke up in the 9th scoring 5 runs on a clutch 2-out 2-run 1B from Kirby Puckett and then a 3-run HR from Nelson Cruz. The Twins escaped with a road split while the M's find themselves alone in first place. Martinez has hit in 17 or the 18 games this season.

**GAME #17 — STL 2 @ KCR 5**

This was suddenly a huge series for both teams. The Royals could crawl back into contention after winning three games in a row and the Cardinals are 1-7 in their last 8 needing a strong showing against their rival. This series had all the components of a dramatic build up. Whit Merrifield hit a solo HR in the 3rd to take the 1-0 lead but Kolton Wong hit a solo HR to tie it in the 5th. In the bottom of the 5th Bobby Witt Jr hit a solo HR and then in the 6th Jorge Soler hit an RBI 2B and Alex Gordon hit a 2-run HR to lead the Royals to the win making both teams 8-9. Zack Greinke pitched well to earn the win.

**GAME #18 — STL 6 @ KCR 5**

Nolan Arenado and Mark McGwire hit RBI 2Bs in the top of the 1st inning and Arenado added a solo HR in the 3rd. Kolton Wong made it 4-0 with his second HR of the series. The Royals fought back with a solo HR from Andrew Benintendi and then an RBI 2B from Bobby Witt Jr but Arenado hit a 2-run 1B in the top of the 9th. The Royals again fought back with 3 runs in the bottom of the 9th making it 6-5 but Bo Jackson struck out with the tying run on 3rd base. Adam Wainwright only gave up 2 singles in the first 6 innings and the Cardinals got a crucial road split to get back to .500.

**GAME #17 — LAD 6 @ PHI 0**

The 8-8 Dodgers come into the home of the Champions after losing two in a row to the Nationals. The Phillies came in as the leaders in the NL East looking to get at least a split but they didn't get it. Clayton Kershaw pitched a gem with a 5-hit, 0-walk CG SH. Joc Pederson hit a 3-run HR and Will Smith hit a solo HR and an RBI 1B in the easy road win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 5 • DAVIS 2-RUN HR • IAN HAPP 2-RUN HR • PETE ALONSO 2-RUN HR

**GAME #18 — LAD 3 @ PHI 2**

Mookie Betts and Cody Bellinger hit RBI 2Bs and the Dodgers took a 2-0 lead to the bottom of the 4th when JT Realmuto hit a solo HR to make it 2-1. Freddie Freeman hit a solo HR in the 6th which proved to be the game-winner. Walker Buehler pitched a strong 8 innings but Kenley Jansen gave up a run in the 9th. The Dodgers escaped the 9th and took a sweep on the road in the home of the defending champs and now both teams are suddenly 10-8. Maybe the Dodgers will finally live up to their potential but they host Atlanta in their next series.

**GAME #17 — PIT 0 @ ATL 1**

Atlanta took advantage of the matchup and their pitching showed up. Max Fried pitched a dominant 2-hit, 1-walk CG SH in one of the best starts of the year. Deion Sanders hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd and that proved to be all that Atlanta needed to take the first game of the series.

**GAME #18 — PIT 2 @ ATL 3**

Austin Riley hit an RBI sacrifice fly in the 1st but Spencer Strider gave up RBI 1Bs to Andy Van Slyke and Bryan Reynolds and it looked like the Pirates might get the split. The Braves responded in the 6th with 4 1Bs and RBI from Michael Harris and Deion Sanders and they held on for the close win getting the home sweep. With the Phillies getting swept at home to the Dodgers the Braves find themselves in 1st place.

**GAME #17 — CHC 1 @ MIA 4**

Chicago came into Miami having moved into contention but they got shut down by Jose Fernandez who pitched a dominant 2-hit CG giving up only 1 run. Ichiro Suzuki went 4-5 with 2 2Bs and an RBI. Jesus Sanchez went 2-4 with 2 RBI and the Marlins overcame a strong start from Marcus Stroman.

**GAME #18 — CHC 4 @ MIA 1**

Anthony Rizzo hit a solo HR in the 2nd and Seiya Suzuki hit a solo HR in the 3rd. Ian Happ hit a 2-run HR in the 5th and it was 4-0 in the 7th when Jon Berti scored the only run with an RBI 2B driving Kyle Hendricks from the game. The Cubs bullpen kept the game where it was and Chicago got the road split.

**GAME #17 — NYM 7 @ ARI 1**

The Mets and Jacob deGrom came into Arizona fighting in the 3-way NL East race while the Diamondbacks are already trying to figure out how to get better for next season. Darryl Strawberry hit a solo HR in the 2nd off of Zac Gallen and Jacob deGrom cruised. deGrom gave up his first hit in the 4th but it was a solo HR by Luis Gonzalez and then didn't give up another single hit pitching a remarkable 1-hitter. Gary Carter opened up the game with a 2-run 1B in the 4th and Pete Alonso hit a 2-run HR in the 5th. David Wright and Strawberry added RBI in the 7th and the Mets coasted behind deGrom's masterpiece.

**GAME #18 — NYM 9 @ ARI 4**

The Mets got the boost they needed in the race with a road sweep. Darryl Strawberry and JD Davis had RBI in the 2nd and then Mike Piazza hit a solo HR, Davis hit a 2-run HR and then rookie Brett Baty hit a solo HR in his first start. Noah Syndergaard had a shutout into the 6th when Ketel Marte hit an RBI 2B. Francisco Lindor hit a 3-run HR to finish off the offensive outburst for the Mets.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 5 • TODD HELTON WALK-OFF HR • DARVISH FANS 13 • JOSH BELL RBI 1B

**GAME #17 — WSH 3 @ SDP 5**

The Padres needed a win against Max Scherzer and they got it. Yu Darvish showed up and only gave up a 2-run 2B to Starlin Castro and an RBI 1B from CJ Abrams in the 4th. Darvish only gave up 2 other hits over a full CG while striking out 13 and only walking 2. Scherzer took a 2-hit shutout into the 7th into but the Padres offense blew up. Dave Winfield hit a 2B, Jake Cronenworth hit an RBI 1B, and then Tony Gwynn hit a bases-loaded 3-run 2B to give the Padres the lead. Fernando Tatis Jr hit an RBI 1B to finish it off and the Padres got a big win at home 5-3.

**GAME #18 — WSH 4 @ SDP 1**

The Padres missed a chance to get into contention as Stephen Strasburg shut them down only giving up an RBI 1B to Manny Machado in the 5th. Juan Solo and Jayson Werth hit solo HRs in the 3rd and Josh Bell hit an RBI 1B in the 7th. Ryan Zimmerman hit a solo HR in the 9th and the Nationals got the road split.

**GAME #17 — MIL 4 @ COL 5**

Colorado kept their dream-start going with a win at home against the struggling Brewers. Corbin Burnes only gave up 1 run in the 6th inning on an RBI 1B from Andres Galarrraga. German Marquez pitched another strong game taking a shutout into the 7th when Keston Hiura tied the game with an RBI 1B scoring prized rookie Jackson Chourio in his debut after hit got his first hit and then his first steal. Rowdy Tellez scored Hiura and the Brewers took a 2-1 lead. Todd Helton tied the game in the bottom of the 7th with an RBI 1B but the Brewers answered against with solo HRs from Willy Adames hit a solo HR and then Jackson Chourio hit his first HR. The rookie may have stole the job in just 4 at-bats. The Brewers gave the ball to Josh Hader in the 9th up 4-2 looking to get the road win but Todd Helton hit a 2B, Larry Walker drew a walk, and then Carlos Gonzalez stepped up and hit a dramatic game-winning walk-off 3-run HR. The Rockies moved to 10-7 and stand as the surprise team in the league along with the Orioles.

**GAME #18 — MIL 4 @ COL 1**

Brandon Woodruff took over in the second game only giving up a leadoff solo HR to Trevor Story in the bottom of the 1st. Woodruff only gave up 4 lone 1Bs and 1 BB over his CG. Ryan Braun hit an RBI 1B in the top of the 1st and then rookie Brice Turang hit an RBI 2B to give the Brewers a 2-1 lead. Luis Urias added a solo HR in the 6th and Christian Yelich finished it off with an RBI 1B in the 9th and the Brewers got the split to get to 8-10.

**GAME #17 — SFG 1 @ CIN 3**

This was the premier matchup this round as the 11-5 1st place Reds and the 11-5 1st place Giants met in Cincinnati. It was Luis Castillo who got the better of Carlos Rodon in the first game only giving up Evan Longoria's 8th HR of the season. Castillo scattered 4 other 1Bs pitching into the 9th inning holding the 3-1 lead. The Reds broke through against Rodon when Rodon walked the bases loaded and then gave up a 3-run 2B to Eric Davis. The Reds could not have hoped for a better start to the season at 12-5.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 5 • BYRON BUXTON 2-RUN HR • MIGUEL SANO 3-RUN HR • BELT SOLO HR

**GAME #18 — SFG 8 @ CIN 4**

The Giants got going in the 3rd inning against Hunter Greene when Will Clark hit a 2-run 1B and Brandon Belt hit a bases-loaded 3-run 2B. Evan Longoria hit his 9th HR of the season and then Belt hit a solo HR to lead the Giants to the road split. Madison Bumgarner gave up 10 hits over 7 innings but only a 2-run HR to Joey Votto stopped his shutout. Chris Sabo hit a solo HR in the 8th but it was not enough as the Reds fell back into a tie with the Giants for the top seed.

**ROUND #10****GAME #19 — MIN 4 @ NYY 1**

In the final series leading up to the All-Star break the Yankees were hoping to get some momentum at home against the Twins. Luis Severino faced off against Joe Ryan but gave up 4 runs in the 4th on a solo HR from Torii Hunter, his 6th, an RBI 1B from Josh Donaldson, and then a 2-run HR from Byron Buxton who just keeps hitting HRs with his 8th on the season. Ryan only gave up a solo HR to Brett Gardner and the Yankees went away silently only getting 4 other hits. The Twins moved to 10-9 and are looking to make a push in the AL Central.

**GAME #20 — MIN 5 @ NYY 6**

Game #2 was a dramatic affair and will be in the running for the game of the year. The Yankees felt like it was a must-win game and took a 1-0 on an Aaron Judge RBI after a Don Mattingly 2B but the Twins took the lead in the top half of the 2nd when Miguel Sano hit a 3-run HR. The Yankees immediately tied it on a 2-run HR from Gleyber Torres making it 3-3 but then Sano hit another HR giving the Twins the lead again. The game went 4-3 to the bottom of the 8th where the Yankees were desperate looking at an 8-12 1st half. With 2 outs Jorge Posada hit a 2B and then Brett Gardner stepped up and tied the game with a clutch RBI 1B. Then Derek Jeter hit an RBI 2B to take the lead and DJ LeMahieu added an RBI 1B which proved to be decisive. With newfound life the Yankees gave the ball to Aroldis Chapman who immediately gave up an RBI 1B to Jorge Polanco and then an RBI 1B to Joe Mauer making it 6-5. Nelson Cruz hit a 1B and then with the tying run was in scoring position Chapman came through and struck out Torii Hunter. The Yankees got the split but still are in last place in the competitive AL East. The Twins hit the break at 10-10 with Byron Buxton in the AL MVP race.

**GAME #19 — KCR 2 @ TOR 5**

Toronto hosted the Royals with a chance to really make a move and they did. The Royals were simply outclassed. Bo Bichette continued his lead in the AL MVP race with his 10th HR a 2-run shot in the 1st inning. Hyun-Jin Ryu pitched well only giving up a 2 RBI to George Brett. Matt Chapman put the game away in the 7th with a 3-run HR and the Blue Jays cruised to a 5-2 win.

**GAME #20 — KCR 3 @ TOR 7**

Salvador Perez hit a 2-run HR in the 1st but nothing was going to stop the Jays in this series. The Jays responded with a 3-run 3rd to take the lead and a 4-run 5th to put it away. Jose Berrios pitched 8 strong innings and Jose Bautista hit a 2-run 2B. The Blue Jays hit the break at 15-5 off to a dominant start while the Royals again fell out of contention at 8-12.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 5 • FUJINAMI SHUTOUT • JAVIER BAEZ 2-RUN HR • CJ CRON RBI 1B

**GAME #19 — BOS 6 @ LAA 4**

The 8-10 Boston Red Sox are finally making their move. They came into Anaheim on a sudden three-game winning streak after being 5-10 in last place and they started hot. David Ortiz and Xander Bogaerts both had 2-run 1Bs in the top of the 1st inning and the Red Sox gave Eduardo Rodriguez a 4-0 lead. The 8-10 Angels needed the win just as much and they chipped away at the lead on an RBI 2B from Shohei Ohtani in the 3rd and an RBI 1B from David Fletcher in the 4th. In the 7th inning the Angels tied it on RBI 2Bs from Albert Pujols and CJ Cron. But the Red Sox would not be denied and Bogaerts came through in the clutch with a 2-run 1B in the top of the 8th. The Red Sox bullpen held the lead and Boston won their 4th in a row.

**GAME #20 — BOS 4 @ LAA 3**

David Fletcher hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd and CJ Cron hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd but Boston tied the game in the 3rd on RBI 1Bs from David Ortiz and Alex Verdugo. The Angels took the lead in the 6th on a solo HR from Justin Upton but again the Red Sox fought back. Rafael Devers hit a clutch 2-out 2-run HR in the top of the 8th and the Red Sox got the road sweep. Boston has won 5 in a row and are suddenly .500 at the break and back in contention.

**GAME #19 — TBR 1 @ OAK 4**

The Tampa Bay Rays are another surprising team coming into Oakland in contention at 11-7 but Shintaro Fujinami pitched the A's to the win in Game #1. Fujinami pitched a shutout into the 8th when Randy Arozarena hit an RBI 1B. Eric Chavez hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 1st and then Starling Marte hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd to make it 2-0. Khris Davis made it 4-0 when he hit a 2-run HR after a Chavez 3B and the A's cruised to a win and have to be pleased at 9-10.

**GAME #20 — TBR 5 @ OAK 1**

The A's scored first when Rickey Henderson hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd but the Rays tied the game in the 4th when Randy Arozarena hit an RBI 3B. In the 6th Josh Lowe changed the game with a 3-run HR and then Brandon Lowe finished it off with an RBI 2B after an Austin Meadows 3B. The Rays got the road split and have to be very pleased hitting the break at 12-8 firmly in contention. The A's remain alive at a surprising 9-11. Drew Rasmussen only gave up the 1 run over 7 strong innings for the win.

**GAME #19 — HOU 7 @ DET 9**

Houston is suddenly among the first half disappointments after a poor showing in Detroit. Game #1 was an incredible game as Mickey Tettleton hit a 2-run HR in the top of the 1st inning and then Miguel Cabrera went back-to-back with a solo HR. Then Javier Baez hit an RBI 3B and then Spencer Torkelson hit a 2-run HR to finish a 6-run outburst. Most games would seem over at that point but the Astros are a strong team and in the 3rd inning Alex Bregman hit a 3-run HR and Jeff Bagwell went back-to-back with a solo HR. The Astros scored 3 more runs on a 2-run 1B from Martin Maldonado and an RBI 1B from Jose Altuve but the Tigers scored 3 more runs as well highlighted by a solo HR from Javier Baez. The Tigers enjoyed their best offensive game of the season.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 5 • AKIL BADDOO GRAND SLAM • JIMENEZ 2-RUN HR • ORIOLES WIN 2-1

**GAME #20 — HOU 2 @ DET 6**

Houston fell to 9-11 as they got swept in Detroit by the last place Tigers. Yordan Alvarez hit an RBI 1B in the 1st but Spencer Torkelson tied it with an RBI 2B in the 2nd. Akil Baddoo hit a solo HR in the 3rd but it was Miguel Cabrera who won the game in the 4th with a Grand Slam HR sending the once 9-7 Astros into a 4-game skid. Matt Manning pitched well to earn the win. Jeff Bagwell went 0-3 ending his 13-game hitting streak.

**GAME #19 — SEA 3 @ CLE 2**

Another big series saw the 1st place Mariners come into 1st place Cleveland with both teams looking for at least a split. Robinson Cano hit an RBI 1B in the 1st inning after an opening Julio Rodriguez 1B and SB. Cleveland tied it in the bottom of the 1st on a Jose Ramirez solo HR but Seattle took the lead again in the 4th on an RBI 2B from Mitch Haniger after a 2B from Edgar Martinez. Ken Griffey Jr hit a solo HR in the 6th to make it 3-1. Omar Vizquel hit an RBI 1B in the 7th but Seattle held the lead and got the road win behind a strong start from Logan Gilbert.

**GAME #20 — SEA 2 @ CLE 4**

Seattle again scored in the 1st inning on an RBI 1B from Edgar Martinez, and then made it 2-0 on a solo HR from Cal Raleigh. Cleveland needed the split and they fought back on an RBI 1B from Jim Thome in the 5th and an RBI 1B from Andres Gimenez in the 6th that tied the game. The bullpens held and the game went tied to the bottom of the 9th when Josh Naylor pinch hit with 2 outs and the bases loaded and won the game with a walk-off 2-run 2B giving Cleveland the great win and the needed home split.

**GAME #19 — TEX 0 @ CHW 10**

The Rangers suffered through a rough game for them. Tim Anderson and Jose Abreu had RBI in the 3rd and Lucas Giolito took care of the rest. Giolito pitched a great game giving up only 6 hits during his CG SH. Eloy Jimenez hit an RBI 2B in the 6th and then Tim Anderson hit a 2-run HR to make it 5-0. In the 8th things went a little crazy as Frank Thomas hit a 2-run HR, Jimenez hit a solo HR, and rookie Oscar Colas hit a 2-run HR in a 5-run outburst. Chicago moved to 8-11 still looking up. Nathaniel Lowe went 0-4 to end his 14-game hitting streak that put him on the All-Star map.

**GAME #20 — TEX 8 @ CHW 2**

Luis Robert hit a solo HR in the 1st inning but Texas scored 4 times in the 3rd on a 2-run 2B from Adrian Beltre and a 2-run 1B from Juan Gonzalez. Jose Abreu hit an RBI 1B in the bottom of the 3rd but the Rangers scored 3 more runs in the 6th on a solo HR from Ivan Rodriguez and a 2-run 2B from Corey Seager and then a solo HR from Beltre to make it 8-2. Dane Dunning had been by far the worst pitcher in the league in the first half but pitched well enough to get the win. Both teams will look for a better second half.

**GAME #19 — WSH 1 @ BAL 2**

The surprise team of the season is the Baltimore Orioles and they showed up in their rivalry series. Grayson Rodriguez only gave up 4 hits and 1 run over 7 innings. Ryan Zimmerman had an RBI 2B in the 1st inning but that was the only run the Nationals would score. Eddie Murray hit an RBI 1B in the bottom of the 1st to tie the game and it went scoreless after that all the way into the 11th. Gio Gonzalez pitched well over his 7 innings. In the bottom of the 11th tied 1-1 Cal Ripken Jr hit a walk-off solo HR winning the game for the O's.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 5 • TELLEZ 3-RUN HR • HARRIS 2-RUN HR • MATT OLSON 2-RUN HR

**GAME #20 — WSH 6 @ BAL 7**

Washington scored first against Dean Kremer in the 3rd inning on an RBI from Michael A. Taylor, but the O's scored 4 runs in a big 4th inning highlighted by an RBI 3B from Adam Jones. Baltimore scored 3 more in the 5th on a 3-run HR from Anthony Santander to make it 7-1. Washington fought back with an RBI 2B from Josh Bell and then a 2-run HR from Keibert Ruiz in a 3-run 6th and then 2 more in the 7th on a 2-run 1B from Jeimer Candelario. Baltimore is suddenly at 13-7 after winning 9-10 and stand as one of the clear favorites at the break. Washington fell to 9-11 and remains on the fringe of contention.

**GAME #19 — MIL 0 @ NYM 1**

Both teams came into this series needing to keep up in the race. Milwaukee was in danger of falling out and turned to Freddy Peralta who pitched a gem but gave up a solo HR to Mike Piazza in the 2nd inning. Peralta only gave up a lone 1B after the 2nd inning. The problem for the Brewers was Kodai Senga who pitched a masterful 3-hit CG SH.

**GAME #20 — MIL 8 @ NYM 3**

Rowdy Tellez hit a solo HR in the top of the 4th to give the Brewers the lead but Mike Piazza hit his second HR of the series to tie the game in the bottom half of the 4th. Francisco Lindor hit an RBI 2B in the 5th to give the Mets hope for a sweep but the Brewers woke up in the 6th. Tellez hit a 2B and then Willy Adames hit a 3-run HR. Jonathan Lucroy went back-to-back with a solo HR and Christian Yelich added an RBI 1B and the Brewers were up 6-2. Ryan Braun added a 2-run HR in the 9th and the Brewers got the road split. Brandon Nimmo hit a solo HR in the loss. The Mets sit at 12-8 in a playoff spot.

**GAME #19 — ATL 9 @ LAD 5**

Atlanta came into Los Angeles and made quite a statement. Charlie Morton showed up and pitched 7 strong innings only giving up an RBI 3B to Cody Bellinger and RBI 1Bs to Trea Turner and Max Muncy. Matt Olson hit a 2-run HR in the 1st inning to get the Braves going, and then added an RBI 1B in the 3rd after a Chipper Jones RBI 2B. Ozzie Albies made it 7-2 with a 3-run HR and then he hit an RBI 3B in the 6th scoring on a Chipper Jones RBI 1B. Joc Pederson hit his first HR of the season in the 7th and then went back-to-back with a solo HR in the 9th.

**GAME #20 — ATL 8 @ LAD 6**

Matt Olson again hit a 2-run HR in the 1st inning. The Dodgers fought back with a solo HR from Will Smith and a solo HR from Trea Turner to tie the game. Atlanta took the lead in the 4th on a Michael Harris solo HR but the Dodgers tied it again in the bottom half on a Joc Pederson RBI 1B. Atlanta took the lead for good in the 5th on an Austin Riley 3-run HR and then Harris hit a 2-run HR. Adrian Gonzalez hit 2 solo HRs but it was not enough as Kyle Wright got the win giving the Braves the impressive road sweep while sending the Dodgers to the break at .500.

**GAME #19 — STL 2 @ PHI 9**

Philadelphia came out early with a 2-run HR from Mike Schmidt off of Jordan Montgomery but star rookie Lars Nootbaar hit a 2-run HR off of Cole Hamels in the 5th inning. The game went tied 2-2 to the bottom of the 7th when the Phillies unloaded for 7 runs. Ryan Howard hit a 2-run HR and Lenny Dykstra and Schmidt added 2-run 1Bs and the Phillies kept pace in the NL East.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 5 • BARRY LARKIN 3-RUN HR • MARK MCGWIRE 2-RUN HR • CUBS WIN 4-3

**GAME #20 — STL 4 @ PHI 2**

St. Louis was in danger of falling out of the race but they won a game on the road. Miles Mikolas stepped up and took a shutout into the 9th inning. Mark McGwire hit an RBI sacrifice in the 1st and Matt Carpenter did the rest with a 2-run HR in the 4th and a solo HR in the 8th.

**GAME #19 — ARI 3 @ CHC 4**

After starting 0-5 the 10-8 Cubs are one of the big surprises of the season and hosted struggling 5-13 Arizona with a chance to make a move. And they did. The Chicago Cubs showed up. Jake Arrieta didn't give up a second hit until the 5th inning and then he gave up a 2-run HR to Carson Kelly. Jake Lamb hit a solo HR in the 7th and the Cubs were down 3-0 in the bottom of the 7th. Brandon Pfaadt lost his game in the 7th and the Cubs scored 3 runs highlighted by a 2-run 2B to tie the game. With newfound momentum Ryne Sandberg won the game in the bottom of the 8th with an RBI 2B. Hector Rondon pitched a scoreless 9th for the save.

**GAME #20 — ARI 3 @ CHC 5**

Arizona scored 1st again when Matt Williams hit an RBI 1B in the top of the 1st inning but Chicago tied the game 1-1 in the 2nd on an RBI from Nico Hoerner. Jon Lester and Ryne Nelson settled in and neither gave up another run. In the top of the 8th Arizona again took a late lead on RBI 1B from Jake Lamb and Carson Kelly. With hope for a split Arizona gave the ball to Kevin Ginkel who promptly gave up 3 hits including an RBI 2B to Nico Hoerner to make it 3-2. Ryne Sandberg again was the game with a 2B this time a 2-run shot that gave the Chicago the a home sweep making them 12-8 and in contention with the Reds for the NL Central. The Diamondbacks have lost 7 of 8 and sit in last place at 5-15 wondering how to get ready for next season.

**GAME #19 — COL 1 @ CIN 3**

The Rockies came into Cincinnati with a chance to take a step forward in contention. The Reds had a chance to take the lead in the NL. The Rockies came off a loss where they only scored a single run on a solo HR and they did the same today. Larry Walker hit a solo HR in the 6th off of Nick Lodolo breaking up his shutout and that was the only run for the Rockies. Joey Votto hit a solo HR in the 1st inning. Adam Duvall added an RBI in the 2nd and Nick Castellanos sealed the win with an RBI 3B, his second game in a row with a 3B.

**GAME #20 — COL 1 @ CIN 9**

The Rockies had their 3rd game in a row scoring only a single run on a lone solo HR this one from Tom Murphy in the 3rd. Joey Votto had an RBI 2B in the 3rd and Eugenio Suarez hit a 2-run HR to take the lead. Barry Larkin hit an RBI 2B in the 4th and Eric Davis put the game out of reach with a 3-run HR. Nick Castellanos hit an incredible 3rd 3B in 3 games adding an RBI and a run scored in the 8th to seal the blowout win. Tyler Mahle pitched his best game of the season going 8 innings.

**GAME #19 — SDP 3 @ PIT 4**

Willie Stargell hit a 2-run HR in the 1st inning and Roberto Clemente added a solo HR in the 3rd and JT Brubaker took the 3-0 lead all the way to the 9th inning. Brubaker was 1 out away from the shutout but Tony Gwynn hit a dramatic 2-out 3-run game-tying 9th inning HR. The game went to the 13th when Willie Stargell hit a walk-off game-winning solo HR.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 5 • TRENT GRISHAM 2-RUN 1B • WILL CLARK RBI 2B • SFG WINS 2-1

**GAME #20 — SDP 7 @ PIT 1**

Fernando Tatis Jr and Manny Machado set the tone early with solo HRs in the top of the 1st and Sean Manaea took care of the rest giving up only an RBI 3B to Ke'Bryan Hayes in the 4th. Jake Cronenworth added a solo HR in the 2nd and Trent Grisham hit a 2-run 1B in the 3rd to make it 5-0. Tommy Pham and Eric Hosmer added RBI in the 4th and the Padres cruised to a win, getting the road split and staying in contention.

**GAME #19 — MIA 1 @ SFG 2**

The Giants had a chance to keep pace with the surging Reds and they took it with a strong display of pitching. Logan Webb took a shutout into the 8th inning and Barry Bonds took care of the offense with a 2-run HR in the 5th. Jesus Aguilar hit an RBI 1B in the 8th but Camilo Doval came in and shut the door earning the save.

**GAME #20 — MIA 1 @ SFG 3**

Mike Yastrzemski continued his strong season with a leadoff solo HR in the 1st inning off of Jesus Luzardo and Johnny Cueto took a shutout into the 6th. In the 6th inning Gary Sheffield hit his 1st HR of the season coming out of his season long slump tying the game but Brandon Crawford hit an RBI 1B in the bottom half and Will Clark hit an RBI 2B in the 7th to give the Giants the 3-1 lead and the win. Camilo Doval earned his 6th save.

MLBC — ALL-STAR BREAK

20 GAMES COMPLETE • MIDSEASON CLASSIC

THE STARS TRADE SHUTOUTS

A 1-0 American League classic, a 4-0 National League answer, and a split at the midpoint.

**THE STAGE** The first showcase opened with one of the season’s best possible pitching pairings: star rookie Spencer Strider for the National League against unbeaten Alek Manoah for the American League. Strider arrived at 4-0 with a 0.95 ERA and 60 strikeouts in 38 innings; Manoah was 5-0 with a 1.70 ERA for the 15-5 Blue Jays. Both delivered three dominant innings, and the game stayed scoreless while Félix Hernández, Jacob deGrom, Grayson Rodriguez, Clayton Kershaw, Gerrit Cole and Max Scherzer turned the middle innings into a parade of aces.

**THE SERIES** Game 1 finally moved when Salvador Perez doubled off Scherzer and Robinson Cano drove him home with an RBI 1B. The 1-0 lead reached rookie Jhoan Duran in the 9th, and Duran survived Eric Davis and Ryan Braun reaching base before striking out Buster Posey for the final out. Perez was named All-Star Game MVP for the second straight year. The National League answered immediately in Game 2. Nolan Arenado and Sammy Sosa produced first-inning RBI, Mike Yastrzemski homered in the 3rd and later singled, and Will Smith added another run. Luis Castillo opened with three scoreless innings, the NL defense turned a highlight-reel double play behind Yu Darvish, and the bullpen completed a 4-0 shutout. Shohei Ohtani appeared as both a hitter and pitcher, striking out two during his mound work.

**THE HINGE** The two leagues leave the break even at one game apiece and with completely different versions of an All-Star win: the American League surviving a 1-0 pressure game, the National League controlling a 4-0 answer from the opening inning forward. Twenty regular-season games are complete and twenty remain. Toronto owns the best first-half record at 15-5, but the showcase underlined how much elite pitching sits throughout both leagues. The break does not move a single club in the standings. It does something more useful for the story of the season: it draws a line. Everything before it is now the first half. Everything after it has half the runway.

|                     |                       |                       |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| SERIES<br>1-1 SPLIT | GAME 1<br>AL 1 • NL 0 | GAME 2<br>NL 4 • AL 0 | MVP<br>SALVADOR PEREZ |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|

ALL-STAR MOMENTS

|                                                                                                   |                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| GAME 1<br>SALVADOR PEREZ • AL<br>MVP for the second straight year • double before the winning run | GAME 2<br>MIKE YASTRZEMSKI • NL<br>solo HR + 1B in the 4-0 National League win |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## MLBC — GAME LOG

ALL-STAR • MANOAH 3 IP, 5 K • STRIDER 3 IP, 1 HIT • AL HOME WIN

## ALL-STAR GAME

## NL ALL-STARS 0 @ AL ALL-STARS 1

Star rookie Spencer Strider led the NL All-Stars into their matchup against Blue Jay breakout Alek Manoah. Strider entered at 4-0 with a 0.95 ERA and a league-leading 60 strikeouts in 38 innings having an MVP rookie season. Manoah entered at 5-0 with a stellar 1.70 ERA leading the 15-5 Blue Jays to the best record in the first half. Manoah struck out Trevor Story to open the game, Eric Davis popped out, and Manoah struck out Ryan Braun, while Strider got Byron Buxton to line out, struck out Bo Bichette, and got Eric Chavez to fly out. Manoah continued his dominance getting Buster Posey, Pete Alonso, and Ryan Zimmerman, striking out two. David Ortiz got a bloop 1B to lead off but Eloy Jimenez, Salvador Perez, and Robinson Cano failed to capitalize. Manoah got Evan Longoria on a strikeout but Lars Nootbaar hit a 2B to give the NL their first hit. Kolton Wong and Story could not capitalize and Manoah got through 3 with just 1 hit and 0 walks while striking out 5 in a dominant showing. Strider struck out Nathaniel Lowe, got Masataka Yoshida, walked Buxton, but got Bo Bichette to finish his 3 innings giving up only 1 hit.

Felix Hernandez came in and held the NL All-Stars hitless getting all 6 hitters striking out 1. Jacob deGrom matched him but gave up 2 infield 1Bs. The scoreless game was handed to Grayson Rodriguez who got through his inning giving up only a hit to Trevor Story. Clayton Kershaw came in for the NL but promptly gave up a BB to Bo Bichette and a 1B to Eric Chavez. Under pressure Kershaw got David Ortiz to line out and then Eloy Jimenez to ground into a double play. Gerrit Cole came into the scoreless game and went 3 for 3 not facing any trouble. Max Scherzer came into the scoreless game for the NL and last year's game MVP Salvador Perez blasted a 2B just out of the reach of Ryan Braun. Robinson Cano stepped up and hit an RBI 1B scoring Perez who just beat the throw. Scherzer struck out the side and then the AL handed the 1-0 lead to Garrett Whitlock who went 3 for 3 like Cole putting down the NL with ease. Devin Williams came in and gave up a 1B to Bichette but got the next 3 striking out 2. Rookie Jhoan Duran stepped into a high pressure situation with a 1-0 lead to face pinch-hitter Sammy Sosa. Duran got Sosa and Story but Eric Davis hit a 1B to center. Ryan Braun drew a BB and Buster Posey came up with a chance to be the hero. But the rookie was the hero striking out Posey to win the game for the AL and get the save. Incredibly Salvador Perez was the All-Star Game MVP for the second year in a row.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

ALL-STAR • YASTRZEMSKI HOMERS • NL EARNS THE SPLIT • NL ROAD WIN

## NL ALL-STARS 4 @ AL ALL-STARS 0

Dylan Cease got the second start but gave up a 2B to Francisco Lindor to open the game. Cease got Ryne Sandberg but gave up an RBI 1B to Nolan Arenado. Sammy Sosa stepped up and hit an RBI 3B but Cease came back to strike out Austin Riley and Anthony Rizzo. Luis Castillo got the start for the NL facing Jose Altuve leading off for the AL. Castillo got Altuve and Alex Bregman but gave up a 2B to Shohei Ohtani. Edgar Martinez came up but lined out to 1B. Cease got Will Smith and Bryan Reynolds but surprise All-Star Mike Yastrzemski hit a solo HR giving the NL a 3-0 lead. Eddie Murray led off the inning with a BB but Luis Castillo got Randy Arozarena, Torii Hunter, and Bobby Witt Jr. Lucas Giolito pitched 1 scoreless inning but in the 4th Anthony Rizzo hit a 2B and Will Smith hit an RBI 1B. Mike Yastrzemski hit a 1B but Giolito got Lindor to line out. Luis Castillo pitched a 3rd scoreless inning giving up a 2B to Altuve but got Bregman and Ohtani. Yu Darvish came in and got Edgar Martinez but Eddie Murray got a bloop 1B. Then Francisco Lindor and Ryne Sandberg made a highlight reel double-play to get Randy Arozarena. Shohei Ohtani came in to pitch having made the All-Star Game as both a hitter and a pitcher. Ohtani got Sandberg and struck out Nolan Arenado but Sammy Sosa lined a ball past Jose Altuve. Ohtani responded by striking out Austin Riley. Darvish got through his 2nd scoreless inning and the NL led 4-0 after 5. Ohtani walked Will Smith and gave up a 3rd hit to Mike Yastrzemski but he got Lindor to escape the inning. Kyle Hendricks pitched a scoreless 6th inning striking out 1, and Justin Verlander pitched a scoreless top of the 7th, walking 1 and striking out 2. JT Brubaker the surprising Pirates addition pitched a scoreless bottom of the 7th striking out 1 and the game went to Sean Doolittle in the 8th who set the NL down in order striking out 1. Raisel Iglesias got the ball in the 8th and got past a Bobby Witt Jr 1B without another blemish. Pete Fairbanks came in for the 9th inning and got past a BB and the game went to Andres Munoz for 2 hitters and then Camilo Doval came in to get the save. The NL got the split.

## MLBC — WEEK 6

GAMES 21-24 • SECOND HALF

## THE CUBS BREAK THROUGH

*Chicago owns the only perfect week, Toronto stays clear, and the second half rearranges the National League.*

**THE LEAD** Toronto began the second half at 15-5, with San Francisco and Cincinnati one game behind and Atlanta and Baltimore at 13-7. The Cubs have crawled to 12-8 from 0-5. The schedule immediately put the leaders into traffic: Toronto visited Cleveland, the Yankees headed west, Atlanta hosted San Francisco after opening against Boston, the White Sox crossed town to Wrigley, and the Mets moved through San Francisco before finishing the week in Colorado. Twenty games had created a hierarchy. Week 6 asked how much of it could survive contact with the second half.

**THE WEEK** Chicago supplied the only perfect answer. The Cubs went 4-0, climbed to 16-8 and completed a remarkable transformation from their 0-5 opening, winning sixteen of nineteen after that start. Toronto went 3-1 and remained comfortably first at 18-6; Baltimore also reached 16-8, while the Mets moved into first in the NL East at 15-9 after sweeping the Giants. Shohei Ohtani produced one of the season's most complete individual games, striking out 14 while also hitting two HR and driving in five. Adam Jones authored a different kind of history for Baltimore, going 6-for-6 and extending a run to ten consecutive at-bats with hits. Eric Chavez drove in six runs with a triple and two HR in Oakland's 7-6 loss to Boston, an extraordinary performance that still was not enough to win. Justin Verlander answered on the mound with a 5-hit, 11-strikeout shutout, while Brandon Woodruff and Blake Snell also threw complete-game zeroes.

**THE STAKES** Toronto leaves Week 6 at 18-6, two games clear of San Francisco, Chicago and Baltimore at 16-8. The Mets, Cleveland and Cincinnati are 15-9. Seattle still leads the AL West at 13-11, the only club in that division above .500. The Cubs have changed the NL Central without waiting for Cincinnati to collapse; Baltimore is no longer simply a surprise; and Toronto continues to make everybody chase the same moving target. Week 7 turns toward rivalry and pressure: Mets-Yankees, Minnesota-Houston, Cleveland-Cincinnati, Seattle-Boston, Philadelphia-San Francisco, Cubs-White Sox and Seattle-Toronto. Sixteen games remain. The standings are no longer a snapshot. They are a clock.

TOP OF TABLE  
TOR • 18-6ONLY 4-0  
CHC • 16-8NL EAST  
NYM • 15-9AL WEST  
SEA • 13-11

## WEEKLY HONORS

## HITTER OF THE WEEK

**GOLD ERIC CHAVEZ • OAK**

2 HR • 8 RBI

**SILVER MATT WILLIAMS • ARI**

3 HR • 7 RBI

**BRONZE SHOHEI OHTANI • LAA**

3 HR • 7 RBI

## PITCHER OF THE WEEK

**GOLD JUSTIN VERLANDER • HOU**

CG SHO • 5 H • 11 K

**SILVER BRANDON WOODRUFF • MIL**

CG SHO

**BRONZE BLAKE SNELL • SDP**

CG SHO • 5 H • 10 K

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 6 • ADAM JONES 2-RUN HR • JONES 2-RUN 1B • JIM THOME RBI 2B

## ROUND #11

## GAME #21 — TEX 2 @ BAL 3

Texas came into Baltimore with the slimmest of hopes to start a winning streak and keep their season hopes alive. Nathaniel Lowe was the surprise Ranger All-Star who is 4th in OPS and 6th in total bases slashing .354/.393/.658. Baltimore is one of the biggest surprises this year at 13-7 led by All-Star Eddie Murray slashing .316/.400/.506. Texas took the early lead on a solo HR from Ivan Rodriguez and an RBI 2B from Marcus Semien but it was not to be. John Means didn't give up another run and star rookie Gunnar Henderson hit a 2-run HR after an Adam Jones 2B off of Nathan Eovaldi. The game went to the 8th tied 2-2 when Anthony Santander did it again, winning another game for the surging O's with an RBI 1B scoring Adam Jones. Corey Seager had his 13-game hitting streak ended.

## GAME #22 — TEX 2 @ BAL 13

The O's rolled behind Adam Jones having a record day going 6-6. It was a historic series as his hits in the last game made an incredible 8 hits in a row. After a Ramon Urias RBI 2B Jones hit a 2-run 1B in the 2nd. In the 3rd inning Trey Mancini, Urias, and Cedric Mullins hit RBI 1B. Anthony Santander hit an RBI 1B in the 4th and it was 7-0. It was 9-2 after a 2-run 2B from Gunnar Henderson and then 10-2 after another Santander RBI 1B. Adam Jones hit an RBI 3B in the 8th, his incredible 6th hit of the game, and then Gunnar Henderson hit a 2-run HR to cap the 13-2 statement win. The Orioles look for real and suddenly sit at 15-7 having now won 6 in a row and 11 of 12 in a shocking run. It looks like the O's have already captured a wild card spot but they are also keeping pace with the league-leading Blue Jays. It looks to be an exciting second half of the season for the AL East.

## GAME #21 — TOR 5 @ CLE 6

This was a premier matchup with the AL East leading Blue Jays traveling to Cleveland to face the 1st place Guardians of the AL Central. Roberto Alomar opened the game with a 1B and a SB and scored on a George Springer RBI 2B against Shane Bieber in the top of the 1st. In the bottom of the 1st Steven Kwan got the first of his 4 hits with a 2B and scored on a Carlos Santana RBI 1B. All-Star and MVP favorite Bo Bichette hit an incredible league-leading 11th HR on the season with a 2-run shot in the 3rd, but again Cleveland fought back as Jim Thome hit an RBI 2B scoring Kwan after his second hit. Down 3-2 Cleveland tied the game in the bottom of the 5th on a Jose Ramirez RBI after a Kwan 2B. Tied 3-3 the Blue Jays now fought back with a 2-run HR from Dalton Varsho after a Matt Chapman 2B. Down 5-3 the Guardians drew within 1 on an RBI 2B from Ramirez after a Kwan 1B, his 4th hit of the game. Down 5-4 in the bottom of the 8th the resilient Guardians took the lead on a clutch 2-out bases-loaded 2-run 1B from Omar Vizquel. Emmanuel Clase came in for the save and the Guardians proved they are for real with a big win at home against a top opponent. This was one of the better games of the year. All-Star starter and Cy Young favorite Alek Manoah did not add to his resume in this one slipping in the race.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 6 • GRIFFEY 3-RUN HR • POSADA 2-RUN HR • BLUE JAYS WIN 1-0

**GAME #22 — TOR 1 @ CLE 0**

This was a great pitching duel between Corey Kluber and Kevin Gausman. Both pitchers took dominant shutouts into the 8th inning. Gausman got replaced with 2 outs in the 8th and Jordan Romano kept the shutout. Kluber lost his edge in the 9th and walked Jose Bautista and then Teoscar Hernandez and Alejandro Kirk hit an RBI 1B to give the Blue Jays a 1-0 lead. Romano held on and the Blue Jays got the road split and now sit comfortably at 16-6.

**GAME #21 — SEA 2 @ TBR 9**

The Tampa Bay Rays look for real moving to 13-8 after thumping the AL West leading Seattle Mariners. Hunter Renfroe had an RBI in the 1st and an RBI 1B in the 7th, Austin Meadows had an RBI 1B in the 3rd and a 2-run HR in the 7th, and the star of the game was Brandon Lowe who went 4-4 with a 2B and a 2-run HR. Tyler Glasnow got back on track with a strong performance giving up only 3 hits and a solo HR to Julio Rodriguez. Josh Lowe added a 2-run 2B in the win and Cal Raleigh added a solo HR in the loss.

**GAME #22 — SEA 8 @ TBR 3**

The Rays scored first on RBI 1Bs from Hunter Renfroe and Brandon Lowe and Shane McClellan didn't give up a hit until the 5th. But the first hit was a 2-run HR to Edwin Encarnacion which tied the game 2-2. In the 7th the M's took the lead on a solo HR from Cal Raleigh but the Rays responded with an RBI from Renfroe in the bottom half. Tied 3-3 in the 8th the M's took the game on a 2-run 2B from Mitch Haniger and then put the game out of reach in the 9th with a 3-run HR from Ken Griffey Jr. The M's got the split and the Rays missed a chance to move a step closer in the impressive AL East.

**GAME #21 — NYY 4 @ OAK 1**

The Yankees were in danger of losing their season with the surge of the other four teams in the AL East as they came into Oakland in last place. Adam Dunn hit a solo HR in the 3rd but Jorge Posada hit a 2-run HR off of Chris Bassitt in the 5th to give the Yankees the lead. Aaron Judge hit a solo HR to make it 3-1 and Hideki Matsui hit a solo HR to give the Yankees the 4-1 win behind a strong performance from All-Star Gerrit Cole giving up only 1 run over 7 innings.

**GAME #22 — NYY 10 @ OAK 1**

The Yankees kept their hot streak going with 10 runs and a blowout win. Aaron Judge hit another solo HR and Jorge Posada hit a 3-run 2B. Giancarlo Stanton hit a Grand Slam HR in the 5th to put the game out of reach, and Hideki Matsui hit a 2-run HR to cap the road sweep as the Yankees kept pace in the surging AL East. The A's managed only 2 runs and 9 hits in the series and are in danger of falling out the race. Nestor Cortes pitched well in the win giving up only 3 hits and 1 run over 7 innings.

**GAME #21 — HOU 6 @ KCR 0**

Houston needed to make a move in the race in the second half and visiting Kansas City was a good place to start as Justin Verlander shined pitching a 5-hit CG SH while striking out 11. Jeff Bagwell hit a solo HR in the 1st and was followed by an RBI 1B by Yuli Gurriel. The game went 2-0 to the 6th when Yordan Alvarez hit a leadoff 2B and Yuli Gurriel followed with an RBI 2B. Michael Brantley hit a 2-run HR after that and it was an easy 6-0 win for the Astros.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 6 • OHTANI FANS 14 • SPENCER STRIDER FANS 14 • OHTANI 2-RUN HR

**GAME #22 — HOU 4 @ KCR 5**

The Royals needed a split to keep their slim hopes alive and they took an early lead. George Brett hit an RBI 3B and scored on an RBI from All-Star game MVP Salvador Perez. Yordano Ventura took a shutout into the 7th but gave up a 2B to Alex Bregman and then made 2 wild pitches. Jeremy Pena hit an RBI sacrifice on the 8th and the game was tied. The Astros got a chance at the sweep they wanted when they scored 2 runs in the 11th on an RBI 1B from Yordan Alvarez and an RBI 2B from Kyle Tucker. Down 4-2 in the bottom of the 11th the Royals were looking at maybe the end of their hopes but Perez singled. Vinny Pasquantino and Alex Gordon followed with 1Bs and suddenly the bases were loaded. Whit Merrifield stepped up and tied the game with a 2-run 1B and then All-Star Bobby Witt Jr won the game with an RBI 1B. The Astros missed a chance and the Royals stayed alive snapping a four-game losing streak.

**GAME #21 — DET 3 @ LAA 12**

The slumping Angels dropped 9 of 11 before the break, falling into dismay and losing any hope for a repeat playoff performance, but they showed up at home against the Detroit Tigers. The Tigers thought they might make a move after sweeping Houston before the break, but the Tigers fell out of contention immediately after the break. CJ Cron hit a solo HR in the 2nd to start the scoring and he hit a solo HR in the 8th to cap the 12th run. Anthony Rendon went 4-5 with a 3B and an HR and 2 RBI, but the star of the game was Shohei Ohtani who hit a 3-run HR and a 2-run HR to lead the blowout win. Miguel Cabrera hit a solo HR off of Shohei Ohtani as did Mickey Tettleton. Ohtani struck out 14 over 7 innings walking only one. Shohei Ohtani is like no other posting a win, 14 strikeouts, 2 HR, and 5 RBI.

**GAME #22 — DET 2 @ LAA 8**

The Angels and Shohei Ohtani kept it going moving back to the fringe of contention saving their season with a second blowout win against the Tigers. Ohtani hit a 1B in the 1st and stole second and third, then scored on a CJ Cron RBI 1B, who scored on an Anthony Rendon RBI 2B. Ohtani hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd and the Angels had the lead. Victor Martinez hit an RBI 1B and Akil Baddoo hit an RBI 3B but it was not enough. Mike Trout added an RBI 2B in the 7th and scored on an Albert Pujols 3-run HR. Patrick Sandoval pitched well to get the win and the Angels live to fight another series only 2 games back from the Mariners.

**GAME #21 — ATL 3 @ BOS 2**

What a series this was turning out to be. Boston had won 5 in a row before the break and the Braves had won 4 in a row sitting in 1st place in the NL East. The Red Sox brought ace Chris Sale to the contest and the Braves had runaway front runner to the NL Cy Young Award star rookie Spencer Strider taking the ball. This was always going to be a top rivalry series but this one seemed extra tense from the beginning. Austin Riley connected for a solo HR against Sale in the 2nd inning and then Michael Harris hit a 2-run 1B and the Braves took a 3-0 lead they would not relinquish. Spencer Strider struck out 14 in less than 7 innings in a dominant performance and Craig Kimbrel hung on for the save. JD Martinez and David Ortiz hit RBI 1Bs but it was not enough for the Red Sox to mount a comeback and the Braves got an important road win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 6 • IAN HAPP 2-RUN HR • ROBIN YOUNT 2-RUN HR • CUBS WIN 3-1

**GAME #22 — ATL 6 @ BOS 7**

This was a game worth the hype. The Red Sox needed a win and got 2 RBI 2Bs from JD Martinez off of Max Fried in the first 3 innings, but the Red Sox trailed 3-2 because David Price gave up an RBI 1B from William Contreras and a 2-run 2B from Deion Sanders. The Red Sox tied the game in the 4th on a solo HR from Dustin Pedroia but the Braves took the lead in the 6th on a 2-run HR from Michael Harris. The Red Sox would not be denied the split in this one as they fought back again scoring 4 runs on RBI from Rafael Devers and Xander Bogaerts and then a 2-run 2B from Alex Verdugo which proved to be the winning margin. Ronald Acuna hit a solo HR in the 7th to make it a 1-run game, but that was as close as the Braves would get and the Red Sox escaped with a split and stayed in the race for the AL wild card. The Braves got the road win they needed in Game #1 and sit in first place in the NL East primed for a stretch run.

**GAME #21 — MIL 2 @ MIN 6**

Both teams needed a push to get back in the race but the Twins got Game #1. Corbin Burnes had a strange day both being dominant with 13 strikeouts and 0 walks in just 6 innings but also 4 solo HRs in the first 5 innings. Kirby Puckett, Carlos Correa, Byron Buxton, and Jorge Polanco all hit solo HRs off of Burnes and Sonny Gray limited the damage to just an RBI 1B from Christian Yelich and an RBI 2B to Brice Turang.

**GAME #22 — MIL 5 @ MIN 0**

The Brewers got the split and kept the Twins at .500 and stayed in the race themselves. Christian Yelich hit a leadoff solo HR and Ryan Braun hit a solo HR in the 4th. Robin Yount hit an RBI 1B in the 5th and Luis Urias capped the scoring with a 2-run HR in the 6th. Brandon Woodruff did the rest pitching a strong CG SH with 10 strikeouts. Both teams hope to get some momentum in the 2nd half and split their rivalry series 2-2.

**GAME #21 — CHW 1 @ CHC 3**

This lined up to be a very interesting rivalry matchup as the struggling 8-12 White Sox who have lost their expected spot in contention brought All-Star Dylan Cease into the anticipated matchup with the crosstown Cubs who surprisingly are in contention at 12-8. The Cubs brought All-Star Kyle Hendricks to the mound and hoped to have a strong showing at home. It started well for the White Sox as Frank Thomas hit an RBI 1B in the 1st but there was nothing after that and the White Sox fell flat. Dylan Cease pitched well only giving up 3 hits but one of them was a 3-run HR to All-Star Ryne Sandberg. Adbert Alzolay pitched well in a tough clutch 8th inning.

**GAME #22 — CHW 2 @ CHC 5**

The Cubs rolled and the White Sox saw their season end. At 8-14 the White Sox are suddenly trying not to finish last. Meanwhile the Cubs are hot now at 14-8 and in real contention. The Cubs suddenly are one of the top surprises of the season. Ian Happ hit a 2-run HR in the 1st and Jason Heyward hit an RBI 3B and then scored on a Nico Hoerner RBI in the 2nd and the Cubs were up 4-0. Luis Robert hit a solo HR in the 4th but Anthony Rizzo hit a solo HR to keep the Cubs in a comfortable position. Adam Eaton hit a solo HR late but the White Sox just didn't show up when it mattered most. They got swept on the road in their big rivalry series and fell out of contention. The Cubs fans are eagerly awaiting the next series against the Padres in San Diego. The Cubs have won 12 of 14 in a complete turnaround. Tim Anderson saw his 13-game hitting streak end.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 6 • JOSE FERNANDEZ FANS 9 • JOHN KRUK 2-RUN HR • REDS WIN 5-0

**GAME #21 — PHI 0 @ CIN 5**

The Phillies came into Cincinnati needing a win to keep pace in the NL East with the Braves and Mets both ahead of them. The Reds needed a win to stay ahead of the surging Cubs. A sweep for either team would be a major statement as this was a highly anticipated series this round. 5-0 All-Star Luis Castillo got the ball to face Zack Wheeler. The Phillies also had a major chip on their shoulders as the World Champions were one of only a few teams that didn't have an All-Star. Eric Davis led the Reds as the front-runner for the NL MVP as the teams head to the second half. In Game #1 Barry Larkin hit a solo HR in the 3rd, and Castillo took care of it from there, posting a 7-hit shutout to move to 6-0 and squarely in the race for the NL Cy Young. Chris Sabo added a 2-run 1B as part of his 3-4 day, and the Reds coasted to a 5-0 win.

**GAME #22 — PHI 10 @ CIN 3**

The Phillies really needed a win, and they got it early. Ryan Howard hit a 3-run HR in the 1st inning, and the Phillies cruised behind Aaron Nola. Bryson Stott added an RBI 1B in the 2nd, and Mike Schmidt hit a solo HR to lead off the 3rd. Up 5-0 in the 6th the Phillies put the game away with a 2-run 2B from Lenny Dykstra and a 2-run HR from John Kruk. Tyler Stephenson hit a 2-run HR in the bottom of the 6th to put the Reds on the board, and Eugenio Suarez hit a solo HR in the 8th to finish a 4-4 day, but the Reds fell quietly to give up the split at home. Jesse Winker ended his 11-game hitting streak.

**GAME #21 — ARI 3 @ WSH 2**

The Diamondbacks don't have anything left to play for, but they can look forward to the development of Zac Gallen who took a shutout into the 8th inning. Reigning Cy Young winner All-Star Max Scherzer matched him taking his shutout to the top of the 8th when Ketel Marte hit an RBI 2B and Matt Williams hit a 2-run HR. All-Star Ryan Zimmerman hit a 2-run HR in the bottom of the 8th but it was not enough as the Arizona bullpen held the 3-2 win.

**GAME #22 — ARI 0 @ WSH 9**

Stephen Strasburg pitched a dominant 3-hit shutout, striking out 6 while walking 3. Ryan Zimmerman continued his strong season with an RBI 2B in the 4th and Keibert Ruiz hit an RBI 1B to give the Nationals a 2-0 lead. In the bottom of the 8th Washington unloaded for 7 runs highlighted by a Michael Taylor Grand Slam HR, keeping their slim playoff hopes alive.

**GAME #21 — COL 0 @ MIA 4**

The Rockies hit the All-Star break as one of the surprise teams, but they were shut down by the Marlins, who are already building for next year. Jose Fernandez pitched a 4-hit shutout, striking out 9, while Jazz Chisholm paced Miami with a 3-run HR in the 3rd. Jesus Sanchez added a solo HR in the 6th to cap the 4-0 win.

**GAME #22 — COL 8 @ MIA 2**

Kyle Freeland gave up a leadoff 1B in the bottom of the 1st and then didn't give up another hit until the 9th inning, walking only 1. It was a brilliant start that unraveled with 3 straight hits to prevent the shutout in the bottom of the 9th. Andres Galarraga hit a solo HR in the 2nd to begin the scoring, and Tom Murphy drove in 2 runs to follow giving the Rockies a 3-0 lead. Todd Helton hit a solo HR in the 3rd, and followed with a 2B in the 5th, and a 2B in the 7th, scoring both times on RBI from Carlos Gonzalez. Charlie Blackmon hit a solo HR in the 8th to cap the Rockies 8-2 win, getting the road split.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 6 • SNELL FANS 10 • WILL SMITH GRAND SLAM • METS ROAD SWEEP

**GAME #21 — SDP 1 @ STL 0**

The Padres and Cardinals both needed at least a sweep to keep pace, but it was the Padres who came out on top in a stunning sweep of the Cardinals, shutting them out in both games. All-Star Yu Darvish took a shutout into the 8th in a 1-0 game after Tony Gwynn drew a bases-loaded walk. The Padres bullpen held as All-Star Andres Munoz shut the door, and San Diego got a 1-0 road win.

**GAME #22 — SDP 8 @ STL 0**

Blake Snell and Adam Wainwright both took shutouts into the 7th inning, but the Padres got to Wainwright in the 7th on a solo HR from Manny Machado and RBI 1B from Luis Campusano. Machado added a 2-run HR in the 8th, and Fernando Tatis Jr hit a 2-run HR in the 9th, powering the Padres behind Snell who finished the 5-hit shutout, striking out 10. The Padres got a huge road sweep and the Cardinals are left suddenly struggling to stay in the race.

**GAME #21 — PIT 7 @ LAD 11**

The Dodgers needed to make a push, and they got an offensive statement in Game #1. Max Muncy hit an RBI 1B after a Freddie Freeman 3B in the 1st, and then Muncy hit a solo HR in the 3rd to make it 2-0. Willie Stargell hit a 2-run HR off of All-Star Clayton Kershaw to tie the game, but Cody Bellinger hit a 2-run 1B in the bottom half to reclaim the 2-run lead. All-Star Will Smith hit a Grand Slam HR in the 5th, but the Pirates fought back making it a 1-run game after a 5-run 6th, highlighted by an RBI 2B from Stargell. The Dodgers kept going though, scoring 3 in the 7th, on RBI from Trea Turner and Mookie Betts.

**GAME #22 — PIT 2 @ LAD 4**

The Dodgers got the much needed home sweep behind Walker Buehler. Andrew McCutchen and rookie Endy Rodriguez hit solo HRs but in the bottom of the 5th Cody Bellinger tied the game with a 2-run HR and then made it 4-2 with a solo HR in the 7th sealing the win.

**GAME #21 — NYM 5 @ SFG 0**

The surging Mets came into San Francisco and stayed red hot. All-Star Jacob deGrom took a shutout into the 8th scattering only 6 singles while striking out 11. Jeff McNeil hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd, and Mike Piazza made it 3-0 in the 8th with a 2-run HR. David Wright finished the 5-0 game with a 2-run 2B in the 9th and the Mets got a big road win.

**GAME #22 — NYM 3 @ SFG 1**

Noah Syndergaard took a shutout to the 5th when Brandon Crawford hit a solo HR to give the Giants the lead and hope for a split, but a 2-run HR from Darryl Strawberry ended the shutout for Madison Bumgarner and gave the Mets the 2-1 lead. Gary Carter hit a solo HR and the Mets' bullpen held. In the end the Mets got a most impressive road sweep against the Giants giving up only 1 run in the series, and seem to be firming in the mix in the NL playoffs.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 6 • CHAVEZ 3-RUN HR • ERIC CHAVEZ 2-RUN 2B • YANDY DIAZ SOLO HR

## ROUND #12

## GAME #23 — OAK 5 @ BOS 1

The A's are hanging in contention and helped themselves with a big win in Boston. Shintaro Fujinami pitched a strong 5 innings and Ramon Laureano powered the A's with a solo HR in the 2nd and scored in the 4th on a Sean Murphy 2B. Eric Chavez added a 2-run 2B in the 7th to put away the game for the visiting Athletics. Boston is at the bottom of the AL East desperate to get going in time.

## GAME #24 — OAK 6 @ BOS 7

All-Star Eric Chavez had an historic game, but it was not enough to keep the Red Sox from their needed home split. Chavez hit an RBI 3B in the 1st, a 1B in the 3rd, a 3-run HR in the 5th, and a 2-run HR in the 7th, his 10th on the season. In a 7-6 loss Chavez had all 6 RBI while accumulating 12 total bases. It was an incredible 1-man show, but the Red Sox prevailed on a 2-run HR from Dustin Pedroia and JD Martinez had 3 RBI to lead Boston. Oakland took a 6-5 lead to the bottom of the 9th but Xander Bogaerts tied the game with a 2-out RBI 1B. In the bottom of the 10th Wade Boggs hit a 2B and scored on a Martinez game-winning RBI 1B giving the home team the needed split as they fight to stay in the race.

## GAME #23 — NYY 4 @ SEA 8

The Yankees were another team that needed to get going, but it was not to be for them in Game #1. Seattle fought back with 6 runs in the 3rd after Aaron Judge opened the game with a 2-run HR. After an RBI from Robinson Cano, Ken Griffey Jr hit a 2-run HR, Edwin Encarnacion hit a 2-run 1B, and Cal Raleigh hit an RBI 1B. Julio Rodriguez and Cano had RBI in the 8th and the M's cruised to an 8-4 win behind Logan Gilbert. Edgar Martinez saw his 11-game hitting streak end.

## GAME #24 — NYY 7 @ SEA 4

Aaron Judge hit an RBI 1B in the 1st to give the Yankees an early lead, and Giancarlo Stanton, Hideki Matsui, and Gleyber Torres had RBI in the 3-run 5th to make it 4-0. In the bottom of the 5th the M's came alive with a 2B from Cal Raleigh, an RBI 2B from JP Crawford, and then a 3-run HR from Ken Griffey Jr that tied the game. The Yankees would go on to prevail and get the road split and Matsui and Torres both hit RBI 2Bs and the Yankee bullpen held. New York needs to get hot to get into the race languishing with the Red Sox in last place in the red-hot AL East. Seattle has maintained 1st place in the AL West but have failed to separate from Houston who lingers. DJ LeMahieu extended his hitting streak to 16 games.

## GAME #23 — TBR 4 @ MIN 2

Tampa Bay has been another surprise team, taking a road win in Minnesota to keep pace in the ultra-competitive AL East. Hunter Renfroe hit a 2-run HR in the 1st to back Jeffrey Springs who pitched 7 shutout innings. Yandy Diaz hit a solo HR in the 2nd and the Rays took a 4-0 lead to the 8th where Byron Buxton hit his 10th HR on the season, a 2-run shot, but the Twins fell 4-2, missing a big chance to make a move.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 6 • MATT MANNING SHUTOUT • JOEY GALLO 2-RUN HR • TWINS WIN 6-2

**GAME #24 — TBR 2 @ MIN 6**

Austin Meadows hit a 2-run HR in the 1st to get the Rays on the board off of Kenta Maeda, but in the 2nd inning Nelson Cruz hit a solo HR and then Miguel Sano hit a 3-run HR to give the Twins the 4-2 lead. Josh Donaldson hit a solo HR in the 4th, and Byron Buxton hit his 11th HR on the season, tying Bo Bichette for the league lead. The Twins got the split and kept alive in the race. The Rays are hoping to make a strong push as they left Minnesota with the split they needed.

**GAME #23 — LAA 1 @ KCR 13**

The Royals unloaded on Garrett Richards and Andrew Heaney for 12 runs as they ran away with the game. Andrew Benintendi went 3-4 with a 2B, an HR, and 3 RBI. Vinny Pasquantino went 4-5 with a 2B and an RBI. Jorge Soler hit a 3-run HR going 2-5. Yet it was Salvador Perez who was the star of the game, going 4-5 with a 2B, an HR, and 5 RBI. Brady Singer was solid only giving up an RBI 2B to Logan O'Hoppe. Vinny Pasquantino had his 2nd consecutive 4-5 game, and has gone 9-13 in his last 3 games.

**GAME #24 — LAA 4 @ KCR 3**

Bobby Witt Jr gave the Royals an early lead with an RBI 1B in the 3rd, but the Angels tied the game in the 6th on a Justin Upton solo HR. The Royals scored twice in the bottom of the 7th on RBI 1B from Bo Jackson and Andrew Benintendi, but the Angels would not be denied the split as Mike Trout hit an RBI 1B in the 8th and then Anthony Rendon hit a 2-run HR to give the Angels a key win staying barely alive in the playoff race. Vinny Pasquantino saw his 10-game hitting streak end. Bo Jackson has been mired in a miserable two seasons, managed to extend his hitting streak to 6 games. Jackson has 31 strikeouts on the season with 0 walks.

**GAME #23 — DET 2 @ TEX 3**

The Tigers have fallen to the bottom of the AL and went meekly in Texas to a home sweep to the Rangers. Javier Baez hit a solo HR in the 2nd and Ian Kinsler hit a solo HR in the 5th, but it was not enough to beat Martin Perez. Marcus Semien tied the game with an RBI in the 2nd, and Joey Gallo provided the game-winner with a 2-run HR in the 4th.

**GAME #24 — DET 1 @ TEX 2**

Riley Greene hit a solo HR to give the Tigers an early lead, but that was all they would score against Dane Dunning. Matt Manning pitched a strong 6 shutout innings, but the bullpen could not hold the slim 1-0 lead. Adrian Beltre hit an RBI 1B in the 8th to tie the game, and Adolis Garcia hit an RBI 1B to win the game in the bottom of the 9th. The Rangers have been ice cold with only 5 extra base hits in the last 4 games, but still managed to sweep the lowly Tigers who have fallen to the bottom of the league after losing 8 of 10. Miguel Cabrera ended his 11-game hitting streak.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 6 • NICK LODOLO SHUTOUT • LUIS ROBERT 3-RUN HR • BAL WINS 5-1

**GAME #23 — CHW 8 @ HOU 4**

The White Sox were mired in an awful season in last place, and Houston was expected to make a move here to get into the AL West race, but it was not to be. In one of the more surprising results of the season Chicago showed up and the Astros did not. Yuli Gurriel hit a 2-run HR and Jeremy Pena followed with a solo HR off of Lance Lynn in the 3-run 2nd, but the White Sox scored 4 in the 4th on 2-run HR by both Jose Abreu and Eloy Jimenez, his 8th on the season. Chicago put away the game in the 7th on an RBI from Tim Anderson and a 3-run HR from Luis Robert.

**GAME #24 — CHW 8 @ HOU 2**

The White Sox blew out the Astros again getting the unexpected road sweep. Jose Abreu went 3-4 with a 2B and 3 RBI, and Frank Thomas put away the game in the 6-run 4th with a Grand Slam HR. Michael Kopech only gave up an RBI to Alex Bregman in a strong start. Houston is now 1-7 in their last 8 games and is currently out of the race in a stunning fall for a preseason favorite after their World Series run last season.

**GAME #23 — PHI 1 @ TOR 2**

The Blue Jays have separated and look like the clear favorites after dismantling the champion Phillies. Hyun-Jin Ryu pitched a strong 6 innings only giving up 1st inning HR to Bryce Harper. Toronto scored twice in the bottom half on RBI from Bo Bichette and Vladimir Guerrero, and the pitching staff did the rest, holding the lead until the end.

**GAME #24 — PHI 2 @ TOR 5**

Vladimir Guerrero had an RBI in the 1st, and another in the 2nd, while Teoscar Hernandez had an RBI in the 3rd, and another in the 8th as the Jays cruised to a sweep behind a solid start from Jose Berrios. The Blue Jays sit at 18-6 at the top of the league and are looking almost unbeatable as they sweep a championship winning team. JT Realmuto is ice cold going 1-17 since the break.

**GAME #23 — BAL 5 @ WSH 1**

Baltimore is the surprise team on the season, and managed to get a nice road split in their rivalry game in DC. Eddie Murray went 2-5 with a 2B and 2 RBI, and Cal Ripken Jr hit an RBI 1B and a 2-run HR to back a strong start from Tyler Wells. Rookie Lane Thomas made a name for himself going 3-3 with a 2B, an HR, and a BB. Adam Jones started the game 2-2 going an incredible 10-10 in his last 10 at bats.

**GAME #24 — BAL 2 @ WSH 3**

The Nationals scored 2 in the 1st on RBI from Josh Bell and Jeimer Candelario, and then made it 3-1 on an RBI from Lane Thomas. Baltimore got an RBI 1B from Ramon Urias and a solo HR from Adley Rutschman but it was not enough to defeat Jordan Zimmermann. Thomas went 3-5, going 6-8 in the series. Juan Soto has gone 0-11 since the break, but does have 5 walks.

**GAME #23 — CIN 1 @ CLE 2**

Cleveland made a major statement in their rivalry series against the Reds. Triston McKenzie pitched a strong 6 innings giving up only an RBI to Jesse Winker in the 6th. Nick Lodolo pitched just as well taking a shutout into the 7th when Omar Vizquel tied the game with a bases-loaded RBI 1B. The game went tied to the bottom of the 11th when Vizquel got his 4th hit of the game with a walk-off RBI 1B.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 6 • MIKE PIAZZA 3 RBI • HELTON 2-RUN HR • YAN GOMES 2-RUN HR

**GAME #24 — CIN 1 @ CLE 10**

The Reds needed a win to keep pace with the red-hot Cubs but they got demolished by the surging Guardians. Yan Gomes hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd and another 2-run HR in the 6th to lead a strong Cleveland game. Franmil Reyes went 4-5 with an RBI 1B and Carlos Carrasco pitched a strong 8 innings taking a shutout into the 8th when Eric Davis hit an RBI 2B to spoil the shutout. Cleveland moved 3 games clear in the AL Central and the Reds have lost 1st place to the Cubs in the NL Central.

**GAME #23 — NYM 12 @ COL 7**

Offense ruled the series in Colorado as the two teams put up 37 runs in the 2 games. Brandon Nimmo and Pete Alonso hit 2-run HRs in the 2nd, and the Mets drew 2 bases-loaded walks in the 3rd to take a 6-0 lead. Todd Helton had RBI in the 3rd and 4th, Larry Walker hit a 2-run 1B, and Charlie Blackmon hit an RBI 3B, but it was not enough to keep pace with the Mets who just kept on scoring. Mike Piazza went 4-5 with 3 RBI and a 2B, and Michael Conforto added a solo HR to pad the lead and the hot Mets won their 8th game in the last 9. Tom Murphy added a 2-run HR in the loss.

**GAME #24 — NYM 8 @ COL 10**

The Mets kept going in Game #2 as Mike Piazza gave the Mets a 3-0 1st inning lead with a 3-run HR, and Jeff McNeil make it 5-0 with a 2-run 2B. The Rockies kept fighting back as Todd Helton hit a 2-run HR in the 1st and Tom Murphy hit another 2-run HR. McNeil added 2 more runs with a 2-run 1B in the 3rd, but Andres Galarraga trimmed the lead with an RBI in the bottom half. Down 7-5 in the 4th, Helton hit an RBI 2B and Larry Walker scored him on a 2-run HR, and then Carlos Gonzalez went back-to-back with a solo HR. Ryan McMahon added a solo HR in the 5th and the Rockies fought to get the home split and stayed firmly in the playoff race.

**GAME #23 — MIA 7 @ MIL 5**

The Brewers missed a chance to keep up with the Cubs in the NL Central as they fell to the struggling Marlins. Luis Arraez hit a 2-run HR in the 1st inning and added an RBI 1B in the 2nd. Brian Anderson hit an RBI 2B in the 5th and Jesus Sanchez scored him with an RBI 1B making it 5-0, but the Brewers would fight back scoring 4 in the bottom half on RBI from Brice Turang, Robin Yount, Willy Adames, and Jonathan Lucroy. Miami would not give up the lead though after Ichiro Suzuki and Jazz Chisholm had RBI 1Bs in the 6th, securing the Marlin win behind Trevor Rogers.

**GAME #24 — MIA 5 @ MIL 9**

The Brewers didn't waste any time securing the needed split scoring 4 runs in the 1st and 4 more runs in the 2nd, highlighted by 2 2Bs and 3 RBI from Jonathan Lucroy. Willy Adames added a 2-run 2B and the Brewers were able to cruise to the win. Brian Anderson went 4-5 with 2 2Bs and 2 RBI in the loss. Eric Lauer pitched well in the win. Lucroy added a 3rd 2B in the game in a strong game. Christian Yelich extended his hitting streak to 13 games.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 6 • CARSON KELLY 2-RUN HR • SEIYA SUZUKI 2-RUN HR • ARI WINS 9-3

**GAME #23 — LAD 2 @ STL 3**

The Cardinals rebounded from a horrible last series to take a home sweep dashing the Dodgers' hope to gain ground. The Dodgers offense simply did not show up. Jordan Montgomery pitched a strong 6 innings only giving up a solo HR to Joc Pederson and an RBI 1B from Justin Turner. St. Louis took the lead in the 4th on an RBI from star rookie Lars Nootbaar, and a 2-run 1B from Yadier Molina.

**GAME #24 — LAD 1 @ STL 3**

St. Louis got back in the race continuing their shutdown of the Dodgers. Miles Mikolas only gave up an RBI 2B to Mookie Betts over 7 innings, but Dustin May took a shutout into the bottom of the 8th, when Mark McGwire hit a solo HR to tie the game, and Lars Nootbaar hit a solo HR back-to-back to take the lead. Matt Carpenter hit a 2B, and scored on an RBI 2B from Yadier Molina to complete the sweep, moving back into the playoff race.

**GAME #23 — PIT 3 @ ARI 9**

Both teams are looking forward to next year, but in this one the Diamondbacks got to enjoy a rare win. Geraldo Perdomo and Corbin Carroll had RBI in the 2nd and Ketel Marte added one in the 4th to give Arizona a 3-0 lead. Christian Walker hit a 3-run HR after an RBI 1B from Luis Gonzalez and the Diamonds went on to cruise to an easy win. Brandon Pfaadt pitched well to earn the win, and Matt Williams hit a 2-run HR in the 8th to make the final 9-3. Josh Harrison hit a solo HR in the loss.

**GAME #24 — PIT 9 @ ARI 10**

If these teams were in a pennant race, this would go down as one of the all-time great games. Hoping for a road split, Ke'Bryan Hayes hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd, and Roberto Clemente hit an RBI 2B in the 3rd. Geraldo Perdomo hit a solo HR in the 3rd but Josh Harrison hit another solo HR in the 5th to make it 3-1. Endy Rodriguez and Bryan Reynolds had RBI in the 7th and the Pirates took a 5-1 lead to the bottom of the 7th, where Carson Kelly hit a 2-run HR, and Corbin Carroll hit a solo HR, making it 5-4. In the bottom of the 8th Arizona took the lead on another 2-run HR from Christian Walker, and it looked like Arizona might get the sweep. Endy Rodriguez had other ideas as he hit a 2B to leadoff the 9th, and scored on an RBI 1B from Harrison. The game went tied to the 12th when Ke'Bryan Hayes got his 5th hit of the game, hitting a 2-run HR. Oneil Cruz went back-to-back with a solo HR, and the Pirates thought they would get the split, but in the bottom of the 12th Matt Williams hit a 3-run HR to keep the game going. In the bottom of the 14th Arizona finally secured the home sweep on a walk-off solo HR from Lourdes Gurriel. This was a wild game and one for the record books, even being with two of the worst teams in the league.

**GAME #23 — CHC 7 @ SDP 0**

The Padres came into this home series feeling good after sweeping the Cardinals on the road, but the scorching hot Cubs dismantled them. Jake Arrieta pitched a 5-hit CG SH shutting down the Padres offense. Seiya Suzuki hit a 2-run HR and Ryne Sandberg drove in 3 runs in the 5-run 2nd. Ian Happ added a solo HR in the 5th, and the Cubs cruised to an easy win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 6 • TRENT GRISHAM 2-RUN HR • CONTRERAS SOLO HR • SFG WINS 4-2

**GAME #24 — CHC 12 @ SDP 6**

The Padres fell back to 2 games under .500, potentially losing their place in the playoff race, meanwhile the Cubs are incredibly hot completing their second seven-game winning streak of the season. Chicago has won 14 of their last 16 and look to be in the running for the championship. Anthony Rizzo hit an RBI 1B in the 1st and Christopher Morel hit a solo HR in the 2nd. San Diego took the lead fighting back with 4 runs in the bottom half on a 2-run 2B from Luis Campusano and a 2-run HR from Trent Grisham. Morel drew a bases-loaded RBI walk in the 3rd and then gave the Cubs the lead with his second HR of the game, a 3-run HR in the 5th. Willson Contreras hit a 3-run HR in the 6th to extend the lead, and then Morel hit an incredible third HR of the game with a solo shot, his 6th RBI of the game. Contreras added a solo HR in the 8th and the Cubs dominated the Padres in San Diego and are now tied with San Francisco at 16-8. The Cubs have gone a remarkable 16-3 after starting 0-5.

**GAME #23 — SFG 4 @ ATL 2**

The Giants righted the ship big time after a disappointing sweep at home to the Mets. Atlanta is in a 3-way fight for the NL East, but they fell flat at home against San Francisco. Wilmer Flores had an RBI in the 2nd to back Logan Webb who only gave up 2 sacrifice flies over 7 innings. The Giants broke the game open in the 5th when Barry Bonds got out of his slump with a 2-run HR, and Brandon Belt followed with a solo HR. The Braves could only manage 4 hits against Webb and the Giants.

**GAME #24 — SFG 8 @ ATL 4**

All-Star Mike Yastrzemski hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd, but the Braves tied the game on an Ozzie Albies solo HR, and then took the lead in the 3rd on a Matt Olson RBI 1B. Michael Harris hit an RBI 2B in the 4th and the Braves looked like they might get the much needed home split. In the top of the 7th the Giants sent 10 batters to the plate, scoring 6 runs, breaking open the game, highlighted by a 3-run HR from All-Star Evan Longoria, his NL leading 10th. The Giants got back to their winning ways, tied with the Cubs for the #1 seed, while the Braves have to wonder what they need to do to get their mojo back with their third loss in a row.

## MLBC — WEEK 7

GAMES 25-28 • TORONTO BREAKS AWAY

## TORONTO PULLS AWAY

*The Blue Jays reach 22-6 while Atlanta and Boston surge and the AL West sinks into a four-team scramble.*

**THE LEAD** Sixteen games remained, and Toronto owned the one luxury nobody else had: room. The Blue Jays entered 18-6, while San Francisco, Baltimore and Chicago sat two games behind. After that group, the Mets led Atlanta by only 1 game and Cleveland led Minnesota by 3. Rivalries dominated the week. The Yankees and Mets renewed the Subway Series, the Cubs and White Sox met across Chicago, Cleveland and Cincinnati fought for position, and Seattle faced both Boston and Toronto. The second half had reached the point where a four-game week could no longer be described as merely good or bad. It could materially decide October.

**THE WEEK** Toronto kept separating. Alek Manoah and Kevin Gausman remained unbeaten at a combined 11-0, Jordan Romano continued converting late leads, and the Blue Jays reached 22-6. The Yankees supplied the week's loudest reversal. After being humiliated by the Mets earlier in the season, New York swept the return Subway Series by a combined 18-5, even getting to Jacob deGrom as the rivalry swung completely the other direction. Boston continued its resurrection behind Rafael Devers, whose move down to seventh in the order preceded another offensive response and helped keep the Red Sox in the Wild Card chase. Around the league, the contenders kept trading position rather than conceding it. Toronto's advantage was not simply that it kept winning; its rotation and bullpen were making ordinary comeback windows disappear.

**THE STAKES** The Blue Jays are now 22-6 and have created the first truly imposing record of Season Two. Everything beneath them remains much less settled. Nowhere is that stranger than the AL West, where the Mariners and the Angels are tied for 1st at 13-15. San Francisco is still controlling the National League race, Chicago has turned its early disaster into a division lead, and Boston and the Yankees have both recovered enough to keep the AL East from becoming a one-team story beyond Toronto's dominance. Twelve games remain after this week. Week 8 is the last full block before the final eight, and the Wild Card positions are beginning to matter as much as the division races. Toronto has built room. Everyone else is running out of it.

|                            |                                       |                             |                              |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| TOP OF TABLE<br>TOR • 22-6 | PERFECT WEEK<br>TOR / BOS / ATL • 4-0 | NL EAST<br>ATL • 18-10 • +1 | AL WEST<br>SEA / LAA • 13-15 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|

## WEEKLY HONORS

|                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>HITTER OF THE WEEK</b><br><b>GOLD SALVADOR PEREZ • KCR</b><br>4 HR • 14 RBI<br><b>SILVER BYRON BUXTON • MIN</b><br>2 HR • 5 RBI<br><b>BRONZE WILLIE STARGELL • PIT</b><br>2 HR • 5 RBI | <b>PITCHER OF THE WEEK</b><br><b>GOLD CARLOS CARRASCO • CLE</b><br>CG SHO • 14 K<br><b>SILVER DREW RASMUSSEN • TBR</b><br>CG SHO • 4 H • 11 K<br><b>BRONZE CARLOS RODON • SFG</b><br>7⅓ scoreless IP |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • BOBBY WITT JR GRAND SLAM • WITT 2-RUN HR • TY FRANCE SOLO HR

## ROUND #13

## GAME #25 — KCR 14 @ BAL 2

The Royals are out of the race and need at least a split on the road to keep their season alive. Baltimore have continued to be one of the biggest surprises sitting firmly in a wild card spot. Game #1 was scoreless until Bobby Witt Jr hit an RBI 2B off of John Means before Salvador Perez broke open the game with a Grand Slam HR. Witt added a solo HR in the 5th and an RBI 1B in the 6th, Perez added another HR in the 7th, and Bo Jackson continued his strong game getting his third hit a 2-run HR. Whit Merrifield added a 2-run HR in the 9th and the Royals ran away with the game. Zack Greinke completely shut down the Orioles not giving up a run until a Ramon Urias RBI in the 7th. Eddie Murray added an RBI 1B in the 9th but it was barely noticed as Kansas City thumped Baltimore. It was Perez's 10th HR on the season.

## GAME #26 — KCR 4 @ BAL 5

Salvador Perez tied the league lead hitting his 11th HR on the season off of Grayson Rodriguez in the 1st inning. Bo Jackson followed with a 2-run 1B continuing his warm streak. Ramon Urias hit a 2-run 2B off of Yordano Ventura in the 4th, but George Brett hit an RBI 2B in the 5th, and the Royals led 4-2 looking for a big road sweep. In the top of the 8th Trey Mancini woke up the crowd with a leadoff 3B, and Baltimore was back in the game, very much wanting to salvage a home split. In the bottom of the 9th Urias drew a walk and Adam Jones continued his clutch play with a walk-off 2-run HR. The Orioles got away with the split and will continue to play a big role in the postseason race. The Royals will need a sweep soon just to be back in the conversation. Rodriguez didn't fare well giving up 7 hits and 4 runs after looking on the verge of Cy Young consideration. Trey Mancini extended his hitting streak to 11 games.

## GAME #25 — SEA 1 @ BOS 3

The Mariners came in to this series in 1st place in the AL West and the Red Sox came in to the series in last place in the AL East, but just 1 game separated them, and the Red Sox were still tied for the last playoff spot. Game #1 featured a matchup of aces with Felix Hernandez trying to out-duel Chris Sale. The M's struck first with a JP Crawford RBI 1B in the 2nd and Felix cruised. Chris Sale settled down and didn't give up another run, and the Red Sox broke through in the 7th. Xander Bogaerts stepped up and hit a 2-run 2B to give the home team the lead, and then Rafael Devers topped off the 3-run rally with an RBI 1B. The Red Sox bullpen held and they secured a nice comeback win at home.

## GAME #26 — SEA 2 @ BOS 3

Determined to get a split Ken Griffey Jr hit a solo HR in the 1st off of David Price and Ty France hit a solo HR in the 2nd. Down 2-0 in the 5th against Robbie Ray the Red Sox scored once on an Alex Verdugo RBI 1B. With a tight 2-1 lead in the 7th the Mariners' bullpen melted down walking in 2 runs. Wade Boggs drew the go-ahead walk and the bullpen held again. The Red Sox got a big boost with a nice home sweep against a division leader. Rafael Devers was dropped to 7th in the batting order after dropping down to .196 and he responded going 4-8 with a walk. Boston has won 8 of 10 and are back in the race.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • MCCLANAHAN SHUTOUT • CAVAN BIGGIO 2-RUN HR • RAYS WIN 4-1

**GAME #25 — TEX 1 @ TBR 4**

The Tampa Bay Rays are one of the contenders for the wild card and collected a great win against a Texas team again looking forward to next season. Tyler Glasnow took a no-hitter into 7th when he gave up a lone 1B to Josh Hamilton. Nathan Eovaldi matched him going 8 full innings only giving up a leadoff 2B to Yandy Diaz and an RBI 1B to Hunter Renfroe in the 1st inning. In the top of the 9th Glasnow had his shutout denied when Adrian Beltre and Juan Gonzalez hit back-to-back 2Bs to tie the game. Facing a new game in the bottom of the 9th the surging Rays came through as Randy Arozarena hit a 2B, Brandon Lowe walked, and Josh Lowe sent the crowd home in a frenzy with a clutch walk-off 3-run HR. The Rays are 15-10 and looking to keep the pace up.

**GAME #26 — TEX 6 @ TBR 0**

Mike Minor and Shane McClanahan engaged in an old-fashioned pitching duel. Minor took a shutout into the 8th when Luke Jackson came in and struck out 5 batters in a row. McClanahan pitched 9 shutout innings giving up only 3 singles and 3 walks. In the top of the 10th the Rangers broke through and got the split on the road dampening the Rays streak. Josh Hamilton hit a bases-loaded RBI 1B to end the scoreless tie, Juan Gonzalez followed with a 2-run 1B, and then Adolis Garcia put the game out of reach with a 3-run HR capping the 6-run 10th inning.

**GAME #25 — TOR 5 @ OAK 1**

The Blue Jays come into Oakland winners of 7 of 8 hoping to keep it going, stay ahead of the O's, and send the A's into next-season mode. The A's needed a sweep to get back into the fringes of the race. This series also featured two of the top-2 AL MVP candidates with Eric Chavez closing in on front-runner Bo Bichette. Also featured was Alek Manoah, firmly in the AL Cy Young race, who moved to 6-0 with a solid performance, giving up only 4 hits and 1 run over 7 innings. Cavan Biggio hit a solo HR in the 3rd and Roberto Alomar hit a 2-run HR in the 5th to make it 3-1. Teoscar Hernandez hit a 2-run HR in the 6th to cap the 5-1 win, moving the Jays to an incredible 19-6. The A's are moving into next season mode falling to 10-15.

**GAME #26 — TOR 4 @ OAK 2**

The Blue Jays completed the road sweep sending Oakland out of the race and moving to a dominant 20-6. Kevin Gausman pitched a strong 7 innings giving up only a solo HR to Adam Dunn. Alejandro Kirk hit an RBI 2B in the 2nd to give the Jays the lead against Frankie Montas, and then they Jays broke it open in the 7th on an RBI 2B from Roberto Alomar and RBI from Bo Bichette and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. The Jays are on the verge of clinching a playoff spot already and could boast the AL MVP in Bichette and the AL Cy Young in Alek Manoah. Manoah and Gausman have a combined 11-0 record at the top of the rotation while Jordan Romano already has 11 saves. Toronto also added a game on the O's who split their series with the Royals. Toronto has won 9 of 10.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • WILLIE STARGELL GRAND SLAM • JUDGE SOLO HR • CRUZ RBI 2B

**GAME #25 — NYM 1 @ NYY 6**

The 1st place Mets faced the last place Yankees in Yankee Stadium with big-time stakes. The Mets are in a 3-way race for the NL East while the Yankees are needing to make a push to salvage their season. The first game also featured a premier pitching duel with Gerrit Cole facing NL Cy Young candidate Jacob deGrom. The tension was in the air from the first pitch and the Yankees capitalized blitzing deGrom with 5 1Bs and a BB in their 4-run 1st inning taking a surprising 4-0 lead. The Yankees continued to punish deGrom loading the bases in both the 2nd and 3rd innings, but they could not push across a fifth run. Brandon Nimmo took back a run with a solo HR in the 3rd, but Aaron Judge took it back with a solo HR in the 4th, driving deGrom from the game in maybe the worst start of his career giving up 11 hits and 5 runs in just 4 innings. Judge added a 2B in the 6th and another solo HR in the 8th as part of his 4-5 day. deGrom had given up 5 runs in 49⅓ innings before giving up 5 runs in 4 innings to the Yankees.

**GAME #26 — NYM 4 @ NYY 12**

The Mets got destroyed in the second game. The Yankees put up 8 runs in the 3rd driving Noah Syndergaard from the game, highlighted by a DJ LeMahieu 2-run 2B and a Gleyber Torres 3-run HR. Nestor Cortes took a shutout into the 8th before the Mets finally scored. The Yankees made a major statement and kept pace with the Red Sox. The Mets will look to rebound after a disastrous series hosting the last place Pirates. The Yankees have now won 6 of 7.

**GAME #25 — PIT 13 @ DET 4**

The Tigers came into this series hoping to put up a good showing against the team with the worst record in baseball. The Pirates have lost 5 in a row and 7 of 8 while the Tigers have lost 4 in a row and 8 of 10. The game was going the Tigers' way until the 7th. Miguel Cabrera had an RBI 1B, and Riley Greene, Cecil Fielder, and Ian Kinsler all hit solo HR, and the Tigers were cruising behind Tarik Skubal who was masterful, giving up only 1 hit and 1 walk through 6 dominant innings. But in the 7th inning things changed and kept changing. Roberto Clemente started it with a solo HR, and then Skubal walked the bases loaded. Oneil Cruz hit a 2-run 1B and Josh Harrison hit an RBI 1B and the game was tied 4-4. In the 8th inning the Pirates took the lead on an RBI 1B from Clemente, and then in the 9th inning the Pirates unloaded for 8 runs, sending 13 batters to the plate. Willie Stargell hit a Grand Slam HR and Pittsburgh enjoyed a comeback victory in Detroit. It was Stargell's 10th HR on the season tying him with Evan Longoria for the league lead.

**GAME #26 — PIT 5 @ DET 6**

Oneil Cruz hit a 2-run 1B in the 1st and Pittsburgh took a 2-0 lead. Willie Stargell hit his league-leading 11th HR in the 3rd, but Mickey Tettleton got the run back hitting a solo HR in the bottom half. Bryan Reynolds hit an RBI 2B in the 5th and the Pirates started to eye a sweep. But it was too soon as the Tigers came roaring back. Victor Martinez hit an RBI 1B, Cecil Fielder hit an RBI 2B, and Spencer Torkelson hit a 2-run 2B capping the 4-run inning. Martinez added an RBI 1B which was the winning run after Cruz hit an RBI 2B in the 8th. The Tigers' bullpen held and the home team got the split.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • DAVID FLETCHER 3-RUN HR • NELSON CRUZ SOLO HR • SANO SOLO HR

**GAME #25 — LAA 2 @ CHW 3**

With Seattle slipping the Angels went into Chicago looking to stay in the race. The White Sox needed a strong showing to have any hope remaining. Dylan Cease faced Shohei Ohtani in a matchup of aces who were both still alive in the AL Cy Young race. Both aces performed as such with only Cease giving up a solo HR to Justin Upton in the 4th. CJ Cron made it 2-0 with a solo HR in the 7th and Ohtani took his shutout to the bottom of the 7th. Frank Thomas had enough of the shutout and hit a solo HR to make it a 1-run game. In the bottom of the 9th Jose Abreu hit a 1B and Eloy Jimenez scored him with a clutch 2-out RBI 2B tying the game in dramatic fashion. Jimenez continued his damage hitting an RBI 1B in the bottom of the 11th winning the game for the home team 3-2.

**GAME #26 — LAA 5 @ CHW 2**

David Fletcher hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd inning to get the Angels on the board and then Mike Trout capped the 5-run inning with a massive 3-run HR keeping the slimmest of hopes alive for the Angels. Needing a road split Mike Trout did it alone. Albert Pujols added an RBI 2B after and Patrick Sandoval had some runs to work with. Chicago rookie Gavin Sheets hit a solo HR and Luis Robert added a solo HR but it was not enough to overcome the Trout HR and the Angels got the split keeping hope alive.

**GAME #25 — MIN 5 @ HOU 2**

The Twins came into Houston firmly in the playoff race while the Astros needed to make a move, although the Mariners have not separated, keeping the Astros alive. Byron Buxton brought his league-leading 11 home runs and MVP resume to face Houston ace Justin Verlander. Nelson Cruz hit a solo HR in the 2nd to give the Twins the 1-0 lead which Sonny Gray took to the bottom of the 6th when the Astros made their move with 4 1B and RBI from Alex Bregman and Yuli Gurriel. Down 2-1 in the 9th Nelson Cruz secured his 4th hit with a leadoff 1B and scored on an RBI 1B from Josh Donaldson who scored on a clutch 2-out 2-run 2B from Mitch Garver. Buxton capped off the 4-run 9th with an RBI 1B. Jhoan Duran closed the door for the save and the Twins have put the Astros on the brink after their 8th loss in 9 games in a dramatic collapse for the team that represented the AL in the World Series.

**GAME #26 — MIN 3 @ HOU 5**

The home team knew their season was riding on this game. Houston put on a runner against Pablo Lopez in each of the first 3 innings but couldn't score. Miguel Sano and Jorge Polanco had RBI in the 2nd and the Twins were looking for the sweep. The desperate Astros broke through in the 4th with 3 consecutive 2Bs from Yordan Alvarez, Kyle Tucker, and Yuli Gurriel to tie the game 2-2. Jeff Bagwell gave the Astros the lead with an RBI 1B in the 5th and then Alex Bregman hit a 2-run HR in the 6th to make it 5-2. Sano added a solo HR in the 7th but the home Astros got the crucial split to stay alive at 11-15. Minnesota leaves town happy with their showing firmly in the race at 13-13, 1 game back in the wild-card race.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • CHRISTIAN WALKER WALK-OFF HR • REDS WIN 4-3 • ATL WINS 2-1

**GAME #25 — CLE 3 @ CIN 4**

The rivalry series continued between the Guardians and Reds moving to Cincinnati. Both teams came in at 15-9 but were heading in opposite directions as the Guardians had won 4 of 5 including a sweep of the Reds, while the Reds have lost 3 in a row after starting 15-6 and at the top of the NL. The Reds have since lost their lead to the incandescent Cubs. Jose Ramirez led the Guardians sitting in 2nd place in RBI in the AL against Luis Castillo who is leading the NL Cy Young race at 6-0 with a 1.10 ERA, and a 0.90 whip. Shane Bieber matched Castillo with both pitchers taking dominant shutouts to the 7th. Castillo had only given up 1 single and 2 walks through 6, but he got lit up in the 7th on RBI 1Bs by Tyler Naquin and Omar Vizquel and an RBI 2B by Andres Gimenez. Down 3-0 the Reds made a comeback on Bieber who gave up a 2-run 1B to Barry Larkin. Down by 1 in the bottom of the 8th Joey Votto hit a solo HR to tie the game. The Reds suddenly took a tied game to the bottom of the 9th where Nick Castellanos hit a walk-off RBI 1B.

**GAME #26 — CLE 4 @ CIN 3**

Adam Duvall gave the Reds the lead with an RBI 2B in the 2nd but Andres Gimenez hit a 2-run 1B in the 4th. Franmil Reyes hit a 2-run HR in the 8th to pad the lead which withstood a Reds comeback on an RBI 2B from Jesse Winker and an RBI 1B from Chris Sabo. Corey Kluber pitched a strong 7 innings for the win and Cleveland got the split in Cincinnati and both teams left 16-10 looking to keep going strong.

**GAME #25 — ARI 1 @ MIA 3**

The last-place bowl took place in Arizona with both teams coming in at 8-16 tied for the worst record in baseball. Jose Fernandez pitched a strong 8 innings giving up only 5 hits and an RBI 1B from Ketel Marte. Zac Gallen pitched a great game giving up only 3 hits but one was an RBI 2B from Gary Sheffield and one was a 2-run HR from Brian Anderson.

**GAME #26 — ARI 3 @ MIA 4**

Luis Gonzalez had an RBI 1B in the 1st against Sandy Alcantara but Jazz Chisholm hit a 2-run HR off of Merrill Kelly in the 4th to give the Marlins the lead. Pavin Smith tied the game in the 7th with a solo HR but in the bottom half Jesus Sanchez hit a solo HR to give the lead right back to the home team. Christian Walker hit an RBI 1B in the 8th to tie the game and the game went to the 10th when Chisholm stepped up and hit a walk-off solo HR giving the home team the sweep.

**GAME #25 — COL 1 @ ATL 2**

Everyone was watching what star rookie Spencer Strider would do. Luis Castillo didn't fare well and Strider is suddenly looking at the NL Cy Young Award in his rookie season. The young flamethrower has 77 strikeouts in just 44⅓ innings. The Rockies continue to be in the race coming into Atlanta at .500. The best pitcher through 6 innings however was German Marquez. Strider gave up a solo HR to Tom Murphy and struck out 11 but Marquez didn't give up a hit until the 5th and didn't give up a run until the 7th. The problem though was that he gave up back-to-back solo HRs to Austin Riley and William Contreras which proved to be the winning runs. Strider and the bullpen held the Rockies scoreless and the home team secured a good win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • KRIS BRYANT 2-RUN HR • MATT OLSON 2-RUN HR • MOLINA 2-RUN HR

**GAME #26 — COL 2 @ ATL 6**

Kris Bryant hit a 2-run HR in the top of the 2nd, but in the bottom of the 2nd Austin Riley hit a 2B, Marcell Ozuna hit an RBI 2B, and William Contreras hit a 2-run HR. Matt Olson hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd and Michael Harris added an RBI 1B in the 5th and the Braves cruised to a win behind a strong game from Max Fried. After the disastrous sweep to the Yankees the Mets are now looking up at the Braves who moved into 1st place in the NL East.

**GAME #25 — STL 5 @ WSH 3**

The Cardinals needed to make a move, and they did. In Game #1 they defeated reigning Cy Young winner Max Scherzer. The Nationals scored 3 in the 4th highlighted by a 2-run 1B from CJ Abrams, but the Cardinals chipped away. Paul Goldschmidt had an RBI in the 6th and Matt Carpenter hit a solo HR in the 7th. Down to their last out Yadier Molina saved the game for the Cardinals with an RBI 1B to tie the game. In the 11th inning Molina hit a 2-run HR and the Cardinals escaped with a great team win. The Nationals have moved to the brink.

**GAME #26 — STL 5 @ WSH 2**

The Nationals have now lost 6 of 8 and have fallen out of contention while the Cardinals have won 4 in a row and are suddenly back in the thick of the race. Paul DeJong, Dylan Carlson, and Paul Goldschmidt all had RBI in the 3-run 5th and Mark McGwire and Matt Carpenter hit solo HR to cap the easy win. Adam Wainwright only gave up an RBI to Starlin Castro and a solo HR to Lane Thomas to give the Cardinals a terrific road sweep.

**GAME #25 — LAD 3 @ CHC 2**

This was expected to be an enormous series with the potential for the Cubs to pull away and put the Dodgers on the brink. Or, the opposite could happen. The Dodgers offense showed up and Clayton Kershaw did the rest, giving up only a solo HR to Ryne Sandberg in the 6th. Anthony Rizzo added an RBI 1B in the 8th but it was not enough. Max Muncy and Justin Turner hit RBI 1Bs in the 1st inning, and Mookie Betts hit a late solo HR which proved decisive.

**GAME #26 — LAD 5 @ CHC 4**

Los Angeles pulled it off. The Cubs looked good after a 2-run HR from Anthony Rizzo and a solo HR from Seiya Suzuki in the 1st inning. The Dodgers got 1 run back in the 2nd on an RBI 1B from Joc Pederson and then a solo HR from Justin Turner in the 4th to make it 3-2. Jason Heyward make it 4-2 with an RBI 1B in the bottom of the 4th but the Dodgers scored twice in the 5th on an RBI 3B from Cody Bellinger and an RBI from Trea Turner. The game went tied to the 8th where the Dodgers got an RBI 1B from Freddie Freeman. The bullpen held behind Walker Buehler and the Dodgers got a huge road sweep in Chicago bring the Cubs back to earth and pushing their own efforts further moving firmly into the wild card race.

**GAME #25 — MIL 1 @ SDP 3**

Yu Darvish is firmly in the NL Cy Young race, moving to 5-0 after shutting down the Brewers, limiting them to only an RBI 1B from Ryan Braun. Tony Gwynn went 3-4 with an RBI and 2 RBI from Fernando Tatis Jr proved the difference. The Brewers are on the verge of dropping out of the race while the Padres are on the verge of getting back in the race.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • ROBIN YOUNT 3-RUN HR • SCHMIDT 3-RUN HR • SCHMIDT 2-RUN HR

**GAME #26 — MIL 5 @ SDP 1**

The Brewers kept their season alive behind a strong start from Brandon Woodruff who only gave up an RBI 1B to Manny Machado. Robin Yount hit a 3-run HR to pace Milwaukee and Ryan Braun added an RBI 2B in the road getting the visiting team the win and the split keeping their season alive. The Padres continue to scuffle on the fringe of the race still hoping to make a push before it is too late.

**GAME #25 — PHI 0 @ SFG 5**

Carlos Rodon got his first win of the season pitching 7½ shutout innings. The Giants hit 4 solo HRs with Buster Posey, Evan Longoria, Mike Yastrzemski, and Will Clark all going deep. Clark added an RBI 1B to make it a 5-0 win. It was Longoria's league-leading 11th home run. The champion Phillies have fallen under .500 and are in danger of slipping out of the race.

**GAME #26 — PHI 5 @ SFG 3**

Mike Schmidt carried the Phillies to the split keeping them in the race. Schmidt hit a solo HR in the 2nd and Kyle Schwarber hit a solo HR in the 4th to give the Phillies a 2-0 lead against Madison Bumgarner, but Barry Bonds hit a 3-run HR against Aaron Nola in the 6th. Nola only gave up 3 hits over 8 innings but the Bonds' blow was crucial, until Schmidt hit a 2-run HR after a Bryce Harper tied the game with an RBI 1B. The Phillies secured the split to stay in the race while the Giants stayed in the top spot for the #1 seed.

**ROUND #14****GAME #27 — BAL 1 @ OAK 4**

Baltimore scored in the 1st on an Anthony Santander RBI 1B and Tyler Wells cruised through 6 innings. But Shintaro Fujinami pitched just as well not giving up another run. The A's broke through in the 7th when Sean Murphy and Tony Kemp had RBI and Starling Marte hit a 2-run 2B. The A's got a nice win even though their race is over. The O's have a margin to drop a game but look to rebound quickly.

**GAME #28 — BAL 3 @ OAK 2**

Adam Jones continued his hot season with a solo HR in the 3rd but Adam Dunn hit a 2-run 1B in the bottom half. The O's tied the game in the 6th on a Cal Ripken Jr solo HR. The game went tied to the 9th when Cal Ripken Jr hit a 3B and scored on a Jonathan Schoop RBI and the O's got the road split and move closer to the playoffs. Dean Kremer pitched well in the win. Anthony Santander is having a breakout season leading the team with 20 RBI and has extended his hitting streak to 12 games.

**GAME #27 — DET 2 @ NYY 1**

The Yankees had a great chance to make their move against a weak Tigers offense and pitching in Yankee Stadium but it was not to be. The Yankees' offense just didn't show up. Derek Jeter hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd to tie the game after a Mickey Tettleton solo HR in the top half. The Yankee pitching staff did their job but the offense just could not score. The game went tied to the 10th when Akil Baddoo hit a solo HR to win the game for the road Tigers. The Yankees could not have fallen more flat against Matthew Boyd and Tigers' bullpen.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • DUSTIN PEDROIA 2-RUN HR • BOGAERTS SOLO HR • NYY WINS 5-3

**GAME #28 — DET 3 @ NYY 5**

The Yankees were expecting a bounce-back game but the Tigers scored first on a Victor Martinez RBI 1B and Matt Manning took a no-hitter into the 4th. Riley Greene hit an RBI 1B in the top of the 4th and Don Mattingly answered in the bottom half with an RBI 1B after a Derek Jeter 2B. Mattingly tied the game in the bottom of the 6th with a solo HR and then the Yankees got some good fortune in the 7th when Giancarlo Stanton hit a solo HR and the Tigers walked 4 in a row and the Yankees exhaled and escaped with the home split missing a great chance that they may regret. Derek Jeter extended his hitting streak to 13 games while DJ LeMahieu had his league-high 19-game hitting streak end.

**GAME #27 — SEA 1 @ TOR 3**

The Mariners did not show up in Toronto and the Blue Jays soared to new heights. Hyun-Jin Ryu shut down the M's giving up only a solo HR to Edgar Martinez while Danny Jansen and Roberto Alomar hit back-to-back solo HRs in the 3rd. Vladimir Guerrero Jr added an RBI 1B in the 6th and the Jays' bullpen held. The M's have dropped under .500 while the Jays have separated and are dreaming of a title.

**GAME #28 — SEA 1 @ TOR 2**

The Seattle offense is missing. They have now scored 5 runs in their last 4 games. Ken Griffey Jr hit an RBI 2B in the 1st and that was it. Vladimir Guerrero Jr hit an RBI fly after a Bo Bichette 2B and the Seattle pitching staff buckled down, for 15 innings. George Kirby did not give up another run, and the Seattle bullpen held for 7 scoreless innings. But the Seattle offense just could not score. Jose Bautista hit a 1B and scored the winning run on a Roberto Alomar RBI 2B. The Jays got a big sweep and have set their sights on one thing. Seattle is left to fight to get back to .500. Bo Bichette extended his hitting streak to 11 games during his run for the AL MVP. Meanwhile Guerrero went 1-9 in the series with 7 strikeouts.

**GAME #27 — BOS 8 @ TEX 7**

The Red Sox had a chance to both move up in the race or perhaps hit a snag and fall against a Texas team that could be unpredictable. Game #1 was one of those games. Dustin Pedroia hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd to open the scoring and Texas came back with an RBI 2B from Ivan Rodriguez and an RBI 1B by Adrian Beltre in the 3rd. Boston took the lead in the 4th with an RBI from Jason Varitek but Texas got the run back in the bottom half with an RBI from Joey Gallo after a Rodriguez 3B. Boston took the lead right back in this see-saw affair with RBI 1Bs from Xander Bogaerts and Rafael Devers but Texas got one of the runs back with a Juan Gonzalez RBI 1B. Boston again added to the score with an RBI 2B from JD Martinez but again Texas took one back with an RBI from Corey Seager. The game went 6-5 to the bottom of the 8th in favor of the Red Sox who were fighting and needed this win. But the Red Sox bullpen failed and gave up 2 runs on RBI from Seager and Nathaniel Lowe. Facing a defeat in a game they needed to win, after watching the Yankees drop a game to the lowly Tigers, Boston responded once again. David Ortiz stepped up and hit a solo HR in the 9th to tie the game and then Bogaerts hit a solo HR to take the lead back. Garrett Whitlock shut the door and Boston got a great team win. Jose Leclerc struggled to get the save and took the loss.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • DREW RASMUSSEN FANS 11 • RAMIREZ 2-RUN HR • BOS WINS 3-2

**GAME #28 — BOS 3 @ TEX 2**

Boston took an early lead on an RBI 2B from David Ortiz but Nathaniel Lowe hit a 2-run HR in the bottom half and Texas held the 2-1 lead behind a strong start from Dane Dunning. Tanner Houck matched him and the game stayed 2-1 all the way to the 9th. Given the ball again to close the door Jose Leclerc may have lost the job. Leclerc gave up a single and 2 walks loading the bases for Dustin Pedroia who seized on the chance to steal the game with a 2-run 1B. Garrett Whitlock came in again and shut the door and the Red Sox left Texas with a great team road sweep. Boston gained a game on the Yankees and have moved into the wild card race. David Ortiz extended his hitting streak to 11 games.

**GAME #27 — TBR 2 @ MIA 3**

In the battle of Florida Trevor Rogers showed up big time taking a 1-hitter to the 9th. Jazz Chisholm hit a 6-run HR in the 6th to break open the scoreless tie and Miguel Rojas added an RBI 1B in the 7th and the Marlins took the 3-0 game to the 9th. Trying for the shutout Rogers ran out of gas giving up a 2B to Austin Meadows and a 2-run HR to Hunter Renfroe. Dylan Floro came in and saved the game giving the Marlins a nice home win. The Rays missed a chance to keep pace against a weak Miami team.

**GAME #28 — TBR 9 @ MIA 0**

The Rays got the win they needed and left Miami with the split blowing out the Marlins. Drew Rasmussen pitched a dominant shutout giving up only 4 hits and a walk while striking out 11. The Rays exploded for 7 runs in the 3rd on RBI from Austin Meadows, Brandon Lowe, and Yandy Diaz, but the highlight of the game was a Grand Slam HR from Kevin Kiermaier. The Rays kept pace in the wild card race and are looking to make a strong push.

**GAME #27 — CLE 12 @ HOU 3**

Houston had a chance to salvage their slipping away season because the Mariners have struggled while Cleveland had a chance to create some distance from the pack with a strong showing. Cleveland showed up in Houston, but the Astros did not. Both the offense and the pitching failed the home team as they got blown out in almost a must-win game. Carlos Santana started it off with an RBI 1B after a Jose Ramirez 2B and Jim Thome followed with a 2-run HR. Tyler Naquin hit a 2B and scored on an RBI 3B from Andres Gimenez. Down 4-0 in the 5th the Astros fought back with a 2-run HR from Michael Brantley, but the Guardians poured it on in the 7th and 8th scoring 8 more times. Steven Kwan had an RBI 3B, Santana and Thome both had RBI 2Bs in the 7th, and Ramirez hit a 2-run 2B, Santana hit an RBI 1B and Jim Thome hit his second blast of the day with a 2-run HR to make it 12-2. Jeff Bagwell hit a solo HR in the 8th but it was not enough as Houston got lit up at home. Triston McKenzie pitched well to earn the win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • GARRETT RICHARDS SHUTOUT • THOMAS 2-RUN HR • IAN HAPP RBI 2B

**GAME #28 — CLE 7 @ HOU 0**

Facing a must-win game Houston laid a goose egg. Carlos Carrasco is not known for dominant starts but he pitched a complete game shutout against the desperate Astros and struck out 14. Tyler Naquin hit a solo HR in the 2nd, an RBI 2B in the 4th, and a 2-run 2B in the 5-run 6th to lead the blowout win. Cleveland came into Houston and outscored the Astros 19-3 all but ending the Astros' chances this season after they have lost 10 of 12 despite having a very talented team. Meanwhile the Guardians look like real contenders and are setting their sights on the playoffs and the leading Toronto Blue Jays. Yuli Gurriel is having an exceptional season and extended his hitting streak to 11 games while leading the AL in batting at .393, leading in hits with 44, and leading the AL with 14 doubles.

**GAME #27 — MIN 4 @ LAA 6**

The Angels have won 4 of 6 and suddenly have a chance to move into 1st place in the AL West with a strong showing at home. The Twins were looking at a crucial road series to try to stay in the race as all the teams they are chasing keep winning. Shohei Ohtani hit a 2-run HR in the 1st inning and the Angels kept going, with a 2-run HR from Andrelton Simmons in the 2nd, and a 2-run 1B from David Fletcher in the 3rd. Garrett Richards pitched 6 shutout innings before Byron Buxton unloaded for a 3-run HR in the 7th, his league-leading 12th. Kirby Puckett added an RBI in the 9th but it was not enough and the Angels have moved into a tie for 1st place in the AL West. The Twins lost a crucial game in the race and have now fallen to the fringes.

**GAME #28 — MIN 4 @ LAA 2**

Kirby Puckett hit a 2-run HR in the top of the 1st but Shohei Ohtani hit a 2-run HR in the bottom half and the game went tied 2-2 behind strong starts from Kenta Maeda and Reid Detmers. In the top of the 7th Byron Buxton hit his league-leading 13th HR and Josh Donaldson added an RBI 1B to make it 4-2. The Twins bullpen held and Minnesota won a crucial game getting the split and staying in striking distance.

**GAME #27 — CHC 6 @ CHW 2**

The Cubs came in tied with the Reds in 1st place in the NL Central after getting swept by the Dodgers and they had chance to end the White Sox's season. Lance Lynn came out hot taking a perfect game to the 5th. The White Sox took the lead on Jake Arrieta with a Luis Robert 2-run 2B, but in the 5th Anthony Rizzo broke up the no-hitter with a solo HR, and then in the 6th the Cubs put up 3 more runs on an RBI from Rizzo and a 2-run 2B from Seiya Suzuki. Ian Happ added a solo HR in the 8th and Ryne Sandberg hit an RBI 2B in the 9th to cap the 6-2 win.

**GAME #28 — CHC 4 @ CHW 3**

The White Sox took the early lead trying to avoid the season sweep to their rivals when Frank Thomas hit an RBI 1B. Thomas hit a solo HR in the 3rd but Sammy Sosa hit a 2-run HR in the 4th to tie the game. Jason Heyward hit a 3B in the 5th and scored on a Nico Hoerner RBI 1B but the White Sox tied the game in the bottom of the 6th on a Yoan Moncada solo HR. The game went tied to the 9th when Heyward stepped up and hit a solo HR off of Liam Hendriks that propelled the Cubs to the series sweep and one step closer to the playoffs while ending their rivals season. The White Sox came into the season with hope but have fallen to 11-17 and are looking to next season.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • LINDOR 3-RUN HR • JORGE SOLER 2-RUN HR • CERVELLI RBI 2B

**GAME #27 — KCR 8 @ STL 10**

The Cardinals and Royals split their first series and both teams needed a strong showing, St. Louis to keep pace in the wild card race, and Kansas City out of the race without a major surge. Paul Goldschmidt hit a solo HR in the 1st to open the scoring, Bo Jackson continued his warm streak with a solo HR in the 3rd, and Tommy Edman took the lead back with a solo HR in the bottom half. The 3-2 game went to the 6th when Salvador Perez hit an RBI 1B to tie the game and Jorge Soler hit a 2-run HR to give the Royals the lead. In the 7th Perez put the game out of reach with a Grand Slam HR, making it 8-2 going into the bottom of the 8th. The Royals could not imagine losing this game, but the Cardinals would not be denied at home. Mark McGwire hit a 2-run HR to start the 8th and Nolan Arenado hit a 3-run HR to cap the 8-run inning and suddenly the Royals went to the 9th down 10-8. Ryan Helsley shut the door for the save and the Cardinals won a rivalry game that will be remembered.

**GAME #28 — KCR 3 @ STL 2**

Salvador Perez continued his red-hot streak with an RBI 1B in the 1st, a 2B in the 3rd, and a 2-run 1B in the 5th to give him his 8th RBI of the series. Nolan Arenado hit another HR but the Cardinals could not overcome the Royals' bullpen like they did the game before. The Royals got the road split and linger 4 games back with 12 to play while the Cardinals have to both feel lucky and feel like one got away as they dropped a game to the Cubs but stay firmly in the wild card race. Salvador Perez is 8-19 with 1 double and 4 home runs and an amazing 14 RBI in his last 4 games, giving him a league-leading 37 RBI. Perez is at an epic RBI pace already having passed the totals of all but 5 hitters from the whole of last season with still a quarter of the season left to play for. Paul Goldschmidt is mired in a terrible season having his batting average drop to .195 after going 1-19 in his last 4 games.

**GAME #27 — PIT 8 @ NYM 9**

The Mets magic might be real this season. Coming off of a sweep in Yankee Stadium the Mets fell down 7-0 to the Pirates in the 7-run Pirate 5th. Bryan Reynolds and Roberto Clemente hit RBI 1Bs and Charlie Hayes capped it with a Grand Slam HR. The Pirates thought they would get a win after losing 8 of their last 10, but it was not to be. The Mets magic might be real. Gary Carter hit a 2-run HR and Brandon Nimmo added an RBI 2B after a Francisco Lindor 2B. Lindor hit a 3-run HR in the 7th and suddenly it was a 1-run game. The Pirates added an RBI 1B from Clemente in the 8th but down 8-6 Jeff McNeil hit a 2-run 1B to tie the game. Tied 8-8 in the bottom of the 9th Pete Alonso sent the crowd home happy with a walk-off solo HR. It was an incredible comeback to thrill the home fans.

**GAME #28 — PIT 3 @ NYM 4**

Could the Mets capitalize on the great comeback and get the sweep was the question buzzing through the crowd. The Mets and Braves are in a tight race and every win counts. Curtis Granderson hit an RBI 1B in the bottom of the 1st but Francisco Cervelli hit an RBI 2B after a Charlie Hayes 2B to tie the game. Roberto Clemente hit a solo HR in the 4th to take the lead and then Cervelli hit an RBI 2B to score Hayes again after another 2B from him. Down 3-1 the Mets fought back with an RBI from Dominic Smith after a Darryl Strawberry 2B and Mike Piazza hit an RBI 1B after a David Wright 2B and the game went to the 6th tied 3-3. In the bottom of the 6th Francisco Lindor hit an RBI sacrifice fly and the Mets' bullpen held. The Mets got the sweep at home in a terrific series and have propelled themselves into the very top of the race.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • KYLE WRIGHT SHUTOUT • JEAN SEGURA 3-RUN HR • ATL WINS 5-2

**GAME #27 — COL 5 @ PHI 4**

The Phillies really needed to make a move and a weaker Colorado team that was 3-8 in their last 11 coming into Philadelphia seemed like the right recipe but the Phillies just couldn't get their offense going against Jon Gray. Ryan Howard hit an RBI 2B in the 1st but Trevor Story gave the Rockies the lead in the 5th with a 2-run 1B. Jean Segura hit a solo HR to tie the game in the bottom half and the game went tied to the 8th when Larry Walker hit the crushing blow with a 3-run HR to give Colorado a 5-2 lead. Kyle Schwarber hit a 2-run HR in the bottom of the 9th to make it closer but the Rockies took a game the Phillies really needed.

**GAME #28 — COL 2 @ PHI 4**

Andres Galarraga hit a solo HR in the 5th to break the scoreless tie but facing a potentially devastating sweep to a weaker team the Phillies came back immediately. Lenny Dykstra hit a 2-run 1B and Bryce Harper hit a 2-run 2B to give the home team a 4-1 lead. Ryan McMahon hit an RBI 1B in the 7th but it was not enough as Ranger Suarez shut down the Rockies to give the Phillies a needed win. Philadelphia is going to need to make a move as the season heads to the stretch run. Lenny Dykstra extended his hitting streak to 11 games.

**GAME #27 — ATL 5 @ ARI 2**

The Braves come into Arizona with a great chance against a last-place team to keep pace with the Mets and secure their wild card position. Corbin Carroll hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 3rd to give the Diamondbacks an early lead but Ronald Acuna led the Braves comeback with a 2-run HR in the 5th. Ozzie Albies hit a 2-run 1B in the 8th and Chipper Jones hit a solo HR in the 9th to seal the road win for Charlie Morton.

**GAME #28 — ATL 5 @ ARI 0**

The Braves reached their goal with a nice road sweep to move back into 1st place in the NL East. Kyle Wright pitched 5 shutout innings and the bullpen kept the roll going. The hot Chipper Jones kept going with 2 solo HRs to lead the Braves. Austin Riley went 3-4 with 2 2Bs and 2 RBI and Dansby Swanson hit a solo HR to cap the important road sweep as the Braves look to make a strong run this season.

**GAME #27 — MIL 1 @ LAD 5**

Both teams came into this series with something to play for. The Brewers were on the fringe but could squeeze back into the race with a magical series in LA, while the Dodgers could tie the Cardinals for the last wild card spot with just a split, and could really make a push with a well-timed sweep. Game #1 went the Dodgers' way as Julio Urias shut down the Brewers only giving up an RBI to Christian Yelich and scattering 3 hits over 7 strong innings. Mookie Betts hit a solo HR in the 3rd and a 2-run 2B in the 4th to lead the Dodgers. Joc Pederson also added a 2-run 1B in the win. Christian Yelich saw his 15-game hitting streak end.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • LOGAN WEBB FANS 11 • CHRIS SABO 3-RUN HR • POLLOCK 2-RUN HR

**GAME #28 — MIL 8 @ LAD 6**

The Dodgers had high hopes of a sweep after a 4-run 1st which saw Freddie Freeman hit a 2-run HR, AJ Pollock hit an RBI 2B, and Chris Taylor hit an RBI 1B. The Brewers were looking at what could be the end of their season when Luis Urias hit a 3-run HR and star rookie Jackson Chourio hit a solo HR tying the game in the 2nd inning. Christian Yelich added a solo HR in the 5th and Brice Turang hit a 2-run 2B to make it 7-4 in the 7th. Pollock hit a 2-run HR in the bottom of the 7th to make it a 1-run game, but Willy Adames hit a solo HR in the 8th and Devin Williams and Josh Hader shut the door to give the Brewers a much needed win and the road split.

**GAME #27 — CIN 5 @ SDP 7**

The Padres have fallen to the fringe of the race as the Reds have maintained the pace the torrid Cubs have set. Adam Duvall hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd, but the Padres scored 5 runs in the bottom of the 3rd on a solo HR from Francisco Mejia, a solo HR from Wil Myers, and a 3-run HR from Tommy Pham. Tony Gwynn added a 2-run 1B in the 6th and the Padres cruised to a nice home win. Mike Clevinger pitched a strong game giving up only 5 hits and walking none in 8 innings.

**GAME #28 — CIN 11 @ SDP 2**

The Reds needed a split and they got it. Eugenio Suarez hit an RBI 1B in the top of the 1st and then scored on a Nick Castellanos 3-run HR. Adam Duvall added a solo HR in the 4th and in the 5th Joey Votto hit a solo HR and Chris Sabo hit a 3-run HR to put the Reds up 9-0. Trent Grisham hit a 2-run HR in the bottom of the 5th and Barry Larkin hit a 2-run 1B in the 7th to cap the blowout road win. Tyler Mahle pitched well to earn the win. The Padres remain on the fringe with time running out while the Reds are firmly in wild card position looking to make a postseason run. Eric Davis has fallen out of the NL MVP race going 1-19 in his last 4 games. Meanwhile Joey Votto has gone 9-16 during his hot streak.

**GAME #27 — WSH 1 @ SFG 2**

Logan Webb struck out 11 over 6 innings though he did walk 6 as he moved to 7-0. Will Clark hit a solo HR in the 2nd and Casey Schmitt hit an RBI 1B in the 6th to provide the margin. Keibert Ruiz hit an RBI 1B in the loss. Gio Gonzalez pitched well but it wasn't enough as the Giants continued their march to the top seed.

**GAME #28 — WSH 3 @ SFG 4**

The Giants finished off the home sweep keeping the top seed behind a strong start from Johnny Cueto. Barry Bonds hit a solo HR in the 4th and LaMonte Wade, Mike Yastrzemski, and Brandon Belt had RBI and the Giants took care of business. Victor Robles hit a 2-run 1B in the 7th but it was not enough to stop the Nationals' free fall having now lost 8 of 10 and having fallen completely out of the race suddenly in the cellar with Miami.

## MLBC — WEEK 8

GAMES 29-32 • EIGHT TO GO

## THE WILD CARD RACES IGNITE

*Six clubs go 4-0, Boston and Los Angeles charge, and eight games remain with nearly every race still moving.*

**THE LEAD** Twelve games remained, with Toronto holding the league's best record and almost every race underneath it compressed. San Francisco and Chicago controlled the National League's strongest positions, Boston and the Mets were surging, Seattle was trying to create a real AL West lead, and the Dodgers had finally worked themselves back toward relevance. Atlanta had just surged to 18-10 and taken the NL East by a game over the Mets. Week 8 arrived as the last chance to make a major move before the schedule shrank to single digits.

**THE WEEK** Six clubs went 4-0, and the standings moved with them. Toronto reached 24-8. Seattle's sweep week pushed the Mariners to 17-15 and made them the first AL West club in weeks to stand clearly above .500. Minnesota swept Cleveland and tightened the Central; Boston beat the Yankees twice, including an extra-inning game won by David Ortiz, and kept climbing after its terrible opening. Sammy Sosa delivered the week's signature eruption, hitting four HR in one game and six across the week. Mickey Tettleton nearly matched the spectacle in a different form, hitting three HR, a game-tying double and totaling fourteen bases in one enormous performance. Brandon Lowe drove in ten for Tampa Bay, while Nick Castellanos piled up seventeen total bases in one Cincinnati series. Carlos Rodon threw a 3-hit, 12-strikeout shutout; Shohei Ohtani a 5-hit, 13-strikeout shutout; and Gerrit Cole struck out sixteen while allowing one run.

**THE STAKES** Toronto is 24-8. San Francisco and Chicago are 21-11, with the Mets and Boston at 20-12 and five more clubs sitting 19-13. Seattle leads the AL West at 17-15. The Dodgers have surged to 19-13, only two games from the NL West lead, and San Diego remains close enough to threaten the Wild Card field. Eight games remain. Week 9 brings Tampa Bay to Baltimore, Toronto to New York, Houston through Oakland and Seattle, Philadelphia to the Mets, Chicago through Atlanta and Cincinnati, and San Diego to San Francisco. At this point a sweep can create a playoff position, erase one, or turn a routine head-to-head series into the most important baseball a club has played all year.

TOP OF TABLE  
TOR • 24-8

PERFECT WEEK  
6 clubs • 4-0

NL TOP  
SFG / CHC • 21-11

DODGER SURGE  
LAD • 19-13

## WEEKLY HONORS

## HITTER OF THE WEEK

**GOLD SAMMY SOSA • CHC**

6 HR • 9 RBI

**SILVER BRANDON LOWE • TBR**

3 HR • 10 RBI

**BRONZE NICK CASTELLANOS • CIN**

3 HR • 17 TB in one series

## PITCHER OF THE WEEK

**GOLD CARLOS RODON • SFG**

CG SHO • 3 H • 12 K

**SILVER SHOHEI OHTANI • LAA**

CG SHO • 5 H • 13 K

**BRONZE GERRIT COLE • NYY**

16 K • one run allowed

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • CHRIS DAVIS 3-RUN HR • MARTINEZ 2-RUN HR • HOU WINS 3-2

## ROUND #15

## GAME #29 — BAL 3 @ SEA 10

The Seattle Mariners needed to make a move at home against a very strong Baltimore team and they brought ace Felix Hernandez to the mound. But it was a rough start for Hernandez as red-hot Adam Jones led off with a 2B and scored on a Gunnar Henderson RBI 2B. Trey Mancini and Chris Davis both had RBI 1Bs and the O's started off the game with a 3-0 lead to back John Means. The bottom of the 1st inning didn't start well for the M's but with 2 outs Ken Griffey Jr hit a 2B and Edgar Martinez and Mitch Haniger hit RBI 1Bs to make it 3-2. Hernandez settled down and didn't allow another run while Kyle Seager hit an RBI 1B in the 4th to tie the game, and then the M's unloaded. Martinez hit a 2-run 2B and Cal Raleigh hit a 2-run HR in the 5th and Griffey had an RBI 1B and Martinez had another RBI 2B in the 6th. Kyle Seager added a solo HR and the M's had their most impressive win on the season with a comeback blowout.

## GAME #30 — BAL 6 @ SEA 8

Julio Rodriguez led off the bottom of the 1st with a solo HR and the M's had dreams of a crucial sweep. In the 3rd inning the O's changed the narrative with a 5-run inning on the strength of RBI 1Bs from Gunnar Henderson and Eddie Murray and then a 3-run HR from Chris Davis. Ryan Mountcastle added a solo HR in the 4th and the O's were up 6-1 and looking at securing the split. Kyle Seager hit another solo HR in the 6th and Ken Griffey Jr hit a solo HR in the 7th and they went 6-3 to the bottom of the 8th. DL Hall struggled as he walked 2 and then gave up an RBI 1B to Seager. Another walk loaded the bases and closer Zach Britton came in to shut down the threat but it was not to be. Julio Rodriguez had the biggest hit on the season for the Mariners as he stepped up and sent the crowd into a frenzy with a Grand Slam HR to give Seattle an 8-6 lead. Paul Sewald shut the door in the 9th and the M's got the home sweep in their biggest series of the year making their move at just the right time. Seattle will host the Rockies and look to keep their momentum going. Baltimore will go home and host the 1st place Blue Jays in the biggest series of the season for the O's.

## GAME #29 — HOU 3 @ TBR 2

It was do or die time for the Houston Astros as they headed into Tampa Bay having lost 10 of 12 to fall completely out of the race. Meanwhile they had to face a strong Rays team looking to stay in the wild card race. The Astros sent Justin Verlander to the mound in the biggest game of their season, but he had to face reigning AL Cy Young winner Tyler Glasnow. Mike Zunino hit a solo HR off of Verlander in the 3rd but that was all they would get until the 9th. In the 5th inning Garrett Stubbs woke up the Astros with a 3B and scored on a Jose Altuve RBI 1B to tie the game. In the 6th Jeremy Pena gave the Astros the lead with a clutch 2-out 2-run 2B. Verlander dominated the Rays but gave up a solo HR to Randy Arozarena in the 9th to make it a 1-run game. Ryan Pressly came in and shut the door in a stress-filled bottom of the 9th and the Astros got the big win they needed to keep their season alive.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • AARON JUDGE 2-RUN HR • DAVID ORTIZ 3-RUN HR • NYY WINS 3-1

**GAME #30 — HOU 10 @ TBR 4**

The Astros kept their season alive with a sweep in Tampa Bay. Jose Altuve went 4-5 hitting a leadoff HR to start the game and hit a 2-run 1B in the 2nd to give Houston a 3-0 lead. Framber Valdez gave up an RBI to Taylor Walls but that was all he would surrender. The Astros put up 5 runs in the 8th on an RBI 2B from Yuli Gurriel, a 2-run 1B from Jeff Bagwell, and a 2-run HR from Yordan Alvarez. Alex Bregman added a 2-run 2B in the 9th to give the Astros their 10th run in their highest output since Game #13. Brandon Lowe added a 2-run HR in the loss and the Rays fell back into the pack chasing a wild-card berth.

**GAME #29 — NYY 3 @ CHW 1**

The Yankees came into Chicago having won 7 of 9 and are back in the race. The White Sox have lost 3 in a row and fallen into the bottom of the league. This would be a great spot for the Yankees to make a move. Dylan Cease showed up and took a no-hitter to the 4th inning and didn't give up a run until a clutch 2-out 3-run HR from Gleyber Torres which broke open the scoreless tie. It was scoreless in the 7th because Gerrit Cole put up a scoreline for the ages. Cole opened the game with 9 consecutive strikeouts. In the 4th inning he struck out 2 of 3 giving him 11 strikeouts through 12 batters. Cole finally gave up a lone hit in the 6th and took a 1-hit shutout to the 9th where he gave up a 2B to Tim Anderson and an RBI from Luis Robert to spoil the shutout. Cole ended the game with 16 strikeouts.

**GAME #30 — NYY 5 @ CHW 4**

The Yankees kept rolling behind a solo HR from Hideki Matsui in the 2nd, a 2-run HR from Aaron Judge in the 3rd, and a 2-run HR from Gary Sanchez in the 4th. The White Sox fought back against Nestor Cortes behind a solo HR from Tim Anderson in the 3rd and RBI from Anderson and Luis Robert in the 7th. Romy Gonzalez added a solo HR in the bottom of the 9th but it was not enough as the Yankees got the road sweep and moved firmly into the AL wild card race having won 7 of 9.

**GAME #29 — BOS 11 @ KCR 9**

Boston came into Kansas City having completely turned their season around winning 11 of their last 13 to move into a wild-card spot. The Royals have fallen out of the race but could get back in it with a home sweep against a hot team, meanwhile Salvador Perez has chased down Bo Bichette in the AL MVP race with a torrid streak to give him an incredible 37 RBI through 28 games. JD Martinez hit a 2-run HR in the 1st inning of what would be an epic game. Alex Gordon hit a 2-run HR in the second to tie the game but Masataka Yoshida hit an RBI 2B in the 3rd to reclaim the lead. Bo Jackson continued his hot streak with a 2-run HR in the 4th and the Royals had a lead 4-3. Facing a loss they would regret the Red Sox scored 3 runs in the 7th on another HR from Martinez and RBI from Alex Verdugo and Xander Bogaerts. Andrew Benintendi hit an RBI 1B in the bottom half but the Red Sox took the 6-5 lead to the bottom of the 9th. Leading off the bottom of the 9th Alex Gordon hit a solo HR that changed the game. Suddenly the Red Sox were in a real fight for a win they needed. The bullpens took over and the game went tied to the 15th when the Red Sox exploded for 5 runs on a 2-run 1B from Martinez and a 3-run HR from David Ortiz. Thinking they could now coast to the win the Red Sox were quite surprised to see more fight from the Royals as Jorge Soler hit a 2-run HR and Bo Jackson hit a solo HR to make the final 11-9. This will be a game Boston will remember at the end of the season as they won their 6th in a row.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • TETTLETON THREE HOMERS • TROUT WALK-OFF HR • OHTANI SHUTOUT

**GAME #30 — BOS 7 @ KCR 3**

Xander Bogaerts hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd and a solo HR in the 4th to lead the Red Sox. Red hot Bo Jackson hit RBI 1Bs in the 2nd and 6th innings but it was not enough as the Red Sox added 4 more runs in the 7th on an RBI 2B from Wade Boggs and a 3-run HR from JD Martinez. Vinny Pasquantino hit an RBI 1B in the bottom half of the 7th to make the final 7-3. Boston got the sweep the needed and have moved into a tie for the first wild card spot posting their 7th win in a row. David Price pitched well to earn the win.

**GAME #29 — OAK 8 @ DET 9**

Mickey Tettleton had one of the best games a hitter could ever have. Eric Chavez continued his MVP campaign with a solo HR in the 1st but Miguel Cabrera tied the game in the bottom half with an RBI 1B. Then Mickey Tettleton took over hitting a 2-run HR in the 2nd, a solo HR in the 5th, a 3-run HR in the 6th and a dramatic game-tying RBI 2B in the bottom of the 8th. The A's had taken a 7-3 lead after 3 runs in the 3rd on RBI from Rickey Henderson, Starling Marte, and Chavez, and 4 runs in the 4th on a 2-run 1B from Marte and RBI from Chavez and Mark Canha. The game went tied to the bottom of the 10th where Ian Kinsler led off the inning with a walk-off solo HR winning a most dramatic game. Tettleton had an incredible 14 total bases.

**GAME #30 — OAK 7 @ DET 0**

Frankie Montas took over in the second game completely shutting down the Tigers. Montas took a no-hitter to the 6th and finished the complete game shutout giving up only 4 hits. Eric Chavez went 3-4 with a 3B and 2 RBI. Rickey Henderson, Starling Marte, and Khris Davis added RBI, and Seth Brown hit a solo HR in the win. Eric Chavez is firmly in the AL MVP race after going 7-10 with 5 RBI, raising his batting average to .315 and his RBI total to 31.

**GAME #29 — TEX 4 @ MIN 6**

Byron Buxton did it again. Nathaniel Lowe gave Texas the lead with an RBI 1B in the 1st but Buxton turned the game with a 2-out 3-run HR in the bottom of the 5th, his league-leading 14th. Kirby Puckett and Torii Hunter added solo HRs in the 6th to make it 5-1. Adolis Garcia hit a 2-run HR in the 7th to bring the game to 5-3 but Puckett added an RBI 1B in the bottom half and the Twins held on for a win they needed. Sonny Gray pitched well in the win.

**GAME #30 — TEX 1 @ MIN 3**

Byron Buxton did it again. Buxton led off the game with a solo HR and the Twins didn't look back. Pablo Lopez shut down the Rangers giving up only 4 hits over 7 innings surrendering only an RBI 1B to Adrian Beltre. Kirby Puckett hit a solo HR in the 4th and added an RBI 1B in the 8th to provide the 3-1 margin. The Twins have made their move keeping pace in a wild-card race.

**GAME #29 — CLE 0 @ LAA 1**

This had become a series with a lot riding on it. Los Angeles was chasing a Seattle team that swept, and Cleveland was trying to stay in front of a Minnesota team that also swept. But the Angels were also fighting for their season and they handed the ball to superstar Shohei Ohtani. Ohtani responded and moved into AL Cy Young contention with a 9-inning, 5-hit complete-game shutout with only 2 walks and 13 strikeouts. Shane Bieber matched the task and took his own shutout into the bottom of the 9th when Mike Trout hit a walk-off solo HR to win the game for the Angels.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • BRYCE HARPER 2-RUN HR • HARPER 2-RUN HR • MIKE TROUT SOLO HR

**GAME #30 — CLE 6 @ LAA 2**

The Angels had a chance to tie Seattle for 1st place in the AL West but Corey Kluber shut them down giving up only a solo HR to Logan O'Hoppe. Jose Ramirez hit a solo HR in the top of the 1st and Steven Kwan had an RBI in the 2nd. Franmil Reyes hit a solo HR in the 3rd and the Guardians were up 3-0. Carlos Santana hit 2 RBI 2Bs in the 7th and the 9th and Kwan added an RBI 2B to secure the split. Mike Trout hit another solo HR in the loss. Cleveland heads to the stretch run with a nice 3-game lead.

**GAME #29 — TOR 7 @ PHI 0**

This series was looked forward to as a major test for both teams as the clear frontrunners went into the home of the champions. Alek Manoah is firmly in the AL Cy Young race and showed up today pitching a 7-hit complete game shutout. The Phillies just could not break through against the Toronto ace. Zack Wheeler struggled as Vladimir Guerrero Jr hit a 2-run 2B and Jose Bautista scored him on an RBI 1B in the 3-run 3rd. In the 5th George Springer and Danny Jansen hit 2-run HRs and the Blue Jays cruised to an easy win, their 8th in a row as they look to secure the #1 seed. We may have seen the passing of the torch today as the Phillies drop below .500. Alek Manoah moved to 7-0.

**GAME #30 — TOR 3 @ PHI 4**

Bryce Harper hit an RBI 2B in the 1st inning against Kevin Gausman to give the Phillies the lead but George Springer hit a 2-run HR off of Aaron Nola in the 4th and Roberto Alomar added a solo HR in the 5th and the Blue Jays held a 3-1 lead. In the bottom of the 8th the champion Phillies were potentially looking at the end of their season when Harper hit a clutch 2-run HR to tie the game. In the bottom of the 11th Harper drew a walk and scored the winning run on a JT Realmuto RBI 1B and the Phillies escaped with a split and stayed alive on the fringe of the wild-card race.

**GAME #29 — SDP 3 @ MIA 1**

Yu Darvish kept himself firmly in the NL Cy Young race with a 2-hit complete game with 14 strikeouts. The lone blemish was a solo HR from Jesus Aguilar in the 2nd. Jose Fernandez matched him and took his own shutout into the 7th when the Padres broke through on a Trent Grisham 2-run 1B. Francisco Mejia added an RBI 1B in the 9th to make it a 3-1 win.

**GAME #30 — SDP 3 @ MIA 2**

Sandy Alcantara tried to take it upon himself to get the split and took a 2-hit shutout to the 9th. Jesus Aguilar hit another solo HR in the 4th and Jacob Stallings hit an RBI 1B in the 7th to make it 2-0. Facing a loss that would set their season on the brink the Padres mounted a comeback. Jake Cronenworth and Francisco Mejia had RBI in the top of the 9th to tie the game and Fernando Tatis Jr hit a solo HR in the top of the 10th to give the Padres the sweep they needed to stay in the race.

**GAME #29 — WSH 3 @ COL 2**

Brendan Rodgers hit an RBI 1B and Tom Murphy had an RBI against Max Scherzer to give the Rockies a 2-0 lead in the 2nd. German Marquez only gave up 2 hits going in to the 6th inning when Juan Soto hit an RBI 3B and scored on a Ryan Zimmerman RBI. Starlin Castro broke the tie with an RBI 1B in the 8th and the Nationals escaped with a win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • CORBIN BURNES FANS 10 • SOSA 2-RUN HR • JAYSON WERTH SOLO HR

**GAME #30 — WSH 2 @ COL 4**

Kyle Freeland pitched another strong game for Colorado going 8 innings limiting the Nationals to solo HRs from Ryan Zimmerman and Jayson Werth. Trevor Story went 2-4 with 2 2Bs and 2 RBI. Larry Walker added an RBI 1B and Brendan Rodgers went 3-4 with 2 2Bs and an RBI.

**GAME #29 — ATL 1 @ STL 2**

This was a big series for both teams. St. Louis needed to show up and dreamed of making a move with a sweep. The Braves had the Mets right on their heels and could lose 1st place with a poor showing. All eyes were upon NL Cy Young Award frontrunner star rookie Spencer Strider who came in 6-0 with a 1.05 ERA. Meanwhile Chipper Jones is in the thick of the NL MVP race. Strider showed up going 7 strong innings only giving up an RBI 2B to Yadier Molina in the bottom of the 2nd. In the top of the 2nd Austin Riley hit a 2B and scored on an RBI 2B from William Contreras, but Jack Flaherty matched Strider and the game went 1-1 to the bottom of the 8th when Matt Carpenter gave the home crowd a jolt with a solo HR. Ryan Helsley shut the door and the Cardinals got a key win to stay in the race.

**GAME #30 — ATL 4 @ STL 3**

Deion Sanders hit an RBI 3B and scored on an RBI 1B from Ronald Acuna to give the Braves a 2-0 lead. Nolan Arenado hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd and Yadier Molina broke the tie in the 3rd with a solo HR. St Louis had hopes for a sweep but Ozzie Albies hit a 3B and scored to tie the game in the 6th and Michael Harris hit an RBI 1B to give the Braves the lead and a solid win for the split.

**GAME #29 — NYM 5 @ CHC 2**

Jacob deGrom showed up and pitched a strong 8 innings giving up only 2 hits. The problem was that the 2 hits were a Ryne Sandberg 1B and an Ian Happ 2-run HR to give the Cubs the lead in the 3rd after a Pete Alonso solo HR in the 2nd. Down 2-1 in the 6th Jeff McNeil hit a 2-run 1B to give the Mets the lead. Francisco Lindor hit a 2-run 2B in the 8th and the Mets got away with a key win in Chicago.

**GAME #30 — NYM 4 @ CHC 9**

Sammy Sosa had the game for the ages. Sosa hit a 2-run HR in the 1st and Seiya Suzuki hit a 2-run HR afterward and the Cubs took a 4-0 lead after 1 looking for the split. Sosa then went on to hit an incredible 4 HR in a row. Sosa hit a solo HR in the 3rd, a 2-run HR in the 5th, and 2-run HR in the 6th putting up a record setting 16 total bases with his 7 RBI. This game will go down in the record books as the Cubs got the home split they needed. Marcus Stroman pitched well to earn the win.

**GAME #29 — ARI 1 @ MIL 3**

Corbin Burnes pitched 7 strong innings striking out 10 while only giving up an RBI 1B to Geraldo Perdomo. Rowdy Tellez hit a 2-run HR in the 1st inning and Robin Yount added an RBI in the 7th and the Brewers cruised to a solid win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • CARLOS RODON FANS 12 • WILL CLARK 3-RUN HR • TELLEZ 2-RUN HR

**GAME #30 — ARI 3 @ MIL 9**

Rowdy Tellez had an RBI in the 1st inning and then the Brewers unloaded for 5 runs by hitting 3 HRs in the 3rd. Christian Yelich hit a 2-run HR, Tellez hit a solo HR, and Jonathan Lucroy hit a 2-run HR. Yelich added an RBI 1B in the 4th and Luis Urias hit a 2-run HR in the 5th to finish the rout. Jake McCarthy hit an RBI 1B in the 4th and Luis Gonzalez hit a 2-run HR in the loss. Brandon Woodruff pitched well to earn the win. The Brewers got the sweep they needed and have moved back into the fringes of the playoff race. Arizona has lost 6 in a row.

**GAME #29 — CIN 4 @ LAD 5**

Cincinnati needed a win and came storming out of the gate behind NL Cy Young contestant Luis Castillo scoring 2 runs in the 1st inning on solo HRs from Barry Larkin and Joey Votto. Larkin added an RBI 2B in the 2nd and Chris Sabo hit an RBI 1B and the Reds were up 4-0 after 3 innings. Castillo was cruising only giving up 1 hit until the Dodgers woke up in the bottom of the 6th. Will Smith hit a 2-run 1B with the bases loaded and then Joc Pederson hit a 3-run HR and suddenly the Dodgers were ahead 5-4. The bullpen held and the Dodgers got a great comeback win against a wild card competitor.

**GAME #30 — CIN 1 @ LAD 5**

Walker Buehler gave up 3 singles in the first 2 innings but settled down and didn't give up another hit until the 9th shutting down the Reds. Cody Bellinger hit a solo HR in the 3 and another solo HR in the 4th. Trea Turner hit a solo HR in the 3rd, and Mookie Betts hit a 2-run HR in the 4th to seal the easy 5-1 win behind a strong pitching performance. The Dodgers are hot at the right time winning 5 of 6 and moving into a wild card spot sweeping the team that was ahead of them. Meanwhile the Reds are struggling having lost 7 of 9 and have fallen out of the race with the Cubs for the NL Central.

**GAME #29 — SFG 7 @ PIT 0**

San Francisco had a chance to keep their #1 seed facing a last place Pirates team and they showed up. Carlos Rodon pitched a dominant 3-hit complete game shutout while striking out 12. LaMonte Wade hit two RBI 2Bs, Brandon Crawford added an RBI, and Brandon Belt hit an RBI 2B to give the Giants a 4-0 lead. In the 9th inning Barry Bonds hit a solo HR and Evan Longoria continued his NL MVP push hitting his league-leading 12 home run of the year with a 2-run HR to cap the 7-0 win.

**GAME #30 — SFG 6 @ PIT 3**

The Giants finished off their sweep with another strong showing. Will Clark hit a solo HR in the 3rd and Brandon Belt hit a 3-run HR in the 6th to lead the Giants. Madison Bumgarner didn't give up a run until the 6th inning when Andrew McCutchen drew a bases-loaded walk. Endy Rodriguez had an RBI 1B and Andy Van Slyke hit an RBI 2B in the 7th to make it a one-run game, but Will Clark sealed the win with another HR, a 2-run shot that completed the road sweep. The San Francisco Giants are closing in on securing the #1 seed in the NL after winning 7 of 8. Meanwhile the Pirates have lost 10 of 11 to fall to the bottom of the league.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • TYLER WELLS FANS 10 • JD MARTINEZ 2-RUN HR • TOR WINS 5-1

## ROUND #16

## GAME #31 — TOR 2 @ BAL 3

And down the stretch they come! The stretch run begins with a last round of divisional matchups. The Toronto Blue Jays can all but wrap up the AL East title with a strong showing on the road. The Baltimore Orioles have slipped a bit to fall into quite a wild card race, now tied for the top spot with the red-hot Boston Red Sox, and 1 game ahead of the red-hot New York Yankees. A poor showing at home could create quite a race and some uncertainty after the O's seemed locked into the top wild card spot a short time ago. The Blue Jays got off to a good start when George Springer hit a solo HR in the top of the 1st inning, and then Bo Bichette doubled the lead with a solo HR in the 6th giving the Jays a 2-0 lead. Hyun-Jin Ryu limited the O's to only 3 hits through 6 innings, but in the 7th inning Ramon Urias hit an ultra clutch 3-run HR to send the crowd into a frenzy. The O's bullpen held and Baltimore got a huge comeback win to keep their hopes alive. Tyler Wells pitched extremely well in the win giving up only 4 hits and 1 walk while striking out 10 over his 7 innings. Anthony Santander saw his 14-game hitting streak end.

## GAME #32 — TOR 5 @ BAL 1

The Toronto Blue Jays are now on the verge of the AL East title after getting the road split in Baltimore. Vladimir Guerrero Jr hit an RBI 1B and Teoscar Hernandez hit an RBI 2B in the 3rd inning, and Dalton Varsho hit a solo HR and George Springer hit a 2-run 3B in the 4th as the Jays ran away with the game. Jose Berrios limited the O's to only an RBI 2B in the bottom of the 4th. The O's will take the split and keep their spot in the wild card race. Bo Bichette extended his hitting streak to 15 games.

## GAME #31 — NYY 6 @ BOS 7

The script could not have been written better. Both rivals languished in the early season stuck at the bottom of the division, and both have caught fire and have both moved into the wild-card spots. One could even move into the top wild-card seed with a sweep. David Ortiz has moved into the AL MVP race and led the Red Sox while Aaron Judge has warmed up and could make his own case with a big series. Game #1 turned out to be one of the best games of the year, especially given the stakes. Boston took an early lead against Luis Severino when JD Martinez hit a 2-run HR and David Ortiz went back-to-back with a solo HR to give the Red Sox a 3-0 lead. Jason Varitek added an RBI in the 2nd and the 4-0 lead looked good. DJ LeMahieu hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd and Aaron Hicks hit a solo HR in the 5th to make it a much closer game. Boston took the 4-2 lead to the top of the 8th inning when the Yankees stormed back on an RBI 2B from Hideki Matsui and then Gleyber Torres hit a game-changing 3-run HR that gave the Yankees a 6-4 late in the game. Facing a defeat they would regret Boston rallied in the bottom half on RBI 1Bs from Xander Bogaerts and Rafael Devers that tied the game and sent it to extra innings. In the bottom of the 11th David Ortiz sent the crowd home happy and relieved with a walk-off RBI 1B.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • JOEY WENDLE GRAND SLAM • JIM THOME 2-RUN HR • TWINS WIN 6-3

**GAME #32 — NYY 0 @ BOS 3**

Boston send the Yankees home having missed a huge chance that the Red Sox took for themselves. This sweep changed the race considerably as the win put Boston now in the top wild-card spot. Tanner Houck shut down the Yankees pitching 7 shutout innings and Alex Verdugo hit a solo HR while Wade Boggs put in the final blow with a 2-run 3B. Boston is the hottest team in baseball having now won 10 in a row and 15 of 17. The Yankees are sent back into the playoff race with the Rays and Twins. Derek Jeter saw his 16-game hitting street. David Ortiz saw his 14-game hitting streak end.

**GAME #31 — TBR 8 @ DET 5**

The Tampa Bay Rays are hanging in the race but they are mired in a mix of teams that are all winning. They needed to have a strong showing against a last-place team. Victor Martinez hit a 3-run HR off of Jeffrey Springs in the bottom of the 1st inning and the Rays were in trouble. Then Brandon Lowe showed up. Joey Wendle hit an RBI 1B in the 4th inning to get the Rays on the board and then Brandon Lowe hit a Grand Slam HR in the 5th and a 3-run HR in the 9th to give the Rays a big comeback win.

**GAME #32 — TBR 3 @ DET 7**

The Tigers got their win in Game #2 with a strong performance from Matt Manning who only gave up RBI 3Bs to Brandon Lowe and Joey Wendle in the 4th. Victor Martinez had an RBI in the 1st inning and then Cecil Fielder hit the big shot a 3-run HR in the 6th. Spencer Torkelson went back-to-back with a solo HR and then added another solo HR in the 8th to cap the easy win. The Rays head down the stretch in a race for the 3rd wild-card spot with the Yankees and Twins. Randy Arozarena extended his hitting streak to 14 games.

**GAME #31 — CLE 3 @ MIN 6**

Here come the Twins! Minnesota was hosting the division-leading Guardians and could get back into the division race with a home sweep. It started well for the Guardians as Carlos Santana hit a solo HR and Triston McKenzie kept the Twins off of the board until the 5th. In the 5th Nick Gordon tied the game with a solo HR and Nelson Cruz hit a 2-run HR to give the home team the lead. Franmil Reyes hit an RBI 1B in the 6th and then Steven Kwan tied the game with an RBI 1B in the 7th. With the game now 3-3 Kirby Puckett hit a 2-run HR in the bottom of the 7th and then Carlos Correa hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 8th and the Twins got a well-earned win, narrowing the race.

**GAME #32 — CLE 4 @ MIN 5**

The Twins could either capitalize on their win and narrow the race to a single game, or give it right back all but ending their hopes for a division title with only 8 games left. Jim Thome hit a 2-run HR to give Cleveland the lead but in the bottom of the 1st Byron Buxton hit his league-leading 16th HR with a solo shot to leadoff the bottom of the 1st. In the bottom of the 3rd inning Buxton did it yet again hitting his 17th HR. Buxton now has 35 home runs in his last 72 games. Kenta Maeda held the Guardians in check and in the 6th Miguel Sano hit a 2-run HR to give the Twins the lead. Kirby Puckett add an RBI 3B in the 7th which turned out to be the winning run as Jose Ramirez and Franmil Reyes hit solo HRs in the 8th to make it close. Star rookie closer Jhoan Duran took care of the 9th and got the save in both games of this important sweep. The Twins have won 5 in a row and are holding a wild-card spot and are only 1 game back in the race for the AL Central.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • CJ CRON 2-RUN HR • CJ CRON 3-RUN HR • ANDERSON 2-RUN HR

**GAME #31 — KCR 4 @ CHW 2**

The Royals were able to pick up a win on the road in Chicago as Jorge Soler hit a solo HR in the 1st and George Brett and Vinny Pasquantino hit RBI 1Bs in the 6th to give Brady Singer a 3-0 lead. Tim Anderson hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 6th but Andrew Benintendi hit an RBI 2B in the 7th to maintain the 3-run lead. Eloy Jimenez added a solo HR in the 7th but it was not enough as the White Sox fell to the Royals. Bobby Witt Jr stole 3 bases while he was on base 4 times in 5 plate appearances.

**GAME #32 — KCR 11 @ CHW 8**

RBI machine Salvador Perez closed in on a new record by hitting a Grand Slam HR in the top of the 1st. Bobby Witt Jr hit a solo HR in the 2nd and the Royals took a 5-0 lead and began to look for the sweep. In the 3rd inning Tim Anderson hit an RBI 2B and Luis Robert hit a 2-run HR making it only 5-3. Vinny Pasquantino hit a solo HR in the 4th and then Andrew Benintendi hit a 2-run 2B in the 7th and the Royals were up 8-3. In the bottom of the 7th Nick Madrigal added an RBI and Andrew Vaughn hit an RBI 1B to make it 8-5. In the bottom of the 9th Anderson hit an RBI 1B and Robert hit another 2-run HR which suddenly tied the game. Focused on the win the Royals took the lead again on a George Brett hit a 3-run HR in the 12th. The bullpen held and the Royals got the sweep to give them some hope heading into next season. Meanwhile the White Sox are having a miserable season falling to 11-21 and are looking toward next season having now lost 7 in a row.

**GAME #31 — LAA 9 @ OAK 4**

The Angels came into Oakland only 1 game back of the Mariners, while Oakland is all but out of it a home sweep could keep them mathematically alive. The A's started well with a solo HR from Khris Davis and an RBI 1B from Elvis Andrus in the bottom of the 2nd but in the top of the 3rd the Angels unloaded. CJ Cron hit a 3-run HR to give the Angels the lead and then David Fletcher hit a 3-run HR to make it 6-2 suddenly. Andrelton Simmons went back-to-back with a solo HR and it was 7-2. Davis hit another shot a 2-run HR in the bottom of the 3rd and the game went 7-4 to the 7th when Justin Upton hit a 2-run HR. The Angels got one of the wins they needed and have all but eliminated the A's.

**GAME #32 — LAA 5 @ OAK 8**

Albert Pujols hit an RBI 1B in the top of the first but the A's answered quickly. Starling Marte hit a solo HR and then Mark Canha hit a 3-run HR. The Angels fought back on a 2-run HR from CJ Cron in the 3rd and then they tied the game in the 5th on an RBI from Justin Upton. Ricky Henderson hit an RBI 2B and Khris Davis added an RBI and the A's took the lead right back in the bottom half of the 5th and then in the 6th they added a run on an RBI 2B from Nick Allen. Ramon Laureano hit a solo HR in the 8th and the A's secured the win and the split dashing the hopes of the Angels. Cron hit a second HR in the top of the 9th, his 3rd HR and 6th RBI of the series.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • YORDAN ALVAREZ 3-RUN HR • BREGMAN 2-RUN HR • SEA WINS 2-1

**GAME #31 — TEX 2 @ HOU 7**

Houston came into this series with hope after sweeping the Rays. A strong showing could get them into the race for the AL West and the league hits the stretch run. A poor showing against their rival could end their season. The Rangers would love nothing more. The final score does not reflect how close this game was. The Astros scored in the 2nd on a Garrett Stubbs RBI but the Rangers tied the game on an Adrian Beltre solo HR. The Rangers loaded the bases in the 5th with only 1 out but Joe Musgrove got a crucial double-play ball at just the right time, but then the Rangers took the lead in a very tight game in the 6th on a Joey Gallo solo HR. And then the Astros woke up and reached for their season. When a loss would be devastating Michael Brantley hit a 2-run 2B in the bottom of the 6th and then Yordan Alvarez hit a 3-run HR after a Jeff Bagwell RBI. This was a big win for the Astros.

**GAME #32 — TEX 4 @ HOU 8**

Here come the Astros. Kyle Tucker hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd and Alex Bregman hit a 2-run HR in the 4th. Jeff Bagwell went back-to-back with a solo HR and the game was 5-0. Bregman added another 2-run HR in the 6th and Yordan Alvarez added an RBI 1B in the 8th to seal the win. Lance McCullers completely shut down the Rangers giving up only 4 hits and 1 run over 7 innings. Corey Seager had an RBI 2B in the 8th and Marcus Semien hit a 3-run HR in the 9th but the Astros got the blowout win and suddenly are on the fringe of the race for the AL West with the Mariners and Angels. Yordan Alvarez went 7-9 in the series.

**GAME #31 — COL 1 @ SEA 2**

Game #1 was in its own right a terrific game, but when paired with what happened in the series, it will always be part of a most memorable 2 games. The Seattle Mariners had a real chance here playing at home against a weaker and fading Rockies team who had only won 4 of 15. The M's have a red-hot Astros team and a good Angels team both chasing them. This was a home series that might define the Mariners' season. The tension in Game #1 was incredible. The M's needed a win. Logan Gilbert took the mound and responded keeping the powerful Rockies scoreless inning after inning. Gilbert took a shutout into the 6th having given up only 2 hits and 2 walks. The problem for the M's was Jon Gray. Gray was every bit as dominant as Gilbert and took his own shutout into the 6th giving up only a 1 hit and 0 walks. The tension was thick and the home crowd was on the edge of their seats. One run might win the game, and that is what they realized with a collective groan as Trevor Story hit a solo HR to leadoff the 6th. Gilbert took care of the rest and the crowd stood in the bottom of the 6th urging the home team to score. And they did. Robinson Cano hit a clutch RBI 1B after a JP Crawford 2B and the crowd exhaled. Gilbert didn't give up another run finishing 8 strong innings giving up only 4 hits and 2 walks. Jon Gray continued to dominate going 8 $\frac{2}{3}$  innings and giving up 4 hits and 2 walks. The bullpen took over and the game went all the way to the 13th. The tension was incredible and the crowd was urging the M's with every single pitch. In the bottom of the 13th inning Edwin Encarnacion stepped up and sent the crowd home with an well earned win with a walk-off solo HR. This game had a playoff atmosphere.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • JOSH BELL WALK-OFF HR • ONEIL CRUZ RBI 1B • MARLINS WIN 10-4

**GAME #32 — COL 8 @ SEA 10**

Seattle knew a sweep would be crucial while a split would just give back all the work from the game before. Ryan McMahon had an RBI with the bases loaded against George Kirby in the 2nd and the crowd grew tense again. In the bottom of the 3rd inning Ken Griffey Jr hit an RBI 1B to tie the game, and then the M's unloaded. Edwin Encarnacion hit a 2-run HR in the 4th, Edgar Martinez hit a 2-run HR in the 5th, and then JP Crawford and Julio Rodriguez went back-to-back with solo HRs in the 7th. The rout was on and Seattle was closing in on their sweep. Carlos Gonzalez hit a solo HR in the 7th to make it a 7-2 game going into the 8th inning. George Kirby was dominant through the middle of the game sitting down 15 batters in a row. Yusei Kikuchi came in to finish out the blowout win but Ryan McMahon hit a solo HR in the 8th to make it 7-3 and then Kikuchi loaded the bases in the 9th after Carlos Gonzalez hit an RBI 1B. Ryan McMahon stepped up as suddenly the go-ahead run and hit his second consecutive home run with a Grand Slam HR to take the lead. The Mariners crowd was stunned. This would be a loss that would haunt them. Or this could be a win that boosted their whole season. The exhausted crowd rose as one in the bottom of the 9th signaling a refusal to lose. Peter Lambert took a turn to try to close the door and promptly walked Robinson Cano. The crowd cheered. Lambert walked Griffey and the crowd roared. Suddenly they had a real chance. And then Edgar Martinez did it. Martinez sent the crowd into a delirious frenzy with the second walk-off HR in a row, a massive season-defining 3-run HR to walk it off for the home team. The AL West has a race and right now the M's are heating up.

**GAME #31 — MIA 6 @ PIT 5**

The Marlins secured a nice comeback win with a big 6th inning. Luis Arraez hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd to give Miami a 1-0 but the Pirates scored 4 in the 5th on an RBI from Josh Harrison and a 3-run HR from Willie Stargell. Down 4-1 the Marlins got 6 hits in a row including an RBI 2B from Jacob Stallings, a 2-run 2B from Miguel Rojas, and an RBI 1B from Ichiro Suzuki. Oneil Cruz added an RBI 1B in the 8th but the comeback stalled and Miami got the road win.

**GAME #32 — MIA 10 @ PIT 4**

Bryan Reynolds hit an RBI 1B in the 1st inning but Jesus Sanchez hit a solo HR to tie the game in the 3rd. In the 4th inning Jazz Chisholm hit a 2-run HR, Gary Sheffield followed with a solo HR, and Jesus Sanchez hit his second HR of the game and the Marlins took a 5-1 lead. Francisco Cervelli hit an RBI 1B in the 4th but Jazz Chisholm hit another 2-run HR in the 5th, and then Luis Arraez hit a 2-run 2B and Gary Sheffield added an RBI 1B to make it 10-2. Bryan Reynolds added a 2-run HR in the 7th but the Pirates lost in a rout and got swept at home.

**GAME #31 — PHI 3 @ WSH 4**

This was perhaps the worst series any team could have. Needing a strong showing to keep their title-defense season alive the Phillies fell flat. They could not muster anything against Gio Gonzalez who gave up 0 runs and 2 hits in 7 $\frac{2}{3}$  innings. The Phillies just could not score and thankfully Cole Hamels showed up. Hamels only gave up 4 hits and 2 walks in 8 scoreless innings. Desperate for a win against a weak team the Phillies finally broke through on an RBI 1B from John Kruk and a 2-run 2B from Ryan Howard in the 3-run 11th inning. Seemingly assured of victory the Phillies went to the bottom of the 11th where Lane Thomas hit a 2B, Juan Soto hit a 2-run HR, Ryan Zimmerman hit a 1B, and Josh Bell hit a walk-off 2-run HR, giving the Nationals a 4-run 11th and a great comeback win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • ALONSO 3-RUN HR • JT REALMUTO 2-RUN HR • STRAWBERRY 2-RUN HR

**GAME #32 — PHI 4 @ WSH 5**

Desperate for a win to stay in the race the Phillies responded by scoring in the 1st inning on an RBI 2B from Bryce Harper. The Nationals took the lead in the bottom of the 1st on a 2-run 1B from Starlin Castro but the Phillies fought right back on a 2-run HR from JT Realmuto in the 2nd. Kyle Schwarber added a solo HR in the 6th and the Phillies took a 4-2 lead to the bottom of the 9th. In the bottom of the 9th things unraveled again as Seranthony Dominguez walked Keibert Ruiz, Victor Robles hit a 2B, CJ Abrams tied the game with a 2-run 1B, and Juan Soto walked it off with an RBI sacrifice fly. The Phillies title defense all but ended as they have fallen out of the race with the 2 devastating losses.

**GAME #31 — NYM 7 @ ATL 3**

This was a premier matchup of two rivals in a heated race. The Braves held a 1-game lead and got to play at home. The Mets had a chance to make a move or hold steady, but a sweep would almost end the division race. The Mets made their move in the first game with an early start and a strong finish. Darryl Strawberry and Michael Conforto both had RBI in the 1st inning, and Strawberry added a 2-run HR in the 5th to give the Mets a 4-0 lead. Austin Riley hit a solo HR in the 6th against Kodai Senga but then Mike Piazza hit a 2-run HR and Jeff McNeil hit an RBI 1B to seal the blowout win. Ronald Acuna had a 2-run 1B in the bottom of the 9th but it was not enough to stop the Mets who tied the Braves for the lead in the NL East.

**GAME #32 — NYM 12 @ ATL 1**

The Mets accomplished their goal with a major statement and plenty of flair. Meanwhile the Braves are left reeling and now chasing. David Wright hit an RBI 1B, Pete Alonso hit an RBI 2B, and Darryl Strawberry hit a 2-run 1B in the big 4-run 1st inning. It was such a statement the Braves could not recover. Taijuan Walker only gave up 1 run over 7 innings, a solo HR to William Contreras. In the 2nd inning the Mets continued to pour it on. Brandon Nimmo hit an RBI 1B and Pete Alonso hit a 3-run HR to make it 8-0. In the 4th inning Alonso hit another 3-run HR and Francisco Lindor made it 12-0 with a capping RBI 1B. The Mets outscored the Braves 19-4 in Atlanta to take the lead in the NL East. This series might mark a major turning point and perhaps have made the Mets a favorite in the playoffs as they have now won 5 of 6.

**GAME #31 — STL 3 @ CHC 4**

The Cardinals came into Chicago with 1 goal. But it was not to be. Yadier Molina and Dylan Carlson hit RBI 1Bs in the 1st inning, but Ryne Sandberg hit a 2-run HR to tie the game in the 3rd. Sammy Sosa hit a dramatic solo HR in the 8th to put the crowd on their feet giving the Cubs a 3-2 lead going into the 9th. Fighting for their season the St. Louis Cardinals fought back on a 2B from Paul DeJong and an RBI 1B from Paul Goldschmidt. The Cardinals still had hope for themselves but Sammy Sosa did it again, hitting a walk-off solo HR in the bottom of the 11th that ended the Cardinals' chance at the NL Central.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • CHRIS SABO 2-RUN HR • JAKE LAMB 2-RUN HR • HOERNER 2-RUN 1B

**GAME #32 — STL 4 @ CHC 7**

The Cubs kept rolling sweeping their foes and ending their chances for the division. Now the Cardinals will have some work to do just to get back into the wild-card race. Paul Goldschmidt, Mark McGwire, and Lars Nootbaar all had solo HRs, and Nolan Arenado added an RBI 1B, but it was not close to enough. Willson Contreras had an RBI 2B in the 2nd, Jason Heyward hit a 2-run HR and Nico Hoerner hit a solo HR in the 3rd, and in the 3-run 8th Hoerner added an RBI and Ryne Sandberg capped off the sweep with a 2-run 1B. The Cubs delighted in ending the division race with their rivals as they now have their sights set on the #1 seed. The Cubs have won 5 of 6 and are looking strong down the stretch. Ian Happ saw his 12-game hitting streak end.

**GAME #31 — CIN 7 @ MIL 6**

This could be a pivotal series in the season for both teams as the hot Brewers have won 4 of 5 to get into the race and the Reds have dropped 4 of 5 to fall back to the pack. With a poor showing the Reds would likely fall out of the division race as the Cubs keep winning. Meanwhile a poor showing could end the Brewers momentum and likely their season. It started with a leadoff HR from Christian Yelich but Nick Castellanos hit a solo HR to tie the game. Christian Yelich hit another solo HR in the 3rd but once again Nick Castellanos hit a solo HR to tie the game. In the 6th the Reds scored 4 runs on an RBI 2B from Tyler Stephenson and a 3-run HR from Barry Larkin but the Brewers responded in the bottom half with a 3-run HR from Rowdy Tellez. The tense game went tied all the way to the 12th inning when Eric Davis hit a solo HR to give the Reds a key road win.

**GAME #32 — CIN 9 @ MIL 5**

The Reds reached their lofty goal turning their season around with a great showing on the road. Joey Votto hit a solo HR in the 1st inning, Chris Sabo hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd, and Jesse Winker hit an RBI 2B and Nick Castellanos hit a 3-run HR in the 3rd to make it 7-0. Eric Davis hit an RBI and Joey Votto hit an RBI 1B in the 4th and it was 9-0. Luis Urias hit an RBI 1B in the 5th and Ryan Braun hit a 2-run HR before Jackson Chourio hit an RBI 1B making it 9-4. Bryce Turang added an RBI in the 8th but it was not enough to stop the sweep. The Reds are again in a great position to make the playoffs while the Milwaukee Brewers saw their season end. Castellanos had an incredible 17 total bases in the series 1 off the record by Chipper Jones. Meanwhile Chris Sabo extended his hitting streak to 13 games while leading the NL in OPS at 1.105 and BA at .389.

**GAME #31 — ARI 2 @ SDP 5**

The Padres had a real chance to make their move hosting a last place Arizona team. Fernando Tatis Jr hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 1st to take a 1-0 lead, but Jake Lamb hit a 2-run HR for the Diamondbacks in the 2nd and the game went 2-1 to the 5th. Desperate for a win the Padres rallied on an RBI 2B from Tatis and a 2-run 2B from Manny Machado. Dave Winfield had an RBI 1B in the 7th and the Padres got an important win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • MEJIA WALK-OFF HIT • ERIC HOSMER 2-RUN HR • BELLINGER RBI 1B

**GAME #32 — ARI 3 @ SDP 4**

The Padres did it, but it wasn't easy. Eric Hosmer hit a solo HR in the 2nd and the Padres took the 1-0 lead to the 6th when Matt Williams hit a 2-run HR to take the 2-1 lead. Francisco Mejia hit a clutch solo HR to tie the game in the bottom of the 8th to tie the game. The Padres could see the finish line for this key sweep but they couldn't cross it. The Diamondbacks finally scored in the top of the 12th on an RBI 1B from Luis Gonzalez. Then in the bottom of the 12th Dave Winfield hit a 2B, Eric Hosmer hit an RBI 1B to tie the game, and Mejia hit a walk-off RBI 3B to send the crowd home jubilant. The Padres are in the race having won 4 in a row as they head down the stretch chasing the final wild-card spot.

**GAME #31 — LAD 4 @ SFG 3**

The Dodgers came into San Francisco hot winning 5 of their last 6 to move into the wild-card race. San Francisco simply needed to get a split to maintain their lead over the Cubs for the #1 seed and almost secure the NL West. Game #1 went the way of the Dodgers as Freddie Freeman hit a 2-run HR in the 1st and Adrian Gonzalez hit a solo HR in the 2nd. Buster Posey and Evan Longoria hit RBI 1Bs in the 3rd and the 1-run game went to the 8th. In the bottom of the 8th inning Brandon Crawford tied the game with an RBI 1B but the Dodgers came right back with a Justin Turner 2B and a Gonzalez RBI 1B. The Dodgers played a clutch game and came away with the road win they needed.

**GAME #32 — LAD 5 @ SFG 3**

Here come the Dodgers. Suddenly there is a race in the NL West and also for the #1 seed with the San Francisco Giants falling back to the pack. Cody Bellinger hit a solo HR in the 3rd to take the lead but Buster Posey tied the game on an RBI 1B in the 6th. In the 8th the Dodgers took the lead again on RBI 1Bs from Mookie Betts and Freddie Freeman. Adrian Gonzalez hit a solo HR in the 9th and Bellinger hit an RBI 1B to cap off the win. LaMonte Wade hit a 2-run HR in the bottom of the 9th but it was not enough to stop the red-hot Dodgers. Dustin May pitched well to earn the win. The Dodgers have won 7 of 8 and are within 2 games of the NL West lead and hold a wild-card spot.

## MLBC — WEEK 9

GAMES 33-36 • STRETCH RUN

## ATLANTA MAKES ITS MOVE

*The Braves go 4-0, the Central races tighten, and every remaining game acquires postseason weight.*

**THE LEAD** Eight games remained. Toronto stood above the league at 24-8, while San Francisco and Chicago were 21-11 and a large collection of clubs remained packed between nineteen and twenty wins. Cleveland led Minnesota by one, while Seattle held a 2-game lead over Houston. The Dodgers had won seven of eight to surge back into the postseason picture, but San Diego remained only a game behind them for the final NL Wild Card spot. The final two weeks would decide almost everything underneath the Blue Jays: the AL Central, the AL West, the NL East, the National League Wild Cards and the order of October itself.

**THE WEEK** Kansas City became an unexpected force in the AL Central race by stealing two ninth-inning wins from Minnesota, results that kept the Twins from taking sole possession of first place. Spencer Strider continued turning his rookie season into something larger, reaching 104 strikeouts even in a game Atlanta needed thirteen innings to win. Chicago stumbled twice in Atlanta, then answered by sweeping Cincinnati, a perfect example of how quickly a bad opening to the week could still be rescued. The Cubs entered Atlanta on a three-game winning streak, and their recovery afterward kept the Central in their hands. Toronto continued adding victories without drama, while San Francisco remained positioned for the National League's top seed. Every late result now carried two meanings: what it did for the club that won and what it quietly did to somebody else's bracket.

**THE STAKES** Four games remain after this week. Toronto has all but removed suspense from the AL East, but the rest of the postseason field is still being assembled in public. Minnesota and Cleveland remain entangled in the Central. Seattle still has to finish the AL West. Atlanta and the Mets are separated by almost nothing in the East, while the Dodgers' late surge has made the National League even tighter, as they now hold a Wild Card position. The final week will not be about trends. It will be about ownership: who owns a division, who owns a Wild Card, who owns a bye and who has to watch October begin without them.

|                             |                         |                                 |                                       |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| TOP OF TABLE<br>TOR • 26-10 | ONLY 4-0<br>ATL • 23-13 | AL CENTRAL<br>CLE / MIN • 20-16 | NL WILD CARD<br>LAD 21-15 • SDP 20-16 |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|

## WEEKLY HONORS

|                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>HITTER OF THE WEEK</b><br><b>GOLD EUGENIO SUÁREZ • CIN</b><br>4 HR • 10 RBI<br><b>SILVER WILLIAM CONTRERAS • ATL</b><br>4 HR • 6 RBI<br><b>BRONZE ALBERT PUJOLS • LAA</b><br>2 HR • 7 RBI • Grand Slam | <b>PITCHER OF THE WEEK</b><br><b>GOLD TYLER GLASNOW • TBR</b><br>CG SHO • 1 H • 1 BB<br><b>SILVER JUSTIN VERLANDER • HOU</b><br>CG SHO • 1 H<br><b>BRONZE JOHNNY CUETO • SFG</b><br>CG SHO • 13 K |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • GLASNOW ONE-HITTER • MULLINS WALK-OFF 2B • COLE FANS 11

## ROUND #17

## GAME #33 — TBR 1 @ BAL 0

This is the stretch run. You have to win now or wait until next season. The Tampa Bay Rays can win their way into the postseason or they can fade and leave the race with a slide. Baltimore is currently in the playoffs but hold only a 2-game lead against two teams. The Rays could tie the O's with a sweep or the O's could almost secure their spot with a sweep. The stakes were high as John Means took on reigning AL Cy Young Award winner Tyler Glasnow. Both pitchers showed up big-time. John Means didn't give up a hit until the 5th and took a shutout into the 9th. In the 9th Means walked the bases loaded and Zach Britton came in and walked Josh Lowe to score the winning run in the 9th. Meanwhile Tyler Glasnow was absolutely brilliant. Glasnow took a perfect game into the 7th and finished the complete-game shutout having given up only 1 hit and 1 walk. It was a masterful performance at just the right time.

## GAME #34 — TBR 1 @ BAL 2

Game #2 was just as tense as Grayson Rodriguez and Shane McClellan both took shutouts into the 8th inning. In the bottom of the 8th Pete Fairbanks relieved with runners on 2nd and 3rd and threw a wild pitch to give up the lead. Hunter Renfroe hit a solo HR off of Zach Britton in the top of the 9th to tie the game and the Rays had hope but Cal Ripken Jr hit a 3B and scored on a walk-off RBI 2B by Cedric Mullins. The O's secured the split they needed and maintained their standing. The Rays stayed in the race but have work to do to make it. This was an exciting series that reminded fans that the stretch run feels like the playoffs.

## GAME #33 — TOR 0 @ NYY 5

Gerrit Cole showed up big in the biggest game of the season. Facing AL Cy Young front-runner Alek Manoah it was Cole who shined bright. Cole pitched a 2-hit complete-game shutout while striking out 11. Manoah only gave up a solo HR to Aaron Judge before falling apart in the 7th when Hideki Matsui hit a solo HR, Derek Jeter hit an RBI, and DJ LeMahieu capped it off with a 2-run 1B giving the Yankees an easy win.

## GAME #34 — TOR 5 @ NYY 1

The Blue Jays got the split they needed as Kevin Gausman shut down the Yankees giving up only an RBI 1B to Jorge Posada over his 7 strong innings while striking out 13. Vladimir Guerrero Jr hit an RBI 2B in the 1st and Dalton Varsho and George Springer had RBI in the 5th. George Springer capped it off with a 2-run HR to give the Blue Jays the road split taking a big step closer to the division title.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • JAVIER BAEZ 3-RUN HR • JIMENEZ 3-RUN HR • DEVERS RBI 1B

**GAME #33 — CHW 8 @ BOS 9**

The Red Sox have turned into a juggernaut and have the rest of the league on notice, especially the Toronto Blue Jays. Boston came into this series winners of 9 in a row and dismantled the White Sox who are mired in a miserable season. Xander Bogaerts hit a solo HR in the 3rd inning and Rafael Devers followed with a solo HR and Dustin Pedroia added an RBI 1B after a Jason Varitek 2B. Masataka Yoshida hit an RBI 1B in the 5th and Devers hit another with a 2-run shot in the 6th driving Dylan Cease from the game. Cease was an early front-runner for the AL Cy Young but has since faded and now has fallen out of contention. The White Sox fought back with an RBI 2B from Eloy Jimenez and Andrew Vaughn hit an RBI 1B in the 6th, Tim Anderson hit an RBI 1B in the 7th, and Vaughn hit an RBI 2B and Yasmani Grandal hit an RBI 1B in the 8th. Alex Verdugo hit a 2-run HR in the 7th and JD Martinez hit an RBI 1B in the 8th to keep the margin. Jimenez hit a 3-run HR to draw the White Sox close but it was not enough and the Red Sox won their 10th in a row.

**GAME #34 — CHW 3 @ BOS 7**

Yasmani Grandal hit an RBI 2B in the 2nd and the White Sox had hope, but it was dashed. The Red Sox stormed back with 7 runs in the 3rd on a solo HR from Rafael Devers and a Grand Slam HR from JD Martinez. Alex Verdugo added an RBI 2B and Devers added an RBI 1B and the Red Sox were suddenly up 7-1. Grandal hit an RBI 1B in the 8th and Eloy Jimenez hit his 12th HR in the 9th but it was not enough to stop the sweep. Boston won its 11th game in a row and are suddenly 3 games back of the Blue Jays with 6 games to play, including the final series of the season against each other in Boston. The Red Sox all but secured a playoff spot with the sweep. The White Sox are now at the bottom of the AL and looking toward testing some young players.

**GAME #33 — CLE 1 @ DET 2**

Cleveland lost a chance to put some distance from the chasing Twins. Up 1-0 on a 5th inning solo HR from Andres Gimenez the Guardians lost the lead in bottom of the 9th on an RBI 1B from Riley Greene scoring Javier Baez after his 3B. In the bottom of the 11th Baez walked and scored on a walk-off RBI 2B from Greene. The Guardians lost a chance that they may regret in the end.

**GAME #34 — CLE 12 @ DET 6**

Cleveland unloaded in the second game as Casey Mize imploded. Mize walked 5 in the 1st and 2 more in the 2nd as the Guardians scored 8 runs. Tyler Naquin had a 2-run 1B in the 1st and a 3-run HR in the 2nd, and Jose Ramirez added a 2-run HR in the 2nd, and the Guardians would cruise to a win getting the road split they needed. Javier Baez hit a 3-run HR and Miguel Cabrera hit a 2-run HR but it was not enough as Cleveland kept pouring it on. Steven Kwan added an RBI 2B and an RBI 1B and Jose Ramirez hit an RBI, and Omar Vizquel hit an RBI 2B securing the blowout win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • BO JACKSON 2-RUN HR • KYLE SEAGER 2-RUN HR • MARTINEZ RBI 2B

**GAME #33 — KCR 6 @ MIN 5**

The Twins hosted the Royals with a great chance. A home sweep could put the Twins in a tie with Cleveland. Byron Buxton continued his incredible tear with his 18th HR tying his record from last season. The Royals scored in the 4th on an RBI from George Brett after a 3B from Andrew Benintendi. In the bottom of the 4th Torii Hunter hit a 2-run HR and the Twins were looking good. But Bo Jackson hit a 2-run HR and Salvador Perez hit a 2-run HR and suddenly the Royals had a lead in a game the Twins could not surrender. To the crowd's delight in the bottom of the 6th Carlos Correa hit an RBI 2B after a Nelson Cruz 2B to tie the game 5-5. But then to the crowd's shock the Royals scored in the top of the 7th on an Andrew Benintendi RBI and the Twins could not score again. The Royals took a win their rivals needed.

**GAME #34 — KCR 6 @ MIN 4**

The Twins entered a game they needed and came out flat. Vinny Pasquantino and Alex Gordon had RBI 1Bs in the 2nd and Salvador Perez hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd. Yordano Ventura came out on top of his game not giving up a hit until the 4th. In the 6th Joe Mauer hit an RBI 2B and Carlos Correa had an RBI to make it 3-2 and the Twins had hope. In the bottom of the 7th the crowd got what they wanted as Miguel Sano hit a game-changing 2-run HR. The Twins finally had the lead in a game they had to win. Then the Royals did it again. Bobby Witt Jr hit a solo HR to tie the game in the top of the 8th and then the Royals kept going. George Brett hit an RBI 2B and MVP candidate Salvador Perez hit an RBI 1B and the game ended with the Royals stealing the sweep with two comebacks in a row. The Twins had a setback they may regret with just 6 games left. The Rays, Yankees, and Twins are all tied for the last playoff spot. Salvador Perez had his 45th RBI of the season breaking the record of AL MVP JD Martinez last season and is in quite a race with Byron Buxton. Buxton also tied last season's record of 37 runs scored with 6 games left to play.

**GAME #33 — SEA 7 @ TEX 5**

The Mariners had a chance to keep up their pace with a strong showing in Texas against a team out of the race and they came out of the gate hot. Edgar Martinez hit an RBI 2B and then Edwin Encarnacion hit a 3-run HR to give the road team a 4-0 lead. Marcus Semien hit an RBI 3B and scored on a Nathaniel Lowe RBI in the 5th against Felix Hernandez cutting the lead in half. Encarnacion took matters in his own hands again hitting a solo HR in the 6th and then Robinson Cano hit a 2B, Ken Griffey Jr hit an RBI 2B, and Martinez hit an RBI 2B and the game was 7-2. Adrian Beltre hit a 3-run HR in the bottom of the 7th but it was not enough as the M's got a win they needed.

**GAME #34 — SEA 3 @ TEX 6**

Kyle Seager hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd but Ivan Rodriguez tied the game in the bottom half with his own 2-run HR. Nathaniel Lowe hit a solo HR in the 3rd and the M's were down 3-2. Mike Minor held the lead through 6 innings and the bullpen sealed the win. Adrian Beltre hit an RBI 2B and Juan Gonzalez hit a 2 RBI to pad the lead giving the Rangers a nice home win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • VERLANDER SHUTOUT • PUJOLS GRAND SLAM • RENDON WALK-OFF 2B

**GAME #33 — HOU 6 @ OAK 0**

Here comes Justin Verlander. Last season's AL Cy Young runner-up has made his move pitching a dominant 1-hit complete game shutout on the road in a pennant race. Verlander suddenly sits atop of the award race. The Astros finished this game off in the 1st inning when they hit 4 straight 1B with RBI from Jeff Bagwell and 2 RBI from Yordan Alvarez. Michael Brantley hit a solo HR in the 4th and Bagwell added a 2-run HR to cap the blowout win.

**GAME #34 — HOU 2 @ OAK 3**

Oakland got the split spoiling the Astros' hope for a sweep. Ramon Laureano hit a 2-run 2B in the 1st inning, but Jeremy Pena hit a 2-run 2B to tie the game in the 2nd inning. The game went tied 2-2 to the 6th when Starling Marte drew a bases-loaded walk to take the lead. The A's bullpen held and they escaped with a split. The Astros needed this win. They are still 2 games back with only 6 to play. They may need to win out just to tie the Mariners for the AL West.

**GAME #33 — LAD 3 @ LAA 8**

The Dodgers came in hot and had a chance to make a move on the Giants against their crosstown rivals while devastating the Angels' chances. Or the Angels could make their move and chase down the Mariners while sending the Dodgers back to the wild-card race. Shohei Ohtani did his job trying to keep up with Justin Verlander in the AL Cy Young race taking a shutout into the 9th. In the 5th inning Ohtani hit an RBI 1B and then in the 7th inning the Angels broke the game open. Albert Pujols hit a Grand Slam HR and Jared Walsh hit a solo HR, and in the 8th inning Mike Trout hit a 2-run HR. Cody Bellinger hit a 3-run HR in the 9th but the Angels won in a blowout.

**GAME #34 — LAD 4 @ LAA 5**

The Dodgers needed this win and took the lead on a Joc Pederson RBI 1B in the 5th but the Angels tied the game in the 6th on a CJ Cron solo HR. The Dodgers took the lead again in the 7th on another 3-run HR from Cody Bellinger and the Dodgers thought they could secure the split. But in the bottom of the 8th Justin Upton tied the game with a 3-run HR. Anthony Rendon hit a walk-off RBI 2B in the bottom of the 11th and the Angels got the sweep they needed and are now just 1 game back in the race for the AL West. Meanwhile the Dodgers have fallen back to the pack in the wild card race and have to get hot again with just 6 games left to play. Bellinger had 6 of the 7 RBI in the series for the Dodgers.

**GAME #33 — MIA 3 @ WSH 0**

Jose Fernandez pitched a gem throwing a 4-hit complete-game shutout while striking out 13. Max Scherzer took his shutout to the 7th but Jesus Sanchez broke the scoreless tie with an RBI 2B and scored on a Jacob Stallings RBI. Jazz Chisholm added an RBI 2B and the Marlins cruised to an easy win.

**GAME #34 — MIA 1 @ WSH 4**

Starlin Castro stepped up and got the split for the Nationals going 3-4 with a 3B and a 2-run HR. Stephen Strasburg pitched a strong 8 innings giving up only 6 hits and an RBI 2B to Gary Sheffield while walking 0 and striking out 10. Juan Soto added an RBI 1B in the 7th and the Nationals secured the split.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • BRYSON STOTT 2-RUN HR • IAN HAPP SOLO HR • METS WIN 6-1

**GAME #33 — PHI 1 @ NYM 6**

This was billed as a pitching battle between two heavyweights as Zack Wheeler would take on Jacob deGrom with the Mets trying to spoil their momentum even as they themselves have fallen out of the race. Meanwhile the Mets could take advantage of a fallen foe and really make a push to the division title that is now within reach. The Mets got to Wheeler with 3 2-run HRs from Darryl Strawberry, Francisco Lindor, and Mike Piazza. The Phillies scored in the 1st on an RBI 1B from Ryan Howard but couldn't score again. The Mets were able to get a win they needed and sealed the fate of the champion Phillies to retool for next season.

**GAME #34 — PHI 7 @ NYM 2**

The Phillies got their revenge in the final meeting on the season between the two foe handing the Mets a setback in their race for the NL East. Kyle Schwarber hit a 2-run HR, Bryson Stott hit an RBI 2B, and Lenny Dykstra hit a 2-run HR in the 5-run 2nd and the Phillies cruised. Francisco Lindor hit a solo HR and Michael Conforto hit an RBI 2B but that was all the Mets would get. Jean Segura added a solo HR in the win giving the champions a little pride as the season ends. Meanwhile the Mets are in a fight with the Braves that could go down to the final game.

**GAME #33 — CHC 4 @ ATL 5**

The Cubs brought their three-game winning streak into Atlanta where the Braves needed a strong showing. A home sweep would put them into a tie with the Mets for the NL East and they brought star rookie Spencer Strider to the matchup. Strider could all but secure the NL Cy Young with a strong performance against a strong team. Meanwhile Sammy Sosa has entered the NL MVP race after his 4 HR game. Strider gave up 3 singles to open the game including an RBI 1B to Ian Happ and the crowd was murmuring. Then in the bottom half Kyle Hendricks walked 4 in a row and then gave up a 2-run 1B to Ozzie Albies. Strider settled down and began mowing down batters finishing the game with 13 strikeouts which gave him an incredible 104, breaking Jacob deGrom's record from last season with still a game to play. Strider most likely locked up the NL Cy Young Award with his dominant performance. William Contreras hit a solo HR in the 6th and the game was 4-1 to the 8th. AJ Minter relieved and promptly gave up 3 hits and the Cubs scored twice on an RBI 2B from Anthony Rizzo and an RBI 3B from Seiya Suzuki. The 4-3 game went to the 9th where Ian Happ hit a solo HR off of Craig Kimbrel to tie the game. The Braves needed the game and Julio Teheran came in and gave the Braves 4 clutch innings. Finally in the bottom of the 13th William Contreras hit a walk-off solo HR sending the crowd home happy.

**GAME #34 — CHC 1 @ ATL 2**

Here come the Atlanta Braves. The Braves rebounded with a strong series winning 2 clutch games against a 1st place team. Marcell Ozuna hit an RBI 1B in the 1st to tie the game after Anthony Rizzo hit an RBI 1B in the top of the inning. Marcus Stroman and Max Fried both locked down and the game went 1-1 to the 5th. In the bottom of the 5th Ozzie Albies hit a 3B and scored on a Michael Harris RBI. The bullpen held and the Braves got the dream sweep. The Braves are now tied with the Mets as they head into the last 6 games.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • BURNES SHUTOUT • SUAREZ 3-RUN HR • LUIS GONZALEZ 2-RUN HR

**GAME #33 — CIN 7 @ PIT 0**

Here come the Reds. Luis Castillo dominated the lifeless Pirates pitching a 7-hit complete-game shutout. Eric Davis and Jesse Winker had RBI 2Bs in the 4th to put the Reds up 2-0 and then Eugenio Suarez took over. Suarez hit a 3-run HR in the 6th and then a 2-run HR in the 8th securing the blowout win.

**GAME #34 — CIN 8 @ PIT 3**

And now we have 2 races. The Braves tied the Mets in the NL East and the Reds have tied the Cubs in the NL Central. The Reds dominated the Pirates again. Hunter Greene took a 1-hit shutout into the 7th and Eugenio Suarez hit another 2-run HR in the 6th and Joey Votto made it 3-0 in the 7th. In the bottom of the 7th Andrew McCutchen woke up the Pirates with a 2-run HR, their first runs in the series. Andy Van Slyke added a clutch RBI 1B in the 8th and suddenly the game was tied. In the 10th inning Nick Castellanos hit an RBI 1B to retake the lead and then Suarez did it yet again hitting a 3-run HR to turn it into a blowout. Adam Duvall added an RBI 2B and the Reds got the sweep and moved into a tie for 1st place with 6 games left to play. Cincinnati hosts the Cubs in the next series setting up an epic showdown. Eugenio Suarez posted 18 total bases and 10 RBI in the series, both of which would tie each series record except that the last HR came in the 10th inning. Chris Sabo extended his hitting streak to 15 games. The Pirates have now lost nine games in a row and 14 of 15 in a dismal stretch.

**GAME #33 — STL 0 @ MIL 6**

St. Louis could get back into the wild-card race with a road sweep, but that would be quite a task facing Corbin Burnes and Brandon Woodruff and a desperate Milwaukee team clinging to their season at home. The Brewers could stay alive with a sweep themselves but would still need a lot of help. It did not start well for the Cardinals as the Brewers came out of the gate with 4 runs on a 2B from Christian Yelich, an RBI 2B from Ryan Braun, and a 3-run HR from Willy Adames. In the 2nd inning Rowdy Tellez hit a 2-run HR and the Brewers were off on a run. Burnes pitched 8 shutout innings and the Brewers kept their season alive while putting their rivals season on the brink.

**GAME #34 — STL 4 @ MIL 3**

The Brewers took a 2-0 lead on a Ryan Braun 1st inning 2-run HR but Yadier Molina tied the game in the 2nd with a 2-run HR. Paul DeJong hit a solo HR in the 3rd and the Cardinals had their split in hand. Adam Wainwright kept the Brewers at bay with 6 strong innings and then Paul Goldschmidt hit an RBI 1B in the 7th and the Cardinals just needed to hold on. In the bottom half of the 8th the Brewers mounted a rally but could only get 1 run across on an RBI 1B from Luis Urias. Ryan Helsley shut the door and the Cardinals got the road split keeping their season on life support, while the Brewers are all but eliminated.

**GAME #33 — COL 2 @ ARI 5**

Trevor Story hit a solo HR off of Zac Gallen to lead off the game and Ryan McMahon added an RBI to make it 2-0 after 1 inning. Luis Gonzalez hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd to tie the game, and then Christian Walker hit an RBI in the 7th to break the tie, and Lourdes Gurriel followed with 2-run HR that sealed the win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • BUMGARNER 4-HIT SHUTOUT • BELT 3-RUN HR • ROCKIES WIN 7-5

**GAME #34 — COL 7 @ ARI 5**

Trevor Story once again led off the game with a solo HR, and then hit another in the 3rd. Colorado took a 3-0 lead on an RBI from Brendan Rodgers. Down 3-0 in the 4th Christian Walker hit a 3-run HR and the game went tied to the 7th. In the bottom of the 7th Geraldo Perdomo hit an RBI 1B to give the home team the lead, but in the 8th Larry Walker hit an RBI 1B and Andres Galarraga hit a 2-run HR to give the Rockies the lead. Lourdes Gurriel hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 8th to make it close, but Todd Helton hit an RBI 1B in the 9th to seal the win giving them the road split.

**GAME #33 — SDP 3 @ SFG 2**

The Padres had a path to the playoffs but it would involve a very strong showing on the road in San Francisco against a team looking to secure the #1 seed. Yu Darvish came out strong taking a shutout into the 7th when he gave up an RBI 1B to Brandon Crawford. Carlos Rodon gave up RBI 1Bs to Fernando Tatis Jr and Dave Winfield in the 3rd and then Manny Machado hit a solo HR in the 7th. Buster Posey hit an RBI 1B in the 8th but it was not enough as the Giants fell in a game the Padres really needed. Tony Gwynn went 4-5 in the win.

**GAME #34 — SDP 0 @ SFG 5**

Madison Bumgarner got the Giants the win they needed for the split putting them back into the top seed pitching a 4-hit complete-game shutout. Brandon Belt hit a 3-run HR in the 2nd and Buster Posey hit an RBI 1B in the 5th to give the Giants a 4-0 lead. LaMonte Wade added an RBI 2B and the Giants cruised to a win and the split. The Padres got the split they needed to stay alive but they will need to win and hope during the last 6 games.

**ROUND #18****GAME #35 — BOS 1 @ BAL 4**

This is the pennant race. Both teams had a lot to play for. Tyler Wells stood up to the test and shined going 9 innings for a complete game giving up only 4 hits and an RBI 1B to David Ortiz with 2 outs in the 9th inning. Eduardo Rodriguez took his own shutout into the 6th but Anthony Santander hit a 2-run HR and Cal Ripken Jr went back-to-back with a solo HR driving Rodriguez from the game. Cedric Mullins added an RBI in the 8th and the O's got a big win. Meanwhile the Red Sox needed to win out to maybe make the AL East close. With the Red Sox loss the Blue Jays took a big step closer.

**GAME #36 — BOS 4 @ BAL 2**

The Red Sox got the win they needed and all but wrapped up their wild-card playoff spot. David Ortiz hit an RBI 2B in the 1st, but Anthony Santander hit another HR in the 2nd. Ortiz hit a solo HR in the 3rd, but Eddie Murray hit an RBI 1B in the bottom half and the game went tied 2-2 all the way to the 8th. In the top of the 8th Masataka Yoshida hit a 2B. Xander Bogaerts had an RBI, and Alex Verdugo had an RBI to give the Red Sox a 4-2 win after Garrett Whitlock shut the door. Tanner Houck pitched well in the win. Both teams got the split they needed and head into the last 4 games in good shape.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • DON MATTINGLY 2-RUN HR • DIAZ 2-RUN HR • JOEY WENDLE RBI 1B

**GAME #35 — TBR 9 @ TOR 4**

The Rays came in with hope and found it in Game #1. Randy Arozarena hit a solo HR in the 1st but George Springer hit an RBI 3B and scored on a Bo Bichette RBI. Brandon Lowe tied the game with a solo HR but Roberto Alomar hit an RBI 1B in the bottom half of the 2nd to retake the lead. Josh Lowe tied the game with a solo HR and then Yandy Diaz went off. Diaz hit a 2-run HR in the 5th to break open the game, and then hit a 2-run HR in the 7th to seal the win. Joey Wendle hit an RBI 1B in the 7th and Josh Lowe hit a second HR in the 9th to give the Rays a huge win.

**GAME #36 — TBR 1 @ TOR 2**

Vladimir Guerrero Jr hit an RBI 2B in the bottom of the 1st inning but Brandon Lowe hit a solo HR in the top of the 2nd to tie the game. Jose Berrios and Drew Rasmussen both pitched extremely well and the game went to the bottom of the 6th when George Springer connected for a solo HR that ended up being the decisive run. The Blue Jays got the win they needed and hold a 3-game lead with 4 games to play. However the final 2 games are against the chasing Red Sox. The Rays leave Toronto with a great split and are hanging in the race with the Yankees and Twins.

**GAME #35 — NYY 3 @ KCR 4**

The Kansas City Royals actually had a chance to sneak back into the race with a sweep at home against the Yankees who were ahead of them in the race. A poor showing would be devastating for New York. DJ LeMahieu starting it off with an RBI 1B in the 1st but Andrew Benintendi matched him with an RBI 1B in the bottom half. Gleyber Torres hit a solo HR in the 2nd, but in the bottom of the 5th the Royals tied the game on a Whit Merrifield RBI 2B. In the bottom of the 6th Alex Gordon got the big hit of the game with a 2-run 3B. Don Mattingly got the Yankees close with an RBI 2B in the 8th but the Yankees would get no closer and the Royals won their 5th game in a row keeping the slimmest hope alive. Brady Singer pitched well to earn the win.

**GAME #36 — NYY 8 @ KCR 1**

The Yankees got the win they needed and avoided disaster. A 6-run 2nd inning put the Royals' season on the brink. Gleyber Torres hit an RBI 1B and scored on an RBI 2B from Derek Jeter who scored on a 2-run 1B from DJ LeMahieu who scored on a 2-run HR from Don Mattingly. Masahiro Tanaka only allowed an RBI 3B in the 3rd over his six strong innings. Aaron Judge hit his 10th HR of the season with a 2-run shot in the 4th and the Yankees cruised to a win they needed. AL MVP candidate Salvador Perez ended his 14-game hitting streak and had a quiet series not adding to his record RBI total.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • JAKE BURGER 3-RUN HR • JIM THOME 2-RUN HR • POLANCO 2-RUN HR

**GAME #35 — MIN 8 @ DET 5**

The Twins had a chance to make a move against a last place team and they did. The Tigers gave Parker Meadows, Jace Jung, and Colt Keith their debuts at home as they look toward next season. Miguel Cabrera started off his 5-5 game with a solo HR in the 1st, but Jorge Polanco and Kirby Puckett had RBI 1Bs in the 2nd inning and the Twins had a lead they would keep. The Twins loaded the bases in the first 3 innings in a sign of what was to come. In the 5th Polanco had another RBI 1B, Byron Buxton hit an RBI 2B, and Joe Mauer capped it off with a 2-run 1B. Mickey Tettleton hit solo HR in the 5th and 7th innings and Parker Meadows made his first hit a solo HR in the 7th to make the game 6-4. Torii Hunter hit a 2-run HR to extend the lead and the Tigers could only get an RBI 1B from Victor Martinez as the Twins got the win they needed to keep pace with the Yankees. Joe Ryan pitched well to earn the win.

**GAME #36 — MIN 7 @ DET 2**

Kenta Maeda pitched a gem and the Twins rolled. Nelson Cruz and Torii Hunter had RBI in the 1st inning, Jorge Polanco had an RBI 3B in the 2nd, Josh Donaldson added an RBI in the 3rd, and Polanco hit an RBI 2B to make it 5-0. In the 5th Polanco hit a 2-run HR and seems to have earned his starting spot back just in time for the playoffs. Cecil Fielder hit a 2-run 2B in the 6th but it was not enough to stop the blowout win for the Twins. The win put the Twins into a playoff spot 1 game ahead of the Yankees now with only 4 games to play.

**GAME #35 — CHW 13 @ CLE 7**

Triston McKenzie got lit up in a game the Guardians needed. Luis Robert hit a 3-run 2B in the 2nd and then Cleveland walked in 3 runs in the 4-run 4th. Franmil Reyes hit a solo HR in the 2nd and a 2-run 2B in the 5th and the game was 7-3. Ahmed Rosario hit an RBI 1B in the 6th but Jake Burger hit an RBI 2B before Yasmani Grandal hit a 3-run HR. Jose Abreu and Andrew Vaughn hit RBI 2Bs in the 8th and the White Sox cruised to a big win. Jim Thome and Tyler Naquin hit solo HRs and Jason Kipnis added an RBI 1B in the loss.

**GAME #36 — CHW 6 @ CLE 2**

Jim Thome hit a 2-run HR in the 1st inning but Cleveland pitching didn't show up for this home series. Frank Thomas hit 2 solo HRs and Nick Madrigal and Yasmani Grandal hit RBI 1Bs, Gavin Sheets hit an RBI 2B, and Yoan Moncada capped the road sweep with an RBI in the 7th. Cleveland didn't score another run after the Thome homer. The Guardians did not show up in a series they needed and suddenly they have fallen into a tie for the AL Central lead. This will be a tense final 4 games for these two rivals.

**GAME #35 — LAA 2 @ TEX 3**

The Angels came into Texas with a chance to stay in the race for the AL West but the Texas Rangers showed up. The only thing Texas had to play for was getting a sweep to avoid having the worst record in the AL. Josh Hamilton hit a 2-run HR in the 1st but Albert Pujols hit an RBI 2B in the 3rd to cut the lead in half. Martin Perez pitched a strong game keeping the Angels at bay over 6 innings. The game went 2-1 to the 9th when the desperate Angels put 2 runners on and Shohei Ohtani hit an RBI 2B to tie the game. The Angels had new hope but the Rangers would not be denied the home win as Jonah Heim hit an RBI sacrifice to walk it off in the bottom of the 10th giving the home team a win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • JP CRAWFORD 3-RUN HR • JT REALMUTO SOLO HR • ALTUVE RBI 1B

**GAME #36 — LAA 3 @ TEX 11**

The Angels needed a win to stay alive and it started well when Albert Pujols hit a 2-run HR but the Rangers responded. Nathaniel Lowe hit a 2-run 1B in the bottom of the 1st and the Angels' lead evaporated. The Angels took the lead again in the top of the 3rd on a solo HR from CJ Cron and the Angels had hope again. But that hope was dashed and then dashed and then crushed. The Rangers scored 3 runs in the 4th, 3 runs in the 5th, and 3 runs in the 6th to blow out the Angels all but ending their season. Joey Gallo started it with a 3-run HR, Josh Hamilton had a 2-run 2B and a 2-run 1B, and Ivan Rodriguez and Corey Seager added RBI and the Rangers cruise to their second home sweep on the season. The Angels would need to win out and have a collapse by the Seattle Mariners.

**GAME #35 — HOU 7 @ SEA 4**

This game would be a playoff game for the Astros. Any loss would all but end their season, a season that started with the highest of hopes. However a road sweep by the Astros would put them into a tie with Seattle with 4 games to play. Everything rode on Game #1 for Houston. Mitch Haniger hit a solo HR in the 2nd and the M's could see the division title. Logan Gilbert came out strong but in the 5th inning things unraveled. Jose Altuve tied the game with an RBI 1B and then Yordan Alvarez hit a 3-run HR that changed the game. The Mariners came back in the bottom half on RBI 1Bs from Julio Rodriguez and Robinson Cano, but in the 7th inning Yordan Alvarez did it again with a 2-run HR that sealed the win. Altuve added an RBI 1B and the Astros secured a huge win to keep their season alive. Ken Griffey Jr hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 8th but it was not enough to stop the Astros from moving within 1 game. Christian Javier pitched a clutch 3⅓ innings of 1-hit ball to earn the win.

**GAME #36 — HOU 4 @ SEA 6**

This was a playoff game. The Seattle crowd came in buzzing. George Kirby and Lance McCullers faced each other in the biggest game of the season. Kirby showed up strong but McCullers did not. Robinson Cano hit an RBI 2B in the 1st, JP Crawford hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd, and then Mitch Haniger hit the big shot a 3-run HR in the 3rd to give the M's a 5-0. Houston chipped away with an Alex Bregman RBI 1B in the 5th but Edwin Encarnacion hit an RBI 2B in the 7th. The Astros fought back with a Kyle Tucker RBI 2B in the 8th and a Bregman 2-run 3B that actually brought the tying run to the plate, but Paul Sewald got Jeff Bagwell to pop out and the game and series was over. Seattle could exhale as they got the home split and moved a step closer to the AL West title. Houston got the win they needed and stayed alive, but they will need a Seattle collapse to make the playoffs. Alex Bregman did his part going 5-5 with a 2B and 3B. Bregman is now leading the AL in OPS at 1.043.

**GAME #35 — MIA 2 @ PHI 4**

The Phillies had the longest of shots to stay alive by winning out. It started with a good showing at home against a last place Marlins team. JT Realmuto hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 2nd but Jazz Chisholm hit an RBI 2B to tie the game in the 3rd. Chisholm hit an RBI 1B in the 5th and suddenly the Marlins had a lead. But in the bottom half of the 5th John Kruk hit an RBI 3B and scored on a Mike Schmidt RBI 1B and the Phillies had the lead. Bryson Stott added an RBI 1B in the 6th and the Phillies got a win to stay alive. Cole Hamels pitched well over 7 innings to lead the Phillies to the win. The Marlins were officially eliminated with the loss.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • MILES MIKOLAS SHUTOUT • RANGER SUAREZ SHUTOUT • METS WIN 7-3

**GAME #36 — MIA 0 @ PHI 5**

The Phillies cruised to the sweep as Ranger Suarez pitched 6 shutout innings, constantly getting out of trouble as he gave up 6 hits and 6 walks, but the Marlins could not score. Kyle Schwarber hit an RBI 1B in the 4th and then in the 5th Bryson Stott hit an RBI 2B and scored on a 2-run 2B from Lenny Dykstra and the Phillies were up 4-0. Bryce Harper hit a solo HR in the 7th and the Phillies' bullpen held. The Phillies moved back to .500 with the slimmest of hopes.

**GAME #35 — ATL 7 @ WSH 4**

The Braves came into Washington with quite a chance before them. A strong showing against a team that is not in the race could prove pivotal. It did not start well for Atlanta as they loaded the bases and did not score, and then gave up a 3-run HR to Josh Bell in the bottom half. In the 2nd inning Bell added another RBI and the Nationals were up 4-0 in a game the Braves needed. The game changed in the 6th when William Contreras hit an RBI 1B and then Ozzie Albies hit a game-tying 3-run HR. The bullpens held and the game went tied 4-4 to the 12th inning. In the top of the 12th Chipper Jones hit a 2-run HR and Matt Olson went back-to-back with a solo HR and the Braves were able to get a big comeback win.

**GAME #36 — ATL 5 @ WSH 0**

Atlanta came into Washington with a clear goal and they reached it. The Braves secured the road sweep and moved closer to a division title behind a strong performance from Kyle Wright who pitched 7 shutout innings. William Contreras hit a 2-run HR in the 4th and then Matt Olson, Marcell Ozuna, and Contreras all hit solo HRs in the 8th and the Braves cruised to an easy win. Atlanta all but secured a wild-card spot and have momentum at just the right time with four wins in a row putting the pressure on the Mets to keep pace. The Nationals were officially eliminated with the loss.

**GAME #35 — NYM 7 @ STL 3**

The Cardinals came into this series still alive but needed to win out, starting with a strong showing against a very good Mets team. Meanwhile the Mets came into St. Louis needing a strong showing to keep pace with the streaking Braves. This could be another pivotal series as the season winds down. Star rookie Lars Nootbaar hit his 9th HR on the year giving the Cardinals a 1-0 lead in the 2nd but Gary Carter hit a 2-run 2B and David Wright hit a solo HR. In the 7th inning Michael Conforto hit a Grand Slam HR and the game was a blowout. Nolan Arenado and Kolton Wong added RBI in the 8th and 9th but it was not enough as the Cardinals saw their season come to the brink. Kodai Senga pitched well in the win going 7 innings of 4-hit baseball.

**GAME #36 — NYM 0 @ STL 3**

The Cardinals kept their slimmest of hopes alive as they shut out the Mets. The Cardinals would need to win out but they started it well here as Nolan Arenado hit a 2-run 1B in the 5th and Yadier Molina hit a solo HR in the 6th. Miles Mikolas pitched 6 shutout innings in the win. The Mets fell a game back from the streaking Braves for the NL East but stay firmly in a wild-card spot.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • WILLY ADAMES 3-RUN HR • ROWDY TELLEZ 2-RUN HR • BAE 2-RUN 2B

**GAME #35 — MIL 4 @ PIT 5**

The Brewers could keep their season alive with a road sweep in Pittsburgh against a last-place team. It started well as Willy Adames hit a 3-run HR in the 1st. Jackson Chourio hit a solo HR in the 2nd and up 4-0 the Brewers were cruising. Freddy Peralta only gave up 1 run on an Endy Rodriguez solo HR. The Brewers gave the game over to their strong bullpen and the Pirates pounced. Jack Suwinski hit a 3-run HR and suddenly the game was tied. Later in the inning Gregory Polanco hit an RBI 2B off of Devin Williams and suddenly the Brewers' season was over. The Brewers never got another hit after the 4th inning and the Pirates got a nice home win as the season winds down.

**GAME #36 — MIL 7 @ PIT 8**

The split would keep the Brewers mathematically alive and it looked good as Rowdy Tellez hit a 2-run HR in the top of the 1st. Eric Lauer pitched 4 no-hit inning but in the 5th the Pirates rallied on RBI from Pedro Alvarez and Jack Suwinski. The desperate Brewers would not be denied and they scored 3 runs in the top of the 6th on an RBI 1B from Willy Adames and a 2-run 1B from Jackson Chourio. Up 5-2 the Brewers just needed to hold but it was not to be. In the bottom of the 6th Charlie Hayes hit a 2-run 1B and Bae added a 2-run 2B and suddenly the Pirates had the lead. Hayes added another 2-run hit with a 2B in the 7th and the Pirates bullpen held on during a tense 9th inning. The Brewers scored 2 runs on a big 2B from Rowdy Tellez but could not get the tying run home. The Pirates got a home sweep to celebrate as their dreadful season nears the end. The Brewers knew this was not their year, but this was still a difficult way to see it end.

**GAME #35 — CHC 10 @ CIN 3**

The Reds and the Cubs got to face each other with the NL Central on the line. Both teams came into their series tied for 1st place with 6 games left. A sweep by either team would likely be the title. A split would put the race into the final 4 games. The Cubs stormed out of the gates with 5 runs in the 2nd on RBI from Nico Hoerner and Ian Happ and a 3-run 2B from Ryne Sandberg. In the 3rd inning the Cubs added 3 more runs on RBI from Happ, Sammy Sosa, and Anthony Rizzo. Hoerner added RBI in the 4th and 9th and the Cubs cruised behind Jake Arrieta. Chris Sabo and Tyler Stephenson had RBI and Joey Votto had a solo HR in the loss.

**GAME #36 — CHC 6 @ CIN 3**

The Cubs made their move. An RBI 1B from Jason Heyward in the top of the 5th and an RBI from Nick Castellanos in the bottom of the 5th had the tense game tied 1-1. In the top of the 7th the Cubs unloaded for 5 runs on an RBI from Heyward, a 2-run 2B from Nico Hoerner, and a 2-run 1B from Ryne Sandberg. The Cubs bullpen gave up a 2-run HR to Jesse Winker but otherwise held and the Cubs got a huge road sweep. The Cubs are on the verge of the NL Central title and have all but secured a playoff spot. The Reds are left fighting for the wild-card spots after having made a valiant run for the division title. Jon Lester pitched 7 strong innings to earn the win. With the sweep the Cubs are in the race for the #1 seed with the San Francisco Giants. Chris Sabo saw his 16-game hitting streak end.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • ALEX WOOD SHUTOUT • BELLINGER SOLO HR • RYAN MCMAHON SOLO HR

**GAME #35 — SDP 7 @ COL 5**

The Padres have won 5 of 6 and find themselves only 1 game back in the wild-card race. They face a Rockies team in Colorado that would love to spoil their pursuit. The Padres took the lead in the 1st inning on a Dave Winfield RBI. In the 2nd inning the Padres scored 4 runs to take a 5-0 lead on RBI from Manny Machado and Winfield, and a 2-run 3B from Trent Grisham. Ryan McMahon hit a solo HR in the 2nd to get one run back and then the Rockies scored 4 runs in the 4th on 2Bs from Larry Walker, Kris Bryant, and McMahon. The game went tied 5-5 to the 9th when the Padres got the hit they needed with an RBI 2B from Winfield. Eric Hosmer added an RBI 1B and the Padres got a nice 7-5 road win.

**GAME #36 — SDP 6 @ COL 4**

The Padres reached their goal and won their 7th of 8 games moving firmly into the wild-card race. Fernando Tatis Jr went 3-5 with a 2B and HR and Francisco Mejia hit a 2-run HR to lead San Diego. Trent Grisham hit an RBI 3B and scored on a Tony Gwynn RBI 1B in the 6th, and Tommy Pham added an RBI 2B in the 9th. Tom Murphy and Andres Galarraga had RBI and Trevor Story and Todd Helton had solo HRs but the Rockies lost 6-4 and the Padres moved a step closer to the playoffs. Sean Manaea pitched a strong 6 innings to earn the win. The Rockies were officially eliminated with the loss. The Milwaukee Brewers were officially eliminated with the Padres' win.

**GAME #35 — LAD 13 @ ARI 0**

The Dodgers had a real chance. They held the final wild-card spot and were facing a last-place team. However with the Padres sweep the Dodgers needed a strong showing. And they got it. The Dodgers erupted for 13 runs while shutting out the Diamondbacks. Julio Urias pitched 7 shutout innings and Alex Wood pitched the final 2. Mookie Betts had an RBI 2B in the 3rd and a 2-run 1B in the 6-run 8th. Freddie Freeman added an RBI 1B in the 3rd and Cody Bellinger hit an RBI 1B in the 6th. Joc Pederson hit an RBI 1B in the 6th and then a 2-run HR in the 8th. Adrian Gonzalez went 4-5 with 3 2Bs and a BB and 2 RBI.

**GAME #36 — LAD 3 @ ARI 1**

Dustin May almost did it taking his shutout to the 9th getting the first out but giving up a 2B to Christian Walker and an RBI 1B to Lourdes Gurriel in the bottom of the 9th. The Dodgers took the lead in a 0-0 game in the 7th inning on an RBI 1B from Cody Bellinger. Justin Turner added an RBI 1B in the 8th and Bellinger hit a solo HR in the 9th for some insurance. Kenley Jansen came in and shut the door with 2 strikeouts and the Dodgers got the sweep they needed. The Dodgers and the Padres are in a real race for the last wild-card spot with both teams on hot streaks. Jake McCarthy saw his 14-game hitting streak end. Arizona is now 9-27 and has the worst record in all of baseball.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • LOGAN WEBB 5-HIT SHUTOUT • CUETO SHUTOUT • SFG WINS 4-0

**GAME #35 — OAK 0 @ SFG 4**

The A's had nothing left to play for but could play the role of spoilers against the rival Giants and their chase for the #1 seed. A strong showing in the Bay Area series would give bragging rights for the offseason. Game #1 turned out to be a very entertaining and strange game. Shintaro Fujinami took a perfect game to the 7th in a pitching masterpiece. Fujinami got his 4th strikeout getting the first out in the 7th but then Mike Yastrzemski broke open the 0-0 tie and ended the perfect game, no-hitter, and shutout with one swing, a solo HR. Logan Webb meanwhile avoided danger and kept the A's scoreless inning after inning. In the bottom of the 8th Fujinami walked 1 and Sean Doolittle came in to keep the deficit at 1. Doolittle walked Joey Bart and then Thairo Estrada hit a 3-run HR giving the Giants a 4-0 lead. Logan Webb took the ball in the 9th and shut the door getting his 5-hit complete-game shutout making him 8-0 on the season. The Giants had a unique stat-line with 4 runs on only 2 hits. The Athletics were officially eliminated with the loss.

**GAME #36 — OAK 0 @ SFG 10**

Johnny Cueto pitched a dominant game against a lifeless A's team. The Giants got their second shutout in a row completely dominating the A's. Cueto struck out 7 of the first 9 and finished his complete-game shutout with 13 strikeouts. Barry Bonds went 2-4 with a 2B, HR, and 3 RBI. Thairo Estrada started off a 7-run 6th with a 2-run 1B and was followed with RBI from Austin Slater, Buster Posey, Wilmer Flores, and Joey Bart. The Giants look ready for the playoffs as they close in on the #1 seed in a wire-to-wire run. The San Francisco Giants also clinched a wild-card playoff berth with the win.

## MLBC — WEEK 10

GAMES 37-40 • FINAL WEEK

## THE FIELD IS SET

*Toronto sets the wins record, San Francisco secures the NL's top seed, and the last four games choose October.*

**THE LEAD** Four games remained. Toronto needed only to finish its record-setting regular season. San Francisco still had to hold off Los Angeles for the NL West and the league's top National League seed. Atlanta led the Mets by one game. Cleveland and Minnesota were tied in the AL Central, with the Twins also fighting the Yankees and Tampa Bay for the final Wild Card. Seattle still had an AL West title to secure. The Dodgers had won six of eight to turn the NL West into a final-week chase. The schedule had reached its cleanest form: almost every game either clinched something, eliminated something or changed somebody else's path.

**THE WEEK** Toronto won three of four to finish 29-11 and set a new MLBC wins record. The Blue Jays' 28th victory matched San Francisco's previous high; number twenty-nine moved the record forward. San Francisco stumbled once in Colorado, but Johnny Cueto ended the suspense with a 3-hit, 11-strikeout shutout and the Giants secured the NL's #1 seed at 26-14. Atlanta won the NL East after the Mets were swept in Miami, including Jesús Luzardo's 2-hit shutout. Cleveland took the AL Central, Seattle held the West and Chicago won the NL Central. Minnesota captured the final AL Wild Card when Byron Buxton hit a playoff-clinching Grand Slam, his record twentieth HR. Gerrit Cole finished his Cy Young closing argument with a third consecutive 2-hit complete game, this one a 14-strikeout shutout of Baltimore. The save race had its own late exchange: Garrett Whitlock and Jordan Romano reached fourteen, Whitlock moved to fifteen, and Romano answered by matching fifteen.

**THE STAKES** The regular season is complete. Toronto and Cleveland receive the American League byes; Boston hosts Baltimore and Seattle hosts Minnesota. San Francisco and Atlanta receive the National League byes; Los Angeles hosts the Mets and Chicago hosts Cincinnati. Toronto owns the best record in MLBC history at 29-11. San Francisco owns the National League at 26-14. Byron Buxton's final-week Grand Slam is the difference between a record-setting individual season ending at forty games and continuing into October. The standings have finished their work. From here forward, only series scores matter.

**BEST RECORD**  
**TOR • 29-11**

**NL #1 SEED**  
**SFG • 26-14**

**FINAL AL BERTH**  
**MIN • 21-19**

**PLAYOFF FIELD**  
**12 clubs remain**

## WEEKLY HONORS

## HITTER OF THE WEEK

**GOLD BYRON BUXTON • MIN**  
2 HR • 5 RBI • *clinching Grand Slam*

**SILVER RYAN ZIMMERMAN • WSH**  
6 RBI • *late-week surge*

**BRONZE HOWIE KENDRICK • WSH**  
6 RBI • 3-run HR in finale

## PITCHER OF THE WEEK

**GOLD GERRIT COLE • NYY**  
CG SHO • 2 H • 14 K

**SILVER JESÚS LUZARDO • MIA**  
CG SHO • 2 H • 1 BB • 11 K

**BRONZE JOHNNY CUETO • SFG**  
CG SHO • 3 H • 11 K

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • COLE 2-HIT SHUTOUT • COLE FANS 14 • ORIOLES WIN 5-4

## ROUND #19

## GAME #37 — BAL 0 @ NYY 2

As the season winds down we enter the final start for the aces. The AL Cy Young race is thrilling as season-long frontrunner Alek Manoah has fallen back to the pack while Shohei Ohtani, Justin Verlander, and Gerrit Cole have been absolutely dominant. Gerrit Cole got his chance against an Orioles team that is fighting to secure a playoff spot. With the Minnesota Twins hot streak the Yankees are currently out of the playoffs so this series was essentially a playoff series. A poor showing from the O's could derail all the great work from the bulk of the season. John Means showed up big time pitching 8 innings of 3-hit baseball. The problem was that Gerrit Cole might have won the AL Cy Young with an epic performance. Cole pitched a 2-hit complete-game shutout while striking out 14. It is Gerrit Cole's incredible 3rd 2-hit complete game in a row. Gleyber Torres hit a solo HR in the 2nd that was enough to propel the Yankees. DJ LeMahieu hit a 3B and scored on a Don Mattingly RBI and the Yankees held on as they watch an ace pitch a masterpiece as they fight for the playoffs. Cole set the bar extremely high for the other 3 pursuers. Cole's 14th strikeout was his 103 on the season besting Jacob deGrom season-leading 102 last year. Cole is still behind Atlanta's record-setting flamethrower Spencer Strider. Gerrit Cole is 3-0 with 27 innings pitched in his last 3 starts having given up only 6 hits while striking out 41 in an incredible stretch. He is a deserving award winner as this performance came down the stretch of a tense playoff push.

## GAME #38 — BAL 5 @ NYY 4

This was a playoff game in every way. There were high stakes for both teams and they played quite a game. Nestor Cortes took a shutout into the 7th but the Yankees only had a 1-0 lead. DJ LeMahieu hit another 3B scoring Derek Jeter with his RBI. In the 7th inning the O's responded as they faced a very real danger to their stellar season. Cal Ripken Jr had the biggest hit of the season with an RBI 1B scoring Eddie Murray after his 2B. Ramon Urias scored Ripken with an RBI 1B and the O's had a 2-1 lead potentially saving their season. Now the Yankees faced being behind in the playoff race and Aaron Hicks had the biggest hit of their season with a game-tying solo HR. The game went tied to the 8th and Clay Holmes got lit up giving up a solo HR to Gunnar Henderson and a 2-run HR to Anthony Santander. The O's went to the bottom of the 9th up 5-2 but Jorge Posada hit a 2-run HR off of Zach Britton and suddenly the game was close again. Britton got the final 2 outs and the O's got a split in a huge comeback win. This win may have secured the O's their playoff spot as they have at a minimum qualified for a tiebreaker scenario. Meanwhile the Yankees continue to fight with the Twins and Rays for the last spot.

## GAME #37 — BOS 3 @ TBR 2

Boston got the win they needed to clinch a playoff spot. Rafael Devers hit a solo HR in the 2nd off of Tyler Glasnow. Masataka Yoshida hit an RBI 1B in the 6th and the Red Sox held a 2-0 lead. Chris Sale pitched 5 strong innings only giving up 1 hit but in the 6th he ran into trouble when Randy Arozarena hit a solo HR and Hunter Renfroe tied the game with an RBI 1B. In a 2-2 game the Red Sox broke the tie with an RBI 1B from Alex Verdugo. The bullpen held and the Red Sox clinched their spot. Meanwhile the Rays are left scrambling on the verge of falling out of the race. The win kept the AL East title alive for Boston.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • WADE BOGGS 2-RUN HR • HUNTER SOLO HR • NELSON CRUZ RBI 2B

**GAME #38 — BOS 2 @ TBR 5**

The Red Sox scored first with 2 runs in the 3rd on a 2-run HR from Wade Boggs. The desperate Rays were suddenly fighting for their season. Brandon Lowe hit his 12th HR on the season in the 5th inning to cut the lead in half. In the bottom of the 7th Joey Wendle tied the game 2-2 with an RBI 2B. In the 8th, against new saves record holder Garrett Whitlock, the Rays broke through. Austin Meadows got the biggest hit of the year for the Rays with an RBI 1B that broke the tie. Brandon Lowe and Josh Lowe hit RBI 1Bs and the Rays got the win they needed to stay alive. The Yankees and Rays will watch the Twins with a lot of anticipation. The Yankees and Rays are tied and will face each other in Tampa in the final series of the season. The Rays' win eliminated the Kansas City Royals.

**GAME #37 — MIN 3 @ TOR 5**

All eyes are now on the Twins as they have the difficult task of playing the top seed in their house. The Blue Jays needed just 1 more win for the AL East title and the #1 seed throughout the playoffs. The Twins needed a single win to move a game ahead of the Yankees and Rays with only 2 to play, and knowing that those two teams played each other in the final series meant that a single win could prove the key to their postseason as they played the last-place White Sox in their final series. Meanwhile Alek Manoah has seen his chances of winning the AL Cy Young Award almost vanish. Manoah looked like the favorite for most of the season but he has been passed by a lights-out Gerrit Cole. The Twins come in hot winning 7 of their last 9 led by AL MVP clear favorite record-setting Byron Buxton. Nelson Cruz hit a 2B in the 2nd inning and scored on an RBI 2B from Josh Donaldson. Danny Jansen tied the game with a solo HR in the 3rd but the Twins took the lead again in the 6th on a Cruz solo HR. In the bottom of the 6th Vladimir Guerrero Jr hit a 2-run 1B that ended up winning the AL East. Jose Bautista and Matt Chapman added RBI and the Blue Jays cruised to a big win. Byron Buxton did it again in the top of the 9th hitting a solo HR that was his record-setting 19th on the season. Alek Manoah won't win the AL Cy Young Award but he had a terrific season going 8-1 with a 2.23 ERA. Jordan Romano secured his 14th save on the season which ties Garrett Whitlock for a new record. Congratulations to the Toronto Blue Jays the division winner of the AL East.

**GAME #38 — MIN 4 @ TOR 5**

What a game. Torii Hunter hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd and the Twins were on the verge of the playoffs. Hunter hit a solo HR in the 7th and the Twins moved a step closer. Pablo Lopez had pitched 6 innings of 3-hit baseball but lost it in the 7th. Jose Bautista hit a 3-run HR that suddenly tied the game. The Twins would not be denied and took the lead back in the 8th on an RBI from Josh Donaldson. Closer Jhoan Duran just needed to get 3 outs and the Twins would just about lock up a playoff berth but it was not to be. Jose Bautista hit a 2B and Teoscar Hernandez hit a 2-run HR to walk it off for the Blue Jays. Toronto's 28th win matched San Francisco's MLBC record from last season. The Twins leave devastated to not get a win and have fallen into a tie with the Yankees and Rays, although they do own the tiebreaker with both teams. The Baltimore Orioles secured a wild-card playoff spot with the Twins loss.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • JIM THOME GRAND SLAM • GIMENEZ 3-RUN HR • KIPNIS RBI 2B

**GAME #37 — DET 3 @ CHW 4**

The Tigers and White Sox squared off trying to avoid last place. Akil Baddoo got the Tigers on the board with an RBI in the 2nd and rookie Colt Keith hit an RBI 3B to give the Tigers a 2-0 lead they would take to the 6th. In the bottom of the 6th Andrew Vaughn hit an RBI 1B and the White Sox were on the board. In the bottom of the 7th Luis Robert tied the game with an RBI 1B and Frank Thomas gave the home team the lead with an RBI 1B. The White Sox looked good until Miguel Cabrera hit an RBI 1B in the top of the 9th to tie the game. In the bottom of the 10th Andrew Vaughn collected his 4th hit of the game with a walk-off solo HR to give the White Sox the win.

**GAME #38 — DET 2 @ CHW 4**

Nick Madrigal hit a 2-run 2B in the 2nd and then Cecil Fielder tied the game in the 4th with a 2-run HR. The 2-2 game went to the bottom of the 8th where Eloy Jimenez secured the home sweep with a 2-run HR. Liam Hendriks came in and shut the door and the White Sox moved out of last place with a home sweep. Lucas Giolito pitched 7 strong innings in the win. It was the White Sox's 4th win in a row.

**GAME #37 — CLE 9 @ KCR 6**

Cleveland had quite a chance as the Twins have faltered after having tied the Guardians at the top. A strong showing in Kansas City could secure the AL Central title. It started well for the Guardians when Jim Thome hit a solo HR off of Zack Greinke in the 4th but the Royals scored 4 runs in the bottom half on a Grand Slam HR from Cam Gallagher. Facing a loss they could not afford the Guardians stormed back with 5 runs in the 6th. Cleveland got 5 hits in a row and RBIs from Carlos Santana, Jim Thome, Franmil Reyes, Tyler Naquin, and Andres Gimenez. Cleveland added 3 more runs in the 8th on a 3-run HR from Gimenez and the Guardians cruised. Andrew Benintendi and Bobby Witt Jr added RBI in the loss. Shane Bieber survived the Grand Slam to get the win moving Cleveland 1 step closer to the AL Central title.

**GAME #38 — CLE 11 @ KCR 2**

Because Cleveland held the tiebreaker over the Twins the win against the Royals won them the AL Central. Jason Kipnis hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd and then Steven Kwan hit a 2-run 1B to give Cleveland a 3-0 lead. In the 5th inning Tyler Naquin hit a 3-run HR and the lead was 6-0. In the 6th inning Oscar Gonzalez hit a 2-run 1B and Bo Naylor added an RBI making it 9-0. Adalberto Mondesi hit a 2-run HR to get the Royals on the board but it was not enough to stop Cleveland from clinching. Kipnis added an RBI 2B and Ahmed Rosario finished it off with an RBI 1B to make it 11-2. Corey Kluber got his 8th win in the blowout. Congratulations to the Cleveland Guardians champions of the AL Central.

**GAME #37 — OAK 1 @ TEX 2**

The Rangers could climb out of last place with a home sweep. Rickey Henderson hit a solo HR in the 3rd, but Jonah Heim had an RBI 2B to tie the game. Chris Bassitt and Nathan Eovaldi both settled in and didn't give up another run. Both bullpens held and the game went tied 1-1 to the bottom of the 12th where the Rangers loaded the bases and Adolis Garcia sent the crowd home happy with an RBI sacrifice fly.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • ROUGHNED ODOR 2-RUN HR • CJ CRON 2-RUN 2B • O'HOPPE 2-RUN 1B

**GAME #38 — OAK 1 @ TEX 5**

The Texas Rangers reached their goal climbing out of last place now having won 5 in a row. Meanwhile the A's have lost 4 in a row and have fallen into last place. Ivan Rodriguez had an RBI in the 1st and Corey Seager had RBI 1Bs in the 3rd and 5th. Rougned Odor hit a 2-run HR in the 4th and the Rangers cruised to a win behind a strong performance from Mike Minor. Sean Murphy had an RBI 2B in the loss.

**GAME #37 — LAA 1 @ SEA 2**

The Los Angeles Angels had a shot but they needed to sweep the 1st place Mariners in Seattle. Shohei Ohtani took the ball with an outside shot at the AL Cy Young against M's ace Felix Hernandez. This was a playoff game for both teams. It started well for the Angels as Shohei Ohtani walked, stole a base, and scored on an Albert Pujols RBI 2B in the top of the 1st inning. In the bottom of the 2nd Edgar Martinez connected against Ohtani for a solo HR to tie the game 1-1. In the bottom of the 4th Cal Raleigh hit an RBI sacrifice that may have ended the Angels' season. Felix Hernandez held on for 7 strong innings and Diego Castillo and Paul Sewald shut the door on the Angels as the Mariners got their biggest win of the season and moved to the brink of the AL West title.

**GAME #38 — LAA 9 @ SEA 2**

This was a must-win game for the Angels to keep their season alive. Mike Trout led off the game with a solo HR and Albert Pujols followed him with a solo HR and the Angels had a 2-0 lead. Patrick Sandoval put runners on base in all 5 of his innings but didn't give up a run. David Fletcher hit an RBI 1B in the 4th and then Logan O'Hoppe hit a solo HR in the 7th and the Angels were up 4-0 in their must-win game. CJ Cron hit an RBI 2B and Justin Upton hit a 2-run 2B in the 7th and the Angels were up 7-0. Mitch Haniger hit a 2-run HR in the bottom of the 7th but O'Hoppe added a 2-run 1B to seal the blowout win. The Angels stayed alive and secured the tiebreaker with the Mariners. They will have a big showdown with Houston hoping the A's can somehow sweep the Mariners. The M's got the split they needed and stand on the brink of the AL West title.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • MATT OLSON 2-RUN HR • YULI GURRIEL SOLO HR • HOU WINS 2-1

**GAME #37 — SDP 1 @ HOU 2**

The Houston Astros still had a chance, but they would need to win. Meanwhile the Padres likewise needed wins. This was another playoff series with both teams needing a sweep. A split would likely leave both teams out of the playoffs. This was a matchup of two pitchers who both might finish 2nd in their respective Cy Young races. Yu Darvish still had a chance to pass Spencer Strider but a strong performance would likely wrap up 2nd place, while Justin Verlander had been passed by a remarkable run from Gerrit Cole, he could still lock up 2nd place with another gem. This was a tense playoff game from the first pitch. With these 2 aces locked in a single run could be the difference. The game went scoreless to the 6th with Verlander only giving up 1 hit and a walk, and Darvish only giving up 2 hits but 4 walks. In the top of the 6th Tony Gwynn hit a 1B, aggressively took 3rd on a 1B from Fernando Tatis Jr and scored on a sacrifice RBI from Manny Machado, and just like that the Padres had the all-valuable lead. In the bottom of the 7th Darvish got the first 2 outs but Jeremy Pena hit a deep drive to LF that Tommy Pham couldn't secure. This brought up the most unlikely hero in Garrett Stubbs who took Darvish deep for a 2-run HR that may have changed the fate of two franchises. Ryan Pressly closed the door and the Astros got the win putting a huge dent in the Padres' playoff push.

**GAME #38 — SDP 3 @ HOU 9**

Houston did it. Behind star Jose Altuve the Astros stayed alive. The desperate Padres came out hot with RBI 1Bs from Manny Machado and Eric Hosmer but they left the bases loaded as the Astros escaped only down 2-0. Jose Altuve changed the game in the 3rd with a clutch 3-run HR giving Houston the lead. The Padres would not go down without a fight and came right back with an RBI from Trent Grisham in the 4th that tied the game 3-3. In the bottom of the 4th Houston took the lead right back on a 1B from Altuve who scored on an RBI 2B from Alex Bregman, and then Altuve struck again with another 3-run HR that put the game out of reach. Yuli Gurriel added a solo HR to his 2 2Bs and the Astros cruised all but ending the season for the Padres, as they have to depend on an eliminated Rockies team to beat the Dodgers. The Astros live to fight and will need to sweep the Angels and hope the A's can take 1 from the Mariners. The Padres loss means that the Chicago Cubs and Atlanta Braves both made the playoffs.

**GAME #37 — ATL 4 @ MIA 2**

All eyes were upon star rookie Spencer Strider. With even a decent start he should wrap up the NL Cy Young Award in his first season. With a great start he could set some all time numbers. Miami sent ace Jose Fernandez to the mound to try to get a win against a rival. Atlanta could close in on the NL East title with a strong showing. Strider was rocky walking 7 and getting into trouble in every inning. He gave up an RBI 1B to Gary Sheffield in the 3rd and an RBI 1B from Ichiro Suzuki in the 4th to tie the game. Matt Olson hit a 2-run HR in the 1st inning and then a 2-run 1B in the 5th to reclaim the lead. That was all the Braves would need. The bullpen held and the Braves got one big step closer to the NL East title. Spencer Strider certainly did enough to lock up the NL Cy Young Award in a rookie season for the ages in all sports. All eyes will be upon the rookie to see how he handles the playoff pressure of an ace. The Atlanta Braves secured a playoff spot with the Padres recent loss.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • DEGROM FANS 11 • SCHERZER FANS 12 • SCHMIDT GRAND SLAM

**GAME #38 — ATL 0 @ MIA 2**

Atlanta did not get the second win they needed. Sandy Alcantara shut down the Braves with a 6-hit no-walk complete-game shutout. The Marlins only got 3 hits off of Max Fried but one was a 2-run HR from Gary Sheffield in the bottom of the 1st. The Marlins held on behind a stellar pitching performance. The Braves will host the champion Phillies in the final series which may prove to be dramatic.

**GAME #37 — WSH 1 @ NYM 0**

The Mets had a chance to secure a playoff spot and they sent ace Jacob deGrom to the mound. deGrom showed up big time pitching 9 shutout innings only giving up 5 hits and 2 walks striking out 11. The Mets could not have asked for more from their ace, the only problem was Washington sent its ace Max Scherzer to the mound. Scherzer matched deGrom every step of the way pitching 9 shutout innings only giving up 4 hits with 0 walks and 12 strikeouts. It was a pitching duel for the ages as a single run would send the Mets to the playoffs. But it was Washington who broke through as Victor Robles scored the winning run on an RBI from Ryan Zimmerman.

**GAME #38 — WSH 2 @ NYM 8**

Once again a win would send the Mets to the playoffs. Stephen Strasburg and Noah Syndergaard both pitched 4 shutout innings, and both lost it in the 5th. CJ Abrams hit a 2-run HR and the Mets' crowd grew uneasy. The fans found reason to cheer shortly after as the Mets unloaded for 5 runs sending 9 hitters to the plate. Gary Carter and Francisco Lindor had RBI 1Bs, Brandon Nimmo had a 2-run 2B, and David Wright hit an RBI 2B and the Mets collectively exhaled. In the 7th the Mets scored 3 runs on an RBI from Pete Alonso and a 2-run 2B from Darryl Strawberry and they began their playoff celebration. The New York Mets are going to the dance and with Jacob deGrom anything is possible.

**GAME #37 — MIL 4 @ PHI 10**

The Phillies still had a microscopic chance needing to go 4-0 and have the Dodgers go 0-4. It started with a game against an eliminated Brewers team who sent Corbin Burnes to face Zack Wheeler. Bryce Harper hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 1st and the Phillies had a lead in a must-win game. Ryan Braun hit a 2-run 2B in the 3rd but JT Realmuto hit a 2-run HR in the bottom half to take the lead right back. In the bottom of the 6th Mike Schmidt hit a Grand Slam HR to seal the win. Bryson Stott had a solo HR and Harper and Kyle Schwarber hit RBI 1Bs in the 3-run 8th. Brice Turang hit an RBI 3B and Garrett Mitchell hit an RBI 1B in the 9th but it was not enough to stop the blowout win for the Phillies who stayed alive behind a strong start from Zach Wheeler.

**GAME #38 — MIL 6 @ PHI 4**

The champion Phillies have been eliminated from the playoff race. Bryce Harper hit a 2-run HR and Ryan Howard added a solo HR in the 1st and the Phillies had a 3-0 lead against Brandon Woodruff. Aaron Nola could not keep the lead as the Brewers chipped away with a Lorenzo Cain RBI 1B in the 2nd and a Mario Feliciano RBI 1B in the 4th. Keston Hiura hit a solo HR in the 6th to tie the game and Jackson Chourio gave the road team the lead with an RBI 1B. Chourio put the game out of reach with a 2-run HR in the 8th and the Brewers got the road split. Bryson Stott hit another solo HR in the loss. The Phillies will look to retool and compete again next season.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • KERSHAW FANS 9 • RYNE SANDBERG 3-RUN HR • CHRIS SABO RBI 1B

**GAME #37 — PIT 2 @ CHC 6**

The Chicago Cubs are on the verge of a division title and a home sweep would secure it. Jack Suwinski hit a solo HR to lead off the game and Rodolfo Castro hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd. The Cubs got on the board in the 4th on a solo HR from Ian Happ and then Ryne Sandberg hit a big 3-run HR and Sammy Sosa followed with a 2-run HR, his 17th on the season. The Cubs cruised to a blowout win that got them 1 win away from the NL Central. Kyle Hendricks pitched well to earn the win.

**GAME #38 — PIT 5 @ CHC 3**

Andrew McCutchen hit a 2-run HR in the top of the 1st but Seiya Suzuki cut the lead in half with a solo HR in the 2nd. Charlie Hayes hit a 2-run HR to make it 4-1, but in the bottom half of the 4th Anthony Rizzo scored on a wild pitch to keep it close. Hayes hit another HR in the 8th and the Cubs just could not catch up. Jason Heyward added an RBI 1B in the 8th but it was not enough to get the win they needed. The Reds stayed alive in the division chase with the win by the Pirates. Chris Archer pitched well to earn the win.

**GAME #37 — CIN 2 @ STL 5**

The Cardinals had the slimmest of chances and it would start with sweeping the Reds. Star rookie Lars Nootbaar hit a 2-run 1B in the 1st and Tommy Edman added an RBI in the 2nd. Adam Duvall hit a solo HR in the 3rd to get on the board but Paul Goldschmidt and Nootbaar hit solo HRs to make it 5-1. Chris Sabo hit an RBI 1B in the 9th but the Cardinals got the win they needed in a must-win game. The Chicago Cubs clinched the NL Central title with the Reds loss. Jack Flaherty had a strong 6 innings to earn the win.

**GAME #38 — CIN 5 @ STL 4**

The season ended for the Cardinals in the 3rd inning. Adam Wainwright just couldn't get outs, although in the rest of his 6 innings he only gave up 1 hit. But in the 3rd the Reds sent 11 hitters to the plate. Joey Votto had an RBI, Nick Castellanos hit a 2-run 2B, and Jesse Winker and Chris Sabo hit RBI 1Bs to make it 5-0. Matt Carpenter hit an RBI 1B in the 4th and then a bases-loaded 3-run 2B in the 7th to make it a 1-run game. The Reds bullpen held and the Cincinnati Reds clinched a wild-card playoff spot. After just missing a spot last season the Reds will have a chance for a championship. Hunter Greene pitched a strong 6 innings for the win.

**GAME #37 — LAD 14 @ COL 0**

The Dodgers could secure the last playoff spot with a sweep in Colorado. Game #1 was an epic blowout. The offense showed up big time, and Clayton Kershaw pitched an utterly dominant game. Kershaw gave up only 2 singles in a complete-game shutout walking 0 and striking out 9. Max Muncy started it off with a 2-run HR and added an RBI 2B in the 6-run 2nd. Cody Bellinger hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd and a solo HR in the 5th. Trea Turner added a solo HR in the 2nd, and Justin Turner added a 2-run 1B. Joc Pederson hit an RBI 3B in the 3rd, and 2-run 1B in the 6th. Adrian Gonzalez hit an RBI 1B in the 7th and Turner hit an RBI 2B in the 9th to seal the 14-0 blowout putting the Dodgers within 1 win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • JIM THOME 2-RUN HR • DAVID ORTIZ 2-RUN 2B • ARI WINS 2-1

**GAME #38 — LAD 9 @ COL 2**

The Dodgers secured the sweep giving them the last playoff spot in another blowout win. Walker Buehler took a shutout to the 7th when Trevor Story hit a 2-run 1B providing the only runs the Rockies would score in the entire series. In the 4th inning the Dodgers scored 7 runs on a 2-run 1B from Cody Bellinger, RBI 1Bs from Trea Turner, Mookie Betts, and Max Muncy, and a 2-run 2B from Freddie Freeman. Mookie Betts and Muncy hit solo HRs in the 6th and the Dodgers cruised to the sweep. The Rockies will look to add some pitching in the offseason.

**GAME #37 — SFG 3 @ ARI 2**

Zac Gallen showed up and only gave up an RBI 1B to Joe Panik even though he was in trouble most of the game. Carlos Rodon pitched well only giving up an RBI 1B to Lourdes Gurriel before he gave up a solo HR to Matt Williams which gave the Diamondbacks a lead. It was a short-lived lead as Barry Bonds broke through with a 2-run HR that sealed a great comeback win for the Giants putting them 1 win from the NL West.

**GAME #38 — SFG 1 @ ARI 2**

The Giants missed a chance. Madison Bumgarner pitched a strong 7 innings but Geraldo Perdomo hit a solo HR in the 3rd and Carson Kelly gave the Diamondbacks the lead with a 2-out RBI 1B in the bottom of the 7th. The Giants had tied the game in the 6th on an RBI 2B from Barry Bonds after a 2B from LaMonte Wade but they couldn't score again and lost a game they could have won. The Giants will go into the final series just needing 1 win to secure the division. Merrill Kelly pitched a terrific game only giving up 5 hits and 2 walks over 7 innings.

**ROUND #20****GAME #39 — BAL 3 @ CLE 2**

The Orioles secured the 2nd wild-card spot with the win. Baltimore on got 3 hits but one of them was a 3-run HR from Adley Rutschman. Josh Naylor had an RBI and Tyler Naquin scored on a wild pitch, but it was not enough and the O's got the win behind a strong start from Tyler Wells. Cleveland had nothing to play for as they have already secured the #2 seed for the AL playoffs.

**GAME #40 — BAL 3 @ CLE 4**

Jim Thome hit a 2-run HR in the 1st inning and Josh Naylor went back-to-back with a solo HR to give the Guardians a 3-0 lead. Gunnar Henderson hit an RBI 3B and scored on an Adley Rutschman RBI. Jose Ramirez hit a solo HR to add some insurance which matters when Henderson hit a solo HR to make it a 1-run game again. The Cleveland bullpen held and the Guardians got a win to finish a strong season. The Cleveland Guardians are the AL Central champions and will be the #2 seed in the playoffs hoping to make a championship run.

**GAME #39 — TOR 1 @ BOS 4**

Both teams had everything secured coming into this series. The Blue Jays are the #1 seed and the Red Sox are the #1 wild-card. Masataka Yoshida hit a solo HR to leadoff the bottom of the 1st and Randal Grichuk tied the game with a solo HR in the 4th. Christian Arroyo hit a solo HR in the 5th to reclaim the lead and then in the bottom of the 8th David Ortiz hit a 2-run 2B to seal the win. Garrett Whitlock moved ahead of a tie to set a new saves record at 15.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • JD MARTINEZ 3-RUN HR • JOSH LOWE 2-RUN HR • TORRES 2-RUN HR

**GAME #40 — TOR 7 @ BOS 6**

The Blue Jays got off to an early start scoring 3 runs in the 1st inning on a 2-run HR from George Springer and an RBI from Kevin Pillar. Jose Bautista hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd, and Alejandro Kirk hit a solo HR in the 3rd. The Red Sox got on the board in the bottom of the 2nd on a 2-run HR from Christian Arroyo. Matt Chapman hit a 2-run HR in the 4th and the Blue Jays held a 7-2 lead. JD Martinez hit a solo HR in the 7th and then Jackie Bradley hit a 3-run HR to make it close. But Jordan Romano came in and shut the door, earning his 15th save, which ties Garrett Whitlock for the new record at 15. Jose Berrios pitched well to earn his 7th win on the season.

**GAME #39 — NYY 4 @ TBR 8**

The New York Yankees had a chance to make the playoffs, but only if they sweep the Rays and hope the Twins lose 1 against the White Sox. The Tampa Bay Rays had a chance to make the playoffs, but only if they sweep the Yankees and hope the Twins lose 1 against the White Sox. The Yankees got an early run against Jeffrey Springs on a Giancarlo Stanton RBI in the top of the 1st to support Luis Severino. But the Rays would not be denied. Mike Zunino hit a 2-run HR in the bottom of the 3rd inning to give the Rays a 2-1 lead. But it was the Yankees turn to not be denied as Hideki Matsui hit a 2-run HR to reclaim the precious lead. Then in the bottom of the 4th Hunter Renfroe hit a solo HR to tie the game, and in the bottom of the 5th Yandy Diaz hit a solo HR to give the Rays the 4-3 lead. In this wild see-saw affair Gleyber Torres hit a solo HR to tie the game, the 5th home run in a row to tie or change the lead in just a few innings. Then the resilient Rays struck a mighty blow when Josh Lowe hit a 2-run HR, and Kevin Kiermaier followed with a solo HR, the 5th of the game for the Rays, and they held a 7-4 lead in a must-win game. In the bottom of the 7th the Rays hit their incredible 6th home run of the game on a solo HR from Yandy Diaz. The bullpen held and the Rays eliminated the New York Yankees on an unbelievable power display in a must-win game.

**GAME #40 — NYY 6 @ TBR 3**

The Yankees returned the favor with a certainly fatal blow to the Tampa Bay Rays. The loss for the Rays means that a single win from the Twins gives Minnesota the final playoff spot. Gleyber Torres hit a solo HR in the 2nd, but Austin Meadows hit a 2-run 2B and Hunter Renfroe hit an RBI 2B and the Rays had a 3-1 lead. But the Yankees had revenge on their mind as Torres hit another solo HR and rookie Anthony Volpe hit a 2-run HR to reclaim the lead. The Yankees pitching held on and DJ LeMahieu hit a 2-run 2B to seal the win and split. It looks like both teams will miss the playoffs after a terrific playoff push down the stretch. Both teams will look to add to their teams and finish the race next season.

**GAME #39 — DET 11 @ KCR 8**

The Tigers erupted for 4 runs in the 1st inning on an RBI 3B from Mickey Tettleton, an RBI 1B from Kerry Carpenter, and a 2-run HR from Spencer Torkelson, and the Royals responded. The Royals scored 6 runs in the bottom of the 2nd on an RBI 1B from Hunter Dozier, RBI 2Bs from MJ Melendez, Whit Merrifield, and George Brett, and a 2-run 1B from Bobby Witt Jr, but the Tigers soon responded. In the top of the 4th the Tigers scored 4 more runs on RBIs from Miguel Cabrera, Victor Martinez, Carpenter, and Torkelson. The Tigers scored 2 more runs in the 5th on a 2-run 2B from Tettleton and the Tigers would cruise. George Brett and Jorge Soler had RBI in the bottom of the 7th, and Colt Keith added an RBI 1B to give the Tigers an 11-8 win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • KYLE TUCKER 2-RUN HR • YOAN MONCADA 2-RUN HR • CHW WINS 4-3

**GAME #40 — DET 4 @ KCR 5**

MJ Melendez hit a 2-run 1B in the 2nd and an RBI 1B in the 8th. Kyle Isbel had an RBI 2B and Whit Merrifield added an RBI in the 3rd. The Tigers were down 4-0 going into the 7th when Javier Baez and Jace Jung had RBI, and the Tigers tied the game on RBIs from Kerry Carpenter and Baez. The Tigers had new hope but the final Melendez had his final RBI and the Royals got the split. Kris Bubic pitched extremely well to earn the win.

**GAME #39 — MIN 8 @ CHW 4**

The Minnesota Twins made the playoffs. And Byron Buxton won the AL MVP. Carlos Correa gave the Twins an early lead with a 2-run HR in the 2nd, but Yasmani Grandal hit a solo HR in the 3rd, and then Yoan Moncada hit a 2-run HR in the 4th and suddenly the Twins had a deficit. Joe Mauer tied the game in the 5th and then Buxton did it. With his team tied in a game to clinch a playoff spot, with the AL MVP to be won, already holding a new home run record, Buxton came to the plate with the bases loaded, and hit an epic Grand Slam HR. It was Buxton's record 20th home run in a 40-game season. It is a record that might not be broken. That is how incredible this power surge was. Nick Madrigal hit a solo HR in the loss. Kirby Puckett added an RBI 1B to seal the win. Joe Ryan pitched well to earn the win.

**GAME #40 — MIN 3 @ CHW 4**

The White Sox got to walk away from a dismal season with a win. Eloy Jimenez continued his hot season with his 16th 2B and 14th HR. Jimenez will likely pass Salvador Perez and finish 2nd in AL MVP voting. Yoan Moncada added a solo HR for the White Sox. Jorge Polanco hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd and Mitch Garver and Miguel Sano hit back-to-back solo HRs to tie the game. In the bottom of the 8th rookie Gavin Sheets hit a solo HR to give the home crowd a reason to cheer. The White Sox may need to retool their team in the offseason. Meanwhile Byron Buxton and the Minnesota Twins are heading to the playoffs with a chance at a championship. Buxton finishes his record-setting season on a 14-game hitting streak, the new record holder for runs at 43, home runs at 20, and total bases at 128. All 3 records might stand a long time. This was a dominant MVP season.

**GAME #39 — HOU 2 @ LAA 3**

This will be the game the Astros will regret this offseason. With a chance to put the pressure on Seattle the Astros couldn't do it. Kyle Tucker hit a 2-run HR off of Garrett Richards but that was all they would get. Joe Musgrove gave up an RBI 1B to Taylor Ward, and then Colin McHugh gave up a game-tying solo HR to Mike Trout and then a potentially season-ending solo HR to last year's postseason hero Jared Walsh. Houston needed to sweep the eliminated Angels, but they couldn't do it.

**GAME #40 — HOU 6 @ LAA 0**

In what is most likely a case of too-little-too-late Lance McCullers showed up and the Houston offense showed up. McCullers took a 1-hit shutout to the 9th, where he gave up 2 hits, but secured the 3-hit complete-game shutout walking only 1. The Houston offense scored 3 in the 1st inning on a 2B from Jose Altuve, an RBI 3B from Alex Bregman, an RBI from Yordan Alvarez, and an RBI 1B from Yuli Gurriel. Jeremy Pena added a 2-run 2B in the 8th and scored on a Garrett Stubbs RBI to seal the blowout win. The Astros will have to hope that the Oakland A's can sweep the 1st-place Mariners, otherwise their season is over after making it to the World Series last season.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • LUZARDO FANS 11 • LOGAN GILBERT SHUTOUT • NOLA SOLO HR

**GAME #39 — OAK 0 @ SEA 1**

The Seattle Mariners needed 1 win to win the division and they got it. Logan Gilbert pitched a gem at just the right time with a 3-hit, 0-walk complete-game shutout. It was a dominant performance for Gilbert. Kyle Seager secured the lone RBI on a 1B in the 2nd and the M's held on. Congratulations to the Seattle Mariners champions of the AL West. The loss clinched last place for the Oakland Athletics as they will look to add some talent to next season's team.

**GAME #40 — OAK 2 @ SEA 5**

Seattle put the icing on the cake and swept the last-place A's. Austin Nola hit a 2-run 2B in the 2nd, but the A's scored 2 in the top of the 3rd on an RBI 1B from Starling Marte and an RBI 2B from Eric Chavez. Julio Rodriguez hit a solo HR in the 3rd and the M's had the lead again. Nola hit a solo HR in the 7th and Kyle Seager hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 8th and the Mariners cruised behind George Kirby.

**GAME #39 — TEX 2 @ ARI 4**

Rookie Josh Jung hit a solo HR off of Brandon Pfaadt in the 2nd and then Leody Tavares added an RBI 2B in the 5th to make it 2-0. In the bottom of the 5th Carson Kelly hit a 2-run HR and then Luis Gonzalez hit an RBI 1B and Matt Williams hit an RBI 2B to make it 4-2. The pitching held and the Diamondbacks got a nice comeback win at home.

**GAME #40 — TEX 3 @ ARI 6**

Corbin Carroll hit an RBI 2B in the 2nd and was followed by a 2-run HR from Ketel Marte. Josh Hamilton hit a 2-run 2B in the 4th and then hit an RBI 1B in the 6th to tie the game, but in the bottom of the 8th Ketel Marte hit a bases-loaded 3-run 2B to give the Diamondbacks the home sweep to finish the season.

**GAME #39 — NYM 2 @ MIA 3**

The Mets still had a decent chance at the division as the Braves face the Phillies and the Mets hold the tiebreaker. They even had a shot at the playoff bye if they sweep and the Cubs falter. But the Mets failed. They wasted a prime chance with their offense not showing up against Trevor Rogers who took a shutout to the 9th. Garrett Cooper had an RBI 2B and Bryan De La Cruz hit an RBI 1B in the 2-run 4th, and Luis Arraez added an RBI 1B to pad the lead in the 8th, which proved key. In the 9th the Mets woke up with a solo HR from David Wright and a solo HR from Pete Alonso, but they fell a run shy and lost the game.

**GAME #40 — NYM 0 @ MIA 5**

The Mets blew it again. Jesus Luzardo gave up a lead-off 3B to Francisco Lindor and then didn't give up a single base runner until the 9th. Luzardo pitched a masterful 2-hit complete-game shutout with only 1 walk and 11 strikeouts. Ichiro Suzuki broke open the scoreless tie with a 2-run 1B off of Taijuan Walker. Nick Fortes added a 3-run 2B to seal the home sweep. This poor performance from the Mets offense may end up costing them a title as they went from a chance at a bye to a road playoff series in the wild-card round. The Atlanta Braves won the NL East with the Mets loss.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • ERIC DAVIS 2-RUN HR • OLSON 2-RUN HR • SUWINSKI 2-RUN HR

**GAME #39 — PHI 7 @ ATL 6**

This was expected to be a contested series with a division title at stake, but the Mets' collapse in Miami handed the Braves the division, leaving Atlanta only needing to win to improve its seeding and secure a bye. The Phillies came out hot with a Rhys Hoskins RBI 1B in the 2nd and then a Kyle Schwarber solo HR, a Bryson Stott RBI, and a wild pitch gave Philadelphia a 4-0 lead. The Braves got 1 run back on a Dansby Swanson RBI 2B in the 3rd, and William Contreras got 1 run back with a solo HR in the 5th. The Phillies extended the lead in the 6th on a 2-run HR from Bryce Harper but in the bottom half Austin Riley hit an RBI 1B and scored on a Marcell Ozuna 2-run HR. Down 6-5 in the bottom of the 9th Michael Harris hit an RBI 1B to tie the game, but in the top of the 11th the Phillies finally secured the win with an RBI from Nick Maton.

**GAME #40 — PHI 3 @ ATL 9**

The Phillies championship defense is over. Meanwhile the Braves will move on to the playoffs with a chance to win this season's title. Marcell Ozuna hit an RBI 2B in the bottom of the 1st, but Bryson Stott tied the game with an RBI in the top of the 2nd. In the bottom of the 2nd Matt Olson hit a 2-run 2B and scored on an Austin Riley 2-run 1B. Matt Vierling hit a 2-run 2B to make it close but Olson hit a 2-run 2B in the 6th and then a 2-run HR in the 8th to cap off a great day for the Braves. Kyle Wright pitched well to earn the win.

**GAME #39 — PIT 5 @ STL 0**

Rookie catcher Endy Rodriguez hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd and Bryan Reynolds followed with an RBI 1B after a Jack Suwinski 2B. Suwinski hit a 2-run HR in the 6th and the Pirates cruised to a win against an eliminated Cardinals team. JT Brubaker completely shut down the home team pitching a 5-hit complete-game shutout.

**GAME #40 — PIT 2 @ STL 10**

The Cardinals ended the season on a high note with a blowout win at home. Andrew Knizner hit a 3-run HR in the 2nd, Mark McGwire and Tyler O'Neill hit back-to-back solo HRs in the 3rd, and Tommy Edman hit an RBI 2B, Lars Nootbaar hit a 2-run HR, and O'Neill capped the 4-run inning with an RBI. The Pirates got on the board against Miles Mikolas with a solo HR from Willie Stargell, his 13th on the season. Jordan Walker hit an RBI 1B in the 7th and the Cardinals cruised.

**GAME #39 — WSH 13 @ CIN 2**

The Reds laid an egg against the Nationals as they had already locked in a playoff spot. Eric Davis hit a 2-run HR in the 1st but that was it for the Reds. The Nationals piled it on with 13 runs in the 5th through 8th innings. Ryan Zimmerman went 4-6 with a 2B and 4 RBI, Jeimer Candelario went 3-5 with a 2B, 3B, and 3 RBI, Howie Kendrick went 3-5 with 2 2Bs and 3 RBI, and Michael Taylor hit a 2-run HR. It was an outburst from a team looking forward to next season. Gio Gonzalez pitched a solid 6 innings to earn the win.

**GAME #40 — WSH 4 @ CIN 1**

Jordan Zimmermann completely shut down the Reds, taking a 1-hit shutout to the 9th where Chris Sabo hit a solo HR. Ryan Zimmerman hit an RBI 2B and Howie Kendrick hit a 3-run HR that sealed the win and the road sweep. The Reds will enter the playoffs as the #6 seed.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • TOVAR WALK-OFF 2B • NICO HOERNER 2-RUN HR • POLLOCK SOLO HR

**GAME #39 — MIL 2 @ CHC 6**

The Cubs cruised to a win early against the Brewers as Anthony Rizzo, Michael Busch, and Victor Caratini had 1st inning RBIs. Nico Hoerner hit an RBI 2B in the 2nd and scored on a Sammy Sosa 2-run HR. It was Sosa's 18th HR to polish his MVP resume. Ryan Braun hit a solo HR for the only run Jake Arrieta gave up over his 7 innings. Rowdy Tellez added an RBI 2B in the 9th but the Cubs secured the easy win.

**GAME #40 — MIL 4 @ CHC 2**

The Cubs scored 2 early runs in the 2nd inning on RBI 1Bs from Ryne Sandberg and Nico Hoerner. Jon Lester took a shutout into the 8th inning when Ryan Braun hit an RBI 1B. In the 9th the Brewers surprised the crowd when Mario Feliciano hit a 2-out 2-run HR to change the game. Brice Turang hit a solo HR to go back-to-back and the Brewers snuck out a win as their season ended. The Chicago Cubs are the champions of the NL Central and head to the playoffs full of hope. Anthony Rizzo had a strong series and overcame Chris Sabo to win the NL batting title.

**GAME #39 — SDP 3 @ LAD 7**

The Dodgers had the slimmest of chances to take the division and they got a nice win to keep hope alive. Cody Bellinger drew a bases-loaded BB for an RBI and then AJ Pollock hit a base-clearing 3-run 2B. Wil Myers hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd but Enrique Hernandez and Austin Barnes had RBI in the bottom of the 3rd. Pollock hit a solo HR in the 5th and the Dodgers cruised. Manny Machado added an RBI in the loss. Julio Urias completely shutdown the Padres after the Myers' home run not giving up a hit until the Machado single.

**GAME #40 — SDP 6 @ LAD 5**

The Padres stole a win the Dodgers thought they had, making the San Francisco Giants the winners of the NL West. AJ Pollock hit a 2-run 1B in the 1st, but Luis Campusano hit a solo HR to cut the lead in half. Justin Turner hit a solo HR in the 3rd and Enrique Hernandez hit an RBI 2B in the 4th. Chris Taylor hit a solo HR in the 6th to make it 5-1, but then Fernando Tatis Jr hit a solo HR to lead off the 6th, Eric Hosmer followed with an RBI 2B, Ha-Seong Kim had an RBI and then Campusano hit another HR a 2-run shot to take the lead. The Padres bullpen held and the Padres got a nice win to head into the offseason taking a game from their rivals. The Dodgers will enter the playoffs at the top wild-card and look to make a run.

**GAME #39 — SFG 7 @ COL 8**

San Francisco needed just 1 win to secure the #1 seed but the Rockies took hold of this game early. Andres Galarraga hit a 2-run HR in the 1st inning and Brendan Rodgers hit an RBI 3B and scored on an Ezequiel Tovar RBI 1B. Corey Dickerson hit a solo HR in the 3rd, and Galarraga hit another HR in the 5th and the Rockies were ahead 6-0. In the 6th the Giants woke up and Wilmer Flores hit a 2-run 2B and scored on a Brandon Crawford RBI 1B. Down 6-3 in the 9th the Giants rallied as Will Clark hit an RBI 2B and NL MVP candidate Evan Longoria hit a 3-run HR to give the Giants the lead. It was right out of a movie script but Camilo Doval could not hold the new lead. Charlie Blackmon tied the game in the bottom of the 9th on an RBI 1B, and then Tovar hit a walk-off RBI 2B to thwart the Giants.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • CUETO 3-HIT SHUTOUT • CUETO FANS 11 • GIANTS ROAD WIN

**GAME #40 — SFG 6 @ COL 0**

Johnny Cueto took the matter into his own hands and secured the #1 seed for the Giants with a dominant 3-hit complete-game shutout. Cueto only gave up 3 singles and 2 walks, while striking out 11. Brandon Belt had an RBI in the top of the 2nd and was followed by a Brandon Crawford RBI 1B. Evan Longoria struck again with a 2-run 2B and the Giants had an early 4-0 lead. Mike Yastrzemski hit a 2-run 1B in the 9th and the Giants secured the #1 seed as they look to play for the championship after coming so close last season. Evan Longoria certainly secured the NL MVP with his strong closing series as he surpassed Pete Alonso to win the RBI title with 33, and Francisco Lindor to win the Runs title with 30.

## MLBC — WILD CARD ROUND

GAMES 41-43 • BEST-OF-THREE

## OCTOBER OPENS ON THE EDGE

*Three series reach a deciding game, Cincinnati sweeps a rival, and late swings decide who gets to keep playing.*

**THE FIELD** Boston hosted Baltimore, Seattle hosted Minnesota, Los Angeles hosted the Mets, and Chicago hosted Cincinnati. Toronto and Cleveland waited with American League byes, while San Francisco and Atlanta watched from the National League side. The short series left no room to settle in. The Mets brought Jacob deGrom to Los Angeles, while Cincinnati and Chicago turned a season-long division fight into a best-of-three rivalry series. Seattle entered with a division title, Chicago with 25 wins, and Boston with momentum, but forty games of position had only earned a playoff matchup, not immunity. Three of the four series immediately became elimination tests.

**THE ROUND** Boston survived Baltimore 2-1. Jason Varitek repeatedly helped Boston answer Baltimore's scoring in the decider, and Xander Bogaerts ended the series with a 9th-inning walk-off RBI double. Minnesota recovered from an 8-1 opening loss in Seattle, forced Game #3 and broke the decider open with Miguel Sanó's Grand Slam. The Mets won the opener in Los Angeles behind Jacob deGrom, but the Dodgers answered with a twelve-run eruption and then survived an extraordinary scoreless Game #3 until Joc Pederson hit a 12th-inning walk-off HR. Cincinnati never needed a decider. Luis Castillo carried eight shutout innings in the opener, and the Reds followed with a 1-0 win to sweep Chicago.

**THE STAKES** Eight teams remain. Boston moves on to Cleveland. Minnesota gets the largest assignment in the league: Toronto and its 29 wins. Los Angeles advances to Atlanta after twelve scoreless innings with its season hanging on every pitch. Cincinnati heads to San Francisco. Seattle had a division title; Chicago had 25 wins; the Mets had deGrom. None guaranteed another round. October has already stripped away the comfort of the regular-season résumé. The four survivors advance carrying four different kinds of momentum: a walk-off, a comeback from an 8-1 opening loss, a twelve-inning escape and the round's only sweep. The bye teams now enter against opponents who have already had to survive the thing they were waiting to feel.

|                                                |                                                 |                                                 |                                                |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <b>AL DECIDER</b><br><b>BOS def. BAL • 2-1</b> | <b>AL COMEBACK</b><br><b>MIN def. SEA • 2-1</b> | <b>NL WALK-OFF</b><br><b>LAD def. NYM • 2-1</b> | <b>ONLY SWEEP</b><br><b>CIN def. CHC • 2-0</b> |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|

## ROUND RESULTS

|                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>AMERICAN LEAGUE</b><br><b>BOS def. BAL, 2-1</b><br><i>Bogaerts: walk-off RBI 2B in Game #3</i><br><b>MIN def. SEA, 2-1</b><br><i>Sanó: Grand Slam in the deciding game</i> | <b>NATIONAL LEAGUE</b><br><b>LAD def. NYM, 2-1</b><br><i>Pederson: 12th-inning walk-off in Game #3</i><br><b>CIN def. CHC, 2-0</b><br><i>Reds win the clincher, 1-0</i> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WILD CARD • XANDER BOGAERTS WALK-OFF 2B • BAL WINS 3-2 • BOS WINS 9-6

## PLAYOFFS

## WILD CARD ROUND

## GAME #41 — BAL 6 @ BOS 9

The AL playoffs have started. John Means and the Baltimore Orioles faced Chris Sale and the Boston Red Sox in Boston. The Red Sox started early as David Ortiz hit a 2-run HR in the bottom of the 1st inning and then the Red Sox got 5 hits in a row with RBI 2Bs from Dustin Pedroia and Wade Boggs, and an RBI from JD Martinez. It looked like it could be a blowout but the Orioles fought back with a 2-run HR from Eddie Murray in the 3rd. In the bottom of the 5th Masataka Yoshida hit a solo HR and then Rafael Devers hit a 2-run HR to break open the game. But the O's kept fighting as Gunnar Henderson hit a 2-run HR and Anthony Santander hit an RBI 2B to keep it close. Xander Bogaerts hit an RBI 2B in the bottom of the 7th and the Red Sox hung on for the win. Henderson hit an RBI 2B in the 9th but it was not enough as the Red Sox took a 1-0 lead in the series.

## GAME #42 — BAL 3 @ BOS 2

David Price and Grayson Rodriguez both took shutouts into the 6th inning, both pitching very strong games. In the top of the 6th Trey Mancini hit a 2-run HR. In the bottom half Dustin Pedroia had an RBI, but in the top half of the 7th Adley Rutschman hit a solo HR to take a 3-1 lead. Alex Verdugo hit an RBI 1B in the bottom of the 9th but Zach Britton held on and the Orioles got a win with their season in the balance forcing a deciding game. The Red Sox had a threat in every inning but one yet just couldn't score in a very troubling sign of a slump at just the wrong time. The Red Sox went 2-15 with runners in scoring position and suddenly face a must-win game.

## GAME #43 — BAL 2 @ BOS 3

This is the playoffs. We find a must-win winner-take-all game for the Red Sox and Orioles. The Boston crowd was buzzing with nervous energy. Gunnar Henderson hit an RBI 1B in the top of the 3rd and the O's had a lead. Red Sox captain Jason Varitek took matters into his own hands in the bottom half with a solo HR tying the game, delighting the crowd. The O's would not be denied. Trey Mancini hit an RBI in the top of the 5th and the O's had the lead again. This time Tyler Wells held on to the lead, until the bottom of the 7th when Varitek once again played the role of hero hitting an RBI 2B to tie the game. The game went tied dramatically to the bottom of the 9th where Rafael Devers drew a walk against Zach Britton, Alex Verdugo hit a 1B, and Xander Bogaerts hit a series-clinching walk-off RBI 2B sending the crowd into a frenzy. Tanner Houck stepped up and pitched a very strong 3 innings to finish the game. The Boston Red Sox win the series and move on to the ALDS.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WILD CARD • SANO GRAND SLAM • CANO 2-RUN HR • ENCARNACION HOMERS

**GAME #41 — MIN 1 @ SEA 8**

The playoffs continue in Seattle as Sonny Gray and the Twins face Felix Hernandez and the Mariners. Gray struggled during the regular season with a 6.42 ERA but the Twins stuck with their ace and handed him the ball for the biggest game of the season. AL MVP Byron Buxton would have his chance to lead his team against Hernandez who had a strong season with a 2.97 ERA. The M's got to Gray and pummeled the Twins led by Edwin Encarnacion. Encarnacion hit a solo HR in the 2nd, an RBI 1B in the 3rd, and a 2-run HR in the 7th. Kyle Seager hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd, Robinson Cano hit a solo HR in the 4th, Mitch Haniger hit an RBI 3B in the 7th, and Edgar Martinez capped it off with an RBI in the 8th. Felix Hernandez completely shut down the Twins only giving up RBI 2B to Josh Donaldson in the 7th. The M's after fighting all season are 1 win away from the ALDS.

**GAME #42 — MIN 9 @ SEA 6**

The Mariners sent Robbie Ray to the mound after he struggled to a 5.43 ERA on the season, while the Twins sent Pablo Lopez to the mound to hope to keep their season alive. Robinson Cano hit a 2-run HR in the 1st inning and the Seattle crowd had the dream of moving on. But in the 2nd inning Josh Donaldson hit a 2-run HR and then the Twins erupted for 5 runs in the 3rd, on a 2-run HR from Kirby Puckett, an RBI 2B from Torii Hunter, an RBI from Donaldson, and an RBI 1B from Miguel Sano. Suddenly down 7-2 the M's rallied for 3 runs in the bottom half on an RBI 1B from Cano and a 2-run HR from Ken Griffey Jr. Nelson Cruz hit a solo HR in the 4th, and Cal Raleigh hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 4th. The bullpens settled in and neither team scored again until the Twins added a run in the 9th on an RBI 1B from Joe Mauer. The M's couldn't close the door against a determined Twins team. Both teams will move to the winner-take-all must-win Game #3.

**GAME #43 — MIN 7 @ SEA 3**

The Seattle Mariners fought for this chance all season, but they fell short. The Minnesota Twins defeated the Mariners on the strength of a Grand Slam HR from Miguel Sano. In the bottom of the 4th Ken Griffey Jr hit a 1B, Edgar Martinez hit a 2B, and Mitch Haniger hit an RBI sacrifice fly off of Joe Ryan, but in the top of the 5th Torii Hunter hit an RBI 1B off of Logan Gilbert and then with the bases loaded Miguel Sano went legend. Jorge Polanco went back-to-back with a solo HR and suddenly it was 6-1 for the Twins. The M's never recovered. Robinson Cano hit an RBI 1B in the bottom of the 5th and Martinez hit a solo HR but the M's had lost their season on the Sano blast. Polanco added an RBI 2B in the 8th and the Twins bullpen held. The Twins have been fighting for their life the whole 2nd half of the season and they played their best with their backs against the wall. The M's just ran out of steam on offense and pitching just for 2 games at the worst time in the season, and the Minnesota Twins are moving to the ALDS to face the #1 seed Toronto Blue Jays.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WILD CARD • JOC PEDERSON WALK-OFF HR • PIAZZA 2-RUN HR • METS WIN 4-1

**GAME #41 — NYM 4 @ LAD 1**

This is what it is all about. The playoffs this year provide an epic matchup of a hot New York Mets team against a hot Los Angeles Dodgers team. The advantage was the Dodgers by 1 game so they get the entire 3-game series at home. Jacob deGrom versus Clayton Kershaw was a matchup for the ages and the crowd was buzzing from the start. In a matchup of aces like this 1 run could be the difference. Both teams have enough talent to win the World Series but only one will survive this series. The Mets got to Kershaw first as Jacob deGrom was dealing. Brandon Nimmo hit an RBI 2B in the 3rd and Michael Conforto hit an RBI 2B in the 4th and the Mets gave deGrom a 2-0 lead. deGrom didn't give up a hit until a Mookie Betts 2B in the 4th and he didn't give up a run until a solo HR from Justin Turner in the 7th. In the top of the 8th the Mets responded with a Gary Carter solo HR and a Francisco Lindor back-to-back solo HR to seal the 4-1 win. Edwin Diaz came in to get the save and the Mets moved 1 game closer while the Dodgers will face elimination at home.

**GAME #42 — NYM 5 @ LAD 12**

Mike Piazza hit an RBI 1B in the top of the 1st but the Dodgers were more than determined for this elimination game. Down 1-0 in the bottom half of the 1st inning the Dodgers blitzed Noah Syndergaard for 5 1Bs with RBI from Max Muncy, Adrian Gonzalez, and Will Smith. Darryl Strawberry hit a solo HR in the top of the 2nd to make it 3-2 but Freddie Freeman hit an RBI 1B in the bottom half and Adrian Gonzalez followed with a Grand Slam HR to turn it into a blowout. Piazza hit a 2-run HR in the top of the 3rd but Cody Bellinger hit a solo HR in the bottom half and in the 4th Joc Pederson hit a 3-run HR. Freddie Freeman added a solo HR to the blowout total. Pete Alonso hit an RBI 1B late in the loss. The Dodgers made a major statement of resilience and now they will put the Mets to the test in the pivotal Game #3.

**GAME #43 — NYM 0 @ LAD 1**

This was an epic baseball game. Few games in the history of the sport had drama like this. With both teams facing a must-win situation any and every action could matter and define a season. The Dodgers turned the ball to Julio Urias who absolutely was dealing. Urias only gave up 2 lone 1Bs and 5 scattered BB over 8 incredibly strong innings. The Mets could never get the big hit. Yet the Mets stayed alive because of Kodai Senga. Senga pitched a masterful 7 innings weaving out of trouble and never flinching, never breaking to give up a single run. The Mets handed the ball to Edwin Diaz and the Dodgers gave the ball to Kenley Jansen and both closers went toe-to-toe through dominant, scoreless innings. This epic scoreless winner-take-all game went to the bottom of the 12th when Joc Pederson hit a series-clinching walk-off solo HR sending the home crowd into a frenzy. The New York Mets will head into the offseason both proud of a great season and also wondering what could have been if they could have scored just 1 run to move on. The Los Angeles Dodgers will move on to the NLDS.

**MLBC — GAME LOG**

WILD CARD • RYNE SANDBERG 2-RUN 3B • JOEY VOTTO RBI 1B • REDS WIN 1-0

**GAME #41 — CIN 5 @ CHC 3**

These two rivals get a chance to settle it on the field. Kyle Hendricks takes the ball against Luis Castillo who was in serious Cy Young contention most of the season. The Reds knew they had a chance and they started on fire blitzing Hendricks with 3 home runs, a 2-run HR for Joey Votto, a solo HR for Nick Castellanos, and a solo HR for Eugenio Suarez. Luis Castillo did the rest pitching 8 strong shutout innings only giving up 5 scattered singles. Nick Castellanos hit another solo HR in the 6th and the Reds were cruising, until the 9th inning. Raisel Iglesias had a dominant regular season and will most certainly be the NL Reliever of the Year giving up only 1 run on the whole season, but the Cubs got to him. Christopher Morel hit a 2B and then with 2 outs Jason Heyward hit a 1B, Nico Hoerner hit an RBI 1B, and then Ryne Sandberg electrified the crowd with a 2-run 3B, but the Reds had too big a lead and Iglesias got the final out, giving the Reds a 1-0 lead.

**GAME #42 — CIN 1 @ CHC 0**

With their season on the line the Cubs turned to Marcus Stroman. Hunter Greene took the ball with a chance that the Reds could eliminate their rivals and move on in the playoffs. Marcus Stroman showed up and pitched a shutout into the 7th. The problem for the Cubs was that Hunter Greene showed up. Stroman gave up a 1B to Barry Larkin, and Joey Votto hit an RBI 1B off of Hector Rondon. Hunter Greene completed 8 shutout innings giving up only 6 hits, 0 walks, and getting 10 strikeouts. Greene turned the ball over to Raisel Iglesias with a chance to get the Reds to the next round. 3 outs in a row later and the Chicago Cubs were eliminated just like that after a magical season. The Cubs will be eager to secure the bye next season that eluded them by a tiebreaker this season. The Cincinnati Reds will move on to San Francisco. NL MVP runner-up Sammy Sosa and Anthony Rizzo combined to go 0-16 with 7 strikeouts in a disappointing ending for the NL batting champ and NL home run champ.

## MLBC — DIVISION SERIES

GAMES 44-48 • BEST-OF-FIVE

## TORONTO REFUSES TO GO HOME

*The Blue Jays escape 0-2, Boston sweeps, and both National League series become tests of ace pitching.*

**THE FIELD** The four bye teams finally entered. Toronto had set the MLBC wins record at 29-11. Cleveland had survived the AL Central. San Francisco owned the National League's #1 seed, and Atlanta had taken the East. Their opponents arrived already sharpened by elimination baseball: Minnesota, Boston, Cincinnati and Los Angeles. Toronto entered carrying the league's 29-win record, but Minnesota arrived having already survived an 8-1 Wild Card loss and a winner-take-all comeback in Seattle. Boston had already played a three-game series against Baltimore and then drew Cleveland, while Cincinnati arrived as the only Wild Card club that had not needed a deciding game.

**THE ROUND** Boston never let Cleveland settle, winning twice on the road before Alex Verdugo's Grand Slam helped finish a 3-0 sweep at Fenway. Toronto faced the exact opposite experience. Minnesota stunned the Blue Jays twice in Toronto, 5-0 and 5-2, and the best regular-season team in league history suddenly stood one loss from becoming a footnote. Toronto answered 9-4 and 5-1 in Minnesota, with Bo Bichette and José Bautista at the center of the offensive response, then returned home and won Game #48, 6-4. Three straight elimination wins erased the 0-2 hole. Los Angeles beat Atlanta 3-1, closing with a 1-0 victory. San Francisco survived Cincinnati 3-2; Madison Bumgarner stacked fifteen scoreless innings across the series before the Giants won the decider 7-0. Wilmer Flores supplied the exclamation point in that decider, coming off the bench to hit a series-clinching Grand Slam in the eighth inning.

**THE STAKES** Four teams remain. Toronto gets Boston after surviving the first true crisis of its season. Boston arrives rested by a sweep and already knows it can win inside the AL East. San Francisco gets the rivalry that has been sitting behind the entire second half: Los Angeles, with the pennant attached. Boston enters the ALCS having won five of six postseason games, while Los Angeles reaches the NLCS after surviving two elimination rounds and now gets the opponent it spent the season chasing. Toronto's comeback changes the meaning of its 29-win season. The record no longer looks like insulation from pressure. It looks like the foundation that allowed the Blue Jays to survive when every ounce of insulation disappeared.

|                                           |                                            |                                                 |                                             |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <b>SWEEP</b><br><b>BOS def. CLE • 3-0</b> | <b>ESCAPE</b><br><b>TOR def. MIN • 3-2</b> | <b>NL ROAD WIN</b><br><b>LAD def. ATL • 3-1</b> | <b>DECIDER</b><br><b>SFG def. CIN • 3-2</b> |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|

## SERIES RESULTS

|                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>AMERICAN LEAGUE</b><br><b>BOS def. CLE, 3-0</b><br><i>Red Sox score 23 runs in the sweep</i><br><b>TOR def. MIN, 3-2</b><br><i>Blue Jays win three straight facing elimination</i> | <b>NATIONAL LEAGUE</b><br><b>LAD def. ATL, 3-1</b><br><i>Dodgers close the series with a 1-0 win</i><br><b>SFG def. CIN, 3-2</b><br><i>Bumgarner: 15 scoreless IP in the series</i> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## MLBC — GAME LOG

DIVISION SERIES • JD MARTINEZ 2-RUN HR • TWINS WIN 5-0 • BOS WINS 9-2

## DIVISIONAL SERIES

## GAME #44 — BOS 6 @ CLE 2

This is what we live for. The playoffs are unlike anything else. The Boston Red Sox come into Cleveland to face the Guardians, and only one team will move on. Chris Sale faced Shane Bieber in a matchup of aces. Sale gave up a solo HR to Jim Thome in the 2nd, and an RBI 1B to Carlos Santana in the 3rd, but he hung on after that to go 6 strong. In the 5th the Red Sox got to Bieber with an RBI 1B from Alex Verdugo, an RBI 2B from Xander Bogaerts, and an RBI 1B from Dustin Pedroia. The Red Sox bullpen held on with strong performances from Matt Barnes and Garrett Whitlock. The Red Sox broke open the game with an RBI 1B from Masataka Yoshida in the 8th and a 2-run HR from JD Martinez that sealed the Game #1 road win for Boston.

## GAME #45 — BOS 9 @ CLE 2

The Red Sox rolled. Masataka Yoshida hit an RBI 2B in the top of the 1st and David Price came out strong not giving up a run until the 5th. Wade Boggs hit a 2-run 1B and then Boston scored on a JD Martinez RBI in the 5th as they took a 4-0 lead. In the bottom of the 5th Yan Gomes hit a solo HR, and Franmil Reyes hit an RBI 2B in the 6th to cut the lead in half, but Boston poured it on after. Dustin Pedroia and David Ortiz hit RBI 1Bs in the 7th, and Xander Bogaerts and Jason Varitek added RBIs in the 8th, and Ortiz capped it off with a solo HR in the 9th. The Red Sox dominated the game and the series winning 15-4 and leading 2-0 heading home. Cleveland is in big trouble suddenly facing a must-win game.

## GAME #44 — MIN 5 @ TOR 0

The Toronto Blue Jays got their chance. They finished a dominant season as a potentially all-time team, but the great teams win in the playoffs. The Minnesota Twins come in to Toronto with nothing to lose as the hot team after winning twice with their backs against the wall in Seattle. Alek Manoah took the ball for the Blue Jays after a Cy Young caliber season going 8-1 with a 2.23 ERA while Sonny Gray hoped to right the ship after struggling against the Mariners. The crowd was ready to go but Josh Donaldson hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd and Toronto never recovered. Sonny Gray settled in and kept the powerful Jays in check, and then Donaldson hit a 2-run 2B to make it 4-0 after 4 innings. The crowd was stunned and the Jays never recovered. Nelson Cruz added a solo HR in the 8th to cap a great win for a hot team. The Blue Jays are going to need to dig deep.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

DIVISION SERIES • ERIC DAVIS 2-RUN HR • TWINS WIN 5-2 • ATL WINS 2-1

**GAME #45 — MIN 5 @ TOR 2**

Here come the Twins! They fought all year trying to keep pace with the Guardians. They surged at the right time to keep going with and then outlasting the New York Yankees and the Tampa Bay Rays. And now they have a shocking and sudden 2-0 lead against an historically good top seed, heading home with 2 games to win just 1 and move on. This was a most unexpected development. Pablo Lopez showed up at just the right time keeping the Jays quiet. The Jays offense had a dormant series finally scoring their 1st run in the bottom of the 6th inning. In the top of the 4th the Twins took the lead on an RBI 1B from Nelson Cruz and an RBI 2B from Torii Hunter. With the score 2-1 and the Blue Jays primed for a comeback Kevin Gausman gave up an RBI 1B to Jorge Polanco, and then Erik Swanson gave up a 2-run 2B to Joe Mauer that crushed the hopes of the Toronto fans. Roberto Alomar hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 8th but it was nothing that could keep up with the red-hot Twins. The Red Sox and the Twins, 2 wild-card teams are both up 2-0 after road sweeps against the top two division-winning seeds in a scenario hard to predict. The Blue Jays and the Guardians will need to win three games in a row.

**GAME #44 — LAD 2 @ ATL 1**

The Braves had a great chance to take the lead in their series against the Dodgers sending NL Cy Young winner Spencer Strider to the mound at home. The only problem was that they had to get past Clayton Kershaw. The Dodgers got to Strider in the top of the 1st when Strider walked Trea Turner who stole 2nd and scored on a Justin Turner RBI 2B. Marcell Ozuna hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 2nd and the game went tied 1-1 to the 7th. In the top of the 7th Adrian Gonzalez hit the big shot of the game with a solo HR and the Dodgers' Kenley Jansen held on to get the save. The Dodgers secured a key road win to take the lead in the best-of-5 series.

**GAME #45 — LAD 1 @ ATL 2**

Max Fried answered the call with 7 strong innings only giving up an RBI 1B to Will Smith. The Braves got to Walker Buehler in the 4th with back-to-back solo HRs from Austin Riley and Marcell Ozuna. The Braves bullpen held on and Atlanta evened the series. The teams head to L.A. where the Braves will need to secure a win.

**GAME #44 — CIN 4 @ SFG 1**

The NL top seed San Francisco Giants sent Carlos Rodon to the mound against a red-hot Cincinnati Reds team. Luis Castillo took on the task of facing the powerful Giants and their NL MVP Evan Longoria. Rodon came out strong but walked 2 in the 4th and then gave up his first hit, an RBI 1B to Jesse Winker. Castillo struggled the whole game, but somehow didn't give up a run over 6 shutout innings, limiting the Giants to an 0-9 with runners in scoring position. Adam Duvall added an RBI 1B in the 7th and then Eric Davis hit the big shot, a 2-run HR that put the game out of reach. Raisel Iglesias struggled again loading the bases and giving up RBI to Buster Posey, but the lead was too big and the Reds prevailed in a key road win.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

DIVISION SERIES • BUMGARNER SHUTOUT • JOE RYAN SHUTOUT • POSEY RBI 1B

**GAME #45 — CIN 2 @ SFG 5**

Madison Bumgarner showed up just when the Giants needed him most. Bumgarner pitched 7 shutout innings scattering 7 singles and giving up only 1 walk. Hunter Greene had a poor start giving up an RBI 3B to Barry Bonds who scored on a Buster Posey RBI in the 1st, and in the 2nd Brandon Belt hit a solo HR to extend the lead to 3-0. Joe Panik hit an RBI 1B in the 4th and Posey hit an RBI 1B in the 5th and the Giants cruised, tying the series 1-1 as they head to Cincinnati. The Giants will need to secure a road win to keep the series going. The Reds have to be elated to leave San Francisco with a split.

**GAME #46 — CLE 4 @ BOS 8**

Triston McKenzie had a miserable season but got the call to keep the Guardians' season alive. The Boston crowd was buzzing as the Red Sox now had two chances to get a single win that would move them into the next round, one step from the World Series. Tanner Houck took the ball for the Red Sox hoping to keep a desperate Cleveland team in check. Houck started well striking out the side in the top of the 1st and not giving up a baserunner until the 4th, but then Jim Thome came up with 2 runners on and hit a 3-run HR, the biggest hit of the Cleveland season. Yan Gomes added an RBI 2B and the Guardians took a 4-0 lead in their must-win game. McKenzie started well only giving up 1 hit until he ran into trouble in the bottom of the 4th. Given a 4-0 lead McKenzie could not keep it. Alex Verdugo hit an RBI 1B, and then Rafael Devers hit a 3-run HR tying the game. Tanner Houck got into trouble in the 5th and 6th, but worked his way out of it, finishing with 12 strikeouts in his 6 innings. Eduardo Rodriguez came in relief and promptly loaded the bases, but he too got out of it. Cleveland was beginning to wonder if they would regret the missed chances. Carlos Carrasco came in relief and he too loaded the bases, but this time the batter made the pitcher pay. Alex Verdugo hit a Grand Slam HR that sent the Boston Red Sox to the ALCS. Matt Barnes and Garrett Whitlock shut the door and the champions of the AL Central have been eliminated. Cleveland will look to strengthen their team and make a deeper run after going 0-3 in the playoffs. The Boston Red Sox are hot at just the right time, now 5-1 in the postseason.

**GAME #46 — TOR 9 @ MIN 4**

This is the surprise of the season, the Minnesota Twins. Suddenly, with an offensive surge, the Twins stand on the precipice of eliminating the #1 team in all of baseball. The Blue Jays coasted all season, dominating their competition, and now face 3 must-win games in a row. The Blue Jays are backed into a corner where they needed to sweep the red-hot Twins in Minnesota just to force a deciding game. This was the championship for the desperate Blue Jays, who were hoping to make it to one more game. Joe Ryan pitched 4 shutout innings and the Twins got to Hyun-Jin Ryu in the bottom half when Miguel Sano hit a 2-run HR. The Blue Jays were on the verge when Teoscar Hernandez hit a solo HR to cut the lead in half, and then in the top of the 6th Bo Bichette got the biggest hit of the season, a Grand Slam HR that took the lead and saved the season for the Blue Jays. Dalton Varsho hit a solo HR in the 7th, and Vladimir Guerrero Jr hit an RBI, and then Jose Bautista hit a 2-run HR to cap off a great team win. Jorge Polanco hit a solo HR and Kirby Puckett added an RBI in the loss. The Twins suddenly have a bit of pressure with a game at home that holds the key to their season.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

DIVISION SERIES • OZUNA 3-RUN HR • FREEMAN 2-RUN HR • OZUNA RBI 1B

## GAME #47 — TOR 5 @ MIN 1

The Blue Jays survived one must-win game and earned another. Alek Manoah took the ball for Toronto looking to extend the series again. Sonny Gray took the mound after a great Game #1 start that he would be attempting to repeat. Bo Bichette showed up just when it was needed most. Bichette hit a solo HR in the top of the 1st and the Blue Jays had the lead. Matt Chapman hit a solo HR in the 4th to double the lead, but Miguel Sano hit a solo HR in the 5th to cut the lead in half. Jose Bautista scored on a wild pitch in the 6th to make it 3-1, and then Bichette struck again with a 2-run HR in the 7th to seal the win. The Toronto bullpen held and the Twins squandered an incredible chance to advance and now have to go to Toronto to win a must-win game against a surging top seed who survived elimination. Minnesota had their chance but now they have quite a task. Bo Bichette hit 3 home runs in the 2 games to lead the team in their biggest time of need.

## GAME #46 — ATL 9 @ LAD 11

The Braves and Dodgers split the games in Atlanta and now face each other in Los Angeles with the season in the balance. Julio Urias took the ball after a heroic start in his last game to help defeat the Mets in the must-win game pitching 8 shutout innings. Charlie Morton took the ball for Atlanta and was immediately supported as Ronald Acuna led off the game with a solo HR. Chipper Jones stepped up and did the same, going back-to-back with a solo HR to open the game. Matt Olson stepped in and incredibly hit a solo HR to go back-to-back-to-back stunning the crowd. Austin Riley hit a 2B and then scored on a Marcell Ozuna RBI 1B before the Dodgers got a single out. Mookie Betts hit a 2B in the bottom of the 1st and scored on a Justin Turner RBI 1B. Dansby Swanson hit a 2B to lead off the 2nd and scored on a Chipper Jones RBI 1B. Ozuna added an RBI 1B and the Braves held a 6-1 lead. Max Muncy and Adrian Gonzalez both hit RBI 1Bs in the bottom of the 3rd trimming the lead to 6-3, but the Braves kept going loading the bases in the 4th and scoring 2 on a 2-run 1B from Ozuna. The Dodgers kept fighting as Freddie Freeman hit an RBI 2B and Justin Turner hit a 2-run 2B making it 8-6. Ozuna added yet another RBI on a 1B in the 6th making it 9-6 but the Dodgers kept coming as Joc Pederson continued his hot postseason with a 3-run HR to tie the game sending the crowd into a frenzy. This was clearly the game of the year to all involved, and it was tied with 2 innings yet to play. Alex Wood loaded the bases in the 8th and the Dodgers were forced to bring in closer Kenley Jansen, treating this as a must-win game. The crowd could not imagine fighting so hard to get back in the game only to give the lead right back. Jansen came in and sat down the Braves in a heroic effort. The game went to the bottom of the 8th where, sensing the urgency of the moment, the Braves brought in their dominant closer Craig Kimbrel in the 8th. Mookie Betts immediately hit a 1B and stole 2nd and the Dodgers and fans were all on their feet as Freddie Freeman stepped into the batter's box. Facing a dominant closer with the season on the line in a 9-9 game Freeman hit a 2-run HR. Jansen sat down the Braves in the 9th inning and the Dodgers won the most incredible game of the year absolutely crushing the Atlanta Braves.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

DIVISION SERIES • ADAM DUVALL 2-RUN HR • LAD WINS 1-0 • SFG WINS 4-2

**GAME #47 — ATL 0 @ LAD 1**

Spencer Strider took the ball with as much pressure as anyone could have, a star rookie who won the coveted award given to the very best pitcher of the year, on the road, at Dodger Stadium, against a red-hot team, in a must-win game, for a division-winning team looking to make a run, coming off of the most heartbreaking loss any of them had ever had, and facing Clayton Kershaw. Both pitchers came out strong, Kershaw giving up only 2 lone singles in his first 6 innings, and Spencer Strider matched him giving up only 2 lone singles and 2 walks over 5 shutout innings. In the bottom of the 6th the moment that would define a season came as Freddie Freeman hit a ground ball that found a hole for a 1B, and then both Max Muncy and Adrian Gonzalez got infield 1B, and suddenly the bases were loaded against Strider. Strider, like he has all year, dominated again striking out Will Smith and retiring Joc Pederson on a pop fly. Kershaw went 1-2-3 with a strikeout in the 7th and Strider went 1-2-3 with 2 strikeouts, his 13th and 14th. The crowd was buzzing and the game went to the 8th 0-0. Kershaw got through the 8th but Strider gave up a 2B to Max Muncy and the Braves turned the ball to Craig Kimbrel. Kimbrel struck out Adrian Gonzalez and the game went to the 9th. Kershaw gave up a 1B to Matt Olson and was relieved by Kenley Jansen who escaped the 9th striking out Marcell Ozuna. In the bottom of the 9th dominant closer Craig Kimbrel struck out Will Smith and Joc Pederson and then Cody Bellinger, the Dodgers team MVP, hit a series-clinching walk-off solo HR to send the crowd into a frenzy. The NL East champion Atlanta Braves have been eliminated. The Los Angeles Dodgers are going to the NLCS.

**GAME #46 — SFG 4 @ CIN 2**

The Reds and Giants squared off in an old-fashioned duel. Both teams needed the win, and both teams showed up. Nick Lodolo pitched well in his first postseason experience going 7 innings and only giving up a 2-run HR to NL MVP Evan Longoria. Logan Webb was excellent pitching 8 strong innings, giving up an RBI 1B to Jesse Winker in the 4th and a solo HR to Eric Davis in the 6th which tied the game. Both teams hunkered down and neither bullpen flinched inning after inning. The game went 2-2 when Barry Bonds finally connected for a 2-run HR and the Giants held on to get the biggest win of the season. The Giants are 1 win away from the NLCS. The Reds will need to win two in a row against the #1 seed.

**GAME #47 — SFG 2 @ CIN 5**

Barry Bonds hit a 2-run 2B in the 5th and it looked like the Reds were in trouble facing Carlos Rodon and down 2-0. In the bottom of the 5th the offense woke up to support Luis Castillo as Adam Duvall hit a 2-run HR to tie the game, and then Eugenio Suarez hit a 3-run HR in the 6th to take the lead and give the Reds a win in an elimination game. The Reds bullpen held and they lived to fight another day. Both teams will travel to San Francisco for a winner-take-all game where the prize is the NLCS.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

DIVISION SERIES • BAUTISTA 2-RUN HR • JOE MAUER RBI 1B • SFG WINS 7-0

**GAME #48 — MIN 4 @ TOR 6**

It came down to a must-win elimination game for both teams. Only one team would move on. Kevin Gausman took the ball to face Pablo Lopez and the Twins. This is where legends get made, and Jose Bautista went legend. After a Vladimir Guerrero Jr RBI, Bautista hit a 2-run HR in the 1st, and then another 2-run HR in the 3rd. The Twins were resilient and chipped away, knowing it was the last game of the season. Nelson Cruz hit a solo HR in the 2nd, and Carlos Correa hit an RBI 1B in the 4th. Jorge Polanco hit a solo HR in the 5th and suddenly the game was 5-3. Kenta Maeda relieved effectively and Joe Mauer hit an RBI 1B in the top of the 7th and the game was 5-4. Needing a last spark Guerrero stepped up and hit a solo HR that got the crowd back in the game. The Toronto bullpen held and the Toronto Blue Jays are heading to the ALCS. The Minnesota Twins head into the offseason wondering what could have been.

**GAME #48 — CIN 0 @ SFG 7**

Madison Bumgarner hasn't given up a run in the series posting 15 innings of scoreless baseball. Buster Posey hit an RBI 2B in the 1st to take some of the pressure off, and Bumgarner handled the rest giving up only 4 scattered singles and 0 walks in a masterful postseason performance. Evan Longoria and Brandon Belt had RBI 1Bs in the 6th and the Giants had some breathing room. And Bumgarner kept dealing. In the bottom of the 8th the Giants loaded the bases against Raisel Iglesias and sent pinch-hitter Wilmer Flores to the plate. Flores promptly hit a series-clinching Grand Slam HR sending the home crowd into the streets. Camilo Doval shut the door in the 9th and the San Francisco Giants are heading to the NLCS to face their arch rivals the Los Angeles Dodgers with a trip to the World Series on the line. The Cincinnati Reds have to be elated with their incredible run falling just 1 game short in a terrific season.

## MLBC — CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

GAMES 49-53 • BEST-OF-SEVEN

## THE #1 SEEDS CLAIM THE PENNANTS

*Toronto turns its escape into an AL title while San Francisco finally gets past Los Angeles and reaches the World Series.*

**THE MATCHUPS** Top-seeded Toronto came out of its five-game escape against Minnesota and immediately met Boston, a club that had swept Cleveland and spent the second half recovering from its own disastrous start. Toronto survived three consecutive elimination games. In the National League, the season's most natural collision finally arrived: San Francisco and Los Angeles, rivals separated by two regular-season games, with the pennant on the line. Both #1 seeds had home field. Neither series felt safe enough to trust it.

**THE ROUND** Toronto won the first two at home, Hyun-Jin Ryu carrying a shutout deep into Game #49 and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hitting a 3-run HR in the 1st inning of Game #50. Boston stole an 11-inning classic in Game #51 on late heroics from David Ortiz and Alex Verdugo, but George Springer hit two HR in Game #52 and Toronto closed the series 4-1 in Game #53. San Francisco and Los Angeles split the first two before the Giants took both games at Dodger Stadium: Mike Yastrzemski delivered a 2-out RBI single in the 9th of Game #51, and LaMonte Wade's 2-run HR helped win Game #52. Back home, Brandon Belt, Brandon Crawford and Wade went back-to-back-to-back in the clincher. San Francisco also won the series 4-1. Both #1 seeds ultimately turned home-field advantage into pennants, though Boston did force Toronto to answer an extra-inning loss, while Los Angeles made San Francisco win twice at Dodger Stadium before the Giants could finish the rivalry at home.

**THE PENNANTS** Toronto is the American League champion. San Francisco is the National League champion. The Blue Jays arrive after setting the wins record and then surviving three consecutive elimination games. The Giants arrive one year after letting an NLCS lead disappear, this time beating the Dodgers in the rivalry series that had shadowed their season. Both #1 seeds have reached the World Series, but by very different emotional routes. Toronto has already survived catastrophe. San Francisco has finally finished unfinished business. Now the two best regular-season teams play for the championship. The result is the World Series matchup the season had been pointing to all along.

|                         |                         |                                   |                                    |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| AL PENNANT<br>TOR • 4-1 | NL PENNANT<br>SFG • 4-1 | AL TURN<br>Springer • 2 HR in G52 | NL CLINCHER<br>SFG • 3 straight HR |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|

## LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

|                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>AMERICAN LEAGUE</b><br><b>TORONTO BLUE JAYS</b><br><i>Defeated Boston, 4-1</i><br><b>Series seal</b><br><i>Toronto wins Game #53 at home</i> | <b>NATIONAL LEAGUE</b><br><b>SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS</b><br><i>Defeated Los Angeles, 4-1</i><br><b>Series seal</b><br><i>Three consecutive HR in Game #53</i> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## MLBC — GAME LOG

ALCS • RYU SHUTOUT • JASON VARITEK SOLO HR • RAFAEL DEVERS SOLO HR

## CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

## GAME #49 — BOS 0 @ TOR 2

The American League Championship Series has begun. The red-hot Boston Red Sox come in with incredible momentum to face a Toronto Blue Jays team that found its resolve in their time of need winning 3 elimination games in a row coming back from an 0-2 hole that many assumed was fatal for their season. The Blue Jays might be the team they wanted to be at just the right time, but they had to face Chris Sale and a rested Red Sox team. Hyun-Jin Ryu took the ball for Toronto hoping to cool off the Red Sox who outscored Cleveland 23-8 in their sweep, and he showed up big time. Ryu pitched a legendary game facing Chris Sale, pitching  $7\frac{1}{3}$  shutout innings giving up only 3 hits until the 7th completely shutting down the Red Sox in a game that really mattered for the Red Sox as they had the pitching advantage in this game. The Red Sox will have to face the two Toronto aces before Sale will pitch again. Jose Bautista hit an RBI 1B in the 1st inning and the Blue Jays hung on watching Ryu get out after out. Teoscar Hernandez added an RBI 2B after a 2B from Vladimir Guerrero Jr in the bottom of the 8th. The Red Sox were always just 1 big swing from tying the game, but Ryu went legend.

## GAME #50 — BOS 2 @ TOR 6

David Price took the ball for the biggest game of the year for the Boston Red Sox. A win puts them at home with the advantage and an even series. A loss puts them on the verge of their season ending. The World Series were at stake and the Red Sox knew it. That is why it was so crushing when Vladimir Guerrero Jr connected in the bottom of the 1st hitting a 3-run HR that may have sent the Blue Jays to the World Series. Teoscar Hernandez hit a solo HR afterward, and Alek Manoah handled the rest. Manoah returned to his dominant self taking a shutout to the 6th having given up only 3 lone singles. In the top of the 6th Jason Varitek hit a solo HR, but in the bottom half Hernandez and Danny Jansen had RBI 1Bs and the Blue Jays cruised. Rafael Devers hit a solo HR in the 7th but it was not enough as Red Sox managed only 2 runs in Toronto and head home down 0-2. The Blue Jays were down 0-2 just the blink of an eye ago, and now have won 5 in a row to be on the verge of the World Series.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

NLCS • FREDDIE FREEMAN 2-RUN HR • PANIK SOLO HR • GIANTS WIN 6-1

**GAME #49 — LAD 1 @ SFG 6**

This is a baseball fan's dream come true. This may never happen again, and it is happening now. Arch rival like no other in a rivalry that has spanned a continent and a century. Giants vs Dodgers is an unmatched rivalry, and they face each other with the World Series on the line. Walker Buehler took the ball against a Giants team with only 1 goal. The Giants realize that major changes are on the way with half of their lineup on expiring contracts. The time for the Giants is now, while the Dodgers are a powerful team and now with momentum and the hope to dethrone the champions of the NL West and crown themselves kings of the NL. The stakes could not be higher as the Giants gave the ball to Logan Webb in the biggest game of the Giants' season. The winner of Game #1 might have an insurmountable advantage with how powerful both teams are. Walker Buehler pitched well until the Giants got to him in the bottom of the 4th when LaMonte Wade hit an RBI sacrifice and Joe Panik hit an RBI 1B giving Logan Webb some room to breathe. Evan Longoria hit a sacrifice RBI and the Giants were up 3-0 going into the 6th. In the top of the 6th Webb hit one snag giving up a solo HR to Cody Bellinger, but that was all the Dodgers would get on this day as Webb was stellar giving up only 4 hits and 1 walk over 7 strong innings. Panik hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 6th and Barry Bonds added an RBI. Will Clark scored on a wild pitch, and the Giants got an easy win to take a most important series lead.

**GAME #50 — LAD 4 @ SFG 3**

This might be a game the entire league looks back on when the World Series finishes. The Giants were on the verge. Justin Turner gave the Dodgers some hope with an early 2-run HR off of Carlos Rodon but Rodon settled down. In the bottom of the 3rd the Giants got to Julio Urias with an RBI 1B from Mike Yastrzemski, an RBI from Barry Bonds, and an RBI 1B from Buster Posey, and the Giants had the lead. Both pitchers shut down both teams as the tension grew. The Giants were on the verge of a 2-0 lead and real momentum. The Giants had a 2-0 lead last season against the Phillies and lost a most dramatic Game #3, the Mike Schmidt 2 3-run HR game, and the Giants were on the verge of getting that 2-0 in the NLCS back, just like the dreamed all offseason. It was such high stakes the Giants brought in rested closer Camilo Doval for the 8th inning facing the top of the Dodgers lineup. Trea Turner hit a 1B and then Freddie Freeman hit a 2-run HR that may have changed the fate of both franchises. The Giants will face some major changes in the offseason and this might be their best chance, while the Dodgers are trying to assemble a dynasty and are ascending. Kenley Jansen likewise came into the game in the 8th inning and in a clutch performance got all 6 outs to give the Dodgers a split on the road and some real momentum going home 1-1.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

ALCS • HOUCK FANS 13 • GEORGE SPRINGER 3-RUN HR • YOSHIDA RBI 2B

**GAME #51 — TOR 3 @ BOS 4**

This game is what baseball is all about. Tanner Houck stepped up big time for Boston, and Kevin Gausman matched him. Gausman pitched 5 perfect innings in a playoff stretch of brilliance. Because Gausman was on fire the performance of Tanner Houck was all the more impressive. Houck ran into trouble in the 4th when Bo Bichette hit a solo HR to take a 1-0 lead. A win from Toronto would all but end the season of the Red Sox. Faced with this reality Boston fought back against a dominant Gausman with Wade Boggs hitting an RBI 1B in the bottom of the 6th. The Red Sox could exhale as the game was tied. With consideration of going to the bullpen Tanner Houck struck out 6 in a row in a dominant stretch. Houck went 8 innings only giving up 1 run while striking out 13 in a heroic performance. In the bottom of the 8th Dustin Pedroia stepped up and hit an RBI 1B which gave the Red Sox the lead in this crucial game. Boston handed the ball to record-setting closer Garrett Whitlock who only needed to get 3 outs. But then the script changed again as Vladimir Guerrero Jr hit a solo HR in the 9th to tie the game. The crowd was shocked. The game went to the 11th when George Springer hit a 2B and scored on a Bo Bichette RBI 2B and the Blue Jays had the lead in this dramatic game. With their hopes on the line Boston sent David Ortiz to the plate in the bottom of the 11th. Ortiz did not disappoint hitting a game-tying solo HR thrilling the crowd, and then Alex Verdugo stepped in with 2 outs and hit a walk-off solo HR sending the crowd into a frenzy. The Boston Red Sox are still alive in the playoffs.

**GAME #52 — TOR 9 @ BOS 5**

In a game the Boston Red Sox needed George Springer went legend putting the Toronto Blue Jays on the verge. Chris Sale struggled out of the gate walking the bases loaded, and then Jose Bautista hit an RBI sacrifice in the top of the 1st inning. Wade Boggs and Xander Bogaerts hit RBI 1Bs to take a 2-1 lead giving the crowd hope, but Chris Sale struggled and the Red Sox could not recover. George Springer hit a 3-run HR in the 2nd, and then hit a 2-run HR in the 4th to give Toronto a 6-2 lead. Masataka Yoshida hit a solo HR in the 4th but Jose Bautista and Teoscar Hernandez went back-to-back with solo HRs. Dalton Varsho hit a solo HR and the blowout was on. Yoshida hit an RBI 2B and Bogaerts hit an RBI 1B in the 8th but Jordan Romano came in and shut the door. The Toronto Blue Jays blew out the Boston Red Sox taking a 3-1 lead in the ALCS leaving them 1 win from the World Series.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

NLCS • BRANDON BELT 2-RUN HR • BUSTER POSEY 2-RUN HR • SFG WINS 3-2

**GAME #51 — SFG 3 @ LAD 2**

There were 2 swings of the bat which may have defined the Giants' season. Buster Posey hit a 2-run HR against Clayton Kershaw in the 1st inning and Madison Bumgarner continued his dominant run. Coming into the game Bumgarner had 15 scoreless innings, a streak he continued into his 20th inning. After 19 scoreless playoff innings Freddie Freeman broke the streak with a 2-run 2B that tied the game giving the Dodgers' fans something to cheer about. This Game #3 could be the most decisive game of the season, and both teams well knew it — and now they were tied again. Kershaw didn't give up another run, and neither did Bumgarner, and the game went 2-2 to the 9th. Facing dominant closer Kenley Jansen, who hadn't given up a run in the playoffs over 8 $\frac{2}{3}$  innings, LaMonte Wade hit a 1B and Thairo Estrada hit a 1B with 2 outs, and suddenly the Giants had a threat. Mike Yastrzemski came up with the chance to go playoff legend, and he delivered, hitting an RBI 1B off of Jansen for the biggest Giants hit of the season. It was an incredible moment in an incredibly tense series in an incredible rivalry, with the World Series on the line. Camilo Doval came in and shut the door, and the Dodgers let one get away. Madison Bumgarner and Mike Yastrzemski added to their legacy with their performance leading to the biggest win of the year.

**GAME #52 — SFG 5 @ LAD 4**

This is likely the Giants' best shot, and they are on the verge of making the most of it. The roster will likely look considerably different next season, and this group is glued together with a singular focus — to win the World Series. Max Muncy got an RBI 2B off of Logan Webb but Webb was able to overcome a shaky outing not giving up another run in a clutch performance. Webb clearly did not have his best stuff yet he kept the Dodgers off the board over and over. NL MVP Evan Longoria hit a solo HR off of Walker Buehler in the 2nd to tie the game and then LaMonte Wade hit a shot that might define the entire baseball season with a 2-run HR that put the Giants on the verge. Webb put up zeroes, and Javier Lopez did the same until Adrian Gonzalez hit a solo HR in what might be the end of his Dodgers' run. Brandon Belt hit a 2-run HR in the 8th to add to the lead, which mattered as the desperate Dodgers hit back-to-back solo HRs by Mookie Betts and Freddie Freeman off of Santiago Casilla, but Camilo Doval got the last out and the Giants are officially on the verge of the World Series, while the Dodgers are on the verge of the offseason.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

ALCS • JANSEN 2-RUN 2B • BRANDON BELT SOLO HR • BO BICHETTE RBI 1B

## GAME #53 — BOS 3 @ TOR 6

It was game time for the Boston Red Sox. They came into Game #5 needing three wins in a row. David Price took the ball against Blue Jays ace Alek Manoah with the season on the line. Bo Bichette hit an RBI 1B in the bottom of the 1st inning and the Red Sox were in trouble. Dalton Varsho hit an RBI 3B in the bottom of the 2nd and scored on an RBI from Danny Jansen, and the Jays were up 3-0. Jansen hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 5th to extend the lead, and then Jose Bautista hit a 2-run 2B to put the game out of reach. Manoah gave up an RBI 1B to Jason Varitek in the 6th to get the Red Sox on the board. Masataka Yoshida continued his most impressive postseason run with a solo HR and Xander Bogaerts went back-to-back with his own solo HR, but it was not enough. Jordan Romano shut the door in the 9th for his 11th scoreless postseason inning. Congratulations to the Toronto Blue Jays champions of the American League. They will host Game #1 of the World Series. Not long ago the Blue Jays were down 0-2 to the Twins, but they proved championship grit then and beyond and now will represent the American League in the World Series. The Boston Red Sox cannot be disappointed with such a fantastic season and certainly not bowing to the better team all season. A runner-up finish is something Boston can take great pride in over the offseason. Jordan Romano was named the MVP of the AL Postseason. Wade Boggs had a terrific postseason getting a hit in all 11 games batting .426 to lead Boston.

## GAME #53 — LAD 2 @ SFG 3

The Giants changed the series with their outstanding performance in Los Angeles. Given the stakes it was perhaps the series of the year coming into Dodger Stadium and winning two epic games, and now the Giants stand on the verge needing just 1 win. The Dodgers announced that they would compete when Justin Turner hit an RBI 1B in the top of the 1st inning after Trea Turner opened the game with a 1B and SB off of Carlos Rodon. Julio Urias showed up for the Dodgers pitching a scoreless 3 innings, but in the 4th inning the Giants may have reached their goal when Brandon Belt hit a solo HR to tie the game, thrilling the crowd. Brandon Crawford stepped in and went back-to-back with a solo HR and the crowd went wild as the Giants had the lead 2-1 in the game that could do it. And then LaMonte Wade stepped in and went back-to-back-to-back against Urias with a solo HR of his own to send the crowd into a frenzy. Rodon settled down and avoided giving up another run working out of trouble. Santiago Casilla walked the bases loaded, but Javier Lopez escaped the 7th. Alex Vesia got the Dodgers to the 8th, down 2, with 6 outs left. Adrian Gonzalez led off the 8th with a walk, and Will Smith followed with a walk, and the Dodgers had the tying runners on base. Javier Lopez got Joc Pederson on a pop out and Cody Bellinger on a line-out, and Camilo Doval came in to face Trea Turner. Turner hit an RBI 1B and it was 3-2 with the tying run on 3rd base. Doval outmatched Mookie Betts and got the final out in the 8th keeping the lead. In the top of the 9th Doval got Freddie Freeman, but walked Justin Turner and gave up a line-drive 1B to Max Muncy. Chris Taylor had a chance to be a hero, but it was Doval who struck him out. Will Smith had the chance to be the hero, but Doval got him to pop-out and the glove went into the air. The San Francisco Giants are the champions of the National League and are going to the World Series. The Dodgers have to be thrilled with their run and look to be a potential threat next season.

## MLBC — WORLD SERIES

GAMES 54-58 • THE FALL CLASSIC

## TORONTO FINISHES THE CLIMB

*The league's winningest team beats San Francisco in five and becomes the second champion in MLBC history.*

**THE STAGE** The World Series put the two #1 seeds together. Toronto entered with the best regular-season record in MLBC history, a 29-11 mark that had survived an 0-2 Division Series deficit. San Francisco had won the NL West, the National League's top seed and finally the pennant after stopping one round short the year before. One year earlier, Toronto had missed the postseason at 19-21 while San Francisco won 28 games only to lose a two-game NLCS lead. Madison Bumgarner faced Kevin Gausman in Toronto with the entire season reduced to one best-of-seven series.

**THE SERIES** Game #54 stayed 1-1 into the bottom of the 9th, when Teoscar Hernández opened the World Series with a walk-off solo HR. San Francisco answered violently: Logan Webb threw a 4-hit complete-game shutout and Barry Bonds hit a Grand Slam in an 8-0 Game #55 win. Toronto took the series west and seized control. Alek Manoah carried a no-hitter into the 7th in a 5-1 Game #56 victory. In Game #57, Bonds turned a 3-1 deficit into a Giants lead with a 3-run HR, but Toronto answered in the 7th and Jordan Romano closed a 6-4 win. Back in Toronto for Game #58, Webb protected a 1-0 lead until George Springer hit a 2-run HR in the 6th. It was Springer's first hit of the World Series, arriving at the exact moment Toronto needed one swing to turn a deficit into a championship lead. Romano handled the final three outs of the 2-1 championship clincher. The 4-1 series score makes the final look easier than it was; four games turned on one swing, one late inning or one ace protecting almost nothing.

**THE CHAMPIONS** Toronto wins the World Series 4-1. Bo Bichette is the official World Series MVP, adding the championship award to an October in which the Statbook also recognizes him as Playoff MVP. Romano completes the postseason without allowing a run in twelve appearances, the quiet backbone beneath Toronto's October survival. San Francisco's season ends one round short, but the Giants finally claimed the pennant they missed a year earlier. Toronto's achievement is different: the league's regular-season giant entered October, nearly fell immediately, then proved it could win after its margin for error had completely disappeared. Season Two did not crown an underdog. It crowned the favorite after the favorite learned how to survive. Toronto, you are the 2023 MLBC champions, forever.

|                                     |                                            |                                       |                                  |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>SERIES</b><br>TOR def. SFG • 4-1 | <b>OPENING DRAMA</b><br>TOR • walk-off G54 | <b>GIANTS ANSWER</b><br>SFG 8 • TOR 0 | <b>CLINCHER</b><br>TOR 2 • SFG 1 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|

## WORLD SERIES HONORS

|                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>CHAMPIONSHIP</b><br><b>TORONTO BLUE JAYS</b><br><i>2023 MLBC World Series Champions</i><br><b>Series result</b><br><i>Defeated San Francisco, 4-1</i> | <b>OFFICIAL HONORS</b><br><b>WORLD SERIES MVP • BO BICHETTE</b><br><i>Official MLBC Statbook award</i><br><b>POSTSEASON MARK • JORDAN ROMANO</b><br><i>12 appearances • 0 runs allowed</i> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WORLD SERIES • BARRY BONDS GRAND SLAM • TOR WINS 2-1 • TOR WINS 5-1

## WORLD SERIES

## GAME #54 — SFG 1 @ TOR 2

This is it. The two top teams all season, start to finish, the two #1 seeds both meet in the inevitable collision for the top prize. The San Francisco Giants representing the National League traveled to Toronto to face the American League's representative, the Toronto Blue Jays. Madison Bumgarner faced Kevin Gausman in the biggest game of the season. Gausman got through a clean 1st, and Bumgarner got past a 1B from Bo Bichette in the bottom half, and the series was underway. In the 2nd Buster Posey singled, Evan Longoria drew a walk, Brandon Belt singled, but all the Giants would get would be a LaMonte Wade sacrifice RBI letting the Blue Jays off the hook. Gausman settled in and was dominant sitting down 18 batters in a row after the Belt single. Jose Bautista got to Madison Bumgarner in the 4th hitting an RBI 2B after a Bo Bichette 2B. Bumgarner navigated his way to keep up with Gausman and the game went to Camilo Doval and Jordan Romano. In the bottom of the 9th in Game #1 of the World Series Teoscar Hernandez put his name in the record books with a walk-off solo HR to send the home crowd into a frenzy. The Toronto Blue Jays are up 1-0.

## GAME #55 — SFG 8 @ TOR 0

You could see this result coming. One team was angry and motivated after the first game, and one team may have relaxed feeling a bit good after all that emotion in the first game. Logan Webb absolutely shut down the Toronto offense giving up only 4 singles pitching a complete-game shutout. In the 1st inning Barry Bonds hit an RBI 1B off of Hyun-Jin Ryu who did not have it. Brandon Belt hit a 2-run 1B to close out the 3-run 1st, and then Barry Bonds hit a Grand Slam HR in the 4th to break the game open. Mike Yastrzemski hit a solo HR in the 6th to make it 8-0 and the Giants cruised to even the series in an incredibly important game. It has to be a big troubling that the Blue Jays didn't show up for this game ceding home field advantage to the Giants. Jose Bautista saw his 11-game postseason hitting streak end in the loss.

## GAME #56 — TOR 5 @ SFG 1

This is what the San Francisco Giants dreamed of when the Phillies suddenly upended their run last season and went on to win the World Series. All offseason and all season the Giants had one mission, to get to the World Series and erase the failure of last season. Now that they are here they have to face a record-setting red-hot dominant Toronto Blue Jays team who had home-field advantage. The Giants could just hope for a road split and come home 1-1, and they did it. The Giants had the advantage and the big question is could they keep it. Aces Carlos Rodon and Alek Manoah squared off in the most important game all season, Game #3 of a tied World Series. Rodon came out nervous and walked 3 and gave up a 2B to Bo Bichette. Jose Bautista got the RBI with his walk. The Blue Jays jumped out to a 1-0 lead and the crowd started getting nervous, for good reason. From the beginning Alek Manoah was on point. Manoah walked the bases loaded in the 2nd, but got out of it. He walked 3 more batters, but he didn't give up a hit until the bottom of the 7th. The Giants got their 2nd and 3rd hits in the 8th to get a run on a 2B from Will Clark and an RBI 2B from Evan Longoria, but it wasn't close to enough. Carlos Rodon struggled giving up 3 more runs in the 3rd on a 2-run 1B from Randal Grichuk and an RBI 1B from Danny Jansen. Bo Bichette added an RBI 2B in the 8th to make it 5-0 and the Blue Jays cruised to a dominant team win, taking the pivotal Game #3 of the World Series. The Giants are now facing a must-win Game #4 at home.

## MLBC — GAME LOG

WORLD SERIES • BUSTER POSEY RBI 1B • TOR WINS 2-1 • TOR WINS 6-4

**GAME #57 — TOR 6 @ SFG 4**

The Giants were at home in a must-win game and had their team leader Madison Bumgarner to take the ball. Bumgarner came into the game with a 0.90 postseason ERA. Kevin Gausman took the ball for the Blue Jays with a chance to put a stranglehold on the Series. It was clear early that Bumgarner did not have his best stuff. Matt Chapman and Randal Grichuk went back-to-back with solo HRs in the 2nd, and Teoscar Hernandez hit a solo HR in the 4th. Bumgarner danced out of other trouble multiple times and was lucky to only give up the 3 runs. Will Clark had an RBI 2B in the bottom of the 1st, but the Giants went to the bottom of the 5th down 3-1. Kevin Gausman was dealing but he ran into trouble in the 5th putting 2 runners on, and then Barry Bonds who was 0-6 on the homestand hit a 3-run HR that had the potential to change the Series, if the Giants could hold on. Bumgarner now had a 4-3 lead but immediately put 2 runners on. Taylor Rogers relieved and in an ultra-clutch performance got 3 outs in a row. Rogers however loaded the bases with no outs in the 7th and the Giants were forced to go to Camilo Doval in the 7th with the game on the line. Doval didn't have it. He gave up an RBI walk to Matt Chapman, an RBI 1B from Grichuk, and an RBI 1B from Roberto Alomar, and the Giants' season was on the brink. Jose Berrios got the game to the 9th for Jordan Romano, who had a chance to send the Toronto Blue Jays to a 3-1 Series lead. Romano did his job and the Toronto Blue Jays are on the verge of the World Series Championship.

**GAME #58 — SFG 1 @ TOR 2**

This is it. The Toronto Blue Jays have a game at home to win the World Series. The Giants turn to Logan Webb to continue his excellent postseason with the hope of extending the Series. The Blue Jays handed the ball to Hyun-Jin Ryu who the Giants lit up in Game #2. Ryu came out strong and didn't give up a run until the 6th when Buster Posey hit an RBI 1B to give the Giants a 1-0 lead. Webb was even better, only giving up 1 hit until the bottom of the 6th. Given a 1-0 lead Webb faltered as he gave up a 1B to Roberto Alomar and then the big shot, a 2-run HR to George Springer, putting the Blue Jays on the verge of the Championship. The Giants were left with 9 outs and Jordan Romano looming. Ryu got through the 7th, Erik Swanson got through the 8th, and in came Romano with a 2-1 lead. Webb was brilliant, only giving up 3 hits, but one was the shot by Springer. Romano came in and did his job, shutting the door, getting the save, and giving the World Series Championship to the **Toronto Blue Jays**. Romano was the star of the postseason for the champs as he didn't give up a single run over 12 appearances. The home run from Springer was his first hit in the World Series, and how big it was. Bo Bichette was named the World Series MVP. The Toronto Blue Jays will spend the offseason basking before ramping up to spend next season defending their championship.

## MLBC — SEASON IN REVIEW

2023 • SEASON TWO

## THE SEASON TORONTO FINISHED

*Forty games produced a new wins record. Forty-three postseason games turned it into a championship.*

**THE SEASON** Toronto set the league's regular-season standard. The Blue Jays reached 10-2 after twelve games, 15-5 at the midpoint, 22-6 after Week 7 and finally 29-11, setting the MLBC wins record. San Francisco finished 26-14, claiming the NL's #1 seed. Byron Buxton won AL MVP after a record-setting 20-HR season with 43 runs and 128 total bases; Evan Longoria won NL MVP after leading the league with 33 RBI and 30 runs. Gerrit Cole won AL Cy Young after a dominant finish; rookie Spencer Strider won NL Cy Young and NL Rookie of the Year.

**THE TURN** Toronto's championship came through October danger. The Blue Jays lost the first two Division Series games at home to Minnesota and stood one loss from turning a record season into trivia. They won twice in Minnesota, then completed the escape at home in Game #48. They took the first two ALCS games from Boston, won the pennant in five and met San Francisco in a World Series between #1 seeds. The Giants broke through by beating the rival Dodgers 4-1 after falling one round short the year before. Season Two changed the standard again: regular-season dominance mattered because Toronto found another identity when dominance stopped protecting it.

**THE LEGACY** Toronto won the World Series 4-1, clinching on George Springer's 2-run HR and Jordan Romano's scoreless 9th in Game #58. Bo Bichette won official Playoff and World Series MVP; Romano allowed no runs in twelve postseason appearances. San Francisco's lone win paired Logan Webb's 4-hit shutout with Barry Bonds's Grand Slam. Season One crowned a 1-7 survivor; Season Two crowned the giant that nearly fell. MLBC now had two champions and two paths for future contenders to inherit.

AL MVP  
**BYRON BUXTON**

NL MVP  
**EVAN LONGORIA**

AL CY YOUNG  
**GERRIT COLE**

NL CY YOUNG  
**SPENCER STRIDER**

## POSTSEASON HONORS

## PLAYOFF AWARDS

**PLAYOFF MVP • BO BICHETTE***TOR • official MLBC Statbook award***POSTSEASON MARK • JORDAN ROMANO***TOR • 12 appearances / 0 runs allowed*

## WORLD SERIES AWARDS

**WORLD SERIES MVP • BO BICHETTE***TOR • official MLBC Statbook award***CLINCHING SWING • GEORGE SPRINGER***TOR • 2-run HR in Game #58*

## PENNANTS &amp; CHAMPIONSHIP

AMERICAN LEAGUE CHAMPION  
**TORONTO BLUE JAYS**

NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPION  
**SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS**

2023 MLBC WORLD SERIES CHAMPION

**TORONTO BLUE JAYS**