

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL CARDS

A NEW CHAMPION TO CHASE

MLBC

SEASON THREE

2024 GAME LOG

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SEASON PREVIEW

Two seasons have turned MLBC expectations into history, pressure and unfinished business. Toronto begins Season Three with the trophy after surviving the brink in October and finishing its climb against San Francisco. The Giants return with a pennant and the memory of how close the final step felt. Houston remains dangerous, Atlanta brings the reigning NL Cy Young winner, and the Dodgers and Yankees enter another short season with no appetite for leaving their promise unfinished. The Mets have made the loudest move of all, pairing Max Scherzer with Jacob deGrom and turning anything short of a deep October run into disappointment before Opening Day even arrives. Boston must replace important offense, Cleveland is trying to own its division for a third straight year, Seattle wants another chance after a first-round exit, and St. Louis begins again with Albert Pujols back in the middle of the story. Forty games leave no room for ceremony. Every sweep moves a race, every ace start can tilt a week, and every slow opening threatens to become a season before anyone is ready. The trophy belongs to Toronto. The next story belongs to whoever takes it.

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

• *It's Opening Day!* •

MLBC — WEEK 1

GAMES 1-4 • OPENING WEEK

MINNESOTA RUNS THE TABLE

One perfect club, a no-hitter, and a league that immediately refuses to ease into Season Three.

THE LEAD Season Three opened with Toronto defending the championship, San Francisco carrying the National League pennant, and every club reset to 0-0. The first four games offered immediate measuring sticks: Toronto returned to Boston for an ALCS rematch, the Yankees opened in Tampa Bay, the Mets unveiled the deGrom-Scherzer pairing in Miami, and Atlanta began with Spencer Strider trying to build on a record-setting rookie season. Boston was already replacing Xander Bogaerts and J.D. Martinez, San Francisco had entered the post-Bonds era, and both Miami and Oakland arrived with waves of rookies. The league had history now.

THE WEEK Minnesota made a clean start, going 4-0 and becoming the only unbeaten club. Miami supplied the first thunderbolt when Sandy Alcantara came within one walk of a perfect game and no-hit the Mets. Atlanta answered with Strider's 4-hit, 14-strikeout complete-game shutout, while Ozzie Albies drove in eight across the week. Houston won its first two games while scoring only three total runs because Justin Verlander and Framber Valdez scarcely allowed anything. Colorado and Seattle produced the week's strangest finish: the Rockies scored six in the 11th, Seattle answered with five, and Carlos Gonzalez's relay through Trevor Story cut down the tying run at the plate. The Yankees stole two late games in Tampa Bay, Toronto opened with a road sweep in Boston, and Baltimore, Chicago, Cincinnati, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Toronto and Atlanta all finished 3-1. Detroit and Arizona never found a win.

THE STAKES Minnesota leaves Opening Week alone at 4-0, but nine clubs are only one game behind and eleven more sit 2-2. The defending champion looks good without looking untouchable; the Mets have already seen both the promise and volatility of their super-rotation; and Houston has reminded the league that elite pitching can make a quiet offense feel sufficient. Week 2 begins the first sorting: Boston goes to Baltimore, Toronto visits Yankee Stadium, San Francisco goes into Dodger Stadium, and Philadelphia gets the Mets before New York turns to Washington. Detroit and Arizona already need an answer. Four games have not created a favorite. They have created urgency.

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

WEEKLY HONORS

HITTER OF THE WEEK

GOLD OZZIE ALBIES • ATL2 HR • 8 RBI • *Grand Slam***SILVER** IVAN RODRIGUEZ • TEX

2 HR • 6 RBI

BRONZE DAVID WRIGHT • NYM

3 HR • 4 RBI

PITCHER OF THE WEEK

GOLD SANDY ALCANTARA • MIA

NO-HITTER • 1 BB

SILVER SPENCER STRIDER • ATL

CG SHO • 4 H • 14 K

BRONZE LOGAN GILBERT • SEA

CG SHO • 3 H

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 1 • BLUE JAYS WIN 6-2 • BAL HOME WIN 2-1 • BAL HOME WIN 7-6

ROUND #1

GAME #1 — DET 6 @ BAL 7

It's Opening Day! The Detroit Tigers open their season in Baltimore hoping to emulate the Orioles' giant turnaround of last season. The Tigers finished tied for the worst record in the American League, while the Orioles turned around a 14-win season into a stunning playoff berth, winning 23 games. Tarik Skubal took the ball hoping to set the stage for a much-improved season, while Kyle Bradish got the honor for the Orioles. Adam Jones led off the season for the home Orioles with a solo HR, giving the O's an early 1-0 lead. The Tigers responded in the 2nd with a 2B from Cecil Fielder and an RBI 2B from Isaac Paredes to tie the game in the 2nd, and then Bradish struggled in the 3rd, walking 3 and then giving up an RBI 2B to Miguel Cabrera and an RBI 1B to Victor Martinez. Jordan Westburg® started his career with a solo HR in the 3rd to cut the lead to 3-2, and then Cedric Mullins tied the game in the 5th with an RBI 3B. The Tigers took the lead back in the top of the 6th with an RBI 1B from Cabrera and an RBI 2B from Martinez, but the O's made it 5-4 in the bottom half on an RBI 3B from Cal Ripken Jr. The Tigers added to their lead in the top of the 8th on another RBI 1B from Martinez, and the Tigers handed their lead and the ball to Jason Foley to close out the game, but it was not to be. Foley gave up 1Bs to Adley Rutschman and Mullins, and then pinch-hitting rookie Colton Cowser® made the game 6-5 with an RBI 1B in his first at-bat. Jones scored Mullins on a groundout, and then Eddie Murray sent the crowd home happy with a walk-off RBI 2B. This game was an exceptional start to the season. Cabrera and Martinez went 6-9 with 2 2Bs and 5 RBI in the loss.

GAME #2 — DET 1 @ BAL 2

John Means outdueled Casey Mize to give Baltimore the home sweep they wanted. Trey Mancini hit an RBI 2B in the 1st and Jordan Westburg hit an RBI 2B in the 2nd to give the O's a lead they would not relinquish. Miguel Cabrera hit an RBI 2B in the 3rd, but that was all Means would give up. Mize settled in and the Tigers' bullpen held, but the Detroit offense couldn't break through, and the Orioles start the season 2-0 while the Tigers are 0-2.

GAME #1 — TOR 6 @ BOS 2

It's Opening Day! The Toronto Blue Jays are the defending champions and start their season in Boston in a rematch of the ALCS. The Blue Jays ended the Red Sox season with a convincing 4-1 series win, and the Red Sox get to host the champions looking for a measure of revenge. The Blue Jays return the same lineup and pitching staff looking for a repeat performance of a dominant season. Meanwhile, the Red Sox lost key players Xander Bogaerts and JD Martinez, adding only two rookies, Kristian Campbell and Ceddanne Rafaela. Many are expecting Boston to take a step back, though a return to form from Chris Sale could buffer the losses on the offense. Sale took the ball to open the season, facing Alek Manoah, who finished 4th in the AL Cy Young race, going 8-1. Jose Bautista hit an RBI 1B, scoring George Springer, who got the first hit of the Blue Jays' season, and putting the Jays up 1-0. Alek Manoah didn't need more than that. Manoah took a no-hitter into the 5th and didn't give up a run until an RBI 1B from Ceddanne Rafaela in his first game, scoring Jason Varitek, whose 2B was just the second hit of the game for the Red Sox. Bo Bichette hit an RBI 1B in the 5th, and then, up 2-1 in the top of the 7th, Springer hit a 2-run HR to open up the lead. Alex Verdugo hit an RBI 2B in the bottom half, but Vladimir Guerrero Jr hit a solo HR and Matt Chapman hit an RBI 2B to make it 6-2.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 1 • BLUE JAYS WIN 8-6 • NYY ROAD WIN 5-4 • NYY ROAD WIN 6-4

GAME #2 — TOR 8 @ BOS 6

Kevin Gausman struggled in the 1st inning, giving up 2 RBI BBs to David Ortiz and Alex Verdugo, but settled in after that, striking out 11 over 6 innings. Teoscar Hernandez hit a 2-run 2B to tie the game in the 4th, and then George Springer hit a solo HR in the 6th to break the tie. Alejandro Kirk hit a 2-run 1B in the 8th to open up the lead, but the Red Sox scored 2 in the bottom half on a 2-run HR from Masataka Yoshida. Vladimir Guerrero Jr hit a massive 3-run HR in the top of the 9th, which proved decisive as Rafael Devers and Wade Boggs hit RBI 1Bs in the bottom of the 9th. The Blue Jays got the key division road sweep to start the defense of their championship. For the Red Sox, two things seem clear: their outfield defense and their bullpen both look shaky enough to sabotage Boston's season. The Boston bullpen gave up 9 runs in 6 innings.

GAME #1 — NYY 5 @ TBR 4

It's Opening Day! The New York Yankees start their season on the road in Tampa Bay hoping to get off to a fast start after missing the playoffs on a tiebreaker last season. The Rays likewise missed the playoffs on a tiebreaker and knew well how important this opening home series was for them. The Yankees brought back the same lineup, only adding rookie Jasson Dominguez®, while Luis Gil® was added to the New York bullpen. The Rays were excited to see five new rookies added to their team, highlighted by 3B Junior Caminero. Tampa Bay hoped to have enough pitching to compete on the season, and knew it would likely be tested by this New York team. Tyler Glasnow, the 2022 AL Cy Young Award winner, took the ball against Gerrit Cole, the 2023 AL Cy Young Award winner, in a matchup of aces. Cole struggled early with 3 solo HRs to Yandy Diaz, Josh Lowe, and Mike Zunino, staking the Rays to a 3-0 lead. In the top of the 5th, Jorge Posada scored on a wild pitch, and then Derek Jeter hit an RBI 1B. Kevin Kiermaier hit an RBI 2B to make it 4-2 going to the top of the 9th. Pete Fairbanks came in with a 2-run lead, facing the bottom of the Yankees' lineup, but Posada drew a 1-out walk, and then Jeter drew a 2-out walk. Suddenly, Aaron Judge came to the plate as the go-ahead run. As scripted, Judge hit a 3-run HR to stun the home crowd and steal the game. The bullpen held and the Yankees scored a major division road win.

GAME #2 — NYY 6 @ TBR 4

The Yankees took an early lead on a Gleyber Torres RBI 1B in the 2nd inning, but Nestor Cortes struggled in the 4th. Josh Lowe hit an RBI 2B after a Brandon Lowe 2B, and then Mike Zunino hit a 2-run HR to make it 4-1. The Yankees struck against Shane McClanahan in the 5th on a 2-run 2B from Hideki Matsui, and then tied the game in the 8th on a Torres solo HR. Pete Fairbanks came into the tied game in the 9th and again lost the game, giving up a 2-run HR to Giancarlo Stanton. The Yankees are off to a dream start on what could be their season with 2 dramatic road wins against a division foe. Clarke Schmidt pitched 4 strong innings of relief, giving up only 1 hit and 0 walks and picking up the win.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 1 • WHITE SOX WIN 6-3 • CHW HOME WIN 9-3 • MIN ROAD WIN 2-1

GAME #1 — CLE 3 @ CHW 9

It's Opening Day! The Guardians came into Chicago looking to win their division for the 3rd season in a row. As much as the fans were hoping for some playoff success, this year's team didn't make any notable improvements other than Michael Brantley returning home. Shane Bieber took the ball against the White Sox's new ace Garrett Crochet, who has graduated from the bullpen. The White Sox added Andrew Benintendi, but otherwise brought back a team that struggled last season. MVP candidate Eloy Jimenez leads the offense but also has really struggled on defense. The Guardians have a similar decision with subpar defensive outfielder Franmil Reyes, who reached 10 HR last season, in the lineup. The season started well for Cleveland before completely unraveling. Jim Thome hit an RBI 2B in the top of the 1st, but Tim Anderson led off the bottom of the 1st with a solo HR and then the big shot came from Yoan Moncada with a bases-loaded 3-run 2B. Andres Gimenez hit a 2-run HR in the top of the 2nd, but Crochet settled down and the White Sox's bullpen held over 4 innings. Frank Thomas broke open the game in the bottom of the 4th with a 3-run HR, and then Moncada put the game out of reach with a 2-run 3B in the 6th to make it 9-3. Shane Bieber really struggled, giving up 10 hits and 7 runs over 4 innings.

GAME #2 — CLE 3 @ CHW 6

Cleveland did not start the season the way they had hoped and suddenly have a deficit to climb out of. Dylan Cease completely shut down the Guardians' offense, not giving up more than 2 singles until a 2-run HR to Andres Gimenez in the 7th. But the resurgent White Sox were already up 6-0 by then on the strength of an RBI 1B from Tim Anderson in the 2nd, a solo HR from Yasmani Grandal and a 2-run HR from Luis Robert in the 3-run 4th, and a 2-run 2B from Jose Abreu in the 6th. Corey Kluber struggled like Shane Bieber before him, and the Cleveland Guardians started the season 0-2 in 2 games that weren't close. Michael Brantley hit an RBI 1B in the 8th, but the White Sox came out on top, making a surprising early-season statement. Cease struck out 11 and was dominant through 6 innings.

GAME #1 — MIN 2 @ KCR 1

It's Opening Day! The Twins start in Kansas City after a season where they made the playoffs and advanced to the ALDS. Byron Buxton is the reigning AL MVP after hitting an absurd 20 HR in 40 games, which may be a record that stands. Buxton ended the season with a staggering .707 SLG, leading his team in 2B as well. The Twins have their offense covered and need their pitching to improve. Meanwhile, the Kansas City Royals actually finished 1st in the league in runs scored, but they finished last in runs given up. They bring back RBI leader Salvador Perez but lost Andrew Benintendi, who led the team with a .962 OPS. Vinny Pasquantino led the Royals, going 2-3 with an RBI 2B in the 2nd, but Kirby Puckett opened the Twins' season with a solo HR in the 1st and then the AL MVP Byron Buxton hit a solo HR in the 5th, which proved decisive. Zack Greinke pitched well enough, but Sonny Gray shut down Kansas City in the opener, pitching into the 7th. Buxton HR watch is on with his incredible 21st in 41 games.

GAME #2 — MIN 2 @ KCR 1

Pablo Lopez continued the Twins' hot start, pitching into the 7th when he gave up an RBI 2B to Vinny Pasquantino, who went 2-4 and 4-7 in the series with both RBIs for the woeful Royals, who got swept at home. Carlos Correa hit a solo HR and Jorge Polanco hit an RBI 1B after a Torii Hunter 2B in the decisive 2nd inning. The Twins' bullpen didn't give up a run and Minnesota swept on the road against a rival.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 1 • HOU ROAD WIN 2-1 • LAA HOME WIN 8-5 • RANGERS ROAD WIN

GAME #1 — TEX 8 @ LAA 3

It's Opening Day! The Angels saw Albert Pujols depart, but they didn't otherwise improve their team. Rookie Zach Neto® could help fill the void, but the Angels would need some improved performances on offense and with their suspect bullpen. Without solid starting pitching, the Angels could be looking at a lost season. Texas lost Juan Gonzalez and will look for rookie Wyatt Langford® to step forward. With some good fortune, the Rangers might compete. Shohei Ohtani took the ball looking to compete for the AL Cy Young, and he started well, taking a no-hitter into the 4th inning. In the 4th inning, Ohtani walked 2, and then gave up 4 hits in a row, including a 2-run 2B to Ivan Rodriguez, an RBI 1B to Joey Gallo, a 2B to Langford, and an RBI 2B to Adolis Garcia. Marcus Semien hit a third consecutive 2B, making it 5-0 and sending Ohtani to the showers. Nathan Eovaldi took a shutout into the 6th where he gave up an RBI 1B to Ohtani and an RBI 2B to Justin Upton. Anthony Rendon hit an RBI 2B in the 8th, but that was all the Angels would get. Rodriguez added a 2-run HR in the 8th and Garcia added a solo HR in the 9th, and the Rangers blew out the Angels in the opener.

GAME #2 — TEX 5 @ LAA 8

Justin Upton hit an RBI 1B in the 1st to get the Angels on the board, but Wyatt Langford hit his first career HR and Corey Seager hit an RBI 2B in the 2-run 3rd to give the Rangers the lead. The Angels tied the game in the bottom half on a solo HR from Anthony Rendon and then they took the lead on a Zach Neto RBI 2B and an RBI from Rendon in the 5th. The Rangers couldn't respond against Patrick Sandoval, and the Angels poured it on with a 2-run 1B from CJ Cron in the 7th and a 2-run 2B in the 8th. Texas made the score respectable with an RBI from Marcus Semien and another 2-run HR from Ivan Rodriguez, who went 5-9 with 1 2B and 2 HR with 6 RBI, both of which were half of his entire season totals from a down year last season. The Angels got the split they needed and both teams left satisfied with their teams but alarmed by the bullpens, which went a combined 13⅓ innings and gave up 11 runs.

GAME #1 — HOU 2 @ OAK 1

It's Opening Day! Justin Verlander led the Astros into Oakland coming off back-to-back 2nd-place AL Cy Young finishes, narrowly losing out to Gerrit Cole in a very close race. A season after losing the World Series, the Astros missed the playoffs by a game and look to rebound and compete with Seattle for the division. The Athletics lost Sean Murphy after a miserable season, Starling Marte after an average season, and Eric Chavez after an MVP-caliber season, but they brought in Mark McGwire, thrilling the fan base. Rookies JJ Bleday®, Lawrence Butler®, Jacob Wilson®, Tyler Soderstrom®, and Nick Kurtz® highlight a new era of Athletics baseball. The pitching staff likewise had four rookies, and the Oakland fans knew that they would need to be patient. Avoiding a last-place finish might actually be the only goal for the season. The Astros added rookies Yainer Diaz® and Jake Meyers® to their starting lineup as they brought back a pitching staff that should be their strength this season after a below-average season. Justin Verlander was the star of this show, pitching a 3-hit complete game with only 1 walk and 13 strikeouts. The only blemish was a solo HR from Mark McGwire. JP Sears ran into trouble in the 5th when he loaded the bases and then walked Jeff Bagwell, and Kyle Tucker hit an RBI fly. It was all Verlander needed as the Astros got a nice road win. Jose Altuve went 3-5 with a run scored and a stolen base to lead Houston.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 1 • VALDEZ 8 SHUTOUT IP • ASTROS SWEEP • ROCKIES WIN 9-8

GAME #2 — HOU 1 @ OAK 0

Framber Valdez got the sweep for the Astros. Valdez went 8 shutout innings, giving up only 3 hits. Ryan Pressly got the save, and the A's failed to get a split when the Astros' offense struggled, scoring only 3 runs in the series. Jeremy Pena hit a solo HR in the 7th to spoil an excellent start from James Kaprielian.

GAME #1 — COL 9 @ SEA 8

It's Opening Day! The Seattle Mariners are hoping this can be their season. Last season saw them win their division but lose in the first round of the playoffs. The M's added power-hitting 3B Eugenio Suarez and brought back the rest of their playoff team, with Logan Gilbert and George Kirby potentially on the verge of big seasons. The Colorado Rockies lost legends Todd Helton and Larry Walker, who went to the Legends League. Colorado did add C Wilin Rosario and SS Troy Tulowitzki, who they hoped could lead their team. The weak spot, as always, is the Rockies' pitching staff. Only RP Jorge De La Rosa had an ERA below 4.25, coming in at a respectable 2.35. Seattle came in with a great chance to start the season with a home sweep with Felix Hernandez starting the season, and though it started normally enough, no one could have ever guessed this would qualify for one of the craziest games in MLBC history. Carlos Gonzalez hit an RBI 1B after a Troy Tulowitzki 2B in the top of the first, but Edgar Martinez hit an RBI 1B after a Ken Griffey Jr 2B in the bottom half to tie the game. Hernandez settled in but so did German Marquez. Marquez didn't give up another run until a Griffey Jr solo HR in the 6th. JP Crawford hit a solo HR in the 7th and the M's were cruising to a 3-1 win when Andres Galarraga hit a 2-out 2-run HR off of Matt Brash to tie the game. The 3-3 game went to the 11th inning where things got completely out of hand for Seattle. Yusei Kikuchi gave up a 3-run HR to Ryan McMahon, then a 2-run HR to Trevor Story, and then a solo HR to Carlos Gonzalez. It was a stunning 6-run outburst all but ending the game. The only thing between them and the end of the game was 3 more outs. Justin Lawrence came out for his second inning of work but promptly gave up a solo HR to Mitch Haniger. Cal Raleigh drew a BB with 1 out, and then Julio Rodriguez hit a 1B with 2 outs. Robinson Cano hit an infield 1B, and the bases were loaded. Griffey Jr stepped up with the crowd on their feet and hit a 2-run 1B, sending Cano to third base. Suddenly, Edgar Martinez came to the plate as the tying run, and he drew a BB with the crowd at a fever pitch. Power hitter Edwin Encarnacion stepped to the plate with a chance to tie or even end the game, and he came up clutch, sending the crowd into a delirium. Encarnacion roped a 2B to the wall, scoring Cano and Griffey. Edgar Martinez rounded 3B, but Carlos Gonzalez got to the ball quickly and made an incredible throw from the wall to Trevor Story, who pivoted and fired home to tag out the tying run, ending the game. It was a one-of-a-kind ending that will go into the history books.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 1 • MARINERS HOME WIN • MARLINS HOME WIN • NYM ROAD WIN 4-0

GAME #2 — COL 0 @ SEA 7

If any opening series game could be called a ‘must-win game’ this would be the one. Facing an all-time loss the game before, a Colorado sweep in Seattle would be catastrophic. The Seattle crowd was hoping Logan Gilbert, coming off a strong season with a 3.36 ERA, could step up, and he did. Gilbert pitched a masterful 3-hit complete-game shutout. Gilbert walked 4 and struck out 12. The Seattle offense also showed up with Ken Griffey Jr hitting a 1st inning 2B, Edgar Martinez hitting an RBI 2B, and Edwin Encarnacion hitting a 2-run HR, making it 3-0 early. Encarnacion hit an RBI, and Mitch Haniger hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd to make it 5-0, and Robinson Cano hit an RBI 2B and Martinez hit an RBI in the 7th to give the M’s an easy 7-0 win, giving them the home split they needed. The Rockies will have a hard time winning close games with their bullpen woes.

GAME #1 — NYM 4 @ MIA 0

It’s Opening Day! The New York Mets are expected to be the favorites for the World Series this season due simply to acquiring ace Max Scherzer. Scherzer joins Jacob deGrom atop the rotation, giving the Mets an almost unbeatable advantage. Anything less than the World Series will be a major disappointment for the talent this team has. Meanwhile, the Miami Marlins are completely rebuilding with 10 rookies on their 26-man roster. Because Miami still has Jose Fernandez and Sandy Alcantara, they will have a chance to compete, and they added local hero Livan Hernandez to the team as their third starter. Even though the series was in Miami, the Mets were looking for a sweep to start their season. It started well enough, with Jose Fernandez taking a perfect game into the 5th. In the 6th, the Mets broke through with a 2-run 2B from Pete Alonso. That was all Jacob deGrom would need. deGrom sat down the last 14 batters, striking out 10 of them. deGrom scattered 3 hits and 1 walk while striking out 12 in a masterful Opening Day performance. The Mets added an RBI 2B in the 7th and a run in the 8th to complete the 4-0 win.

GAME #2 — NYM 0 @ MIA 9

No-hitter! Sandy Alcantara stymied the Mets the entire game, giving up only a single walk in the 8th to miss a perfect game by 1 pitch. There is only 1 possible game better than Sandy Alcantara’s performance in Game #2. The Marlins’ offense took away any other drama, scoring 2 in the 1st on an RBI 1B from Luis Arraez, an RBI 2B from Jesus Sanchez, and a 2-run 1B in the 2nd from rookie Xavier Edwards® who is hoping to compete for the award. Arraez added a 3-run HR in the 8th and rookie Connor Norby® had his first RBI afterward. The Marlins denied the Mets the sweep they sought and made the biggest story of week #1. Congratulations to Sandy Alcantara. Rookie Griffin Conine® shined with a 5-7 series. The most alarming disappointment of the season so far was Max Scherzer, who, in his debut for the Mets, got lit up in the worst start of week #1 and the worst start of his career, giving up 5 runs and 9 hits in just 3 innings. The dream of a fast start died in New York and the Miami crowd left the game buzzing after a 19-hit, 9-run performance.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 1 • ATL HOME WIN 9-0 • PHILLIES ROAD WIN • PIRATES ROAD WIN

GAME #1 — PHI 0 @ ATL 9

It's Opening Day! Coming off an unbelievable all-time rookie season in which he won the NL Cy Young Award and set a new record with 116 strikeouts in just 10 starts, Spencer Strider took the ball at home for the Braves against their rival. That record might not get broken. The Braves are coming off of a terrific regular season with 25 wins, but lost to the Dodgers in the playoffs to end their season. The Phillies are hoping to rebound after a .500 season following their World Series championship the season before. Zack Wheeler was coming off a disastrous season going 2-7 with a 5.80 ERA, and though he was hoping for an improved season, he loaded the bases in the bottom of the 1st and gave up a 2-out Grand Slam HR to Ozzie Albies, giving Strider a huge 4-0 lead after 1 inning. It was all Strider would need as he continued to dominate batters, pitching a complete-game shutout, giving up only 4 lone singles, 2 walks, and 14 strikeouts. Chipper Jones added an RBI 1B in the 2nd and a solo HR in the 8th; Dansby Swanson hit a solo HR in the 5th, Austin Riley hit an RBI 1B in the 4th, and Albies hit an RBI 2B in the 4th as the Braves cruised to a 9-0 win. The Phillies brought in an improved offense with Chase Utley and Scott Rolen joining the team to replace the departing Mike Schmidt, but it was not enough against Strider.

GAME #2 — PHI 3 @ ATL 1

Philadelphia got the start it needed from Aaron Nola to salvage the split. Max Fried was cruising until the 6th when he gave up an RBI 1B to Ryan Howard and a 2-run 2B to Scott Rolen. Nola didn't blink, taking the shutout to the bottom of the 9th, where he gave up a solo HR to Matt Olson. But that was all the Braves would get as Jeff Hoffman came in and got the save.

GAME #1 — PIT 3 @ WSH 2

It's Opening Day! The Pirates came into Washington, D.C., on the heels of the worst record in the NL last season, looking to improve, having added star rookie Paul Skenes®. Pittsburgh also added Starling Marte in the hopes of improving their results. Washington, meanwhile, is trying to absorb the loss of free-agent Max Scherzer to the Mets. Without their ace, few see the Nationals as competing for the playoffs, unless rookie James Wood® could have a big season. Stephen Strasburg took a shutout to the 6th, but gave up an RBI 2B to Roberto Clemente, and RBI 1Bs to Ke'Bryan Hayes and Andy Van Slyke. Skenes kept his shutout into the 8th when Jayson Werth made it a ball game with a 2-run HR. Brad Hand set down the Pirates in the 9th, but David Bednar wouldn't allow the Nationals to get the tying run in from 2nd after a Starlin Castro leadoff 2B, frustrating the standing fans as the Nationals lost a game that they could have won.

GAME #2 — PIT 8 @ WSH 2

Chris Archer pitched a gem, giving up 2 hits over 7 innings, one of which was a 2-run HR by Keibert Ruiz in the 7th to end the shutout. Josh Harrison hit an RBI 1B right before Francisco Cervelli hit a 3-run HR in the 4-run 2nd. Starling Marte hit an RBI 3B in the 4th and Andy Van Slyke hit a solo HR in the 6th to make it 6-0. Willie Stargell hit a 2-run HR in the 9th, and the Pittsburgh Pirates started 2-0 with a road sweep, giving their fans a measure of hope.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 1 • CARDINALS WIN 1-0 • CHC HOME WIN 1-0 • CIN ROAD WIN 5-1

GAME #1 — CIN 5 @ CHC 1

It's Opening Day! Rivals met in Chicago as both teams looked to compete for the division. The Reds came in looking for rookie Elly De La Cruz to take over at SS for Barry Larkin, who joined Sammy Sosa in moving to the Legends League. Cody Bellinger joined the Cubs to lead their team to the postseason after leaving the Dodgers. Luis Castillo took the ball for the Reds and did not disappoint. Castillo gave up an RBI 1B to rookie Matt Shaw® in his first at-bat, tying the game 1-1 after Joey Votto had an RBI in the top of the 1st inning, but that was all Castillo would surrender. Castillo found a groove and didn't give up an extra-base hit, walked only 2, and completed the game with 12 strikeouts. Nick Castellanos added an RBI in the 4th and the 8th, while Votto added another RBI in the 6th, and Eric Davis capped off the 5-1 win with an RBI in the 9th. The Reds cruised to a road win against a division foe as they look to compete this season.

GAME #2 — CIN 0 @ CHC 1

Jake Arrieta got the Cubs the home split they needed with a tremendous 2-hit complete-game shutout. Two lone singles were all the Reds could get against Arrieta; meanwhile, Hunter Greene was almost as good, but let go of a wild pitch with Matt Shaw on 3rd, allowing him to score the only run of the game in the 3rd. The Cubs couldn't score again, but it was enough as Jake Arrieta pitched a masterpiece. Ryne Sandberg led the Cubs, going 2-2 with a 3B and 2 BB.

GAME #1 — MIL 0 @ STL 1

It's Opening Day! A season after both making the playoffs, the Brewers and Cardinals are both coming off of a season where they both missed the playoffs. The NL Central looks to be very competitive, with every win likely to matter. The Brewers bring back their potentially dominant pitching staff looking to rebound after a collective off year. Adam Wainwright took the ball looking to lead a Cardinals team that has a lot of turnover from last season, including seeing star slugger Mark McGwire go back to Oakland and star slugger Albert Pujols return to St. Louis. Lars Nootbaar was looking to see if he could repeat his incredible rookie season where he finished 4th in NL MVP voting, but starting the season facing Corbin Burnes would not be an easy task. The Brewers added star C William Contreras, rookie RF Sal Frelick®, and 2B Kolton Wong, looking to make a big push for the playoffs. Corbin Burnes showed up, pitching 7 $\frac{2}{3}$ shutout innings, but Adam Wainwright showed up as well, pitching 9 shutout innings, giving up only 5 hits and 0 walks. The 0-0 game went to the 10th inning when Lars Nootbaar stepped to the plate and ended the game with a walk-off solo HR to give the Cardinals Game #1.

GAME #2 — MIL 3 @ STL 4

Brandon Woodruff took the ball for the Brewers hoping to get the split, but he got rocked in the 4th, giving up 6 straight hits. Albert Pujols hit an RBI 3B, Matt Carpenter hit an RBI 2B, and Yadier Molina and rookie Brendan Donovan® hit RBI 1Bs to give the Cardinals a 4-0 lead. Jack Flaherty followed Wainwright with a dominant start, pitching 5 no-hit innings, until Sal Frelick hit a 2B and scored on a Robin Yount RBI. Jackson Chourio hit a 2-run HR to make it 4-3, but that was all the Brewers would get as they start the season trailing the Cardinals by 2 games. Ryan Helsley didn't give up a run in the series, getting a save and a win.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 1 • DODGERS HOME WIN • LAD HOME WIN 9-8 • SDP ROAD WIN 7-2

GAME #1 — ARI 0 @ LAD 3

It's Opening Day! The Arizona Diamondbacks come into Los Angeles with nothing to lose as they were the worst team in the NL last season. The Dodgers, meanwhile, made it to the NLCS only to lose to their rivals in San Francisco and are looking to reverse the result this season. Zac Gallen took the ball against Clayton Kershaw as the Dodgers began a title chase. Kershaw was brilliant, shutting down the Diamondbacks, scattering 7 hits and 2 walks but not giving up a run in a complete-game shutout. Trea Turner got the season started with a solo HR in the 3rd, and Max Muncy and Joc Pederson went back-to-back with solo HRs in the 4th, and Los Angeles cruised to an Opening Day win.

GAME #2 — ARI 8 @ LAD 9

We have an early candidate for game of the year. The Arizona offense woke up against Walker Buehler when AJ Pollock hit a 2-run 3B. Down 2-0, Los Angeles responded, taking the lead with a 3-run HR from Chris Taylor in the bottom of the 2nd, and then Mookie Betts capped the inning with a solo HR. Justin Turner made it 5-2 with an RBI 2B after an Adrian Gonzalez 2B, and the Dodgers were cruising. The Diamondbacks mounted a rally in the 6th when Brandon Drury hit a 2-run HR to make it 5-4, and then, with 2 outs, Corbin Carroll hit a 2-run 3B and scored on a Ketel Marte RBI 1B. Arizona was suddenly ahead 7-5, but the Dodgers have a powerful offense and they answered right away with a 2-run 2B from Gonzalez and a 2-run HR from Justin Turner to cap the comeback, making it 9-7. Arizona mounted a bases-loaded threat in the 9th, and Eric Chavez had an RBI 1B, but Kenley Jansen got the final out and secured the home sweep for Los Angeles.

GAME #1 — SDP 7 @ SFG 2

It's Opening Day! The San Diego Padres came into San Francisco looking to get over the hump against their rivals. The Padres missed the playoffs by only 1 game last season, while the Giants are coming off back-to-back NL West titles, though the Giants may have a bitter taste entering the new season having lost in the World Series to the Toronto Blue Jays. Barry Bonds has moved on to the Legends League, but rookie Jung Hoo Lee® has signed and several young Giants are looking to make an impact. Madison Bumgarner took the ball to face a dangerous Padres team that added Xander Bogaerts and star rookie Jackson Merrill®. Yu Darvish took the ball coming off of a stellar season which saw him finish 2nd for the NL Cy Young Award, while the Giants brought back the reigning NL MVP Evan Longoria. Things started well enough for the Giants as Mike Yastrzemski and Will Clark hit RBI 1Bs in the 4th inning to give Carlos Rodon the lead. Rodon was in complete control, giving up only 1 hit through 5 innings, but in the 6th LaMonte Wade made an error in LF and Manny Machado and Xander Bogaerts both hit RBI 1Bs to tie the game. Yu Darvish held strong, and then in the 7th, the Padres took the game with a 2-run HR from Jake Cronenworth and an RBI 2B from Tony Gwynn, and then a capping 2-run 2B from Bogaerts. The San Diego bullpen held and the Padres announced their desire to compete, taking a road win from the Giants.

GAME #2 — SDP 0 @ SFG 2

Madison Bumgarner showed up, pitching a complete-game shutout, giving up only 4 hits and 3 walks. Jung Hoo Lee got his first hit with a 2-run 2B in the 2nd, and though Blake Snell shut down the Giants for only 1 more hit, Bumgarner took over and secured the home split.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 1 • BLUE JAYS WIN 5-2 • BAL HOME WIN 8-2 • BOS HOME WIN 6-3

ROUND #2

GAME #3 — TOR 5 @ BAL 2

The champion Blue Jays came into Baltimore after sweeping the Red Sox in Boston to start the season. Baltimore swept the Tigers at home and now hosted the champions in a big early-season matchup. The Orioles started well with RBI 1Bs from Eddie Murray and Adley Rutschman in the first two innings, and Tyler Wells was cruising through 6 strong innings until the 7th when he walked two and then gave up a crushing 3-run HR to Teoscar Hernandez, changing the game on one pitch. Later in the inning, Roberto Alomar hit a 2-run HR and the Blue Jays cruised to a come-from-behind victory.

GAME #4 — TOR 2 @ BAL 8

Gunnar Henderson hit solo HRs in the 1st and 3rd innings to lead the O's to the split. Grayson Rodriguez pitched 7 strong innings, giving up only 5 hits while walking 1. Adam Jones hit an RBI in the 4th and then a Grand Slam HR in the 6th after a Jordan Westburg RBI 1B, and the O's cruised.

GAME #3 — TBR 4 @ BOS 2

The Rays came into Boston with both teams desperate for a win, both having 0-2 records after the first series. Both teams scored in the 1st inning when Yandy Diaz led off the game with a solo HR and Masataka Yoshida hit a tying RBI 2B. David Ortiz gave Boston the lead in the 4th with a solo HR, and Tanner Houck was cruising. The Boston bullpen, however, let the game get away with a pinch-hit RBI from Jonathan Aranda after walking the bases loaded, tying the game. With new life, the Rays came all the way back with a Randy Arozarena 2-run HR. The Tampa Bay bullpen held and the Rays got their first win of the season, sending Boston to 0-3.

GAME #4 — TBR 3 @ BOS 6

Tampa Bay started out hot against Eduardo Rodriguez, sending chills through the stadium as Randy Arozarena hit a solo HR in the 2nd, and Kevin Kiermaier hit an RBI 3B and scored on a Yandy Diaz RBI 1B. Down 3-0, Boston crawled back with a run on a Ceddanne Rafaela RBI 1B, and then drew closer on a Rafaela solo HR in the 6th. The Red Sox completed the much-needed comeback, tying the game when Alex Verdugo hit an RBI 1B before Jarren Duran hit a game-winning 3-run HR in the bottom of the 7th. The Red Sox bullpen held and Boston escaped with a home split to get their first win of the season.

GAME #3 — NYY 5 @ CHW 2

This has become an unexpected early-season spotlight matchup as both teams come in 2-0. The Yankees came in needing to keep pace with the 3-1 Blue Jays and Orioles, while the White Sox could make an early-season push to remain in contention after a lost season prior. Luis Severino took the ball coming off a miserable season, facing Lance Lynn coming off an even worse season. Severino gave up a 2B to Yasmani Grandal, an RBI 2B to Nick Madrigal, and an RBI 1B to Luis Robert in a difficult 3rd inning, but settled down after that. Meanwhile, Lance Lynn kept the Yankees quiet, taking a shutout to the 6th before exiting after a bases-loaded BB to DJ LeMahieu. Down 2-1 in the 8th, the Yankee bats came alive with 4 solo HRs, 1 from Aaron Judge, Giancarlo Stanton, LeMahieu, and Gleyber Torres. The Yankee bullpen held and New York moved to 3-0.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 1 • CLEVELAND WIN 6-2 • OAKLAND WIN 7-2 • WHITE SOX WIN 4-1

GAME #4 — NYY 1 @ CHW 4

Lucas Giolito escaped trouble in the 1st and 2nd innings and settled down after that, taking a shutout into the 8th inning when New York scored their lone run on a Giancarlo Stanton RBI 1B. Tim Anderson hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd to take the lead, and Frank Thomas hit a 2-run HR in the 6th to ice the game, giving the White Sox a home split and a surprising 3-1 record.

GAME #3 — DET 2 @ MIN 4

The Twins hosted the Tigers with a chance to continue their hot start, while Detroit needed a win to avoid another early-season hole. Anibal Sanchez took the ball against Joe Ryan and both pitchers gave up 2 runs in the first 5 innings as Ian Kinsler hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd, and Royce Lewis hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd, and Nelson Cruz hit a solo HR in the 3rd. Tied 2-2 in the 6th, Nelson Cruz stepped in and hit another solo HR to take a 3-2 lead. Carlos Correa hit a solo HR in the 8th, and the Minnesota bullpen held, giving the Twins a 4-2 win and a 3-0 record. Meanwhile, the Tigers, at 0-3, are desperate for a win to get their season going.

GAME #4 — DET 2 @ MIN 5

It looks like the Twins are for real as they separated themselves by a game, now sitting at 4-0. Their pitching looks real: Kyle Gibson survived a rocky start, and the strong Twins' bullpen held, with Jhoan Duran getting his 4th save in 4 games. Joe Mauer went 3-4 with an HR, 3B, 2B, and 2 RBI, while Royce Lewis went 3-3 with an HR and 2 RBI. Kirby Puckett added an RBI in the decisive 3rd inning, and the Twins cruised to the sweep. The Tigers are reeling at 0-4.

GAME #3 — KCR 2 @ CLE 6

The Guardians and the Royals both came into this series needing wins at 0-2, while the Twins and White Sox are surging. Jose Ramirez hit a solo HR in the 1st, but the Royals tied the game on a Whit Merrifield RBI BB in the 2nd. Andres Gimenez hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd, and the Guardians were cruising, but Bobby Witt Jr hit a solo HR in the 5th to tie the game. Cleveland finally pulled ahead for good in the 6th on a 2-run HR from Michael Brantley and an RBI 2B from Steven Kwan. Yan Gomes added an RBI 1B in the 7th to seal the first win of the season for Cleveland, sending the Royals to 0-3. Triston McKenzie gave the Guardians 5 solid innings to earn the win.

GAME #4 — KCR 3 @ CLE 2

Cleveland almost got back to .500 and in the race as Carlos Carrasco took a shutout into the 7th, giving up only 2 lone singles. Andres Gimenez hit his league-leading 3rd HR of the season and Carlos Santana added an RBI 2B in the 5th, giving Cleveland the 2-0 lead. Facing a dreaded 0-4 start, the Royals escaped as Jorge Soler hit a 2-run HR in the 7th, sending the game to extra innings, and Bobby Witt Jr hit a game-winning solo HR in the 11th, giving Kansas City their first win, putting each team 3 games behind the surging Twins.

GAME #3 — TEX 2 @ OAK 7

Lawrence Butler hit a solo HR in the 4th to give Oakland a 1-0 lead, and though Luis Morales® had a strong start, rookie Wyatt Langford hit an RBI 3B and scored on a Marcus Semien RBI 1B to give Texas a 2-1 lead. It was short-lived, however, as Elvis Andrus hit a 2-run 2B and Shea Langeliers hit a 3-run HR in the decisive 5-run 6th. Khris Davis hit a solo HR in the 7th to cap off the easy 7-2 win for the A's.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 1 • MARINERS WIN 3-2 • OAKLAND WIN 13-4 • HOU ROAD WIN 11-2

GAME #4 — TEX 4 @ OAK 13

The Athletics took the lead in the 1st inning on a Lawrence Butler RBI 1B, but rookie Wyatt Langford connected on a solo HR against rookie Osvaldo Bido® in the 3rd to tie the game — and then the A's unloaded. Starter Dane Dunning gave up 5 consecutive hits, culminating with a Ramon Laureano 2-run HR, and reliever Brock Burke fared even worse, giving up a 3-run HR to Darelle Hernaiz and a 3-run HR to Khris Davis, who already had an RBI 1B earlier in the inning. Butler had an RBI 2B, Mark McGwire added an RBI, and Tony Kemp added an RBI 1B in an epic 12-run inning. Marcus Semien hit a 3-run 2B in the 5th, but it did nothing to change the outcome of a blowout that saw the A's move to 2-2.

GAME #3 — HOU 11 @ SEA 2

The Mariners had a great chance to move up as they hosted the 1st-place Astros. On the other hand, a strong showing from the Astros could get an early grip on the division race. The Houston pitching staff has only given up 1 run on the season. Yordan Alvarez hit an RBI 2B in the top of the 1st inning, but Edgar Martinez tied the game in the bottom half with an RBI 2B. George Kirby matched Joe Musgrove by not giving up another run until the disastrous 6th inning, when the Astros scored 7 runs, starting with a solo HR from Jeff Bagwell and including an RBI 3B from Kyle Tucker, an RBI 1B from Jeremy Pena, RBIs from Jake Meyers and Jose Altuve, and a 2-run 3B from Alex Bregman, part of his 5-6 day. Pena added a solo HR and Altuve hit a 2-run HR in the 9th to cap an 11-2 blowout, putting the Astros at 3-0.

GAME #4 — HOU 2 @ SEA 3

Seattle finally got the split after fighting for 12 innings when Cal Raleigh hit a 3B past a diving Kyle Tucker. JP Crawford hit an RBI to score Raleigh and end the game. In the 6th inning, Kyle Tucker hit a 2-run HR to end the shutout for Robbie Ray, but Ken Griffey Jr hit a tying 2-run HR in the bottom half against Lance McCullers. The 2-2 game went all the way to the 12th as both bullpens shined, with Seattle featuring the debuts of rookies Bryce Miller® and Bryan Woo®. The bullpens combined for just 1 run over 12 innings. The Houston pitching staff has a 1.40 ERA after 4 games.

GAME #3 — LAA 2 @ LAD 1

It's rivalry day in Los Angeles as the Angels visit Dodger Stadium hoping to slow down the Dodgers. Meanwhile, the Dodgers sent star rookie Yoshinobu Yamamoto® to take the mound in his debut, and he was phenomenal, giving up only 1 run over 7½ innings on a game-tying RBI 1B to Mike Trout. Freddie Freeman gave the Dodgers the lead in the 4th on a solo HR, but after tying the game, the Angels took the lead on a Taylor Ward RBI 2B in the top of the 9th, and the bullpen held. The Angels moved in a positive direction to 2-1 while the Dodgers dropped a game they may regret.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 1 • DODGERS WIN 9-4 • NATIONALS WIN 4-1 • NATIONALS WIN 8-5

GAME #4 — LAA 4 @ LAD 9

The Dodgers unloaded on Andrew Heaney in the 4th inning. Logan O'Hoppe gave the Angels the lead with a solo HR in the 2nd, but Chris Taylor tied the game in the 3rd with a solo HR. In the 4th, it all unraveled as Will Smith and Joc Pederson both had RBI 1Bs; then Mookie Betts walked in a run and Freddie Freeman unleashed a base-clearing 3-run 2B to make it 7-1. Adrian Gonzalez hit a 2-run 2B in the 7th in the blowout win. Taylor Ward continued his strong start with a 2-run HR in the 7th, and Shohei Ohtani showed his power in the 8th with a solo HR, but none of that changed the outcome as the Dodgers got the split they needed. Dustin May pitched well to earn the win.

GAME #3 — MIA 3 @ ATL 7

The Marlins started well against Charlie Morton with a 3B from Ichiro Suzuki and an RBI 1B from Xavier Edwards, but Matt Olson hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 1st, and then Austin Riley hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd to give the Braves a lead they would not give up. Ozzie Albies hit a 2-run 2B in the 5th and a solo HR in the 7th as the Braves rolled. Michael Harris added an RBI 1B in the win as the Braves spoiled the return of Livan Hernandez for the Marlins. Jazz Chisholm added an RBI 2B in the loss.

GAME #4 — MIA 2 @ ATL 3

Luis Arraez hit an RBI 1B in the 1st inning to give Miami an early lead and then Ichiro Suzuki hit a 1B, stole 2 bases, and scored on a Jazz Chisholm RBI. Ronald Acuna hit a solo HR in the 3rd inning, part of his 4-5 day, but the Braves would not score again and they went to the bottom of the 9th down 2-1. Rookie closer Calvin Faucher® came into the game but did not fare well. Deion Sanders hit a pinch-hit 1B, then stole second, stole third, and scored the tying run on a wild pitch. Faucher got 2 outs, but then gave up a 1B to Acuna, walked 2, and then Marcell Ozuna won the game on an RBI 1B. The Braves got the sweep they needed to move forward in the division, as Miami stumbled and missed a chance to stay in the race.

GAME #3 — PHI 1 @ WSH 4

The Phillies landed in Washington with a chance to match the Braves, or fall behind against a Nationals team that could struggle after being swept by the Pirates. It started well enough for the Phillies as John Kruk hit an RBI 2B in the 2nd, but it was all downhill after that as Josiah Gray shut down the Philadelphia offense. Starlin Castro hit an RBI 1B in the 4th and scored on a bases-clearing 3-run 2B from CJ Abrams. That was all Gray would need as the Nationals got their first win of the season.

GAME #4 — PHI 5 @ WSH 8

The Nationals got back into the race and set the Phillies' season ablaze. Ryan Zimmerman opened the scoring with an RBI 1B in the 3rd and scored on a 2-run 1B from Keibert Ruiz. Facing a 1-3 start, the Phillies came back with an RBI 1B from Chase Utley and then a big 3-run HR from Ryan Howard. Down 4-3, Josh Bell changed the game with a 2-run HR and then the Nationals put away the game with 3 consecutive RBI 2Bs from Victor Robles, Juan Soto, and Zimmerman. Alec Bohm hit a pinch-hit RBI 1B in the 9th, but it was not enough as the Nationals came away with an unexpected sweep, sounding the alarm bell in Philadelphia.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 1 • BREWERS HOME WIN • CHC HOME WIN 5-2 • CIN HOME WIN 3-2

GAME #3 — NYM 5 @ CHC 4

The Mets traveled to Chicago in a key early series of two teams hoping to compete and both needing wins to keep pace. The Cubs only scored 2 runs against the Reds in the opening series and looked to get their season started. It didn't start well for the Cubs as David Wright hit a 2-run HR in the 1st and a solo HR in the 3rd. Jason Heyward hit a solo HR in the 3rd, but Mike Piazza matched him with a solo HR in the 6th. In the bottom of the 6th, Seiya Suzuki hit a 3-run HR that tied the game, but it was short-lived as Gary Carter hit a solo HR in the 7th to win the game. Edwin Diaz got 4 outs and the Mets got a win they needed.

GAME #4 — NYM 2 @ CHC 5

David Wright hit another HR in the 1st inning to make it 1-0, but the Cubs responded quickly with an Ian Happ 3B, a Cody Bellinger 2-run HR, a Seiya Suzuki 3B, and an RBI from Anthony Rizzo. A solo HR from Pete Alonso made it 3-2, but the Mets would not score again. Jason Heyward hit an RBI 3B and scored on an RBI from Matt Shaw, and rookie Shota Imanaga® outdueled rookie Kodai Senga® in both of their debuts.

GAME #3 — STL 2 @ CIN 8

The 1st-place Cardinals came into Cincinnati in an early-season showdown between two teams looking to compete. Johnny Cueto took the mound against Miles Mikolas, making his return to Cincinnati after years in San Francisco. St. Louis struck first with a Matt Carpenter 2-run HR in the 4th, but Tyler Stephenson matched him with a 2-run HR in the bottom half. In the 5th the Reds pulled ahead on a 2-run HR from Nick Castellanos, and then 5-2 on Stephenson's second HR of the game. Joey Votto added an RBI 2B and the Reds were cruising. Todd Frazier made it 7-2 in the 7th with an RBI 2B, and Castellanos capped it off with an RBI 1B in the 8th, pacing the Reds' blowout win.

GAME #4 — STL 2 @ CIN 3

Elly De La Cruz hit an RBI 3B in the 1st inning and scored on an RBI 1B from Nick Castellanos, and the Reds were up 2-0. Michael Wacha took the game to the 6th where Albert Pujols connected for a solo HR off of Nick Lodolo, making it 2-1. De La Cruz got his 3rd hit of the game with a solo HR, making it 3-1, which was crucial for the win as Tommy Edman got 1 run back with an RBI 1B. That was all the Cardinals would get off of the Cincinnati bullpen, and the Reds got the home sweep, moving into 1st place.

GAME #3 — PIT 3 @ MIL 7

The Pirates came into Milwaukee, strangely in 1st place, against a team desperate not only for a win but for a sweep. The other result could put a spark in the division. The crowd was buzzing, wanting the Brewers to get back in the race. Kolton Wong hit a 2-run 1B in the 2nd and an RBI 1B in the 4th, scoring on an RBI 1B from Jackson Chourio, who scored on an RBI 1B from Christian Yelich. Rowdy Tellez hit a 2-run HR in the 5th and the rout was on. Oneil Cruz had an RBI in the 6th after a Willie Stargell 2B, and Stargell added a 2-run HR in the 8th, but it was not enough to stop the Brewers from getting their first win. Freddy Peralta pitched 6 solid innings for the win.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 1 • BREWERS HOME WIN • COL HOME WIN 5-2 • SDP ROAD WIN 10-4

GAME #4 — PIT 2 @ MIL 5

The early season is fun because with a hot streak the division changed. Just like that the Pirates came back to earth and the Brewers came back from the dead. Roberto Clemente had an RBI to open the game in the first inning, but Christian Yelich had an RBI in the bottom of the 1st inning, tying the game. The Pirates took the lead on a Josh Harrison solo HR, but the Brewers took hold of the game in the 5th on a 2B from Kolton Wong, an RBI 1B from Jackson Chourio, and a decisive 3-run HR from Ryan Braun. Chad Patrick gave 5 innings, and Adrian Houser pitched 3 hitless innings in relief, giving the Brewers the sweep. The Pirates couldn't get enough consistent pitching to compete in the series.

GAME #3 — SDP 10 @ COL 4

The Padres came to Colorado looking to make a push in the division. It started well when Manny Machado hit a solo HR in the 4th inning, but Carlos Gonzalez hit a solo HR in the bottom half to tie the game. Jackson Merrill hit a 2-run HR to take the lead in the 5th, and it held. Machado added an RBI 1B in the 7th before the Rockies made it close with back-to-back solo HR from Kris Bryant and Justin Morneau. Then the Padres unloaded 6 runs on a 2-run 2B from Luis Campusano, an RBI 1B from Charlie Blackmon, and a 3-run HR from Fernando Tatis Jr. Gonzalez added an RBI 1B in the 10-4 blowout loss. Michael King pitched well to earn the win.

GAME #4 — SDP 2 @ COL 5

Andres Galarraga hit an RBI 1B in the 1st to take the lead, but Manny Machado hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd to tie the game. Carlos Gonzalez hit a solo HR in the bottom half, but Luis Campusano hit an RBI 2B in the top of the 4th to tie the game. With the game tied 2-2, Kris Bryant hit a decisive 3-run HR in the bottom of the 6th, and the Rockies' bullpen held, giving the Rockies the split and a 2-2 record after 2 series. The Padres had strong showings against the Giants in San Francisco and the Rockies in Colorado, but only had a 2-2 record to show for it.

GAME #3 — ARI 2 @ SFG 6

Brandon Crawford got his season going with a 2-run HR in the bottom of the 2nd inning, but Eric Chavez hit a 2-run 1B in the top of the 3rd inning to tie the game. Logan Webb kept the Diamondbacks off the board after that, and the Giants took the lead in the 5th on RBI 2Bs from Joe Panik and Will Clark. Crawford added an RBI in the 6th and MVP Evan Longoria hit a solo HR in the 8th to cap the 6-2 win.

GAME #4 — ARI 4 @ SFG 7

Jake McCarthy got Arizona on the board in the 2nd, but Brandon Crawford hit another HR in the bottom half to tie the game 1-1. Eric Chavez hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd, but Mike Yastrzemski hit a 2-run HR in the bottom half to give the Giants a lead they would not surrender. Buster Posey added a 2-run 2B in the 5th, Brandon Belt added a solo HR in the 6th, and Evan Longoria hit an RBI 1B in the 7th to back Jeff Samardzija, and the Giants swept the Diamondbacks, who fell to 0-4 with the Tigers. The Giants look like they might survive the post-Bonds era.

MLBC — WEEK 2

GAMES 5-8 • EARLY SEPARATION

FOUR CLUBS SHARE THE FRONT*The Mets sweep the week, Seattle explodes, and the first layer of the standings begins to separate.*

THE LEAD Minnesota entered Week 2 as the only 4-0 club, with nine teams immediately behind at 3-1. Detroit and Arizona were already 0-4, while several contenders faced early measuring sticks: Toronto went to Yankee Stadium, San Francisco visited the Dodgers, Minnesota went to Tampa Bay, Atlanta met Washington before St. Louis, and Philadelphia entered New York at 1-3 with deGrom and Scherzer waiting. Eight games are only one-fifth of the schedule, but in MLBC that is enough for a rough opening to start looking structural.

THE WEEK The Mets were the only club to go 4-0, sweeping Philadelphia and Washington to reach 6-2. Seattle supplied the week's eruption. Julio Rodriguez followed a 4-for-4 game by going 6-for-6 in Anaheim, finishing the series 10-for-10 and scoring six times in the second game. Ken Griffey Jr. went 4-for-6 with two HR, two doubles, twelve total bases and nine RBI in Seattle's 18-run outburst. Albert Pujols answered with twelve total bases and eight RBI in one game for St. Louis. The Yankees swept the defending champions 15-4 across two games, while San Francisco swept the Dodgers on the road and later finished the week 6-2 overall. Washington handed Spencer Strider the first loss of his MLBC career with a three-run ninth-inning comeback. Arizona escaped its 0-4 start by sweeping Colorado, Boston scored 28 runs in Kansas City, and Cleveland swept Minnesota to climb back into a race that had nearly disappeared.

THE STAKES Houston, the Mets, Yankees and Giants now share the best record at 6-2, with six more clubs at 5-3. Minnesota has already gone from the league's only perfect team to part of the chase pack; Toronto has gone from champion's confidence to 4-4; and the Mets have transformed a 2-2 opening into the league's only perfect week. Week 3 brings Mets-Braves, Yankees-Red Sox, Dodgers-Padres and White Sox-Twins. Eight games have produced leaders, not safety. The most important development may be how many different clubs have already demonstrated that two games can completely change the meaning of the previous six.

TOP OF TABLE HOU / NYM / NYY / SFG • 6-2	PERFECT WEEK NYM • 4-0	CHASE PACK 6 clubs • 5-3	SEATTLE OUTBURST 18 runs • 22 hits
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WEEKLY HONORS

HITTER OF THE WEEK GOLD KEN GRIFFEY JR. • SEA <i>2 HR • 2 2B • record 9 RBI</i> SILVER ALBERT PUJOLS • STL <i>12 TB • 8 RBI in one game</i> BRONZE LUIS ROBERT • CHW <i>8-for-10 series • 17 TB</i>	PITCHER OF THE WEEK GOLD CARLOS RODON • SFG <i>7 scoreless IP • 3 H</i> SILVER ADAM WAINWRIGHT • STL <i>7 scoreless IP • 16 straight</i> BRONZE GERRIT COLE • NYY <i>7 scoreless IP vs. TOR</i>
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MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 2 • BAL HOME WIN 5-1 • BOS ROAD WIN 5-3 • NYY HOME WIN 7-3

ROUND #3

GAME #5 — BOS 1 @ BAL 5

The Boston Red Sox came into Baltimore at an early-season crossroads sitting at 1-3, while the Orioles held down 1st place at 3-1, and it didn't start well. [Adam Jones](#) hit a solo HR to lead off the game, and then Cal Ripken Jr hit a 2-run 2B in the 5th to make it 3-0. Alex Verdugo hit an RBI 3B in the 6th, but the O's got the run back on an RBI 2B from Jordan Westburg. Adley Rutschman hit a solo HR in the 8th and the Orioles cruised to a win, sending the Red Sox to 1-4. [Kyle Bradish](#) outpitched Chris Sale to get the win.

GAME #6 — BOS 5 @ BAL 3

Boston got their season off of life support with a 4-run 2nd inning to back a strong start from [David Price](#). Jason Varitek hit a 2-run 2B and scored on a Dustin Pedroia RBI 1B; Pedroia then scored on a [Wade Boggs](#) RBI 3B. Boggs added an RBI 1B in the 7th to make it 5-0. The O's mounted a comeback in the 8th on an RBI 1B from Trey Mancini and a 2-run 2B from Cedric Mullins, but it was not enough as the Red Sox crawled to 2-4, getting the road split they desperately needed.

GAME #5 — TOR 1 @ NYY 8

The champs came into New York in a meaningful early-season series with both teams at 3-1, but it was the time for the Yankees to make their statement. After 2 mediocre and disappointing seasons, the Yankees look legitimate. [Giancarlo Stanton](#) and DJ LeMahieu both hit 3-run HRs to spoil the outing for Alek Manoah. [Gerrit Cole](#) shut down the Blue Jays' offense for 7 innings, and only a solo HR from George Springer in the 8th kept it from being a shutout. Hideki Matsui hit an RBI 2B and a solo HR in the blowout win.

GAME #6 — TOR 3 @ NYY 7

The Yankees are for real. [Nestor Cortes](#) kept the Blue Jays in check with only a solo HR from Bo Bichette, and RBI 1Bs from Bichette and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. [Aaron Judge](#) hit a 2-run HR and an RBI 2B, and Derek Jeter went 3-5 with a 2B and 2 RBI. Gleyber Torres hit a solo HR and Brett Gardner hit an RBI 2B in the blowout win. The Blue Jays drop to 3-3 in a disappointing showing all the way around, and the Yankees are surging off to a dominant 5-1 start.

GAME #5 — MIN 1 @ TBR 5

The Twins came into Tampa Bay unbeaten at 4-0, looking to keep pace with the Yankees, and faced a real test against a desperate Tampa Bay team. The Rays needed a strong showing just to get back in the race, and a poor showing could put their season in jeopardy. They handed the ball to ace [Tyler Glasnow](#). Josh Donaldson hit a solo HR in the 2nd and the Twins were up 1-0 going to the 4th. In the bottom of the 4th, Sonny Gray unraveled, giving up 4 walks and 4 singles, surrendering 5 runs. It was all Glasnow would need, and the bullpen held. The Rays ended the winning streak and the Twins fell back to the pack in the race. Meanwhile, the Rays finally showed some life as a team, led by [Josh Lowe](#) going 1-3 with a 2B and a walk.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 2 • DET ROAD WIN 3-2 • DET ROAD WIN 6-2 • MIN ROAD WIN 9-8

GAME #6 — MIN 9 @ TBR 8

Pablo Lopez and Shane McClellan took shutouts to the 3rd when Randy Arozarena put the Rays ahead with an RBI 1B. In the bottom of the 5th, Josh Lowe used his patience to get an RBI with a bases-loaded walk making it 2-0. The Twins were plummeting back to earth on the verge of being swept, and suddenly a game-of-the-year candidate broke out. In the top of the 6th, Josh Donaldson hit an infield 1B with the bases loaded to get an RBI, and then Torii Hunter got the biggest hit of the year with a go-ahead Grand Slam HR. Suddenly, the Twins were looking at 5-1 and all they had to do was hold. But they couldn't. In the bottom half of the 6th, Mike Zunino hit a 2-run HR and suddenly, it was 5-4. The Tampa bullpen held in the top half, and in the bottom of the 7th Austin Meadows hit a 2-run HR and suddenly, it was 6-5 Tampa. But the Twins showed a championship resolve. Facing dropping to 4-2 and losing ground, Jorge Polanco hit a tying RBI 1B and then Royce Lewis hit a 2-run 1B. Byron Buxton hit an RBI 2B and suddenly, it was 9-6 Twins. But then, in the bottom half, Mike Zunino hit his second consecutive HR and it was 9-7. All the Twins had to do was hold, and they gave the ball to dominant closer Jhoan Duran, but he walked Josh Lowe, who scored on a clutch Junior Caminero 2-out RBI 1B, and it was 9-8. With the winning runs on base, Mike Zunino stepped up to the plate with a chance to become a legend, but he lined out to third, and the game was over. The Twins sit atop the league with the Yankees at 5-1, and the Rays are struggling at 2-4. Mike Zunino tied the record by scoring 4 runs in one game, and has an absurd 8 runs scored through 6 games, and 4 HRs with 7 RBI. Jhoan Duran has an impressive 5 saves through 6 games with the record already in sight of 15 held by Garrett Whitlock and Jordan Romano last season.

GAME #5 — DET 6 @ CLE 2

No one expected the Tigers to compete, but their fans hoped they would at least get a win or two during a brutal six-game road trip against winning teams. Sitting at 0-4, the Tigers had a chance to stay on the fringe for a bit longer, or drop to the cellar of the whole league. Meanwhile, Cleveland had a lot to play for. The rival Twins were already surging at 5-1, while the Guardians were 1-3 and on the verge of a crisis with a poor showing against the lowly Tigers. Tarik Skubal took the ball for the Tigers against Shane Bieber with both aces looking to rebound after poor opening starts. Bieber's struggles continued as he gave up runs in the first 5 innings, starting with a solo HR to Miguel Cabrera. Javier Baez added an RBI 2B in the 2nd and an RBI 1B in the 4th, and Riley Greene hit a solo HR in the 3rd, and Cabrera finished off the scoring with a 2-run HR in the 5th. Skubal only gave up an RBI 3B to Andres Gimenez and an RBI 1B to Amed Rosario. The Tigers got their first win of the season, while the Guardians are left reeling.

GAME #6 — DET 3 @ CLE 2

The Tigers are off of life support, while the Guardians are suddenly out of the race and have fallen to last place at 1-5. Corey Kluber held the Tigers scoreless until the 5th when Javier Baez hit an RBI 3B and scored on a Riley Greene RBI 1B. Cecil Fielder added an RBI 1B in the 8th, which proved decisive in the end. Jim Thome hit a solo HR off Casey Mize in the 4th, but Mize pitched a strong 7 innings otherwise. Jose Ramirez hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 9th, but Cleveland could not get another run and have fallen out of the race only 6 games into the season.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 2 • MARINERS WIN 2-1 • OAKLAND WIN 8-4 • WHITE SOX HOME WIN

GAME #5 — KCR 2 @ CHW 0

The Royals came into Chicago needing to get some momentum, sitting at 1-3, while the White Sox were in a position to be the surprise team in the early season with a strong showing at home. Zack Greinke showed up and outdueled Garrett Crochet, pitching 6 strong shutout innings on the road. Salvador Perez hit a 2-run HR and that was all the Royals would need.

GAME #6 — KCR 3 @ CHW 5

The White Sox got back the game they lost with a 4-run 1st inning against Yordano Ventura, highlighted by a leadoff solo HR from Tim Anderson, an RBI 2B from Eloy Jimenez, and a 2-run 1B from Andrew Benintendi. Bobby Witt Jr hit a 2-run HR and scored on a wild pitch, but that was all the Royals would get. Frank Thomas hit an RBI 2B in the 6th to cap the win, giving Chicago the split. Dylan Cease picked up the win.

GAME #5 — TEX 4 @ SEA 3

Marcus Semien went 3-5 with 2 2Bs, scoring in the 1st on a Corey Seager RBI 1B. Edwin Encarnacion hit a 2-run 2B in the bottom of the 1st, but Nathaniel Lowe hit an RBI 1B, scoring Josh Hamilton after his 2B. Eugenio Suarez hit a solo HR in the 2nd to give the Mariners the lead again, which they took to the 8th. Felix Hernandez settled down and didn't give up another run, but the bullpen could not hold. Adrian Beltre hit a solo HR in the 8th to tie the game, and Ivan Rodriguez hit a sacrifice fly to take the lead in the 10th. The Mariners are hoping to compete, but their bullpen may hold them back. The Rangers got a nice comeback win on the road to stay in contention. Brock Burke pitched 2 innings to get the win.

GAME #6 — TEX 1 @ SEA 2

Edwin Encarnacion hit a solo HR in the 2nd, and Cal Raleigh hit a solo HR in the 3rd, and Logan Gilbert cruised through 5. In the 6th, he hit a wall as Josh Hamilton hit an RBI 1B after an Adrian Beltre 2B, and then the Rangers loaded the bases. Bryan Woo came in and got a huge double play, and the M's held on for the 2-1 win and the home split they needed.

GAME #5 — OAK 8 @ LAA 4

The A's come into Anaheim hot after a sweep of the Rangers where they scored 20 runs in the two games after scoring just 1 run in the opening series. The Angels come into the series after an impressive split against the Dodgers, looking to move up in the division with a strong showing against the A's. The A's continued their surge as Shea Langeliers hit a bases-loaded 3-run 2B to take the lead. Logan O'Hoppe hit a solo HR in the bottom of the third, but rookie Jacob Wilson hit an RBI 1B in the 6th in his first start, and Lawrence Butler hit a solo HR in the 7th to give the A's a 5-1 lead. JP Sears pitched a strong 6 innings but lost control in the 7th, giving up an RBI 1B to Justin Upton and a 2-run 2B to Mike Trout. The 5-4 game went to the 9th when Wilson hit a bases-loaded 3-run 2B to ice the game. Shohei Ohtani had his second straight rough start and sits at 0-2 with an 8.10 ERA.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 2 • NATIONALS WIN 3-2 • HOU HOME WIN 4-1 • HOU HOME WIN 6-1

GAME #6 — OAK 9 @ LAA 6

The A's are hot, and the Angels are in trouble. Rickey Henderson started the game with a solo HR, Mark McGwire added a solo HR, and Shea Langeliers added an RBI 1B in the 3-run 1st. Lawrence Butler and Khris Davis hit solo HRs in the 2nd and the A's held a 5-0 lead. James Kaprielian pitched well with 5 shutout innings, but in the 6th Mike Trout got the Angels on the board with a 3-run HR, and Shohei Ohtani made it 5-4 with a back-to-back solo HR. The Angels, desperate for a win, took the lead in the 8th on an RBI from Ohtani and an RBI 1B from Anthony Rendon. The A's showed some fight and scored a tying run in the 9th on an RBI from McGwire, and then took the lead back in the 11th on an RBI 1B from Davis and a 2-run 2B from Langeliers. The Angels missed a chance and have to look to improve their pitching, meanwhile the surprise A's have moved into contention. The A's now sit with the best offense in the AL with Khris Davis having a huge rebound season sitting atop the AL in total bases, and rookie Lawrence Butler sitting 2nd.

GAME #5 — SDP 1 @ HOU 4

Justin Verlander came into the game having gone 9 innings giving up only 1 run and 3 hits while striking out 13 and walking just 1 in his 1st start, and the ace took a perfect game to the 6th against a Padres team looking to contend. Jeff Bagwell hit an RBI 1B in the 1st and Yordan Alvarez hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd to give the Astros a 3-0 lead. In the 6th, an infield 1B from Tommy Pham ended the perfect game, then Luis Campusano reached on an infield 1B, and rookie Jackson Merrill hit a bloop RBI 1B and suddenly, Verlander lost his shutout. Alex Bregman added an RBI 1B in the 7th and the Astros cruised to a home win, giving them a 4-1 start.

GAME #6 — SDP 1 @ HOU 6

The Astros have started 5-1 and look to make it back to the World Series after having missed the playoffs by a game last year. Framber Valdez only gave up an RBI to Fernando Tatis Jr in the top of the 1st and cruised from there. Jose Altuve tied the game in the 3rd with an RBI 1B and then the Astros broke the game open in the 6th. Yuli Gurriel hit a 2-run 1B and Jake Meyers hit a 2-run 2B in the decisive 5-run 6th. The Padres only scored 2 runs in the series and have seen their hopes at contention dashed with a 2-4 start. The Astros lead the league with an incredible 1.27 team ERA.

GAME #5 — ATL 2 @ WSH 3

The Braves came into Washington, D.C., with a chance to make a move in the NL while the Nationals are coming off of a surprising road sweep against the Phillies. Young ace Spencer Strider came into the game off of a shutout with only 4 hits and 2 walks while striking out 14 in a commanding performance to defend his NL Cy Young Award. Strider was again exceptional, but Stephen Strasburg showed up and matched him, thrilling the home crowd. Strasburg tired and a leadoff walk to Marcell Ozuna scored on an RBI 1B from Ozzie Albies and then Michael Harris hit an RBI 2B to make it 2-0. Then the world turned upside down. Ryan Zimmerman hit a leadoff 2B and scored on a Josh Bell RBI 1B, Keibert Ruiz hit a 1B, and then CJ Abrams hit a 2-run 3B to turn the tables and give the Nationals the win and Strider his first career loss after going 8-0 to start his record-setting career.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 2 • MARLINS WIN 3-1 • ATL ROAD WIN 10-1 • NYM HOME WIN 11-4

GAME #6 — ATL 10 @ WSH 1

The Braves rued the comeback win by the Nationals against their ace and took it out on Gio Gonzalez. Sean Murphy hit an RBI 2B and Michael Harris had an RBI to make it 2-0 in the 2nd. Harris hit a 2-run 1B in the 4th, and then scored when Gonzalez walked 3 batters in a row, giving RBIs to Chipper Jones and Matt Olson. Harris hit a 2-run HR in the 5th and the rout was on. Ozzie Albies hit a 2-run 2B in the 6th as part of his 4-5 night with 3 2Bs. Keibert Ruiz had the lone RBI for the Nationals, who couldn't score any more despite putting runners on base in all 9 innings, gathering 9 BBs and 8 1Bs but failing to get any big hits against Max Fried.

GAME #5 — PHI 4 @ NYM 11

The Phillies and Mets found themselves in a huge early-season matchup. The Phillies are in big trouble after a 1-3 start and in New York to face Jacob deGrom and Max Scherzer, while the Mets, planning to make a title run need wins after a 2-2 start and a .172 team batting average. Zack Wheeler took the ball for the Phillies hoping to match deGrom after having a disastrous first start of the season while deGrom delivered a 3-hit shutout with 12 strikeouts in his Opening Day start. Both pitchers took shutouts to the 4th inning, but in the bottom half Darryl Strawberry hit an RBI 1B and then Michael Conforto hit a 3-run HR and the Mets were up 4-0. Ryan Howard hit a 2-run 2B in the 6th, but in the bottom half David Wright and Strawberry hit solo HRs, and in the 7th Mike Piazza added an RBI 2B to make it 7-2. The Phillies fought back with a Scott Rolen 2-run HR but in the bottom half of the 8th Jeff McNeil hit an RBI 1B and Francisco Lindor hit a 3-run HR to make it a rout.

GAME #6 — PHI 2 @ NYM 4

Aaron Nola pitched well over 7 innings, only giving up an RBI 2B to Pete Alonso in the 1st, and an RBI to Francisco Lindor in the 2nd. Down 2-0 the Phillies fought back to tie the game with back-to-back RBI 1B from John Kruk and Kyle Schwarber. The Phillies had hope for a split but in the bottom of the 9th David Wright hit a walk-off 2-run 2B to give the Mets a home sweep, moving them into a tie for 1st with the Braves while the Phillies have plummeted to the bottom of the league.

GAME #5 — MIL 1 @ MIA 3

The Brewers had a lot at stake with a 2-2 record on the road in a series they could sweep and make a move, but Jose Fernandez had an outstanding game limiting the Milwaukee offense to a lone sacrifice RBI from Kolton Wong. Rookie Griffin Conine had an RBI 1B in the 4th and scored on a 2-run 2B from Ichiro Suzuki. That was all the home team needed as Fernandez cruised to the complete-game win.

GAME #6 — MIL 3 @ MIA 6

Sandy Alcantara came into his start coming off of a sparkling 1-walk no-hitter in his first start, and he didn't give up a hit until the 3rd, giving him an incredible 11 hitless innings in a row to start the season. It looked like the Brewers were back on track when Robin Yount hit a 2-run 2B in the 3rd, and then Kolton Wong hit a solo HR in the 7th to make it 3-1. Kyle Stowers had an RBI 1B in the 6th to give the Marlins life, and in the 7th Miami broke the game open when Xavier Edwards hit an RBI 3B, Luis Arraez added an RBI 1B, and Stowers made it 6-3 with a 3-run HR to give the Marlins the home sweep, putting them back into the conversation. The Brewers are in last place at 2-4.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 2 • CARDINALS WIN 4-3 • D-BACKS WIN 10-2 • CHC HOME WIN 4-3

GAME #5 — PIT 1 @ CIN 2

Paul Skenes continued his strong rookie season, only giving up an RBI 1B to Nick Castellanos in the 5th. Luis Castillo was even better, not giving up a run through 8 innings. The Reds were looking to get the 1-0 win but with 2 outs in the 9th Josh Harrison stepped up and tied the game with an RBI 1B. The Reds would not be denied, though, as they rallied in the 10th ending the game on a walk-off RBI 1B from Todd Frazier, scoring Joey Votto after he led off the inning with a 2B.

GAME #6 — PIT 3 @ CIN 1

Chris Archer kept the Reds off the scoreboard except for a sacrifice RBI from Nick Castellanos, while Hunter Greene matched the effort, only giving up an RBI 2B in the 2nd to Oneil Cruz. The bullpens held until the 12th when Roberto Clemente hit a solo HR and Josh Harrison added an RBI 1B to give the Pirates the road split and a 3-3 record. The Reds have to feel that they missed an opportunity, scoring only 3 runs in the series. Bryan Reynolds went an incredible 6-6 in the game.

GAME #5 — STL 4 @ CHC 3

This was another one of those huge early-season matchups as both rivals came in at 2-2 with the Reds sitting at 4-2. A sweep in either direction would be hard to overcome. Adam Wainwright continued his scoreless streak to 16 innings, going 7 scoreless. Nolan Arenado hit a solo HR in the 4th, but that was all Marcus Stroman would give up over 6 innings. In the top of the 9th the Cardinals added 3 runs as Tyler O'Neill hit an RBI 2B and Yadier Molina hit a 2-run 1B, which proved to be decisive as Anthony Rizzo hit a 3-run HR with 2 outs in the bottom of the 9th. The extra runs sealed the St. Louis win the opener.

GAME #6 — STL 3 @ CHC 4

The Cubs got the split they needed, beginning with a 1st inning RBI 2B from Anthony Rizzo and a 2-run HR by Seiya Suzuki. Yadier Molina hit an RBI 2B in the 5th as part of his 4-4 day, but Jason Heyward hit a solo HR in the 6th to reclaim the 3-run lead. Heyward went 3-3 with a 2B, 3B, and HR. Jake Arrieta gave up 1 more run on a sacrifice to Brendan Donovan in his 6 strong innings. Tyler O'Neill hit a solo HR in the 9th, but that was all St. Louis could get as they fell to 3-3 with the Cubs.

GAME #5 — ARI 10 @ COL 2

The Diamondbacks came into Colorado as the only winless team, with hope that this would be their best chance for a strong showing. Thankfully their offense showed up as Christian Walker hit an RBI 2B in the 1st and AJ Pollock hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd and Arizona had a 2-0 lead. Zac Gallen pitched a strong 6 innings, only giving up an RBI 2B to Charlie Blackmon, and the bullpen held, only giving up an RBI 1B to Troy Tulowitzki in the 8th. Meanwhile, the Diamondbacks unloaded in the 7th and 8th innings. Pollock hit a 3-run HR in the 7th and Corbin Carroll hit a 2-run HR in the 8th. Walker and Brandon Drury added RBIs and Arizona got their first win of the season.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 2 • ARI ROAD WIN 7-2 • BAL ROAD WIN 6-3 • NYY HOME WIN 6-5

GAME #6 — ARI 7 @ COL 2

Colorado couldn't get anything going after scoring 2 runs in the 2nd against Merrill Kelly. Kris Bryant hit a 3B and scored on a Justin Morneau RBI, and Ryan McMahon hit a solo HR, but that was all Kelly would give up. Geraldo Perdomo hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd and an RBI 3B in the 3rd. Ketel Marte hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd and Jake McCarthy hit an RBI 3B and scored on a Gabriel Moreno RBI 1B in the 3rd. Corbin Carroll hit a 2-run 2B in the 5th and the Diamondbacks cruised to a road sweep to give their season some life. It is clearly going to be a long season for the Rockies with their beleaguered pitching staff if their offense doesn't show up.

GAME #5 — SFG 2 @ LAD 0

One of the great rivalries in sports was to take place with 1st place on the line and the Giants showed up. Carlos Rodon pitched a strong 7 shutout innings giving up only 3 hits, outdueling Clayton Kershaw, who only gave up an RBI to Jung Hoo Lee after a 2B by Casey Schmitt. Will Clark added a solo HR in the 9th off of Kenley Jansen and the San Francisco bullpen held, giving the Giants a strong 2-0 win.

GAME #6 — SFG 4 @ LAD 2

The Giants made their move while the Dodgers missed a huge chance. Madison Bumgarner pitched a strong 7 innings, only giving up an RBI 1B to Max Muncy in the 6th inning. Walker Buehler was strong until the 5th when he gave up an RBI 1B to Will Clark and a decisive 2-run 2B to Buster Posey. Jung Hoo Lee hit an RBI 1B in the 8th to pad the lead and the Giants gave the ball to the bullpen. Camilo Doval ran into trouble in the bottom of the 9th, giving up an RBI to Andy Pages and loading the bases with 2 outs, but he got Justin Turner to end the game, giving the Giants a huge road sweep against their rival, moving them to 5-1 at the top of the league.

ROUND #4**GAME #7 — BAL 6 @ NYY 3**

The 1st-place Yankees had a chance to gain some distance against the O's, but Baltimore spoiled the plan with an RBI 1B and run scored from Gunnar Henderson in the 3rd, a 3-run HR from Adam Jones in the 4th, and a solo HR from Anthony Santander in the 5th to make it 6-0, driving Luis Severino from the game. Tyler Wells only gave up 2 singles until solo HRs to Brett Gardner and Aaron Judge in the 6th. The Orioles got a huge road 6-3 win in New York, moving into a tie for 1st place.

GAME #8 — BAL 5 @ NYY 6

Baltimore took a 3-0 lead after a solo HR from Anthony Santander in the 2nd and RBIs from Cal Ripken Jr and Trey Mancini in the 3rd. The Yankees fought back in the bottom of the 3rd with a 2-run HR from Aaron Judge, but Mancini hit an RBI 1B in the 5th making it 4-2. Jorge Posada brought the home team closer with a solo HR in the bottom of the 7th, and then turned the game into a win with a 2-run 2B in the bottom of the 8th. The O's bullpen walked 4 batters in the 8th, tying the game before Posada's big hit. Cedric Mullins hit a solo HR in the 9th, but the Yankees got the split they needed at home, moving back into 1st place.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 2 • BLUE JAYS WIN 5-4 • RED SOX WIN 12-7 • RED SOX WIN 16-5

GAME #7 — TBR 5 @ TOR 4

Jose Bautista hit a solo HR in the 2nd to give the Blue Jays the lead and Bo Bichette doubled the lead with a solo HR in the 6th. Hyun Jin Ryu pitched a strong 6 innings, but gave up a solo HR to Austin Meadows in the 7th. Mike Zunino hit his 5th HR of the season later in the inning and the game was tied 2-2. George Springer had an RBI in the 7th and Jose Bautista hit another solo HR in the 8th and the game was 4-2 and given to Jordan Romano. Romano struggled, though, giving up an RBI to Kevin Kiermaier and an RBI 2B to Taylor Walls. Josh Lowe hit a solo HR in the 10th and suddenly, the champion Blue Jays lost their 4th in a row.

GAME #8 — TBR 4 @ TOR 5

Austin Meadows hit an RBI 1B in the 1st inning, but the Blue Jays rallied with a 2-run HR from George Springer in the 4th and 3-run HR from Dalton Varsho in the 7th. Jose Berrios pitched well, only giving up 1 more run on an RBI 1B to Taylor Walls. Down 5-2 in the 9th the Rays rallied on a 2-run 2B from Taylor Walls, but it was not enough and Toronto got the win they desperately needed to stay in the race.

GAME #7 — BOS 16 @ KCR 5

The Boston Red Sox came into Kansas City in crisis mode, sitting in last place in a division with 3 winning teams ahead of them. Tanner Houck showed up, taking a shutout into the 6th and the offense showed up in a big way. David Ortiz hit an RBI 1B in the 1st and then a 2-run 1B in the 8-run 2nd. Cedanne Rafaela hit an RBI 2B and scored on a Wade Boggs RBI 1B, Alex Verdugo hit an RBI 1B, and then Rafael Devers capped it off with a 3-run HR. The Red Sox made it 11-0 in the 5th when Boggs hit an RBI 2B and scored on an Ortiz RBI. The Royals woke up in the bottom of the 6th when Vinny Pasquantino hit a 2-run 1B, Alex Gordon added an RBI, and Bo Jackson hit a solo HR. Salvador Perez added an RBI in the 7th, but then Dustin Pedroia hit a 2-run 1B and Boggs hit an RBI 1B in the 8th, and Triston Casas hit a 2-run HR in his first at-bat of the season, giving the Red Sox a loud 16-5 win.

GAME #8 — BOS 12 @ KCR 7

The Red Sox kept rolling and got back in the race, setting a new league record for runs in a series. Wade Boggs opened the scoring with an RBI 2B in the 1st, but George Brett hit an RBI 2B and scored on an RBI 1B by Salvador Perez making it 2-1. Masataka Yoshida tied the game with a solo HR in the 3rd, and the Red Sox took the lead on a Dustin Pedroia RBI 1B in the 4th. The Royals took control of the game in the bottom of the 5th when Perez hit a 3-run HR and Alex Gordon hit a 2-run HR making it 7-3. The Red Sox got a run back in the 6th with another RBI 1B from Pedroia. In the 7th the Red Sox fought back and tied the game with an RBI 2B from Alex Verdugo, and a 2-run HR from Jarren Duran. Matt Barnes got out of trouble twice and Boston took the game in the 9th with a 5-run outburst. Rafael Devers hit an RBI 2B and scored on a 2-run 3B from Jarren Duran. Duran scored on a Jason Varitek RBI 1B, and Varitek scored on a Wade Boggs RBI 1B. In all it was a resounding offensive statement as Boston moved back into the race. The Kansas City Royals have fallen to 2-6 and out of the race before the quarter mark of the season.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 2 • CLEVELAND WIN 3-2 • CLEVELAND WIN 5-1 • TIGERS WIN 14-9

GAME #7 — CLE 5 @ MIN 1

Cleveland came into Minnesota 4 games behind sitting at 1-5 with a last-gasp chance to save their season. Joe Ryan faced Triston McKenzie who gave up a leadoff walk to Byron Buxton, an RBI 1B to Joe Mauer, and a 2B to Kirby Puckett, but settled down and only gave up 1 lone single over 8 strong innings. Joe Ryan was just as good, only giving up a solo HR to Jose Ramirez in the 4th. The 1-1 game went to the 11th when the desperate Guardians broke through with an RBI 1B from Ramirez and a 3-run HR to Jim Thome. Cleveland got the win they needed and gained ground on the Twins.

GAME #8 — CLE 3 @ MIN 2

Carlos Santana hit an RBI 1B in the 1st and Michael Brantley added an RBI in the 3rd, and Carlos Carrasco took a shutout into the 8th when Byron Buxton hit a solo HR. In the top of the 8th, Carlos Santana had padded the lead with a solo HR capping his 4-4 day, which proved decisive as Torii Hunter hit an RBI 1B in the bottom of the 9th. That was all the Twins would get in their comeback attempt as they got swept at home by a rival they could have all but eliminated. Cleveland is back in the race, cutting the Twins' lead in half in a crucial early-season showing.

GAME #7 — CHW 9 @ DET 14

The White Sox's offense opened the scoring with a 4-run 2nd as Nick Madrigal hit a 2-run 1B and Luis Robert hit a 2-run 2B. The Tigers fought back in the bottom half of the 2nd with a 2-run 1B from Javier Baez. The Tigers took the lead in the bottom of the 3rd on a 3-run HR from Kerry Carpenter and then made it 6-4 on an RBI 1B from Ian Kinsler. Eloy Jimenez hit a 2-run HR to tie the game, but the Tigers would not be denied scoring 7 runs in the bottom of the 5th. Baez, Miguel Cabrera, Victor Martinez, and Cecil Fielder all had RBI 1Bs, and Riley Greene hit a 2-run 2B. Mickey Tettleton added an RBI in the 6th and the game was 14-7. Tim Anderson hit a 2-run HR in the 8th, but it was not enough to stop the Tigers' rout.

GAME #8 — CHW 11 @ DET 7

Frank Thomas had an RBI in the top of the 1st, but Javier Baez hit a 2-run 1B and Mickey Tettleton had an RBI in the 3-run 2nd. Luis Robert hit a solo HR in the top of the 3rd, but Cecil Fielder hit a solo HR in the bottom half. Yoan Moncada hit a solo HR in the 4th to make it 4-3 and then the White Sox unloaded for 6 runs in the 5th. Luis Robert hit a 2-run HR, Frank Thomas and Eloy Jimenez hit RBI 2Bs, and Tim Anderson hit a 2-run 1B making it 9-4. The Tigers kept fighting back with a solo HR in the 6th from Isaac Paredes, an RBI 1B from Miguel Cabrera in the 7th, and a solo HR from Kerry Carpenter in the 8th to make it 9-7, but the White Sox put the game away in the 9th with a solo HR from Jimenez and an RBI 1B from Robert. Luis Robert went 8-10 in the series with 17 total bases, 1 off the record. The White Sox are one of the surprise teams sitting at 5-3 tied with the Twins for 1st place. Lucas Giolito picked up the win despite his troubles.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 2 • MARINERS WIN 18-5 • HOU ROAD WIN 4-3 • LAA HOME WIN 3-2

GAME #7 — HOU 4 @ TEX 3

The Astros are a tough team to beat. Texas scored in each of the first 3 innings on a solo HR from Corey Seager, an RBI from Nathaniel Lowe, and a solo HR from Ivan Rodriguez. Mike Minor took a shutout to the 7th when Houston began their comeback. Kyle Tucker hit a solo HR in the 7th and then a 1B in the 9th, scoring on an RBI 1B from Jeremy Pena. Jose Altuve hit an RBI 1B with 2 outs in the 9th, and suddenly, the game was tied. In the 10th inning the comeback was complete when Yordan Alvarez hit a solo HR to win the game.

GAME #8 — HOU 4 @ TEX 5

Yuli Gurriel hit a solo HR in the 2nd, but that was all Dane Dunning would give up over 6 innings. Corey Seager hit a solo HR in the 4th and then another solo HR in the 7th. Adrian Beltre had an RBI in the 5th and Wyatt Langford had an RBI in the 6th. Jake Meyers hit a solo HR in the 7th and was followed by an RBI from Kyle Tucker. In the top of the 9th the Astros came back again as Alex Bregman hit a 3B and scored on an RBI from Yordan Alvarez to tie the game. In the bottom of the 10th the Rangers secured the split on a walk-off RBI 2B from Nathaniel Lowe, keeping them alive in the race.

GAME #7 — SEA 2 @ LAA 3

Mike Trout hit a leadoff solo HR in the bottom of the 1st inning, but the M's tied it in the 2nd on a solo HR from Edwin Encarnacion. Logan O'Hoppe hit a solo HR in the 5th and Shohei Ohtani followed with an RBI 2B to make it 3-1. Garrett Richards pitched a strong 7 innings and although Carlos Estevez gave up an RBI to Encarnacion in the 9th, the Angels hung on for a home win, moving them to 3-4 with the Mariners. Julio Rodriguez went 4-4 in the loss.

GAME #8 — SEA 18 @ LAA 5

The Mariners exploded with an all-time record-setting performance. First off, Seattle tied the record for runs in a game with 18 and hits with 22. Second, Julio Rodriguez came off of a 4-4 performance to go 6-6, tying the record for a single game performance, and setting a new record for a series going 10-10. Rodriguez also set a new record with 6 runs scored in a game. Both records may stand forever. Third, Ken Griffey Jr went 4-6 with 2 HRs and 2 2Bs and 9 RBI setting a record for RBI in a single game. Robinson Cano went 4-6 with 3 runs scored and an RBI, Edgar Martinez went 3-5 with an HR and 4 RBI, Edwin Encarnacion added an RBI 2B, and Eugenio Suarez hit a solo HR in the 18-5 rout. Shohei Ohtani hit an RBI 2B and a solo HR, Anthony Rendon hit an RBI 1B, and Taylor Ward had 2 RBI in the loss. It was an epic offensive performance that saw the M's hit 3 3-run HRs. Andrew Heaney was given the chance to start for the Angels, but has given up 15 runs in less than 6 innings. The Angels' team ERA sits at a league-worst 7.30.

GAME #7 — OAK 2 @ SFG 3

The Bay Area rivalry was a pitching duel between rookie Luis Morales and Logan Webb until the Giants broke through in the 6th with an RBI from reigning NL MVP Evan Longoria. Casey Schmitt hit an RBI 1B in the 7th, but the A's tied the game on an RBI 3B from Lawrence Butler and an RBI 1B from Ramon Laureano. The Giants recovered in the bottom half as Longoria saved the game with a solo HR. Camilo Doval secured the 9th and the Giants got their 6th win in a row.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 2 • OAKLAND WIN 7-1 • PHILLIES WIN 10-5 • NYM HOME WIN 12-8

GAME #8 — OAK 7 @ SFG 1

Ken Waldichuk pitched a strong 6 innings, only giving up a solo HR to Joey Bart. Meanwhile, the A's offense hit 4 HRs. Rookie Jacob Wilson hit a 3-run HR in the 2nd, Khris Davis and Ramon Laureano went back-to-back with solo HRs in the 3rd, and Rickey Henderson hit a 2-run HR in the 4th. Elvis Andrus hit an RBI 1B in the 8th and the A's got the blowout win and the road split against their rival. The A's are the surprise of the league at 5-3.

GAME #7 — WSH 8 @ NYM 12

Jayson Werth put the Nationals up 1-0 in the 1st with an RBI 1B against Noah Syndergaard, but the Mets took over from there. Francisco Lindor and David Wright hit back-to-back solo HRs in the 3rd and Lindor hit a 2-run 3B in the 4th. In the 5th inning, the Mets put up 8 runs on a solo HR from Pete Alonso, an RBI 1B from Brandon Nimmo, a 2-run 2B from Jeff McNeil, a 2-run 1B from Wright, and a capping 2-run HR from Mike Piazza. It looked to be a blowout, but the Nationals scored 7 runs in the top of the 6th as the Mets' bullpen walked 5. Keibert Ruiz, Starlin Castro, Ryan Zimmerman, and Jayson Werth all drew bases-loaded RBI BBs. James Wood added an RBI 1B, CJ Abrams hit a 2-run 1B, and the Nationals pulled to 12-8. That was as close as Washington would get as the New York bullpen closed the game without giving up another run.

GAME #8 — WSH 2 @ NYM 5

The Mets moved to 6-2, tied at the top of the league behind a strong 7 innings from Kodai Senga. Dominic Smith hit an RBI 2B in the 2nd, but otherwise Jordan Zimmermann didn't give up another run. Brad Hand struggled in the 8th, giving up an RBI 2B to Pete Alonso and a clinching 3-run HR to Darryl Strawberry, which proved crucial as Michael A. Taylor hit a 2-run 2B in the top of the 9th. That was all the Nationals would get and the Mets secured the home sweep, putting the Nationals' season on the brink after a promising start.

GAME #7 — MIA 4 @ PHI 8

The Phillies were fighting for their season in a series at home they could sweep, and their offense showed up. Bryce Harper hit an RBI 2B in the 1st and 3rd innings, and an RBI 1B in the 5th to give the home team a 3-2 lead they would not relinquish. Connor Norby and Ichiro Suzuki hit RBI 1Bs in the 2nd, but that was all they would get against Cole Hamels. The Phillies scored 5 runs in the 7th to put the game away as Chase Utley and John Kruk both had 2-run 1Bs and Scott Rolen added an RBI. Ichiro Suzuki hit a 2-run 2B in the 8th, but it was not enough to stop the Phillies in their home opener.

GAME #8 — MIA 5 @ PHI 10

Luis Arraez hit an RBI 1B in the 1st inning and Connor Norby hit an RBI 3B in the 2nd, but the Phillies continued their hot streak when Scott Rolen hit a solo HR and Bryson Stott hit a 3-run HR in the 2nd. Jazz Chisholm hit a solo HR in the 3rd and Xavier Edwards tied the game in the 5th on an RBI 1B, but Chase Utley and Scott Rolen hit solo HRs in the bottom half and then Bryson Stott did it again with another 3-run HR in the 6th. Lenny Dykstra hit an RBI 1B in the 8th and the Phillies cruised to a home sweep to crawl back into the fringe of the race. Jazz Chisholm hit his second solo HR of the game in the 9th, but it was not enough as the Marlins fell to 3-5 after a promising start.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 2 • BREWERS WIN 3-1 • CARDINALS WIN 10-2 • ATL ROAD WIN 6-5

GAME #7 — ATL 2 @ STL 10

The St. Louis Cardinals showed up against the Braves. Albert Pujols had a game for the ages, hitting an RBI 2B in the 1st, a 2-run 2B in the 3rd, a 2-run HR in the 4th, and a 3-run HR in the 8th. 12 total bases and 8 RBI in a single game. Yadier Molina hit a solo HR in the 5th and Matt Carpenter added an RBI in the 3rd, and the Cardinals cruised. Miles Mikolas was solid, only giving up a solo HR to Dansby Swanson. Swanson had a 2B and a 3B and scored a run on a Ronald Acuna RBI in the 9th, but the rout was on as Albert Pujols single-handedly beat Atlanta.

GAME #8 — ATL 6 @ STL 5

The Braves proved resilient and avoided a regrettable series with a double comeback win. Brendan Donovan hit a 3-run 2B in the 2nd, but Austin Riley hit an RBI 1B in the 4th and Michael Harris hit a 2-run HR and Dansby Swanson hit a solo HR in the 5th, putting Atlanta up 4-3. In the bottom of the 6th, the Braves' bullpen faltered and Nolan Arenado and Albert Pujols got RBIs with bases-loaded BBs. Down 5-4 in the 9th against the St. Louis closer Ryan Helsley, the Braves mounted another comeback. Sean Murphy hit an RBI 2B in the 9th, Chipper Jones hit a solo HR in the 10th, and the Braves got the split.

GAME #7 — CIN 1 @ MIL 5

Freddy Peralta showed up and only gave up an RBI 1B to Joey Votto after an Eric Davis 2B in the 5th. The Brewers rallied in the bottom of the 5th when Willy Adames and William Contreras went back-to-back with solo HRs, giving the Brewers a 2-1 lead. Jackson Chourio hit a solo HR in the 6th and Adames added an RBI 1B as the Brewers' bullpen held. Chourio added another solo HR in the 8th to continue his hot start to the season.

GAME #8 — CIN 1 @ MIL 3

The Brewers got back in the race and pulled the Reds back down with a key divisional win, putting both teams and the Cardinals at 4-4. Willy Adames hit a 2-run HR to back up rookie Chad Patrick who didn't give up a run until the 6th when Elly De La Cruz hit a sacrifice RBI, scoring Eric Davis. Rowdy Tellez hit an RBI 2B in the 6th and the Brewers' bullpen finished the series with 6⅔ innings pitched and no hits or runs.

GAME #7 — CHC 7 @ PIT 3

The Cubs opened the game with a 2-run HR from Cody Bellinger and didn't look back. Josh Harrison hit an RBI 1B off Jon Lester in the 2nd, but that was all Lester would give up. Jason Heyward hit an RBI 1B in the 4th and Willson Contreras hit a 3-run HR in the 6th to make it 6-1. Contreras added an RBI 1B in the 7th and the Cubs cruised to a division win.

GAME #8 — CHC 7 @ PIT 2

The Cubs made their move and the Pirates lost ground. Willson Contreras hit a 3-run 2B in the top of the 1st inning and the Cubs had a lead they would not surrender. Shota Imanaga pitched a strong 7 innings, only giving up an RBI 2B to Willie Stargell in the 1st and a solo HR to Andy Van Slyke in the 3rd. Seiya Suzuki hit an RBI 3B in the 6th and Ian Happ capped off the sweep with a 2-run HR in the 7th. The Cubs sit in 1st place at 5-3.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 2 • COL ROAD WIN 6-5 • LAD HOME WIN 11-9 • SDP ROAD WIN 4-2

GAME #7 — SDP 4 @ ARI 3

Xander Bogaerts hit a 2-run 1B in the 1st and an RBI 1B in the 5th. Manny Machado hit an RBI 2B in the 5th and Michael King had a 4-0 lead. Eric Chavez hit an RBI 1B in the 6th and Geraldo Perdomo had an RBI and Corbin Carroll hit an RBI 2B in the 2-run 7th, but that was as close as Arizona would get as the Padres got a nice divisional road win.

GAME #8 — SDP 4 @ ARI 2

The Padres got their season back on track as Mike Clevinger pitched a strong game taking a shutout into the 9th when he tired and gave up a 2-run HR to Corbin Carroll. Fernando Tatis Jr hit a solo HR in the 1st, Jackson Merrill hit an RBI 1B in the 5th and Luis Campusano hit a 2-run HR in the 7th to lead San Diego to the road sweep.

GAME #7 — COL 6 @ LAD 5

What was a most uneventful game turned into a classic by the end. Yoshinobu Yamamoto was strong over 6 innings, only giving up a 2nd inning RBI 2B to Kris Bryant, but Jon Gray was even better. Gray gave up only 2 hits and 0 runs into the 8th when he tired and put 2 on base. The beleaguered Colorado bullpen immediately gave up the lead as Mookie Betts hit a go-ahead 3-run HR. The Dodgers handed the ball to star closer Kenley Jansen with a newfound 3-1 lead, but the Rockies rallied on an RBI 2B from Justin Morneau and then a 2-out 2-run HR from Wilin Rosario to give the Rockies a stunning 4-3 lead. Justin Lawrence took the ball and immediately gave up a game-tying solo HR to Max Muncy in the bottom of the 9th. In the top of the 10th the Rockies struck again when Carlos Gonzalez hit a 2-run HR to give the Rockies a 6-4 lead. Freddie Freeman hit an RBI 1B in the bottom of the 10th, but that was all as the Rockies got a nice road win against a strong team.

GAME #8 — COL 9 @ LAD 11

Charlie Blackmon led off the game with a solo HR, but the Dodgers scored 5 runs in the bottom half on an RBI 2B from Justin Turner, a 3-run HR from Max Muncy, and a solo HR from Will Smith. The Rockies kept coming with 3 runs in the 3rd on a solo HR from Wilin Rosario and back-to-back RBI 2B from Carlos Gonzalez and Andres Galarraga making it 5-4. In the bottom half Adrian Gonzalez and Chris Taylor hit RBI 1Bs and in the 5th Freddie Freeman and Justin Turner had RBI and the Dodgers were up 9-4. Andres Galarraga hit a 2-run HR in the 7th, but Adrian Gonzalez hit a 2-run 1B in the bottom half. Trevor Story hit a solo HR and Galarraga hit another 2-run HR in the top of the 9th, but that was as close as the comeback would get as the Dodgers prevailed 11-9.

MLBC — WEEK 3

GAMES 9-12 • THE FIRST BREAKAWAY

THE METS MAKE THEIR MOVE

New York reaches 10-2, Tampa Bay storms back into relevance, and three clubs suffer a lost week.

THE LEAD Houston, the Mets, Yankees and Giants entered Week 3 tied at 6-2, and the schedule immediately forced the top of the table into confrontation. New York went to Atlanta, the Yankees visited Boston, Los Angeles went to San Diego, and Chicago met Minnesota with the AL Central already carrying real weight. Boston had just climbed from 1-4 to 4-4 after a record setting 28 runs in their two game sweep of the Royals. The Mets had spent the offseason building a rotation meant for this exact kind of separation. Now they had a chance to create it.

THE WEEK The Mets seized the week, sweeping Atlanta before taking two more at home to reach 10-2 and stand alone with MLBC's best record. Tampa Bay also went 4-0, turning a 3-5 start into 7-5. Chicago's week contained the season's wildest endurance test: the White Sox beat Minnesota 9-8 in nineteen innings, then started four fresh bench players the next day and watched all four homer, including Jake Burger's 3-run shot and four-RBI debut. Minnesota's perfect opening vanished into six consecutive losses. Bryan Reynolds won consecutive Pittsburgh games with late singles, first in the 16th and then in the 9th. Philadelphia continued its own recovery from 1-5 behind Ryan Howard's four HR, while Justin Verlander threw a 1-hit, 13-strikeout shutout and Zac Gallen a 3-hit, zero-walk shutout. The Mets' breakaway mattered, but the week's deeper theme was reinvention: Tampa Bay, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh all found ways to keep their seasons from hardening into their worst early versions.

THE STAKES The Mets stand 10-2. The Yankees and Giants are 9-3; Chicago and Houston are 8-4. Minnesota, the Angels and St. Louis all went 0-4 and suddenly have much less runway. A four-game skid consumes ten percent of the MLBC schedule, making it a costly misstep. New York has created the season's first real platform at the top, but the White Sox have also discovered something unusually valuable in a short season: depth that can win games when the everyday lineup rests. Week 4 sends the Mets to Dodger Stadium, the Yankees to Anaheim, Minnesota to Houston and Seattle to Chicago. Twelve games have produced the first breakaway. The question is whether anybody can make New York look back.

BEST RECORD
NYM • 10-2

PERFECT WEEK
NYM / TBR • 4-0

CHASERS
NYY / SFG • 9-3

LOST WEEK
MIN / LAA / STL • 0-4

WEEKLY HONORS

HITTER OF THE WEEK

GOLD AUSTIN MEADOWS • TBR

3 HR • 8 RBI

SILVER PETE ALONSO • NYM

3 HR • 7 RBI

BRONZE RYAN HOWARD • PHI

4 HR • 5 RBI

PITCHER OF THE WEEK

GOLD JUSTIN VERLANDER • HOU

CG SHO • 1 H • 1 BB • 13 K

SILVER ZAC GALLEN • ARI

CG SHO • 3 H • 0 BB

BRONZE WALKER BUEHLER • LAD

CG SHO • 5 H

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 3 • BLUE JAYS WIN 7-4 • BOS HOME WIN 5-4 • NYY ROAD WIN 5-0

ROUND #5

GAME #9 — BAL 2 @ TBR 5

The Tampa Bay Rays showed up in a needed home game. Brandon Lowe hit an RBI 1B in the 1st, but Anthony Santander had an RBI to tie the game in the 4th. In the bottom of the 4th, Lowe started it off with a solo HR, and then Kevin Kiermaier hit an RBI 2B and Taylor Walls and Yandy Diaz had RBI as the Rays took a 5-1 lead. Eddie Murray hit a solo HR in the 6th, but it was not enough as Tyler Glasnow cruised to a win.

GAME #10 — BAL 2 @ TBR 8

The Rays got back in the race now sitting at 5-5 with the O's. Josh Lowe hit a solo HR in the 4th and was followed by a 2-run 1B from Mike Zunino as the Rays took a 3-0 lead on John Means. Shane McClellan cruised taking a shutout into the 8th when Jordan Westburg hit an RBI 1B. Junior Caminero hit an RBI 1B and Taylor Walls hit a 2-run 2B in the 3-run 6th, and Austin Meadows hit a 2-run HR in the 7th. Anthony Santander hit a solo HR in the loss. The Rays showed up when they needed to get their season back on track. Baltimore only managed 3 extra-base hits in the series.

GAME #9 — NYY 5 @ BOS 0

AL Cy Young Award winner Gerrit Cole threw a masterful shutout against the Red Sox in Boston to move the Yankees to 7-2. Hideki Matsui and DJ LeMahieu had RBI in the 1st inning while Cole avoided trouble in the 1st and 2nd, and then Aaron Judge hit a 3-run HR in the 7th to seal the win. Chris Sale had another rough start giving up 4 runs in 6½ innings.

GAME #10 — NYY 4 @ BOS 5

Giancarlo Stanton hit a solo HR in the 4th to give the Yankees a lead on David Price, but Nestor Cortes gave up a solo HR to Jarren Duran in the bottom half to tie the game 1-1. In the 5th, DJ LeMahieu hit a 3B and scored on an RBI from Gleyber Torres and then Aaron Judge hit his 7th HR of the season with a solo HR in the 8th. Hideki Matsui added an RBI 1B and the score was 4-1 going to the bottom of the 8th. A win would have given the 1st-place Yankees a 4 game lead over the last-place Red Sox, but it was not to be. The Red Sox woke up just in time as the strong Yankee bullpen faltered when David Ortiz hit an RBI 2B and Duran hit an RBI sacrifice making it 4-3. In the bottom of the 9th, Dustin Pedroia hit a walk-off 2-run 2B off of Aroldis Chapman to put the Red Sox at 5-5 and only 2 games back.

GAME #9 — CLE 4 @ TOR 7

The champion Blue Jays were down 3-0 after 3 batters as Carlos Santana hit a 3-run HR, but Dalton Varsho hit an RBI 1B in the bottom of the 3rd against Shane Bieber, and Jose Bautista and Teoscar Hernandez hit back-to-back solo HRs in the 4th to tie the game. Cleveland took the lead back on a solo HR from Jose Ramirez, but in the 7th Varsho tied the game with a solo HR and Bo Bichette hit an RBI 1B that put the champions ahead. Alejandro Kirk hit a 2-run HR in the bottom of the 8th and Toronto got a nice 7-4 win at home.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 3 • CLEVELAND WIN 4-3 • ROYALS WIN 14-2 • WHITE SOX WIN 9-8

GAME #10 — CLE 4 @ TOR 3

Andres Gimenez hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd, but Matt Chapman hit an RBI 2B and scored on an RBI 1B from Alejandro Kirk in the 2nd. Steven Kwan hit a solo HR in the 3rd and then the pitching took over. Corey Kluber and the bullpen got the game to the 10th while Kevin Gausman and the Toronto bullpen matched them. In the top of the 10th, Kwan drew a walk and scored on a 2-run HR from Jose Ramirez. George Springer hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 10th, but it was not enough to stop Cleveland from getting the split and keeping the Blue Jays at 5-5.

GAME #9 — KCR 2 @ DET 13

The Detroit Tigers showed up. Tarik Skubal gave up a 2-run HR to Whit Merrifield, but that was it. Skubal then sat down 17 batters in a row, striking out 8, and completing the game, giving up only 5 baserunners over 9 innings. Cecil Fielder hit an RBI 1B in the 1st and then Kerry Carpenter hit a 3-run HR. Zack Greinke could not hold it together, unraveling in the 3rd giving up 6 runs. Ian Kinsler and Mickey Tettleton hit 2-run 1Bs, Riley Greene hit an RBI 2B, and Victor Martinez capped the inning with an RBI 1B. Isaac Paredes hit a solo HR in the 4th and Miguel Cabrera hit a 2-run HR in the 7th and the Tigers cruised to a dominant 13-2 win.

GAME #10 — KCR 14 @ DET 2

Baseball is a funny game. After being beaten 13-2 the Royals leave the series with a split and the distinction of outscoring the Tigers in the series. Yordano Ventura pitched out of trouble in almost every inning, but the Tigers just could not score. It wasn't until the 8th inning that Ventura gave up any runs when Kerry Carpenter hit a 2-run HR, the only runs the Tigers would get. Meanwhile, the Kansas City offense unloaded, highlighted by a 6-run 2nd inning where Alex Gordon and Bo Jackson had RBIs, Whit Merrifield and George Brett hit RBI 1Bs and Bobby Witt Jr hit a 2-run 2B. Bo Jackson hit a 2-run HR in the 6th and then Salvador Perez hit an RBI 2B making it 9-0. Alex Gordon hit a 2-run 1B and then Bo Jackson capped off his huge game with a 3-run HR giving him 6 RBI and 2 HRs in the game.

GAME #9 — CHW 9 @ MIN 8

Tim Anderson started a wild game with a solo HR, but Torii Hunter tied it with a solo HR in the bottom of the 1st. Yoan Moncada scored on a wild pitch in the 2nd and Frank Thomas made it 3-1 in the 4th. Yasmani Grandal hit a solo HR in the 5th, but Hunter hit a 2-run 3B and scored on a Kirby Puckett RBI 1B in the 3-run 5th. Luis Robert hit a 2-run HR in the 7th, but the Twins fought back with an RBI 2B from Nelson Cruz and an RBI 1B from Carlos Correa to tie the game 6-6. And then the bullpens took over in a most dramatic way. Both teams put up 10 shutout innings in a staggering display of clutch over and over. Finally in the 18th inning the White Sox broke through with RBI 1Bs from Eloy Jimenez and Andrew Benintendi, but the Twins fought back yet again with an RBI 2B from Royce Lewis and an RBI from Byron Buxton. In the 19th, the White Sox took the game for good with an RBI 1B from Frank Thomas and the Twins had no last reply.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 3 • ASTROS WIN 12-0 • MARINERS WIN 7-2 • WHITE SOX WIN 12-6

GAME #10 — CHW 12 @ MIN 6

The Twins' hot early start is long gone with their 4th loss in a row and the Chicago White Sox have announced themselves as the story of the league, moving to 7-3. After the marathon game, Chicago started its bench and found itself with a new problem. Gavin Sheets went 3-5 with a 2-run HR in his season debut, Jake Burger went 3-5 with 2 2Bs, a 3-run HR and 4 RBI in his season debut, Oscar Colas hit a 2-run HR and a solo HR in his first 2 at-bats of the season, and rookie catcher Edgar Quero hit a solo HR in his career debut. Frank Thomas added an RBI 2B in the blowout win. Dylan Cease kept the Twins to a 2-run HR from Nelson Cruz in his strong 7 innings. Joe Mauer hit a solo HR and Matt Wallner hit a 3-run HR in the loss. The Chicago White Sox lead the division by 2 games after this impressive road sweep against a rival.

GAME #9 — SEA 4 @ OAK 9

The Oakland Athletics are one of the surprise teams in the league and even though Mitch Haniger hit a 2-run HR against JP Sears Oakland rallied against Felix Hernandez. Rickey Henderson and Mark McGwire had bases-loaded RBI BBs and Lawrence Butler had an RBI 1B. Rookie Jacob Wilson hit a solo HR in the 5th to make it 4-2 and then Butler took over with a 2-run HR in the 6th and a 3-run HR in the 7th. Edgar Martinez hit an RBI 1B in the 8th and Cal Raleigh hit a solo HR, but it was not enough to stop the A's from a big home divisional win.

GAME #10 — SEA 7 @ OAK 2

The Mariners got the win they needed as Robinson Cano hit a solo HR in the 1st and an RBI 1B in the 4th. Ken Griffey Jr hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd and Edwin Encarnacion hit a solo HR in the 5th and Seattle gave Logan Gilbert a 5-0 lead. Khris Davis hit a solo HR in the 7th and Mark McGwire hit a solo HR in the 9th, but it was not enough to stop the Mariners from the split. Edgar Martinez added a 2-run 2B in the 9th to cap the 7-2 win.

GAME #9 — LAA 0 @ HOU 12

Justin Verlander has suddenly put a stranglehold on the AL Cy Young Award with a dominant 1-hit 1-walk complete-game shutout while striking out 13. Verlander gave up a walk to Shohei Ohtani and a 1B to Taylor Ward, and then sat down the next 25 batters. Jake Meyers hit a 3-run 2B in the 4th and then in the 8th the Astros broke the game open with 9 runs. Alex Bregman had a 3-run 2B, Yordan Alvarez had a 1B and an RBI 2B, scoring 2 runs, Kyle Tucker hit a 1B and a 3-run HR, scoring 2 runs, and Yainer Diaz hit a 2-run 2B in the outburst.

GAME #10 — LAA 6 @ HOU 7

The Houston Astros have moved to the top of the standings at 8-2, having made it clear that they are back after an off-season following their 2nd-place finish in a World Series loss to Philadelphia. Mike Trout hit a 1B, stole a base, and scored on a Taylor Ward RBI 1B, but Yainer Diaz hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd to tie the game. Trout hit a solo HR in the 3rd and then hit a 3B in the 7th and scored on an RBI 1B from Shohei Ohtani, who scored on a Taylor Ward 2-run HR giving the Angels a 5-1 lead, 9 outs from the split and keeping their season alive. As the league knows, the Astros are hard to beat. Yordan Alvarez hit a 2-run HR in the 7th, Alex Bregman hit a 2-run 2B in the 8th and then Yuli Gurriel tied the game with an RBI 2B, and Garrett Stubbs hit an RBI 1B to walk off the win, giving Houston the sweep and 1st place at the quarter mark of the season.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 3 • D-BACKS WIN 2-0 • NATIONALS WIN 3-1 • TEX ROAD WIN 10-9

GAME #9 — TEX 0 @ ARI 2

Zac Gallen pitched the best game of his career with a 3-hit 0-walk complete-game shutout. The Rangers had no answers for Gallen, who was backed by solo HRs from Brandon Drury and Eric Chavez off of Nathan Eovaldi.

GAME #10 — TEX 10 @ ARI 9

Josh Hamilton hit a 2-run 1B in the 1st, but RBI 1Bs from Gabriel Moreno and Ketel Marte in the 3rd tied the game. In the 5th, Texas unloaded for 8 runs on a 2-run 2B from Corey Seager, an RBI 1B from Hamilton, a 2-run HR from Adolis Garcia, and a 3-run HR from Marcus Semien. Arizona was facing a 10-2 deficit but didn't give up, scoring 3 runs in the 7th on a 2-run 3B from Corbin Carroll and an RBI 1B from Ketel Marte. In the bottom of the 8th, Gabriel Moreno and Ketel Marte hit 2-run 2Bs and suddenly it was 10-9. The Arizona bullpen held over the last 4 innings and it came down to Luke Jackson, who came through, earning the save and getting Texas the road split.

GAME #9 — WSH 0 @ MIA 1

Stephen Strasburg matched Jose Fernandez with dueling shutouts until the bottom of the 9th when rookie Griffin Conine hit a 2B and scored the game-winner on a walk-off RBI 2B from rookie Agustin Ramirez.

GAME #10 — WSH 3 @ MIA 1

James Wood hit an RBI 3B in the 3rd and scored on a Juan Soto RBI 1B and that was all Gio Gonzalez would need. The Marlins drew within 1 run on an RBI 1B from Xavier Edwards, but it was not enough. Ian Desmond hit an RBI sacrifice scoring CJ Abrams after his 2B to ice the game. Sandy Alcantara pitched well in the loss, only giving up 2 other hits over his 7 innings.

GAME #9 — NYM 3 @ ATL 0

In a matchup for the ages Jacob deGrom and Spencer Strider took the mound in a high-pressure matchup. Darryl Strawberry broke through in the 2nd with a solo HR and deGrom didn't give up a baserunner until the 5th and then only 1 more in the 7th and 1 more in the 8th before tiring in the 9th, giving way to Edwin Diaz, who got the save. Mike Piazza hit a solo HR in the 5th and Pete Alonso added an RBI in the 7th and the Mets got a crucial road win against their main rival.

GAME #10 — NYM 3 @ ATL 1

The New York Mets have moved to the top of the league. A road sweep of Atlanta could define the season. Max Fried showed up and got through trouble to finish 6 without giving up a run. Ronald Acuna hit a solo HR in the 3rd and Atlanta took a 1-0 lead to the 8th when Pete Alonso connected for a solo HR to tie the game. In the 10th, Brandon Nimmo finished the comeback with a 2-run 2B and the Mets moved to 8-2 with their sights now set higher than the playoffs. The Braves sit at 5-5 after scoring just 1 run in the series. The Mets have won six games in a row.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 3 • BREWERS HOME WIN • CIN ROAD WIN 6-5 • PHILLIES HOME WIN

GAME #9 — CIN 3 @ PHI 4

Cincinnati came into Philadelphia desperate for a win to stop their three-game losing streak while the Phillies were likewise desperate after getting their season off life support with a two-game winning streak. Tyler Stephenson hit a 2-run 1B in the 2nd and Joey Votto hit a solo HR in the 3rd to give the Reds a 3-0 lead, but in the bottom of the 3rd JT Realmuto hit a 2-run HR to trim the lead to 1. The 3-2 game went all the way to the bottom of the 9th when Raisel Iglesias gave up back-to-back RBI 2B to Lenny Dykstra and Chase Utley to walk off the comeback win. The Reds have now lost 4 in a row and the Phillies have won 3 in a row.

GAME #10 — CIN 6 @ PHI 5

The Reds got off to an early lead with a 2-run HR from star rookie Elly De La Cruz and a 2-run HR from Adam Duvall, but the Phillies rallied in the bottom of the 2nd with an RBI 1B from Kyle Schwarber and a 3-run HR from Bryson Stott. Philadelphia took the lead 5-4 on a solo HR from Ryan Howard. The pitching held and the Phillies took the 1-run lead to the 9th, but it was not to be as the Reds turned the tables. Nick Castellanos hit a 2B and Jesse Winker and Adam Duvall hit RBI 2Bs, and the Reds mounted their own comeback to stem their losing streak.

GAME #9 — STL 2 @ PIT 3

The Pirates hosted the St. Louis Cardinals in a series that could define their season. Star rookie Paul Skenes took the ball but gave up a 2-run HR to Nolan Arenado in the 1st and gave Adam Wainwright a 2-0 lead. In the 3rd inning, Wainwright gave up his 1st run of the season with an RBI to Roberto Clemente, but that was all Wainwright would surrender as he sits firmly in the NL Cy Young race. In the bottom of the 8th the Pirates rallied against the St. Louis bullpen with an RBI 1B from Willie Stargell tying the game 2-2. Strong performances from both bullpens took the game all the way to the 16th inning when Bryan Reynolds hit a walk-off RBI 1B, sending the crowd home happy and moving the Pirates to 4-5, tied with the Cardinals.

GAME #10 — STL 2 @ PIT 3

Here come the Pirates! Oneil Cruz hit a 2-run HR in the 1st against Jack Flaherty and Chris Archer took a no-hitter into the 6th. In the 6th, Nolan Arenado hit an RBI 2B and Albert Pujols hit an RBI 1B to tie the game 2-2. The game went to the bottom of the 9th when Bryan Reynolds did it again, hitting a walk-off RBI 1B sending the crowd home with a sweep and a .500 record firmly in the playoff race. The Cardinals need a jolt to turn their season around, as they suddenly sit at the bottom of the division.

GAME #9 — CHC 6 @ MIL 7

The Brewers took a 3-0 lead on an RBI 2B from William Contreras and a 2-run HR from Rowdy Tellez. Kolton Wong hit an RBI 1B in the 4th, but Chicago tied the game in the top of the 5th on a Grand Slam HR from Nico Hoerner, his 1st hit of the season after an 0-30 start. Milwaukee took the lead back in the bottom half on an RBI 3B from Christian Yelich, but Chicago fought back again with a 2-run 2B from Cody Bellinger to give the Cubs a 6-5 lead. Milwaukee fought back in the bottom of the 8th when Kolton Wong hit a 2-run HR to win the game for the Brewers 7-6.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 3 • CHC ROAD WIN 1-0 • DODGERS ROAD WIN • SFG HOME WIN 12-6

GAME #10 — CHC 1 @ MIL 0

Brandon Woodruff was excellent, taking a shutout into the 8th inning when he gave up a 2B to Ian Happ who scored on an RBI 1B from Anthony Rizzo. Jake Arrieta continued his strong season with 6 shutout innings, giving him a 0.86 ERA after 3 starts. The Chicago bullpen held and got the Cubs the road split they needed, keeping them in 1st place in the NL Central.

GAME #9 — LAD 4 @ SDP 5

Luis Campusano continued his strong season with an RBI 1B in the 2nd inning against Clayton Kershaw, but Mookie Betts hit an RBI 1B off Yu Darvish in the 5th to tie the game. The Padres took the lead back in the 7th when Manny Machado hit a 2-run HR, but the Dodgers rallied in the 8th on back-to-back RBI 2Bs from Adrian Gonzalez and Will Smith. The Padres once again rallied in the bottom half when Jake Cronenworth hit a 2-run HR. Trea Turner hit a solo HR in the 9th, but it was not enough as the Padres secured a big division win at home. Eric Hosmer went 4-4 with a 2B and 2 runs scored in the win.

GAME #10 — LAD 4 @ SDP 0

Walker Buehler pitched a strong 5-hit 2-walk complete-game shutout to get the Dodgers back to .500. Trea Turner hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd and Chris Taylor hit an RBI 1B in the 4th and an RBI 2B in the 5th. Max Muncy hit an RBI 1B later in the 5th and the Dodgers got the road split keeping San Diego at .500. Joc Pederson went 2-4 with a 2B and 3B in the win.

GAME #9 — COL 6 @ SFG 12

Colorado struck first with an RBI 2B from Kris Bryant and an RBI 1B from Wilin Rosario off of Carlos Rodon in the 2nd inning, but that was all they would get from Rodon over his 7 innings. Brandon Crawford tied the game with a 2-run HR in the 2nd and then the Giants unloaded with a 10-run 4th. Buster Posey led it off with a solo HR, Crawford hit an RBI 1B, Jung Hoo Lee hit a 2-run 3B, Joe Panik had an RBI 2B, Mike Yastrzemski hit an RBI 1B, and then Brandon Belt hit a Grand Slam HR to make it 12-2. Carlos Gonzalez hit a 2-run 2B and Andres Galarraga hit an RBI 1B in the 8th and Charlie Blackmon hit an RBI 2B in the 9th, but it was not enough as the Giants cruised to a blowout win.

GAME #10 — COL 7 @ SFG 8

The Giants moved to 8-2 with an impressive win to get the home sweep. Madison Bumgarner had an off day, but the Giants' offense showed up. Carlos Gonzalez hit a solo HR in the 2nd, but Jung Hoo Lee hit an RBI 1B in the bottom half and then scored on a Mike Yastrzemski Grand Slam HR. The Rockies fought back in the 3rd when Charlie Blackmon hit a solo HR and Troy Tulowitzki hit an RBI 2B and scored on an RBI 1B from Andres Galarraga. Tulowitzki hit an RBI sacrifice to tie the game in the 4th, but reigning NL MVP Evan Longoria hit a solo HR to give the Giants the lead again. Ryan McMahon hit a solo HR in the 6th to tie the game, but the Giants rallied in the 8th with an RBI sacrifice from Will Clark and an RBI 1B from Jung Hoo Lee. Kris Bryant hit an RBI 1B in the 9th, but the rally fell short and the Giants escaped with an 8-7 win.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 3 • ORIOLES WIN 10-5 • BAL ROAD WIN 7-1 • TBR HOME WIN 13-6

ROUND #6

GAME #11 — BAL 10 @ OAK 5

Jordan Westburg hit a 3-run HR in the 3rd inning to support Tyler Wells who gave up an RBI to Lawrence Butler in the bottom of the 3rd. Trey Mancini hit a solo HR in the 4th and then in the 6th Eddie Murray hit an RBI 1B and scored on a 2-run 2B from Adley Rutschman. In the bottom of the 6th, Darell Hernaiz hit a solo HR, but in the top of the 7th Eddie Murray hit another RBI 1B and Rutschman hit a 2-run 1B. In the bottom of the 9th, Jack Wilson hit a 3-run HR, but it was not enough to stop the blowout win for the Orioles.

GAME #12 — BAL 7 @ OAK 1

The Orioles are back in the race while the A's dream start hit a bump as they fell back to the pack. Adam Jones hit an RBI 2B and scored on a 3-run HR by Eddie Murray in the 2nd, Cal Ripken Jr and Adley Rutschman hit RBI 2Bs in the 5th and Gunnar Henderson hit an RBI 1B in the 8th as the Orioles rolled to a road sweep. Grayson Rodriguez continued his strong season, pitching into the 8th, only giving up a solo HR to Ramon Laureano in the 2nd.

GAME #11 — LAA 6 @ TBR 13

The Angels just could not stop the Rays. Taylor Ward hit a 2-run HR in the 1st, but Junior Caminero hit a 2-run 1B in the bottom half to tie the game. David Fletcher hit an RBI 3B in the 2nd, but in the 3rd the Rays took the lead on an RBI 1B from Brandon Lowe and a 2-run 1B from Kevin Kiermaier. The Angels took the lead again on a Zach Neto 2-run HR, but in the bottom of the 6th the Rays scored 3 on an RBI 2B from Josh Lowe and a 2-run 2B from Austin Meadows. Josh Lowe hit a 2-run 1B in the 8th to extend the lead and then Brandon Lowe hit a solo HR and Taylor Walls hit a 2-run HR to give the Rays a blowout win.

GAME #12 — LAA 3 @ TBR 9

The Rays are rolling and the Angels' season is over. The Angels just can't stop the opposing team. Kevin Kiermaier hit an RBI 1B and Taylor Walls and Yandy Diaz added RBIs as Tampa Bay took a 3-0 lead. Kiermaier hit a solo HR and Austin Meadows hit a 3-run HR in the 4th, while Randy Arozarena had an RBI in the 5th and Meadows hit another HR in the 6th and the Rays took a 9-0 lead. Mike Trout hit a 2-run HR and Anthony Rendon added an RBI 1B in the 8th to avoid the shutout. The Angels sit at 3-9 with the worst record in the league. Andrew Heaney will almost certainly be replaced in the rotation after going 0-3 with a 20.48 ERA. Rookie Taj Bradley was strong for the win.

GAME #11 — MIN 5 @ NYY 7

The Twins came into Yankee Stadium needing a win having lost 4 in a row. Carlos Correa hit an RBI 1B in the 1st, but Don Mattingly hit an RBI 2B to tie the game in the bottom half. Nelson Cruz hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd, but Hideki Matsui hit a 2-run 2B in the bottom half to tie the game. Jorge Polanco gave Joe Ryan another lead to hold, but Giancarlo Stanton hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 5th to tie the game again. Joe Mauer hit an RBI 3B in the 6th to take the lead again, but DJ LeMahieu hit an RBI 2B to tie the game yet again. The tied game went to the bottom of the 10th when Don Mattingly hit a 2-run 1B to walk off the win for the 1st-place Yankees.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 3 • BLUE JAYS WIN 4-2 • CLEVELAND WIN 3-2 • RED SOX WIN 5-3

GAME #12 — MIN 0 @ NYY 2

Masahiro Tanaka pitched 7 strong shutout innings and Derek Jeter hit an RBI 2B in the 5th and Giancarlo Stanton hit a solo HR in the 6th and the Yankees' bullpen held. The Yankees have moved to 9-3 and are off to a hot start after missing the playoffs last season. The Minnesota Twins are in a spiral after a 5-1 start, now stuck in a six-game losing streak.

GAME #11 — BOS 5 @ HOU 3

Masataka Yoshida hit a solo HR in the 1st inning off Joe Musgrove to take the lead, but Kyle Tucker hit an RBI 2B in the 4th to tie the game. In the 5th, Yainer Diaz hit a solo HR to take the lead, but Rafael Devers tied the game 2-2 with an RBI 2B in the 6th. Boston took the lead in the 7th on an RBI from Yoshida, but Houston tied the game again in the bottom half on an RBI 2B from Diaz. The 3-3 game went to the 12th when Jarren Duran hit a 2-run HR to win the game, giving Boston a strong road win.

GAME #12 — BOS 13 @ HOU 7

Boston is back in the race. The Red Sox unloaded for 13 runs, getting a road sweep in Houston. The Astros scored first on a 1st inning Jeff Bagwell 2-run HR, but in the 3rd inning David Ortiz and Ceddanne Rafaela hit RBI 1Bs and Jason Varitek hit a 2-run 2B and scored on a wild pitch. Yordan Alvarez hit an RBI 1B in the bottom of the 3rd, but Jarren Duran hit an RBI 1B in the 4th. In the 5th inning, Wade Boggs and David Ortiz hit RBI 1Bs to make it 8-3, but Houston mounted a comeback when Jose Siri hit a solo HR, Alex Bregman hit a 2-run HR, and Jeremy Pena added an RBI to make it 8-7. Alex Verdugo hit a solo HR in the 6th and Boggs added an RBI 2B in the 7th, and in the 9th David Ortiz hit a 2-run 1B and Rafael Devers added an RBI to cap the 13-7 blowout win. Houston fell to 8-4, giving up more runs to Boston than in their first 9 games. Boston has now won 6 of 7 to recover from a 1-4 start.

GAME #11 — KCR 3 @ TOR 1

Hunter Dozier got a start off the bench and hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd inning that decided the game. Bo Jackson hit an RBI 3B later in the inning and that was all rookie Cole Ragans would need as he had the best start of his career giving up only an RBI 1B to Roberto Alomar in the 5th over his seven innings. The Royals got a nice road win and the Blue Jays will regret the missed opportunity.

GAME #12 — KCR 2 @ TOR 4

Brady Singer and Jose Berrios both pitched 4 shutout innings, but in the 5th Danny Jansen hit an RBI 2B, Roberto Alomar hit a 2-run 2B, and George Springer hit an RBI 3B, giving Toronto a 4-0 lead. George Brett hit a solo HR and Vinny Pasquantino hit an RBI 1B in the 7th, but it was not enough to stop Toronto from getting the home split.

GAME #11 — TEX 2 @ CLE 3

Texas could get back in the race with a strong showing in Cleveland and they took the lead on a 2-run HR from Adrian Beltre in the 1st inning. Mike Minor only gave up an RBI 1B to Steven Kwan in the 3rd over 6 strong innings, but in the bottom of the 8th Michael Brantley hit a 2-run HR to take the lead and give Cleveland a strong comeback win to move back toward contention.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 3 • CLEVELAND WIN 7-6 • MARINERS WIN 6-1 • MARINERS WIN 7-2

GAME #12 — TEX 6 @ CLE 7

Texas needed a win to stay alive and they scored 5 runs in the 1st inning on an RBI 1B from Adrian Beltre, a 2-run 3B from Adolis Garcia, and a 2-run HR from Joey Gallo. Dane Dunning gave up 2 runs in the bottom half on a 2-run 1B to Michael Brantley and then another in the 3rd on a solo HR to Gabriel Arias. In the 4th, Texas added another run on a Corey Seager RBI 1B making it 6-3, but Cleveland inched closer on a 2-run HR from Andres Gimenez. Texas took another lead to the late innings but in the bottom of the 9th Cleveland came back again with an RBI 2B from Carlos Santana. In the bottom of the 12th, Cleveland announced that they are back with a walk-off solo HR from Josh Naylor. Texas has fallen out of the race at 4-8 while Cleveland has won 5 of 6 to pass the Twins in the standings.

GAME #11 — DET 1 @ SEA 6

The Tigers saw Mickey Tettleton hit a solo HR tying the game in the 4th after Julio Rodriguez had given Seattle a 1-0 lead with an RBI 2B in the 3rd. In the bottom of the 4th, JP Crawford hit a Grand Slam HR and that was it. George Kirby pitched a strong 7 innings, the bullpen held, and Seattle got a nice 6-1 home win.

GAME #12 — DET 2 @ SEA 7

The Detroit Tigers fell out of the race getting swept on the road in Seattle. Robinson Cano hit a solo HR in the bottom of the first to give the M's a 1-0 lead, but Javier Baez hit a solo HR in the 3rd to tie the game. Matt Manning had a strong 5-inning start, but in the 6th Tyler Alexander gave up 3 runs and Michael Fulmer gave up 3 runs and the Tigers were blown out. Seattle has moved up in the race and look to have a potent offense. Robbie Ray only gave up 1 run and Alexis Diaz gave up a solo HR in the 9th and the M's cruised. Julio Rodriguez hit an RBI 2B and Robinson Cano hit a 2-run HR in the 3-run 7th, and Cal Raleigh hit a 2-run HR and Mitch Haniger hit a solo HR in the 3-run 8th in the easy sweep.

GAME #11 — CHW 5 @ CHC 4

The White Sox took a 1-0 lead on an RBI 1B in the 2nd from Yasmani Grandal and then a 3-0 lead when Eloy Jimenez hit a 2-run 2B in the 3rd. The Cubs fought back with RBIs from Ryne Sandberg and Cody Bellinger in the 3rd and a 2-run 1B from Seiya Suzuki and the Cubs were up 4-3. In the 8th inning the White Sox rallied to take the win with an RBI 2B from Frank Thomas and an RBI 1B from Jimenez in the 8th. The White Sox's bullpen pitched 4 scoreless innings to secure the comeback win, moving Chicago to 8-3.

GAME #12 — CHW 3 @ CHC 4

Jose Abreu hit a solo HR in the 1st inning, but Shota Imanaga didn't give up another run over 8 strong innings. The Cubs tied the game in the 2nd on an RBI 2B from Victor Caratini and then took the lead on a solo HR from Christopher Morel in the 6th. Ryne Sandberg hit a 2-run 2B in the 8th to make it 4-1, which proved decisive as Eloy Jimenez hit a 2-run HR in the top of the 9th. Jake Burger hit a 2B with 2 outs in the 9th, but Hector Rondon secured the final out to get the Cubs the home split they needed. The Cubs sit at 7-5 firmly in the race.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 3 • ATL ROAD WIN 6-2 • DODGERS ROAD WIN • LAD ROAD WIN 5-1

GAME #11 — LAD 4 @ MIA 3

The Marlins struck first with a 3-run HR from Jesus Sanchez in the 2nd inning against Yoshinobu Yamamoto, but Gavin Lux hit an RBI 2B in the 3rd against Livan Hernandez and Justin Turner hit a pinch-hit 2-run HR against Calvin Faucher in the 8th to tie the game. In the 11th the Dodgers got the win they wanted when Mookie Betts hit an RBI 2B. Kenley Jansen shut out Miami in 2 innings for the win.

GAME #12 — LAD 5 @ MIA 1

The Dodgers got the sweep they wanted as Dustin May shut down the Marlins. Justin Turner hit an RBI 1B in the 1st and Joc Pederson hit a solo HR in the 2nd and a 2B in the 5th, scoring on an RBI 2B from Chris Taylor. The Marlins made it 4-1 on a Kyle Stowers RBI 2B in the 8th, but Trea Turner added on an RBI 1B in the 9th and Los Angeles cruised to a 3rd win in a row.

GAME #11 — MIL 2 @ NYM 7

Pete Alonso hit a 3-run HR off of Freddy Peralta in the 3rd and Alonso and Dominic Smith hit RBI 1Bs in the 5th and the Mets gave Noah Syndergaard a 5-0 lead. In the 7th, Rowdy Tellez hit a solo HR but in the bottom half Pete Alonso hit another HR. William Contreras hit an RBI sacrifice in the 8th, but Brett Baty hit a solo HR and the Mets cruised to their 7th win in a row.

GAME #12 — MIL 1 @ NYM 4

Jackson Chourio hit a leadoff 2B and scored on an RBI 1B from Christian Yelich, but that was all Kodai Senga would give up. Darryl Strawberry hit an RBI 1B in the bottom of the 1st, Brandon Nimmo added an RBI in the 3rd, Jeff McNeil hit an RBI 1B in the 4th, and then Nimmo capped it off with a solo HR in the 7th. The Brewers plunged back to the fringe of the race at 5-7 while the New York Mets sit atop the league at 10-2, having won eight games in a row. Last season Toronto started 11-2 and claimed the World Series, and it looks like the Mets have announced that they want the same.

GAME #11 — ATL 3 @ SDP 5

Chipper Jones hit an RBI 1B in the 1st inning and Michael Harris hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd inning, but Tony Gwynn hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd and an RBI 2B in the 5th to make it 3-2 after Ronald Acuna hit an RBI 1B in the top half of the 5th. Atlanta took the 3-2 lead to the bottom of the 8th, but Xander Bogaerts hit a 2-run HR and Luis Campusano added an RBI 1B, turning the game into a 5-3 comeback win for the Padres.

GAME #12 — ATL 6 @ SDP 2

Manny Machado gave San Diego a 1-0 lead with an RBI in the bottom of the 1st, but Chipper Jones hit a 2-run 1B in the 3rd to give the Braves a 2-1 lead. The Braves took the lead all the way to the 8th inning behind a strong start from Kyle Wright. In the bottom of the 8th, Xander Bogaerts hit a solo HR to tie the game 2-2. Andres Munoz came into the game and imploded. Ronald Acuna hit an RBI 1B and Munoz gave up 3 walks, including an RBI BB to Matt Olson, before giving up a 2-run 2B to Austin Riley. The Braves got the split and both teams left the series in the race at .500.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 3 • PHILLIES WIN 2-0 • ARI ROAD WIN 8-3 • PHILLIES HOME WIN

GAME #11 — STL 0 @ PHI 7

Cole Hamels took a shutout into the 8th when rookie Orion Kerker took the ball and completed it against a lackluster St. Louis offense. Ryan Howard hit a solo HR in the 2nd and a 2-run HR in the 3rd, and Chase Utley hit a solo HR, and the Phillies had a 4-0 lead. Bryson Stott and Lenny Dykstra hit RBI 1Bs in the 6th and JT Realmuto hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 8th and Philadelphia cruised.

GAME #12 — STL 0 @ PHI 2

The Cardinals were shut out again and have meekly fallen out of the race. The Phillies, meanwhile, are red-hot and are back in the race after a disastrous 1-5 start. Ranger Suarez gave up 5 hits and 0 walks, pitching a complete-game shutout. Bryce Harper hit an RBI 2B in the 3rd and Ryan Howard hit another HR in the 6th and the Phillies got a terrific home sweep, putting them back in the wild card hunt.

GAME #11 — ARI 8 @ CIN 3

Nick Castellanos hit a solo HR against Brandon Pfaadt in the 2nd, and then rookie Spencer Steer hit a solo HR in his first career at-bat and the Reds were up 2-0. Christian Walker cut the lead in half with an RBI 1B in the 4th, but in the bottom half Matt McLain hit a solo HR in his 1st game. Then Eric Chavez changed the game with a Grand Slam HR, putting the Diamondbacks up 5-3. Christian Walker hit a 2-run HR in the 7th and Pavin Smith went back-to-back with a solo HR to seal the road win.

GAME #12 — ARI 5 @ CIN 6

Brandon Drury hit a 3-run 2B in the top of the 1st, but Eric Davis hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 1st. Ketel Marte hit a 2-run 2B in the 2nd but in the bottom half rookie Spencer Steer hit another solo HR and Eric Davis hit a 2-run HR making it a 5-4 game after 2 innings. Joey Votto tied the game in the 5th and Adam Duvall hit an RBI 2B later in the inning to take a lead the bullpen would hold. The Reds got the split they needed and sit a game back of the Cubs. Nick Lodolo struggled but earned the win.

GAME #11 — PIT 7 @ COL 8

The Pirates are having a great start considering expectations and took a 4-0 lead in the 3rd inning on an RBI 1B from Roberto Clemente and a 3-run HR from Willie Stargell. The lead grew to 5-0 on an RBI 1B from Bryan Reynolds, but Andres Galarraga hit a 3-run HR in the bottom half to make it 5-3. An RBI 2B from Reynolds and an RBI 1B from Clemente made it 7-3 and Pittsburgh had their eyes on a 6-5 record, but Colorado came back in the bottom of the 7th when the Pittsburgh bullpen imploded, giving up an RBI 1B to Galarraga and then 2 RBI BBs to Ryan McMahon and Charlie Blackmon and an RBI sacrifice to Michael Cuddyer to tie the game. In the bottom of the 8th, McMahon hit an RBI 1B and the Rockies got a nice comeback win at home.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 3 • NATIONALS WIN 5-2 • PIRATES ROAD WIN • SFG HOME WIN 9-3

GAME #12 — PIT 6 @ COL 5

Pittsburgh moved back to .500, getting the road split in Colorado and taking a 2-0 lead in the 5th on an RBI 1B from Roberto Clemente and an RBI 2B from Willie Stargell. An RBI 1B from Endy Rodriguez and an RBI 2B from Andy Van Slyke made it 4-0 in the 6th and a solo HR from Stargell in the 7th made it 5-0. Colorado began the comeback in the bottom of the 7th on a solo HR from Kris Bryant and then an RBI 1B from Ryan McMahon in the bottom of the 8th. In the top of the 8th, Bryan Reynolds hit an RBI 2B, which paid off as Troy Tulowitzki hit an RBI 2B and Carlos Gonzalez hit a 2-run 2B to make it 6-5. With the tying run on 2nd and facing a 2nd blown lead late in the game, David Bednar secured the win by getting the final two outs.

GAME #11 — WSH 5 @ SFG 2

The Nationals got a solid road win against a hot Giants team as Josiah Gray only gave up 2 runs, one on a wild pitch and one on an RBI 1B to Brandon Crawford. Washington took the lead in the top of the 1st on an RBI 1B from Ryan Zimmerman and then Keibert Ruiz hit a 3-run HR in the 4th to make it 4-0. Jayson Werth hit a solo HR in the 8th and the Giants never mounted a comeback, putting the Nationals back on the fringes of the playoff race.

GAME #12 — WSH 3 @ SFG 9

The Giants' offense woke up as Casey Schmitt hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd and Mike Yastrzemski hit a 2-run HR in the 4th to take a 4-0 lead on Jordan Zimmermann. San Francisco broke the game open in the 5th when Buster Posey hit a 2-run HR and Schmitt hit a 3-run 2B to make it 9-0. Jeff Samardzija took a shutout into the 6th when Jayson Werth hit a solo HR, but the Giants still held a commanding lead. Ryan Zimmerman hit an RBI 1B in the 7th and a solo HR in the 9th, but the result was not in question as the Giants got the home split, putting them 1 game behind the Mets for the top seed.

MLBC — WEEK 4

GAMES 13-16 • FAULT LINES

THE AL RACES TIGHTEN*Baltimore and Cleveland go perfect while the Mets keep a firm hand on the league's best record.*

THE LEAD The Mets entered Week 4 at 10-2, with the Yankees and Giants at 9-3 and Chicago and Houston at 8-4. New York had created separation, but the American League remained unstable enough for one perfect week to reorder an entire division. Boston went to Cleveland, Seattle visited the White Sox, Toronto faced Chicago, and Minnesota traveled to Houston trying to stop a six-game collapse. In the National League, Philadelphia and San Francisco met with the Phillies attempting to turn a disastrous opening into an actual playoff position.

THE WEEK Baltimore and Cleveland delivered the only 4-0 weeks. The Orioles climbed into a tie with the Yankees at 11-5 atop the AL East, while Cleveland completed an extraordinary recovery from 1-5 by winning seven straight and pulling even with Chicago at 10-6 in the Central. The White Sox remained one of the league's most unusual stories: Jake Burger took over third base from Yoan Moncada after exploding off the bench, while Chicago's reserves had supplied eight of the club's thirty HR through fourteen games. Philadelphia kept climbing too. The Phillies swept San Francisco, including a Game #15 ending when Camilo Doval threw a bases-loaded wild pitch, and finished the week having won eight of ten since falling to 1-5. Albert Pujols drove in six in one game for St. Louis, while Spencer Strider, Jack Flaherty and Michael Wacha all threw complete-game shutouts. Minnesota's nightmare continued, reaching ten consecutive losses.

THE STAKES The Mets still own the league at 13-3. Baltimore, Houston, the Yankees and San Francisco sit 11-5; Chicago and Cleveland are 10-6. Two American League races that looked orderly have been compressed into direct fights, while Philadelphia has transformed itself from crisis story to Wild Card threat. Minnesota and Cincinnati have moved the other direction and now live in the danger zone. Week 5 takes everyone to the halfway point, with Cleveland visiting the Yankees, Tampa Bay going to Houston, San Francisco visiting Atlanta and Seattle facing Baltimore. Sixteen games have drawn the fault lines. The midpoint will tell us which ones widen.

BEST RECORD NYM • 13-3	PERFECT WEEK BAL / CLE • 4-0	AL EAST BAL / NYY • 11-5	AL CENTRAL CHW / CLE • 10-6
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WEEKLY HONORS

HITTER OF THE WEEK GOLD ALBERT PUJOLS • STL 2 HR • 2-run 2B • 6 RBI in Game #16 SILVER JAKE BURGER • CHW 3 HR • 8 RBI BRONZE EDDIE MURRAY • BAL 3 HR • 8 RBI	PITCHER OF THE WEEK GOLD SPENCER STRIDER • ATL CG SHO • 3 H • 12 K SILVER JACK FLAHERTY • STL CG SHO • 3 H • 13 K BRONZE MICHAEL WACHA • STL CG SHO • 2 H
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MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 4 • BAL HOME WIN 5-2 • NYY ROAD WIN 1-0 • OAK ROAD WIN 12-6

ROUND #7

GAME #13 — WSH 2 @ BAL 5

The rivalry series began with two teams going in opposite directions. Luis Garcia hit an RBI 1B off of Kyle Bradish in the 2nd, but Eddie Murray hit an RBI 1B and Anthony Santander hit an RBI 2B off of Stephen Strasburg in the 3rd. Josh Bell tied the game in the 4th and the game went tied to the bottom of the 7th when Murray hit a 2-run 1B and Santander hit another RBI 2B to get the 5-2 win.

GAME #14 — WSH 2 @ BAL 5

The Nationals have fallen far out of the race and the Orioles are surging. Eddie Murray hit a 2-run HR in the 1st and Adam Jones added an RBI 1B in the 2nd to give John Means a 3-0 lead. Anthony Santander made it 4-0 in the 8th with a solo HR before the Nationals mounted a small comeback with RBIs from Josh Bell and Keibert Ruiz. The rally fizzled and the Orioles got a big home sweep to keep up with the Yankees.

GAME #13 — OAK 12 @ TBR 6

Rickey Henderson started off the series with a leadoff solo HR, but Austin Meadows and Brandon Lowe hit RBI 2Bs in the bottom half. Taylor Walls hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd, but Khris Davis hit a 3-run HR and the A's took a 5-3 lead after Ramon Laureano went back-to-back with a solo HR. Tampa Bay continued pounding JP Sears with a 2-run 3B from Kevin Kiermaier in the 3rd and a solo HR from Yandy Diaz in the 4th taking the lead back 6-5. Khris Davis hit another 2-run HR in the 5th to give the A's the lead back and then Jacob Wilson hit an RBI 1B in the 6th and scored on a Grand Slam HR from Mark McGwire to seal the road win.

GAME #14 — OAK 4 @ TBR 6

Lawrence Butler hit an RBI 1B in the 1st and an RBI sacrifice in the 3rd to give the A's the early lead, but Yandy Diaz hit an RBI 2B in the bottom of the 3rd and then Austin Meadows hit a solo HR and star rookie Junior Caminero hit a 2-run HR to give the Rays the 4-2 lead after 4 innings. It was Caminero's 1st career HR and gave him an incredible 11-game hitting streak. Elvis Andrus hit a 2-run 1B in the 7th that tied the game, but in the bottom of the 11th Mike Zunino hit a game-winning walk-off 2-run HR to give the Rays the split they needed to keep pace in the AL Wild Card race.

GAME #13 — NYY 1 @ LAA 0

Gerrit Cole joined Justin Verlander for the lead in the AL Cy Young race with his second CGSH in a row, giving up only 2 hits and 3 walks while striking out 10 in a dominant performance. Giancarlo Stanton hit a 2B to lead off the 4th and scored on an RBI 1B from Hideki Matsui against Shohei Ohtani and it was all the Yankees would need.

GAME #14 — NYY 2 @ LAA 1

The Yankees have taken hold of the top seed in the AL, sitting at 11-3 while the Angels have fallen to the cellar at 3-11. Don Mattingly hit an RBI 1B in the 4th and Derek Jeter hit an RBI 1B in the 8th to lead the Yankees to the road sweep. Mike Trout hit a solo HR in the 6th off of Nestor Cortes, but it was the only run the Angels would score in the series and they got swept at home and need to find answers for their offense, having now lost 7 in a row.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 4 • CLEVELAND WIN 2-1 • CLEVELAND WIN 3-1 • RANGERS WIN 2-1

GAME #13 — BOS 1 @ CLE 2

Shane Bieber took a shutout into the 8th inning when he gave up a 2B to Jason Varitek, who scored on an RBI from Dustin Pedroia. Chris Sale matched the effort and took his own shutout to the bottom of the 8th, now with a 1-0 lead, but Gabriel Arias and Jose Ramirez hit RBI 1Bs and the Guardians got a big comeback win at home against a wild-card rival.

GAME #14 — BOS 1 @ CLE 3

Corey Kluber didn't give up a run until an RBI 1B from Wade Boggs in the 5th, but Cleveland came back again with a Jim Thome 3-run HR against David Price to change the outcome. The Red Sox offense didn't show up in Cleveland as Boston slipped back to the pack while the Guardians are surging with their 5th win in a row. Rookie Ceddanne Rafaela extended his hitting streak to 11 games.

GAME #13 — TOR 1 @ CHW 5

Garrett Crochet had a strong start, only giving up a solo HR to George Springer in the 3rd over his 7 innings. Tim Anderson continued his power surge with his 6th HR on the season to lead off the bottom of the 1st. Jose Abreu hit a solo HR later in the inning, and then Jake Burger hit a 2-run HR in the 4th and Yasmani Grandal hit a solo HR in the 7th to give the surging White Sox a home win against the defending champions.

GAME #14 — TOR 3 @ CHW 5

The Blue Jays are struggling to defend their title, having dropped to 6-8 and to the fringe of the playoff race as Dylan Cease only gave up a solo HR to Randal Grichuk in the 5th over his strong 7 innings. Jake Burger hit another HR with a 3-run HR in the 2nd and Andrew Vaughn hit a solo HR after going back-to-back. Gavin Sheets hit an RBI 1B as part of his 3-4 day in the 3rd and the White Sox cruised to a home sweep, putting them firmly in the playoff picture. The White Sox bench is one of the leading stories of the young season as Burger has 3 HRs in 4 games, Sheets is 6-9 in 2 games, and collectively the bench has 8 HRs giving Chicago a staggering 30 HRs after only 14 games.

GAME #13 — DET 1 @ TEX 4

Nathan Eovaldi shut down the Tigers not giving up any runs over 7 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings, and Joey Gallo hit a 3-run HR off of Tarik Skubal in the bottom of the 2nd and the Rangers cruised to a home win. Cecil Fielder hit a solo HR in the 9th to give the Tigers a run while Gallo had an RBI 1B in the 8th to cap the 4-1 win.

GAME #14 — DET 1 @ TEX 2

The Tigers have lost 5 in a row only scoring 7 runs. Victor Martinez hit an RBI off of Jeffrey Springs in the top of the 1st, but that was all the Tigers would get. The Rangers were held scoreless by Casey Mize all the way until the 9th inning. In the 9th, rookie Wyatt Langford hit a 2B and scored on a game-winning walk-off 2-run HR from Marcus Semien. The Rangers moved to 6-8 to give a little life to their season while the Tigers have fallen to 4-10 and need to find their offense.

GAME #13 — SEA 0 @ KCR 1

Felix Hernandez only gave up an RBI 2B to Bobby Witt Jr in the 5th, but that was all the Royals would need. Zack Greinke won the duel completely shutting down the Mariners' offense, pitching a stellar 3-hit complete-game shutout only walking 1 while striking out 9.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 4 • ATL ROAD WIN 5-0 • DODGERS HOME WIN • HOU HOME WIN 6-5

GAME #14 — SEA 2 @ KCR 3

The Seattle offense failed to show up in Kansas City as they only mustered a solo HR from Edwin Encarnacion in the 2nd and an RBI 1B from Ken Griffey Jr in the 6th against Yordano Ventura. Bo Jackson hit a 3-run HR in the 4th and it was enough to carry the Royals to a home sweep, putting them back on the fringe of the playoff race. The Mariners missed a chance to keep up with the Astros and have fallen back to the pack.

GAME #13 — MIN 3 @ HOU 7

The Astros took control of the game in the 3rd when Yordan Alvarez hit a 3-run HR and Kyle Tucker went back-to-back with a solo HR, and Houston gave a 4-0 lead to Justin Verlander. Nelson Cruz hit a solo HR in the 4th, but Jeff Bagwell hit a solo HR in the 5th. Miguel Sano and Byron Buxton had RBIs in the 7th, but Bagwell hit a 2-run HR to secure the 7-3 win.

GAME #14 — MIN 5 @ HOU 6

Nelson Cruz hit a 3-run HR in the top of the 1st and Torii Hunter added an RBI 1B and it looked like the Twins would snap their losing streak, but Yainer Diaz and Jose Altuve had RBIs in the 2nd, Marwin Gonzalez hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd and Yordan Alvarez hit an RBI 1B to tie the game. The Astros took the lead in the 7th on an RBI 2B from Kyle Tucker, but the Twins fought back when Kirby Puckett hit a solo HR to tie the game 5-5. In the bottom of the 8th, Jeremy Pena hit a solo HR to give the Astros a nice comeback win and a home sweep, moving them comfortably into the playoff picture as they gained 2 games on Seattle and are keeping pace with the Yankees. The Twins have lost 8 in a row to plummet down the standings.

GAME #13 — NYM 0 @ LAD 1

A pitching duel for the ages materialized as Jacob deGrom and Clayton Kershaw squared off both taking shutouts into the 9th inning. Kershaw survived the 9th to post a complete game without giving up a run, but deGrom, who had only given up a lone 1B to Joc Pederson, gave up a leadoff 1B to Trea Turner who stole 2nd base and took 3rd on a groundout. deGrom struck out his 16th batter. Justin Turner hit an RBI 1B to walk off the 1-0 win for the home Dodgers ending the Mets' eight-game winning streak.

GAME #14 — NYM 6 @ LAD 0

Walker Buehler imploded to start the game walking 4 batters and giving up 1 single before recording an out. Pete Alonso and Darryl Strawberry had RBI BBs, Curtis Granderson hit a 2-run 1B, and Francisco Alvarez added an RBI and it was 5-0 for the Mets before the Dodgers batted. Max Scherzer had his best start of the season taking a shutout into the 9th before giving way to Edwin Diaz. The Mets have tied the Yankees for the top record at 11-3 while the Dodgers got a home split while only scoring 1 run.

GAME #13 — ATL 5 @ CIN 0

Spencer Strider shut down the Reds, giving up only 3 hits and 1 walk in a 12-strikeout complete-game shutout, putting him in the NL Cy Young race with Jacob deGrom. Austin Riley hit a 2-run 2B in the 1st and scored on an RBI 1B from Ozzie Albies. Chipper Jones added a solo HR in the 2nd and Ronald Acuna added an RBI in the 4th, and the Braves cruised to a road win against a rival for a wild card spot.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 4 • CARDINALS WIN 10-3 • D-BACKS WIN 13-5 • D-BACKS WIN 4-0

GAME #14 — ATL 2 @ CIN 0

Max Fried matched Strider in shutting down the Reds' offense, giving up 7 hits and 1 walk but still shutting out the Reds over 9 innings. Matt Olson hit an RBI 2B and scored on an RBI from Sean Murphy and that was all Fried would need. The Reds have tumbled out of the race, losing 7 of 9, while the Braves have kept the Mets in striking distance with their 3rd win in a row.

GAME #13 — PHI 5 @ CHC 4

Cody Bellinger hit an RBI 3B and Jason Heyward hit an RBI 1B in the bottom of the 1st inning continuing the struggles of Zack Wheeler. Chase Utley turned the game around with a 3-run HR in the 3rd and Bryson Stott added an RBI in the 4th. Nico Hoerner hit an RBI 1B in the bottom of the 4th and Willson Contreras hit a game-tying RBI 2B. In the 4-4 game, Scott Rolen hit a solo HR in the 8th to win the game for the road Phillies.

GAME #14 — PHI 4 @ CHC 5

Chase Utley hit an RBI 1B and scored on a John Kruk RBI 2B off of Jake Arrieta in the top of the 1st inning, but in the bottom of the 3rd the Cubs tied the game on an RBI 1B from Ian Happ and an RBI 2B from Anthony Rizzo. In the top of the 4th the Phillies took the lead back on a solo HR from JT Realmuto and an RBI 3B from Utley, but in the bottom half Nico Hoerner hit an RBI 2B and scored on an RBI 2B from Happ, who scored on an RBI 1B from Cody Bellinger. Both bullpens held and the Cubs got the home split they needed, winning 5-4 and staying in 1st place in the NL Central.

GAME #13 — PIT 5 @ ARI 13

The Pirates got off to a hot start with a 3-run HR from Bryan Reynolds off of Zac Gallen, but then the Arizona Diamondbacks absolutely pounded star rookie Paul Skenes as AJ Pollock hit an RBI 1B in the 1st and Brandon Drury hit a 3-run HR to take the lead 4-3 after 1. In the 2nd inning, Eric Chavez hit another 3-run HR and suddenly Arizona had a 7-3 lead. In the 4th inning, Chavez hit a 2-run HR and the rout was on. Rookie Jordan Lawler hit a 2-run 2B in the 5th and Carson Kelly hit an RBI 1B in the 8th and the Diamondbacks got an impressive win. Roberto Clemente hit a solo HR in the 8th and Starling Marte added an RBI in the 9th, but it was not enough as the Pirates fell under .500.

GAME #14 — PIT 0 @ ARI 4

Merrill Kelly shut down the Pirates' offense, pitching a 4-hit complete-game shutout. Corbin Carroll hit a 2-run HR in the 5th and Brandon Drury hit an RBI 1B and Gabriel Moreno hit an RBI 2B in the 6th and Arizona cruised to a home win, getting the sweep and moving to the fringes of the race. Meanwhile, the strong start of the Pirates has been erased as they fell to 6-8.

GAME #13 — COL 3 @ STL 10

German Marquez didn't give up a hit until the 4th when Brendan Donovan hit a solo HR. Carlos Gonzalez hit an RBI 3B off of Adam Wainwright in the 5th to tie the game, but in the bottom of the 6th Matt Carpenter hit an RBI 2B, Yadier Molina hit an RBI 1B, and Lars Nootbaar hit a 3-run HR to make it 6-1. Michael Cuddyer hit a 2-run HR in the top of the 8th, but in the bottom half Alec Burleson hit a 2-run HR, Nolan Arenado hit a solo HR going back-to-back, and Albert Pujols went back-to-back-to-back with a solo HR to cap the 10-3 home win.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 4 • BREWERS WIN 7-1 • BAL ROAD WIN 9-1 • CARDINALS HOME WIN

GAME #14 — COL 0 @ STL 6

Jack Flaherty shut down the Rockies giving up only 3 hits and 2 walks while striking out 13 in a complete-game shutout. Yadier Molina hit RBI 1Bs in the 1st and 5th, Tommy Edman had an RBI in the 2nd, Albert Pujols added an RBI 1B in the 5th, Nolan Arenado hit an RBI 1B in the 6th and Tyler O'Neill hit a solo HR in the 7th to complete the 6-0 home win, giving St. Louis a sweep to put them back on the fringes of the playoff race.

GAME #13 — MIL 9 @ SDP 0

Corbin Burnes shut down the Padres over 7 strong shutout innings while the offense rolled. Christian Yelich hit an RBI 3B and scored on an RBI by Ryan Braun, who scored on a Rowdy Tellez RBI 1B in the 3-run 1st inning. In the 2nd inning, Yu Darvish gave up another run on an RBI 1B to Yelich and then a solo HR to Tellez in the 3rd. In the top of the 9th the Brewers capped the rout with 4 runs on RBI 1Bs by Tellez and Sal Frelick, and then a 2-run 2B from Jackson Chourio.

GAME #14 — MIL 7 @ SDP 1

Willy Adames had RBI 1Bs in the 1st and 5th and another RBI in the 7th to lead the Brewers to the win. Brandon Woodruff shut out the Padres over 7 strong innings, and an RBI 2B from Xander Bogaerts off of Devin Williams was all that San Diego would get in the series. Sal Frelick hit a 3-run HR in the 4th and Kolton Wong added a solo HR in the 8th as Milwaukee got a huge road sweep and are back in the race. The Padres missed a chance and have fallen to the fringe.

GAME #13 — SFG 3 @ MIA 2

Evan Longoria and Buster Posey had RBIs in the top of the 1st inning and Carlos Rodon didn't give up a run until the 6th. In the bottom of the 6th, Luis Arraez hit an RBI 1B and scored on an RBI 2B from Kyle Stowers. The Marlins squandered their newfound hope immediately, walking in a run to give Longoria an RBI that was enough for the win as the San Francisco bullpen held.

GAME #14 — SFG 9 @ MIA 3

Jazz Chisholm and Luis Arraez hit RBI 2Bs off of Madison Bumgarner in the bottom of the 1st inning to give the Marlins a 2-0 lead for Sandy Alcantara. Brandon Crawford trimmed the lead with a solo HR in the 6th, but in the bottom half Kyle Stowers made it 3-1 with an RBI 1B. In the top of the 8th, Mike Yastrzemski hit a solo HR to make it 3-2 and in the 9th the Marlins' bullpen imploded, giving up 7 straight baserunners including 3 RBI 1Bs to Evan Longoria, Buster Posey, and Brandon Belt, and then the crushing blow came: a Grand Slam HR from Brandon Crawford to cap the 9-3 comeback win, giving the Giants a road sweep and setting them atop the NL with the Mets at 11-3. The Marlins have fallen completely out of the race at 4-10, having lost 5 in a row.

ROUND #8**GAME #15 — BAL 9 @ MIN 1**

The Orioles continued to roll as Eddie Murray and Cal Ripken Jr hit 2-run HRs in the top of the 1st and Baltimore cruised from there. Tyler Wells was masterful over 7 innings, only giving up a solo HR to Josh Donaldson and Adley Rutschman provided 2 RBIs, Gunnar Henderson hit an RBI 2B, and Cedric Mullins capped off the rout with an RBI 1B. The Twins lost their 9th in a row.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 4 • BLUE JAYS WIN 8-4 • BAL ROAD WIN 4-3 • BOS HOME WIN 5-4

GAME #16 — BAL 4 @ MIN 3

Adam Jones led off the game with a solo HR and Anthony Santander added an RBI making it 2-0 in the top of the 1st. Eddie Murray hit a solo HR in the 3rd and Grayson Rodriguez didn't give up a run until a 2-run HR from Miguel Sano. Gunnar Henderson hit a solo HR in the 7th to pad the lead, which mattered when Torii Hunter hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 7th, but it was not enough to stop the free-fall as the Twins lost their 10th game in a row. Meanwhile, the Orioles are firmly in the playoff race and look to really contend this season. Anthony Santander saw his 11-game hitting streak end while Eddie Murray has jumped into AL MVP consideration.

GAME #15 — LAA 4 @ BOS 5

Mike Trout hit a 2-run HR in the top of the 1st off of Tanner Houck, but David Ortiz matched him with a 2-run HR in the bottom half off of Garrett Richards. Ceddanne Rafaela hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 4th and Jarren Duran hit a 2-run 3B in the 7th and the Red Sox escaped with a win after Logan O'Hoppe hit a 2-run HR in the 8th to make it close, but Garrett Whitlock pitched a clean 9th for the save. The Angels have lost 8 in a row.

GAME #16 — LAA 4 @ BOS 3

Jo Adell hit a solo HR to lead off the game and then hit a 2-run HR in the 5th to lead the Angels to a win. Triston Casas hit an RBI 1B in the 4th but rookie Kyren Paris hit a solo HR in the 7th. Rafael Devers hit a 2-run HR off of Carlos Estevez in the bottom of the 9th, but the Red Sox fell 4-3 and missed a chance to move up in the race. Andrew Heaney had a strong start after a disastrous start to the season.

GAME #15 — OAK 4 @ TOR 1

The Oakland Athletics are competing in the AL race and took one from the champs. Elvis Andrus went 3-4 with 2 RBI 1Bs and Darell Hernaiz and Jacob Wilson added RBI 1Bs in the 5th as Luis Morales kept the champion Blue Jays at bay, only giving up a solo HR to Roberto Alomar in the 8th. The A's cruised 4-1 in Toronto.

GAME #16 — OAK 4 @ TOR 8

The A's jumped to a 3-0 lead on Jose Berrios on RBI 2Bs from Ramon Laureano and Darell Hernaiz and an RBI 1B from Shea Langeliers, but the Blue Jays fought back in the bottom half with a 3-run HR from Vladimir Guerrero Jr off of Ken Waldichuk. In the 3rd, Bo Bichette hit a solo HR to give the home team the lead and then Teoscar Hernandez hit a 2-run HR in the 5th to make it 6-3. Jacob Wilson hit a solo HR in the 6th, but Roberto Alomar hit a solo HR in the bottom half and then Alejandro Kirk hit an RBI 1B in the 7th and the Blue Jays cruised to the home split staying on the fringe of the race.

GAME #15 — HOU 2 @ DET 4

Mickey Tettleton hit a 2-run HR off of Joe Musgrove in the bottom of the 1st, Riley Greene added an RBI 1B in the 2nd and Isaac Paredes hit a solo HR in the 4th and the Tigers got a nice home win behind a strong start from Anibal Sanchez, who pitched 8 innings giving up only 4 hits and 0 walks while striking out 10. Yordan Alvarez and Jake Meyers hit solo HRs, but that was all the Astros could muster as they fell on the road to the Tigers.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 4 • MARINERS WIN 7-5 • HOU ROAD WIN 7-4 • MARINERS ROAD WIN

GAME #16 — HOU 7 @ DET 4

The Astros got the road split they needed, but it wasn't easy. Jake Meyers and Jeff Bagwell had RBI in the top of the 2nd, but in the bottom of the 2nd Ian Kinsler hit a 2-run HR to tie the game. Kyle Tucker hit a solo HR in the 3rd to give Houston the lead and Yordan Alvarez hit a solo HR in the 5th to make it 4-2. Miguel Cabrera hit a solo HR in the 5th and Kerry Carpenter hit a solo HR in the 7th to tie the game, but Jose Altuve hit a 2-run HR in the 8th and Alvarez hit another solo HR in the 9th to secure the win and the split, moving Houston to 11-5.

GAME #15 — KCR 2 @ TEX 4

Josh Jung hit a solo HR in the 4th, but George Brett quickly tied the game with an RBI 1B in the 5th. Mike Minor and Cole Ragans dueled until Josh Hamilton hit a pinch-hit 3-run HR in the bottom of the 7th to win the game for the home team.

GAME #16 — KCR 8 @ TEX 4

Jorge Soler and Vinny Pasquantino hit back-to-back solo HRs in the 2nd, but Adrian Beltre hit a solo HR in the 2nd and Rougned Odor hit a solo HR in the 3rd to tie the game. Nathaniel Lowe hit a solo HR in the 4th to take the lead, but in the top of the 5th Hunter Dozier hit a 2-run HR to give the Royals a 4-3 lead. In the top of the 6th, Bo Jackson hit an RBI 2B and in the 8th Alex Gordon hit a 3-run HR to seal the win. Corey Seager added a solo HR in the defeat as the Royals got the road split and both teams still remain alive at 7-9.

GAME #15 — SEA 6 @ CHW 4

The Mariners took the lead in the top of the 2nd on an RBI 1B from JP Crawford and a 2-run HR from Julio Rodriguez off of Lance Lynn. Andrew Benintendi hit a 2-run HR in the bottom of the 2nd off of George Kirby and then tied the game in the 3rd on an RBI 1B from Luis Robert. In the 6th, the Mariners re-took the lead on an RBI 1B from Robinson Cano and then extended it on an RBI 1B from Mitch Haniger in the 7th and an RBI from Cal Raleigh in the 9th. Tim Anderson added an RBI 2B in the bottom of the 9th, but that was as close as the White Sox would get as Seattle got a nice road win to move above .500.

GAME #16 — SEA 7 @ CHW 5

The Mariners struck first again with a solo HR from Robinson Cano off of Lucas Giolito in the top of the 1st inning, but Edgar Quero tied the game in the bottom of the 3rd on a solo HR. Seattle took the lead again in the 4th on a solo HR from Edgar Martinez and extended it on an RBI 1B from Ken Griffey Jr in the 5th. Quero hit an RBI 1B in the bottom of the 5th to make it 3-2, but Mitch Haniger hit a 2-run HR in the 6th to extend the lead again. Jake Burger hit a 3-run HR in the bottom of the 6th to suddenly tie the game, but again Seattle recovered with an RBI from Julio Rodriguez in the 8th and a solo HR from Edwin Encarnacion in the 9th to win 7-5 and get a huge road sweep against a 1st-place team moving Seattle to 9-7 picking up a game on Houston. Jake Burger has taken over the 3B job from Yoan Moncada with an impressive streak where he now has 27 total bases in just 25 at-bats. He has only played in 6 games yet is 2nd on the team in 2B, HR, & RBI posting a 1.480 OPS.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 4 • CLEVELAND WIN 3-2 • CLEVELAND WIN 5-1 • MARLINS WIN 4-0

GAME #15 — TBR 3 @ MIA 4

The Marlins got on the board early with a 2-run 2B from Griffin Conine in the bottom of the 1st off of Shane Baz, but in the top of the 4th Mike Zunino hit a 3-run HR off of Livan Hernandez to give the Rays the 3-2 lead. In the bottom of the 7th the Marlins took the win back with a clutch 2-run 2B from Jazz Chisholm. The bullpen held and Miami got a home win.

GAME #16 — TBR 0 @ MIA 4

The Marlins got a home sweep on the back of a strong start from Jesus Luzardo, who pitched 7 shutout innings, ringing up 13 strikeouts. The bullpen finished the shutout and the Marlins took down their in-state rival. Luis Arraez made it 1-0 in the 4th with an RBI 2B and then Connor Norby hit a 2-run HR in the 7th to make it 3-0. Jazz Chisholm added an RBI 1B in the 8th and Miami cruised.

GAME #15 — NYY 4 @ NYM 5

The Mets are for real as they took down their arch rivals in comeback fashion as the Yankees took a 3-0 lead after 1 on an RBI 1B from Don Mattingly and a 2-run 2B from DJ LeMahieu. Gary Carter started the comeback with an RBI 1B off of Luis Severino in the 3rd and then a 2-run 1B from Francisco Lindor in the 4th tied the game. Pete Alonso hit a 2-run HR in the 5th to give the Mets the lead. Noah Syndergaard pitched well after the 1st and gave way to the bullpen which only gave up an RBI to Brett Gardner in the 6th. The Mets moved into the top spot with the win.

GAME #16 — NYY 2 @ NYM 3

The Mets are now the clear frontrunner and look to have an excellent shot at the World Series this season. Francisco Lindor hit a solo HR in the 1st and then a 2-run HR in the 2nd to give the Mets a 3-0 lead. The pitching held, which was the key to the game as the Mets didn't get another hit the whole game. Kodai Senga avoided trouble until the 5th when Brett Gardner hit a solo HR and then in the 7th Derek Jeter had an RBI to make it 3-2, but the bullpen held again and the Mets got a huge home sweep as they moved into the #1 seed.

GAME #15 — CLE 5 @ CIN 1

The Guardians are hot winning their 6th in a row. Jim Thome hit a solo HR in the 2nd off of Johnny Cueto, but Todd Frazier tied the game in the 4th with a solo HR off of Triston McKenzie. Cleveland took the lead again in the 6th on a solo HR from Jose Ramirez and then Gabriel Arias hit the big shot with a 3-run HR in the 7th to seal the road win against their in-state rival.

GAME #16 — CLE 3 @ CIN 2

After a promising 4-1 start the Cincinnati Reds have fallen out of the race losing 9 of 11. Meanwhile, the surging Guardians have tied the White Sox for 1st place in the AL Central. Carlos Santana hit an RBI 1B off of Nick Lodolo in the 3rd and then Josh Naylor made it 3-0 with a 2-run 1B in the 5th. In the bottom of the 5th, Cincinnati fought back with solo HRs from Adam Duvall and Jonathan India, but that was all the Reds would get as the Guardians won 3-2 behind a strong start from Carlos Carrasco as Cleveland completed a road sweep against its rival. The Reds' offense has been the worst in the NL.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 4 • DODGERS WIN 2-1 • NATIONALS WIN 3-1 • NATIONALS WIN 4-0

GAME #15 — WSH 3 @ MIL 1

The Brewers took a 1-0 lead in the 2nd on a solo HR from Ryan Braun off of Josiah Gray in a series where they could make a move, but that was the only run the Brewers would score in the 2 games. James Wood hit an RBI 1B in the 4th to tie the game and Juan Soto hit a 2-run HR in the 5th to give the Nationals the lead. The bullpen held and Washington got a nice road win.

GAME #16 — WSH 4 @ MIL 0

Jordan Zimmermann was exceptional over 8 shutout innings, giving up only 4 singles and 0 walks. Brad Hand secured the 9th and the Nationals got a road sweep to get back into the fringes of the wild-card race. Meanwhile, the Brewers missed a chance they may regret come the end of the season. Juan Soto hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd and Ryan Zimmerman hit an RBI 2B in the 5th, and then Josh Bell and James Wood went back-to-back with solo HRs, giving Washington the win.

GAME #15 — LAD 3 @ ATL 4

Chipper Jones gave Atlanta a 1-0 lead with an RBI in the 3rd and then Matt Olson hit a 2-run HR off of Yoshinobu Yamamoto, but Will Smith hit a 3-run HR off of Charlie Morton in the 4th to tie the game. The 3-3 game went to the bottom of the 8th when Austin Riley hit a solo HR off of Evan Phillips to give Atlanta a solid home win.

GAME #16 — LAD 2 @ ATL 1

Max Muncy hit a solo HR in the 2nd and Dustin May limited the Braves to just 1 hit until the 6th when Michael Harris hit a 3B and scored on a Ronald Acuna RBI. The 1-1 game went to the 9th when Freddie Freeman hit a solo HR off of Dylan Lee to win the game and give LA a road split.

GAME #15 — SDP 7 @ PIT 2

Xander Bogaerts hit a 3-run HR in the top of the 1st off of Mitch Keller and the Padres cruised to a win behind a strong start from Michael King. Willie Stargell hit a solo HR in the 2nd and Bryan Reynolds hit a solo HR in the 8th, but that was all the Pirates would get. Jackson Merrill hit a solo HR in the 6th and Fernando Tatis Jr hit an RBI 1B and then scored on a game-capping 2-run HR from Manny Machado.

GAME #16 — SDP 1 @ PIT 5

Eric Hosmer broke up the scoreless tie in the 4th with an RBI off of Jared Jones, but in the bottom half Roberto Clemente had an RBI off of Mike Clevinger to tie the game. Nick Gonzales hit an RBI 3B and scored on a Starling Marte RBI in the 5th, and then Oneil Cruz hit a 2-run HR in the 6th to lead the Pirates to a home split, keeping them alive in the race.

GAME #15 — STL 6 @ ARI 10

Albert Pujols hit an RBI 2B off of Brandon Pfaadt in the top of the 1st to give St. Louis a 1-0 lead, but in the bottom half Ketel Marte hit a solo HR and Christian Walker hit a 2-run HR giving Arizona a 3-1 lead. Marte hit an RBI 1B in the 5th, Walker hit an RBI 2B in the 7th, and then in the 8th Jake McCarthy hit a 2-run 2B, Marte hit a 2-run 1B, and Eric Chavez added an RBI in the blowout win. Lars Nootbaar and Tyler O'Neill hit 2-run HRs and Matt Carpenter added an RBI 2B in the loss.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 4 • CARDINALS WIN 10-0 • PHILLIES WIN 3-2 • ROCKIES WIN 2-1

GAME #16 — STL 10 @ ARI 0

Albert Pujols unloaded for 2 2-run HRs and a 2-run 2B posting 11 total bases and 6 RBI on his 4-5 day. Meanwhile, Michael Wacha was beyond exceptional giving up only 2 lone 1Bs and 2 BBs in his 2-hit complete-game shutout. Nolan Arenado hit a solo HR in the 7th, scoring 1 of his 4 runs scored. Lars Nootbaar had another 2-run HR and Matt Carpenter added an RBI 1B in the blowout win, giving the Cardinals the split as they hung on the fringe of the race.

GAME #15 — COL 2 @ CHC 1

Carlos Gonzalez hit an RBI groundout in the top of the 1st off of Jon Lester, but that was all the Rockies would get until extra innings. Nico Hoerner hit a solo HR off of Jon Gray in the 5th to tie the game and the 1-1 game went to the 10th inning when Kris Bryant hit a solo HR to win the game for the Rockies.

GAME #16 — COL 2 @ CHC 3

Ian Happ hit a solo HR off of Antonio Senzatela in the bottom of the 1st inning to give the Cubs the lead, but in the 4th inning Andres Galarraga hit an RBI 2B to tie the game. In the 8th inning the Rockies took the lead on an RBI 3B from Troy Tulowitzki and it looked like the Cubs had blundered away the series, but in the bottom of the 9th Jason Heyward hit a walk-off 2-run 3B, giving Chicago the split they needed against a suddenly improved Colorado pitching staff.

GAME #15 — SFG 2 @ PHI 3

Kyle Schwarber hit a solo HR off of Logan Webb in the bottom of the 2nd, but Casey Schmitt hit a solo HR in the 5th to tie the game. Schmitt gave the Giants the lead with an RBI 2B in the 7th, but the bullpen could not hold the lead as Bryce Harper hit a solo HR in the 8th and then in the 9th Camilo Doval threw a wild pitch with the bases loaded to end the game.

GAME #16 — SFG 0 @ PHI 6

The Phillies are surging after a disastrous 1-5 start, winning 8 of their last 10. Scott Rolen and Lenny Dykstra hit RBI 1Bs, Schwarber added an RBI and a solo HR, and Bryson Stott and Ryan Howard added solo HRs and the Phillies cruised. The Giants lost a chance to keep pace with the Mets as Ranger Suarez completely shut down the San Francisco offense, pitching a complete-game shutout and giving up only 3 hits and 2 walks. The Phillies suddenly have a 2-game lead in the wild card race.

MLBC — WEEK 5

GAMES 17-20 • HALFWAY

THE METS OWN THE MIDPOINT

New York reaches 17-3, three clubs sweep the week, and Chris Sale writes a no-hitter into the season.

THE LEAD The halfway week began with the Mets at 13-3 and the Yankees, Orioles, Astros and Giants just two games behind at 11-5. Chicago and Cleveland were three games back at 10-6. The AL East, Central and West were all compressed enough that one sweep could redraw them. New York had Cincinnati and San Francisco; Houston drew Tampa Bay and Kansas City; the Yankees had Cleveland and Oakland; Seattle had Baltimore and Boston; and Minnesota entered still trying to stop a losing streak that had consumed almost everything created by its 5-1 start.

THE WEEK The Mets did not blink, going 4-0 to reach 17-3. Kansas City and Seattle matched the perfect week. The Royals' rise was particularly dramatic: four one-run victories against Baltimore and Houston pushed them fully into the AL Central race. Minnesota's losing streak reached twelve before the Twins finally erupted with a sweep of Texas, turning one of the season's ugliest slides into at least the possibility of survival. Arizona authored an extraordinary pitching response against Chicago, with Zac Gallen and Merrill Kelly combining to help the Diamondbacks outscore the Cubs 22-0 across the series. Chris Sale supplied the week's permanent headline, throwing a no-hitter with two walks and 18 strikeouts. Adam Wainwright reached the midpoint with a 0.47 ERA, while Aaron Nola added a 2-hit shutout. The Mets' 17-3 record changed the psychology of the entire second half, but the week beneath them was full of clubs refusing to accept the shape their first sixteen games had given them.

THE STAKES At twenty games, the Mets own the first true cushion at 17-3. Houston, the Yankees and Seattle are 13-7; Atlanta, Chicago, Cleveland and the Dodgers are 12-8. Kansas City has forced itself into the Central conversation, while Minnesota has finally stopped the bleeding. The second half opens with the Subway Series, Cubs-White Sox, Padres-Phillies and Atlanta-Milwaukee. Half the schedule is gone. The remaining twenty games are enough for a comeback, but no longer enough for patience. Everyone beneath New York is now running two races at once: one against the Mets' record, and another against the traffic surrounding them.

MIDPOINT KING
NYM • 17-3PERFECT WEEK
KCR / NYM / SEA •
4-0AL WEST
HOU / SEA • 13-7ROUGH WEEK
BAL / CHC / CIN / SFG
• 0-4

WEEKLY HONORS

HITTER OF THE WEEK

GOLD CECIL FIELDER • DET2 HR • 7 RBI • *Grand Slam***SILVER SHOHEI OHTANI • LAA**

2 HR • 5 RBI

BRONZE YORDAN ALVAREZ • HOU

2 HR • 5 RBI

PITCHER OF THE WEEK

GOLD CHRIS SALE • BOS

NO-HITTER • 2 BB • 18 K

SILVER AARON NOLA • PHI

CG SHO • 2 H • 1 BB • 10 K

BRONZE ADAM WAINWRIGHT • STL

CG SHO • 0 R • 0.47 ERA

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 5 • HOU HOME WIN 5-3 • HOU HOME WIN 9-7 • KCR ROAD WIN 4-3

ROUND #9

GAME #17 — KCR 4 @ BAL 3

The Royals took control of the game in the top of the 1st when George Brett hit an RBI 3B and Vinny Pasquantino and Alex Gordon hit RBI 1Bs off of Kyle Bradish to give Kansas City a 3-0 lead. Zack Greinke took a shutout into the 7th when he gave up a solo HR to Cal Ripken Jr. Gordon hit an RBI 2B in the top of the 9th, which proved decisive as the O's woke up and scored twice on an RBI 2B from Ripken and an RBI to Adley Rutschman, but that was all they would get as Wade Davis finished the job, securing the win for the road Royals.

GAME #18 — KCR 6 @ BAL 5

The Royals have won 7 of 9 and are back in the race while the Orioles have fallen back to the pack after their six-game winning streak. The Orioles scored 4 runs off of Yordano Ventura in the bottom of the 1st when Anthony Santander hit an RBI 2B, Ryan Mountcastle hit an RBI 1B, and Adley Rutschman hit a 2-run 1B. The Royals scored once in the 3rd on an RBI 2B from Bobby Witt Jr and the game went 4-1 to the 8th when the Royals rallied. Witt hit a 2-run 3B and scored on an RBI 1B from George Brett to make it 4-4. In the 9th, Witt hit a 2-run 1B off of Zack Britton and suddenly the Royals had a 6-4 lead. Rutschman hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 9th off of Wade Davis, but it was not enough as the Orioles fell to the surging Royals.

GAME #17 — TBR 3 @ HOU 5

The Tampa Bay Rays took a 1-0 lead in the top of the 5th with a solo HR from Kevin Kiermaier off of Justin Verlander, but the Astros rallied tying the game in the bottom of the 7th with a solo HR from Jeremy Pena off of Tyler Glasnow. With the game tied 1-1 in the bottom of the 8th, the Astros unloaded with a 2-run HR from Yordan Alvarez and solo HRs from Yuli Gurriel and Garrett Stubbs. Josh Lowe hit a solo HR in the top of the 9th and then Mike Zunino hit an RBI 1B, but that was all as the comeback stalled and the Rays fell, moving Justin Verlander to 5-0 with a 1.33 ERA.

GAME #18 — TBR 7 @ HOU 9

The Astros raced ahead to a 6-0 lead after 2 innings with an RBI 2B from Yordan Alvarez, a 2-run 1B from Kyle Tucker, and an RBI 3B from Jeremy Pena in the 1st, and a solo HR from Jose Altuve and an RBI from Alvarez in the 2nd. The Rays, however, fought back with an RBI 1B from Randy Arozarena in the 3rd and a 2-run HR from Josh Lowe in the 5th driving Framber Valdez from the game, and then a solo HR from Kevin Kiermaier in the 6th and a 2-run 3B from Kiermaier in the 7th tied the game 6-6. Facing a relentless Rays team, the Astros responded with an RBI 1B from Alvarez and a game-clinching 2-run HR from Jeremy Pena. Brandon Lowe hit a solo HR in the 9th, but it was not enough to stop a Houston team that looks to get back to the World Series. The Rays have fallen back to the fringe of the race with the road sweep. Star rookie Junior Caminero has reached an impressive 15-game hitting streak.

GAME #17 — CLE 3 @ NYY 8

The Yankees struck first on an RBI 2B from Giancarlo Stanton and an RBI 1B from Hideki Matsui. Michael Brantley trimmed the lead with an RBI 2B in the 4th, but in the bottom of the 4th Brett Gardner hit an RBI 1B. In the 7th, New York broke open the game with an RBI 1B from Matsui and a clinching Grand Slam HR from Jorge Posada. Gerrit Cole had another strong start, setting up a potentially fantastic AL Cy Young race in the second half between himself and Justin Verlander.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 5 • CLEVELAND WIN 6-2 • OAKLAND WIN 5-4 • LAA HOME WIN 10-2

GAME #18 — CLE 6 @ NYY 2

The Guardians got on the board first with a 2-run HR from Jim Thome off of Nestor Cortes. Corey Kluber took a shutout into the 6th inning when Derek Jeter hit an RBI sacrifice and then the Yankees tied the game 2-2 on an RBI 1B from Gleyber Torres in the 7th. Facing a sweep the Guardians responded with RBI 2Bs from Carlos Santana and Jim Thome and a 2-run HR from Michael Brantley.

GAME #17 — OAK 0 @ BOS 8

No-Hitter! Chris Sale put one in the record books with a 0-hit, 2-walk, 18-strikeout masterpiece in one of the greatest pitching performances of all time. Masataka Yoshida had an RBI 2B in the 1st, and added RBIs in the 2nd and 4th. David Ortiz added an RBI and Jarren Duran hit an RBI 2B in the 1st inning, Jason Varitek hit a solo HR in the 4th, and Wade Boggs hit an RBI 1B and Rafael Devers hit an RBI 2B in the 9th to cap the 8-0 rout. It was Sale's first win of the season after a rocky start.

GAME #18 — OAK 5 @ BOS 4

The Red Sox just could not keep the momentum going as the A's scored 5 runs in the top of the 1st on an RBI 2B from Mark McGwire, an RBI 1B from Ramon Laureano, and a decisive 3-run HR from Darell Hernaiz. James Kaprielian didn't give up a run until a solo HR from Christian Vazquez in the 5th. In the 6th, Triston Casas hit a 2-run HR and in the 7th Cedanne Rafaela hit an RBI 2B to make it 5-4, but it was not enough as the rally fell short and Boston could not get the sweep even though they held the A's scoreless for 17 of the 18 innings.

GAME #17 — TOR 0 @ LAA 4

Shohei Ohtani had his best start of the season with a complete-game shutout, giving up 5 hits and 4 walks while striking out 9. Mike Trout hit his 7th HR in the 1st and then Shohei Ohtani hit an RBI 1B in the 4th and a solo HR in the 6th. Logan O'Hoppe hit a solo HR in the 5th and the Angels cruised over the champion Blue Jays.

GAME #18 — TOR 2 @ LAA 10

The Blue Jays are in full championship hangover mode as they have fallen out of the race and into the cellar at 7-11. It would take a second half surge to get back into the wild-card race to have a chance to defend their championship. The Angels had their best offensive day, scoring 10 runs as Jo Adell went 2-5 with a 2-run 3B, Shohei Ohtani hit an RBI 1B, Taylor Ward hit an RBI 2B, Anthony Rendon went 2-5 with a 2B and 3 RBI, Jared Walsh added an RBI, and Zach Neto and Kyren Paris hit solo HRs. Patrick Sandoval avoided trouble to go 7 strong innings, only giving up an RBI 1B to George Springer. Springer added an RBI in the 9th, but it did nothing to stop the blowout as the Angels completed the home sweep.

GAME #17 — CHW 3 @ TEX 5

The Rangers took one from the White Sox as Nathan Eovaldi pitched a strong 8 innings, giving up only a solo HR to Jake Burger in the 3rd and a solo HR to Frank Thomas in the 7th. Josh Jung hit a sacrifice RBI in the 2nd and a solo HR in the 7th, but the big shot of the game was a 3-run HR from Adolis Garcia in the 6th that made the difference. Eloy Jimenez had an RBI 2B in the 9th, but the White Sox lost their 3rd game in a row.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 5 • MARINERS WIN 6-4 • MARINERS WIN 8-0 • WHITE SOX WIN 5-4

GAME #18 — CHW 5 @ TEX 4

Texas again took an early lead on an RBI 1B from Adrian Beltre in the 1st and then an RBI 2B from Nathaniel Lowe made it 2-0 against Dylan Cease. The Rangers made it 4-0 in the 6th on a 2-run 1B from Josh Hamilton and the Rangers had dreams of a .500 record and sudden wild-card contention, but it was not to be. The White Sox woke up just in time as the Rangers' bullpen imploded, giving up 5 runs. The White Sox tied the game in the 8th on RBIs from Tim Anderson, Jose Abreu, Frank Thomas, and Eloy Jimenez. Jimenez hit a solo HR in the 11th to win the game and give the White Sox the road split, keeping them tied for 1st place in the AL Central.

GAME #17 — SEA 8 @ MIN 0

Felix Hernandez pitched a complete-game shutout completely shutting down the Twins, giving Minnesota their 11th loss in a row. Robinson Cano gave the M's a lead with a 2-run HR in the 3rd and then in the 4th Cal Raleigh hit an RBI 1B and Julio Rodriguez hit a 3-run 2B to make it 6-0. In the 8th, Rodriguez added a 2-run 2B and the Mariners cruised to an easy road win.

GAME #18 — SEA 6 @ MIN 4

Nelson Cruz and Carlos Correa hit RBI 2Bs in the 1st and Cruz hit a solo HR and the Twins had a 3-0 lead with hopes to end their miserable losing streak. Pablo Lopez took a no-hitter into the 5th, but gave up a solo HR to Edwin Encarnacion and an RBI 1B to Julio Rodriguez making it a 3-2 game. In the 6th it continued to unravel for the Twins as Mitch Haniger hit a 2-run HR and Eugenio Suarez went back-to-back with a solo HR to make it 5-3. Joe Mauer hit an RBI 1B in the 7th, but Edgar Martinez hit an RBI 1B in the 8th and Seattle got the comeback win on the road giving them a key road sweep as they kept pace with Houston. Meanwhile, the Twins have lost 12 games in a row, putting them in last place in both leagues. Logan Gilbert was solid over 6 innings to get the win.

GAME #17 — PIT 3 @ DET 6

Tarik Skubal and Paul Skenes squared off in a matchup of young aces with Skubal giving up the first run on an RBI 1B to Oneil Cruz in the top of the 4th. Skenes took a shutout into the 7th, but got rocked when Miguel Cabrera hit a 2-run 1B and Cecil Fielder hit a Grand Slam HR to take a 6-1 lead. Charlie Hayes and Nick Gonzales had RBIs in the 9th, but it was not enough as the Tigers got the home win.

GAME #18 — PIT 5 @ DET 6

Nick Gonzales got an RBI sacrifice off of Casey Mize in the 2nd, but Javier Baez hit a 2-run HR off of Chris Archer in the bottom of the 2nd. In the 5th, Cecil Fielder hit a 2-run HR to make it 4-1, but in the 7th Charlie Hayes hit a 2-run HR to make it 4-3. In the 8th the Pirates continued the comeback with an RBI 2B from Bryan Reynolds and then an RBI 1B from Roberto Clemente in the 9th gave Pittsburgh a 5-4 lead. David Bednar, however, could not hold the lead as Kerry Carpenter hit a game-tying RBI 1B with 2 outs in the 9th. Then in the 10th the Tigers completed the home sweep with an RBI sacrifice from Fielder. After a promising start the Pirates have fallen to the bottom of the NL.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 5 • CARDINALS WIN 1-0 • CARDINALS WIN 5-4 • PADRES HOME WIN

GAME #17 — STL 1 @ WSH 0

Adam Wainwright did it again and has announced that he is indeed in the NL Cy Young Award race for the second half, posting another complete-game shutout and making him 3-0 with a 0.47 ERA in his 5 starts. Tyler O'Neill hit a solo HR in the 5th and that was all Wainwright needed as he carried his team again.

GAME #18 — STL 5 @ WSH 4

The Cardinals are back in the race. Jack Flaherty took a no-hitter into the 7th, backed only by a solo HR from rookie Ivan Herrera, but gave up a 2B to Ryan Zimmerman, an RBI 2B to Josh Bell, and a 2-run HR to James Wood and suddenly, Washington had a 3-1 lead. They made it 4-1 in the 8th on another RBI 2B from Josh Bell and brought in closer Brad Hand looking to secure the home split. St. Louis, however, had their eyes on a road sweep as Jordan Walker hit a 2-run 3B, his second consecutive 3B, and then scored on an RBI from Herrera to tie the game. In the 10th, Herrera hit an RBI 1B to win the game and the Cardinals have gone 5-1 to rebound from a sluggish start.

GAME #17 — MIA 0 @ SDP 2

Yu Darvish pitched a gem of a game as the Marlins' offense could only muster 6 singles in a complete-game shutout where Darvish had 0 walks and 10 strikeouts. Jose Fernandez was almost as good, but Eric Hosmer hit a solo HR in the 2nd and Manny Machado hit a solo HR in the 7th to double the lead and secure the game for the home Padres.

GAME #18 — MIA 0 @ SDP 1

Blake Snell almost matched Darvish as he shut down the Miami offense, giving up only 7 hits and 1 walk while striking out 11 over 7 shutout innings. In the 2nd inning, Francisco Mejia hit an RBI 2B and the San Diego bullpen held as the Padres got a terrific sweep at home not giving up a run as they moved back to .500 and back in the race. Sandy Alcantara was strong over 7 innings, but the Marlins only got 1 extra-base hit in the series.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 5 • DODGERS HOME WIN • NYM HOME WIN 8-7 • PHILLIES ROAD WIN

GAME #17 — CIN 7 @ NYM 8

This could be a candidate for one of the best games of the year, but not how you would expect with Jacob deGrom and Luis Castillo facing off. The Mets could have eased up with a 13-3 record, but in the bottom of the 1st they struck against Castillo, pounding him for 4 first inning runs on an RBI 2B from Pete Alonso, a 2-run 2B from Darryl Strawberry and an RBI from Michael Conforto. deGrom was staked to a 4-run lead in the 1st inning and everyone expected him to mow down the Reds and keep his frontrunner status in the NL Cy Young Award race. In the last 13 games the weak Reds' offense had surpassed 3 runs only twice, with two 6-run outings. In the top of the 3rd, TJ Friedl hit a 1B and stole 2nd, then scored on an RBI 1B from Elly De La Cruz, who scored on a Todd Frazier RBI 1B, who then scored on a Jesse Winker 3-run HR. Suddenly, the Reds had a single inning bigger than 11 of the previous 13 games and Jacob deGrom had given up 8 runs on the season instead of just 3. You could hear the Adam Wainwright fans cheering as suddenly deGrom might not start the coming All-Star game. But the Mets are proving to be a juggernaut barreling toward the playoffs and in the bottom of the 7th they came back and took the lead when Strawberry got an RBI and Michael Conforto hit a 2-run 2B and the Mets had a 7-5 lead at home. Jeury's Familia held the 8th and then closer Edwin Diaz took the mound only to give up the lead on a 2-run HR from pinch-hitter Spencer Steer. The newly tied game went all the way to the 13th when NL MVP candidate Francisco Lindor hit a walk-off solo HR to win the game for the home team.

GAME #18 — CIN 5 @ NYM 9

The Mets kept rolling. Max Scherzer got hit around yet again, giving up a solo HR to Eric Davis to open the game and then 3 more runs in the 4th on an RBI 2B to Todd Frazier and a 2-run 2B to Tyler Stephenson. But the Mets' offense cannot be stopped right now. Darryl Strawberry hit an RBI 1B in the bottom of the 1st and then Mike Piazza and Pete Alonso went back-to-back with solo HRs in the 3rd. In the bottom of the 4th, Piazza, Strawberry, and Michael Conforto hit RBI 1Bs and the Mets had a 6-4 lead that they took to the 7th. In the 7th, Jesse Winker hit a solo HR, but in the bottom half Jeff McNeil hit a 2-run HR and Piazza added another RBI and New York reached a dominant 15-3 record and have a clear lead in all races. Meanwhile, the Reds have fallen to the cellar after having hopes to compete, let down by an ineffective offense.

GAME #17 — PHI 2 @ LAD 3

Clayton Kershaw came into the game as one of the frontrunners for the NL Cy Young Award, but he gave up an RBI 1B to Chase Utley in the 3rd and then an RBI 1B to Jean Segura in the 5th leaving the game after 7 innings down 2-0. Zack Wheeler came into the game having a miserable season, but took a shutout into the 8th inning. Trea Turner hit a 2B to drive Wheeler from the game, Mookie Betts hit a 1B off of Orion Kerkering, and then Freddie Freeman hit a 3-run HR to change the outcome of the game. Kenley Jansen secured the 9th and the Dodgers stole a win from the Phillies.

GAME #18 — PHI 5 @ LAD 0

Aaron Nola pitched a brilliant 2-hit complete-game shutout only walking 1 and striking out 10. Bryce Harper hit an RBI sacrifice in the 1st and in the 5th inning Kyle Schwarber hit a 2-run HR and the Phillies had a 3-0 lead. Scott Rolen hit a solo HR in the 7th and Ryan Howard hit an RBI sacrifice in the 8th and the Phillies got a 5-0 win to secure the road split.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 5 • BREWERS WIN 2-0 • ARI HOME WIN 10-0 • ARI HOME WIN 12-0

GAME #17 — CHC 0 @ ARI 10

The Arizona Diamondbacks are surging and the Cubs are struggling. Zac Gallen completely shut down the Cubs' offense, pitching a complete-game shutout and giving up only 5 hits and 2 walks while striking out 9. The Diamondbacks secured the game in the 1st inning with a 6-run outburst. AJ Pollock, Brandon Drury, and Jake McCarthy all had RBI before Geraldo Perdomo hit a bases-clearing 3-run 2B making it 6-0. Christian Walker hit an RBI 1B in the 4th and in the 5th Perdomo hit an RBI 2B and Corbin Carroll added an RBI 1B making it 9-0. Eric Chavez hit an RBI 2B in the 8th and the Diamondbacks ran away with a blowout 10-0 win.

GAME #18 — CHC 0 @ ARI 12

Merrill Kelly outdid the masterpiece by Gallen the game before pitching a 3-hit, 0-walk complete-game shutout gem. Ketel Marte hit an RBI 1B in the 1st before another 6-run outburst in the 3rd inning. Christian Walker hit an RBI 1B before Jake McCarthy hit a Grand Slam HR. Geraldo Perdomo hit a solo HR to cap off the big inning before another outburst in the 4th. Ketel Marte hit a solo HR and then Brandon Drury hit an RBI 2B, Jake McCarthy hit an RBI, and Gabriel Moreno hit an RBI 1B making the game 11-0. McCarthy added an RBI 1B in the 6th and Arizona is back in the playoff race with an utterly dominant performance. Meanwhile, the Chicago Cubs have fallen in the pursuit and will need to regroup for the second half of the season.

GAME #17 — COL 7 @ MIL 1

The Rockies came out swinging against Corbin Burnes as Charlie Blackmon hit a solo HR to lead off the game, Michael Cuddyer hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd, and Andres Galarraga and Kris Bryant hit RBI 1Bs in the 3rd. Ryan Braun hit a solo HR in the 2nd off of German Marquez, but that was all the Brewers would get as they could not keep up with the Rockies. Ryan McMahon had an RBI 1B in the 5th and Blackmon capped off the blowout with a 2-run 1B in the 7th.

GAME #18 — COL 0 @ MIL 2

Brandon Woodruff got the Brewers the win they needed pitching a terrific 3-hit, 2-walk complete-game shutout. Ryan Braun hit an RBI 1B in the 1st and Jackson Chourio hit an RBI 1B in the 4th and that was all Milwaukee would need to get the home split.

GAME #17 — SFG 2 @ ATL 4

The Giants got to Spencer Strider early with an RBI 2B from reigning NL MVP Evan Longoria in the 1st and then a solo HR from LaMonte Wade in the 2nd. The Braves got 1 run back in the 4th with an RBI 2B from Matt Olson off of Carlos Rodon. Rodon kept the lead to the 8th but allowed a runner and then Camilo Doval imploded, giving up 4 straight 1Bs with 2 RBIs to Michael Harris and 1 RBI to Dansby Swanson and the Braves got a comeback win at home.

GAME #18 — SFG 2 @ ATL 5

Madison Bumgarner gave up a 2-run HR to Marcell Ozuna in the 2nd and a 3-run HR to Ron Gant in the 6th and that was all Max Fried would need. Fried gave up an RBI 1B to Casey Schmitt and cruised with 7 strong innings. LaMonte Wade added an RBI in the 9th, but the Giants got swept on the road and have lost 4 in a row to fall back into the race for the NL West and have almost given the Mets the #1 seed with their slump.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 5 • MARINERS WIN 7-4 • OAKLAND WIN 10-9 • WHITE SOX WIN 6-2

ROUND #10

GAME #19 — BAL 4 @ SEA 7

The Orioles came into Seattle with both teams at 11-7 fighting for a playoff spot, but Tyler Wells got lit up as Ken Griffey Jr hit a 2-run HR in the 1st, Edgar Martinez hit an RBI 2B, JP Crawford hit an RBI, and Julio Rodriguez capped it off with a 3-run HR in the 4th to make it 7-1. Adam Jones hit an RBI 2B in the 3rd and Adley Rutschman hit a solo HR in the 7th, but that was all Baltimore would get against George Kirby. Ryan Mountcastle hit a 2-run HR in the 9th, but it was not enough to affect the outcome as Seattle got a game on a rival.

GAME #20 — BAL 4 @ SEA 7

Seattle is making their move now having won 6 in a row after a home sweep of the struggling Orioles who have lost 4 in a row. Ken Griffey Jr hit an RBI 2B off of Grayson Rodriguez in the 1st inning and scored on an RBI 1B from Mitch Haniger, who scored on a 3-run HR from Eugenio Suarez as the M's took a commanding 5-0 lead. JP Crawford hit a solo HR in the 4th to make it 6-0, but the O's came back in the 5th on a 3-run HR from Adam Jones and an RBI 2B from Ryan Mountcastle, making it 6-4. Edgar Martinez hit an RBI 1B in the 5th and the Seattle bullpen held, giving the Mariners a home sweep and keeping them in the race for the AL West with Houston.

GAME #19 — CHW 0 @ TBR 6

Shane Baz repeatedly avoided trouble and completed the game on fumes, but finished a complete-game shutout to give the Rays a home win. Randy Arozarena hit a 2-run HR in the 1st and Brandon Lowe and Mike Zunino added RBIs in the 3rd to lead the Rays. Junior Caminero extended his incredible rookie hitting streak to 16 games with an RBI 1B in the 5th and Taylor Walls capped the scoring with a solo HR in the 6th.

GAME #20 — CHW 6 @ TBR 2

The White Sox head into the break as one of the bigger surprise teams at 12-8 competing for the AL Central with the road split they secured in Tampa. Austin Meadows hit an RBI 1B in the 1st to give the Rays the lead against Lucas Giolito, but Andrew Benintendi hit a solo HR in the 2nd and in the 3rd inning Frank Thomas hit a solo HR, Jake Burger hit an RBI 2B, and Yoan Moncada hit an RBI 1B, making it 4-1. Thomas added an RBI 1B in the 6th and Jose Abreu hit an RBI 1B in the 7th to cap the 6-2 win. Randy Arozarena hit a solo HR in the 5th, but it was not enough to stop the White Sox. The Rays head into the break still on the fringe of the playoff race.

GAME #19 — NYY 9 @ OAK 10

One of the big surprises of the season is the contention of the A's and this game was symbolic of their season. Khris Davis hit his 8th HR of the season with a solo shot in the 2nd off of Luis Severino. Jorge Posada hit a solo HR in the 3rd to tie the game and then Aaron Judge hit a solo HR and Hideki Matsui hit an RBI 2B in the 2-run 5th, giving the Yankees a 3-1 lead. In the bottom half of the 5th Lawrence Butler hit a 2-run 2B and Mark McGwire hit a 2-run HR and suddenly the A's were ahead 5-3. The A's brought in their esteemed bullpen, but Kendall Graveman gave up a 3-run HR to Aaron Judge and AJ Puk gave up a 3-run HR to Brett Gardner and suddenly the Yankees were up 9-5. Then Clay Holmes took his turn at imploding as Elvis Andrus hit an RBI 2B, Lawrence Butler hit an RBI, and McGwire hit a game-tying 2-run HR. Davis followed with a 1B and scored the go-ahead run on an RBI 1B from Darell Hernaiz.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 5 • CLEVELAND WIN 6-2 • BOS HOME WIN 7-2 • DET ROAD WIN 8-2

GAME #20 — NYY 2 @ OAK 1

The Yankees got the road split they needed behind a strong start from Masahiro Tanaka. Giancarlo Stanton hit a 2-run HR in the top of the 1st and that was all New York would need. Aroldis Chapman came in to secure the bottom of the 9th and promptly walked the bases loaded. Rickey Henderson hit an RBI sacrifice, but that was all the A's would get as Chapman got out of his jam. The Yankees sit in 1st place in the AL East 2 games ahead of the O's at the break. The A's are very much alive in the wild-card race.

GAME #19 — DET 8 @ BOS 2

Detroit is hanging around on the fringes of the race, and sent Boston home with another loss. Rafael Devers and Wade Boggs had RBIs in the 2nd off of Anibal Sanchez, but in the 4th Cecil Fielder had an RBI 2B and scored on an RBI 1B from Ian Kinsler, and in the 5th Victor Martinez hit a 3-run HR to make it 5-2. Ian Kinsler hit a 3-run HR in the 8th and the Tigers cruised to a nice road win.

GAME #20 — DET 2 @ BOS 7

Boston got the split they needed heading into the break still alive as David Ortiz hit a 2-run HR in the 1st and a solo HR in the 5th. Masataka Yoshida hit a 3-run 2B in the 2nd and Jarren Duran hit a solo HR in the 8th and the Red Sox cruised behind Eduardo Rodriguez, who only gave up an RBI 2B to Mickey Tettleton. Tettleton went 4-4 on the day with 3 2Bs and 1 3B. He scored after his third 2B on an RBI 2B from Miguel Cabrera.

GAME #19 — LAA 8 @ CLE 5

Shohei Ohtani led off the game with a solo HR and then CJ Cron followed with a 2-run HR to make it 3-0, but in the bottom of the 1st Jim Thome scored on a wild pitch and Michael Brantley hit an RBI 2B making it 3-2. In the 4th inning, Jo Adell and Kyren Paris hit solo HRs but in the bottom half Yan Gomes, Steven Kwan, and Jose Ramirez hit RBI 1Bs to tie the game 5-5. In the 6th, Logan O'Hoppe hit a game-changing 3-run HR. The Angels' bullpen held and Cleveland let one get away.

GAME #20 — LAA 2 @ CLE 6

The Guardians got the split they needed behind a strong start from Carlos Carrasco, who struck out 10 over 7 innings, only giving up an RBI 3B to Shohei Ohtani and an RBI 1B to Taylor Ward. Jim Thome hit a 2-run HR and Josh Naylor hit a 3-run HR and Cleveland moved to 12-8 at the break. Mike Trout would be in the AL MVP race, but the Angels are in the cellar at 7-13.

GAME #19 — HOU 5 @ KCR 6

The Astros took the lead with a leadoff HR from Jose Altuve, but the Royals took the lead in the bottom of the 3rd on a 3-run HR from Bobby Witt Jr. Jeremy Pena hit a solo HR in the 5th to trim the lead and then Altuve did it again with a 2-run HR in the 7th to take the lead. It looked like Houston would get the win and move to an AL best 14-5, but in the bottom of the 8th Whit Merrifield hit a solo HR to tie the game. Houston once again tried to secure the win with a 2B from Altuve, who scored on a Jeff Bagwell RBI 2B, but in the bottom of the 10th against the Houston closer, Ryan Pressly, George Brett tied the game with an RBI 1B and Salvador Perez won the game with a walk-off RBI 1B.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 5 • BLUE JAYS WIN 5-4 • PHILLIES WIN 10-7 • ROYALS HOME WIN

GAME #20 — HOU 4 @ KCR 5

Here come the Royals! Kansas City has firmly rebounded after a 2-7 start to go 9-2 and sit squarely in the race for the division just 1 game back at the break. Houston once again took the early lead with a solo HR from Yordan Alvarez, and then a 2-run HR from Yuli Gurriel made it 3-0. Kansas City scored in the bottom half with an RBI 2B from Jorge Soler, and then a solo HR from Bo Jackson in the 5th made it 3-2. The second HR of the game from Alvarez made it 4-2, but again the Royals fought back with an RBI 2B from Salvador Perez and then a game-winning 2-run HR from Soler, giving the Royals a home sweep and some serious momentum heading into the break.

GAME #19 — TEX 4 @ MIN 5

The Minnesota Twins finally won a game, breaking their 12-game losing streak. Joe Ryan pitched a strong 7 innings, only giving up RBI 1Bs to Josh Hamilton and Joey Gallo. Nelson Cruz gave the Twins the 1-0 lead with an RBI sacrifice in the 1st, and then Byron Buxton hit a solo HR. Miguel Sano hit an RBI 2B in the 4th and Jorge Polanco added an RBI, and in the 5th Torii Hunter hit a solo HR making it 5-2. The Rangers mounted a comeback with RBI 1Bs from Nathaniel Lowe and Adolis Garcia, but that was all they would get and the Twins got their win.

GAME #20 — TEX 5 @ MIN 8

Miguel Sano hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 2nd but in the top of the 3rd Rougned Odor hit an RBI 2B and Corey Seager hit a 2-run HR. Carlos Correa got an RBI with a bases-loaded BB in the bottom half, and in the bottom of the 5th Nelson Cruz hit a solo HR to tie the game. Adolis Garcia gave the Rangers the lead back in the 6th with a solo HR, and Seager made it 5-3 in the 7th with an RBI 1B. In the bottom of the 7th the Twins took the lead back with a bases-clearing 3-run 2B from Nelson Cruz, and then in the bottom of the 8th Torii Hunter and Sano went back-to-back with solo HRs. Minnesota got a home sweep and the Rangers missed a chance to stay alive as they now fall back into the cellar with the Twins.

GAME #19 — PHI 4 @ TOR 5

The Phillies have stormed back into the playoff race, but the champion Blue Jays showed their mettle in this one. Jean Segura, Lenny Dykstra, and Chase Utley all had RBI 1Bs in the 2nd, but an RBI 1B from Alejandro Kirk in the bottom half and a solo HR from Randal Grichuk in the 4th made it 3-2. An RBI 1B from Scott Rolen made it 4-2, but in the bottom of the 8th Vladimir Guerrero Jr had an RBI and then in the bottom of the 9th Matt Chapman hit a 2B and scored when Alejandro Kirk hit a walk-off 2-run HR to send the crowd home happy.

GAME #20 — PHI 10 @ TOR 7

Ryan Howard hit a 3-run HR in the 1st and a solo HR from JT Realmuto in the 2nd made it 4-0. An RBI 1B from George Springer and an RBI 2B from Vladimir Guerrero Jr in the 3rd made it 4-2. The Blue Jays took the lead with a 4-run outburst in the 5th with an RBI 3B from Springer and a 2-run HR from Bo Bichette and a solo HR from Jose Bautista, making it 6-4. The Phillies got 1 back in the 6th on a solo HR from Scott Rolen, and then in the 7th the Phillies took the game. Chase Utley hit an RBI 2B, Ryan Howard hit a 2-run 2B, Scott Rolen hit an RBI 2B, and John Kruk hit an RBI 1B, and Philadelphia had a 10-6 lead. Jose Bautista added an RBI in the 9th, but it was not enough to stop the Phillies from getting the split they needed, keeping the champion Blue Jays in the cellar of the AL East at the break. George Springer went 5-5 in the loss.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 5 • MARLINS WIN 3-2 • ATL HOME WIN 4-3 • NATIONALS ROAD WIN

GAME #19 — WSH 8 @ COL 5

Kris Bryant continued his strong season with an RBI 1B in the 1st and an RBI 2B in the 7th. Trevor Story hit an RBI 2B in the 1st as Colorado took a 2-0 lead. James Wood and CJ Abrams hit RBI 2Bs in the 2nd and rookie Dylan Crews hit an RBI 1B and the Nationals took a 3-2 lead. Michael Cuddyer hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd and the 3-3 game went to the 6th when the Nationals pulled away. Josh Bell hit an RBI 1B in the 6th, Riley Adams hit a solo HR in the 7th, Ryan Zimmerman hit an RBI 1B in the 7th, and Jayson Werth and Wood hit RBI 1Bs in the 9th to give Washington a road win. Carlos Gonzalez added an RBI in the 9th, but it was not enough as the Rockies fell at home. Josiah Gray moved to 4-1 on the season.

GAME #20 — WSH 2 @ COL 7

Juan Soto hit an RBI 1B in the 4th and Luis Garcia hit a solo HR in the 5th, but the Rockies woke up in the 5th when Charlie Blackmon hit an RBI 1B and Troy Tulowitzki hit a 2-run HR, and in the 6th Ryan McMahon hit an RBI 1B and Blackmon hit a 2-run 2B to make it 6-2. McMahon hit a solo HR in the 8th and the Rockies got the home split. Antonio Senzatela pitched well in the win.

GAME #19 — CHC 2 @ MIA 3

The Cubs squandered a chance, falling to the Marlins as Livan Hernandez pitched a 3-hit complete-game shutout. Jazz Chisholm hit an RBI 1B in the 1st and Connor Norby and Ichiro Suzuki hit RBI 1Bs in the 4th and the Marlins got a strong home win. Ryne Sandberg hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd and Anthony Rizzo hit a solo HR in the 4th, but that was all Hernandez would give up in a strong start with 0 walks. Xavier Edwards led the team with 5 total bases on a 2B and 3B.

GAME #20 — CHC 0 @ MIA 7

The Chicago Cubs are reeling, losing 7 of 10 as Jesus Luzardo completely shut down their offense, only giving up 4 hits while striking out 13 and pitching a complete-game shutout. Jazz Chisholm hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd and Bryan De La Cruz, Xavier Edwards, and Chisholm had RBIs in the 4th. Jesus Sanchez hit an RBI 1B and Liam Hicks hit an RBI 2B in the 7th and the Marlins cruised to a home sweep.

GAME #19 — PIT 3 @ ATL 4

The Pirates took the lead on Charlie Morton with a 2-run HR from Bryan Reynolds in the top of the 1st, while Mitch Keller pitched well, only giving up an RBI 1B to Ron Gant in the 4th until the 6th. In the top of the 6th, Oneil Cruz hit a solo HR to make it 3-1, but in the bottom half Gant hit an RBI 1B and scored on a 2-run 2B from Austin Riley that gave Atlanta a 4-3 lead and then the win as the Atlanta bullpen held, not giving up a hit over 3 innings.

GAME #20 — PIT 5 @ ATL 1

The Pirates took one back behind a strong performance from Jared Jones. Andrew McCutchen hit a solo HR in the 2nd and Bryan Reynolds hit a 3-run HR in the 5th after an RBI from Andy Van Slyke making it 5-0. Dansby Swanson hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 5th, but that was all the Braves would get as the Pirates got the road split.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 5 • BREWERS WIN 6-4 • ARI ROAD WIN 7-6 • CARDINALS HOME WIN

GAME #19 — LAD 3 @ CIN 1

The Reds hosted the Dodgers trying to snap a six-game losing streak, but Yoshinobu Yamamoto only gave up an RBI 1B to Jesse Winker in the bottom of the 1st. That was all the Reds would get and though Johnny Cueto only gave up RBIs to Freddie Freeman and Justin Turner, Freeman added another RBI in the 7th and the Dodgers secured a road win against a struggling team.

GAME #20 — LAD 5 @ CIN 0

The Reds have fallen to the bottom of the standings now having lost 8 straight and 13 of 15. Dustin May pitched 8 shutout innings and the Dodgers cruised behind a 2-run HR from Justin Turner in the 1st, and an RBI 1B from Freddie Freeman and a 2-run 2B from Chris Taylor to lead the road team to a sweep. The Dodgers are in a strong position to contend in the second half.

GAME #19 — SDP 7 @ STL 0

Michael King completely shut down the Cardinals in St. Louis, pitching a 2-hit complete-game shutout. Xander Bogaerts hit a 3-run HR in the 4th to lead the Padres to an easy win. Fernando Tatis Jr had an RBI in the 6th and Tommy Pham, Jackson Merrill, and Manny Machado all had RBIs in the 9th to make it a blowout win on the road.

GAME #20 — SDP 4 @ STL 7

The Cardinals got the win they needed for the split as Albert Pujols hit a 2-run HR in the 1st and another 2-run HR in the 6th. Paul Goldschmidt hit a solo HR in the 6th and Lars Nootbaar and Masyn Winn added RBIs to support Michael Wacha. Jake Cronenworth went 3-4 with a 2B and 3B and 2 RBI while Fernando Tatis Jr and Tommy Pham added RBIs in the loss.

GAME #19 — ARI 4 @ MIL 6

The red-hot Diamondbacks scored first in Milwaukee on an RBI 1B from Christian Walker in the top of the 1st, but the Brewers responded with a 2-run HR from Christian Yelich in the bottom half. Arizona tied the game in the 5th on an RBI 1B from Ketel Marte, and took the lead in the 6th on another RBI from Marte. Down 3-2 in the bottom of the 8th, the Brewers rallied with RBIs from Robin Yount and Yelich, but Arizona rallied in the top of the 9th against Josh Hader with a solo HR from Walker, tying the game. In the bottom of the 11th the Brewers took the win on a walk-off 2-run HR from Yelich.

GAME #20 — ARI 7 @ MIL 6

Arizona took a game back getting the road split, but it wasn't easy. Christian Walker had an RBI 1B in the top of the 1st, but in the bottom half Robin Yount tied the game with an RBI 1B. Geraldo Perdomo hit a 2-run 3B in the 2nd and scored on an RBI 3B from Corbin Carroll. Ketel Marte hit a 3-run HR in the 4th and the blowout was on. Arizona took the 7-1 lead to the bottom of the 9th when the Brewers rallied as the Arizona bullpen fell apart. Arizona gave up 4 hits and 4 walks, but managed to secure the win as AJ Pollock threw out speedy Kolton Wong at home after an RBI 1B from Robin Yount, ending the game in the most dramatic way.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 5 • METS WIN 3-2 • ALONSO DRIVES IN WINNER • METS WIN 11-2

GAME #19 — NYM 3 @ SFG 2

The Mets faced their toughest test of the season traveling to San Francisco to face a rival. Logan Webb pitched a gutsy 7 innings, only giving up an RBI 1B to Mike Piazza. Brandon Belt was the only offense hitting a solo HR in the 2nd and another HR in the 7th. Camilo Doval got the ball in the 9th to secure the win, end the Mets' winning streak, and end the Giants' losing streak, but he was lit up by the Mets as Piazza hit an RBI 2B to tie the game and Pete Alonso hit an RBI to win the game. Doval gave up 3 hits and 2 walks, getting only 2 outs. Edwin Diaz came into the game and shut down the Giants in the bottom of the 9th as the Mets stole a win on the road.

GAME #20 — NYM 11 @ SFG 2

The Mets are breaking all the records. At this point, only a title will satisfy this team. In a game the Giants needed, the Mets destroyed them. Pete Alonso had 2 RBI 2Bs and Gary Carter went 3-4 with 2 2Bs and 4 RBIs. Francisco Lindor hit a 2-run 1B, Jeff McNeil hit an RBI 2B, while Darryl Strawberry and Michael Conforto added RBIs in the blowout win. Casey Schmitt hit a 2-run 2B in the 1st, but that was all the Giants would get against Kodai Senga. The Giants are reeling, having lost 6 in a row and are suddenly 1 game behind the Dodgers. The Mets have all but secured the top seed and have their sights set on the title.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL CARDS - 2024 - SEASON 3

MLBC — ALL-STAR BREAK

20 GAMES COMPLETE • MIDSEASON CLASSIC

THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OWNS THE BREAK

Pete Alonso turns Game 1 into a rout, then the National League steals Game 2 in extra innings.

THE STAGE The midpoint showcase opened with the American League scoring first, but the night quickly became Pete Alonso's. Season Three had already produced a parade of elite pitching performances and explosive individual weeks, and the All-Star break collected that talent into two games without removing the competitive edge. The first game became a power show. The second became a pressure game that needed extra innings.

THE SERIES Alonso hit a 2-run HR in the 4th and a Grand Slam in the 5th, driving in six as the National League rolled to a 9-2 Game 1 victory. Game 2 looked nothing like it. Gerrit Cole and Clayton Kershaw each threw three scoreless innings, and the American League built a 2-0 advantage. The National League finally answered in the 8th, with Chase Utley helping drive the comeback that tied the game. Neither side could break through in the 9th. In the 10th, Jake McCarthy tripled, turning one swing into immediate pressure, and Utley followed with the walk-off RBI single for a 3-2 win. Jake McCarthy was named All-Star MVP.

THE HINGE The National League leaves the break with a two-game sweep, one built through Alonso's overwhelming power and the other through an extra-inning comeback. Twenty regular-season games are complete and twenty remain. The showcase changes nothing in the standings, which is exactly why it works as a hinge. The first half belongs to the Mets at 17-3, but the second half begins with a crowded AL Central, a tied AL West race close behind Houston and Seattle, and an NL West still within reach of several clubs. One half has been preserved. The next twenty games have half the runway and twice the consequence.

SERIES NL SWEEP • 2-0	GAME 1 NL 9 • AL 2	GAME 2 NL 3 • AL 2	HEADLINER PETE ALONSO
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ALL-STAR MOMENTS

GAME 1 PETE ALONSO • NL 2 HR • 6 RBI • Grand Slam in the 9-2 win	GAME 2 CHASE UTLEY • NL RBI 1B in the 8th • walk-off RBI 1B in the 10th
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MLBC — GAME LOG

ALL-STAR • ALONSO GRAND SLAM • NL WINS 9-2 • UTLEY WALK-OFF 1B

ALL-STAR GAME

ALL-STAR GAME #1 — AL 2 @ NL 9

This was the Pete Alonso game. The AL took the lead with an RBI 1B from Bobby Witt Jr off of Adam Wainwright in the 2nd, but then Alonso took over the summer classic. Alonso hit a 2-run HR off of Felix Hernandez in the 4th to take the lead, and then in the 5th Hernandez loaded the bases, walked Albert Pujols to give him an RBI, and then Pete Alonso hit a Grand Slam HR to make it a rout. Kris Bryant hit a solo HR off of Dylan Cease in the 6th and Pujols hit a solo HR off of Liam Hendriks in the 7th to seal the win. Frank Thomas hit a solo HR off Jose Fernandez in the 6th, but the rout was on and the NL won 9-2.

ALL-STAR GAME #2 — AL 2 @ NL 3

Gerrit Cole and Clayton Kershaw both pitched 3 scoreless innings, and then in the 4th Jacob deGrom gave up an RBI 2B to Kyle Tucker and an RBI 1B to Victor Martinez to give the AL a 2-0 lead. The lead lasted until the bottom of the 8th when Chase Utley hit an RBI 1B and Roberto Clemente tied the game with an RBI 2B off of Jhoan Duran, and then in the bottom of the 10th Jake McCarthy hit a 3B and scored the winning run on a walk-off RBI 1B from Chase Utley. The NL finished the comeback and the sweep.

MLBC — WEEK 6

GAMES 21-24 • SECOND HALF

SAN DIEGO HITS THE GAS

The Padres post the only 4-0 week while Arizona's Corbin Carroll turns the second half into a personal showcase.

THE LEAD The second half opened with the Mets at a remarkable 17-3 and everybody else already calculating how much ground twenty remaining games could realistically recover. Houston, the Yankees and Seattle were 13-7. Atlanta, Chicago, Cleveland and Los Angeles sat 12-8, while San Diego and Arizona remained close enough to make the NL West immediately volatile. San Francisco had just gone 0-4 to fall from 11-5 to 11-9, while Kansas City had forced itself into the AL Central race with four straight one-run wins, with Chicago and Cleveland still one game ahead of Kansas City. The Padres opened in Philadelphia and then Cincinnati, needing more than a good week. They needed a move.

THE WEEK San Diego delivered the only 4-0 week in MLBC. Yu Darvish opened with a 2-hit complete-game shutout of Philadelphia, Blake Snell and the bullpen blanked the Phillies the next day, and the Padres followed those two shutouts with two comeback wins in Cincinnati to reach 14-10 and pull even with Los Angeles. The Mets still went 3-1 and reached 20-4, so nobody touched the leader, but the races beneath New York changed quickly. Corbin Carroll hit four HR and drove in eight for Arizona. Paul Skenes came within one out of his finest start, carrying a 2-0 shutout against the Dodgers into the 9th before Max Muncy, Adrian Gonzalez and Joc Pederson reached and Will Smith turned the game completely around with a 2-out Grand Slam. Chris Archer answered the next day by shutting out Los Angeles for eight innings in a 1-0 Pittsburgh win. Baseball supplied both sides of the lesson in forty-eight hours.

THE STAKES The Mets lead baseball at 20-4, but the races underneath them have become dense. Chicago and Kansas City share the AL Central at 14-10 with Cleveland one game back. Los Angeles and San Diego are tied at 14-10, while Arizona and San Francisco sit 13-11. The Padres have transformed the West without threatening New York's larger cushion. Week 7 brings Houston to Baltimore, Texas into Yankee Stadium, Arizona to New York and the Yankees into Houston. Sixteen games remain. New York is trying to protect history; almost everyone else is trying merely to survive the traffic.

BEST RECORD
NYM • 20-4

ONLY PERFECT
SDP • 4-0

AL CENTRAL
CHW / KCR • 14-10

NL WEST
LAD / SDP • 14-10

WEEKLY HONORS

HITTER OF THE WEEK

GOLD CORBIN CARROLL • ARI

4 HR • 8 RBI

SILVER VICTOR MARTINEZ • DET

2 HR • 5 RBI

BRONZE XANDER BOGAERTS • SDP

Grand Slam • 5 RBI

PITCHER OF THE WEEK

GOLD YU DARVISH • SDP

CG SHO • 2 H

SILVER YOSHINOBU YAMAMOTO • LAD

8 scoreless IP • 3 H • 1 BB

BRONZE JAKE ARRIETA • CHC

CG SHO • 10 K

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 6 • MARINERS WIN 4-2 • BAL HOME WIN 12-7 • BOS ROAD WIN 4-0

ROUND #11

GAME #21 — TEX 4 @ BAL 0

The Rangers could get back in the race with a hot start to the second half and All-Star Nathan Eovaldi did his part, pitching 7+ shutout innings. Brock Burke got the last 4 outs and the Rangers took one on the road. Nathaniel Lowe hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd and Josh Hamilton hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd. Ivan Rodriguez hit a solo HR in the 5th and Adolis Garcia hit an RBI 1B in the 8th and that was it. Texas won 4-0.

GAME #22 — TEX 7 @ BAL 12

Texas came out smoking hot with an RBI 2B from Adrian Beltre and an RBI 1B from Josh Hamilton in the top of the 1st, and in the 2nd Adolis Garcia added an RBI 1B and scored on a 3-run HR from Marcus Semien. All-Star Eddie Murray hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 1st but going into the bottom of the 2nd it was 6-1 Rangers. The Orioles were looking at falling in the race, or coming back. In the bottom of the 2nd, Cal Ripken Jr hit an RBI 3B after a Ryan Mountcastle 2B, and then scored on a 2-run HR from Adley Rutschman. Texas made it 7-4 in the 5th after a solo HR from rookie Wyatt Langford, but in the bottom half Adam Jones hit an RBI 2B and scored on a 2-run HR from Eddie Murray and the game was 7-7. In the bottom of the 8th the Orioles finished the split in style with a 3-run HR from Cedric Mullins and RBIs from Gunnar Henderson and Eddie Murray, giving the home team a 12-7 comeback win.

GAME #21 — TBR 3 @ SEA 2

Seattle has the opportunity to compete in the second half and All-Star Felix Hernandez took the ball taking a shutout into the 9th. All-Star Ken Griffey Jr hit a solo HR in the 1st and All-Star Robinson Cano hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd, and the M's took a 2-0 lead to the 9th. It looked bleak for the Rays, but in the top of the 9th Randy Arozarena and Josh Lowe hit 1Bs and Brandon Lowe hit a 3-run HR that changed the game. Pete Fairbanks held the 9th for the save and the home crowd left stunned. Tyler Glasnow pitched a strong 8 innings to escape with a win stopping the M's six-game winning streak. Star rookie Junior Caminero saw his incredible 17-game hitting streak end.

GAME #22 — TBR 2 @ SEA 4

Robinson Cano hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd, but Austin Meadows hit an RBI 2B in the 4th to tie the game 1-1. In the bottom of the 7th, JP Crawford hit an RBI 2B to take the lead, and in the bottom of the 8th Edgar Martinez added an RBI, and Mitch Haniger hit an RBI 2B to take a 4-1 lead. Randy Arozarena hit a solo HR in the 9th, but it was not enough as Seattle took the home split. All-Star Mike Zunino endured an epic slump, going 0-8 with 8 strikeouts.

GAME #21 — BOS 4 @ MIN 0

Chris Sale was fantastic pitching 7 shutout innings while striking out 12. Rafael Devers hit a solo HR in the 2nd, but that was all Sonny Gray would give up. The 1-0 game went to the 9th when the Red Sox put the game away with an RBI 2B from Devers and RBI 1Bs from Willyer Abreu and Wade Boggs.

GAME #22 — BOS 1 @ MIN 6

Pablo Lopez pitched a strong 7 innings, only giving up an RBI 1B to Dustin Pedroia in the 6th. In the 4th, David Price gave up a 3-run HR to Torii Hunter and then in the 7th Byron Buxton hit a solo HR and Nelson Cruz hit a 2-run HR to seal the easy home win, giving the Twins the split.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 6 • BLUE JAYS WIN 6-5 • CLEVELAND WIN 4-3 • OAKLAND WIN 1-0

GAME #21 — HOU 5 @ TOR 6

Houston traveled to Toronto looking to put away the champions and move into the top seed. Yainer Diaz hit two 2-run 2Bs and Jeff Bagwell hit an RBI 2B driving Alek Manoah from the game in the 5th, but Roberto Alomar hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd and Alejandro Kirk hit a 2-run HR in the 4th so Houston only had a 5-3 lead, which they took to the 7th. In the bottom of the 7th, the champs kept their season alive with a 3-run HR from George Springer to take the lead and win the game. The Toronto bullpen held and the home team got the win. Justin Verlander struggled in his start, falling behind in the AL Cy Young race.

GAME #22 — HOU 7 @ TOR 5

Toronto took a 5-1 lead in the 3rd as Bo Bichette hit two RBI 1Bs and Jose Bautista hit an RBI 2B and Alejandro Kirk hit a 2-run 1B off of Framber Valdez. Jake Meyers hit a solo HR off of Kevin Gausman in the 3rd to get the Astros on the board and in the 4th Jeremy Pena and Yainer Diaz had RBIs making it 5-3. Houston tied the game in the 8th on RBI 1Bs from Pena and Diaz and took the lead in the 9th on a 2-run HR from Jeff Bagwell giving Houston a road split and keeping them in the driver's seat. The Blue Jays let a chance to get into the fringes of the race slip away with a shaky bullpen game.

GAME #21 — CLE 0 @ OAK 1

The A's are one of the big surprises of the season and they did it again behind a strong performance from JP Sears who pitched 6 shutout innings. Lawrence Butler hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd against Shane Bieber and that was all Oakland would need.

GAME #22 — CLE 4 @ OAK 3

Cleveland needed a win and Steven Kwan and Andres Gimenez obliged with RBI 1Bs in the 3rd and 4th innings, giving Corey Kluber a 2-0 lead, which he took to the 7th. In the bottom of the 7th, Elvis Andrus hit an RBI sacrifice to make it 2-1, but in the top of the 8th Michael Brantley hit a solo HR to make it 3-1. In the bottom of the 8th, All-Star Mark McGwire hit a solo HR and then in the bottom of the 9th against All-Star Emmanuel Clase, the A's tied the game on a 2-out RBI 1B from Lawrence Butler. In the 10th, Jim Thome stepped up and hit a solo HR to win the game and give Cleveland the split they needed.

GAME #21 — LAA 6 @ DET 2

The Tigers hit the break winning 4 of 6, but they couldn't keep the momentum going against the Angels as Shohei Ohtani pitched a strong 7 innings, giving up only an RBI 1B to All-Star Victor Martinez in the 1st. Taylor Ward hit a solo HR in the top of the 1st and then All-Star Mike Trout hit a 2-run HR in the 7th and Jo Adell hit a 2-run HR in the 8th, and then Logan O'Hoppe went back-to-back with a solo HR to complete the 6-2 win. Riley Greene had an RBI 1B in the 9th, but it was not enough to matter in the end.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 6 • KCR ROAD WIN 4-0 • KCR ROAD WIN 6-4 • LAA ROAD WIN 7-5

GAME #22 — LAA 7 @ DET 5

The Tigers have fallen to the cellar and can start looking towards next season with hopes to improve their bullpen. Detroit took an early 1-0 lead in the bottom of the 1st when Cecil Fielder hit an RBI 1B; however, Kyren Paris and Shohei Ohtani hit solo HRs in the 2nd, and in the 3rd Jo Adell hit an RBI 1B and Zach Neto hit an RBI 2B making it 4-1. The Tigers finally rallied in the bottom of the 7th taking a 5-4 lead after RBIs by Cecil Fielder and Ian Kinsler and a 2-run 1B from Kerry Carpenter. But the Tigers' bullpen continued their struggles giving up the lead in the 9th when Ohtani hit an RBI 2B and Anthony Rendon hit a 2-run 2B to secure the 7-5 win and the road split, keeping their season on life support.

GAME #21 — NYM 3 @ NYY 5

In a most anticipated matchup the soaring New York Mets traveled to Yankee Stadium to take on their rivals. Adding to the excitement, All-Star ace Jacob deGrom faced reigning AL Cy Young Award winner All-Star Gerrit Cole. Derek Jeter welcomed deGrom to the Bronx with a leadoff solo HR in the bottom of the 1st, and an RBI from All-Star Giancarlo Stanton made it 2-0 after 1. A solo HR from All-Star Pete Alonso in the 4th made it 2-1, but Hideki Matsui hit a solo HR in the bottom half to reclaim the 2-run lead. In the bottom of the 8th, Jorge Posada hit a 2-run HR making it 5-1. In the 9th the Mets rallied with a 2-run HR from Michael Conforto, but that was it as the Yankees secured a huge home win snapping the Mets' seven-game winning streak, and giving them only their 4th defeat on the season.

GAME #22 — NYM 3 @ NYY 1

Nestor Cortes pitched a strong 6 innings, only giving up an RBI 1B to Pete Alonso while Max Scherzer matched him, only giving up an RBI 1B to Gleyber Torres in the 2nd over his strong 7 innings. The 1-1 game went to the 9th when Jeff McNeil took the role of hero with a game-winning 2-run 2B off of Aroldis Chapman. The Mets got their split and both teams will hope to meet again in the World Series.

GAME #21 — KCR 6 @ STL 4

The Royals come into the second half as one of the big surprises suddenly in contention, but facing their rivals on the road. Adam Wainwright didn't give up a run until the 6th while Zack Greinke gave up RBI 1Bs to Yadier Molina and Tyler O'Neill. The Royals finally got to Wainwright, who had only given up 2 total runs in the entire first half when Bobby Witt Jr hit a solo HR in the 6th followed by an RBI from Jorge Soler to tie the game. In the 7th, the Royals took over with a 2-run 3B from George Brett, then scored on an RBI 1B from Alex Gordon. Matt Carpenter added an RBI in the 8th, but Bobby Witt Jr got the run back in the 9th with an RBI 1B. Lars Nootbaar hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 9th, but it was not enough to stop the Royals' winning streak.

GAME #22 — KCR 4 @ STL 0

Bobby Witt Jr has arrived and has put himself firmly in the AL MVP race leading the Royals to 9 wins in their past 10 games to surge not only into the playoff race but into the race for the AL Central. Witt hit a 1B, stole a base, then scored the game's first run on an RBI from Salvador Perez. Yordano Ventura was excellent not giving up a run over 7 strong innings and the bullpen held. Witt then hit a 3-run HR in the 7th to put the game away as the Royals swept their rivals on the road.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 6 • D-BACKS WIN 8-7 • NATIONALS WIN 7-6 • WHITE SOX WIN 8-1

GAME #21 — CHC 1 @ CHW 8

The Cubs faced the White Sox in a rivalry matchup and the White Sox jumped on Marcus Stroman for 7 early runs. Frank Thomas hit a 2-run HR and a 2B, Eloy Jimenez hit a solo HR and a 2-run HR, and Jake Burger hit a 2-run HR and the rout was on. Nick Madrigal added a late RBI in the win, and Jason Heyward added a late RBI for the Cubs. Garrett Crochet was excellent, taking a shutout into the 9th inning in his best start as a starter.

GAME #22 — CHC 6 @ CHW 0

Jake Arrieta pitched a gem with a complete-game shutout, giving up 7 hits and 1 walk while striking out 10. Anthony Rizzo handled the rest with a 2-run 2B in the 1st and a 2-run HR in the 9th. Willson Contreras added an RBI 1B in the 1st and Nico Hoerner added an RBI 1B in the 7th to help the Cubs get the road split and the season series split.

GAME #21 — ARI 8 @ WSH 7

The Diamondbacks are one of the impressive teams of the 1st half of the season leading both leagues in runs scored. Eric Chavez gave Arizona the lead with a solo HR off of Stephen Strasburg in the 1st, but an RBI 3B from Luis Garcia off of All-Star Zac Gallen in the bottom of the 2nd tied the game. All-Star Corbin Carroll hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd and All-Star Ketel Marte went back-to-back with a solo HR to make it 4-1. Josh Bell hit a solo HR in the 4th, but Gabriel Moreno hit an RBI 2B in the 6th. In the bottom of the 6th rookie Dylan Crews hit a 2-run 3B to make it 5-4 and then in the bottom of the 7th the comeback was complete when CJ Abrams and Juan Soto hit back-to-back solo HRs and James Wood added a solo HR in the 7th making it 7-5. Washington was looking at a win, but All-Star Corbin Carroll had other ideas, hitting a game-winning 3-run HR in the top of the 8th, moving Arizona a game above .500.

GAME #22 — ARI 6 @ WSH 7

Ryan Zimmerman and James Wood hit RBI 1Bs in the bottom of the 1st and then Wood hit a solo HR in the 4th to make it 3-0. In the 5th, Corbin Carroll hit a 2-run HR, his 3rd of the series, and in the 6th Pavin Smith hit an RBI 1B to tie the game. The 3-3 game went to the 9th when Arizona struck for 3 runs on RBI 1Bs from Ketel Marte, All-Star MVP Jake McCarthy, and AJ Pollock. Facing a home sweep and falling completely out of the chance of contention, Washington rallied with a solo HR from Ryan Zimmerman, and a 2-out 2-run 2B from Luis Garcia tied the game. In the bottom of the 10th the rally was complete after CJ Abrams hit a 2B and Juan Soto had the winning RBI, giving the home team a dramatic split.

GAME #21 — MIA 1 @ COL 4

All-Star Jose Fernandez only gave up 3 hits but one of them was a 3-run HR to Andres Galarraga in the 1st, and another was a solo HR to Kris Bryant. German Marquez pitched an excellent game, only giving up an RBI 1B to Jazz Chisholm over 9 strong innings completing the game.

GAME #22 — MIA 7 @ COL 3

The Marlins got the split they needed as Jazz Chisholm had a big day going 2-5 with a 2-run 2B and a 2-run HR. Ichiro Suzuki and Luis Arraez added RBIs in the win. Wilin Rosario and Michael Cuddyer hit solo HRs in the loss. Sandy Alcantara pitched well in the win.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 6 • ATL ROAD WIN 2-1 • ATL ROAD WIN 5-3 • DODGERS ROAD WIN

GAME #21 — ATL 2 @ MIL 1

All-Star Spencer Strider didn't give up a run until an RBI from Christian Yelich after a 3B from Robin Yount, while Michael Harris hit a 2-run HR off of Corbin Burnes in the 4th, which was the difference in the game.

GAME #22 — ATL 5 @ MIL 3

The Brewers missed a chance to get in the race for the weak NL Central as the Braves swept the Brewers in Milwaukee. Max Fried was strong over 7 innings, only giving up an RBI 2B to Ryan Braun and an RBI 1B to Sal Frelick in the 4th and an RBI to Jackson Chourio in the 7th. The Braves were led by an RBI 2B from Michael Harris in 4th, a 2-run HR from Chipper Jones in the 5th, and a 2-run 1B from Matt Olson in the 7th to secure the win and the road sweep as the Braves try to keep up with the Mets.

GAME #21 — SDP 3 @ PHI 0

Both the Padres and Phillies are fighting for a playoff spot, but only the Padres showed up in the first game as Yu Darvish pitched a masterful 2-hit complete-game shutout. Fernando Tatis Jr hit an RBI in the 1st, Xander Bogaerts hit an RBI 1B in the 6th, and Jackson Merrill hit a solo HR to lead the Padres to a win behind their ace.

GAME #22 — SDP 8 @ PHI 0

The Phillies didn't show up in their home matchup out of the break getting shut out for the series. Blake Snell took a shutout into the 8th and the bullpen finished it. Tony Gwynn had an RBI 1B in the 1st and Jackson Merrill had an RBI 2B in the 2nd. Fernando Tatis Jr hit an RBI 2B in the 5th and a 2-run HR in the 8th, and Luis Campusano hit an RBI 1B in the 6th. Jake Cronenworth went 3-4 with 3 2Bs and 2 RBIs to complete the rout and the Padres have some momentum as they move up in the race.

GAME #21 — LAD 4 @ PIT 2

Star rookie Paul Skenes had his best start of the season, taking a shutout into the 9th. Charlie Hayes hit a solo HR off of Clayton Kershaw in the 3rd and Andy Van Slyke hit an RBI 2B in the 8th to lead the Pirates to a 2-0 lead. In the top of the 9th, Skenes got the first 2 outs, but then it fell apart. Max Muncy got his 4th hit of the game, Adrian Gonzalez hit a 1B, Joc Pederson drew a BB, and then Will Smith hit a game-winning Grand Slam HR. It was a crushing loss for Pittsburgh, which had remained on the fringes of the race.

GAME #22 — LAD 0 @ PIT 1

Chris Archer matched Skenes from the game before pitching 8 shutout innings. Charlie Hayes hit an RBI sacrifice after a Oneil Cruz 3B to pace the Pirates, but that was all Walker Buehler would give up. David Bednar came in and took care of the 9th and the Pirates got a split at home to stay alive.

GAME #21 — CIN 0 @ SFG 3

Carlos Rodon avoided trouble the entire game, giving up 6 hits and 4 walks, but he was able to complete the shutout to stymie the Reds and end the Giants' six-game losing streak while extending the Reds' losing streak to 9 games. During the 6-game losing streak the Giants didn't score more than 2 runs and with one swing of the bat in the 2nd Mike Yastrzemski hit a 3-run HR, which was all Rodon would need.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 6 • MARINERS WIN 4-2 • ORIOLES WIN 4-1 • WHITE SOX HOME WIN

GAME #22 — CIN 4 @ SFG 1

The Reds snapped their nine-game losing streak behind a strong performance from Hunter Greene who only gave up an RBI BB to Brandon Crawford. Madison Bumgarner was strong through 4 only giving up a solo HR to Tyler Stephenson, but in the 5th Bumgarner gave up 5 straight baserunners and 3 RBI 1Bs to Eric Davis, Joey Votto, and Spencer Steer. The Giants' offense has been dormant now for 8 games as they have fallen in the race.

ROUND #12

GAME #23 — BAL 1 @ CHW 2

The White Sox won a pitching duel behind Lance Lynn as Jake Burger hit an RBI 1B in the 4th to tie the game and Yasmani Grandal hit a solo HR in the 7th to take the lead. Tyler Wells pitched a strong 7 innings, but the O's couldn't give him any runs, only mustering a solo HR from Gunnar Henderson in the 4th.

GAME #24 — BAL 4 @ CHW 1

Grayson Rodriguez was excellent over 8 strong innings, only giving up an RBI 2B to Frank Thomas in the 1st. Adam Jones went 4-5 with a 2B, Anthony Santander and Cedric Mullins hit a solo HR, and Santander and Gunnar Henderson added RBIs to lead the O's to the road split.

GAME #23 — TBR 6 @ TEX 7

The Rangers came out of the break hot with a leadoff HR from Ivan Rodriguez and a 2-run 2B from Nathaniel Lowe off of Shane Baz in the bottom of the 1st, and then Lowe hit a 3-run HR and Rougned Odor hit a solo HR in the 3rd and it seemed like the rout was on. All-Star Mike Zunino hit a 2-run HR off of Mike Minor in the 4th to give the Rays hope, but then in the 7th the Rays struck for 4 runs on RBI 1Bs from Yandy Diaz and Randy Arozarena and a 2-run 2B from Josh Lowe making the game suddenly 7-6. The Texas bullpen held the 8th and the 9th and the rally faltered as Texas escaped with a home win.

GAME #24 — TBR 1 @ TEX 3

The Rangers have climbed to the fringe of the race while the Rays have dropped out. Corey Seager hit an RBI 2B in the 1st, but Yandy Diaz hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd to tie the game. Adolis Garcia hit an RBI 1B in the 4th to take the lead and Rougned Odor added an RBI 1B in the 6th to pad the lead, and the rest was taken care of by Dane Dunning. Dunning had his best start of the season, going 8 innings, only giving up 1 run and 4 hits while striking out 12.

GAME #23 — SEA 4 @ NYY 2

The Mariners traveled to Yankee Stadium in a potential playoff matchup with two teams tied at the top of the AL. JP Crawford hit a solo HR off of Luis Severino in the 3rd to take the 1-0 lead, and an RBI from Edwin Encarnacion made it 2-0. Gleyber Torres hit an RBI 1B in the 4th to trim the lead and the 2-1 game went to the bottom of the 8th. With 2 outs in the 8th, DJ LeMahieu hit an RBI 1B to tie the game, but in the top of the 9th Mitch Haniger hit a game-winning 2-run HR off of dominant closer Aroldis Chapman to give the M's a huge road win.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 6 • DET HOME WIN 11-4 • DET HOME WIN 6-5 • HOU HOME WIN 4-2

GAME #24 — SEA 6 @ NYY 7

If this series was any indicator, the playoffs will be intense. Aaron Judge hit an RBI 2B in the bottom of the 1st, but in the 3rd Julio Rodriguez hit a 2-run HR and Robinson Cano went back-to-back hitting a solo HR to make it 3-1. In the bottom of the 5th, Don Mattingly hit an RBI 1B, but in the top of the 6th Cal Raleigh made it 5-2 with a 2-run 2B. The Yankees kept fighting back as Gary Sanchez hit an RBI 1B in the 6th and Giancarlo Stanton hit a 2-run HR to tie the game 5-5, but in the top of the 8th JP Crawford hit an RBI 1B to give the M's yet another lead. Facing a home sweep, the Yankees rallied yet again in the bottom of the 9th as Mattingly hit an RBI 1B to tie the game, and then Hideki Matsui won it with a walk-off RBI 1B. Both teams expect deep runs in the postseason and could well meet again with real stakes.

GAME #23 — CLE 1 @ HOU 8

The Guardians traveled to Houston in another matchup of two teams expecting to be in the playoffs. Triston McKenzie faced Joe Musgrove and the results could not have been more different. McKenzie gave up a solo HR to Jose Altuve to lead off the bottom of the 1st, and then he walked in 2 runs with RBI BBs to Jeff Bagwell and Yordan Alvarez, and then a crushing Grand Slam HR to Kyle Tucker making it 7-0. Meanwhile, Joe Musgrove took a shutout into the 9th, finally giving up a run on a solo HR to Jim Thome. Jeff Bagwell added a solo HR in the rout.

GAME #24 — CLE 2 @ HOU 4

AL MVP front-runner Yordan Alvarez hit a 2-run HR in the bottom of the 1st and Houston took the early lead again. Cleveland fought back this time with an RBI 2B from Jose Ramirez in the 3rd and then an RBI 2B from Steven Kwan in the 7th tying the game. The 2-2 game went to the 10th, but the Astros prevailed again as Kyle Tucker hit a walk-off 2-run 1B to complete the home sweep against a playoff rival. Cleveland has fallen a game behind Chicago in the race for the AL Central while the Astros moved a game ahead of the Mariners.

GAME #23 — OAK 5 @ DET 6

The A's were one of the surprise teams of the 1st half, but they lost a close one to the Tigers in Detroit after rookie Luis Morales gave up solo HRs to Riley Greene, Victor Martinez, and Isaac Paredes in the first 2 innings, and then a 2-run HR to Miguel Cabrera in the 3rd. The A's kept it close with a 2-run HR in the 2nd from Darell Hernaiz off of Anibal Sanchez and an RBI 2B from Khris Davis and an RBI from Seth Brown. Jacob Wilson hit a solo HR in the 4th to tie the game, but Riley Greene hit an RBI 2B in the bottom half to make it 6-5. After the offensive explosion early in the game, both bullpens shut down each side and the game didn't see another run as the Tigers' bullpen held, giving the home team a win.

GAME #24 — OAK 4 @ DET 11

The Tigers kept up their offensive surge taking a 9-0 lead before Oakland scored in the 6th on a 2-run HR from Tyler Soderstrom. Victor Martinez led the way with a 2-run HR in the 1st and a 2-run 2B in the 3rd going 3-5, while Miguel Cabrera went 3-5 with 3 2Bs and an RBI. Riley Greene and Isaac Paredes hit RBI 1Bs, Cecil Fielder hit an RBI 2B, and Kerry Carpenter capped it with a 2-run HR. Matt Manning was excellent pitching 5 shutout innings, while Jacob Wilson and Elvis Andrus added RBIs late in the game. Detroit has surged to the fringes of the race, but it would take a lot of wins to make up the ground. Meanwhile, the A's have fallen behind in the race.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 6 • BLUE JAYS WIN 4-2 • PHILLIES WIN 2-1 • ATL ROAD WIN 6-2

GAME #23 — KCR 4 @ LAA 2

The Kansas City Royals are hot and have moved into 1st place in the AL Central, now having won eight games in a row. Cole Ragans pitched well for 6 innings, only giving up a solo HR to Logan O'Hoppe, his 9th of the season. The bullpen gave up a solo HR to red-hot Jo Adell to tie the game 2-2, but that was all the Angels would get as the Royals kept winning. Whit Merrifield hit a 2-run 1B in the 7th to take the lead, and Salvador Perez hit a 2-run HR in the 10th to win the game.

GAME #24 — KCR 1 @ LAA 5

The Angels ended the Royals' win streak while winning their 7th in 10 games behind RBI 1Bs from Anthony Rendon and Jo Adell, an RBI from Mike Trout, and solo HRs from Taylor Ward and Adell. Andrew Heaney had his best start of the season after a miserable first half giving up only an RBI sacrifice to Bobby Witt Jr.

GAME #23 — ATL 2 @ BOS 7

Boston struck first against Atlanta when Masataka Yoshida hit an RBI 1B against Charlie Morton, but Austin Riley tied the game with an RBI 1B in the 4th off of Tanner Houck. In the bottom of the 4th, Wilyer Abreu hit an RBI 1B and then in the 6th Abreu hit a solo HR before Cedanne Rafaela hit a 2-run HR making it 5-1. Travis d'Arnaud hit an RBI 1B in the 7th, but Abreu hit another HR with a 2-run shot in the 7th to finish the 7-2 rout.

GAME #24 — ATL 6 @ BOS 2

Austin Riley gave Atlanta an early lead with a 2-run HR in the 2nd, and then Ozzie Albies went back-to-back with a solo HR making it 3-0. Travis d'Arnaud hit an RBI 1B in the 4th and Marcell Ozuna hit a solo HR in the 5th and it was 5-0. Rafael Devers added 2 RBI 2Bs, but it was not enough to stop the Braves from getting the road split. Chipper Jones added an RBI 2B in the easy win behind a strong performance from Kyle Wright.

GAME #23 — TOR 1 @ PHI 2

The Toronto Blue Jays had a dream title season last year, but this season has been the opposite, and Cole Hamels put their title defense on life support pitching 7 strong innings, only giving up an RBI 1B to Bo Bichette in the 8th. Bryce Harper hit a solo HR in the 4th and Chase Utley hit a solo HR in the 6th and that was all the Phillies would need.

GAME #24 — TOR 4 @ PHI 2

Toronto kept their season on life support with a road win to get the split behind a strong start from Jose Berrios, who only gave up a 2-run HR to Ryan Howard. Kevin Pillar hit a 3-run HR in the 2nd to lead the Blue Jays to the win. Roberto Alomar added an RBI 2B in the 9th, but it was not needed as the Toronto bullpen held. The Phillies left the series with only 7 hits, and they need to get their offense going and pick up some wins to stay in the race.

GAME #23 — MIL 1 @ MIN 7

Milwaukee was expected to compete this season and have found the entire division losing around them, yet the Brewers can't make up ground and now find themselves almost out of the race. Freddy Peralta was lit up for 7 runs in 4 innings as Joe Mauer went 3-5 with a 2B and 2 RBI, Kirby Puckett went 2-4 with 2 RBI, and Miguel Sano hit a 3-run HR. Joe Ryan only gave up a solo HR to Christian Yelich in the 4th and that was all the Twins would need to get a home win.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 6 • BREWERS WIN 4-2 • NATIONALS WIN 1-0 • NATIONALS WIN 3-1

GAME #24 — MIL 4 @ MIN 2

Christian Yelich hit a solo HR in the 1st off of Kyle Gibson, but Carlos Correa hit a solo HR off of Chad Patrick in the 4th to tie the game. The 1-1 game went to the bottom of the 7th when Josh Donaldson hit a solo HR to take the lead. Facing the end of their season the Brewers woke up just in time as Sal Frelick hit a 3-run HR in the top of the 9th to win the game off of All-Star closer Jhoan Duran.

GAME #23 — WSH 1 @ CHC 0

The Cubs hosted the Nationals with an excellent chance to take advantage of the slumping NL Central, but it was not to be. Jon Lester was strong over 7 innings, but in the 8th one mistake led to CJ Abrams hitting an RBI 2B and that was all Josiah Gray would need. Gray completely shut down the Cubs' offense over 8 shutout innings. All-Star Kyle Finnegan closed the door in the 9th and the Nationals got a solid road win.

GAME #24 — WSH 3 @ CHC 1

The Cubs are reeling along with the entire division, and their offense has disappeared, scoring a total of 4 runs over 7 of their last 8 games, losing all of them. Seiya Suzuki hit an RBI 2B in the 6th to give Chicago a 1-0 lead. Shota Imanaga was strong over 7 shutout innings, but in the 9th Hector Rondon gave up the lead on a 2-out 3-run HR to Jayson Werth that turned the tables and completed the road sweep. Washington has crawled back to the fringe of the race, having won 3 in a row.

GAME #23 — MIA 0 @ ARI 7

The Diamondbacks keep winning, making a shocking playoff push as Brandon Pfaadt pitched 7 strong shutout innings and the offense kept rolling. Red-hot Corbin Carroll hit a solo HR to lead off the bottom of the 1st, and AJ Pollock followed with a 2-run 1B making it 3-0. Ketel Marte hit a 2-run HR in the 4th and Christian Walker and Geraldo Perdomo added RBIs late in the blowout win.

GAME #24 — MIA 4 @ ARI 6

Here come the Diamondbacks! Down 4-1 in the 8th, they managed another unexpected comeback as they kept winning to push their record into a playoff spot. Last season's last-place team in the whole league keeps finding ways to win and even a late deficit couldn't stop them. Jesus Sanchez had an RBI in the 2nd, but Ketel Marte hit an RBI 2B to tie the game. Jazz Chisholm hit a solo HR and Luis Arraez hit 2 RBI 1Bs to lead the way behind a strong performance from Jesus Luzardo who pitched 7 innings, only giving up 1 run. In the bottom of the 8th, Christian Walker hit a 2-run HR and Geraldo Perdomo tied the game with an RBI 1B, and in the bottom of the 9th AJ Pollock hit a 2-run 2B to walk off the win and the home sweep. Arizona is looking strong in a most unexpected playoff push.

GAME #23 — COL 1 @ NYM 7

The Mets keep winning. New York unloaded its bench hosting the Rockies and they showed up in another blowout win. Curtis Granderson hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd and Francisco Alvarez went back-to-back with a solo HR. Francisco Lindor hit a 2-run HR later in the inning and the Mets had a 5-0 lead for Noah Syndergaard. Charlie Blackmon hit a solo HR in the loss, but that was all the Rockies would get. Dominic Smith hit a 2-run HR in the 7th as New York kept winning.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 6 • CARDINALS WIN 11-8 • DODGERS WIN 4-0 • NYM HOME WIN 7-2

GAME #24 — COL 2 @ NYM 7

The amazing Mets have all but locked up the top seed and will only be judged on a championship at this point having won 18 of 20 games. Jeff McNeil hit a 3-run HR in the 2nd to give New York the lead, but Wilin Rosario and Troy Tulowitzki both hit RBI 1Bs to make it 3-2. Curtis Granderson hit an RBI 1B in the 6th and Dominic Smith hit a 2-run HR in the 7th to extend the lead as the bullpen pitched 5 scoreless innings. Mike Piazza added a pinch-hit solo HR in the 8th as the Mets cruised to a home sweep.

GAME #23 — CIN 2 @ SDP 3

The beleaguered Reds scored first with RBI 2Bs from Elly De La Cruz and Adam Duvall against Michael King, but that was all the Reds would get. The Padres came back to tie the game with RBI 1Bs from Fernando Tatis Jr and Tony Gwynn in the 6th and 7th innings, and then in the bottom of the 8th Manny Machado hit a solo HR to win the game.

GAME #24 — CIN 4 @ SDP 10

The Padres are making their move, winning their 4th game in a row and 8 of 10. In the top of the 5th, Adam Duvall hit an RBI 2B and Devin Mesoraco hit an RBI 1B off of Mike Clevinger to take another 2-0 lead. In the bottom of the 5th, Luis Campusano hit a solo HR and then Xander Bogaerts hit a Grand Slam HR to take the lead. In the 7th, the Padres scored 5 more runs on RBI 1Bs from Manny Machado and Jake Cronenworth and a 2-run 2B from Tommy Pham and an RBI 2B from Jackson Merrill. San Diego has moved into a strong spot for the playoff push while the Reds are stuck in the cellar.

GAME #23 — STL 0 @ LAD 4

Yoshinobu Yamamoto pitched a brilliant 8 shutout innings, giving up only 3 hits and 1 walk while Miles Mikolas was equally good until the 7th when Mookie Betts broke the scoreless tie with a 3-run 2B, and in the 8th Will Smith added an RBI 1B to secure the home win.

GAME #24 — STL 11 @ LAD 8

The St. Louis Cardinals came back in a big way, scoring 4 runs in the 1st on an RBI 1B from Albert Pujols and a 3-run HR from Matt Carpenter. Mookie Betts hit a 2-run HR in the bottom of the 1st and Freddie Freeman hit a 3-run HR in the 3rd giving the Dodgers the lead. St. Louis tied the game in the 4th on an RBI 2B from Lars Nootbaar, and then in the 5th Albert Pujols hit a solo HR and Tyler O'Neill hit a 3-run HR making it 9-5. Pujols and Brendan Donovan hit RBI 1Bs in the 6th and 7th, but in the bottom of the 8th Mookie Betts hit a solo HR and Joc Pederson and Gavin Lux hit RBI 1Bs, but it was not enough to stop the Cardinals as they secured the road split.

GAME #23 — SFG 1 @ PIT 7

The Giants are struggling and have fallen out of 1st place and are now in danger of falling in the wild-card race, having now lost 8 of 10. Logan Webb gave up 5 runs in 5 innings while Mitch Keller only gave up an RBI to LaMonte Wade over 7 strong innings. Andy Van Slyke started it with an RBI 2B in the 3rd, Charlie Hayes had an RBI in the 4th, Oneil Cruz hit a 2-run 3B and scored on an RBI 1B from Nick Gonzales. Bryan Reynolds hit a 2-run HR in the 6th and the rout was on.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 6 • PANIK 3-RUN TRIPLE • LONGORIA SOLO HR • GIANTS WIN 5-3

GAME #24 — SFG 5 @ PIT 3

The Giants secured a win they very much needed as a loss would have suddenly put them in 4th place in the division they were recently leading. Joe Panik hit a bases-loaded 3-run 3B in the 2nd and Will Clark and Evan Longoria hit solo HRs in the 5th and 7th, supporting a strong 6 innings from Jeff Samardzija, who only gave up an RBI 2B to Willie Stargell. Endy Rodriguez and Bryan Reynolds added RBIs to make it close, but Camilo Doval shut the door and the Giants secured the win and the road split.

MLBC — WEEK 7

GAMES 25-28 • TWELVE TO GO

NOBODY GETS A CLEAN WEEK

The leaders trade blows, Kansas City reaches first place, and not one club escapes the four-game block unbeaten.

THE LEAD New York entered Week 7 at 20-4, Houston at 16-8 and Atlanta, the Yankees and Seattle at 15-9. The top belonged to the Mets. Everything beneath them looked temporary. Chicago and Kansas City shared the Central, Los Angeles and San Diego shared the NL West, and Arizona and San Francisco remained within one sharp week of joining that race. The Giants entered having lost eight of ten, turning a division lead into a fight to stay alive in the playoff race. Twelve games would remain when this four-game block ended.

THE WEEK For the first time all season, nobody went 4-0. The Mets split and still reached 22-6. Atlanta and Houston moved to 18-10, while Kansas City climbed to 17-11 and took the AL Central lead after winning thirteen of seventeen following its poor opening. Bobby Witt Jr. had become more than the face of the recovery; he had become part of the league's MVP conversation. Toronto stayed alive with a road sweep of Seattle, Roberto Alomar helping drive a champion that refused to disappear quietly. Mookie Betts authored the loudest individual game, going 4-for-5 with two HR, a 2-run triple and five RBI. Luis Arraez went 5-for-5 with four doubles. Wilyer Abreu supplied Boston's most dramatic swing, a 12th-inning Grand Slam in an 8-4 road win at Seattle. Joe Musgrove carried a 1-hit shutout into the 9th against the Yankees. With no perfect club, every split mattered more.

THE STAKES The Mets remain miles ahead at 22-6. Atlanta and Houston are 18-10. Kansas City, Los Angeles, the Yankees and San Diego sit 17-11. Chicago and Cleveland are one game behind the Royals. The AL Central has become a true three-team sprint. Arizona and San Francisco remain close enough in the NL West that one strong series could still change the race. Twelve games remain. Week 8 sends Boston to Atlanta, Seattle into Cleveland and San Diego into Dodger Stadium, while Toronto and Texas both try to save seasons that have narrowed dangerously. The leaders are no longer trying to identify themselves. They are trying to protect what they have while the clubs behind them begin treating ordinary series like elimination rounds.

BEST RECORD
NYM • 22-6

NO PERFECTS
0 clubs • 4-0

AL CENTRAL
KCR • 17-11

NL WEST
LAD / SDP • 17-11

WEEKLY HONORS

HITTER OF THE WEEK

GOLD MOOKIE BETTS • LAD

2 HR • 2-run 3B • 5 RBI

SILVER LUIS ARRAEZ • MIA

5-for-5 • 4 2B • 3 RBI

BRONZE WILYER ABREU • BOS

12th-inning go-ahead Grand Slam

PITCHER OF THE WEEK

GOLD JOE MUSGROVE • HOU

1-hit shutout into 9th

SILVER JACOB deGROM • NYM

8 scoreless IP

BRONZE JARED JONES • PIT

8 scoreless IP • 3 H • 1 BB

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • MARINERS WIN 5-4 • BAL HOME WIN 2-1 • HOU ROAD WIN 13-5

ROUND #13

GAME #25 — HOU 1 @ BAL 2

The top-seeded Astros traveled to Baltimore and kept the O's shut out until the 9th inning behind a strong start from Justin Verlander. Kyle Bradish only gave up an RBI 2B to Yordan Alvarez and the Astros took the 1-0 lead to the bottom of the 9th. In the bottom of the 9th, the O's put 2 runners on base, Eddie Murray tied the game with an RBI 1B, and then the O's walked it off on a wild pitch from Ryan Pressly.

GAME #26 — HOU 13 @ BAL 5

The O's took an early lead on an RBI 2B from Anthony Santander, but it did not last as the Astros unloaded for 13 runs from a barrage of HRs. Alex Bregman hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd, and in the 5th Jake Meyers hit a 3B and scored on an RBI sacrifice from Bregman, Jeff Bagwell hit a 2-run HR, and Yordan Alvarez and Kyle Tucker followed as the Astros went back-to-back-to-back with HRs and it was 7-1. Adley Rutschman hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 5th, but Yainer Diaz hit a 2-run HR in the top of the 6th. The O's fought back in the bottom of the 6th on RBIs from Ryan Mountcastle, Cal Ripken Jr, and Cedric Mullins making it 9-5. In the top of the 9th, the Astros topped it off with an RBI from Jeremy Pena and then a 3-run 2B from Yainer Diaz, giving the road team the split.

GAME #25 — TEX 2 @ NYY 7

The 1st-place Yankees scored first on a solo HR from Aaron Judge in the bottom of the 1st, but Rougned Odor and Marcus Semien hit RBI 1Bs off of Gerrit Cole in the 2nd, but that was all the Rangers would get. Judge tied the game in the 3rd on an RBI 1B and Brett Gardner added an RBI in the 4th to take the lead. Gleyber Torres hit a 2-run HR in the 6th, and DJ LeMahieu and Jorge Posada added RBIs in the 7th to cap the easy win at home.

GAME #26 — TEX 5 @ NYY 0

Texas fought back in the second game to remain on the fringes of the race behind a strong performance from Jeffrey Springs, who took a shutout into the 8th. Leody Taveras started the game with a 3B and scored on an RBI sacrifice from Marcus Semien in the 1st, and in the 3rd Adolis Garcia hit a solo HR and Wyatt Langford hit a 2-run HR to make it 4-0. Isiah Kiner-Falefa hit an RBI 1B in the 7th and the Rangers left New York with the split.

GAME #25 — BOS 4 @ SEA 5

The Red Sox need some wins to get into the playoffs and it started well enough as Jarren Duran hit a 2-run 1B and Rafael Devers hit an RBI 1B in the 3-run 1st. Ken Griffey Jr hit a solo HR in the bottom half of the 1st, but Wade Boggs hit an RBI 1B in the 4th making it 4-1. In the bottom of the 6th, Edgar Martinez hit a solo HR, and in the 8th Martinez and Mitch Haniger hit RBI 2Bs to tie the game. In the bottom of the 9th, Griffey hit a walk-off RBI 1B to give the M's a comeback win, putting the Red Sox under .500.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • BLUE JAYS WIN 6-5 • BOS ROAD WIN 8-4 • DET ROAD WIN 7-6

GAME #26 — BOS 8 @ SEA 4

The Red Sox struck first again as David Ortiz hit a solo HR in the 2nd and Masataka Yoshida hit an RBI 2B in the 3rd, but Ken Griffey Jr hit an RBI 2B in the 4th and Robinson Cano hit a 2-run HR to take the lead 3-2. In the top of the 7th, Dustin Pedroia hit a 2-run 2B to take a 4-3 lead, but in the bottom of the 8th Cano hit another HR tying the game 4-4. The game went to the 12th when the Red Sox loaded the bases and then rookie Wilyer Abreu hit a Grand Slam HR to win the game and give the Red Sox a much-needed split as they stayed firmly in the race.

GAME #25 — DET 5 @ TOR 6

The Tigers and the Blue Jays met in Toronto with both teams having little time to get on a streak to get in the race. The champion Blue Jays struck first with 3 runs in the 2nd on a 2-run 1B from Roberto Alomar and an RBI 1B from George Springer. The Tigers tied the game in the 4th on a 2-run HR from Miguel Cabrera and an RBI 3B from Ian Kinsler, but in the bottom half of the 4th Alomar hit a 2-run HR. The Tigers got a run back in the 5th on a solo HR from Mickey Tettleton and then they tied the game in the 8th on a solo HR from Cecil Fielder. In the bottom of the 10th, the Blue Jays got the win they desperately needed when Alomar hit a walk-off RBI 1B, his 5th of the game.

GAME #26 — DET 7 @ TOR 6

The Blue Jays had a chance to get back to the fringe, but they couldn't stop the Tigers. Toronto scored first on a solo HR from Jose Bautista and then made it 2-0 on an RBI from Vladimir Guerrero Jr, but then the Tigers responded. Kerry Carpenter hit a 2-run 1B and Ian Kinsler hit an RBI 1B in the 4th and in the 6th Cecil Fielder hit a solo HR, Isaac Paredes hit an RBI 1B, and Riley Greene hit a 2-run 3B making it 7-2. In the bottom of the 6th, Guerrero hit a solo HR, and in the 7th Bo Bichette hit a 3-run 2B making it 7-6, but that was all the Blue Jays would score as the Tigers got the road split, keeping their season on the brink while pushing the champions to the brink.

GAME #25 — OAK 3 @ KCR 8

The A's came into Kansas City needing to make a move if they want to stay in the race. Mark McGwire hit RBI 1Bs in the 1st and 3rd innings, while Salvador Perez hit an RBI 1B in the 1st and the 2-1 game went to the 6th. In the bottom of the 6th, Bo Jackson hit an RBI 1B, Whit Merrifield hit a 2-run 1B, and George Brett added an RBI and the game was 5-2. Seth Brown hit an RBI 2B to make it 5-3 in the 8th, but in the bottom half Jorge Soler hit a 3-run 2B to put the game out of reach. Zack Greinke pitched well over 7 innings to get the win.

GAME #26 — OAK 5 @ KCR 7

The A's have fallen out of the race while the Royals are now the surprise of the league and are sitting in 1st place and comfortably in a playoff spot, now having won 14 of 17 games. Jorge Soler hit a Grand Slam HR in the bottom of the 1st and Whit Merrifield hit a solo HR in the 2nd to make it 5-0. Merrifield hit an RBI 3B in the 4th and scored on an RBI 1B from Bobby Witt Jr and the game was 7-0 behind Yordano Ventura, who didn't give up a run until a 2-run HR from Khris Davis. Tyler Soderstrom hit a solo HR in the 7th and Darell Hernaiz hit a 2-run 1B in the 8th, but that rally stalled and the Royals got the home sweep as they look to keep this run going.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • ANGELS WIN 2-1 • CLEVELAND WIN 2-1 • WHITE SOX WIN 16-3

GAME #25 — CHW 1 @ LAA 2

Shohei Ohtani faced Garrett Crochet and outdueled his counterpart only giving up an RBI sacrifice to Eloy Jimenez in the top of the 1st. Crochet gave up an RBI 2B to Taylor Ward in the bottom of the 1st and a solo HR to Mike Trout in the 3rd, and that was all the Angels would need as they secured a home win.

GAME #26 — CHW 16 @ LAA 3

The White Sox have fallen behind the surging Royals with a 16-run outburst. Luis Robert led the way amassing 8 RBIs on a 2-run HR, an RBI 2B, a Grand Slam HR, and an RBI sacrifice. Frank Thomas went 2-5 with a 2B and HR, Edgar Quero hit a 2-run 2B, Eloy Jimenez hit a 2-run 1B, and Andrew Benintendi and Jose Abreu hit RBI 1Bs in the massive blowout. Jared Walsh hit a 2-run HR and Anthony Rendon hit an RBI 1B in the loss. Dylan Cease pitched well in the win.

GAME #25 — MIA 3 @ TBR 2

The Marlins picked up a win against their rivals as Tyler Glasnow imploded in the 2nd inning, giving up 2 1Bs and 4 BBs and giving Miami all the runs they would need. Josh Lowe hit a solo HR in the 1st and Mike Zunino hit a solo HR in the 7th, but it was not enough to overcome the strong performance from Jose Fernandez. Rookie Liam Hicks hit an RBI 1B to lead the way for the road team.

GAME #26 — MIA 2 @ TBR 8

Miami took another early lead on an RBI 2B from Liam Hicks and an RBI 1B from Bryan De La Cruz, but in the bottom half of the 2nd Mike Zunino hit an RBI 2B and in the 3rd Randy Arozarena hit a 3-run HR to make it 4-2. In the 5th, Austin Meadows hit an RBI 1B and Brandon Lowe hit a 2-run HR to make it 7-2, and in the 7th Yandy Diaz capped the win with a solo HR. Shane Bieber pitched well in the win, giving the home team the split.

GAME #25 — CIN 1 @ CLE 2

The Reds are mired in a miserable season, but they scored first against their rivals on a wild pitch from Shane Bieber; however, that was all the Reds would get. Yan Gomes hit a solo HR in the 3rd to tie the game, and Jim Thome hit an RBI 1B to take the lead in the 6th. That was all that Cleveland would need to get a home win.

GAME #26 — CIN 1 @ CLE 4

Cleveland scored in the bottom of the 1st on a 2-run 2B from Tyler Naquin, giving Corey Kluber a lead he would not give up. Kluber only gave up a solo HR to Elly De La Cruz over 8 strong innings. Andres Gimenez hit a 2-run HR in the 4th and the slumping Reds' offense never responded as the Guardians secured a home sweep, keeping pace with the surging Royals. Cleveland swept the rivalry series with the Reds 4-0.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • ARI ROAD WIN 3-2 • MIL HOME WIN 14-2 • MIL HOME WIN 7-3

GAME #25 — MIN 2 @ MIL 14

The Brewers have struggled all season, but because the NL Central teams are all simultaneously slumping and all below .500, the Brewers still have a chance to make a move in a season they expected to contend. Rowdy Tellez hit an RBI 1B in the 1st, and William Contreras hit a 2-run 2B in the 1st, Carlos Correa hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd, but the Brewers unloaded in the 5th. Kolton Wong hit a solo HR, Rowdy Tellez hit a Grand Slam HR, and Willy Adames hit a 2-run HR and the Brewers had an 11-2 lead. Christian Yelich and Contreras hit RBI 1Bs in the 6th and Robin Yount added an RBI 2B in the 7th to complete the 14-2 rout behind Corbin Burnes.

GAME #26 — MIN 3 @ MIL 7

The Brewers are making their move. Nelson Cruz had an RBI in the 1st and Joe Mauer hit a 2-run 1B in the 2nd, but that was all the Twins would get. Christian Yelich hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd, and then Ryan Braun went back-to-back with a solo HR, and in the 4th Jackson Chourio hit an RBI 2B and Ryan Braun hit a 3-run HR to make it 7-3. The bullpen held and the Brewers secured a huge home sweep as they move to the top of the NL Central. Brandon Woodruff pitched well after the 2nd inning to get the win.

GAME #25 — SDP 3 @ WSH 2

Yu Darvish and Stephen Strasburg took a scoreless matchup to the 5th when Trent Grisham hit an RBI 2B and scored on an RBI 1B from Jackson Merrill. Eric Hosmer hit an RBI 1B in the 6th and the game was 3-0. Andres Munoz gave up a 2-run HR to Luis Garcia in the bottom of the 9th, but it was not enough to stop the surging Padres.

GAME #26 — SDP 3 @ WSH 2

Jackson Merrill hit a solo HR to lead off the game, Jake Cronenworth hit an RBI 2B, and Eric Hosmer added an RBI in the 4th and the Padres had another 3-0 lead. Blake Snell only gave up an RBI 1B to Jayson Werth and Munoz gave up another run on an RBI 1B to Dylan Crews, but he still got the save to give the Padres a road sweep and their 9th win in 10 games as they surge to the top of the NL West all but securing a playoff run. Meanwhile, the Nationals have fallen off the fringe and soon will look toward next season.

GAME #25 — ARI 0 @ NYM 2

The Mets keep on winning, even against the likewise red-hot Diamondbacks. Jacob deGrom was his usual brilliant self, pitching 8 shutout innings before giving the ball to Edwin Diaz to shut the door. Francisco Lindor led off the bottom half of the 1st with a 2B off of Zac Gallen and scored on a Mike Piazza RBI 2B. Darryl Strawberry added a solo HR in the 6th and that was all the Mets would need to move to an improbable 21-4.

GAME #26 — ARI 3 @ NYM 2

The Diamondbacks proved they are serious contenders as they took down the Mets at home. Merrill Kelly and Max Scherzer took a shutout into the 6th when Jake McCarthy hit an RBI 3B and scored on an RBI 1B from AJ Pollock taking a 2-0 lead. In the bottom of the 6th, Francisco Lindor hit an RBI 2B, and in the 7th Gary Carter tied the game with a solo HR. In the 8th, Eric Chavez took advantage of the moment and hit a solo HR that would win the game, giving the road team an impressive split as they position themselves for a late playoff push.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • DODGERS WIN 17-7 • PHILLIES WIN 6-2 • PHILLIES HOME WIN

GAME #25 — ATL 6 @ COL 5

The Braves scored first in Colorado on a 2-run 1B from Ozzie Albies in the 1st and a 2-run 2B from Matt Olson in the 2nd. Spencer Strider gave up an RBI 1B to Trevor Story in the 3rd, but that was all he would surrender over his 6 innings. Andres Galarraga hit an RBI 2B in the 8th, but Marcell Ozuna hit a 2-run HR to make it 6-2. In the bottom of the 9th the Rockies mounted a comeback with a 3-run HR from Troy Tulowitzki, but that was all they would get as they fell 1 run short.

GAME #26 — ATL 8 @ COL 3

The Braves have all but locked up a playoff spot with a road sweep, putting them at 17-9 and potentially on a collision course with the juggernaut Mets. Austin Riley hit a solo HR in the 2nd and Marcell Ozuna hit a 3-run HR in the 3rd making it 4-0. RBI 1Bs from Kris Bryant in the 3rd and Michael Cuddyer in the 4th made it 4-2, and a solo HR from Trevor Story in the 5th made it 4-3, but that was all the Rockies would get against Max Fried. Ronald Acuna hit an RBI 1B and Chipper Jones hit a 2-run 1B in the 6th, and Travis d'Arnaud hit a solo HR in the 8th to cap the win and the sweep.

GAME #25 — PIT 1 @ PHI 2

Zack Wheeler and Paul Skenes engaged in a fantastic pitching duel both taking shutouts into the 8th. In the bottom of the 8th, Chase Utley hit a 2-run HR, which proved decisive as Andy Van Slyke hit a solo HR in the top of the 9th. Jeff Hoffman shut the door and the Phillies got a home win against their rivals.

GAME #26 — PIT 2 @ PHI 6

Aaron Nola almost matched Wheeler's excellent start pitching 7 shutout innings. JT Realmuto hit a 2-run 3B and scored on an RBI 1B from Bryson Stott in the 2nd, and Ryan Howard hit a 3-run HR in the 7th to lead the Phillies to the home sweep. Roberto Clemente and Andrew McCutchen hit RBI 1Bs late in the loss.

GAME #25 — CHC 7 @ LAD 17

The Cubs are reeling and gave up an onslaught to the Dodgers. Trea Turner hit a 2-run 1B, Mookie Betts went 4-5 with 2 solo HRs, a 2-run 3B, and an RBI 1B, Freddie Freeman hit an RBI 1B, Justin Turner hit a 3-run HR, and Max Muncy hit a solo HR. Will Smith added a 3-run HR and Enrique Hernandez hit a 2-run HR in the offensive explosion. In the loss Cody Bellinger, Seiya Suzuki, and Matt Shaw hit RBI 1Bs, Nico Hoerner hit an RBI 2B, Jason Heyward added an RBI, and Anthony Rizzo hit a 2-run HR. Clayton Kershaw gave up 3 runs over 6 innings in a blow to his Cy Young chances.

GAME #26 — CHC 6 @ LAD 4

The Cubs rebounded in the second game avoiding falling even further behind in the winnable NL Central. Willson Contreras hit an RBI sacrifice in the 4th but in the bottom half Freddie Freeman hit an RBI 2B and scored on an RBI 1B from Justin Turner. The Cubs took the lead in the 6th on back-to-back solo HRs from Ian Happ and Cody Bellinger, but in the bottom half Freeman hit a 2-run HR to take the lead back. In the 7th, Matt Shaw hit a solo HR to tie the game. The 4-4 game went to the 12th when Ian Happ ended it with a 2-run HR. The Cubs secured the road split as Jose Quintana and Hector Rondon pitched 6 hitless innings of relief.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • CARDINALS WIN 6-2 • NATIONALS WIN 3-2 • ORIOLES WIN 4-3

GAME #25 — SFG 2 @ STL 6

The Giants need to find their offense before the season is lost. This marked the 10th time in 11 games they didn't exceed 3 runs. In 9 of those 11 games the Giants managed 2 or fewer runs, and this game was the same. Adam Wainwright struggled in the 2nd giving up RBIs to Mike Yastrzemski and LaMonte Wade while walking 3 in a row, but Wainwright didn't give up another run over his 7 strong innings. Carlos Rodon wasn't as good as he gave up 6 runs in 6 innings on an RBI 1B to Albert Pujols in the 1st, a 2-run HR to Paul Goldschmidt in the 3rd, and a 2-run 1B to Masyn Winn and an RBI to Tommy Edman. The Cardinals moved into a tie with the Brewers for 1st place in the struggling NL Central.

GAME #26 — SFG 1 @ STL 0

The Giants did not even meet their low 2-run threshold, but it didn't matter because Madison Bumgarner was brilliant only giving up 3 singles and 1 walk over 8 strong innings. Evan Longoria hit an RBI 1B in the 6th off of Jack Flaherty, and that was all the Giants would need as they are hanging around in the NL wild card race after having fallen from the top seed in the NL earlier in the season.

ROUND #14**GAME #27 — BAL 4 @ WSH 3**

The O's scored first in their rivalry matchup when Eddie Murray hit an RBI 1B in the top of the 1st off of Josiah Gray, but Luis Garcia hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd and Ryan Zimmerman hit a solo HR off of Tyler Wells in the 3rd to take a 2-1 lead. Anthony Santander hit a solo HR in the 4th to tie the game, but in the 5th Juan Soto hit an RBI 2B to take the lead back. In the 6th, Santander added another RBI and the 3-3 game went to the 10th when Gunnar Henderson won the game with a solo HR.

GAME #28 — BAL 2 @ WSH 3

Washington got the split in the second game taking the lead in the bottom of the 1st on RBI 1Bs from Josh Bell and Jayson Werth off of Grayson Rodriguez. Baltimore got one back in the 3rd on an RBI 1B from Gunnar Henderson off of Jordan Zimmermann, but in the bottom of the 3rd James Wood hit an RBI 1B making it 3-1. Baltimore made it close when the Washington bullpen gave up 4 BBs and an RBI to Anthony Santander, but the O's left the bases loaded and the Nationals got the home split.

GAME #27 — CLE 4 @ TBR 6

Michael Brantley hit an RBI 1B off of Shane Bieber in the 1st and Steven Kwan hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd and Cleveland had a 2-0 lead. In the 6th, a 2-run HR from Gabriel Arias made it 4-0, but in the bottom half Josh Lowe hit a 2-run 2B and Brandon Lowe hit a 2-run HR tying the game. The 4-4 game went to the 8th where Austin Meadows hit a 2-run 2B to win the game. The bullpen held and the Rays stayed barely alive in the wild-card race.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • BLUE JAYS WIN 1-0 • CLEVELAND WIN 8-5 • RANGERS WIN 5-4

GAME #28 — CLE 8 @ TBR 5

Cleveland took an early lead again on RBI 1Bs from Jim Thome and Josh Naylor, but in the bottom of the 3rd Austin Meadows hit an RBI 2B and Brandon Lowe hit a 3-run HR taking a 4-2 lead. In the 6th, Cleveland responded with a solo HR from Carlos Santana, a 2-run 1B from Josh Naylor, and an RBI 2B from Andres Gimenez taking a 6-4 lead. Randy Arozarena hit a solo HR in the 7th, but in the 9th Carlos Santana hit a 2-run HR to seal the win, giving the Guardians the road split.

GAME #27 — NYY 1 @ HOU 7

The top two AL teams faced off in a potential playoff matchup, and the first game went the way of the Astros. Yordan Alvarez hit a 2-run HR off of Luis Severino in the 1st inning and Yainer Diaz hit a 3-run HR in the 6th and then Diaz struck again in the 8th with a 2-run HR making it 7-0. Meanwhile, Joe Musgrove took a 1-hit shutout into the 9th. In the top of the 9th, Musgrove ran out of gas, walking 2 and giving up an RBI 2B to Hideki Matsui, but it was the only blemish in an otherwise stellar outing.

GAME #28 — NYY 8 @ HOU 2

The Yankees got their split as Don Mattingly hit an RBI 1B in the 1st and scored on a 3-run HR from Hideki Matsui making it 4-0. Yordan Alvarez had an RBI in the 1st, but the Astros couldn't get any more against Masahiro Tanaka. Aaron Judge hit a 2-run HR in the 6th, Derek Jeter hit an RBI 1B in the 8th, and then Matsui hit a solo HR in the 9th to cap the blowout win. Jeff Bagwell hit a solo HR late in the loss. Both teams will likely be the top 2 seeds in the AL and may meet again in the playoffs with the World Series on the line.

GAME #27 — TEX 5 @ BOS 4

The Rangers struck first with a 3-run HR from Adrian Beltre off of Tanner Houck in the top of the 1st. The Red Sox got one run back in the 3rd on an RBI 1B from Wade Boggs off of Mike Minor, but in the 4th Corey Seager hit an RBI 1B making it 5-1. In the bottom of the 7th, Masataka Yoshida hit a 3-run HR, but that was all the Red Sox would get as they fell below .500.

GAME #28 — TEX 2 @ BOS 9

Boston got the win they needed for the split when they unloaded for 6 runs off of Dane Dunning in the 3rd inning. Cedanne Rafaela hit an RBI 1B and then scored on a 3-run 3B from Wade Boggs, who scored on an RBI 1B from Masataka Yoshida. Jason Varitek added an RBI later in the inning as the Red Sox cruised to a win behind Eduardo Rodriguez, who only gave up a solo HR to Ivan Rodriguez. Josh Jung hit a solo HR in the loss as the Rangers fell back to the fringe. Willyer Abreu hit an RBI sacrifice and Rafaela hit a 2-run HR late in the win as the Red Sox moved back to .500 and stayed in the race, but they need wins before it's too late.

GAME #27 — TOR 1 @ SEA 0

The defending champion Blue Jays need to win and keep winning if they want any chance of making the playoffs to defend their title. Jose Bautista hit a solo HR off of George Kirby in the 2nd and that was all Hyun Jin Ryu would need as he stepped up and kept the M's off the scoreboard. The bullpen held and the Blue Jays got a big road win to keep their title defense alive.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • BLUE JAYS WIN 11-7 • TWINS WIN 12-7 • WHITE SOX WIN 2-1

GAME #28 — TOR 11 @ SEA 7

The Blue Jays are making their move, sweeping a strong team on the road and winning 4 of 5 just in time to make it count. Roberto Alomar is in the AL MVP race as he went 3-5 with a 2B, RBI, and 3 SB. George Springer hit a solo HR and a 2-run 2B, Bo Bichette hit 2 RBI 1Bs, Vladimir Guerrero Jr had an RBI 1B and an RBI 2B, while Teoscar Hernandez hit a 2-run 2B and a solo HR in the win. The M's competed until the 7th with solo HRs from Ken Griffey Jr, Mitch Haniger, Edgar Martinez, and Cal Raleigh. AL MVP candidate Robinson Cano hit a solo HR in the 7th, and Edwin Encarnacion and Haniger hit RBI 1Bs, but it was not enough to stop the surging Blue Jays.

GAME #27 — CHW 2 @ OAK 1

The White Sox have a chance to make a playoff run and they got an important road win as Lance Lynn pitched a strong 7 innings, only giving up an RBI 2B to Elvis Andrus in the 5th. Rookie Luis Morales was also excellent through 7 innings, but in the 8th Andrew Benintendi hit a solo HR to tie the game, and then in the 9th Luis Robert hit a solo HR off of dominant closer Mason Miller that won the game for Chicago, putting them close to a playoff spot.

GAME #28 — CHW 2 @ OAK 3

The A's have fallen out of the race, but they got a win back getting the home split. Elvis Andrus hit a 2-run 2B in the 2nd, but Jose Abreu and Eloy Jimenez had RBI in the 3rd to tie the game. The 2-2 game went to the bottom of the 8th when Andrus hit an RBI 1B to win the game. Elvis Andrus had all 4 of the RBIs in the series for the A's.

GAME #27 — MIN 12 @ LAA 7

The Twins took out their frustrations with their lost season on an Angels team that wouldn't give up. The Angels had won 7 of 10 to get to the fringe of the race, but the Twins wouldn't let them steal one. Carlos Correa hit a 2-run HR in the 4th, but Shohei Ohtani hit a 2B and scored on an RBI 2B from Taylor Ward in the bottom half. In the 5th, Kirby Puckett hit an RBI 2B and Correa hit an RBI 1B to make it 4-1, but in the bottom half Zach Neto hit a solo HR to make it 4-2. The Twins took the lead to the bottom of the 8th, but the Angels wouldn't give up their season quite yet. Ohtani hit another 2B and again scored on an RBI 2B from Taylor Ward, who scored on an RBI 1B from Jared Walsh, tying the game. The Twins wouldn't give up either and in the top of the 9th Kirby Puckett hit an RBI 2B to take the lead back, but again the desperate Angels came back with an RBI 1B from Shohei Ohtani. The 5-5 game went to the 10th where the Twins took the lead yet again on an RBI 3B from Torii Hunter, who scored on an RBI from Miguel Sano. In the bottom of the 10th the Angels fought back yet again with an RBI 1B from rookie Kyren Paris and an RBI sacrifice from Mike Trout. The Twins, however, proved how much they wanted the win with an outburst in the 11th as Correa hit a 2-run 2B to take the lead back, and then Hunter sealed it with a 3-run HR. The Angels didn't have a response as they fell to the relentless Twins.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • CARDINALS WIN 2-1 • MARLINS WIN 14-2 • DET ROAD WIN 3-2

GAME #28 — MIN 8 @ LAA 5

The Twins are making up for their miserable run with an offensive outburst as Byron Buxton hit a solo HR to open the game, Miguel Sano added an RBI 2B in the 2nd, and then in the 3rd Kirby Puckett hit a 2-run HR and Andrew Heaney imploded again with 2 more 1Bs and 3 BBs, including RBI BBs to Sano and Jorge Polanco. Mike Trout had hit a solo HR in the 1st and Logan O'Hoppe hit an RBI 1B afterward, but after 3 innings the Twins were up 6-2. Polanco hit a 2-run HR in the 5th and the Twins cruised behind Kyle Gibson. Taylor Ward added an RBI 1B, O'Hoppe hit a solo HR, and Mike Trout added an RBI 1B in the loss as the Angels couldn't fight all the way back in this one and gave up the sweep at home as they fell back to the bottom, while the Twins had already given up hope of a rousing playoff run.

GAME #27 — DET 3 @ PIT 2

Anibal Sanchez pitched well, only giving up an RBI 2B to Bryan Reynolds in the 3rd and an RBI sacrifice to Nick Gonzales after a Charlie Hayes 3B in the 7th, but that was all the Pirates would get. Mitch Keller gave up an RBI 1B to Kerry Carpenter and then a 2-run 2B to Ian Kinsler that ended up winning the game 3-2.

GAME #28 — DET 0 @ PIT 3

Jared Jones pitched a brilliant 8 shutout innings, only giving up 3 hits and 1 walk. Matt Manning had the best start of his career, pitching 6 shutout innings, only giving up 4 hits and 0 walks. In the 7th, Andrew McCutchen ended the scoreless tie with a solo HR, and then Nick Gonzales hit an RBI 2B making it 2-0. Willie Stargell hit an RBI 1B in the 8th to seal the 3-0 win.

GAME #27 — STL 2 @ KCR 1

The Cardinals faced their red-hot rivals and took a game off of them to keep them in the running for the NL Central. Miles Mikolas gave up a solo HR to George Brett in the 4th, but that was all he would give up over 7½ excellent innings. Meanwhile, Cole Ragans was just as excellent. Ragans gave up only a solo HR to Albert Pujols over 8 innings. Ragans only gave up another 1B and 1 walk while striking out 10, while Mikolas only gave up 3 hits and 1 walk. The 1-1 game went to the 9th when Pujols hit an RBI 1B to win the game, giving the Cardinals a big road win.

GAME #28 — STL 2 @ KCR 3

The Royals got a game back as Brady Singer was strong over 6 innings, only giving up a solo HR to Albert Pujols. Michael Wacha was good over 6 innings, but gave up a 2-run 1B to Bo Jackson in the 4th. In the 8th the Cardinals tied the game with a solo HR from Tyler O'Neill, but in the bottom of the 8th George Brett hit a solo HR to win the game for the Royals, giving them the home split.

GAME #27 — CIN 2 @ MIA 14

The Reds are reeling and the Marlins took advantage in Miami behind Livan Hernandez. Luis Arraez went 5-5 with 4 2Bs, 3 RBIs, and 4 runs scored to lead the way to the massive blowout win. Jesus Sanchez had an RBI 1B and a 2-run HR, Griffin Conine had an RBI 2B and an RBI 1B, Jazz Chisholm had an RBI 3B, Connor Norby and Ichiro Suzuki had RBI 2Bs, Liam Hicks had a 2-run 1B, and Xavier Edwards had an RBI 1B to complete the scoring.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • ATL HOME WIN 3-2 • MIA HOME WIN 10-9 • NYM ROAD WIN 4-2

GAME #28 — CIN 9 @ MIA 10

The Reds roared back, eager to end a five-game losing streak as Joey Votto hit a solo HR and Todd Frazier hit a 3-run HR, giving the road team a 4-0 lead in the 1st. The Reds have only exceeded 4 runs in 2 of the last 15 games and were looking to break out, but the Marlins stormed back in the bottom of the 2nd as Bryan De La Cruz, Connor Norby, and Ichiro Suzuki all had RBI 1Bs, and Xavier Edwards hit a 3-run HR to cap a 6-run inning, taking the lead. Cincinnati got a run back in the 3rd on a solo HR from Spencer Steer, but gave back the run in the bottom of the 4th on another RBI 1B from Ichiro Suzuki. Miami added another run in the 5th on an RBI 1B from Norby, but the Reds came back with a 2-run HR from Jonathan India in the 6th making it 8-7. The Reds took the lead in the 7th on an RBI 2B from Nick Castellanos and an RBI sacrifice from Adam Duvall, but again the Marlins came back, tying the game in the 8th on a solo HR from Jazz Chisholm, and then in the bottom of the 9th, with the game tied 9-9, Luis Arraez walked it off with an RBI 1B to give the Marlins the home sweep. Over the course of the 2 games Miami set a new mark for scoring with 24 runs and 37 hits. The Reds are 1-15 in their last 16 games.

GAME #27 — NYM 2 @ SDP 5

The surging Padres have taken over the NL West and now they have taken down the juggernaut Mets while winning their 7th in a row. Eric Hosmer hit an RBI 1B off of Noah Syndergaard in the 2nd, but Jeff McNeil hit a 2-run HR off of Michael King making it 2-1. In the bottom of the 7th, the Padres came back with a 2-run 2B from Trent Grisham, and then in the 8th Fernando Tatis Jr hit a 2-run HR to seal the win.

GAME #28 — NYM 4 @ SDP 2

The Mets got the win back and snapped the Padres' winning streak behind a strong start from Kodai Senga, who only gave up a 2-run HR to Fernando Tatis Jr in the bottom of the 1st. In the 3rd the Mets scored on a solo HR from David Wright, and in the 5th they tied the game on an RBI from Mike Piazza. The 2-2 game went to the 8th where Dominic Smith hit a 2-run HR to win the game. This could well be a preview of a playoff matchup as both teams have title aspirations.

GAME #27 — ARI 2 @ ATL 3

The Braves are moving toward securing the top wild-card spot and took care of the upstart Arizona Diamondbacks, who have moved into contention. Matt Olson hit an RBI 2B off of Brandon Pfaadt in the bottom of the 1st, but Arizona tied the game with a Pavin Smith RBI in the 4th off of Charlie Morton. Chipper Jones gave the Braves the lead in the 6th with a solo HR and then Travis d'Arnaud added an RBI in the 7th. Ketel Marte hit an RBI 1B in the 9th, but it was not enough as the Diamondbacks fell on the road.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • D-BACKS WIN 17-7 • PHILLIES WIN 12-3 • COL HOME WIN 5-2

GAME #28 — ARI 17 @ ATL 7

The Diamondbacks roared back with an epic outburst scoring multiple runs in 7 of the 9 innings. Ryne Nelson pitched a strong 6 innings, only giving up 4 hits and 0 walks, although a 2-run 3B and a solo HR from Michael Harris were 2 of the 4 hits. Harris added a 2-run HR in the 7th and in the 8th Matt Olson and Marcell Ozuna went back-to-back with solo HRs, giving Atlanta an impressive 7 runs, which only kept them from losing by more than 10. Corbin Carroll went 3-5 with a 3-run HR, 4 RBI, and 2 SB, Ketel Marte went 3-4 with a 2B and 2 RBI, Eric Chavez hit a 2-run HR, Christian Walker hit a 2-run 3B, Jake McCarthy had an RBI 1B, AJ Pollock hit a 3-run 2B, Pavin Smith had an RBI 2B, Gabriel Moreno had an RBI 1B, and Geraldo Perdomo added an RBI 3B to cap a game where every Diamondback had an RBI.

GAME #27 — PHI 12 @ COL 3

The Phillies have a chance to move up in the playoff race and they blew out the Rockies behind a stellar start from Cole Hamels who took a 1-hit shutout into the 7th. Hamels only gave up 1 lone 1B and 0 BBs, but in the 7th gave up 3 hits, including an RBI 1B to Kris Bryant. Trevor Story hit a 2-run 2B later in the loss. Philadelphia started early with a 2-run 2B from John Kruk in the 1st and then 2-run HRs from Scott Rolen and Kyle Schwarber and an RBI 1B from Bryson Stott in the 3rd making it 7-0. Ryan Howard hit a 2-run HR in the 6th, and Scott Rolen hit another HR, going back-to-back. Bryce Harper hit a solo HR in the 8th and JT Realmuto followed with an RBI sacrifice to cap the 12-run outburst.

GAME #28 — PHI 2 @ COL 5

The Phillies let a chance to move up slip by as the Rockies rallied for the win and split. Ryan Howard and John Kruk hit RBI 1Bs in the 1st, but Kris Bryant hit a solo HR in the 4th, and Wilin Rosario hit a 2-run HR and Troy Tulowitzki hit a 2-run 1B in the 4-run 5th, and the Rockies had a 5-2 lead that Antonio Senzatela and the bullpen would hold.

GAME #27 — MIL 5 @ LAD 6

The Brewers had a chance to make a move in the weak NL Central, but they were facing the Dodgers in LA. The game started well with a solo HR from Christian Yelich in the top of the 1st, but Justin Turner hit a solo HR in the 2nd to tie the game. Yelich hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd and Kolton Wong hit an RBI 1B in the 4th and the game was 3-1. Milwaukee made it 5-1 in the 5th on a 2-run HR from Ryan Braun and the game was looking good for the road team. In the bottom of the 5th, the Dodgers began their comeback with an RBI 1B from Trea Turner, and then in the 7th Turner hit an RBI 3B and scored on a 2-run 2B from Freddie Freeman that tied the game, and then Justin Turner gave the home team the lead with an RBI 2B, completing the 4-run inning. The bullpen held and LA got a comeback win to strengthen their playoff position.

GAME #28 — MIL 2 @ LAD 3

The Dodgers look like they will compete for the World Series this year as they completed another comeback. Robin Yount hit an RBI 1B and Rowdy Tellez hit an RBI 2B in the 1st as Milwaukee took a 2-0 lead determined to get the split. Dustin May settled down after that and didn't give up another run while Chad Patrick had a stellar outing only giving up an RBI to Joc Pederson over 7 strong innings. Milwaukee took their slim 2-1 lead to the bottom of the 9th, but dominant closer Josh Hader gave up a 1B to Freddie Freeman, and then Justin Turner hit a walk-off 2-run HR in dramatic fashion, giving the home team the sweep, putting them into a tie with the San Diego Padres.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 7 • BART HITS 2-RUN HR • GIANTS WIN 7-3 • CUBS ANSWER 5-3

GAME #27 — CHC 3 @ SFG 7

The Cubs scored first in a series both teams needed wins to get going in the race on an RBI 1B from Anthony Rizzo. Joey Bart took the lead for the Giants in the 2nd with a 2-run HR, and then in the bottom of the 6th the Giants put the game out of reach with a 5-run outburst on a 2-run 1B from Bart, an RBI 2B from Mike Yastrzemski, and an RBI 1B from Will Clark. Logan Webb only gave up 3 hits and 1 run over 7 strong innings to get the win.

GAME #28 — CHC 5 @ SFG 3

The Cubs got their split, keeping them alive in the weak NL Central while the Giants fell back into a tie with the Diamondbacks. Anthony Rizzo hit an RBI 2B and scored on a Seiya Suzuki RBI 1B in the 1st, Jason Heyward hit a solo HR in the 2nd, and Heyward added an RBI 1B in the 3rd to make it 4-0. Wilmer Flores hit a solo HR in the 4th, and Joey Bart hit a solo HR in the 5th to make it 4-2. Evan Longoria made it 4-3 with an RBI 1B in the 6th, but that was all the Giants would get as they fell at home and gave up the split. Rizzo added an RBI 1B in the 9th to seal the win as the bullpen held. Shota Imanaga was strong over 7 innings to get the win.

MLBC — WEEK 8

GAMES 29-32 • EIGHT TO GO

BOSTON CRASHES THE EAST

The Red Sox go 4-0, Kansas City holds the Central, and the final eight games arrive with almost every race alive.

THE LEAD Twelve games remained with the Mets at 22-6 and nearly every meaningful race underneath them unsettled. Kansas City had taken the AL Central. Los Angeles and San Diego shared the NL West. The Yankees led the East, but Baltimore and Boston remained close enough for one four-game surge to turn a chase into a tie. Toronto had just swept Seattle to keep its title defense alive, making Boston's trip north a direct collision between two clubs fighting for the same shrinking ground. Houston and Seattle still had unfinished business, while Arizona and San Francisco remained close enough to stay alive.

THE WEEK Boston produced exactly the week it needed. The Red Sox swept Atlanta and then Toronto, went 4-0 and reached 18-14, pulling even with New York atop the AL East. Detroit created its own late-season jolt by sweeping the Yankees, with Tarik Skubal throwing a brilliant 3-hit, 15-strikeout complete-game shutout opposite Gerrit Cole before Casey Mize finished the two-game statement. Cincinnati also went 4-0 after spending much of the season buried. Kansas City reached 20-12 and kept its Central lead; Houston joined the Royals at 20-12. The Mets reached 24-8 even while dropping conspicuous games to Miami and Pittsburgh, one more reminder that their record no longer required perfection. In the NL West, Los Angeles and San Diego split two games in which every run came via the HR, a fittingly blunt exchange between clubs still tied at 19-13. Shohei Ohtani hit three HR and drove in six; Fernando Tatis Jr. matched the three-HR week.

THE STAKES Eight games remain. Boston and New York are tied in the AL East. Kansas City leads Cleveland by one. Houston leads Seattle by two. Los Angeles and San Diego remain dead even, with Arizona and San Francisco still close enough to matter. The Mets have essentially turned the top seed into a formality; everybody else is playing for position, survival and home field simultaneously. Week 9 sends Kansas City into Yankee Stadium, the Angels to Seattle, Atlanta to Miami and St. Louis into New York before the schedule turns toward rivalry-heavy second series. The standings are no longer forming. They are beginning to close doors.

AL EAST BOS / NYY • 18-14	PERFECT WEEK BOS / CIN • 4-0	AL CENTRAL KCR • 20-12	NL WEST LAD / SDP • 19-13
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WEEKLY HONORS

HITTER OF THE WEEK GOLD SHOHEI OHTANI • LAA 3 HR • 6 RBI SILVER FERNANDO TATIS JR. • SDP 3 HR • 5 RBI BRONZE YASMANI GRANDAL • CHW 6-for-8 • 3 HR • 4 RBI	PITCHER OF THE WEEK GOLD TARIK SKUBAL • DET CG SHO • 3 H • 1 BB • 15 K SILVER GEORGE KIRBY • SEA CG SHO • 3 H • 0 BB BRONZE LUIS CASTILLO • CIN CG SHO • 4 H • 9 K
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MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • BAL HOME WIN 8-7 • KCR HOME WIN 4-1 • LAA ROAD WIN 12-5

ROUND #15

GAME #29 — LAA 12 @ BAL 5

The Angels made one last gasp to keep their season alive, knowing they would need to win out. They scored 6 runs in the 2nd on RBI 1Bs from Shohei Ohtani and Taylor Ward, an RBI BB from Mike Trout, and a 3-run 2B from Jo Adell. Zach Neto hit a 2-run HR in the 5th, Anthony Rendon hit a 2-run HR in the 6th, and Shohei Ohtani and Mike Trout went back-to-back with solo HRs in the blowout win. Anthony Santander hit 2 solo HRs and an RBI 1B, and Trey Mancini hit a 2-run 1B in the loss. Shohei Ohtani struggled on the mound, but the offense gave him the win.

GAME #30 — LAA 7 @ BAL 8

The Orioles fought back in the second game to get the split starting with an RBI 2B from Cedric Mullins, an RBI sacrifice from Adley Rutschman, and a 3-run HR from Adam Jones. Logan O'Hoppe hit a 2-run HR in the 4th, but Jordan Westburg hit an RBI sacrifice in the bottom half. Mike Trout hit a 2-run 2B in the 5th, but Anthony Santander hit a solo HR in the bottom half to make it 7-4. The Angels kept fighting with a solo HR from O'Hoppe and an RBI 2B from Shohei Ohtani in the 6th making it 7-6, and then in the top of the 8th Ohtani hit a solo HR to tie the game. But the comeback was not to be as Gunnar Henderson hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 8th that would win the game as Zack Britton shut the door for the save, all but ending the Angels' season while keeping the Orioles in the hunt.

GAME #29 — TBR 1 @ KCR 4

The Tampa Bay Rays came into Kansas City clinging to a thread of hope that a winning streak could keep them alive, but it was not to be as Zack Greinke only gave up 4 hits and 1 run on an RBI 1B to Josh Lowe over 7 strong innings. Jorge Soler hit a solo HR in the 2nd and Bo Jackson hit a 2-run HR after. George Brett added an RBI 1B in the 5th and that was all the Royals would need to keep on winning.

GAME #30 — TBR 2 @ KCR 6

The Royals have become the great surprise of the season. After starting 2-7, they have gone 17-4 to surge to the top of the division, all but securing a playoff spot in a rise no one saw coming. Austin Meadows gave the Rays hope with a 2-run HR in the 3rd, but Alex Gordon hit an RBI 1B in the bottom half, and then Gordon hit a 2-run HR in the 5th and Salvador Perez went back-to-back with a solo HR to make it 4-2. Hunter Dozier and Bo Jackson added RBI 1Bs in the 8th to cap the win and the sweep as the Royals look ahead toward the playoffs. Yordano Ventura pitched a strong 7 innings to get the win.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • BLUE JAYS WIN 3-2 • BLUE JAYS WIN 4-0 • TIGERS HOME WIN

GAME #29 — NYY 0 @ DET 8

New York came into Detroit expecting to keep rolling toward a division title and a back-to-back AL Cy Young Award for ace Gerrit Cole while the Tigers have been able to keep their season on life support. Tarik Skubal took the ball for the home team and was exceptional, giving up 2 singles in the 3rd, but nothing else until the 9th. Cole was strong, but in the 5th had the worst inning of his season. Over the whole season, Cole had surrendered 8 runs, and in the nightmare 5th in Detroit, Cole gave up a staggering 6 runs as he loaded the bases, walked in a run, giving Mickey Tettleton an RBI, gave up an RBI 1B to Miguel Cabrera, and then the crushing blow: a Grand Slam HR to Kerry Carpenter. Tettleton hit a 2-run HR against the bullpen, and that was more than enough for Skubal, who pitched a brilliant complete-game shutout giving up only 3 singles and 1 walk while striking out a most impressive 15 in the best start of his career.

GAME #30 — NYY 2 @ DET 6

The Tigers have moved back to the fringe of the race, having swept the 1st-place Yankees. Casey Mize was strong, only giving up a solo HR to Hideki Matsui in the 2nd over 7 innings. Cecil Fielder hit a solo HR off of Nestor Cortes in the 2nd and Isaac Paredes followed with an RBI 1B making it 2-1. Victor Martinez hit a 2-run 1B in the 3rd and scored on a 2-run 2B from Paredes to pace the Tigers to the sweep. Aaron Judge hit a solo HR in the 8th, but that was all the Yankees would get as they dropped in the race for the top seed.

GAME #29 — TOR 3 @ TEX 2

This series would likely serve as an elimination series as both teams came in at 13-15 and a sweep in either direction would put one in and one out of the race, while a split would put both teams on the brink. Alek Manoah showed up and didn't give up a run until the 4th when Adolis Garcia hit an RBI 2B, but Nathan Eovaldi gave up a 2-run 2B to Matt Chapman that turned the game around in the 5th. Toronto added another run in the 7th on a solo HR from Roberto Alomar, which proved decisive as Marcus Semien added a late RBI 2B. The Toronto bullpen held and Toronto won 5 of 6 to get back in the race.

GAME #30 — TOR 4 @ TEX 0

This was now a huge game for both teams and Kevin Gausman and Jeffrey Springs both showed up. Springs pitched 7 shutout innings striking out 13, while Gausman pitched 8 shutout innings striking out 10. The scoreless tie went all the way to the 10th inning when Teoscar Hernandez hit a Grand Slam HR to all but end the Rangers' season while catapulting the defending champions firmly in the race during the stretch run.

GAME #29 — SEA 2 @ CLE 7

Seattle came into Cleveland with both teams at 16-12, fighting for the same playoff spots. Cleveland struck first in the 3rd inning when Steven Kwan hit a solo HR off of Felix Hernandez and then the wheels came off as Hernandez walked 2 and then gave up 3 consecutive RBI 1Bs to Michael Brantley, Josh Naylor, and Yan Gomes. Meanwhile, Shane Bieber was strong, pitching 7 shutout innings. In the 6th, Cleveland put the game out of reach as Kwan hit a 2-run 2B and Jim Thome added an RBI making it 7-0. Mitch Haniger had a 2-run 2B in the 8th, but it was not enough to stop Cleveland from moving a game ahead.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • ASTROS WIN 5-2 • CLEVELAND WIN 6-2 • WHITE SOX HOME WIN

GAME #30 — SEA 2 @ CLE 6

Cleveland is making their move trying to keep pace with the surging Royals, while the Mariners have fallen back to the pack in the wild-card race. Michael Brantley hit an RBI 1B in the 1st, but Robinson Cano hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd and Edwin Encarnacion hit a solo HR in the 4th to make it 2-1. In the 5th, Yan Gomes hit a 3-run HR that changed the game, giving Corey Kluber a 4-2 lead. Kluber kept the M's off the scoreboard while Carlos Santana added a solo HR, and Gomes finished it off with an RBI 2B in the 7th.

GAME #29 — HOU 3 @ CHW 4

Houston travelled to Chicago in a preview of two likely playoff teams, and it started well for them behind Justin Verlander as Jake Meyers hit a 2-run 1B off of Garrett Crochet in the 2nd and Alex Bregman followed with an RBI 1B to make it 3-0. That lead would often be good enough for Verlander as he chases the AL Cy Young but in the 4th Jose Abreu hit a solo HR, and then in the 5th Jake Burger hit a solo HR and Tim Anderson and Abreu hit RBI 1Bs making it 4-3. The bullpen held and the White Sox got the comeback win to move closer to the playoffs.

GAME #30 — HOU 5 @ CHW 2

Chicago took an early 2-0 lead on Framber Valdez with an RBI 1B from Luis Robert in the 1st and then a solo HR from Frank Thomas in the 3rd. Chicago had dreams of a sweep, but Jeff Bagwell had other ideas as he stepped up to the plate in the 5th with the bases loaded and hit a Grand Slam HR that changed the game. Yuli Gurriel hit a solo HR in the 8th and the bullpen held to give Houston the road split.

GAME #29 — MIN 5 @ OAK 10

The A's made a strong showing against Sonny Gray and the Twins as Elvis Andrus hit a 2-run 1B in the 2nd, Khris Davis hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd, Tyler Soderstrom hit a solo HR in the 4th and a 2-run 1B in the 5th, and Jack Wilson hit an RBI 1B in the 5th. Lawrence Butler and Ramon Laureano both hit solo HRs in the 6th and the A's had 10 runs in an unstoppable outburst. The Twins scored 5 runs, but it was not enough. Byron Buxton hit a solo HR and Nelson Cruz had an RBI 1B in the 3rd, and Kirby Puckett, Torii Hunter, and Josh Donaldson all had RBI 1Bs late in the blowout. JP Sears got his 5th win on the season.

GAME #30 — MIN 9 @ OAK 4

The Twins responded as Carlos Correa hit a 3-run HR in the 1st, but in the bottom half Lawrence Butler hit an RBI 1B and Mark McGwire hit an RBI 2B making it 3-2. Torii Hunter hit a 2-run HR in the 4th, but Jack Wilson hit an RBI 1B in the bottom half to keep it close. The Twins finally took a commanding lead in the 6th when Miguel Sano hit an RBI 1B and scored on a 3-run 2B from Byron Buxton. Butler added an RBI 2B in the 7th, but it was nothing to stop the Twins getting the split as both teams will look toward next season. Pablo Lopez pitched a solid 6 innings to get the win.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • DODGERS WIN 6-4 • BOS ROAD WIN 4-3 • NATIONALS HOME WIN

GAME #29 — BOS 4 @ ATL 3

The Braves scored off of Chris Sale in the 2nd on an RBI 1B from Dansby Swanson supporting Spencer Strider who didn't give up a run through 5. In the 6th, Masataka Yoshida hit a 2-run HR and then Rafael Devers hit an RBI 2B making it 3-1. Chipper Jones hit an RBI 1B in the bottom half, but Yoshida hit another HR in the 7th to make it 4-2. Dansby Swanson hit an RBI 1B in the bottom of the 9th, and the Braves loaded the bases, but they could not get the tying run falling at home.

GAME #30 — BOS 6 @ ATL 3

The Red Sox are making their move just as the Yankees stumbled and are suddenly only 1 game back. Meanwhile, the Braves lost their slimmest hope to catch the Mets should they fall. Ceddanne Rafaela hit an RBI sacrifice in the 2nd, and then Masataka Yoshida did it again with a solo HR making it 2-0. Jason Varitek hit an RBI 1B in the 6th which mattered as the Braves scored twice in the bottom half on an RBI 2B from Ronald Acuna and an RBI from Chipper Jones. In the 7th, Yoshida did it yet again with another HR, his 4th of the series. Travis d'Arnaud hit an RBI 1B in the bottom half to keep it close, but Jarren Duran hit a 2-run 2B in the 9th securing the road sweep. David Price took a no-hitter to the 4th, but struggled to close his exceptional start.

GAME #29 — LAD 6 @ WSH 4

What a game. Clayton Kershaw was strong over 6 innings as was Stephen Strasburg over 7 innings. Max Muncy hit a solo HR in the 2nd, but that was all Strasburg would give up. The Nationals tied the game in the 5th on an RBI 1B from CJ Abrams, and then took the lead on an RBI 1B from James Wood in the 6th. The 2-1 game went to the 9th when Max Muncy hit his second solo HR of the game, tying the game, sending the game to extra innings. In the top of the 10th, Brad Hand loaded the bases but a double play got Washington out of the jam. In the 11th, Hand loaded the bases again, but this time the Dodgers capitalized with a 2-run 1B from Mookie Betts, an RBI 1B from Freddie Freeman, and then an RBI from Joc Pederson that capped the 4-run 11th. It seemed like the game was out of reach, but in the bottom of the 11th Dylan Crews hit an RBI 2B and scored on an RBI 1B from CJ Abrams. The tying run came to the plate, but the rally fell short.

GAME #30 — LAD 1 @ WSH 2

This was another outstanding game as Gio Gonzalez and Walker Buehler both pitched 7 dominant shutout innings. The bullpen held to the 11th when Freddie Freeman hit a solo HR that gave LA a 1-0 lead. In the bottom of the 11th the Nationals rallied again loading the bases and scoring on an RBI sacrifice from Luis Garcia, and then in the bottom of the 12th Washington completed the comeback with an RBI 2B from CJ Abrams.

GAME #29 — MIA 4 @ STL 0

Jose Fernandez and Adam Wainwright squared off in a duel, but Wainwright blinked first giving up an RBI 1B to Griffin Conine in the 1st and RBIs to Connor Norby and Xavier Edwards in the 2nd, giving Miami a 3-0 lead which was more than enough for Fernandez who pitched 8 shutout innings. Eury Perez came in to finish the game and the Cardinals went quietly in a game they needed to win.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • CARDINALS WIN 2-1 • D-BACKS WIN 10-4 • PHILLIES WIN 5-2

GAME #30 — MIA 1 @ STL 2

Sandy Alcantara was strong over 8 innings but gave up an RBI 1B in the 3rd and a decisive solo HR to Nolan Arenado in the 5th. Arenado's HR was decisive because Jack Flaherty only gave up an RBI sacrifice to Griffin Conine in the 3rd. The bullpen held and St. Louis got the split they needed as they actually stayed atop the division at a meager 14-16.

GAME #29 — NYM 2 @ PIT 5

Paul Skenes and the Pirates took down the mighty Mets and put a serious dent into Jacob deGrom's NL Cy Young Award chances in just 1 inning, a 5-run 1st. Roberto Clemente and Charlie Hayes both hit 2-run HRs and Oneil Cruz added an RBI 3B in an outburst that proved more than enough for Skenes who only gave up an RBI to Mike Piazza over 7 strong innings. Piazza added a solo HR in the 8th as the Mets fell.

GAME #30 — NYM 5 @ PIT 1

The Mets got their game back on an RBI 1B from Curtis Granderson in the 2nd and a 2-run HR from Mike Piazza in the 3rd. That was all Max Scherzer would need as he was excellent into the 8th. In the 8th, Andrew McCutchen had an RBI BB, but that was all the Pirates would get. Darryl Strawberry hit a 2-run HR in the 9th and the Mets cruised to the road split.

GAME #29 — PHI 4 @ ARI 10

Zack Wheeler has had a miserable season and this game represented his season as Arizona scored in each of the 1st 5 innings, and then again the 7th and 8th off of the bullpen. Eric Chavez and Corbin Carroll had RBI 1Bs in the first 2 innings, Christian Walker hit a solo HR in the 3rd, Geraldo Perdomo hit an RBI 2B in the 4th, and Jake McCarthy hit a 2-run HR in the 5th. Pavin Smith hit a solo HR in the 7th and Walker finished the outburst with a 3-run HR in the 8th. Zac Gallen was hit hard by Bryce Harper who had 2 2Bs and a 3-run HR, Ryan Howard added an RBI 2B, but that was all that the Phillies would get.

GAME #30 — PHI 5 @ ARI 2

The Phillies secured the split they needed as both teams stayed tied fighting for the same playoff spots. Chase Utley hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd, but Ketel Marte hit an RBI 1B in the bottom half to tie the game. Bryce Harper and John Kruk hit RBI 2Bs in the 5th and 6th, but Marte hit an RBI 2B in the 7th to keep the game close. Lenny Dykstra added an RBI 2B in the 8th and Kyle Schwarber finished the game off with an RBI 1B in the 9th supporting the win for Aaron Nola.

GAME #29 — COL 0 @ CIN 9

The Reds found their offense scoring 9 runs for the 2nd game in a row after an utterly miserable offensive season, while Luis Castillo flirted with a no-hitter. Castillo didn't give up a baserunner until the 4th and the first hit against him was a 1B in the 6th. Castillo finished the complete-game shutout giving up 4 hits and 4 walks while striking out 9. Adam Duvall and Tyler Stephenson hit back-to-back solo HRs in the 2nd, Eric Davis hit a solo HR in the 3rd, and RBI 1Bs from Joey Votto and Elly De La Cruz in the 5th made it 5-0 before the Rockies got a hit. Stephenson hit a 2-run 1B in the 7th and Spencer Steer hit a 2-run HR in the 8th to cap the blowout win.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • BREWERS ROAD WIN • CHC HOME WIN 3-2 • CIN HOME WIN 9-5

GAME #30 — COL 5 @ CIN 9

The Reds' weak offense scored 9 runs for the 3rd game in a row backing a rough start for Hunter Greene. Michael Cuddyer and Trevor Story had RBIs in the 2nd, but Joey Votto hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd, and then the Reds unloaded for 6 runs in the 4th highlighted by a 3-run 2B from Nick Castellanos and including RBIs from Elly De La Cruz, Tyler Stephenson, and Jonathan India. Trevor Story hit a 2-run HR to keep it close, but Adam Duvall hit a solo HR and Spencer Steer hit an RBI 2B late to cap the home sweep.

GAME #29 — SDP 2 @ CHC 3

The Padres have been red-hot winning their way to the top of the NL West, but they fell in Chicago to a rebound start from Marcus Stroman. Yu Darvish gave up a solo HR to Ian Happ in the first but after that he was outstanding not giving up another run until the 8th. In the 3rd, Fernando Tatis Jr hit an RBI 2B to tie the game and then Trent Grisham hit an RBI 1B in the 7th to take a 2-1 lead. The Padres took the lead to the bottom of the 8th when Ian Happ changed the outcome with a 2-run HR that would win the game. Hector Rondon shut the door in the 9th and the Cubs got a win they needed as they are remarkably still in the race for the weak NL Central.

GAME #30 — SDP 8 @ CHC 3

The Padres got the win back with a strong offensive game beginning with a 5-run 3rd on a 2-run HR from Luis Campusano, a solo HR from Tony Gwynn, and a 2-run 2B from Eric Hosmer. Manny Machado added an RBI 2B in the 4th and Jake Cronenworth added an RBI 2B in the 5th, and then Fernando Tatis Jr capped the game with a solo HR in the 6th. Blake Snell was strong over 7 innings, only giving up a solo HR to rookie Matt Shaw. Jason Heyward hit a 2-run HR late in the loss, but it wasn't enough to stop the Padres from getting the road split.

GAME #29 — MIL 6 @ SFG 1

The Giants are slumping at the wrong time and the Brewers might be saving their season. It was almost inexplicable that the Brewers were 12-16 coming in with the pitching staff they have, but they may have woken up in time due to the NL Central all being under water. Willy Adames opened the scoring with a solo HR in the 2nd off of Carlos Rodon and Ryan Braun hit a 2-run 2B in the 3rd making it 3-0. Rowdy Tellez hit a 3-run HR in the 5th and the rout was on. Will Clark hit an RBI 3B off of Corbin Burnes in the 5th, but that was all the ace would surrender over 7 strong innings. Robin Yount went 4-5 and was a menace for the Giants.

GAME #30 — MIL 8 @ SFG 2

The Brewers moved into a tie for 1st in the NL Central while the slumping Giants have fallen out of the race for the NL West and now have work to do facing an uphill climb just for a wild-card spot. Willy Adames again opened the scoring, this time with a 3-run 2B off of Madison Bumgarner in the 4th. Carlos Gomez had an RBI 2B and scored on an RBI 1B from Jackson Chourio later in the 5-run 4th. Christian Yelich hit a solo HR in the 7th and added an RBI 1B in the 9th, and Robin Yount added an RBI 2B in the 9th. Brandon Woodruff gave up an RBI 2B to Mike Yastrzemski in the 2nd and an RBI 1B to Joe Panik in the 7th, but that was it over 7 strong innings earning the win.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • CLEVELAND WIN 4-3 • BAL ROAD WIN 6-5 • NYY HOME WIN 4-3

ROUND #16

GAME #31 — BAL 6 @ CLE 5

Down the stretch they come! The final 10 games of the season will settle the races and divisions as divisional play resumes. The final non-division game for the Guardians and the Orioles comes with both teams currently holding a playoff spot, though Cleveland has a 2-game lead holding the top spot. Gunnar Henderson hit a solo HR in the 1st, but Jose Ramirez hit an RBI 2B and scored on an RBI sacrifice from Jim Thome. Eddie Murray put another notch in his AL MVP campaign with a game-changing Grand Slam HR in the 3rd. In the bottom of the 3rd, Carlos Santana hit an RBI 2B making it 5-3, but in the 6th Cedric Mullins hit a solo HR reclaiming the 3-run lead. Andres Gimenez hit an RBI 2B in the bottom of the 6th, and Jim Thome added another RBI in the 9th, but the rally fell short and Cleveland dropped a game at home.

GAME #32 — BAL 3 @ CLE 4

Cleveland got the win back earning the split with a 4-run 2nd against Grayson Rodriguez on an RBI 2B from Yan Gomes, a 2-run 1B from Steven Kwan, and an RBI 1B from Carlos Santana. Baltimore fought back with a solo HR from Adley Rutschman in the 3rd and a 2-run HR from Cal Ripken Jr in the 4th, but that was all Carlos Carrasco would give up over his 7 innings as he moved to 5-0.

GAME #31 — TBR 4 @ NYY 3

The Rays clung to the slimmest hope of winning out taking down the Yankees in 11 innings behind Shane Bieber who gave up a solo HR to Hideki Matsui in the 2nd and Jorge Posada followed with an RBI 1B, and an RBI 1B to Giancarlo Stanton. Luis Severino was strong not giving up a run until the 6th when Austin Meadows hit an RBI 1B. Josh Lowe hit an RBI 2B in the 8th and scored on an RBI 1B from Meadows against Clay Holmes tying the game 3-3. In the top of the 11th, Kevin Kiermaier connected off of Aroldis Chapman for the unlikely HR that won the game for the Rays.

GAME #32 — TBR 3 @ NYY 4

The sun set on the season for the Rays, but it took 13 innings as they put up one last fight. Randy Arozarena hit a 2-run HR against Masahiro Tanaka in the 1st, but Giancarlo Stanton hit an RBI 1B in the bottom half making it 2-1. Tampa Bay added a run in the 8th with a solo HR from Josh Lowe, and the Rays gave closer Pete Fairbanks a 3-1 lead. DJ LeMahieu hit a 2B, Gleyber Torres drew a BB, Brett Gardner hit a 1B, and Derek Jeter stepped up and tied the game with a 2-run 1B. The bullpen held until the bottom of the 13th when Torres hit a 2B and scored on an RBI 2B from Brett Gardner giving the Yankees the split and giving the Rays a devastating 19th loss.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • BOS ROAD WIN 6-1 • BOS ROAD WIN 9-8 • DET ROAD WIN 6-5

GAME #31 — BOS 9 @ TOR 8

The stretch run is here and this series stood to be a defining matchup with the defending champion Blue Jays surging back to the fringe of the race behind a red-hot batting leader in Roberto Alomar, and a surging Red Sox team looking at the slumping Yankees who have lost 5 of 7 to fall back to the pack in the AL East. With the playoffs on the line the stakes could not be higher and this game even exceeded the hype as it started early and went late. Wilyer Abreu and Masataka Yoshida had RBIs in the 1st, but George Springer hit an RBI 1B and Jose Bautista hit a 2-run 2B making it 3-2. Dalton Varsho made it 4-2 with a solo HR in the 2nd, and then Varsho made it 5-2 with another solo HR in the 4th. In the 6th the Red Sox rallied with a 2-run 3B from Ceddanne Rafaela who scored on an RBI from Dustin Pedroia tying the game. The Red Sox took the lead in the 7th on a solo HR from David Ortiz, but the Blue Jays would not let go of their newly found contention easily as Jose Bautista hit a 2-run HR to take the lead back at 7-6. Facing being tied with the Blue Jays in the standings, the Red Sox rallied again on another solo HR from David Ortiz. The 7-7 game went to the 11th where Wade Boggs hit a 2-run HR that won the game. Dalton Varsho added an RBI 2B with 2 outs in the bottom of the 11th, but Alomar could not drive him in as the Blue Jays lost a game they really needed.

GAME #32 — BOS 6 @ TOR 1

The Red Sox have made their move pushing the champions to the brink and suddenly tied with the slumping Yankees at the top of the AL East with 8 games to play. Wilyer Abreu and Masataka Yoshida both had RBI 1Bs in the 1st, Dustin Pedroia hit a solo HR in the 2nd, and Jason Varitek hit an RBI 2B in the 4th making it 4-0 before the Blue Jays responded. Jose Bautista hit a solo HR in the 4th, but that was all Eduardo Rodriguez would give up as the champion faded quietly. Rafael Devers and David Ortiz had late RBIs as the Red Sox got the sweep and changed the playoff race for three teams. The Blue Jays will likely need to win out while the Red Sox and Yankees face off in the final series of the season.

GAME #31 — DET 6 @ KCR 5

The stretch run has begun in earnest as the surprise team on the season faced perhaps the second most surprising team in a Tigers team that has been on the brink most of the season yet refuses to go away. Kerry Carpenter hit a 3-run HR off of Cole Ragans in the 4th, but Whit Merrifield hit an RBI 1B in the 5th to make it 3-1. Miguel Cabrera hit a solo HR in the 7th, but the Royals rallied in the 7th with RBI 2Bs from Hunter Dozier, Bo Jackson, and George Brett, and an RBI 1B from Alex Gordon, and suddenly the Royals had a 5-4 lead. But the Tigers would not be denied as they have kept their season on life support for a long time now and Cabrera hit an RBI 1B in the 9th to tie the game, and Cecil Fielder hit a solo HR in the 12th to win it.

GAME #32 — DET 2 @ KCR 3

The Royals got the game back as Alex Gordon hit an RBI 1B in the 1st, Jorge Soler hit a solo HR in the 2nd, and Bobby Witt Jr hit a solo HR in the 3rd and that was all Brady Singer would need. Victor Martinez hit an RBI 1B in the 6th and Kerry Carpenter hit a solo HR in the 9th, but the rally fell short and the Tigers fell back to the fringe at 15-17 pretty much needing to win out like the Blue Jays. Meanwhile, the Royals are coasting to the playoffs in a most unexpected run.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • ANGELS WIN 3-2 • MARINERS WIN 10-0 • WHITE SOX HOME WIN

GAME #31 — MIN 8 @ CHW 2

The Twins get to play spoiler down the stretch and they put a dent in the White Sox's chance to win the AL Central as they got to Lance Lynn with a 2-run HR from Kirby Puckett in the 1st, an RBI 2B from Joe Mauer and an RBI 1B from Carlos Correa in the 3rd, and an RBI 2B from Josh Donaldson and a 3-run HR from Torii Hunter in the 4-run 5th, giving the Twins a dominant 8-0 lead. Yasmani Grandal took matters into his own hands with a solo HR in the 7th and another solo HR in the 9th, but that was all Chicago would get. Joe Ryan pitched a strong 7 innings for the win.

GAME #32 — MIN 2 @ CHW 6

The White Sox got the split they needed with an RBI 1B from Eloy Jimenez in the 1st, a solo HR from Jake Burger in the 2nd, and a 2-run HR from Yasmani Grandal. Jose Abreu added a 2-run 1B in the 6th as the White Sox cruised a step closer to the playoffs. Joe Mauer hit an RBI 1B in the 6th, and Kirby Puckett added an RBI in the 8th, but it was not enough to stop the Twins from their 19th loss on the season. Lucas Giolito pitched a strong 7 innings for the win. Grandal went 6-8 in the series with 3 HRs and 4 RBI.

GAME #31 — OAK 0 @ SEA 10

The Mariners got a win they needed behind a brilliant performance from George Kirby as he only gave up 3 hits and 0 walks in a complete-game shutout. Edwin Encarnacion hit a solo HR in the 2nd, Edgar Martinez hit a 2-run 2B in the 3rd, and Martinez hit a 3-run HR in the 5th for a 6-0 lead. Mitch Haniger hit a 3-run HR in the 8th and Eugenio Suarez went back-to-back with a solo HR as the M's secured a blowout win.

GAME #32 — OAK 8 @ SEA 9

The Mariners got a sweep they needed to secure their playoff spot while the A's saw their season fade after a promising start. Tyler Soderstrom hit a solo HR in the 2nd, but Cal Raleigh hit an RBI 1B in the bottom half to tie it. In the bottom of the 3rd, Edwin Encarnacion hit an RBI 1B and then Mitch Haniger hit a Grand Slam HR, giving Seattle a 6-1 lead. Oakland chipped away at the lead with a 2-run HR from Khris Davis in the 4th and a 3-run HR from Davis in the 5th. Seattle kept the lead with an RBI 2B from Encarnacion in the 4th and a solo HR from Eugenio Suarez in the 5th making it 8-6. The A's kept fighting and tied the game in the 6th on a 2-run 1B from Elvis Andrus, but in the bottom of the 8th JP Crawford won the game for the M's, giving them the sweep.

GAME #31 — HOU 4 @ LAA 3

The Angels scored early on a leadoff HR from Shohei Ohtani in the 1st, a solo HR from Zach Neto in the 2nd, and an RBI 1B from CJ Cron in the 3rd. The Astros got on the board in the 3rd with a solo HR from Kyle Tucker, and then in the 7th they struck with RBIs from Jeremy Pena, Yainer Diaz, and Jose Altuve, taking the 4-3 lead. The bullpen held and the Astros kept rolling toward the playoffs behind Joe Musgrove.

GAME #32 — HOU 2 @ LAA 3

The Angels got a win behind a good start from Andrew Heaney, who dodged trouble only giving up an RBI 1B to Jeremy Pena in the 2nd, and an RBI 1B to Alex Bregman in the 5th. Anthony Rendon hit a 2-run 2B in the 1st, and Shohei Ohtani hit an RBI 1B in the 5th to take the 3-2 lead that the bullpen made stand up, giving the Angels a split at home.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • ARI ROAD WIN 3-1 • ATL ROAD WIN 7-1 • MIA ROAD WIN 12-1

GAME #31 — ARI 2 @ TEX 3

Texas saw their faintest of hopes stay alive behind a strong performance from Mike Minor, who only gave up a 2-run HR to Corbin Carroll over 7 strong innings. Wyatt Langford hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd and then Adolis Garcia hit a solo HR in the 4th that proved to be all the home team would need as they put a dent in the playoff hopes of Arizona.

GAME #32 — ARI 3 @ TEX 1

Arizona got the win back they needed, earning the split behind a strong start from Ryne Nelson, who only gave up a solo HR to Josh Hamilton over 7 innings. Eric Chavez tied the game in the 6th with an RBI 2B off of Dane Dunning, and then in the top of the 7th Brandon Drury hit a solo HR to take the lead. Drury hit another solo HR in the 9th and Arizona gave Texas its 19th loss all but putting the season at an end.

GAME #31 — WSH 2 @ CIN 5

The Reds finally got their 10th win behind a strong start from Johnny Cueto, who took a shutout into the 9th. Adam Duvall hit an RBI 2B in the 2nd, and in the 3rd Joey Votto hit an RBI 1B and Todd Frazier hit a 2-run 2B that made it 4-0. Spencer Steer added a solo HR in the 7th and the Reds got a win. Luis Garcia and Keibert Ruiz added RBIs in the 9th, but the rally fell short and the Nationals' season faded.

GAME #32 — WSH 4 @ CIN 6

The Reds look to end the season better than it started as they won their 4th in a row behind 3 2-run HRs, one each from Spencer Steer in the 1st, Jonathan India in the 2nd, and Adam Duvall in the 4th. James Wood hit a solo HR in the 4th and Luis Garcia added a 2-run HR in the 6th, but that was all Nick Lodolo would give up. Juan Soto added an RBI 2B in the 9th, but the Nationals couldn't prevent the sweep.

GAME #31 — MIA 12 @ NYM 1

The Miami Marlins routed the Mets with a dominant performance. Livan Hernandez was excellent, only giving up a solo HR to Mike Piazza in the 1st. Hernandez finished 7 innings, giving up only 4 more singles and 0 walks. Meanwhile, the offense hummed behind Bryan De La Cruz going 4-5 with a 2B and 2 HRs with 3 RBI. Jazz Chisholm went 3-6 with a 2B and HR and 3 RBI, Xavier Edwards went 3-5 with a 2B and 3B and 1 RBI, Luis Arraez had 2 2Bs and 1 RBI, Ichiro Suzuki had 2 2Bs and 2 RBI, and Liam Hicks hit a 2-run HR in the 20-hit outburst with an incredible 13 extra-base hits.

GAME #32 — MIA 3 @ NYM 5

The Mets wrapped up a playoff spot with a win over the Marlins to get the split. Bryan De La Cruz had an RBI in the 4th, and Jazz Chisholm and Griffin Conine had RBIs in the 5th, but the 3-0 lead wouldn't hold up. Pete Alonso hit an RBI 1B in the 7th and then in the 8th Gary Carter hit a 2-run HR to tie the game, and Mike Piazza hit a 2-run 2B to win the game.

GAME #31 — ATL 7 @ PHI 1

The game was close until the 8th as Charlie Morton only gave up an RBI 1B to Chase Utley in the 5th. Cole Hamels was just as good, only giving up an RBI to Matt Olson in the 6th, until Travis d'Arnaud hit a 2-run HR in the 7th to drive Hamels from the game. Ron Gant hit a Grand Slam HR later in the inning and the game became a blowout as the Braves have almost secured the top wild-card spot.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • BREWERS WIN 12-3 • CARDINALS WIN 7-6 • PHILLIES WIN 8-7

GAME #32 — ATL 7 @ PHI 8

Ronald Acuna hit a 2B to lead off the game and scored on an RBI from Chipper Jones, who scored on a 2-run 2B from Marcell Ozuna, giving Atlanta an early 3-0 lead. The Phillies needed the game, however, and fought back with a 3-run 3B from Scott Rolen tying the game. Acuna hit a 3-run HR in the 2nd and the game was 6-3 until the Phillies fought back with an RBI 2B from Rolen in the 3rd and a 2-run 1B from John Kruk in the 5th, tying the game again. Atlanta kept the pressure on taking the lead in the 7th on a solo HR from Chipper Jones, but again the Phillies showed how much they want to make the playoffs with a solo HR from Ryan Howard in the bottom of the 7th that tied the game, and then a walk-off RBI 1B from John Kruk that won the game, giving the Phillies the split and keeping them alive for a playoff spot with 8 games to play.

GAME #31 — PIT 5 @ STL 8

The Cardinals hosted Pittsburgh with something to play for as they sit tied for 1st place in the weak NL Central at 14-16 and it could not have started worse. In a game they needed, Miles Mikolas gave up 5 runs in the 1st inning on a 2-run 2B to Willie Stargell, an RBI 1B to Andrew McCutchen, and a 2-run HR to Oneil Cruz. In an interesting twist, Mikolas didn't give up another hit over 7 innings. The Cardinals' offense responded immediately with RBI 1Bs from Matt Carpenter, Yadier Molina, Tyler O'Neill, and Lars Nootbaar. St. Louis wasted no time tying the game in the 2nd on an RBI 1B from Nolan Arenado, and then they took the lead with a 2-run 2B in the 3rd from Brendan Donovan. Tyler O'Neill hit a solo HR in the 4th and the Cardinals had an 8-5 lead they would not squander.

GAME #32 — PIT 6 @ STL 7

The Cardinals did it again as they spotted the visiting Pirates 4 runs in the top of the 1st. Paul Goldschmidt hit a solo HR in the 1st and then a 2-run HR in the 3rd and St. Louis was again on the comeback. Yadier Molina and Lars Nootbaar had RBIs in the 4th and the Cardinals had the lead. Nolan Arenado hit a solo HR in the 5th, but the Pirates responded in the 7th with RBI 1Bs from Endy Rodriguez and Bryan Reynolds, tying the game 6-6. The Cardinals were determined, however, and Albert Pujols took them home with a solo HR in the bottom of the 8th, giving St. Louis a sweep at the perfect time.

GAME #31 — MIL 12 @ CHC 3

The Brewers got a win they needed to keep pace with the Cardinals as Robin Yount hit an RBI 2B in the top of the 1st and then Sal Frelick hit a 3-run HR and Jackson Chourio hit a 2-run HR in the 5-run 2nd. Then, in the 4th, Christian Yelich hit a 3-run HR and Ryan Braun went back-to-back with a solo HR making it 10-0. Braun hit another solo HR in the 6th and Yelich hit another solo HR in the 9th completing the rout. Cody Bellinger had an RBI 1B, Willson Contreras hit an RBI 2B, and Seiya Suzuki hit a solo HR off of Freddy Peralta in the loss.

GAME #32 — MIL 2 @ CHC 3

The Brewers almost got the win they needed, but the Cubs played spoiler, perhaps keeping their season on life support. Robin Yount hit a solo HR in the 4th, but Ian Happ tied the game with an RBI 1B in the 5th. Ryan Braun hit an RBI 1B in the 6th, but Matt Shaw hit an RBI 1B in the bottom half, again tying the game. Finally, the Cubs took the lead for good with an RBI 1B from Ryne Sandberg in the bottom of the 8th. Hector Rondon struck out the side in the 9th and the Cubs got the split.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 8 • COL HOME WIN 5-3 • DODGERS HOME WIN • SDP ROAD WIN 5-0

GAME #31 — SDP 5 @ LAD 0

The Padres moved into 1st place in the NL West with their 9th win in 11 games behind a stellar start from Michael King, who only gave up 4 hits and 1 walk while pitching into the 8th. Andres Munoz completed the shutout for a team that hit 4 HRs to get their 5 runs. Fernando Tatis Jr and Manny Machado went back-to-back with solo HRs in the 1st and then Jackson Merrill hit a solo HR in the 8th and Tatis followed with a 2-run HR, capping the big win.

GAME #32 — SDP 1 @ LAD 3

The Dodgers got the win back in a big game with division championship ramifications. Dustin May only gave up a solo HR to Manny Machado in the 4th as Joc Pederson hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd and Justin Turner hit a solo HR in the 5th to pace the home team to the split. All 9 runs in the series were scored by HRs, and the teams remained tied at 19-13 with 8 games left.

GAME #31 — SFG 3 @ COL 5

This essentially became a playoff series for the struggling Giants as they currently sit outside of the playoffs in a free fall where their offense has been mired in a slump signified by Buster Posey, their leader, who is struggling with an OPS below .600. The Rockies struck first with an RBI 1B from Carlos Gonzalez in the bottom of the 1st, but Joe Panik hit an RBI 3B in the 2nd and scored on an RBI 1B from Jung Hoo Lee. Kris Bryant changed the game in the 2nd with a Grand Slam HR, and that was all Jon Gray would need as he only gave up 1 more run, a solo HR to Evan Longoria, putting the Giants on the brink.

GAME #32 — SFG 8 @ COL 7

The Giants got the win they desperately needed, but it was not easy. Carlos Gonzalez hit a 2-run 1B in the 1st, but Will Clark hit a 2-run 1B in the 3rd to tie the game. Wilin Rosario and Trevor Story had RBI 2Bs in the 4th, but the Giants tied the game in the 5th with an RBI 3B from Jung Hoo Lee, and an RBI 1B from Will Clark. The Rockies took the lead back in the bottom of the 5th with an RBI 1B from Ryan McMahon, and then made it 6-4 on an RBI 1B from Troy Tulowitzki. The Giants tied the game once more with a 2-run HR from Evan Longoria, and then took the lead in the 8th on a solo HR from Brandon Belt. The Rockies tied the game in the bottom of the 8th on an RBI 1B from Tulowitzki, but the Giants took the lead for good with an RBI 1B from Evan Longoria to win the game. The Giants sit at least 1 game out with two teams tied ahead of them for the last spot, with just 8 games to play.

MLBC — WEEK 9

GAMES 33-36 • STRETCH RUN

THE RACES DETONATE

Four clubs go perfect, the Yankees reclaim the East, and every division reaches the final week with pressure attached.

THE LEAD Eight games remained. The Mets were 24-8. Houston and Kansas City sat 20-12, and Boston and New York were tied for the East. Los Angeles and San Diego were tied for the NL West. St. Louis led Milwaukee by one. San Francisco entered outside the playoff bracket, leaving no room for a quiet week. Meanwhile Detroit had climbed from 4-10 to 15-17, staying alive. Almost every important margin was a single game, which meant Week 9 could create as much movement as the first month had needed several weeks to produce.

THE WEEK Atlanta, Detroit, the Yankees and San Francisco all went 4-0. New York reclaimed the East at 22-14. Cleveland moved one game ahead of Kansas City in the Central, while the Royals suffered the season's sharpest late reversal: 20-12 became 20-16 after sweeps by the Yankees and Minnesota. Detroit reached 19-17 after once sitting 4-10, a remarkable rescue even if October remained uncertain. San Francisco made an even more dramatic positional jump. The Giants swept Oakland and San Diego, and Evan Longoria's 11th-inning HR in the final game helped move them from outside the bracket into a Wild Card spot with four games left. Houston reached 23-13; Los Angeles reached 22-14 and opened a two-game West lead. In the Central, Tyler O'Neill's extra-inning HR against Milwaukee helped St. Louis protect its narrow advantage. Eddie Murray hit three HR in Baltimore's enormous Boston series, while Spencer Strider authored a 4-hit, 16-strikeout shutout.

THE STAKES Four games remain. The Mets are 26-10; Atlanta and Houston are 23-13; Los Angeles and the Yankees are 22-14. The AL East, Central and every Wild Card slot still contain moving pieces. St. Louis is 19-17, one game ahead of Milwaukee. San Francisco has forced itself back into October position just in time for the schedule to become merciless. Yankees-Orioles. Red Sox-Yankees. Cleveland-Kansas City. Seattle-Houston. Atlanta-Mets. Philadelphia-Milwaukee. San Francisco-Arizona. Dodgers-Giants. The final four games are no longer about momentum. They are about possession.

BEST RECORD
NYM • 26-10

PERFECT WEEK
ATL / DET / NYY / SFG
• 4-0

AL EAST
NYY • 22-14

FINAL MARGIN
4 games remain

WEEKLY HONORS

HITTER OF THE WEEK

GOLD EDDIE MURRAY • BAL
5-for-9 • 3 HR • 4 RBI

SILVER RYAN BRAUN • MIL
3 HR • 7 RBI

BRONZE MAX MUNCY • LAD
3 HR • 7 RBI

PITCHER OF THE WEEK

GOLD SPENCER STRIDER (2) • ATL
CG SHO • 4 H • 1 BB • 16 K

SILVER PAUL SKENES • PIT
7 scoreless IP

BRONZE MERRILL KELLY • ARI
7 scoreless IP

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • BAL ROAD WIN 6-0 • BAL ROAD WIN 6-2 • BOS ROAD WIN 7-2

ROUND #17

GAME #33 — BAL 6 @ TOR 0

This was truly a playoff game as both teams are fighting for the same spot. The champion Blue Jays had fought back all the way to this point, and this was it. Win and stay in, or lose and fall out. It was Baltimore who showed up in Toronto, not the champions, as the Blue Jays fell meekly to Kyle Bradish, who took a shutout into the 7th. The bullpen held, and the Blue Jays didn't score in a game that held their season in the balance. Adam Jones led off the game with a solo HR and that was all the Orioles would need, but Jones added a 2-run HR in the 3rd. Ryan Mountcastle, Cedric Mullins, and Jordan Westburg all added RBIs in the easy win.

GAME #34 — BAL 6 @ TOR 2

The sun set on the champions and they barely murmured. George Springer hit a 2-run 2B in the 3rd, but that was all the Blue Jays would score in the series. John Means didn't give up another run, and Baltimore got the sweep behind a 3-run HR in the 3rd from Gunnar Henderson, who added a solo HR in the 8th. Cedric Mullins capped the win with a 2-run 2B and the Orioles surged into playoff contention, 1 game back with 6 to play.

GAME #33 — BOS 9 @ TBR 3

The Red Sox are red hot and won going away behind a 2-run HR from David Ortiz in the 1st, a solo HR from Dustin Pedroia in the 5th, a 3-run HR from Masataka Yoshida in the 7th, a 2-run HR from Rafael Devers in the 8th, and a capping RBI 2B from Jarren Duran in the 9th. Chris Sale was strong over 7 innings, only giving up an RBI 2B to Austin Meadows and a 2-run 1B to Brandon Lowe in the 3-run 6th.

GAME #34 — BOS 7 @ TBR 2

The Red Sox won their 7th in a row, putting the Rays' season on ice. Wade Boggs hit an RBI 2B off of Shane McClellan in the 3rd, but Josh Lowe and Austin Meadows had RBIs off of David Price that put the Rays up 2-1. The Red Sox tied the game in the 6th on a solo HR from David Ortiz, and then took the lead in the 7th on a 2-run 1B from Masataka Yoshida, and then a capping 3-run HR from Ortiz, giving the Red Sox 1st place in the AL East with 6 games to play.

GAME #33 — KCR 4 @ NYY 6

Two playoff teams squared off in Yankee Stadium in a game New York needed to keep up with the surging Red Sox. Salvador Perez, Jorge Soler, and Hunter Dozier had RBI 1Bs in the 1st inning, putting a damper on Gerrit Cole's AL Cy Young defense. New York fought back with a solo HR from Aaron Judge off Zack Greinke in the 4th, making it 3-1, but in the top of the 6th the Royals scored on a solo HR from Whit Merrifield. In the bottom of the 6th, Brett Gardner hit a solo HR and then in the 7th Derek Jeter hit a 2-run 2B, and in the 8th Jorge Posada hit a 2-run HR to win the game.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • CLEVELAND WIN 12-2 • TIGERS WIN 3-2 • NYY HOME WIN 13-4

GAME #34 — KCR 4 @ NYY 13

The Yankees achieved their goal, stepping up when needed to keep pace with the Red Sox as they are both tied for 1st in the AL East with 6 games to play. Bo Jackson hit a solo HR in the 3rd, and George Brett hit an RBI 1B making it 2-0. New York tied the game in the bottom of the 4th with a 2-run 2B from Jorge Posada, and then took the 4-2 lead on a 2-run HR from Don Mattingly. Kansas City tied the game in the 6th on a 2-run HR from Jorge Soler, but in the bottom of the 7th the Yankees put up 7 runs on RBI 1Bs from Derek Jeter and Gleyber Torres, a solo HR from Giancarlo Stanton, and a 3-run HR from Mattingly. Hideki Matsui added an RBI 2B and DJ LeMahieu capped it with an RBI 1B in the 8th as the Yankees rolled to a sweep.

GAME #33 — MIN 2 @ CLE 12

Cleveland had a chance to move up with the Royals getting swept and they took advantage, blowing out the Twins with two 5-run innings. Carlos Correa had an RBI 1B in the 1st off of Shane Bieber, but Yan Gomes tied the game in the 3rd with a solo HR off of Sonny Gray. Then in the 4th Cleveland unloaded for 5 runs on a 2-run HR from Jim Thome, an RBI 1B from Andres Gimenez, and a 2-run 2B from Gabriel Arias. Byron Buxton hit a solo HR in the 6th, but in the 7th Michael Brantley hit an RBI 1B, and then in the 8th the Guardians struck for 5 runs again on RBI 1Bs from Jose Ramirez and Carlos Santana, and a capping 3-run HR from Jim Thome.

GAME #34 — MIN 6 @ CLE 3

The Twins got the split, keeping Cleveland from grabbing 1st place in the AL Central alone with a 5-run 1st inning off of Corey Kluber. Carlos Correa hit an RBI 1B, Royce Lewis hit a 2-run 1B, and Mitch Garver hit a 2-run HR to make it 5-0 before Pablo Lopez threw a pitch. Torii Hunter added a solo HR in the 8th, and Cleveland made a late run with RBIs from Jose Ramirez and Josh Naylor, but it was not enough to stop the Twins from getting the road split.

GAME #33 — DET 4 @ CHW 3

You can't count out the Tigers. In a game the White Sox needed to keep their chance at the division alive, it was the Tigers who came out on top in 11 innings. Frank Thomas hit an RBI 1B in the 1st, and Tim Anderson hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd to give the White Sox a 2-0 lead on Tarik Skubal. Yoan Moncada hit an RBI 1B in the 6th making it 3-0, but the Tigers tied the game with one swing on a 3-run HR from Miguel Cabrera. Cecil Fielder hit a solo HR in the 11th and the Tigers are suddenly on the fringe.

GAME #34 — DET 3 @ CHW 2

Here come the Tigers, who have now won 9 of 12 to stay alive in the race for the last spot, while the White Sox have fallen behind in the race. Tim Anderson hit a solo HR in the 3rd, and an RBI 1B in the 5th, but that was all Casey Mize would give up. Mickey Tettleton hit a 2-run HR and Cecil Fielder hit a solo HR in the decisive 5th inning, and that was enough to get the Tigers the road sweep, moving to 17-17 in a stunning run. Meanwhile, the White Sox have fallen out of the playoffs 2 games back with only 6 to play.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • HOU HOME WIN 6-5 • HOU HOME WIN 8-7 • MARINERS HOME WIN

GAME #33 — TEX 5 @ HOU 6

Justin Verlander didn't have his best start as he competes for the AL Cy Young, but he did enough to get the win. Marcus Semien hit a solo HR in the 3rd, but Alex Bregman hit a solo HR and Kyle Tucker hit a 2-run 1B making it 3-1. Jose Altuve hit a 2-run HR in the 4th making it 5-1, but Adolis Garcia and Wyatt Langford had RBI 1Bs in the 6th, and Adrian Beltre hit an RBI 2B in the 7th, making it 5-4. Yuli Gurriel hit a solo HR in the 8th, which mattered as Beltre hit an RBI 1B in the 9th, but the Rangers fell as the sun set on their season.

GAME #34 — TEX 7 @ HOU 8

The Houston Astros have moved 2 games clear as they look to lock up the #1 seed. Texas scored first with an RBI from Adolis Garcia and a 2-run 2B from Nathaniel Lowe in the 1st inning, but Yuli Gurriel hit a 2-run HR in the 4th, and then in the 6th Alex Bregman hit an RBI 1B, and Jeff Bagwell hit a 3-run HR making it 6-3. Texas came all the way back to take the lead with solo HRs from Wyatt Langford and Marcus Semien, and a 2-run HR from Corey Seager in the 4-run 7th, but in the bottom of the 7th Yainer Diaz hit a 2-run HR that won the game and gave Houston the sweep.

GAME #33 — LAA 2 @ SEA 4

The Angels could not play spoiler in Seattle as Felix Hernandez led the Mariners to a win, taking a shutout into the 7th, only giving up an RBI 2B to Mike Trout and an RBI 1B to Jo Adell. Eugenio Suarez hit a 3-run HR in the 2nd, and Edwin Encarnacion hit a solo HR in the 4th, and that was all Hernandez would need to get the home team the win, moving them firmly into a playoff spot.

GAME #34 — LAA 2 @ SEA 4

Seattle claimed one of the top two wild-card spots with another close win on a big hit. Anthony Rendon hit an RBI 2B in the 2nd and Kyren Paris hit an RBI 1B in the 5th to give the Angels a 2-0 lead. In the bottom of the 5th, Cal Raleigh hit a solo HR and then Edgar Martinez got the big hit with a 3-run 2B that was enough to hold up behind a strong 7 innings from Logan Gilbert.

GAME #33 — SFG 4 @ OAK 3

The Giants woke up just in time to save their season as Buster Posey hit an RBI 1B in the 1st, Mike Yastrzemski hit a solo HR in the 2nd, and Wilmer Flores hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd to support Carlos Rodon, who did give up an RBI 1B to Jacob Wilson and a 2-run HR to Darel Hearn, but that was all as the Giants escaped with a 4-3 road win.

GAME #34 — SFG 6 @ OAK 1

The Giants' offense has gotten rolling again just at the right time as they have moved into the fight for the 3rd wild-card spot. Will Clark and Brandon Belt both hit 2-run HRs in the 1st and Madison Bumgarner only gave up an RBI 1B to Rickey Henderson in the 5th. Brandon Crawford hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd, and Mike Yastrzemski added an RBI in the 7th to secure the Giants a timely road sweep with just 6 games to play. They will fight the Phillies and the Diamondbacks for a single spot as the Braves and Padres have most likely secured the top 2 spots.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • CARDINALS WIN 2-1 • PHILLIES WIN 6-3 • PHILLIES WIN 6-5

GAME #33 — WSH 3 @ PHI 6

The Phillies have a chance to control their own fate, and it started well against the Nationals with a 2-run HR from Ryan Howard in the 1st, and a solo HR from John Kruk, an RBI 2B from Lenny Dykstra, and a 2-run 1B from Chase Utley in the 4-run 2nd, giving the Phillies a 6-run lead they would not surrender. Zack Wheeler took a shutout into the 9th, but Keibert Ruiz, Dylan Crews, and Juan Soto added RBIs before it was over.

GAME #34 — WSH 5 @ PHI 6

Juan Soto tried to beat the Phillies, hitting solo HRs in the 1st and the 3rd, but the Phillies kept coming as Scott Rolen hit a solo HR in the 2nd, and then hit a 2-run 2B in the 5th, and then an RBI 2B in the 7th, scoring on an RBI 1B from John Kruk. But the Nationals wouldn't give up the sweep easily, with an RBI 1B from Dylan Crews in the 6th, an RBI 2B from Ryan Zimmerman in the 7th, and a solo HR from Crews in the 8th, tying the game. But the Phillies have their eyes on the playoffs, and World Series champion Bryce Harper hit an RBI 1B in the bottom of the 8th, winning the game and giving the Phillies the sweep they needed, and a firm hold on the last playoff spot to the dismay of the Giants and Diamondbacks.

GAME #33 — ATL 2 @ MIA 0

Spencer Strider was exceptional, striking out 16 while only giving up 4 hits and 1 walk during his complete-game shutout as he positions himself to defend his NL Cy Young campaign as a rookie. Michael Harris hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd, and Chipper Jones added an RBI 1B in the 8th, but that was all Jose Fernandez would give up while pitching into the 8th, but it was enough for Atlanta to move closer to the playoffs.

GAME #34 — ATL 11 @ MIA 4

The Braves have all but secured a playoff spot with a timely road sweep. Chipper Jones hit an RBI 1B in the 1st, Ronald Acuna hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd, and Travis d'Arnaud hit a 2-run HR in the 4th making it 5-0 behind Max Fried who took a shutout into the 7th. Ozzie Albies hit an RBI 1B and Michael Harris hit an RBI 2B in the 5th, and then Ron Gant hit a 3-run HR and Travis d'Arnaud added an RBI 1B in the 4-run 9th, giving the Braves a blowout win. Connor Norby hit a 2-run 2B and Xavier Edwards and Luis Arraez added late RBIs, but it didn't change the outcome as the Braves look forward to the playoffs.

GAME #33 — STL 2 @ NYM 1

The Cardinals came into New York with a chance to take control of the NL Central, but they had to face Jacob deGrom and then Max Scherzer. deGrom and Adam Wainwright remain at the top of the race for the NL Cy Young, and Wainwright blinked first, giving up an RBI 2B to Mike Piazza in the bottom of the 1st, but that was all he would give up over 7 strong innings. Meanwhile, deGrom took a shutout into the 6th, but gave up RBI 1Bs to Nolan Arenado and Matt Carpenter that changed the game. The bullpen held, and the Cardinals got a big road win against a top ace.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • BREWERS WIN 2-0 • BREWERS WIN 8-2 • CARDINALS WIN 12-10

GAME #34 — STL 12 @ NYM 10

The Mets have suddenly lost 6 of their last 9 as the Cardinals were relentless, getting the road sweep. The Cardinals won their 5th in a row at just the right time to take control of the NL Central and almost secure their playoff spot with a strong performance in New York against the #1 seed. Tommy Edman hit a 2-run 2B in the 3rd and scored on an RBI 1B from Brendan Donovan making it 3-0 against Max Scherzer. Jack Flaherty gave up a solo HR to Francisco Lindor in the 3rd, and then a 2-run 1B to Mike Piazza in the 5th that tied the game. The Cardinals would not be denied as they put up 4 runs in the 6th on RBIs from Edman, Donovan, Nolan Arenado, and Albert Pujols. In the 8th, the Cardinals put up 3 more runs on a solo HR from rookie Victor Scott and a 2-run 1B from Pujols making it 10-3. The Mets, however, did not want to get swept at home, and they fought back with 5 runs in the bottom of the 8th on an RBI 2B from Pete Alonso, an RBI from Brandon Nimmo, a 2-run HR from Dominic Smith, and a solo HR from Gary Carter making it suddenly 10-8. The Cardinals put up 2 more runs in the 9th on RBIs from Paul Goldschmidt and Pujols, which mattered as the Mets rallied in the 9th with a 2-run 2B from Nimmo, but that was all they would get as the Mets fell to a home sweep, giving the Cardinals a lot of momentum. The Mets have been coasting to the top seed, but they would like to close the season strong.

GAME #33 — MIL 2 @ CIN 0

Ryan Braun hit a 2-run HR in the top of the 1st against Luis Castillo and that was all Corbin Burnes would need as he shut out the Reds into the 8th. The bullpen finished the game and the Brewers snapped the Reds' four-game winning streak to stay in contention in the NL Central.

GAME #34 — MIL 8 @ CIN 2

The Brewers are still in the race, sweeping the Reds and keeping pace with the Cardinals, staying 1 game back with now 6 to play, including a key series against the Cardinals coming up. Ryan Braun did it again, hitting another 2-run HR in the top of the 1st, and then Braun did it again, hitting another 2-run HR in the 3rd after an RBI 3B from Robin Yount and an RBI 1B from Christian Yelich making it 6-1. Jesse Winker hit an RBI 1B in the bottom of the 1st, but that was all that Brandon Woodruff would give up over 7 strong innings. Yount added an RBI 2B in the 6th and Willy Adames hit a solo HR in the 8th to cap off the sweep. Elly De La Cruz hit an RBI 2B late, but it was not enough to start a rally as the Reds fell.

GAME #33 — PIT 8 @ CHC 1

The Cubs hosted the Pirates with a chance to compete by winning out, which would start with a sweep at home. It did not go as planned starting in the 1st inning when Roberto Clemente hit a 2-run HR. That was all Paul Skenes would need as he pitched 7 shutout innings. Bryan Reynolds hit a 2-run HR in the 5th, and then Starling Marte and Reynolds went back-to-back with solo HRs, making it 6-0. Oneil Cruz hit a 2-run HR in the 9th and the Pirates got a blowout win, ending the Cubs' season. Matt Shaw hit an RBI 1B late in the game to avoid the shutout.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • D-BACKS WIN 10-1 • LAD ROAD WIN 10-2 • LAD ROAD WIN 9-4

GAME #34 — PIT 6 @ CHC 5

The Cubs competed, but the Pirates put the final nail in the coffin of a lost season for the Cubs. Andrew McCutchen hit an RBI 1B in the 1st, but Anthony Rizzo hit an RBI 2B in the bottom half, tying the game. Bryan Reynolds hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd, and then in the 3rd Ke'Bryan Hayes hit a 2-run HR and Endy Rodriguez hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd, and it was 5-1. The Cubs fought back as Anthony Rizzo hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd, and Matt Shaw hit a 2-run HR in the 4th, tying the game. The Cubs had a chance, but in the 6th Roberto Clemente hit a solo HR that won the game as the bullpen held. The Pirates got the sweep on the road and dropped the Cubs to 14-20.

GAME #33 — ARI 3 @ SDP 4

Arizona lost a crucial game, while San Diego won a crucial game. The Padres reached 20 wins almost assuring themselves of at least a playoff spot, while still competing with the Dodgers for the division title. Fernando Tatis Jr took the matter into his own hands, hitting a solo HR in the 1st, and then a game-changing 3-run HR in the 6th. Brandon Drury hit an RBI 1B in the 4th and Eric Chavez hit a 2-run 2B in the 7th, but the rally fell short and the Padres moved a step toward the playoffs. Yu Darvish pitched well to get the win, striking out 13 over 6⅔ innings.

GAME #34 — ARI 10 @ SDP 1

The Diamondbacks responded loudly with Eric Chavez hitting a solo HR in the 1st and then a 3-run HR in the 7th, going 4-5 with a BB, scoring 5 runs. AJ Pollock hit a 2-run HR in the 6th and an RBI in the 4th, while Brandon Drury, Jake McCarthy, and Gabriel Moreno added RBIs in the blowout win. Merrill Kelly was outstanding, pitching 7 shutout innings. The Diamondbacks stayed in the race, tied with the Giants a game back from the Phillies for the final playoff spot.

GAME #33 — LAD 10 @ COL 2

The Dodgers are hot and storming into the playoffs. Max Muncy hit a 3-run HR in the 1st, and a solo HR in the 9th, and an RBI in the 7th. Will Smith hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd, a solo HR in the 5th, and a 2-run HR in the 7th. Trea Turner added a solo HR in the 3rd and the Dodgers cruised behind Clayton Kershaw, who stayed in the close NL Cy Young race, only giving up an RBI 3B to Trevor Story in the 3rd. Carlos Gonzalez added a solo HR late in the game, but it didn't stop the Dodgers.

GAME #34 — LAD 9 @ COL 4

The Dodgers took a big step toward securing the NL West moving a game ahead with 6 to play. Kris Bryant hit a 2-run HR in the 1st, but in the 3rd the Dodgers put up 5 runs on a 2-run 3B from Freddie Freeman, an RBI 2B from Justin Turner, and a 2-run HR from Max Muncy, his 3rd of the series. Gavin Lux hit a 2-run HR and Mookie Betts hit an RBI 2B in the 6th, and Will Smith capped the win with a solo HR in the 7th. Andres Galarraga hit a 2-run HR late, but the Rockies fell to a sweep at home. Walker Buehler pitched a strong 7 innings for the win.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • BAL ROAD WIN 5-2 • BOS HOME WIN 5-4 • DET HOME WIN 14-3

ROUND #18

GAME #35 — BAL 4 @ BOS 5

The Orioles had their chance to control their own fate facing the Red Sox in Boston with a chance to replace the Red Sox and move into a playoff spot. AL MVP candidate Eddie Murray hit a solo HR in the 1st, but Jarren Duran hit a 2-run 1B, taking a 2-1 lead. Ryan Mountcastle tied the game with a solo HR in the 2nd, and then an RBI from Mountcastle in the 4th tied the game. The Red Sox rallied and tied the game in the 6th on an RBI from Jason Varitek, but in the 8th Eddie Murray hit another solo HR, taking a 4-3 lead, padding his AL MVP case. The game went to the bottom of the 9th, 2 outs away from a huge victory, potentially changing two teams' season, when Ceddanne Rafaela hit a walk-off 2-run HR for the home team, putting a huge dent into the Orioles' postseason hopes.

GAME #36 — BAL 5 @ BOS 2

Baltimore got the win they desperately needed behind an RBI 2B from Gunnar Henderson, and another shot from AL MVP candidate Eddie Murray with a 2-run HR. Adley Rutschman added an RBI in the 6th, and Ryan Mountcastle capped the win with a solo HR in the 9th. Grayson Rodriguez gave up a 2-run 2B to Jarren Duran in the 1st, but that was all the Red Sox would get as the O's got a win they needed to stay a game back in the race with only 4 games left to play. Eddie Murray went 5-9 with 3 HRs and 4 RBIs in the biggest series of the season to shift his status into an AL MVP front-runner. Baltimore's 20th win officially eliminated the Angels, A's, Rays, Twins, and Rangers.

GAME #35 — TBR 3 @ DET 14

The Tigers unloaded on the Rays starting with an RBI BB from Kerry Carpenter and then a Grand Slam HR from Ian Kinsler to make it 5-0 after 1. Carpenter hit a solo HR in the 3rd, and then in the 6th Riley Greene hit an RBI 1B and Miguel Cabrera hit a 2-run 1B, in the 7th Isaac Paredes hit an RBI 2B and Cabrera hit a 2-run 2B, and in the 8th Javier Baez hit a 2-run HR to cap the 14-run outburst. Anibal Sanchez was exceptional, taking a 1-hit shutout into the 8th where he faltered as Taylor Walls hit an RBI 2B. Junior Caminero hit a solo HR in the 9th, but nothing would stop the Tigers from moving over .500 for the 1st time in the 3 years of the MLBC.

GAME #36 — TBR 2 @ DET 3

Detroit started the season losing 10 of their first 14 games. Now they have won 11 of 14 to perhaps be the most surprising team of the season, sitting at 19-17 and still in the race for the wild-card and even the AL Central. Tampa Bay scored first with an RBI 1B from Josh Lowe, and then made it 2-0 with a solo HR from Taylor Walls, but Cecil Fielder tied the game in the 7th with a 2-run HR. The 2-2 game went to the bottom of the 11th where Isaac Paredes hit a walk-off solo HR, moving the Tigers an incredible 2 games over .500 and still alive.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • CLEVELAND WIN 6-5 • WHITE SOX WIN 7-4 • YANKEES WIN 5-4

GAME #35 — NYY 5 @ TOR 4

The defending champion knew they had to beat the Yankees, twice, and then win out, just to have a chance. It did not start well, though, as Jasson Dominguez hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd, and DJ LeMahieu hit a 2-run 1B and Gleyber Torres hit an RBI 1B in the 3-run 3rd, and the champion had a 4-0 deficit. Luis Severino took a shutout into the 7th having given up only 2 hits before Teoscar Hernandez hit a 2-run HR giving the champions hope. Then with 2 outs in the bottom of the 9th, Matt Chapman hit his 1st HR of the season with a 2-run shot that tied the game. The Blue Jays had hope, but it faded for good in the 13th when Brett Gardner hit an RBI 2B to win the game, putting the Yankees into a tie for 1st place in the AL East.

GAME #36 — NYY 12 @ TOR 2

The sun set on the champions as the Yankees scored 10 runs before the Blue Jays got their 2nd 1B. Hideki Matsui hit a 3-run HR in the 1st, and an RBI 2B in the 3rd, and a 2-run 2B in the 4th. Don Mattingly hit an RBI 1B and Giancarlo Stanton hit an RBI 2B in the 4-run 4th, and Stanton hit an RBI 2B and DJ LeMahieu hit an RBI 1B in the 5th making it 10-0. A 2-run HR from Jasson Dominguez made it 12-0 before Toronto scored on a solo HR from Roberto Alomar. Bo Bichette added an RBI 1B in the 9th, and that was it, the champion Blue Jays fell to 15-21 in an utter failure of their title defense. Meanwhile, the Yankees secured their hold on the AL East still with a chance at the #1 seed in the AL playoffs. Masahiro Tanaka was strong over 6 innings giving up only 4 hits and 0 walks.

GAME #35 — CHW 5 @ CLE 6

The White Sox need to win. With 6 games left they face a 2-game deficit, and a team in front of them. Cleveland dashed their hopes early with solo HRs from Michael Brantley and Yan Gomes in the 2nd, and RBI 2Bs from Carlos Santana and Jim Thome in the 3rd, and Brantley added an RBI 1B to make it 5-0. It looked grim for the White Sox, but they immediately responded with a 5-run 4th with an RBI 2B from Andrew Benintendi, a 2-run 1B from Yasmani Grandal, and a 2-run 2B from Luis Robert. The 5-5 game went to the 6th when Steven Kwan put the Guardians ahead for good with an RBI 1B.

GAME #36 — CHW 7 @ CLE 4

The White Sox got the split, but it may be too little too late as they remain 2 games back with the O's ahead of them, and only 4 games to play. Steven Kwan hit a solo HR in the 1st, but Jake Burger hit an RBI 2B in the 2nd to tie the game. The White Sox took the lead with an RBI 1B from Luis Robert in the 5th, but Gabriel Arias hit an RBI 2B and scored on an RBI 1B from Michael Brantley in the bottom half. Chicago tied the game with an RBI 1B from Yoan Moncada, but in the bottom half Brantley hit an RBI 1B to retake the lead, and then the White Sox took over. In the top of the 8th, Jake Burger and Tim Anderson had RBI 2Bs, and Moncada and Robert hit RBI 1Bs in the 4-run outburst that settled the game and kept Chicago alive. Frank Thomas saw his 18-game hitting streak end as his AL MVP case took a hit with a 1-8 series.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • LAA ROAD WIN 12-7 • LAA ROAD WIN 5-4 • MIN HOME WIN 7-6

GAME #35 — KCR 1 @ MIN 8

The Royals are the story of the 2024 season, but suddenly the dream is in danger as they needed to keep pace with the Guardians, but failed in the first game in a series against an eliminated team. Joe Ryan was exceptional giving up only 4 hits over 8 innings while the offense hummed behind 2-run HRs from Carlos Correa and Matt Wallner. Royce Lewis hit an RBI 2B and Brooks Lee hit a 2-run 1B in the 3-run 7th, and Torii Hunter added an RBI 1B in the 6th as the Twins rolled to a nice win at home. Bo Jackson hit a solo HR in the 8th, but it was not enough to matter in the end.

GAME #36 — KCR 6 @ MIN 7

The Twins have reached 16-20 in a surprising run that will bode well for next season after a miserable stretch earlier. Kansas City desperately needed a win for the split, and it started well with an RBI 1B from George Brett and a 2-run HR from Jorge Soler in the 1st, but in the bottom half Matt Wallner hit an RBI 1B and Carlos Correa hit a 3-run HR making it 4-3. Byron Buxton hit a solo HR in the 2nd, but Alex Gordon hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd to tie game 5-5. In the bottom of the 4th, Joe Mauer hit a 2-run HR, and though Alex Gordon hit an RBI 2B in the 5th, that was the last run the Twins would give up as they held for the sweep. The Royals are in trouble having lost four games in a row to fall into the last playoff spot. They own the tiebreaker with the Orioles, but they will need to win their last 4 games to assure their spot. Next up is a critical series against the Guardians for the division.

GAME #35 — LAA 5 @ TEX 4

Josh Hamilton opened the scoring with a 2-run HR in the 1st, but Kyren Paris hit a solo HR and Mike Trout hit a 3-run HR in the 5th making it 4-2. The Rangers rallied immediately on a solo HR from Josh Hamilton and an RBI 1B from Rougned Odor tying the game. Brandon Marsh hit an RBI 1B in the 8th to break the tie, and the bullpen held to give the Angels a road win.

GAME #36 — LAA 12 @ TEX 7

The Angels have some momentum heading into the off-season putting up 12 runs against the Rangers getting a road sweep. Ivan Rodriguez hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 1st to open the scoring, but Zach Neto hit a solo HR in the 3rd to tie the game. Adolis Garcia hit a 2-run 1B in the 3rd to take the lead, but Anthony Rendon hit an RBI 2B and Logan O'Hoppe hit a 2-run HR in the 4th to take the lead right back, and then in the bottom half Ivan Rodriguez and Adrian Beltre hit RBI 1Bs taking the lead back yet again, 5-4. Then in the top of the 5th the Angels tied the game on a Jo Adell RBI, and in the 6th they took the lead with a 3-run HR from Shohei Ohtani making it 8-5. Rodriguez hit an RBI 1B in the 6th, but Ohtani struck again with a second 3-run HR in the 8th. Anthony Rendon hit a solo HR in the 9th and Beltre had an RBI 1B in the bottom of the 9th as the Angels leaped over the Rangers in the standings.

GAME #35 — OAK 5 @ HOU 3

The Astros dropped a game on their way to the top seed as Oakland had 1 big inning to take the game. Tyler Soderstrom hit an RBI 1B in the 1st, but Marwin Gonzalez hit an RBI 1B in the 4th to tie the game. In the 6th, Darell Hernaiz hit an RBI 2B, Seth Brown hit a 2-run 2B, and Tony Kemp added an RBI to make it 5-1. Jeremy Pena hit a 2-run HR in the 9th, but it was not enough to stop the A's from stealing one on the road.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • MARINERS WIN 8-6 • ATL HOME WIN 6-0 • HOU HOME WIN 12-1

GAME #36 — OAK 1 @ HOU 12

Houston got the win back in a big way scoring on an RBI 1B from Jeff Bagwell in the 1st, and a 2-run 1B from Cam Smith, an RBI from Chas McCormick, and RBI 2Bs from Jeremy Pena and Yainer Diaz making it 6-0. Kyle Tucker hit a 2-run 1B and Yordan Alvarez hit an RBI 1B in the 3-run 5th, and Marwin Gonzalez hit a 3-run HR in the 6th to make it 12-0. Rickey Henderson hit a solo HR in the 7th in the loss. Lance McCullers pitched well over 6 shutout innings, only giving up 3 hits and 4 walks. Houston officially secured a playoff spot with the win.

GAME #35 — SEA 2 @ COL 4

The Mariners travelled to Colorado with a chance to secure a playoff spot, but it did not go well as George Kirby surrendered RBI 1Bs to Brendan Rodgers and Wilin Rosario in the 4th and a solo HR to Troy Tulowitzki in the 5th making it 3-0. The M's fought back with an RBI 2B in the 6th and a solo HR from AL MVP candidate Robinson Cano off of Jon Gray, but the comeback stalled. Charlie Blackmon hit an RBI 1B in the 8th to seal the win, putting a dent in the playoff hopes of the Mariners.

GAME #36 — SEA 8 @ COL 6

Seattle was facing a crushing sweep being down 1-0 going into the 8th inning after Troy Tulowitzki hit an RBI 1B in the 5th off of Robbie Ray. Just in time with 6 outs to go Edgar Martinez stepped up and hit a 2-run 2B giving the M's the lead, and unlocking the offense as Eugenio Suarez hit an RBI 1B and Cal Raleigh hit a 2-run HR in the 5-run 8th. Given new life and a 5-1 lead, Seattle may have thought the game was in hand, but in the bottom half of the 8th Andres Galarraga hit a 2-run 1B, Brendan Rodgers hit a 2-run 2B, and Trevor Story hit an RBI 2B making it suddenly 6-5. In the top of the 9th with 2 outs, down to their final out before falling out of their playoff spot, Edgar Martinez did it again hitting a solo HR to tie the game. The M's took control in the 10th on a solo HR from JP Crawford and an RBI 2B from Robinson Cano padding the lead. The lead held and the M's escaped with a split, keeping their playoff spot with four games to play.

GAME #35 — WSH 0 @ ATL 6

The Braves took advantage of the chance to secure their playoff spot with an easy win over the Nationals. Chipper Jones, Ozzie Albies, and Michael Harris had RBIs in the 1st, making it 3-0 after 1. Albies hit an RBI 2B in the 3rd, and then Harris hit a 2-run 2B in the 7th making it 6-0. Charlie Morton pitched 7 strong shutout innings for the win.

GAME #36 — WSH 6 @ ATL 7

Atlanta stayed alive in the NL East race with a sweep of the Nationals, but it wasn't easy. Matt Olson hit a 2-run HR in the bottom of the 1st, but Juan Soto hit a 2-run HR tying the game. In the bottom of the 3rd, Deion Sanders hit a solo HR, and in the bottom of the 4th Travis d'Arnaud hit an RBI 1B making it 4-2. The Nationals rallied in the 5th as Ryan Zimmerman hit a 2-run HR and Luis Garcia hit an RBI 3B, taking a 5-4 lead. The Braves rallied in the bottom of the 6th with a 2-run HR from d'Arnaud, but again the Nationals fought back, tying the game on an RBI 1B from Jayson Werth. The tied game went to the bottom of the 9th when Chipper Jones walked it off with a solo HR. The Braves secured a playoff spot with the win.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • CIN HOME WIN 2-1 • MARLINS ROAD WIN • NYM ROAD WIN 6-1

GAME #35 — MIA 9 @ PIT 1

The Marlins got an easy win behind a strong start from Livan Hernandez, who pitched 7 innings, only giving up an RBI 1B to Oneil Cruz in the 4th. Liam Hicks started it for the Marlins with a 2-run HR in the 2nd, followed by a 2-run 2B from Ichiro Suzuki. Luis Arraez hit a 2-run 1B in the 4th, and added an RBI in the 8th, and Connor Norby capped the blowout with an RBI 3B, scoring on an RBI 1B from Ichiro Suzuki. The loss formally eliminated the Pirates as they look to build for next season.

GAME #36 — MIA 3 @ PIT 4

The Pirates got the win back earning the split in extra innings. Charlie Hayes gave the Pirates a 1-0 lead in the 4th with an RBI 1B, but the Marlins tied the game in the 5th on an RBI 1B from Ichiro Suzuki. Miami took the lead in the 6th on an RBI 1B from Jesus Sanchez, but Pittsburgh tied the game in the bottom half on a solo HR from Oneil Cruz. Miami again took the lead when Bryan De La Cruz hit an RBI 2B, but the Pirates tied the game in the bottom half when Oneil Cruz hit an RBI 3B, and then in the bottom of the 10th Pittsburgh finally won the game on a walk-off RBI 2B.

GAME #35 — NYM 6 @ PHI 1

The Mets came into Philadelphia needing to win as the juggernaut had lost 6 of 9 to fall back to the pack. Meanwhile, the Phillies were in a tight race for the last playoff spot, just 1 game ahead of the Giants and Diamondbacks. Francisco Lindor and Mike Piazza had RBIs in the 3rd off of Cole Hamels, and Gary Carter hit a solo HR in the 5th while Noah Syndergaard cruised giving the Mets some relief. Syndergaard only gave up 2 hits and 0 runs going into the 9th, but Scott Rolen hit an RBI 1B to spoil the shutout. In the top of the 9th, Dominic Smith hit an RBI 1B and Jeff McNeil hit a 2-run 1B as the Mets move a step closer to the #1 seed.

GAME #36 — NYM 9 @ PHI 3

The Mets are 1 game away from securing the #1 seed as they set their sites on a championship. Meanwhile, the Phillies have taken a step back at the most critical time giving up their hold on the final playoff spot putting themselves in a position where they may need to win out. David Wright had an RBI in the 3rd and Darryl Strawberry hit a solo HR in the 4th. The Mets pulled away in the 5th when David Wright hit a 2-run HR and Strawberry added an RBI making it 5-0, and then in the 6th when Mike Piazza hit a 3-run HR. Bryce Harper hit a 2-run HR in the 5th, and Ryan Howard hit a solo HR in the 7th, but it was not enough to stop the Mets from getting the road sweep. Gary Carter added an RBI in the 9th to cap the blowout win. Kodai Senga earned the win navigating 5 innings giving up 4 hits and 6 walks, but only 2 runs.

GAME #35 — CHC 1 @ CIN 2

Johnny Cueto shut down the Cubs only giving up a solo HR to Anthony Rizzo in the 2nd, while Jon Lester was almost as good, but gave up a 2-run HR to Matt McLain in the 3rd. The pitching held and the 2-1 win went to the Reds as both teams look forward to next season.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • BREWERS WIN 9-6 • ARI HOME WIN 1-0 • CARDINALS ROAD WIN

GAME #36 — CHC 6 @ CIN 3

The Cubs got the split highlighted by a 3-run HR from Victor Caratini in the 2nd. Willson Contreras hit an RBI 2B in the 4th and that was all Shota Imanaga would need as he took a shutout into the 8th. In the top of the 8th, Christopher Morel hit a solo HR and in the 9th Ryne Sandberg hit a solo HR to lead the Cubs across the finish line as the Reds rallied briefly in the 8th with an RBI 1B from Elly De La Cruz and a 2-run 2B from Todd Frazier.

GAME #35 — STL 6 @ MIL 9

All eyes watched as the Cardinals and Brewers faced each other for 1 division and 1 playoff spot. NL MVP front-runner Albert Pujols hit a 2-run HR off of Freddy Peralta in the 1st, Kolton Wong hit an RBI 2B in the 2nd, and Paul Goldschmidt hit a 2-run HR in the 3rd making it 4-1 for the Cardinals. And then the Brewers fought for their season with a 5-run 5th on an RBI 3B from Robin Yount, RBI 1Bs from Ryan Braun and Willy Adames, and a 2-run 2B from William Contreras. A 2-run 1B from Robin Yount in the 6th made it 8-4 and the Brewers could exhale. Tommy Edman hit a solo HR in the 7th, but Contreras hit a solo HR in the bottom half. Lars Nootbaar hit an RBI 1B in the 8th, but that was as close as the Cardinals would get as the Brewers tied them for the NL Central lead.

GAME #36 — STL 5 @ MIL 4

The Cardinals needed a win before their season slipped away and Albert Pujols again led the way hitting a solo HR in the 2nd, while Tommy Edman and Brendan Donovan added RBIs in the 3-run 2nd. Yadier Molina added an RBI 2B in the 4th and the Cardinals had a 4-0 lead. But again the Brewers fought back with Jackson Chourio hit a 2-run 2B in the 5th, and Kolton Wong and Chourio added RBIs in the 7th to tie the game. The tension was high as the 4-4 game went to the 10th when Tyler O'Neill connected for a solo HR off of Josh Hader to put the Cardinals 1 game ahead with 4 games to play.

GAME #35 — LAD 0 @ ARI 1

Brandon Pfaadt had the start of a lifetime pitching the Diamondbacks past the Dodgers with 8 stellar innings in the most crucial game of the season out-dueling Yoshinobu Yamamoto, only giving up 4 hits and 1 walk. Christian Walker hit an RBI 2B in the 4th and that was all Pfaadt would need as the Diamondbacks got a huge win keeping in the race.

GAME #36 — LAD 7 @ ARI 3

Ryne Nelson had his best start as a pro pitching 6 strong innings, only giving up a 2-run HR to Will Smith in the 4th that tied the game. Ketel Marte hit a 2-run HR off of Dustin May in the 1st, and then AJ Pollock hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 4th to regain the lead. The 4-3 game went to the 7th where the Dodgers rallied with a 2-run 1B from Gavin Lux, and then in the 9th Trea Turner hit a 2-run HR and Freddie Freeman hit a solo HR putting the game out of reach, moving the Dodgers a big step closer to the NL West title. The Dodgers' win officially eliminated the Marlins and the Cubs.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 9 • GIANTS WIN 5-3 • LONGORIA 11TH-INNING HR • GIANTS SWEEP

GAME #35 — SFG 5 @ SDP 3

Two rivals squared off with a lot on the line. San Diego could secure a playoff spot and knock out the Giants, or the Giants could launch forward and pull the Padres back to the pack. Joe Panik hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd off of Michael King, and then LaMonte Wade and Will Clark hit RBI 1Bs in the 4th making it 3-0. Luis Campusano had an RBI in the 5th, but Buster Posey hit an RBI 1B in the 7th making it 4-1. Tony Gwynn had an RBI in the 8th, but Evan Longoria hit an RBI 1B in the top of the 9th making it 5-2. Eric Hosmer hit an RBI 1B in the bottom of the 9th, but that was as far as the rally would go. The Giants won a big game on the road behind a strong start from Logan Webb.

GAME #36 — SFG 6 @ SDP 3

Here come the Giants. San Francisco moved up in the race to the dismay of the Phillies, Padres, and Diamondbacks as the Giants leaped over all three teams from out of the playoffs into the 2nd wild-card spot. Tony Gwynn hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd off of Jeff Samardzija, but that was all he would give up in the best start of his season at the best time, stepping up for the Giants. LaMonte Wade hit a 2-run 1B in the 4th and Joe Panik hit an RBI 2B in the 8th making it 3-1, but the Padres rallied in the bottom of the 8th with solo HRs from Fernando Tatis Jr and Xander Bogaerts tying the game. The 3-3 game went to the 11th when defending NL MVP Evan Longoria hit a solo HR, and then Brandon Crawford hit a 2-run HR to pad the lead as the Giants swept the Padres in an enormous outcome for the road team with just 4 games left to play. Buster Posey went 5-5 with 3 2Bs to lead the way.

MLBC — WEEK 10

GAMES 37-40 • FINAL WEEK

THE METS REACH THIRTY

A wins record, a seven-run comeback, division clinchers and one last scramble send twelve clubs into October.

THE LEAD Four games remained with the Mets at 26-10, Atlanta and Houston at 23-13, and Los Angeles and the Yankees at 22-14. Boston, Cleveland and Seattle were 21-15, with Cleveland and Kansas City separated by just one game. St. Louis held the NL Central by one over Milwaukee, while Philadelphia, San Francisco, Arizona, Baltimore, Kansas City and Detroit were still trying to force themselves into October. Nothing beneath the Mets felt secure.

THE WEEK New York and Philadelphia both went 4-0. The Mets finished 30-10, setting the MLBC wins record after falling behind 7-0 in Game #40, erasing the entire deficit and winning on Pete Alonso's walk-off HR. Philadelphia's perfect week did two jobs at once: it pushed the Phillies into the postseason and, by sweeping Milwaukee, helped preserve St. Louis's division title even while the Cardinals themselves went 0-4. Arizona briefly looked ready to steal the ending by sweeping San Francisco, then gave the advantage back by losing twice to Colorado. Kansas City won its final two games, but the damage from its previous six losses was too large to overcome. Toronto finally ended a nine-game losing streak in its last game, an oddly appropriate closing note for the defending champion's fall from the bracket. The Yankees took the East, Cleveland won a third straight Central, Houston took the West, Los Angeles took the NL West and San Francisco's two-year division reign ended outside October.

THE STAKES The regular season is complete. Houston and the Yankees earn the American League byes; the Mets and Dodgers earn them in the National League. Cleveland hosts Boston, Seattle hosts Baltimore, St. Louis hosts Philadelphia and Atlanta hosts San Diego. The Mets enter October with a record thirty wins. St. Louis enters as a division champion at 19-21. Seattle won twenty-four games and still has to play a Wild Card series. Forty games have frozen every argument the regular season can answer. The defending champion Blue Jays and the defending NL champion Giants are both already out. The bracket now asks the only question that matters: who can keep winning when the records stop protecting anybody?

MLBC RECORD
NYM • 30-10

PERFECT WEEK
NYM / PHI • 4-0

DIVISION CLINCHERS
NYY / CLE / HOU /
STL / LAD

PLAYOFF FIELD
12 clubs remain

WEEKLY HONORS

HITTER OF THE WEEK

GOLD PETE ALONSO • NYM

3 HR • 7 RBI • *record-clinching walk-off*

SILVER BO JACKSON • KCR

3 HR • 7 RBI

BRONZE AARON JUDGE • NYY

2 HR • 6 RBI

PITCHER OF THE WEEK

GOLD JACOB deGROM • NYM

CG SHO • 2 H • 1 BB • 17 K

SILVER TYLER GLASNOW • TBR

CG SHO • 2 H • 2 BB • 12 K

BRONZE PAUL SKENES • PIT

CG SHO • 2 H • 0 BB

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • ORIOLES WIN 6-4 • RED SOX WIN 9-1 • WHITE SOX ROAD WIN

ROUND #19

GAME #37 — NYY 6 @ BAL 1

Gerrit Cole had a chance to take control of the AL Cy Young race, looking to defend his title, and he took it, pitching a brilliant 8 innings, taking a 2-hit shutout into the 9th before giving up a solo HR to Anthony Santander. Jasson Dominguez hit a solo HR in the 1st, and then Aaron Judge hit a 3-run HR in the 5th that settled the game. Anthony Volpe and DJ LeMahieu added RBIs late in the game and the Yankees cruised to a win, moving a step closer to the AL East title and securing their playoff spot.

GAME #38 — NYY 4 @ BAL 6

The Orioles knew they had a tough task in the previous game facing a determined Gerrit Cole, making this the game they needed to win for their season. Gunnar Henderson stepped up with a 2-run HR in the 1st and an RBI 1B in the 2nd to give the O's a 3-0 lead. Gleyber Torres hit a solo HR in the 3rd, but in the bottom half Adley Rutschman hit a 2-run HR to make it 5-1. Aaron Hicks had an RBI in the 6th, but Cal Ripken Jr matched it with an RBI in the bottom half. Jorge Posada hit a 2-run 1B in the 7th, but that was as close as the Yankees would get as the Orioles got the split their season needed, staying in the race for the final playoff spot. John Means was strong over 6 innings, only giving up 1 hit and 0 walks over his first 5 before hitting trouble.

GAME #37 — TOR 0 @ TBR 1

Tyler Glasnow finished the season strong pitching a 2-hit complete-game shutout, walking 2 and striking out 12. Austin Meadows hit an RBI 2B in the 4th and that was all the Rays would need to get a late-season win as the Blue Jays lost their 7th in a row.

GAME #38 — TOR 0 @ TBR 5

The defending champions are in an embarrassing free-fall to end the season losing their 8th game in a row, failing to score even once in the road series. Kevin Kiermaier took care of the offense going 3-4 with a 2B and 3 RBIs. Nick Fortes and Taylor Walls added RBIs in the easy win. Shane McCann took his shutout attempt into the 8th and the bullpen finished the impressive scoreless sweep.

GAME #37 — CHW 4 @ BOS 0

Garrett Crochet outdueled Chris Sale, pitching his first career complete-game shutout. Crochet only gave up 3 hits and 2 walks while striking out 11. Sale was strong, taking a shutout into the 6th, but Eloy Jimenez hit an RBI 1B, and in the 7th Luis Robert hit a 2-run 1B and Frank Thomas hit an RBI 1B making it a 4-0 win, keeping the White Sox alive in the race.

GAME #38 — CHW 1 @ BOS 9

The Red Sox got the game they needed to move to the brink of their playoff spot. Jarren Duran hit a solo HR in the 2nd and an RBI 2B in the 3rd, scoring on a Willyer Abreu RBI 1B making it 4-0. Wade Boggs hit a solo HR in the 5th, and in the 6th Abreu hit a solo HR, Dustin Pedroia hit an RBI 1B, and Boggs hit a 2-run 2B making it 9-0. Yasmani Grandal hit an RBI 1B late to end the shutout attempt for David Price. The White Sox lost a game they needed to move up, and they remain 2 games back of the last spot with 2 games to play.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • CLEVELAND WIN 1-0 • CLEVELAND WIN 9-2 • TIGERS WIN 4-1

GAME #37 — CLE 1 @ KCR 0

The Royals and Guardians faced each other with the AL Central division title at stake and it was Shane Bieber who came out on top. Zack Greinke only gave up an RBI 1B to Michael Brantley in the 1st, but it was enough as Bieber was excellent, pitching 8 shutout innings. Emmanuel Clase got the save and the Guardians escaped with a 1-0 win, putting them on the brink of the division. The Royals' loss put the Yankees into the playoffs.

GAME #38 — CLE 9 @ KCR 2

The Cleveland Guardians won the AL Central for the 3rd consecutive season, taking down the Kansas City Royals 9-2. Carlos Santana hit an RBI 1B in the 1st, but Bo Jackson hit a 2-run 2B in the 2nd to take the lead. An RBI 1B from Michael Brantley in the 6th tied the game and the Royals were in a fight for their season. In the top of the 8th, with the division in sight, Jim Thome hit a 2-run HR to take the lead. Michael Brantley hit a solo HR after going back-to-back and the division was in reach. In the top of the 9th the party started as Jose Ramirez hit a 2-run 1B, Thome hit an RBI 1B, and Josh Naylor hit an RBI 2B turning a tight game into a blowout. The Guardians are going to the playoffs while the Royals have now lost 6 in a row at the worst time. The Orioles are the team cheering as the fall of the Royals put Baltimore into the final spot with 2 games to play. Corey Kluber was exceptional pitching 8 innings, giving up only 5 hits and 2 runs while striking out 15. The Royals' loss put the Red Sox into the playoffs.

GAME #37 — MIN 3 @ DET 2

The Tigers have inexplicably put themselves in playoff contention, but the Twins dashed their long-shot hopes behind a strong start from Sonny Gray. Victor Martinez hit a solo HR in the 4th to back Tarik Skubal who took a shutout into the 8th. In the 8th the Tigers' hopes faded when Torii Hunter hit a 2-run HR and Matt Wallner went back-to-back with a solo HR. Riley Greene hit an RBI 1B in the bottom of the 8th, but the rally fell short and the Twins stole the win the Tigers needed.

GAME #38 — MIN 1 @ DET 4

The Tigers stayed alive. Riley Greene hit a 2-run HR in the 5th and Casey Mize was fantastic over 8 innings, only giving up an RBI 1B to Joe Mauer. Kerry Carpenter hit a 2-run HR in the 8th and the Tigers got the win they needed and secured a .500 season. The Tigers will need to sweep the Guardians and get some help, but they are still alive.

GAME #37 — OAK 7 @ TEX 0

JP Sears was excellent taking a shutout into the 8th. Rickey Henderson hit a solo HR in the 1st and an RBI 2B in the 2nd. Tyler Soderstrom hit an RBI 1B in the 1st and another RBI 1B in the 2nd, and Mark McGwire and Khris Davis added RBI 1Bs in the 4-run 2nd, and the game was 6-0. Mark McGwire hit a solo HR in the 9th and the A's cruised.

GAME #38 — OAK 4 @ TEX 6

Oakland took a 2-0 lead on a solo HR from Mark McGwire in the 1st and an RBI 1B from Jacob Wilson in the 4th, but in the 6th Josh Hamilton hit an RBI 1B and Rougned Odor hit a 2-run 2B to take the lead. In the 7th, Hamilton hit a 2-run 1B and Odor added an RBI which proved decisive as Tyler Soderstrom hit a solo HR in the 8th and Khris Davis hit an RBI 1B making the game close, but not enough to stop the Rangers from getting the home split. Jeffrey Springs was strong over 6 innings to get the win.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • DODGERS WIN 5-2 • HOU HOME WIN 9-1 • MARINERS ROAD WIN

GAME #37 — SEA 1 @ HOU 9

The Astros took the AL West behind an outstanding start from Justin Verlander as he makes his last argument for AL Cy Young, an award he is either on the verge of finishing 2nd for the 3rd consecutive season or winning, taking down a great season from the reigning AL Cy Young Award winner, Gerrit Cole. Ken Griffey Jr hit an RBI 1B in the top of the 1st, but in the bottom half Kyle Tucker and Yainer Diaz hit RBI 1Bs and Yuli Gurriel hit an RBI 2B for a 3-1 lead. Alex Bregman hit an RBI 1B in the 4th and then in the 7th Jeff Bagwell hit an RBI 3B, Yordan Alvarez added an RBI, and Gurriel hit a 2-run HR making it 8-0. Marwin Gonzalez hit a solo HR in the 8th and the Astros won the division in a romp. The Astros are 1 win away from the #1 seed.

GAME #38 — SEA 5 @ HOU 0

Logan Gilbert was excellent avoiding trouble, giving up 7 hits and 3 walks, but not giving up a run. AL MVP candidate Robinson Cano hit a 3-run HR in the 5th, perhaps securing the award, and Ty France and Mitch Haniger hit back-to-back solo HRs in the 6th, and that was all Seattle would need to get the split and move to the verge of a playoff spot. One win, or one Kansas City loss, secures a wild-card spot as the M's look to compete for the championship.

GAME #37 — LAD 5 @ LAA 2

The Los Angeles Dodgers won the NL West, ending the Giants' 2-year run, with a victory against their LA rivals. Justin Turner hit an RBI 1B in the 1st, and Freddie Freeman hit an RBI in the 3rd, and that was all Clayton Kershaw would need. Kershaw gave up a solo HR to Mike Trout in the 4th, and then a solo HR to Logan O'Hoppe in the 9th, over a 9-inning complete-game statement win in an attempt to win the NL Cy Young Award. Chris Taylor hit a 2-run 2B in the 8th and Freddie Freeman hit a solo HR in the 9th, and the Dodgers cruised to a very meaningful win as they look to compete for the championship.

GAME #38 — LAD 6 @ LAA 0

Walker Buehler pitched 7 strong shutout innings, only giving up 5 hits and 0 walks. Mookie Betts hit a solo HR in the 6th off of Patrick Sandoval to take the lead, and then in the 8th Will Smith hit a 3-run HR, and in the 9th Betts added a 2-run 2B to complete the blowout win as the Dodgers prepare for the playoffs.

GAME #37 — NYM 7 @ WSH 0

The New York Mets won the NL East behind a masterful start from Jacob deGrom, who was clearly aiming at the NL Cy Young Award with a 2-hit complete-game shutout, walking only 1 while striking out 17. Pete Alonso hit a 3-run HR in the 6th, Dominic Smith hit a solo HR in the 7th, Darryl Strawberry hit an RBI 1B in the 8th, and Gary Carter and Francisco Lindor had solo HRs in the 9th, and the Mets cruised to the division title that has been theirs all season.

GAME #38 — NYM 2 @ WSH 0

Max Scherzer was dominant getting ready for the playoffs, giving up 6 hits and 1 walk while taking a shutout into the 8th. Francisco Alvarez hit a solo HR in the 2nd, and Mark Vientos added an RBI in the 5th, and that was all Scherzer would need. The New York Mets secured the #1 seed throughout the playoffs.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • PHILLIES WIN 1-0 • PHILLIES WIN 3-2 • ATL HOME WIN 6-2

GAME #37 — PHI 1 @ MIA 0

Zack Wheeler showed up just in time, pitching a strong 8 shutout innings, only giving up 6 hits and 0 walks. John Kruk hit an RBI 2B in the 4th against Jose Fernandez, and that was all the Phillies would need to escape with a win.

GAME #38 — PHI 3 @ MIA 2

The Phillies have shown up at the right time behind a solid 6 innings from Aaron Nola, who only gave up an RBI 1B to Luis Arraez in the 3rd. Bryce Harper hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd, Bryson Stott hit an RBI 1B in the 4th, but in the bottom of the 8th an RBI 2B from Jesus Sanchez tied the game. With their season on the line, JT Realmuto hit an RBI 1B to win the game and keep their season alive down to the last series. They will need help, but they are still alive.

GAME #37 — CHC 2 @ ATL 1

Spencer Strider stepped up in the heat of defending his NL Cy Young Award, stepping forward as the front-runner on the heels of deGrom's 2-hitter with 17 strikeouts and Clayton Kershaw's dominant complete game. The start was amazing, taking a no-hitter into the 5th and not giving up even a second hit until the 8th, and then Pete Crow-Armstrong hit a 2-run 1B that won the game, because Marcus Stroman was just as good. Stroman took a shutout into the 8th, and Hector Rondon came in, gave up an RBI 1B to Michael Harris, but that was it as the Cubs got the road win.

GAME #38 — CHC 2 @ ATL 6

The Braves got the split they needed as they prepare for the playoffs. Travis d'Arnaud hit a 3-run HR in the 2nd and Ron Gant hit a solo HR in the 5th. Chipper Jones and Ozzie Albies hit RBI 1Bs in the 7th and the Braves cruised. Max Fried was strong over 7 innings, only giving up an RBI 1B to Michael Busch in the 4th and an RBI 1B to Ryne Sandberg in the 7th.

GAME #37 — CIN 8 @ STL 5

The Reds played the role of spoiler dashing the momentum of the Cardinals in a game at home they needed. Jesse Winker hit an RBI 1B in the 1st off of NL Cy Young candidate Adam Wainwright, but St. Louis tied the game in the 3rd on an RBI 1B from Brendan Donovan, and then in the 4th Albert Pujols hit a solo HR and Lars Nootbaar hit an RBI 2B making it 3-1. And then Adam Wainwright melted down. In the 5th, Wainwright gave up 1 1B, 1 BB, 2 1Bs, 3 BBs, totaling 6 runs after Christian Encarnacion-Strand hit a 2-run 2B to cap the huge inning. St. Louis did not recover. Nolan Arenado hit a 2-run HR in the bottom of the 5th, but Jesse Winker had his 3rd RBI of the game. Spencer Steer, Elly De La Cruz, and Adam Duvall all added RBIs in the big inning.

GAME #38 — CIN 3 @ STL 2

Uh-oh. The St. Louis Cardinals have lost their grip on first place, dropping another game they needed, getting swept at home against a last-place team, at the most crucial point in the season. Hunter Greene was exceptional, and that was that. Tommy Edman hit a solo HR, but Greene only gave up 1 other hit over 8 innings. Jesse Winker hit a 2-run HR in the 5th and Christian Encarnacion-Strand hit a solo HR in the 7th and the Reds got a road sweep, sending the Cardinals into dire straits.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • ARI HOME WIN 6-4 • BREWERS ROAD WIN • PIRATES HOME WIN

GAME #37 — MIL 0 @ PIT 4

After the multiple incredible pitching performances this week, it was Paul Skenes who came out on top, pitching his first career shutout with a 2-hit masterpiece. Skenes only gave up 2 lone singles and 0 walks, dominating a team that was desperate to win. The Cardinals tripped and fell on their face, and the Brewers could not capitalize, but could only watch Skenes mow them down. Willie Stargell hit a 2-run HR in the 6th, and Andy Van Slyke hit a 2-run HR in the 7th, and the Pirates cruised, dashing the hopes of Milwaukee just when they had been given a chance.

GAME #38 — MIL 3 @ PIT 2

The Brewers got the win they needed to stay alive, but it was not easy. Ryan Braun hit an RBI 2B and Rowdy Tellez added an RBI in the top of the 1st, but Oneil Cruz hit an RBI 1B in the bottom half, making it 2-1. Pittsburgh tied the game in the 3rd with an RBI 3B from Roberto Clemente, but that was all Brandon Woodruff and the bullpen would give up in this must-win game. Eventually the offense came through when Ryan Braun hit a solo HR in the 10th and the Brewers live to fight to the last series, facing a Phillies team needing to win, and needing the eliminated Cubs to beat the hungry Cardinals.

GAME #37 — COL 1 @ SDP 6

The Padres took a big step toward the playoffs behind Yu Darvish, who only gave up a solo HR to Trevor Story in the 3rd. Fernando Tatis Jr hit a 2-run 2B in the 1st, Francisco Mejia hit a 2-run 2B in the 6th, and Ha-Seong Kim hit a 2-run HR in the 8th as the Padres cruised to the verge of a wild-card spot.

GAME #38 — COL 7 @ SDP 8

Blake Snell gave up 4 consecutive singles to start the game, including an RBI 1B to Carlos Gonzalez, and then Ryan McMahon hit a Grand Slam HR, taking a 5-0 lead after 1. In the 2nd inning, Jurickson Profar hit a 2-run HR, and in the 3rd inning Fernando Tatis Jr hit a 2-run 1B and Manny Machado added an RBI that tied the game 5-5 after 3. The tied game went to the 8th when the Padres scored on a solo HR from Tatis, but in the top of the 9th the Rockies tied the game on an RBI 1B from McMahon. The 6-6 game went to the 12th when an RBI 1B from Troy Tulowitzki gave the Rockies the lead, but the Padres could not let this game slip away, and they rallied with a 2B from Jackson Merrill after a BB to Francisco Mejia, and then a walk-off 2-run 1B from Tony Gwynn, putting the Padres on the brink of securing a playoff spot.

GAME #37 — SFG 4 @ ARI 6

The Giants had a chance to control their fate, and they blew it. Brandon Belt hit an RBI 1B off of Zac Gallen in the 1st, but in the bottom half Eric Chavez hit a 2-run HR off of Carlos Rodon to take the lead. Jung Hoo Lee hit an RBI 2B in the 2nd to tie the game, and then an RBI BB from Evan Longoria took the lead. An RBI 2B from LaMonte Wade in the 5th gave the Giants a 4-2 lead, but in the bottom half of the 5th Eric Chavez and AJ Pollock hit RBI 1Bs to tie the game, and then in the bottom of the 8th a 2-run HR from Brandon Drury may have changed the fates of both teams. Arizona won 6-4 and moved up in the race. The Giants had their fate in their hands, and it slipped away.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • ARI HOME WIN 4-2 • BAL HOME WIN 4-3 • BAL HOME WIN 9-3

GAME #38 — SFG 2 @ ARI 4

The Giants needed a win to keep their season alive, but the Diamondbacks took the game. Brandon Drury hit an RBI 1B off of Madison Bumgarner in the 6th to end the scoreless tie, but in the 7th LaMonte Wade hit a 2-run HR giving San Francisco hope. In the bottom of the 8th the seasons of both teams changed as Ketel Marte hit a solo HR, Brandon Drury hit another RBI 1B, and Christian Walker scored on a wild pitch from Camilo Doval, and that was it. The Giants fell out of the playoffs in a stunning fall, and the Diamondbacks have become the story of the season, outpacing the Tigers and even the Royals with their 21st win after starting 0-4. Arizona owns the tiebreaker against the Phillies, and they are hosting the last-place Rockies in their last series while the Phillies face a Brewers team needing a sweep. The Giants have to sweep the Dodgers and hope the Brewers can sweep the Phillies and that the Astros can sweep the Padres in San Diego, or hope the Rockies sweep the Diamondbacks in Arizona.

ROUND #20**GAME #39 — TBR 3 @ BAL 4**

The Orioles had their fate in their own hands, and took advantage, winning the 1 game they needed most behind a gutsy performance from Tyler Wells, who gave up a 2-run HR to Brandon Lowe and an RBI 3B to Kevin Kiermaier in the 3rd. Adley Rutschman hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd, and then AL MVP candidate Eddie Murray hit a 2-run 1B to win the game as the pitching held. The Baltimore Orioles are on the verge of the playoffs.

GAME #40 — TBR 3 @ BAL 9

Baltimore did it. They won going away to secure a wild-card spot. Eddie Murray hit a solo HR off of Taj Bradley in the 1st, but in the 2nd Nick Fortes hit an RBI 2B and Johnny DeLuca hit an RBI 1B off of Grayson Rodriguez making it 2-1. In the 5th, Randy Arozarena hit a solo HR, but in the bottom of the 5th Cedric Mullins hit an RBI 1B and then scored on a 3-run HR from Adam Jones making it 6-3. Cedric Mullins hit a 2-run HR in the 6th and Ramon Urias hit a solo HR in the 8th, and the Orioles celebrated their playoff berth. The Tampa Bay Rays will consider ways to improve upon their disappointing last-place finish. The Baltimore win eliminated the Chicago White Sox.

GAME #39 — BOS 1 @ NYY 8

The New York Yankees won the AL East with their easy win at home against the rivals from Boston. Derek Jeter hit an RBI 1B and scored on an Aaron Judge 3-run HR in the 4-run 2nd. An RBI from DJ LeMahieu in the 5th made it 5-0, and then a 3-run HR from LeMahieu made it 8-0. A solo HR from Jason Varitek in the 9th avoided the shutout as Boston saw their season goals slipping away. Luis Severino was strong, pitching 7 shutout innings.

GAME #40 — BOS 5 @ NYY 0

Eduardo Rodriguez shut out the Yankees over 6 innings and the bullpen held, giving the Boston Red Sox the final win they needed to clinch a wild-card playoff spot. Jason Varitek hit a 2-run HR and Masataka Yoshida hit an RBI 1B in the 3-run 3rd, and then Willyer Abreu hit an RBI 2B in the 4th making it 4-0. Another solo HR from Jason Varitek in the 7th completed the 5-0 win and their season dream of making the playoffs. The Boston win eliminated the Detroit Tigers.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • BLUE JAYS WIN 6-1 • CLEVELAND WIN 5-4 • ROYALS WIN 8-4

GAME #39 — TOR 3 @ MIN 6

The Twins got a nice home win to close the season, handing the Blue Jays their 9th loss in a row in a stunning collapse of a title defense. Brooks Lee hit a 2-run 2B and Joe Mauer hit a 2-run 1B in the 2nd and the Twins had a 4-0 lead. Roberto Alomar hit a solo HR in the 4th, and Matt Chapman hit an RBI 1B and Kevin Pillar hit an RBI 2B in the 7th, making it 4-3, but in the bottom half Matt Wallner and Mitch Garver hit RBI 1Bs providing the 6-3 margin. Joe Ryan pitched well to earn his 6th win of the season.

GAME #40 — TOR 6 @ MIN 1

The Blue Jays snapped their nine-game losing streak, not wanting to take it into the off-season. Vladimir Guerrero Jr hit a 3-run HR in the top of the 1st, and Roberto Alomar hit a 2-run 3B in the 6th making it 5-0. Joe Mauer hit a solo HR in the 6th, but Matt Chapman hit a solo HR in the 8th, and the Blue Jays won heading into the off-season looking to improve for a better run. Jose Berrios pitched well to earn his 6th win of the season.

GAME #39 — CLE 4 @ DET 6

The Cleveland Guardians had already won the AL Central, and the surprising Detroit Tigers had already been eliminated, so this game was more of an exhibition as Cleveland lost the seeding tiebreaker to both the Astros and Yankees. Carlos Santana had an RBI in the 1st, but in the 2nd Ian Kinsler hit a 2-run 1B, and then in the 4th Josh Naylor hit an RBI 1B, but Kinsler hit a 2-run HR making it 4-2. Andres Gimenez hit an RBI 3B in the 7th and then another RBI 1B from Josh Naylor tied the game, but the Tigers took the lead back in the bottom of the 8th on an RBI 1B from Spencer Torkelson and an RBI 2B from Jace Jung, giving the Tigers the win, and a winning record for the season with their 21st win.

GAME #40 — CLE 5 @ DET 4

The Tigers got their winning record, and the Guardians got their win to finish the season with some momentum as Jim Thome hit a solo HR in the 2nd and had an RBI in the 5th. Franmil Reyes hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd, and Jose Ramirez hit an RBI 2B in the 5th, and Cleveland had a 4-0 lead. Akil Badoo hit an RBI 2B in the 5th and a solo HR in the 9th, Miguel Cabrera hit an RBI 1B in the 7th and Spencer Torkelson hit a solo HR in the 7th, but it was not enough as an RBI 1B from Jose Ramirez in the 8th provided the 5-4 margin. Detroit will go down as one of the 3 big surprises of the season along with the Royals and Diamondbacks, while Cleveland won their 3rd AL Central title in a row.

GAME #39 — CHW 4 @ KCR 8

The Royals had a 3-part plan: win the 1st game, win the 2nd game, pray the M's get swept. That was their path to the playoffs. Part 1 was complete after a huge day from Bo Jackson. Jackson went 3-4 with 2 HRs and 4 RBIs to lead the Royals at home. Jose Abreu and Oscar Colas hit solo HRs in the 4th, and Colas hit a 2-run HR in the 6th, but Hunter Dozier added an RBI in the 4th, and Salvador Perez hit a 2-run 2B in the 7th to secure the win.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • MARINERS WIN 6-3 • MARINERS WIN 9-6 • KCR HOME WIN 8-1

GAME #40 — CHW 1 @ KCR 8

Mission complete. The Royals got the sweep. Gavin Sheets hit a solo HR in the 1st, but that was all that Brady Singer would give up over 7 strong innings. Salvador Perez hit an RBI 1B in the 1st, and then scored on a 3-run HR from Jorge Soler. The Royals pulled away in the 5th with an RBI 2B from Jorge Soler, and a 2-run 1B from Vinny Pasquantino. Bo Jackson hit another HR in the 8th and the Royals cruised, now rooting for the M's to get swept in Texas. Kansas City finished the season at 22-18 in a major success, and they stand with the Diamondbacks and Tigers as the 3 major surprises this season.

GAME #39 — SEA 6 @ TEX 3

The Mariners needed 1 win to make the playoffs, and it was decided early in a most unique way. For a team where the hard way was expected, the easy way came as quite a surprise. Backup catcher Austin Nola hit a Grand Slam HR in the 2nd and Seattle cruised behind George Kirby. Kirby gave up RBIs to Leody Taveras and Corey Seager in the 7th, but Edgar Martinez hit a solo HR in the 8th making it 6-2. Tavares hit a solo HR in the 9th, but it did not stop the M's from completing their season goal.

GAME #40 — SEA 9 @ TEX 6

Seattle needed 1 win to move into the top wild-card spot, and it came in the most unexpected way as backup infielder Ty France hit a Grand Slam HR in the 1st inning. Marcus Semien hit an RBI 2B in the 2nd off of Robbie Ray, but it was the only run he would give up over 7 innings. Ken Griffey Jr hit an RBI sacrifice in the 7th and then in the 8th Austin Nola hit a 2-run 1B and Robinson Cano and Edgar Martinez hit RBI 1Bs making it 9-1. The Rangers hit the ball well in the last 2 innings of the season as Adrian Beltre hit a 2-run HR and an RBI 1B and Leody Taveras hit a 2-run 2B, but it did not stop the party in Seattle as the Mariners move on with championship dreams.

GAME #39 — LAA 4 @ OAK 5

Logan O'Hoppe hit his 15th HR of the season, a highlight of the Angels' season, off of Luis Morales in the 2nd inning. In the bottom of the 3rd a 2-run 2B from Elvis Andrus gave the A's the lead, and a solo HR from Shea Langeliers made it 3-1. The Angels fought back and took the lead after an RBI 1B from Mike Trout and a 2-run 1B from Taylor Ward in the 7th. An RBI 2B from Ramon Laureano tied the game, and the 4-4 game went to the bottom of the 9th when Laureano hit a walk-off solo HR.

GAME #40 — LAA 6 @ OAK 3

The Angels hit 5 HRs to defeat the A's behind a strong start from Andrew Heaney, who only gave up an RBI 1B to Jacob Wilson in the 1st, and an RBI 1B to Rickey Henderson in the 5th. Shohei Ohtani hit a solo HR to lead off the game, and in the 4th Zach Neto hit a 2-run HR and Anthony Rendon went back-to-back with a solo HR. Mike Trout hit a solo HR in the 5th and Neto hit another HR in the 6th and the Angels had a 6-2 lead. Elvis Andrus hit an RBI 3B in the bottom of the 9th, but it was not enough to stop the Angels from getting the road split as both teams look to get an upgrade for next season.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • HOU ROAD WIN 7-1 • MARLINS ROAD WIN • MIA ROAD WIN 6-0

GAME #39 — HOU 7 @ SDP 1

The Padres needed 1 more win to secure a playoff spot, but it did not happen as AL MVP candidate Yordan Alvarez hit a 2-run HR in the 1st, Garrett Stubbs hit a 2-run HR in the 4th, and Jose Altuve hit a 2-run HR in the 9th. Cam Smith added an RBI 2B in the 8th, and the Astros rolled to the #1 seed. Joe Musgrove was strong over 7 innings to earn the win, only giving up an RBI 1B to Jackson Merrill in the 3rd.

GAME #40 — HOU 1 @ SDP 5

The San Diego Padres got the win they needed and are heading to the playoffs. Jake Cronenworth hit a 3-run HR in the 4th and Ha-Seong Kim hit a 2-run HR in the 6th to lead the Padres. Mike Clevinger was strong over 7 innings, only giving up 3 hits, one being an RBI 3B to Garrett Stubbs. Both teams will move into the postseason with championship dreams.

GAME #39 — MIA 7 @ WSH 6

The Marlins got a nice road win with a very consistent offense that scored in 7 of the 9 innings. Ichiro Suzuki had an RBI 1B, Luis Arraez had an RBI 2B, Jacob Stallings had a 2-run 2B, and Connor Norby went 3-4 with 3 RBIs to lead the Miami attack. Livan Hernandez took a perfect game into the 4th, but gave up a 3-run HR to Josh Bell, a solo HR to Luis Garcia, and an RBI 1B to Keibert Ruiz. Josh Bell added an RBI 3B in the 7th, but the Nationals fell a run shy as the Marlins secured a road win.

GAME #40 — MIA 6 @ WSH 0

The Marlins will head into the off-season with a little momentum while the Nationals will look to improve a last-place team. Jesus Luzardo was strong over 6 scoreless innings, while Griffin Conine hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd and Liam Hicks hit an RBI 2B in the 6th making it 2-0. 2 more RBI 1Bs from Hicks and RBI 1Bs from Xavier Edwards and Conine made it 6-0 and the Marlins cruised to a road sweep.

GAME #39 — ATL 3 @ NYM 4

The Mets had nothing to play for other than the wins record, which would require a sweep. It started well when Dominic Smith hit a 2-run 2B off of Charlie Morton, but Ronald Acuna hit a solo HR off of Noah Syndergaard in the 6th, and then in the 9th, facing a loss, the Braves rallied with an RBI 2B from Ron Gant. The 2-2 game went to the 13th where Acuna hit an RBI 1B, but in the bottom half Darryl Strawberry hit a solo HR to once again tie the game. The 3-3 game went to the 15th where Brandon Nimmo hit an RBI 3B to walk off the win, putting the Mets 1 win from the record with 1 to play.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • PHILLIES WIN 2-1 • PHILLIES WIN 8-3 • NYM HOME WIN 8-7

GAME #40 — ATL 7 @ NYM 8

Atlanta didn't need the win, but they didn't want to get swept on the way into the playoffs, and they wouldn't mind stopping their rivals from reaching the wins record, and it started well as Michael Harris hit an RBI 2B in the 2nd, and Deion Sanders hit a solo HR in the 5th. In the 7th the Braves took control of the game with a 5-run outburst, on a 2-run 2B from Chipper Jones and a 3-run HR from Ron Gant. Down 7-0 with 3 innings to play, anyone would expect the Mets to give up the chase, but it did not unfold that way as Brandon Nimmo hit an RBI 1B, Francisco Lindor hit an RBI 1B, Mike Piazza hit a 2-run 2B, and Pete Alonso hit a 3-run HR, and suddenly the game was tied 7-7. The tied game went to the bottom of the 9th where Pete Alonso hit a walk-off solo HR to end the season and secure the wins record as the New York Mets finished at 30-10 with the #1 seed.

GAME #39 — PHI 8 @ MIL 3

The Phillies and Brewers faced off in a playoff matchup with both teams left needing to sweep and hope, but this one went the Phillies' way because in the 4th inning Bryce Harper hit an RBI 2B and Scott Rolen hit a 3-run HR making it 4-0. Freddy Peralta gave up another 2 runs on RBIs to Ryan Howard and Rolen, making it 6-0 before the Brewers could compete. William Contreras hit a 2-run HR in the 5th and Ryan Braun hit an RBI 1B in the 6th, but that was as close as the Brewers would get as their season slipped away. JT Realmuto hit a solo HR in the 6th and Kyle Schwarber added an RBI in the 7th and the game went the way of the road team. The Philadelphia win eliminated the San Francisco Giants. Cole Hamels was strong over 7 innings to earn the win.

GAME #40 — PHI 2 @ MIL 1

The St. Louis Cardinals are the champions of the NL Central and are going to the playoffs. The Milwaukee Brewers were eliminated from the playoffs with the loss, while the Phillies get to hope and root for the Rockies to split against Arizona. Ranger Suarez was fantastic pitching 7 shutout innings, and Lenny Dykstra hit a solo HR in the 5th and the Phillies had the lead. The Brewers tied the game in the bottom of the 8th on an RBI 2B from Rowdy Tellez, keeping their season on life support, but it was not to be. Playoff legend Bryce Harper hit a solo HR in the 9th to give Philadelphia the sweep and a chance at the playoffs.

GAME #39 — CIN 2 @ PIT 4

The Pirates got a home win against a rival before the season ended on a strong start from Mitch Keller, who only gave up a solo HR to Jesse Winker in the 2nd, and an RBI to Eric Davis in the 6th. Oneil Cruz hit an RBI 2B in the 1st and then in the 8th, down 2-1, the Pirates rallied on an RBI 1B from Willie Stargell and a 2-run 2B from Starling Marte that decided the game. David Bednar shut down the Reds in the 9th, securing the win.

GAME #40 — CIN 2 @ PIT 8

The Pirates got a home sweep and get to head to next season with some momentum after getting their 18th win, after seasons of 12 and 14 before. Endy Rodriguez hit an RBI in the 2nd and Starling Marte hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd, before the big 4-run 4th where Bryan Reynolds hit a 3-run HR and Willie Stargell hit a solo HR. Nick Castellanos hit a 2-run HR in the 6th, but that was all that Jared Jones would give up over his 6 strong innings. Ke'Bryan Hayes hit an RBI 1B in the 5th and Stargell added another solo HR in the 7th and the Pirates cruised to the sweep.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • ROCKIES WIN 11-6 • ROCKIES WIN 3-1 • CHC ROAD WIN 11-3

GAME #39 — CHC 3 @ STL 0

The St. Louis Cardinals are champions of the NL Central after the collapse of the Brewers, but they did not show up at home against the Cubs. Jon Lester was brilliant giving up only 3 hits over 7 shutout innings while Anthony Rizzo hit a 2-run HR in the 1st, and Pete Crow-Armstrong hit a solo HR in the 3rd, and that was all Lester would need.

GAME #40 — CHC 11 @ STL 3

The Cubs are regretting their season after seeing the division champs with only a 19-21 record. The Cubs got their 18th win in easy fashion with a 5-run 3rd, and a 4-run 4th. Ryne Sandberg, Jason Heyward, and Anthony Rizzo hit 2-run HRs, Sandberg and Rizzo had RBI 2Bs, and Ian Happ hit an RBI 1B making it 9-0. Happ added an RBI in the 8th and Michael Busch hit a solo HR in the 9th to cap the blowout win. Meanwhile, Shota Imanaga was excellent taking a 1-hit shutout into the 8th. Brendan Donovan hit a 3-run HR in the 8th to spoil the shutout, but the Cubs rolled to a win left wondering what they could have done over the season to have earned one more win. The Cardinals enter the playoffs having lost 4 in a row at the most important time of the season, and may be a quick out. Albert Pujols had a quiet series but likely had already done enough to earn the NL MVP.

GAME #39 — COL 3 @ ARI 1

The Rockies knew that the world was watching as they could affect the playoffs and the fate of two teams with just 1 win. If the Diamondbacks won both games, they made the playoffs, but if the Rockies could find their way to just 1 win, then the Philadelphia Phillies claimed the final playoff spot. Jon Gray stepped up with a fantastic start, only giving up an RBI 1B to Corbin Carroll in the 3rd. In the 4th the Rockies made it interesting by tying the game on an RBI 1B from Charlie Blackmon, and then in the 8th the biggest hit of the season for the Rockies came from backup catcher Tom Murphy who hit a 2-run HR that sent the Phillies to the playoffs. The bullpen held and the Diamondbacks' great season run seemed crushed.

GAME #40 — COL 11 @ ARI 6

The Rockies rolled as it seemed like the Diamondbacks never recovered from the previous game's heartbreak. Carlos Gonzalez hit an RBI 3B in the 1st, and then scored on a 2-run HR from Andres Galarraga. An RBI 1B from Charlie Blackmon made it 4-0 after 1, but the Diamondbacks rallied with an RBI 2B from AJ Pollock and a 2-run 1B from Pavin Smith making it 4-3. Kris Bryant hit a 3-run HR in the 2nd, and Trevor Story hit a solo HR in the 3rd and the game was 8-3. Arizona kept fighting with RBIs from Alek Thomas in the 3rd, Eric Chavez in the 4th, and Pollock in the 6th making it 8-6. But the Rockies kept scoring on a solo HR from Blackmon in the 8th, and then RBIs from Blackmon and Brendan Rodgers in the 9th, and the 11-6 final gave the Rockies a bit of a reprieve as this series secured their 12th and 13th wins, meaning not only did they end up not setting the record for losses, but they avoided tying the Diamondbacks of last season with 28 losses. The Diamondbacks were 1 of the 3 big surprise teams, but the way the season ended will dampen the view.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WEEK 10 • PAGES 10TH-INNING HR • DODGERS WIN 5-4 • GIANTS WIN 3-1

GAME #39 — LAD 5 @ SFG 4

The Dodgers are going to the playoffs and the Giants are heading to the off-season with the intent to improve a team that was the 2-time defending NL West champion. Luis Matos had an RBI in the 2nd, but Joc Pederson and Chris Taylor had RBIs in the 4th making it 2-1. An RBI 1B from Freddie Freeman in the 5th and a solo HR from Freeman in the 7th made it 4-1. The Giants did rally, with a solo HR from rookie Bryce Eldridge and RBIs from Mike Yastrzemski and Brandon Crawford, tying the game, but the Dodgers would not be denied their 25th win when Andy Pages hit a solo HR in the 10th to win the game.

GAME #40 — LAD 1 @ SFG 3

The Giants got above .500 and get to head to the off-season on a winning note behind the best start of the season from Jeff Samardzija, who only gave up a solo HR to Austin Barnes in the 3rd. Luis Matos hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 3rd to tie the game, and then Mike Yastrzemski hit a 2-run HR in the 7th that would win the game and give the Giants the split against their rivals. The Dodgers will head to the postseason with a first-round bye.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL CARDS - 2024 - SEASON 3

MLBC — WILD CARD ROUND

GAMES 41-43 • BEST-OF-THREE

OCTOBER STARTS WITH WALK-OFFS

Two sweeps, two deciding games and three late swings turn the first round into instant October.

THE FIELD The Astros and Yankees waited with American League byes; the Mets and Dodgers waited in the National League. Cleveland hosted Boston with a year-old score to settle after the Red Sox swept the Guardians out of the Division Series the season before. Seattle hosted Baltimore with both teams eager to outdo the prior season. St. Louis hosted Philadelphia after the Cardinals lost four straight and the Phillies won four straight, and Atlanta hosted San Diego in a matchup of the NL's top two Wild Card seeds with Spencer Strider looking to carry the Braves. Eight clubs had spent forty games earning these matchups. Now every one of them needed two wins before the other side found them first.

THE ROUND Cleveland and Baltimore never needed Game #3. José Ramírez ended Boston's season with a 2-run walk-off HR in the 10th inning of Game #42, while Baltimore swept twenty-four-win Seattle on the road after Kyle Bradish opened the series with eight scoreless innings on one hit. The National League needed both deciders, but only one ended on a series-clinching walk-off. St. Louis forced Game #3 when Brendan Donovan hit a 2-out, 3-run walk-off HR in Game #42. Philadelphia answered the next day on the road: Bryce Harper tied the game, Ryan Howard's 8th-inning 2-run HR gave the Phillies the lead, and they finished a 4-2 win. Atlanta and San Diego went deeper. Fernando Tatis Jr. put the Padres ahead in the 12th, then Marcell Ozuna answered in the bottom half with the 2-out, 2-run walk-off HR that sent Atlanta through.

THE STAKES Cleveland goes to Yankee Stadium. Baltimore goes to Houston. Philadelphia goes to Los Angeles. Atlanta gets the assignment nobody wanted: the 30-win Mets. Seattle is gone after twenty-four victories. Boston is gone after returning from its early-season trouble to win twenty-three. The Cardinals survived a losing regular-season record only to watch Philadelphia take the decider on their field. October has already separated standings achievement from postseason survival. The four bye teams now enter against clubs that have already played with their seasons balanced on individual pitches.

SWEEPS CLE / BAL • 2-0	ROAD SHOCK BAL sweeps SEA	DECIDERS PHI / ATL • 2-1	WALK-OFFS Ramírez / Donovan / Ozuna
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ROUND RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE CLE def. BOS, 2-0 <i>Ramírez: 10th-inning clincher in Game #2</i> BAL def. SEA, 2-0 <i>Bradish: 8 scoreless / 1 H in Game #1</i>	NATIONAL LEAGUE PHI def. STL, 2-1 <i>Howard: deciding 2-run HR in Game #3</i> ATL def. SDP, 2-1 <i>Ozuna: 12th-inning walk-off in Game #3</i>
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MLBC — GAME LOG

WILD CARD • ORIOLES WIN 3-0 • ORIOLES WIN 5-3 • CLE HOME WIN 3-1

PLAYOFFS

WILD CARD ROUND

GAME #41 — BOS 1 @ CLE 5

It is playoff time! The champions of the AL Central, Cleveland Guardians, host the wild-card Boston Red Sox with Chris Sale facing Shane Bieber in the biggest game of the year. Sale blinked first, giving up RBI 1Bs to Michael Brantley and Josh Naylor in the bottom of the 1st, giving Cleveland a 2-0 lead that they would not surrender. Boston scored in the 4th on an RBI 1B from Rafael Devers, but that was all Bieber would give up as Boston was 1-12 with runners in scoring position. Cleveland put the game out of reach in the bottom of the 8th when Josh Naylor hit a 3-run HR making it 5-1 and sealing the win. Cleveland leads 1-0 in the best-of-3 series.

GAME #42 — BOS 1 @ CLE 3

It was win or go home for the Boston Red Sox. David Price was excellent pitching 8 strong innings, only giving up 4 hits, one of which was an RBI 1B to Jose Ramirez in the 5th. Down 1-0 with the season on the line, Boston rallied to tie the game in the 7th on a solo HR from Rafael Devers, giving the Red Sox hope of continuing the series. The 1-1 game went to the bottom of the 10th when Cleveland took the series on an epic walk-off series-clinching 2-run HR from Jose Ramirez, sending the crowd into a frenzy, and sending the Cleveland Guardians to the AL Division Series against the New York Yankees, a year after getting swept by Boston in the ALDS. Boston was 1-10 with runners in scoring position, making them 2-22 in the series. Emmanuel Clase shut down Boston in the 9th and 10th to earn the win.

GAME #41 — BAL 3 @ SEA 0

It's playoff time! The top 2 AL wild-card seeds faced off in Seattle with Felix Hernandez facing Kyle Bradish in the biggest game of the year. Felix Hernandez didn't give up a run until the 5th inning when Cedric Mullins hit a solo HR making it 1-0. Anthony Santander hit an RBI 1B later in the inning and Baltimore had a 2-0 lead. The problem for Seattle was Kyle Bradish, who was having the start of a lifetime, pitching 8 shutout innings, only giving up 1 hit and 3 walks, striking out 9. It was a dominant start that handed the Orioles a road playoff win, putting the Mariners on the brink.

GAME #42 — BAL 5 @ SEA 3

It was win or go home for the Seattle Mariners as they faced John Means with the season resting on Logan Gilbert. Baltimore put the Mariners to the test scoring twice in the top of the 1st on an RBI from AL MVP Eddie Murray and an RBI 1B from Anthony Santander, but Seattle rallied with an RBI from Ken Griffey Jr in the 1st, and a solo HR from Edwin Encarnacion in the 3rd to tie the game. The Mariners took a 3-2 lead on an RBI 1B from Griffey, but Baltimore tied the game in the 6th on an RBI 2B from Adley Rutschman. In the 7th the Orioles seized the chance before them with RBIs from Gunnar Henderson and Murray, and the bullpen held. Seattle was unable to rally, and just like that, the crowd was stunned. The Seattle Mariners are heading to the off-season after getting swept at home to an Orioles team most thought would have trouble in the playoffs, a year after Seattle lost in the ALWC to the #6 seeded Twins. The Baltimore Orioles are heading to the ALDS against the #1 Houston Astros, a year after losing in the ALWC to Boston.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WILD CARD • CARDINALS WIN 6-5 • PHILLIES ROAD WIN • PHI WINS 4-2

GAME #41 — PHI 2 @ STL 0

It's playoff time! The champions of the NL Central St. Louis Cardinals hosted the wild-card Philadelphia Phillies with Adam Wainwright facing Zack Wheeler in the biggest game of the year. The Phillies took control of the game in the 2nd when Scott Rolen hit an RBI 2B and scored on an RBI BB from Bryson Stott. That was all Zack Wheeler needed as he saved his best start of a rough year for the playoffs pitching seven brilliant shutout innings, only giving up 3 singles while navigating around 5 walks. The bullpen held and the Phillies put the Cardinals on the brink with a great team win.

GAME #42 — PHI 5 @ STL 6

The St. Louis Cardinals were pushed to the brink, the very, very brink. The biggest moment of the playoffs happened upstaging the series-clinching walk-off 2-run HR from Cleveland Guardians' Jose Ramirez. St. Louis scored first on a solo HR off of Aaron Nola from Nolan Arenado who added 3 BB throughout the game frustrating the Phillies. Philadelphia tied the game on a solo HR from John Kruk off of Jack Flaherty in the 3rd, and then took the lead in the 3rd on an RBI 2B from Chase Utley, but St. Louis tied the game 2-2 with an RBI 1B from Matt Carpenter in the 4th. The Phillies took the lead again in the 5th on an RBI 1B from Utley making it 3-2. The Phillies made it 5-2 in the 8th on RBI 2Bs from Bryce Harper and Ryan Howard, and the Phillies took the 5-2 lead to the bottom of the 9th, 3 outs away from winning the series. Jeff Hoffman came in and gave up 2 BBs, and then an RBI 1B to Lars Nootbaar, and then... with 2 outs, and the season hanging in the balance, Brendan Donovan hit a walk-off 3-run HR sending the crowd into a frenzy. There will be a final deciding game.

GAME #43 — PHI 4 @ STL 2

This was an all-time game. Cole Hamels was brilliant taking a 4-hit, 0-walk shutout into the 7th, but the problem was that Miles Mikolas was pitching the game of his life, taking a 1-hit, 2-walk shutout into the 6th. In the winner-take-all game, the Phillies finally scored in the top of the 6th when Bryson Stott stepped up to be the hero and hit a solo HR, giving Cole Hamels a 1-0 lead. Hamels was terrific, but he made 1 mistake that cost him when Lars Nootbaar stepped up with 2 outs and a runner on first and hit a 2-run HR that gave the home team a sudden one-run lead. The crowd was crazy and Nootbaar was 6 outs away from being the hero. But in the 8th inning, postseason hero Bryce Harper took on the role of hero hitting an RBI 2B to tie the game, when Ryan Howard came to the plate and announced he was the hero of the game hitting a 2-run HR that sent the Phillies to the next round. The Cardinals could not change the 4-2 score as the last 6 outs slipped away and they head into the off-season knowing they need to improve their team to compete for a championship. The Philadelphia Phillies are going to Los Angeles to face the Dodgers in the NLDS.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WILD CARD • BRAVES WIN 4-1 • ATL HOME WIN 6-5 • SDP ROAD WIN 9-5

GAME #41 — SDP 1 @ ATL 4

It's playoff time! The top 2 NL wild-card seeds faced off in Atlanta with 2-time defending NL Cy Young Award winner Spencer Strider facing Yu Darvish in the biggest game of the year. All eyes were upon Strider who did not get a chance to move on in the playoffs last year, and he had a chance this year to again do his part. Last season Strider only gave up 2 runs in 2 starts, but the Braves lost. Strider was again absolutely brilliant giving up only 2 singles and 2 walks over 8 shutout innings. Dansby Swanson hit a solo HR in the 3rd, and Ron Gant hit a 2-run HR in the 6th to ruin the day for Darvish. Ronald Acuna added an RBI 1B in the 7th to make it 4-0. Eric Hosmer added an RBI to spoil the shutout, but the Braves cruised, putting the Padres on the brink.

GAME #42 — SDP 9 @ ATL 5

The Padres had one game to win and they came out swinging, and kept swinging. In the 2nd, Luis Campusano hit an RBI 1B and scored on an RBI 2B from Fernando Tatis Jr. In the 3rd, Jake Cronenworth hit a 2-run 2B and scored on an RBI 1B from Ha-Seong Kim, making it 5-0. An RBI 1B from Xander Bogaerts in the 5th made it 6-0 before the Braves got their first hit, because Blake Snell was dealing. Snell took a no-hitter into the 5th, but in the 5th the Braves scored 3 on an RBI 1B from Chipper Jones and a 2-run 1B from Ron Gant. The Braves made it 6-4 in the 6th on a Ronald Acuna RBI 1B, but the Padres needed the win and Manny Machado ended the comeback with a 3-run HR in the 7th. The Braves scored in the 9th with an RBI 1B from Chipper Jones, and indeed loaded the bases, but the rally fell short and the Padres lived to fight another day, putting the Braves on the brink.

GAME #43 — SDP 5 @ ATL 6

This probably won't be considered the best game ever played, but for those who were there it might be. In a winner-take-all showdown, the Braves came out swinging with a solo HR from Ronald Acuna off of Michael King to open the bottom of the 1st, and then Marcell Ozuna hit a 2-run HR making it 3-0. A solo HR from Ron Gant made it 4-0 and the home crowd began to buzz about Spencer Strider versus Jacob deGrom and the mighty #1 Mets. And then the game slipped away. Jake Cronenworth hit a solo HR in the 5th to end Charlie Morton's shutout, then Eric Hosmer had an RBI in the 6th, making it 4-2, and then Luis Campusano hit a 2-run HR, and suddenly the game was tied 4-4. The home crowd was in shock watching the lead and maybe the season slip away. Suddenly, thoughts turned to Spencer Strider exiting the playoffs early for the 2nd year because his teammates couldn't come through. In the 4-4 game, with all the pressure in the world, the Braves put a runner on 2nd base and didn't come through, in the 8th, and the 9th, and the 10th, and the 11th. The home crowd was despondent knowing all these chances would be mulled over all off-season if the Padres scored. And they did. Tony Gwynn hit a 2B and scored on an RBI 2B from Fernando Tatis Jr, and the Padres had the lead. It was an incredible comeback, down 4-0 after 4 innings, in a winner-take-all game. Chipper Jones drew a BB with 1 out, but Matt Olson couldn't come through, and Marcell Ozuna came to the plate, 2 outs and a runner on 1st, with the series and the season on the line, in the bottom of the 12th, down 1 — with the entire season on the line, and the off-season of fallen expectations looming — Marcell Ozuna hit a 2-run HR that will be talked about forever in Atlanta. The Atlanta Braves are moving on to the NLDS to face the New York Mets. The Padres were oh so close. 1 out away from moving on, now going home.

THREE SERIES GO THE DISTANCE

Houston escapes an 0-2 hole, New York survives Cleveland, Los Angeles outlasts Philadelphia and Atlanta removes the 30-win Mets.

THE FIELD The four bye teams entered with rest and home field. The 24-16 AL East champion Yankees drew the three-time AL Central champion Guardians. The 25-15 AL West champion Astros drew a hot Baltimore team coming off a sweep of the 24-win Mariners in Seattle. The 25-15 NL West champion Los Angeles Dodgers drew a surging Philadelphia Phillies seeking their 2nd title. The Mets, owners of the best regular season in league history, drew the streaking Atlanta Braves, coming off a dramatic series against the Padres. Their opponents had already advanced through the Wild Card round. Three series would require every possible game.

THE ROUND New York and Cleveland traded control until the Yankees buried Game #48, 8-1, behind two 2-run HR from Giancarlo Stanton. Houston faced the deeper crisis. Baltimore won both games in Houston, putting the Astros down 0-2, before Houston answered with two road wins and returned home to win the decider 3-2 when Jeff Bagwell broke a late tie with a solo HR. Los Angeles and Philadelphia turned their series into a string of late-inning ordeals, including an eighteen-inning game, before the Dodgers finally took Game #48, 3-2, on Mookie Betts's go-ahead RBI 1B. Atlanta authored the round's defining upset. New York won Game #44, but the Braves took the next three. In the clincher, Spencer Strider beat Jacob deGrom 3-1 after Chipper Jones supplied the decisive 2-run HR. Thirty regular-season wins had earned the Mets home field, a bye and history. They had not earned immunity.

THE STAKES The Mets are gone. So are Cleveland, Baltimore and Philadelphia. New York and Houston now meet in the ALCS, the matchup their regular-season records had been threatening to produce. Atlanta heads to Los Angeles after eliminating the league's most dominant team. The Dodgers arrive after surviving a five-game series in which almost nothing came easily. Four teams remain, and every one has already had its postseason identity tested. Houston has escaped 0-2. Atlanta has removed history. Los Angeles has survived repeated late-game danger. New York is about to discover that its greatest danger has not happened yet.

COMEBACK HOU • down 0-2	DECIDER NYY 8 • CLE 1	FOUR THRILLERS LAD / PHI • 4 late finishes	TOP SEED OUT ATL def. NYM • 3-1
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SERIES RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE NYY def. CLE, 3-2 <i>Stanton: two 2-run HR in Game #5</i> HOU def. BAL, 3-2 <i>Astros win three straight after 0-2 hole</i>	NATIONAL LEAGUE LAD def. PHI, 3-2 <i>Betts drives in the Game #5 winner</i> ATL def. NYM, 3-1 <i>Strider wins the deGrom showdown</i>
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MLBC — GAME LOG

DIVISION SERIES • DODGERS WIN 2-1 • ORIOLES WIN 3-0 • BAL WINS 4-1

DIVISIONAL SERIES

GAME #44 — CLE 2 @ NYY 5

The Divisional Series is here with the Cleveland Guardians and Shane Bieber in New York to face the Yankees and 2-time defending AL Cy Young Award winner Gerrit Cole. Cole was strong, Bieber was not. Shane Bieber gave up a solo HR to Aaron Judge in the 1st, and then in the 2nd Jorge Posada hit an RBI 2B, Brett Gardner hit an RBI 1B, and Derek Jeter hit a 2-run HR. That was all Cole would need as he took a shutout into the 7th, when Carlos Santana hit a 2-run HR. The bullpen held and the Yankees took a 1-0 lead in the ALDS.

GAME #45 — CLE 8 @ NYY 0

Cleveland got the game back, earning the split, and sending the Yankees into worry-mode heading to Cleveland. Corey Kluber was brilliant pitching a 2-hit, 1-walk complete-game shutout, striking out 10. The Yankees had no answers although the game was close until the end. Carlos Santana hit an RBI 1B in the 1st, and Jim Thome hit a solo HR in the 4th, and the game was 2-0 going into the 8th. In the 8th, Carlos Santana and Michael Brantley both hit 2-run HRs, turning the game into a blowout. Santana and Thome added RBIs in the 9th, and the Guardians rolled to even the series 1-1.

GAME #44 — BAL 4 @ HOU 1

The Divisional Series is here with the Baltimore Orioles and Kyle Bradish in Houston to face the #1 Astros and 2-time defending runner-up in the AL Cy Young Award race Justin Verlander. Verlander faced trouble in the 3rd, giving up RBIs to Adam Jones and Eddie Murray, but in the bottom of the 4th Kyle Tucker hit a solo HR to make it 2-1. No one knew that Tucker's HR was the last run Houston would score. Bradish was excellent, leading the Orioles to a very unexpected win. Cedric Mullins hit a solo HR in the 5th, and Cal Ripken Jr hit a solo HR in the 6th, and the Orioles dismantled Justin Verlander in a most surprising outcome. The Baltimore Orioles have a 1-0 series lead and now home-field advantage against the #1 seed.

GAME #45 — BAL 3 @ HOU 0

When Kyle Tucker hit the HR in the 4th inning of the first game, no one would have guessed that it would be the only run Houston would score in the series over the 2 games. John Means was brilliant, giving up 6 hits and 1 walk over 6 shutout innings, while Cal Ripken Jr hit a 2-run 1B in the 1st that held up. Eddie Murray hit an RBI 1B in the 7th, and the Baltimore Orioles have won seven games in a row, 12 of 15, and have a 2-0 series lead heading home. Meanwhile, Houston is on the verge of a city-wide panic, hoping Joe Musgrove shows up in Baltimore, hoping the team can win both games and bring the series back to Houston for Game #5. The Orioles are officially the surprise of the 2024 baseball season. Houston is suddenly on the brink.

GAME #44 — PHI 1 @ LAD 2

The Divisional Series is here with the Philadelphia Phillies and Zack Wheeler in Los Angeles to face the Dodgers and the runner-up in the NL Cy Young Award race Clayton Kershaw. Both pitchers were exceptional. Wheeler gave up a solo HR to Max Muncy in the 4th, but that was it, over 9 strong innings, keeping his team in the game. Kershaw was just as good, only giving up an RBI 2B to John Kruk in the 7th, pitching into the 9th. The 1-1 game went to the 11th, when Trea Turner hit a 1B, stole second, and then Freddie Freeman, the 5th place finisher in the NL MVP race, hit a walk-off RBI 1B to win the game, giving the Dodgers a 1-0 series lead.

MLBC — GAME LOG

DIVISION SERIES • BRAVES WIN 6-5 • DODGERS WIN 4-3 • METS WIN 6-2

GAME #45 — PHI 3 @ LAD 4

It looked like the Phillies would even the series when Ryan Howard had an RBI in the 1st and John Kruk hit a solo HR in the 4th, giving Philadelphia a 2-0 lead. Aaron Nola was strong, but gave up a run in the 5th on an RBI 1B to Mookie Betts. Kyle Schwarber hit a solo HR in the 7th, and the Phillies were 9 outs away. But it was not to be. In the bottom of the 7th, Freddie Freeman hit an RBI 2B and scored on an RBI 1B from Justin Turner, tying the game, and the 3-3 game went to the 10th, when the Dodgers walked it off as Will Smith ended the game with an RBI 1B, giving the Dodgers a 2-0 lead and putting the Phillies in a hole.

GAME #44 — ATL 2 @ NYM 6

The Divisional Series is here with the Atlanta Braves and 2-time reigning NL Cy Young Award winner Spencer Strider in New York to face the #1 Mets and their ace Jacob deGrom, the 3rd-place finisher in back-to-back seasons. The Mets got to Strider early on a solo HR from Mike Piazza in the 1st, and then in the 4th Brandon Nimmo, Gary Carter, and Jeff McNeil all had RBI 1Bs, making it 4-0. A Chipper Jones solo HR in the 6th got the Braves on the board, but David Wright hit an RBI 2B in the 7th. Marcell Ozuna hit an RBI 1B in the 8th, but Francisco Lindor added an RBI in the bottom of the 8th, and the Mets cruised to a Game #1 win behind a strong start from deGrom.

GAME #45 — ATL 6 @ NYM 5

Atlanta got the win they needed, but it wasn't easy. Matt Olson and Marcell Ozuna hit RBI 2Bs in the 1st, and Ronald Acuna hit a solo HR in the 3rd, making it 3-0 against Max Scherzer. Max Fried didn't give up a run until the 5th when Jeff McNeil hit a 2-run HR. Dansby Swanson hit a 2-run 2B in the 7th, but David Wright hit a 2-run HR in the bottom half to make it 5-4. The Braves took the lead to the bottom of the 9th where Gary Carter tied the game with a solo HR. The 5-5 game went to the 12th when Swanson hit a 2B and Chipper Jones won the game with an RBI 1B, giving the Braves the split for the 1-1 series tie, going back to Atlanta with momentum.

GAME #46 — NYY 2 @ CLE 3

The 1-1 series found two evenly matched teams fighting for the same goal in a most crucial Game #3 where Luis Severino faced Triston McKenzie, both pitchers coming off of difficult regular seasons with their ERA sitting at 4.97 and 5.95, respectively. But the playoffs are made for heroes, and both pitchers had their best start of the season, making for quite a game. McKenzie was spectacular, rising high to the occasion, giving up only 3 hits and 1 walk in the first 7 innings, one being a solo HR to Don Mattingly, giving the Yankees a 1-0 lead. Severino was even better, giving up only 2 hits and 0 walks over the first 6 innings. Facing a 1-0 deficit, Jose Ramirez added his name to the playoff heroes list with a solo HR in the 4th, the first hit for the Guardians, tying the game 1-1. The 1-1 game went to the 8th where Derek Jeter put his name on the hero list with a 2-out solo HR, giving the Yankees the lead with just 6 outs to go. The playoffs are not only made for heroes, the playoffs are the place where legends are made, and with their season's fate hanging in the balance, Jose Ramirez hit a 2-out 2-run HR, changing the game and the fates of two teams with 1 swing. Emmanuel Clase secured the 9th, and the New York Yankees are suddenly on the brink, on the road, facing a determined Guardians' team. The playoffs are where legends are made.

MLBC — GAME LOG

DIVISION SERIES • ASTROS WIN 3-1 • ASTROS WIN 4-2 • NYY WINS 5-2

GAME #47 — NYY 5 @ CLE 2

Gerrit Cole took the ball for the New York Yankees with their season on the line, facing a 2-1 deficit to the Cleveland Guardians who sent Shane Bieber to the mound. The playoffs are where heroes rise, and legends are born. Bieber danced around a bases-loaded jam in the 1st, gave up a 2B to Aaron Judge and then an RBI 1B in the 3rd to Don Mattingly, but settled down and didn't give up another run over 7 strong innings. Cole was just as good only giving up an RBI 1B to Josh Naylor in the 4th, tying the game, over his first 6 strong innings. In the bottom of the 7th, Cole made 1 mistake and Andres Gimenez pounced, hitting a solo HR to put his name on the hero list, giving the Guardians a series-clinching lead with only 6 outs to go. Facing the end of their season, facing his last at-bat of the season, Aaron Judge put his name on the list of heroes, hitting a solo HR off of Bieber, tying the game in dramatic fashion. James Karinchak came in to secure the rest of the 8th, but he promptly gave up a solo HR to Don Mattingly, giving up the lead, and then Giancarlo Stanton went back-to-back-to-back with a solo HR, shocking the home crowd. Derek Jeter hit yet another solo HR in the 9th, and the New York Yankees rallied to save their season, taking back momentum, sending the series back to New York for a final showdown.

GAME #46 — HOU 3 @ BAL 1

The #1 seed Houston Astros are suddenly on the brink of elimination against the red-hot wild-card Baltimore Orioles, relying on Joe Musgrove to play hero and extend the series one more game. The Orioles sent Tyler Wells into the biggest start of his life, with the weight of a city cheering him on, with the chance to move to the ALCS and eliminate the top seed, preventing another start from Justin Verlander. Jose Altuve put the pressure on the Orioles opening the game with a solo HR, giving the Astros a 1-0 lead. Adam Jones hit an RBI 2B in the 3rd to tie the game, putting the pressure back on the Astros, but in the top of the 4th Tyler Wells gave the lead back when Kyle Tucker hit a 2B and Yuli Gurriel hit an RBI 2B making it 2-1. Wells did not give up another run, but it didn't matter because Joe Musgrove had his best start of the season, going 8 strong innings, only giving up 3 hits and 2 walks. Yuli Gurriel added an RBI 1B after another Kyle Tucker 2B in the 9th, and Ryan Pressly shut down the O's in the 9th. Houston survived, Joe Musgrove is a Houston hero, and Justin Verlander takes the ball for Game #4. Houston is still on the brink, but they have put the pressure back on the Orioles. The question front and center is simple: can Kyle Bradish do it again?

GAME #47 — HOU 4 @ BAL 2

The Astros did it. They swept the Orioles in Baltimore with their season on the line in both games. Justin Verlander was excellent, Kyle Bradish wasn't quite. Yainer Diaz hit an RBI 1B in the 2nd and then scored on a 2-run 2B from Jose Altuve, giving Verlander a 3-0 lead. But Verlander gave back 2 of the runs in the bottom half when Anthony Santander hit a solo HR and Ramon Urias hit an RBI 1B, trimming the lead to 3-2. In the 5th, Bradish gave up another run on an RBI 2B to Jeff Bagwell, giving Verlander a 2-run lead, which he held through 8 strong innings. Ryan Pressly secured the 9th for the save, and the Houston Astros are heading home in a winner-take-all game against the Orioles who are suddenly on the brink themselves.

MLBC — GAME LOG

DIVISION SERIES • BRAVES WIN 3-1 • BRAVES WIN 5-1 • PHI WINS 2-1

GAME #46 — LAD 4 @ PHI 5

The Phillies hosted the Dodgers in dire straits after being swept in LA where both games were heartbreakingly close losses in extra innings. Cole Hamels took on Yoshinobu Yamamoto with the season on the line, hoping the Philadelphia championship pedigree would keep the season alive. It did, but it wasn't easy. Cole Hamels gave up an RBI 1B to Freddie Freeman in the 3rd, and then Max Muncy hit a solo HR, giving the Dodgers a 2-0 lead. The 2-0 game went to the bottom of the 7th with the Phillies 9 outs away from the off-season, when Scott Rolen hit a 2B, John Kruk hit an RBI 2B, and Kyle Schwarber hit a 2-run HR, taking a 3-2 lead. The Phillies' crowd was in a frenzy only briefly because in the top of the 8th Trea Turner hit a solo HR, tying the game 3-3. Both teams fought with all they had, but neither could break through until the 15th when Trea Turner went hero-mode and hit another solo HR, giving the Dodgers a 4-3 lead, pushing the Phillies to the very brink, 3 outs away. With 1 out JT Realmuto came through, hitting a solo HR, tying the game 4-4 in the 15th, sending the game to the 16th. In the 18th, after facing 9 consecutive innings with their season on the line, the Phillies came through when JT Realmuto hit a 1B, Bryson Stott hit a 2B, and Lenny Dykstra hit an RBI sacrifice fly, winning the game, keeping the Phillies' season alive in most dramatic fashion with the 3rd walk-off game in a row.

GAME #47 — LAD 1 @ PHI 2

The Phillies faced elimination for the 2nd game in a row, sending Zack Wheeler to face Clayton Kershaw. The two aces were both exceptional with the world watching, both taking shutouts into the 6th. In the 6th, Will Smith hit an RBI 1B, putting the Phillies again on the very brink, 12 outs away. Kershaw was brilliant through 8, but Kenley Jansen could not hold down the 9th, as the Phillies' championship pedigree showed up when Lenny Dykstra hit his second 2B of the game, and then playoff legend Bryce Harper came through again hitting an RBI 1B, tying the game, then scoring the winning run on a 2-out RBI 1B by John Kruk. Just like that the series was tied. It was the 4th straight game with a walk-off. The Phillies are going to Game #5 in Los Angeles against all expectations. All 3 series have gone to a winner-take-all Game #5.

GAME #46 — NYM 1 @ ATL 5

The #1 Mets lost momentum in the last game, and now it has turned dire. Charlie Morton showed up. Francisco Lindor led off the game with a solo HR, and that was the only run Morton would give up over 7 strong innings. Ozzie Albies played hero for the Braves hitting a 2-run HR in the 2nd, giving the Braves the lead, and then Albies hit a 3-run 2B in the 8th to give the Braves the win. The Mets are suddenly on the brink as Noah Syndergaard was strong over 7 innings, but the offense did not show up.

GAME #47 — NYM 1 @ ATL 3

The dream matchup took place in the most important game of the year. All eyes were on the Braves and Mets as the Mets faced a 2-1 deficit, while Jacob deGrom and Spencer Strider squared off in an epic duel. deGrom made the first mistake when Chipper Jones stepped into the hero role with a 2-run HR giving the Braves a lead they would not surrender. Dominic Smith hit a solo HR in the 4th, and then Spencer Strider walked the bases loaded, but the Mets could not push the tying run across the plate. Ron Gant hit an RBI 2B in the 6th, and Strider held. Craig Kimbrel shut the door in the 9th, and that was it. The #1 New York Mets have been eliminated. The Atlanta Braves are going to the NLCS.

MLBC — GAME LOG

DIVISION SERIES • ASTROS WIN 3-2 • DODGERS WIN 3-2 • NYY WINS 8-1

GAME #48 — CLE 1 @ NYY 8

The Cleveland Guardians and New York Yankees faced each other for 1 spot in a winner-take-all game. Corey Kluber and Nestor Cortes would determine their teams' fate, one way or the other. Nestor Cortes showed up, taking a shutout into the 7th and only giving up an RBI 2B to Jose Ramirez in the 7th. Corey Kluber did not show up, giving up 2 2-run HRs to new playoff hero Giancarlo Stanton. Aaron Judge added a solo HR in the 5th, and in the 6th Judge hit an RBI 2B and scored on a 2-run 2B from Don Mattingly making it 8-0. The New York Yankees cruised and are heading to the ALCS.

GAME #48 — BAL 2 @ HOU 3

The Orioles had their chance to finish the series, twice, and now this third attempt would be their last. It was Game #5, winner-take-all. Houston had fended off their off-season twice, but once more was required. AL MVP Eddie Murray hit an RBI 1B off of Framber Valdez in the top of the 1st, but Jeff Bagwell hit an RBI 2B off of John Means in the bottom half to tie the game. The 1-1 game went to the 5th where Cedric Mullins hit a 2B and scored on an RBI from Adam Jones, but in the bottom of the 6th Jose Altuve hit a solo HR to tie the game once again. The pressure rose as neither team scored in the 7th, and the 2-2 game went to the 8th. In the bottom of the 8th, Jeff Bagwell staked his claim as a playoff hero with a solo HR off of Felix Bautista that sent the Houston Astros to the ALCS against the New York Yankees. The Baltimore Orioles head to the off-season both impressed by their run and ruminating on what could have been with their 2-0 ALDS lead that they could not finish. It seems that it was a collision course all season: Justin Verlander will face Gerrit Cole, twice, with the World Series at stake.

GAME #48 — PHI 2 @ LAD 3

The Phillies came oh so close. In hindsight they will have to see the season as a massive success given their playoff run, but at the same time they will look back and see a missed opportunity. The 1st 3 games went to extra innings, and this Game #5 was tied into the 7th. Walker Buehler was strong over 7 innings, only giving up a 2-run HR to Kyle Schwarber in the 5th, giving the Phillies hope. The hope was short-lived because Aaron Nola gave up the lead in the bottom half of the 5th on a 2-run 2B to Mookie Betts. The 2-2 game went to the bottom of the 7th when Mookie Betts hit a series-clinching RBI 1B, making it 3-2. The bullpen held, although Kenley Jansen did load the bases, but he escaped in a most tense ending, and the Los Angeles Dodgers are going to the NLCS.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL CARDS - 2024 - SEASON 3

MLBC — CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

GAMES 49-55 • BEST-OF-SEVEN

NEW YORK DOES THE IMPOSSIBLE

The Yankees climb out of a 3-0 ALCS hole while the Dodgers beat Atlanta in six to claim the other pennant.

THE MATCHUPS Houston arrived as the #1 seed after surviving an 0-2 Division Series hole, while New York entered the ALCS coming off an elimination-game win. Both teams carried the two strongest American League records, but the Astros immediately seized the series and built a 3-0 lead. One more loss would send the Yankees home. The NLCS paired Atlanta, fresh from an epic elimination of the 30-win Mets, against a Dodger club that had survived Philadelphia in another elimination game. One series appeared nearly finished. The other could not decide what shape it wanted.

THE ROUND New York refused its ending. Luis Severino delivered a 6-0 win in Game #52. Gerrit Cole and the bullpen followed with a 1-0 Game #53. A seven-run 3rd inning powered the Yankees to an 8-2 Game #54 win and forced the impossible seventh game. Game #55 became an MLBC classic. Aaron Judge homered in the 8th, Yordan Alvarez answered in the bottom half, and Giancarlo Stanton preserved the season by throwing Jeremy Peña out at home in the 10th. In the 12th, Judge homered again. Hideki Matsui followed with a 2-run HR. New York won 7-4 and became the first MLBC team to erase a 3-0 postseason-series deficit. Los Angeles took a less theatrical but equally demanding route. Atlanta tied the NLCS 2-2 with a walk-off. The Dodgers then won twice, and the clincher became pure pitching: Walker Buehler carried a 1-0 shutout into the 8th before Kenley Jansen finished it.

THE PENNANTS The Yankees are American League champions. The Dodgers are National League champions. New York reaches the World Series after four consecutive victories with no margin for error. Los Angeles arrives after Buehler and Jansen turned the final game into a one-run lock. The Yankees bring October's historic comeback and Aaron Judge's eight postseason HR. The Dodgers bring home field and a rotation that has repeatedly shortened games as the stakes increased. Season Three has produced its final matchup. One side arrives through resurrection. The other arrives through pitching control.

AL COMEBACK NYY • down 0-3	GAME #55 NYY 7 • HOU 4 / 12 inn.	NL PENNANT LAD • 4-2	CLINCHER LAD 1 • ATL 0
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LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

AMERICAN LEAGUE NEW YORK YANKEES <i>Won four straight after falling behind 0-3</i> Series seal <i>Judge: 2 HR; Matsui: 2-run HR in 12th</i>	NATIONAL LEAGUE LOS ANGELES DODGERS <i>Defeated Atlanta, 4-2</i> Series seal <i>Buehler / Jansen finish a 1-0 clincher</i>
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MLBC — GAME LOG

LCS • ATL ROAD WIN 6-4 • DODGERS HOME WIN • HOU HOME WIN 3-2

CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

GAME #49 — NYY 6 @ HOU 7

The American League Championship Series is here with the Houston Astros hosting the New York Yankees led by the top 2 aces in the sport, Justin Verlander and Gerrit Cole. In Game #1 Luis Severino and Joe Musgrove squared off trying to gain the early advantage. It was the Astros who struck first as Jeremy Pena hit an RBI sacrifice and Yainer Diaz hit an RBI 2B in the bottom of the 2nd. The Yankees rallied in the 5th taking the lead on an RBI 1B from Derek Jeter and a 2-run HR from Aaron Judge, continuing his strong season and breakout playoff campaign. The Astros immediately responded with an RBI 2B from Alex Bregman and an RBI 1B from Yordan Alvarez giving the Astros a 4-3 lead after 5 innings. In the 7th the Yankees rallied again when Aaron Judge hit a 3-run HR, his 5th of the playoffs, his 20th of the season, tying the record for combined HR in one season. Andrew Miller was given a 6-4 lead in the bottom of the 8th, but rookie breakout Yainer Diaz hit a 3-run HR that changed the outcome of the game, and perhaps the series. Ryan Pressly held in the 9th and the Houston Astros took a 1-0 lead in the high-stakes series.

GAME #50 — NYY 2 @ HOU 3

The Astros took a commanding 2-0 lead in the ALCS after Jeremy Pena hit a 2-run HR in the 2nd and Alex Bregman hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd giving Houston a lead they would not surrender. Justin Verlander was excellent pitching 7 shutout innings, besting Gerrit Cole. The Yankees attempted a rally in the 8th scoring twice on RBI 1Bs from DJ LeMahieu and Brett Gardner, but New York could not add a tying run, and the Astros got the sweep and an early advantage in the quest for the World Series. The Yankees have dug a 2-0 hole that will need immediate attention in Game #3 as both teams head to New York.

GAME #49 — ATL 6 @ LAD 4

The National League Championship Series is here with the Los Angeles Dodgers hosting the Atlanta Braves. Yoshinobu Yamamoto got the ball facing Charlie Morton and struggled as he gave up an RBI 1B to Matt Olson in the 1st, and a 2-run HR to Olson in the 3rd, and then a 2-run HR to Chipper Jones in the 5th. Ozzie Albies hit a solo HR in the 6th and the Braves had a 6-1 lead. Morton was strong only giving up solo HRs to Max Muncy and Trea Turner in the 2nd and 6th innings, but in the 7th Joc Pederson and Chris Taylor hit solo HRs to make it 6-4. The Braves' bullpen held, and Atlanta took control of the series taking Game #1.

GAME #50 — ATL 3 @ LAD 4

The Braves almost took a firm grip on the NLCS, but the Dodgers got back in the series in the end. Ozzie Albies hit an RBI 2B in the 2nd, but Chris Taylor and Trea Turner had RBIs in the 2nd, making it 2-1. Marcell Ozuna hit an RBI 1B in the 3rd, tying the game, and then Albies hit a solo HR in the 4th giving the Braves a 3-2 lead. Atlanta took the lead to the bottom of the 7th, 9 outs from a commanding 2-0 lead heading to Atlanta, but the Dodgers rallied. Spencer Strider gave up a 1B and 2 BB, and then Dylan Lee gave up the biggest hit of the series when Justin Turner hit a 2-run 1B, changing the game and the series. Kenley Jansen held and the Dodgers tied the series 1-1.

MLBC — GAME LOG

LCS • ATL HOME WIN 4-2 • DODGERS ROAD WIN • HOU ROAD WIN 6-4

GAME #51 — HOU 6 @ NYY 4

This was the moment. Would the Yankees make a series of it, or would the Astros take a commanding 3-0 lead? Nestor Cortes was given the moment, and he struggled, giving up RBI 1Bs to Jeff Bagwell and Yuli Gurriel in the 1st, and a 2-run 2B to Gurriel and a 2-run HR to Yainer Diaz, getting pulled after 6 runs in just 3 innings. The Yankees could not recover. Giancarlo Stanton hit an RBI sacrifice in the 1st and a solo HR in the 3rd, Jorge Posada made it close with a 2-run HR in the 6th, but the Astros had too big a lead and Ryan Pressly held again, becoming a story in the playoffs after 7 games without giving up a run and earning his 5th playoff save, tying his own playoff record. The Yankees are on the brink, down 3-0. The Astros are on the verge of a return to the World Series.

GAME #52 — HOU 0 @ NYY 6

The Yankees got their token win, avoiding the sweep, as the Astros failed to show up, and the series goes on to Game #5. Gleyber Torres hit a 2-run HR off of Joe Musgrove in the 2nd, Brett Gardner had an RBI BB in the 3rd, and Aaron Judge hit a solo HR in the 4th, making it 4-0. It was the 21st HR on the season for Judge, now a record as he is setting himself apart as a star with his 6th playoff HR. The world will get another Verlander versus Cole matchup with the highest stakes, 3-1 Astros. Luis Severino was exceptional in the win, pitching 7 shutout innings, giving up only 4 hits and 3 walks.

GAME #51 — LAD 3 @ ATL 1

The Dodgers took control of the series with a key road win behind a strong start from Walker Buehler, who only gave up a solo HR to Marcell Ozuna in the 2nd, navigating trouble throughout his 7 innings. Justin Turner hit an RBI 1B in the 1st, Mookie Betts hit a solo HR in the 3rd, taking the lead, and then Freddie Freeman made it 3-1 with an RBI 1B in the 8th. The Dodgers' bullpen held and LA took a 2-1 lead.

GAME #52 — LAD 2 @ ATL 4

The Dodgers took an early lead with RBIs from Justin Turner and Max Muncy in the 1st, but that was all they would score as Charlie Morton navigated his way out of trouble throughout his 6 innings. The Braves cut the lead to 2-1 in the bottom of the 1st on an RBI 1B from Ron Gant, but that was all they would get as Yoshinobu Yamamoto was exceptional giving up only 2 more singles and 2 walks over 8 innings. The 2-1 score held from the 1st inning to the 9th where the Dodgers were 3 outs from a 3-1 lead, putting the Braves on the brink, but the Braves rallied. Against Kenley Jansen who was having a dominant postseason, Marcell Ozuna hit a 2B, Ron Gant hit a 1B, Ozzie Albies hit an RBI 1B to tie the game, and Travis d'Arnaud walked it off with a base-clearing 2-run 2B sending the Atlanta crowd into a frenzy, tying the series 2-2.

GAME #53 — HOU 0 @ NYY 1

Gerrit Cole was amazing, giving up only 3 scattered singles and 2 walks over 8 sparkling innings, which mattered because Justin Verlander was almost as good over 7 innings, only giving up an RBI 2B to DJ LeMahieu, but that was enough. That was enough to get the Yankees to Game #6. The series returns to Houston, 3-2 Astros.

MLBC — GAME LOG

LCS ACTION • SMITH 2-RUN HR • DODGERS WIN 5-3 • YANKEES WIN 8-2

GAME #53 — LAD 5 @ ATL 3

The Dodgers and Braves came in locked at 2 games apiece in a crucial Game #5 made all the better by the matchup of Clayton Kershaw versus Spencer Strider. Kershaw blinked first as an RBI 1B from Marcell Ozuna made it 1-0 Braves. The Dodgers responded immediately with a 2-run HR from Will Smith that gave LA the lead. That lead was short-lived, as in the bottom half of the 3rd Ozuna added an RBI sacrifice that tied the game 2-2. The 2-2 game went to the 8th where Strider and Kimbrel fell apart in the same inning. With the series and season at stake, Strider tired and gave up a 1B to Chris Taylor and then a BB to Trea Turner. Craig Kimbrel came into the game in the 8th inning with 0 outs showing how important this exact moment was. Kimbrel gave Mookie Betts a BB, and then Justin Turner drew an RBI BB, and then Kimbrel threw a wild pitch, scoring Trea Turner, and then Kimbrel threw another wild pitch, scoring Mookie Betts. It was an epic meltdown at the very worst time. Michael Harris hit an RBI 2B in the 9th as the Braves tried to rally, but the game was decided in the 8th and the Dodgers walked away the beneficiaries, holding a 3-2 advantage, heading home.

GAME #54 — NYY 8 @ HOU 2

The inning. That is how this game will be remembered. The inning. The Yankees were the underdogs, in Houston, against Framber Valdez, having been down 3-0. The Astros were 9 innings away from the World Series. The 1st and 2nd innings came and went, and then came the inning. In a 0-0 game where 1 single run could be a premium, Gleyber Torres took his turn as the hero hitting a solo HR. Then Brett Gardner went back-to-back with a solo HR. 2-0 Yankees. Then Derek Jeter hit a 1B, then Giancarlo Stanton hit an RBI 2B with 2 outs, 3-0 Yankees. Then Hideki Matsui hit an RBI 1B, 4-0 Yankees. DJ LeMahieu hit a 1B, and then Jorge Posada hit a 3-run HR. 7-0 Yankees. The Houston crowd was stunned. Kyle Tucker hit a 2-run 1B against Nestor Cortes in the bottom half of the 3rd, but the Astros could not recover from The Inning. Aaron Judge made it 8-2 with an RBI 1B in the 9th and the Yankees cruised to tie the series 3-3, sending the ALCS to Game #7. Whether the Astros can recover is the question. Whether the Yankees can really come back from 3-0 is the other. One of those two things will be true in Game #7 of the ALCS.

MLBC — GAME LOG

ALCS • JUDGE TWO HOMERS • MATSUI 2-RUN HR • YANKEES WIN 7-4

GAME #55 — NYY 7 @ HOU 4

Game #7. The two best words in sports. Game #7 of the ALCS, the New York Yankees facing the Houston Astros, Luis Severino facing Joe Musgrove, in a winner-take-all game, with the World Series at stake. When all is said and done, this will have been one of the best baseball games ever played. The tension could not be higher, everyone knowing a single run could mean the difference between triumph and tragedy. The first big event was in the top of the 3rd when the Yankees put 2 on base and Aaron Judge hit a fly ball that Yordan Alvarez misplayed, but then Alvarez threw Jorge Posada out at home with a perfect throw. The game changed in the bottom of the 3rd when Jose Altuve hit a solo HR making it 1-0, and that run held up. Until the 7th. In the 7th, the dramatic game changed again. Joe Musgrove was dealing. This was on the verge of being known as the “Joe Musgrove Game.” Musgrove took a 2-hitter into the 7th, got the 1st 2 outs, and then walked DJ LeMahieu. It was not a problem until Jorge Posada hit an RBI 2B, suddenly tying the game, and then Gleyber Torres stepped up and hit a 2-run HR. Suddenly, it was not just 1-1, but 3-1. Suddenly, Musgrove didn’t have a 2-hitter, he had a 4-hitter. The game changed again in the bottom of the 7th, suddenly down 3-1, the Astros rallied. Luis Severino had been given a second chance, and immediately squandered it, giving up a solo HR to Jeremy Pena, and then another solo HR to breakout rookie Yainer Diaz, tying the dramatic game. In the top of the 8th, the game dramatically changed again as Aaron Judge stepped up and hit his 7th HR of the postseason, changing the game yet again. Then the Astros changed the game again, as they tied the game in the bottom half of the 8th on a dramatic solo HR from AL MVP runner-up Yordan Alvarez, matching Judge moment for moment in an all-time game. With just 6 outs left in their season, the Astros tied the game, 4-4, and the tied game went to the bottom of the 10th when Jeremy Pena hit a 1B and breakout rookie Yainer Diaz hit a 2B down the line that sent the crowd into a frenzy, but Giancarlo Stanton got to the ball quickly. Knowing it was 50-50, Pena went for home, going for the winning run, rushing to send the Astros to the World Series, and Stanton threw Pena out, to save the season, extending the game to the 11th inning. The Yankees put the first 2 runners on base, and the Astros were suddenly in trouble. Lance McCullers entered the game, and promptly shut down the Yankees, keeping the game tied, 4-4. Masahiro Tanaka secured the bottom of the 11th, and the winner-take-all Game #7 went to the 12th inning. In the top of the 12th, Aaron Judge did it again. Judge hit his second solo HR of the game, his 8th HR of the postseason, giving the Yankees a 5-4 lead in the 12th. Houston knew they would need a run to keep the season going, until Hideki Matsui shattered the hope with a 2-run HR in the now 3-run 12th. Tanaka secured the bottom of the 12th, and the New York Yankees came back from a 3-0 deficit to win the American League Championship Series. The New York Yankees are headed to the World Series.

MLBC — GAME LOG

NLCS • BUEHLER SHUTOUT • BETTS RBI DOUBLE • DODGERS WIN 1-0

GAME #54 — ATL 0 @ LAD 1

Game #6 of the NLCS found the Los Angeles Dodgers hosting the Atlanta Braves with the World Series on the line, with Max Fried trying to defeat Walker Buehler to extend the 3-2 series to a Game #7. The Dodgers were suddenly 1 game away from the World Series and the home crowd was buzzing as the game began. In a game like this, 1 run can be all the difference, and it was today. It is hard to see the Braves doing any better, but on the road in LA, 1 hit proved the difference. Trea Turner hit a 1B to lead off the bottom of the 1st inning, stole 2nd, and then scored on an RBI 2B from Mookie Betts. And that was it. 1st inning, game over. Because Walker Buehler showed up. Buehler was dominant, only giving up 4 hits and 2 walks pitching a shutout into the 8th. The Braves just could not touch Buehler in this decisive game. Kenley Jansen finished the 8th and secured the 9th for his 5th save, and that was it. The Los Angeles Dodgers are heading to the World Series, defeating the Braves 4-2 in the NLCS. The Dodgers will have home-field advantage against the New York Yankees.

MLBC — WORLD SERIES

GAMES 56-61 • THE FALL CLASSIC

LOS ANGELES FINISHES ON TOP

The Dodgers survive a 2-1 deficit, win three straight and beat New York in six for the Season Three championship.

THE STAGE Two seasons prior the Los Angeles Dodgers missed the playoffs after weighty expectations, and now they owned home field in the World Series. The New York Yankees arrived carrying the emotional force of the first 0-3 comeback in MLBC postseason history. Gerrit Cole opened against Clayton Kershaw. Aaron Judge entered with eight postseason HR. The Dodgers countered with the deepest remaining rotation and a lineup that had repeatedly found just enough offense to survive. The first two games would split in Los Angeles, sending the World Series east tied 1-1.

THE SERIES New York struck first behind Cole, winning Game #56, 5-1. Los Angeles answered immediately and violently, beating the Yankees 10-1 behind Walker Buehler in Game #57. New York reclaimed the lead in Game #58, a 5-4 walk-off after Will Smith tied the game in the 9th and DJ LeMahieu ended it with an RBI 2B. The Yankees' Game #58 walk-off looked like the series' emotional turning point; instead it was their final win of the season. Clayton Kershaw led a brilliant 3-0 shutout in Game #59, and Walker Buehler dominated eight innings in a 7-1 Game #60 victory. Back in Los Angeles with a 3-2 series lead, Yoshinobu Yamamoto gave the Dodgers eight strong innings while Freddie Freeman, Justin Turner, Trea Turner and Max Muncy built an 8-2 advantage. Kenley Jansen closed the 9th, and the Yankee miracle postseason run ended with three straight Dodger victories.

THE CHAMPIONS Los Angeles wins the World Series 4-2. Walker Buehler is the official World Series MVP and Playoff MVP after finishing the postseason 5-0 with a 1.66 ERA. Trea Turner is the official World Series MVP runner-up. New York's run ends two victories short after rewriting the league's comeback history. The Dodgers leave with something simpler and ultimately more valuable: the last three wins. Once Los Angeles fell behind 2-1, its rotation allowed the series almost no room to breathe. By Game #61, the Dodgers were no longer surviving New York's momentum. They were dictating how Season Three would end. Los Angeles, you are the 2024 MLBC champions, forever.

SERIES	TURNING POINT	CLOSING RUN	CLINCHER
LAD def. NYY • 4-2	LAD wins Games 4-5 in NY	LAD • 3 straight	LAD 8 • NYY 2

WORLD SERIES HONORS

CHAMPIONSHIP LOS ANGELES DODGERS <i>2024 MLBC World Series Champions</i> SERIES RESULT <i>Defeated New York, 4-2</i>	OFFICIAL HONORS WORLD SERIES MVP • WALKER BUEHLER <i>2 wins • dominant Games #57 / #60</i> RUNNER-UP • TREA TURNER <i>Official MLBC Statbook runner-up</i>
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MLBC — GAME LOG

WORLD SERIES • DODGERS WIN 10-1 • YANKEES WIN 5-1 • NYY WINS 5-4

WORLD SERIES

GAME #56 — NYY 5 @ LAD 1

The World Series is here. The New York Yankees won the American League and are in LA to face the Los Angeles Dodgers, the champions of the National League. NL Cy Young runner-up Clayton Kershaw will take the ball with a 2.10 ERA in 4 postseason starts, against 2-time defending AL Cy Young Award winner Gerrit Cole, and his 2.20 ERA this postseason in his 4 starts. Mookie Betts will lead the Dodgers as they face Aaron Judge who is having an all-time postseason run with 8 HRs and 13 RBI. Both pitchers had an uneventful 1st inning, but in the top of the 2nd Kershaw ran into trouble, loading the bases, then giving up a 2-run 1B to Brett Gardner. Then Derek Jeter changed the game from 2-0 to 5-0 with one swing, hitting a 3-run HR that swung Game #1. And that was it. Will Smith hit a solo HR in the bottom of the 2nd, but Gerrit Cole was otherwise dominant, giving up only 3 singles and 2 walks, striking out 11 over his 7 innings. Masahiro Tanaka secured the 8th and 9th and the game was over. Game #1 went the way of the Yankees as they shifted the home-field advantage, putting all the pressure on the Dodgers for Game #2.

GAME #57 — NYY 1 @ LAD 10

Game #2 provided quite an opportunity for the Yankees who could take a 2-0 lead heading home, or the Dodgers could equal the series sending it 1-1 to New York. Game #2 was pivotal as Nestor Cortes faced Walker Buehler. Buehler showed up, Cortes did not. Joc Pederson began the deluge with a 3B in the 3rd, and he scored on an RBI 2B from Trea Turner who scored on a 2-run 1B from Mookie Betts, making it 3-0. Walker Buehler picked up where he left off in his last dominant outing, only giving up 5 hits pitching a shutout into the 7th. In the 6th, the Dodgers broke it open when Gavin Lux drew an RBI BB, and then Pederson hit a bases-clearing 3-run 2B making it 7-0. An RBI 2B from Betts and an RBI 1B from Max Muncy in the 7th made it 9-0 before the Yankees scored in the 8th on a solo HR from Giancarlo Stanton. Justin Turner added an RBI 2B in the 8th as the Dodgers completed a blowout win to send the series to New York tied, 1-1.

GAME #58 — LAD 4 @ NYY 5

The Dodgers took an early lead in Game #3 when Justin Turner hit an RBI 1B in the top of the 1st, and the 1-0 lead lasted until the 6th because Yoshinobu Yamamoto took a shutout into the 7th. In the top of the 6th, Freddie Freeman hit an RBI 2B making it 2-0, but in the bottom of the 7th the home team came to life as Yamamoto hit a wall and Don Mattingly hit a 2-run 1B and Giancarlo Stanton hit an RBI 1B making it 3-2 Yankees as the crowd went wild. In the bottom of the 8th, Derek Jeter added an RBI 1B and the 4-2 game went to the 9th when Aroldis Chapman came in to get the save, but with 2 outs Will Smith stepped up and hit a 2-run HR tying the game, silencing the crowd. The tied game did not last, however, as Kenley Jansen immediately gave it back walking 2, and then giving up a walk-off RBI 2B to DJ LeMahieu, sending the crowd home relieved, as the New York Yankees hold a 2-1 lead heading to Game #4 of the World Series.

MLBC — GAME LOG

WORLD SERIES • DODGERS WIN 3-0 • DODGERS WIN 7-1 • DODGERS WIN 8-2

GAME #59 — LAD 3 @ NYY 0

Clayton Kershaw outdueled Gerrit Cole, pitching a 5-hit shutout into the 8th. Joc Pederson hit an RBI 2B in the 2nd, and that was all Kershaw would need. Mookie Betts hit an RBI 1B in the 8th and Trea Turner hit an RBI 1B in the 9th, and Kenley Jansen got the last 4 outs, and the Dodgers evened the series, 2-2.

GAME #60 — LAD 7 @ NYY 1

Walker Buehler has stepped up to legend status with his performance, most likely securing the World Series MVP award with a second consecutive dominant outing, giving up only 2 hits and 2 walks over 8 superb innings. There was nothing the Yankees could do after Don Mattingly hit a solo HR in the 1st. That was the only run they would get. In the 4th, Chris Taylor got the Dodgers on the board with an RBI 3B, and then scored on an RBI 2B from Trea Turner. The tense 2-1 game went to the 9th where Aroldis Chapman fell apart. Clay Holmes walked 2 batters, and then Chapman gave up 4 singles and a walk and the Dodgers put up 5 runs on RBI 1Bs from Freddie Freeman, Justin Turner, and Will Smith, and a 2-run 1B from Gavin Lux. The Dodgers are 1 win away from the Championship. 3-2 Dodgers, heading to Los Angeles.

GAME #61 — NYY 2 @ LAD 8

The **Los Angeles Dodgers** are champions. This game was not close, and was a game-long coronation. Justin Turner began the scoring with an RBI 2B in the 1st, then Freddie Freeman hit a 2-run 1B in the 2nd, making it 3-0. Aaron Judge capped his incredible postseason with an RBI 1B in the 3rd, but Trea Turner hit an RBI 2B in the 4th, then Max Muncy hit a 2-run HR in the 5th, and Freeman hit a 2-run HR in the 6th. The Dodgers had an 8-1 lead with 9 outs to go. Yoshinobu Yamamoto was fantastic, giving up only 1 more run on an RBI 1B to Derek Jeter in the 8th as he pitched 8 strong innings, leading his team to the title. Kenley Jansen finished his impressive postseason with a shutdown 9th, and that was it. The season is over. The Yankees will head into the offseason looking to improve to get over the hump as their starting pitching fell a bit short compared to the Dodgers. Meanwhile, the Dodgers will be partying. Because the Los Angeles Dodgers are the champions. Walker Buehler was named World Series MVP and Playoff MVP, going 5-0 with a 1.66 ERA.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL CARDS - 2024 - SEASON 3

MLBC — SEASON IN REVIEW

2024 • SEASON THREE

THE SEASON LOS ANGELES COMPLETED

A 30-win record ruled the regular season. A historic comeback and a dominant Dodger rotation ruled October.

THE SEASON Season Three spent forty games orbiting the Mets. New York reached 10-2, 17-3 at the midpoint and finally 30-10, setting a new MLBC wins record. Houston and Los Angeles finished 25-15; the Yankees, Cleveland, Seattle and Atlanta all reached twenty-four wins. The year also produced one of the strangest division races in league history, with St. Louis winning the NL Central tiebreaker at 19-21. Eddie Murray won the AL MVP, Albert Pujols the NL MVP, Gerrit Cole the AL Cy Young and Spencer Strider the NL Cy Young.

THE TURN October immediately refused to honor the standings. Baltimore swept twenty-four-win Seattle, then took a 2-0 Division Series lead on Houston before the Astros won three straight. Atlanta removed the 30-win Mets in four games. The Yankees went far into danger, falling behind Houston 3-0 in the ALCS before winning four straight. Aaron Judge hit two HR in the deciding game, Hideki Matsui supplied the 12th-inning blow, and Giancarlo Stanton's throw home preserved the comeback. Los Angeles survived Philadelphia in five, beat Atlanta in six and reached the World Series with its greatest strength still intact: starting pitching.

THE LEGACY The Dodgers finished the story. After trailing New York 2-1 in the World Series, Los Angeles won Games #59, #60 and #61 and took the championship 4-2. Walker Buehler became the official Playoff MVP and World Series MVP, finishing October 5-0 with a 1.66 ERA; Aaron Judge was the official Playoff MVP runner-up and Trea Turner the official World Series MVP runner-up. The Mets supplied the regular season's historic number. The Yankees supplied October's historic comeback. Los Angeles supplied the final three wins. Season Three widened MLBC history in every direction, but the championship still reduced all of it to the oldest truth in baseball: somebody eventually has to get the last out. Los Angeles, you are the 2024 MLBC champions, forever.

AL MVP
EDDIE MURRAY

NL MVP
ALBERT PUJOLS

AL CY YOUNG
GERRIT COLE

NL CY YOUNG
SPENCER STRIDER

POSTSEASON HONORS

PLAYOFF AWARDS

PLAYOFF MVP • WALKER BUEHLER

LAD • official MLBC Statbook award

RUNNER-UP • AARON JUDGE

NYN • official MLBC Statbook runner-up

WORLD SERIES AWARDS

WORLD SERIES MVP • WALKER BUEHLER

LAD • official MLBC Statbook award

RUNNER-UP • TREJA TURNER

LAD • official MLBC Statbook runner-up

PENNANTS & CHAMPIONSHIP

AMERICAN LEAGUE CHAMPION
NEW YORK YANKEES

NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPION
LOS ANGELES DODGERS

2024 MLBC WORLD SERIES CHAMPION
LOS ANGELES DODGERS