



MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL WEEKLY NOTES

April 24, 2025



DECISION FOR THE DIAMOND

WITH THE NFL DRAFT BEGINNING TONIGHT, HERE IS AN ANNUAL LOOK AT SOME NOTABLE PLAYERS THROUGHOUT MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL WHO HAVE PASSED ON PURSUING FOOTBALL CAREERS AS WELL AS NFL STARS WHO CHOSE THE GRIDIRON OVER THE DIAMOND.

Current/Recent MLB players:

- New York Yankees outfielder **Aaron Judge** was a three-sport athlete (baseball, football and basketball) at Linden High School in California. As a wide receiver his senior year he set Linden's single season records for receiving yards (969) and touchdown receptions (17). Before attending Fresno State to play baseball, he received offers to play football at Notre Dame, Stanford, UCLA and Washington, among others.
- Baltimore Orioles catcher **Adley Rutschman** played both baseball and football at Sherwood High School in Oregon, serving as a running back, linebacker and kicker for the football team. He pursued an opportunity his freshman year to be the place kicker at Oregon State University, averaging 59.5 yards per kick with 20 touchbacks. While he ultimately decided to give up football after his freshman season, he was left with the lifetime memory of tackling current San Francisco 49ers running back Christian McCaffrey in their game against Stanford (see him the tackle [here](#)).
- New York Yankees designated hitter **Giancarlo Stanton** was a three-sport star (baseball, football and basketball) at Notre Dame High School in southern California. He accepted a scholarship to play baseball for USC before being selected 79th overall by the Marlins in the 2007 MLB Draft. Stanton also received offers from USC, UCLA and UNLV to play football.
- Tampa Bay Rays Opening Day starting pitcher **Ryan Pepiot** was a three-sport athlete at Westfield High School in Indiana, where he played quarterback for all four years and earned multiple football scholarship offers, including Ball State University. Pepiot compares his playing style to retired Pittsburgh Steeler Ben Roethlisberger because he was "basically a fullback who could throw." Ultimately, he attended Butler University to play baseball, where he was drafted from by the Los Angeles Dodgers in the third round of the 2019 Draft.
- Milwaukee Brewers outfielder **Sal Frelick** was named the 2017-18 Gatorade Massachusetts Football Player of the Year after he passed for 30 touchdowns and rushed for 20 more, averaging 13.2 yards per carry at Lexington High School (see his senior year highlights [here](#)). In addition to his offer to play baseball at Boston College, he was offered a scholarship to play football at BC.
- Philadelphia Phillies outfielder **Brandon Marsh** was a three-sport athlete at Buford High School in Georgia, playing wide receiver and cornerback on the AAAA state championship team in 2012 and 2013 (see his senior year highlight tape [here](#)). After a breakout junior year on the diamond which included a 2015 state championship and another run to the state championship game in 2016, Marsh declined numerous Division I offers to play football and intended to play baseball at Kennesaw State University. He was ultimately drafted in 2016 and signed with the Angels.
- Atlanta Braves third baseman **Austin Riley** was quarterback as a freshman and sophomore at DeSoto Central High School in Mississippi, before his focus shifted to baseball and he elected to stay on the football team as a kicker for his junior and senior year. He had a walk-on offer from Mississippi State, where his dad was a punter from 1987-1991 and Austin was committed for baseball, before the Braves drafted him in 2015.
- Before the Arizona Diamondbacks selected outfielder **Alek Thomas** in the second round of the 2018 Draft, he verbally committed to attend Texas Christian University to pursue both baseball and football after playing both sports at Mount Carmel High School in Chicago, Illinois.
- Arizona Diamondbacks second baseman **Tim Lincecum**, who made his Major League debut on April 5th, set state records in Oregon for all-time passing yards (11,352), completions (714) and passing touchdowns (143) at West Linn High School (see his senior year highlights [here](#)). He was named Gatorade Oregon Football Player of the year in 2015, 2016 and 2017, leading the school to the 6A state title with a perfect 14-0 season in 2017. His head coach in high school was Chris Miller, a 10-year NFL quarterback, who called Tawa "the greatest quarterback in state history. No doubt about it." Tawa decided as a high school sophomore to pursue baseball at Stanford University, where he played before was drafted in the 11th round of the 2021 Draft.
- **Casey Kelly**, who is currently pitching in the Diamondbacks organization and was a centerpiece of the deal that sent Adrián González to the Boston Red Sox prior to the 2011 season, was a standout quarterback in high school in Sarasota, Florida. He was headed to the University of Tennessee before being selected by the Red Sox as the 30th pick in the first round of the 2008 MLB Draft.
- Pittsburgh Pirates pitching prospects **Bubba Chandler** and **Braxton Ashcraft** both had college offers to play football before the Pirates drafted them. Chandler, Pittsburgh's top prospect and fourth-best pitching prospect in all of Baseball per *MLB Pipeline*, played quarterback for three seasons at North Oconee High School in Georgia, where he passed for 1,842 yards and 18 touchdowns while also rushing 79 times for 548 yards and six touchdowns as a senior (see his highlight tape [here](#)). He was committed to Clemson for both baseball and football before being selected in the third round in 2021. Ashcraft, Pittsburgh's third-best pitching prospect per *MLB Pipeline*, had 34 touchdown catches as a sophomore and 37 touchdown receptions among his 104 catches and 2,090 yards as junior at Robinson High School in Texas (see his junior year highlights [here](#)). He was offered multiple offers to play football collegiately before he was drafted in 2018.

- Chicago Cubs pitching prospect **Cade Horton**, who is currently ranked as Chicago's top pitching prospect and second-best prospect per *MLB Pipeline*, attended Oklahoma and was originally committed to play baseball and offered a walk-on opportunity for football. The standout quarterback, who was the fifth overall selection in the 2022 Draft by the Cubs, threw for 3,084 yards, rushed for 1,149 yards and scored 41 total touchdowns as a senior at Norman High School in Oklahoma.
- Miami Marlins pitching prospect **Robby Snelling**, who is currently ranked as Miami's third-best prospect per *MLB Pipeline*, was a four-star football recruit as a linebacker out of Robert McQueen High School, where he played for his father, Jim, who was the head coach (see his high school highlights [here](#)). Snelling originally committed to the University of Stanford for baseball in his freshman year, but decommitted in his junior year when he received 15 full-ride football scholarship offers from the likes of Notre Dame, Oregon, UCLA, Nebraska, Virginia and Ole Miss. He eventually committed to play both baseball and football for Arizona, but decommitted when baseball coach Jay Johnson left to coach at LSU, with Snelling following to play baseball, but ultimately foregoing the offer when he was selected 39th overall by the San Diego Padres in the 2022 MLB Draft.

Former/Retired MLB players:

- Hall of Famer **Mickey Mantle** was a three-sport athlete at Commerce High School in Oklahoma, playing baseball, basketball and football. He received a football scholarship from the University of Oklahoma.
- Hall of Famer **Harmon Killebrew** was an All-American quarterback at Payette High School in Idaho, earning 12 varsity letters. He was offered a football scholarship from the University of Oregon.
- Hall of Famer **Frank Thomas** played football as a freshman tight end for Auburn, catching three passes for 45 yards, but he then focused only on baseball for the rest of his college career.
- Hall of Famer **Jim Rice** was a three-sport athlete at T.L. Hannah High School, playing baseball, basketball and football. Rice was an all-state kick returner, defensive back and wide receiver, leading to football scholarships from Clemson, North Carolina and the University of Nebraska.
- Hall of Famer **Ryne Sandberg** was a three-sport star at North Central High School in Spokane, Washington and was named to Parade Magazine's High School All-America team. He originally signed a letter of intent with Washington State University, but opted not to attend after the Philadelphia Phillies drafted him in the 20th round of the 1978 MLB Draft.
- Hall of Famer **Reggie Jackson** was a star athlete at Cheltenham High School in Pennsylvania, excelling in baseball, football, basketball and track and field. Jackson accepted a football scholarship from Arizona State University, while receiving additional offers from Alabama, Georgia and Oklahoma. Following one season on the football team, Jackson decided to switch to baseball full-time during his sophomore season when he would become a First Team All-American. Mr. October was the second overall pick by the Kansas City Athletics in the 1966 MLB Draft.
- Hall of Famer **Jackie Robinson** was a four-sport star at John Muir High School in Pasadena, California, playing baseball, football, basketball and track and field. After thriving in each sports at Pasadena Junior College, Jackie enrolled at UCLA, where he became the school's first athlete to letter in four varsity sports. In 1941, Robinson pursued a career with the Los Angeles Bulldogs of the Pacific Coast Football League. Following his military career, Robinson ultimately accepted a contract from the Kansas City Monarchs in the Negro Leagues and would thus begin his historical professional baseball career.
- Hall of Famer **Dave Winfield** was drafted by four teams in three different sports following his college career. The San Diego Padres selected him fourth overall in the 1973 Draft, four years after the Baltimore Orioles selected him out of high school in the 40th round. Despite not playing football in college, Winfield was chosen by the Minnesota Vikings in the 17th round of the 1973 NFL Draft. Winfield was also selected in the 1973 NBA Draft by the Atlanta Hawks.
- Rockies Hall of Fame first baseman **Todd Helton** was the signal-caller for the University of Tennessee. Slated to be the Vols' backup quarterback in 1994, Helton took over for the injured Jerry Colquitt in the season opener at UCLA and started the next three games. Helton suffered a sprained Medial Collateral Ligament in the first half of Tennessee's September 24th game at Mississippi State, and a freshman named Peyton Manning took over from then on.
- Twins Hall of Fame backstop **Joe Mauer**, a six-time All-Star and the 2009 American League Most Valuable Player, was Gatorade's National Player of the Year as a quarterback at Cretin-Derham Hall High School and signed a letter of intent to play at Florida State.
- Hall of Fame starting pitcher **CC Sabathia**, a six-time All-Star and 2007 AL Cy Young Award winner, signed a letter of intent to play as a tight end at the University of Hawaii, but he signed with Cleveland after being a first round pick in 1998.
- **Bo Jackson**, a Heisman Trophy winner, played four seasons in the NFL with the Oakland Raiders from 1987-1990, and played eight years in the majors from 1986-1994. Bo was named Comeback Player of the Year in 1993, after he had missed the 1992 season due to hip replacement surgery which would force him to retire during the 1994 season. Jackson was the first athlete to be named an All-Star in two major sports. He was selected on three occasions in the MLB Draft -- first out of high school by the New York Yankees in the second round in 1982; then by the Los Angeles Angels in the 20th round in 1985; and finally in the fourth round in 1986 by the Kansas City Royals. Jackson was the first overall selection of the 1986 NFL Draft by the Tampa Bay Bucs, but refused to sign with the team, and was again selected in 1987 in the seventh round by the Los Angeles Raiders.



- Like Jackson, **Deion Sanders** had success in both MLB and the NFL. "Prime Time" played nine seasons in the Majors, leading the league in triples in 1992 and hitting .533 in the 1992 World Series. Deion recorded 53 career interceptions in 13 NFL seasons and was selected to the Pro Bowl eight times. Sanders was drafted by the Atlanta Falcons with the fifth overall selection in the 1989 NFL Draft, and selected by the New York Yankees in the 30th round of the 1988 Amateur Draft. He is the only athlete to play in a World Series and a Super Bowl.

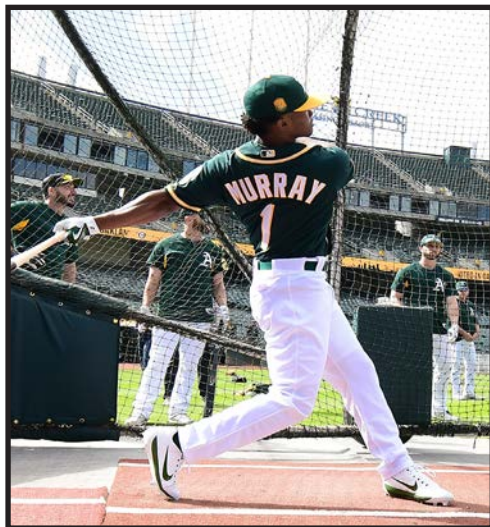


- Retired slugger **Adam Dunn**, who signed with the Reds after being drafted in the second round in 1998, accepted a scholarship to play football at the University of Texas, but after the school's spring football game in 1999, he decided to play baseball full-time. A high school quarterback, Dunn resisted a position change after being informed he would not be the Longhorns' starting quarterback in the upcoming season.
- Former MLB pitcher **Jeff Samardzija** was a wide receiver at the University of Notre Dame, catching a total of 24 passes in his first two seasons before emerging as a star in his junior season in 2005. He finished the year with 77 catches and single-season records in both receiving yards (1,215) and touchdown receptions (15) with numerous All-America selections. After a senior season in 2006 with 12 touchdowns, Samardzija finished as the school's all-time leader in reception yards with 2,593 and was one of three finalists for the Fred Biletnikoff Award for the nation's top wide receiver.
- Former Major League outfielder and manager **Kirk Gibson** was a wide receiver at Michigan State University, where he was named to the 1978 College Football All-America Team. He was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals in the seventh round of the 1979 NFL Draft.
- Outfielder **Billy Hamilton**, who is currently a free agent, was an all-state athlete in baseball, football and basketball at Taylorsville High School in Mississippi. He was a top wide receiver prospect, but turned down a football scholarship from Mississippi State University and was drafted by the Reds in the second round of the 2009 MLB Draft.
- Free agent reliever **Archie Bradley**, who was the seventh overall selection in the 2011 Draft, passed on the opportunity to play quarterback at the University of Oklahoma.
- Former outfielder **Matt Holliday** signed a letter of intent to play quarterback at Oklahoma State University after earning All-American honors in his senior season at Stillwater High School, but decided to sign with the Colorado Rockies after they drafted him in 1998.
- Former outfielder **Seth Smith** was a quarterback in college, serving as the backup at Mississippi for three seasons behind Eli Manning.
- Retired outfielder **Jeff Francoeur** led Parkview High School in Georgia to two state championships in both baseball and football and was slated to play both at Clemson University, whose baseball team also had received commitments from D-backs right-hander Zack Greinke and former Major League outfielder Jeremy Hermida. All three were first round choices, however, and each signed to play professional baseball.
- Retired outfielder **Carl Crawford** was recruited by Nebraska as an option quarterback, but the Houston native signed with the Devil Rays out of Jefferson Davis High School as a second round pick in 1999.
- Former All-Star outfielder **Darin Erstad** played baseball and football at the University of Nebraska and was the punter on the Cornhuskers' 1994 national championship team.
- Former All-Star outfielder **Grady Sizemore** was recruited to play both baseball and football, as a quarterback, at the University of Washington. At Everett's Cascade High School, Sizemore set school records with 3,081 rushing yards and 16 career interceptions. He also was recruited by Arizona State, Cal, Clemson and Washington State. Sizemore signed with the Montreal Expos after being selected 75th overall in the third round of the 2000 MLB Draft.
- Former Major League outfielder **Trot Nixon** signed a letter of intent to play quarterback at North Carolina State, but he signed with Boston after being the seventh overall pick in the 1993 Draft.
- Former Major League outfielder **Elijah Dukes** was offered a scholarship to play linebacker at North Carolina State.
- Former Major League infielder **Josh Fields**, who played in 100 games for the Chicago White Sox in 2007, earned three letters as quarterback of Oklahoma State's football team where he holds the school record for most career touchdown passes with 55. Fields tied a Big 12 record (since broken) with seven touchdown passes in a 52-6 win at SMU on September 20, 2003, and set a Cotton Bowl record with 307 passing yards vs. Mississippi on January 2, 2004. The following June, Josh was selected as the 18th pick overall by the White Sox.
- Former Major League infielder/outfielder, MLB Network analyst and Team USA manager **Mark DeRosa** played baseball and football at the University of Pennsylvania where he was the Quakers starting quarterback from 1993-1995. Mark was selected in the seventh round of the 1996 MLB Draft by the Atlanta Braves.
- Former Major League outfielder **Gabe Gross** played baseball and football at Auburn. After starting six games at quarterback as a freshman in 1998, he began to concentrate on baseball in his sophomore year. Gross was Toronto's first round pick in 2001.
- Former Major League outfielder **Nick Stavinoha** played football and baseball at Jersey Village High School in Texas where he helped lead his baseball team to three district championships and the football team to two district titles before attending the University of Houston for football. Nick, who appeared in 79 games for the Cardinals in 2010, later switched to San Jacinto College as he began his transition to baseball.

- Former Major League outfielder **Joe Borchard** played baseball and football at Stanford. He was considered the leading candidate to start at quarterback for the Cardinals in 2000, but he signed with the White Sox after being their first round pick (12th overall) that June.
- Former Major League outfielder **Bubba Thompson** was a standout quarterback at McGill-Toolen Catholic High School, garnering offers from Troy, Memphis, Ole Miss, UCF and Tennessee among others before committing to the University of Alabama for baseball. His college plans went to the wayside when the Rangers selected him 26th overall in 2017. Thompson announced his return to college football in January 2025. The 27-year-old is attempting to walk-on at the University of South Alabama.
- Former Major League outfielder **Monte Harrison** was a three-sport athlete at Lee's Summit High School in Missouri. He was committed to playing baseball and football at the University of Nebraska prior to being selected 50th overall in the 2014 MLB Draft by Milwaukee. After playing 50 Major League games from 2021-2022 with the Miami Marlins/Los Angeles Angels, Harrison retired at age 29 and announced in May 2024 that he would attend the University of Arkansas to pursue his four years of eligibility as a wide receiver.
- Former MLB outfielder **Brian Jordan** was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals 30th overall in the 1988 Amateur Draft. While in the Minor Leagues, Jordan was a safety for the Atlanta Falcons from 1989-1991 before turning his attention to baseball full-time.
- Former Major League outfielder **Bubba Starling**, the fifth overall selection of the 2011 Draft by the Kansas City Royals, chose to sign with the Royals rather than play quarterback at the University of Nebraska.
- Former Minor League outfielder **Donavan Tate**, the son of former NFL running back Lars Tate, was San Diego's third overall selection out of Cartersville High School in Georgia in 2009. Tate was an all-state selection as quarterback at Cartersville and had committed to play both baseball and football at the University of North Carolina prior to being drafted.
- Former Minor Leaguer **Brandon Jacobs** was selected by the Boston Red Sox in the 10th round of the 2009 Draft. Jacobs had committed to play football at Auburn University prior to the draft following a senior season in which he rushed for over 1,500 yards with 19 touchdowns and was named to the Georgia 5A All-State team.
- Former Minor Leaguer **Chad Jones** was a third round selection out of LSU by the New York Giants in the 2010 NFL Draft. Jones was originally drafted out of high school in the 13th round of the 2007 MLB Draft by the Houston Astros. He was again drafted in 2010 by the Milwaukee Brewers in the 50th round, and taken a third time in the ninth round of the 2013 Draft by the Reds.
- Former Minor Leaguer **Tim Tebow** was a Heisman Trophy winner (2007) at the University of Florida. Tebow quarterbacked the Gators to two National Championships (2006, 2008) and was drafted by the Denver Broncos in the first round (#25 overall). He signed a Minor League contract with the Mets on September 8, 2016.

Current/Recent NFL players:

- **Kyler Murray**, the first overall selection in the 2019 NFL Draft, was selected as an outfielder by the Oakland A's with the ninth overall selection in the 2018 MLB Draft. Murray became the first person ever to be selected in the first round of both the NFL and MLB Draft. Led by the 2018 Heisman Trophy winner, the Oklahoma Sooners won the Big 12 Championship and were selected to the College Football Playoff, competing in the 2018 Orange Bowl.
- Kansas City Chiefs quarterback **Patrick Mahomes**, the 10th overall selection in the 2017 NFL Draft, was selected by the Detroit Tigers in the 37th round of the 2014 MLB Draft out of high school. The three-time Super Bowl Champion is the son of former big league pitcher Pat Mahomes, and earned the NFL's MVP Award in 2018 and 2022. He joined the Royals ownership group in 2020, becoming at the time the youngest part-owner of a major professional sports franchise.
- New York Giants quarterback **Russell Wilson**, who was drafted by the Colorado Rockies in the fourth round of the 2010 Draft, was the starting quarterback at North Carolina State and he led the Seattle Seahawks to a Super Bowl win in his second season after the team drafted him 75th overall in the 2012 NFL Draft. The New York Yankees, who currently have the baseball rights to Wilson after acquiring him via trade from the Texas Rangers in the 2018 offseason, had Wilson participate in 2018 Spring Training games (see him face off against Max Fried of the Braves [here](#) during 2018 Spring Training)
- Philadelphia Eagles wide receiver **A.J. Brown**, who was selected by the Tennessee Titans in the second round of the 2019 NFL Draft, was selected by the San Diego Padres in the 19th round of the 2016 MLB Draft out of Starkville High School in Mississippi. He occasionally dabbles in the batting cages, [posting this video](#) to his accounts in 2022.



- Carolina Panthers tight end **Hayden Hurst** was drafted in the 17th round of the 2012 MLB Draft by the Pittsburgh Pirates before attending the University of South Carolina and going 25th overall to the Baltimore Ravens in the 2018 NFL Draft.
- Cleveland Browns tight end **Jordan Akins** first pursued a Baseball career after he was drafted out of Union Grove High School in Georgia by the Texas Rangers in the third round of the 2010 MLB Draft. He played in the Rangers' system for four seasons before attending the University of Central Florida from 2014-2018. The Houston Texans selected Akins 98th overall in the 2018 NFL Draft where he played the first five years of his NFL career before joining the Cleveland Browns in 2023.
- Free agent quarterback **Colin Kaepernick** was drafted by the Chicago Cubs in the 43rd round of the 2009 Draft.
- New York Giants quarterback **Jameis Winston**, who led his Florida State team to a national championship in 2013, was a two-sport star for the Seminoles. Winston made 24 relief appearances on the mound in 2014 for the Seminoles, going 1-0 with a 1.08 ERA and 31 strikeouts in 33.1 innings pitched while holding opposing hitters to a .154 batting average. In addition, he recorded a team-high seven saves, which was tied for eighth-most in the conference.
- Free agent linebacker **Shaq Thompson** was drafted by the Boston Red Sox in the 18th round of the 2012 Draft. Thompson played one year for Boston's rookie-level Club in 2012 prior to being taken in the first round by the Carolina Panthers in the 2015 NFL Draft.
- **Johnny Manziel** was drafted by the San Diego Padres in the 28th round of the 2014 Draft.

Former/Retired NFL players:

- Former New England Patriots and Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback **Tom Brady** played football, baseball and basketball at Junipero Serra High School in California. He was drafted as a catcher by the Montreal Expos in the 18th round of the 1995 Draft following his high school career. Brady did not sign and went on to play football at the University of Michigan before turning pro and accumulating seven Super Bowl wins.
- Hall of Fame quarterback **John Elway** was drafted by the Kansas City Royals in the 1979 Amateur Draft, but did not sign with the club. He was again selected in the 1981 Amateur Draft by the New York Yankees. Elway signed with the club and played right field for the Oneonta Yankees in 1982. He hit .318 in 42 games before giving up baseball for professional football. He was selected number one overall in the 1983 NFL Draft by the Baltimore Colts before being traded to the Denver Broncos. Elway played 16 seasons as the quarterback of the Broncos and led the team to Super Bowl titles in 1998 and 1999. John was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2004.
- Hall of Fame quarterback **Dan Marino** was drafted by the Kansas City Royals in the 1979 Amateur Draft, but decided to play college football instead. Marino would go on to become one of the greatest NFL quarterbacks of all time.
- Hall of Fame running back **Jim Thorpe** played for four Major League teams from 1913-19, but ultimately embarked on an eight-year football career that began in 1920. Thorpe was First Team All-Pro in 1923 and was named to the NFL 1920's All-Decade Team. Considered one of the greatest athletes in American history, Thorpe also won two gold medals at the 1912 Summer Olympics in Stockholm.
- Former NFL quarterback **Daunte Culpepper** was drafted as an outfielder out of high school by the New York Yankees in the 26th round of the 1995 Draft, but did not sign. Culpepper would go on to play quarterback at the University of Central Florida where he set more than 30 school quarterback records. Daunte was drafted by the Minnesota Vikings with the 11th overall selection in the 1999 NFL Draft.
- Retired wide receiver **Golden Tate** was a 42nd round selection of the Arizona Diamondbacks out of high school in 2007 and a 50th round selection of the San Francisco Giants out of Notre Dame in 2010 after he was a second round choice of the Seattle Seahawks in the 2010 NFL Draft.
- Former NFL quarterback **Matt Moore** was drafted by the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim in the 22nd round in the 2004 Draft.
- Former NFL quarterback **Michael Vick** was drafted by the Colorado Rockies in the 30th round of the 2000 Draft.
- Former NFL wide receiver **Eric Decker** was selected in the 2008 MLB Draft in the 39th round by the Milwaukee Brewers, and again in 2009 in the 27th round by the Minnesota Twins.
- Former NFL wide receiver **Hines Ward** was a high school outfielder taken in the 73rd round of the 1994 MLB Draft. The 2006 Super Bowl MVP did not sign and went on to become a star football player at the University of Georgia.
- Former NFL lineman **Kyle Long** was drafted by the Chicago White Sox in the 23rd round of the 2008 Draft. Long did not sign and honored his football commitment to Florida State University and was eventually drafted 20th overall in the 2013 NFL Draft. by the Chicago Bears.
- Former Tennessee Titans quarterback **Jake Locker**, who was also a 10th round selection by the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim in 2009, had his rights signed by the Angels while he returned to the University of Washington for his junior season. Locker was selected eighth overall by Tennessee in the 2010 NFL Draft.
- Heisman Trophy winner **Ricky Williams** was drafted by the Philadelphia Phillies in the eighth round of the 1995 MLB Draft. Williams spent four years in professional baseball, never moving up beyond Single-A, before turning his attention to professional football.

- Peyton and Eli's father **Archie Manning**, a former NFL quarterback, was taken in the third round of the 1971 Amateur Draft by the Chicago White Sox, but did not sign. He was also selected in the 1971 NFL Draft by the New Orleans Saints with the second overall selection. Archie played 13 NFL seasons and was selected to the Pro Bowl in 1978 and 1979.
- Former NFL wide receiver **Antwaan Randle El** was selected by the Chicago Cubs in the 14th round of the 1997 Draft.
- Former NFL running back **Cedric Benson** was also a high school outfielder taken in the 12th round of the 2001 MLB Draft. He played in nine games for the Gulf Coast Dodgers before going on to star at the University of Texas at Austin, where he received the Doak Walker Award as the nation's top running back in 2004. Boston Red Sox outfielder Darnell McDonald was recruited by the University of Texas to play baseball and football but chose to play professional baseball leading to the school's recruitment of Benson.
- Former Atlanta Falcons quarterback **Doug Johnson** was a second round draft pick in 1996 for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, playing as an infielder in their Minor League system in 1996 and 1997 before suffering a rotator cuff injury and leaving to concentrate on football full-time.
- Former NFL quarterback **Drew Henson** was selected in the sixth round of the 2003 NFL Draft by the Houston Texans. Henson played in nine games over two seasons from 2004-05 with the Dallas Cowboys and Detroit Lions. Prior to his NFL stint, he was also selected by the New York Yankees in the third round of the 1998 MLB Draft with the 97th overall selection. Henson played in over 500 Minor League games over six seasons and appeared in eight Major League games with the Yankees between 2002-03, collecting one hit in nine at-bats.
- Former NFL quarterback **Chad Hutchinson** signed with the Dallas Cowboys as an undrafted free agent in 2002. Hutchinson played in the NFL for three seasons between the Cowboys (2002-03) and Chicago Bears (2004). The St. Louis Cardinals selected him in the second round (48th overall) of the 1998 MLB Draft, and he spent four seasons in the their minor league system.
- Former NFL quarterback **Kerry Collins** was drafted three times by MLB clubs. The Detroit Tigers drafted him out of high school in the 26th round of the 1990 MLB Draft, but Collins decided to attend Penn State University. The Tigers drafted him again in the 60th round of the 1991 MLB Draft, and he was selected in the 48th round of the 1994 MLB Draft by the Toronto Blue Jays, but did not sign in either instance. Collins was ultimately drafted in the first round of the 1995 NFL Draft by the Carolina Panthers, would make two Pro Bowl Teams (1996, 2008) and play for 17 seasons.
- Former NFL quarterback **Chris Weinke** played six seasons (1991-96) in the Toronto Blue Jays Minor League system after being selected by the Jays in the second round of the 1990 MLB Draft. After the 1996 season, Weinke accepted a football scholarship at Florida State University, winning the Heisman Trophy in 2000. He was drafted by the Carolina Panthers in the fourth round of the 2001 NFL Draft.
- Former NFL quarterback **Steve McNair** was drafted by the Seattle Mariners in the 35th round of the 1991 MLB Draft. A three-sport athlete at Mount Olive High School in Mississippi, McNair did not sign with the Mariners, but opted to attend Alcorn State University. He was drafted by the Houston Oilers with the third overall pick in the 1995 NFL Draft and would go on to win the 2003 MVP Award.
- Former NFL running back **D.J. Dozier** was originally drafted out of high school by the Detroit Tigers in the 18th round of the 1983 Amateur Draft. He opted to go to Penn State and play football where he scored the game-winning touchdown of Penn State's 1987 Fiesta Bowl victory over Miami. D.J. was drafted 14th overall by the Minnesota Vikings in the 1987 NFL Draft and finished his football career in 1992 with the Detroit Lions. In 1990, the New York Mets signed him as an amateur free agent. He spent 1990 and 1991 in the Minors, and was called up to the Major Leagues in 1992 where he would play in 25 games.
- Former Miami Dolphins quarterback **Pat White** helped lead his high school team to two state championships as a pitcher and outfielder before attending the University of West Virginia for football. White was drafted by Major League organizations on four different occasions, but never did sign. The Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim drafted him in the fourth round of the 2004 MLB Draft, and again in the 27th round in 2007. The Cincinnati Reds selected Pat in the 49th round in 2008 and the New York Yankees picked him in the 48th round in 2009. White signed a Minor League deal with the Kansas City Royals in September 2010 after being released by the Dolphins, and has since retired from the diamond.
- Former quarterback **Brandon Weeden** was drafted by the New York Yankees in the second round of the 2002 Draft. He played parts of five Minor League seasons for the Yankees, Dodgers and Royals.
- Former quarterback **Matt Cassel** was selected by the Oakland A's in the 36th round of the 2004 MLB Draft after playing one season of baseball at USC. He also played for the Northridge baseball team that reached the finals of the 1994 Little League World Series.

Other:

- Former head coach **Urban Meyer**, who won two BCS Championships at the University of Florida (2006 and 2008) and one at Ohio State University (2014), was selected by the Atlanta Braves in the 13th round of the 1982 MLB Draft. He went on to play two seasons as a shortstop in the Braves organization.
- Former defensive coordinator **Jack Del Rio** was a 22nd round selection of the Toronto Blue Jays in the 1981 MLB Draft out of Hayward High School in California.



BIG INNINGS

The Chicago Cubs lead Major League Baseball this season with 163 runs scored, trailed by the New York Yankees, whose 137 runs scored are the most in the American League. Chicago is averaging a Major League-best 6.27 runs per game and have tallied the most runs scored in the second (25 runs) and fifth (23 runs) innings of any Big League club. Chicago's second and fifth inning totals this season make up 29.4% (48 runs) of their total runs, 58 of their 243 (23.9%) hits and 10 of their 38 homers (26.3%). Overall, the Cubs have outscored opponents 48-25 (+23) in the second and fifth innings alone and carry a +43 run differential on the year.

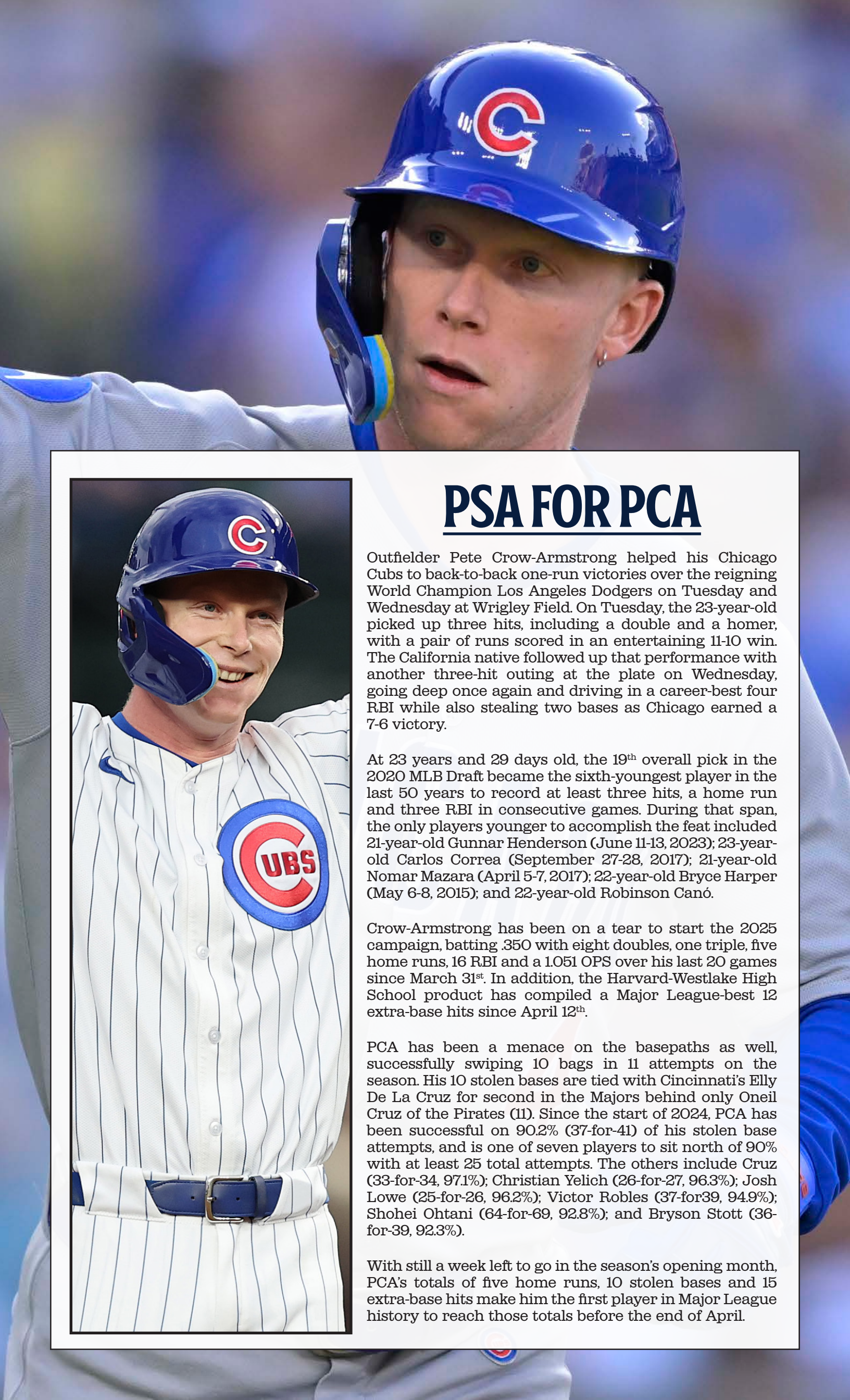
2025 Most Runs Scored by Inning			
Inning	Team	Runs Scored	% of Total Runs
1 st	Los Angeles Dodgers & New York Yankees	22	19.0% (116 R for LAD) 16.1 % (137 R for NYY)
2 nd	Chicago Cubs	25	15.3% (163 R)
3 rd	Cincinnati Reds	21	16.4% (128 R)
4 th	Minnesota Twins	19	22.4% (85 R)
5 th	Chicago Cubs	23	14.1% (163 R)
6 th	San Francisco Giants	32	26.0% (123 R)
7 th	Philadelphia Phillies	22	19.8% (111 R)
8 th	Arizona Diamondbacks	32	24.4% (131 R)
9 th	Milwaukee Brewers	18	14.2% (127 R)
Extras	Seattle Mariners	10	9.1% (109 R)

The San Francisco Giants and Arizona Diamondbacks are tied with the most runs scored in an inning, with San Francisco tallying 32 runs in the sixth inning and Arizona scoring 32 times in the eighth inning. For the Giants, the 32 runs represent a whopping 26.0% of their 123 runs scored on the season. For the Diamondbacks, the 32 eighth-inning runs represent 24.4% of Arizona's 131 runs on the year.

The Seattle Mariners have scored the most runs in extra innings this season, combining for 10 runs in their four extra-inning games. The Mariners four extra-inning games are tied for the most in the Majors this season with the Boston Red Sox (4 R), Kansas City Royals (3 R), Philadelphia Phillies (6 R), Pittsburgh Pirates (4 R), St. Louis Cardinals (6 R) and Toronto Blue Jays (4 R).

The Diamondbacks, who are third in the Majors with 131 runs, are the only club to score at least 10 runs in a single frame this season, doing so in the eighth inning on April 18th against the Cubs. It marked just the fifth time in Arizona's history that the D-backs plated at least 10 runs in an innning, joining: March 28, 2024 (14 runs in 3rd inn.); April 11, 2010 (13 runs in 4th inn.); August 11, 2015 (11 runs in 2nd inn.); and June 21, 2017 (10 runs in 4th inn.). In a wild contest at Wrigley Field in which the Cubs stormed back with six runs in the bottom of the eighth inning to take a 13-11 lead, Arizona became the first team to score 10 runs in an inning and lose the game since the Royals in August 2006. Additionally, the 16 combined runs in the eighth inning were the most in a single inning in the history of Wrigley Field (since 1914).

2025 Team Innings of at Least Seven Runs		
Team	Date	Runs
Arizona Diamondbacks	8 th inning, April 18 th	10
Tampa Bay Rays	3 rd inning, April 14 th	9
Arizona Diamondbacks	8 th inning, March 30 th	8
Colorado Rockies	7 th inning, April 19 th	8
Los Angeles Angels	5 th inning, April 10 th	8
Milwaukee Brewers	6 th inning, April 22 nd	8
Cincinnati Reds	3 rd inning, April 20 th	7
Los Angeles Angels	5 th inning, April 5 th	7
Los Angeles Dodgers	1 st inning, April 16 th	7
Milwaukee Brewers	9 th inning, April 9 th	7
New York Mets	5 th inning, March 31 st	7
St. Louis Cardinals	8 th inning, April 2 nd	7



PSA FOR PCA

Outfielder Pete Crow-Armstrong helped his Chicago Cubs to back-to-back one-run victories over the reigning World Champion Los Angeles Dodgers on Tuesday and Wednesday at Wrigley Field. On Tuesday, the 23-year-old picked up three hits, including a double and a homer, with a pair of runs scored in an entertaining 11-10 win. The California native followed up that performance with another three-hit outing at the plate on Wednesday, going deep once again and driving in a career-best four RBI while also stealing two bases as Chicago earned a 7-6 victory.

At 23 years and 29 days old, the 19th overall pick in the 2020 MLB Draft became the sixth-youngest player in the last 50 years to record at least three hits, a home run and three RBI in consecutive games. During that span, the only players younger to accomplish the feat included 21-year-old Gunnar Henderson (June 11-13, 2023); 23-year-old Carlos Correa (September 27-28, 2017); 21-year-old Nomar Mazara (April 5-7, 2017); 22-year-old Bryce Harper (May 6-8, 2015); and 22-year-old Robinson Canó.

Crow-Armstrong has been on a tear to start the 2025 campaign, batting .350 with eight doubles, one triple, five home runs, 16 RBI and a 1.051 OPS over his last 20 games since March 31st. In addition, the Harvard-Westlake High School product has compiled a Major League-best 12 extra-base hits since April 12th.

PCA has been a menace on the basepaths as well, successfully swiping 10 bags in 11 attempts on the season. His 10 stolen bases are tied with Cincinnati's Elly De La Cruz for second in the Majors behind only Oneil Cruz of the Pirates (11). Since the start of 2024, PCA has been successful on 90.2% (37-for-41) of his stolen base attempts, and is one of seven players to sit north of 90% with at least 25 total attempts. The others include Cruz (33-for-34, 97.1%); Christian Yelich (26-for-27, 96.3%); Josh Lowe (25-for-26, 96.2%); Victor Robles (37-for-39, 94.9%); Shohei Ohtani (64-for-69, 92.8%); and Bryson Stott (36-for-39, 92.3%).

With still a week left to go in the season's opening month, PCA's totals of five home runs, 10 stolen bases and 15 extra-base hits make him the first player in Major League history to reach those totals before the end of April.





UNBLEMISHED

Entering play on Thursday, 16 starting pitchers have begun the 2024 season with an unbeaten record of 2-0 or better. Half of the group has started at least five games and is yet to endure a loss, including Max Fried of the New York Yankees; Sonny Gray of the St. Louis Cardinals; Jake Irvin of the Washington Nationals; Michael King of the San Diego Padres; Jesús Luzardo of the Philadelphia Phillies; Tyler Mahle of the Texas Rangers; Robbie Ray of the San Francisco Giants; and Brady Singer of the Cincinnati Reds.

Below is a look at the complete list of starters who are at least 2-0 to begin 2025:

2025 Major League Starters with Unbeaten Record of 2-0 or Better										
Player	W-L	GS	IP	H	R (ER)	BB	SO	ERA	AVG	Next Scheduled Start
Max Fried, NYY	4-0	5	31.2	25	9 (5)	7	30	1.42	.205	Saturday @ TOR
Brady Singer, CIN	4-0	5	27.1	22	14 (11)	9	32	3.62	.216	TBD
Sonny Gray, STL	3-0	5	29.0	21	11 (11)	4	29	3.41	.204	Saturday vs. MIL
Michael King, SD	3-0	5	28.0	20	8 (8)	10	31	2.57	.194	Friday vs. TB
Tyler Mahle, TEX	3-0	5	26.2	10	2 (2)	12	25	0.68	.112	Saturday @ SF
Jose Quintana, MIL	3-0	3	18.2	14	2 (2)	5	9	0.96	.219	Sunday @ STL
Robbie Ray, SF	3-0	5	24.1	20	11 (11)	18	25	4.07	.225	Saturday vs. TEX
Andrew Abbott, CIN	2-0	2	11.0	4	2 (2)	3	16	1.64	.108	Friday @ COL
Tyler Anderson, LAA	2-0	4	21.2	11	5 (5)	12	21	2.08	.149	Today vs. PIT
Shane Baz, TB	2-0	4	22.1	16	8 (8)	8	30	3.22	.200	TBD
Patrick Corbin, TEX	2-0	3	14.1	17	6 (6)	5	10	3.77	.293	TBD
Hunter Dobbins, BOS	2-0	2	11.0	11	4 (3)	2	11	2.45	.250	TBD (in Triple-A)
Jake Irvin, WSH	2-0	5	29.1	24	12 (12)	7	27	3.68	.220	Friday vs. NYM
Jackson Jobe, DET	2-0	4	20.0	14	7 (6)	10	14	2.70	.203	Saturday vs. BAL
Jack Leiter, TEX	2-0	2	10.0	6	1 (1)	1	10	0.90	.171	*15-day IL
Jesús Luzardo, PHI	2-0	5	30.1	26	8 (7)	7	36	2.08	.232	Saturday @ CHC



2025 INTERLEAGUE TRACKER

League	2025 Record	Batting Average	ERA
American League	54-67	.234 (941-for-4,013)	4.49
National League	67-54	.251 (1,028-for-4,099)	3.85

In 2024, National League Teams defeated American League teams 369 times in an MLB record 690 Interleague Games (also: 690 G in 2023).
It was the second year of MLB's balanced schedule.



WELCOME TO THE SHOW

Since April 17th, 22 players have made their Major League debut, including nine position players and 13 pitchers.

There have now been 64 players to make their Major League debut in 2025 with 34 pitchers and 30 position players.

- 23-year-old Logan Henderson, the Milwaukee Brewers’ third-best pitching prospect *per MLB Pipeline*, made his debut on Sunday at American Family Field against the Athletics. He picked up his first Big League win after pitching 6.0 innings, striking out nine and allowing just a run on three hits with a walk. The right-hander became just the fourth hurler in Brewers’ history to strike out nine and allow one earned run-or-less in their debut outing.
- 23-year-old Agustín Ramírez, the Miami Marlins fourth-best prospect *per MLB Pipeline*, made his debut on Monday at loanDepot park against the Reds. The Santo Domingo native set a Marlins franchise record by recording five hits in his first two career games. He also became the second player in franchise history to bat in the cleanup spot within the first two games of their career, joining Lewin Diaz on August 16, 2020.
- 24-year-old Chandler Simpson, the Tampa Bay Rays seventh-best prospect *per MLB Pipeline*, made his debut on Saturday at Steinbrenner Field against the Yankees. Notorious for his speed, the center fielder became just the fourth player in Rays history to record at least two stolen bases in their first four career games, and just the second to do so while also recording at least five hits in the span.
- 22-year-old Luke Keaschall, the Minnesota Twins third-best prospect *per MLB Pipeline*, made his debut on Friday at Truist Park against the Braves. He tied the Major League record for stolen bases by a player through their first five career games with five bags swiped.
- 22-year-old Nick Kurtz, the Athletics top prospcect and No. 35 prospect in all of Baseball *per MLB Pipeline*, made his debut on Wednesday at Sutter Health Park against the Rangers. The lefty-batter became the first Athletics player to tally an RBI hit in his first career at-bat since Tyler Ladendorf on April 8, 2015.

Overall, the Marlins pace the majors with six players making their debut, followed by the Brewers with five players making their debut. The teams with four players making their debut include the Chicago White Sox and Colorado Rockies. The teams with three players making their debut include the Athletics, Houston Astros, Los Angeles Angels, Toronto Blue Jays and Chicago Cubs. The teams with two players making their debut include the Baltimore Orioles, Cleveland Guardians, Kansas City Royals, Seattle Mariners, Rays, Arizona Diamondbacks, Atlanta Braves, New York Mets, Pittsburgh Pirates, San Diego Padres, St. Louis Cardinals and Washington Nationals. The teams with one player making their debut include the Boston Red Sox, Detroit Tigers, Twins, New York Yankees, Los Angeles Dodgers and San Francisco Giants.

MLB Debuts, April 17 th -23 rd			
Player	Club	Position	Debut Date
Edgar Quero	Chicago White Sox	C	April 17 th
Matt Svanson	St. Louis Cardinals	RHP	April 17 th
Caleb Durbin	Milwaukee Brewers	3B	April 18 th
Luke Keaschall	Minnesota Twins	DH/2B	April 18 th
Patrick Monteverde	Miami Marlins	LHP	April 19 th
Juan Morillo	Arizona Diamondbacks	RHP	April 19 th
Tirso Ornelas	San Diego Padres	OF	April 19 th
Chandler Simpson	Tampa Bay Rays	CF	April 19 th
Brandon Young	Baltimore Orioles	RHP	April 19 th
Zach Agnos	Colorado Rockies	RHP	April 20 th
Cade Gibson	Miami Marlins	LHP	April 20 th

MLB Debuts, April 17 th -23 rd (Continued)			
Player	Club	Position	Debut Date
Logan Henderson	Milwaukee Brewers	RHP	April 20 th
Paxton Schultz	Toronto Blue Jays	RHP	April 20 th
Agustín Ramírez	Miami Marlins	C	April 21 st
Ronny Simon	Miami Marlins	LF/DH	April 21 st
Craig Yoho	Milwaukee Brewers	RHP	April 21 st
Sauryn Lao	Seattle Mariners	RHP	April 22 nd
Chase Lee	Detroit Tigers	RHP	April 22 nd
Nathan Wiles	Atlanta Braves	RHP	April 22 nd
Zak Kent	Cleveland Guardians	RHP	April 22 nd
Nick Kurtz	Athletics	1B	April 23 rd
Will Wilson	Cleveland Guardians	SS	April 23 rd

THE GREATEST PLAYS YOU NEVER SAW: FRED MERKLE – SEPTEMBER 23, 1908

By: John Thorn | Official Historian of Major League Baseball

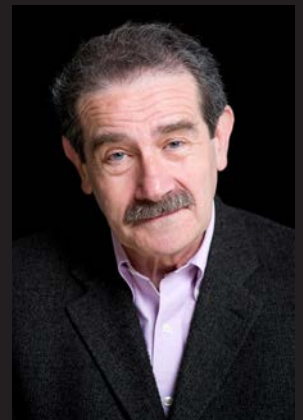
This year's series highlights the game's greatest plays, unrecalled in the memory of any living fan. For me, great plays include the awful blunders that turned around a game, a season, or a world's championship. In the seamless web of baseball's history, Fred Snodgrass commiserates with Lonnie Johnson, Mickey Owen feels for umpire Bill Joyce, and Fred Merkle wraps a consoling arm around Bill Buckner.

Donald Hall wrote in an essay about that enduringly failed hero, The Mighty Casey: "Triumph's pleasures are intense but brief; failure remains with us forever, a featherbed, a mothering nurturing common humanity." We recall the missteps, each one of us. The memory stings, but it unites us with our would-be heroes.

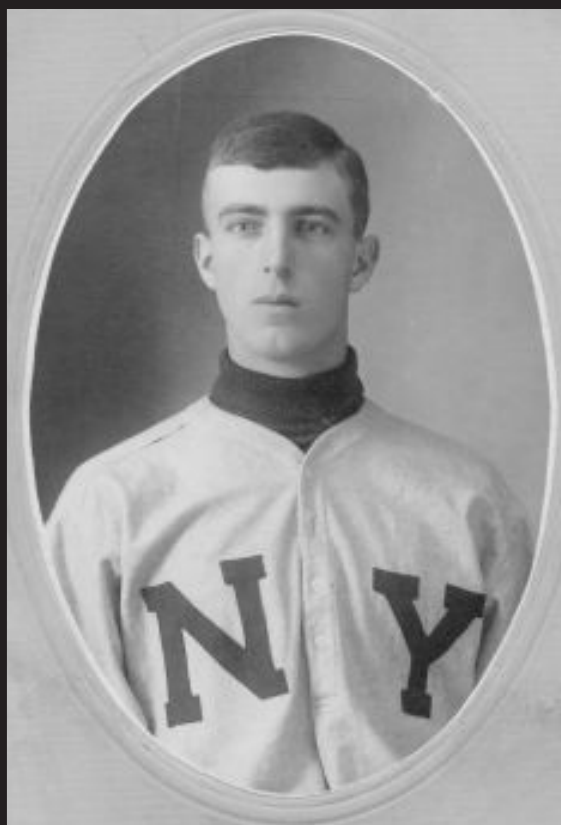
Why was Merkle, the substitute first baseman, playing in a pennant race? "Here is something for the fans to consider," wrote Bozeman Bulger in the *Chicago Tribune* two days before the ill-fated game. "Suppose Fred Tenney should be crippled. That would be a calamity, wouldn't it? Yes, it would in one way, but it wouldn't keep the Giants from winning the pennant. There is a young fellow on the bench named Fred Merkle who can fill that job better than nine tenths of the first basemen in the league."

On the morning of September 23rd Tenney indeed came up lame. The teenage Merkle, still shy of 100 at bats after two seasons as a reserve, was thrust into action.

The Giants and Cubs were in a virtual tie for first. The game at the Polo Grounds was tied 1-1 in the last of the ninth, as Jack Pfeister dueled Christy Mathewson. With the Giants' Moose McCormick on first and one out, Merkle shot a single to right that moved the runner to third. After another out, shortstop Al Bridwell singled to center, the winning run crossed the plate, and the Giants had extended their slim lead. Or had they?



John Thorn
Official Historian, MLB



Fred Merkle, age 18



Christy Mathewson, 1907

W.A. Phelon wrote, in the *Chicago Journal*: “It has long been an unwritten baseball law that as soon as a home player crossed the plate with a run that breaks a tie after the eighth inning the game is over, that instant. A batter runs out his hit and that is all. If a batter singles and scores a runner from second base, it is necessary for him to touch only first base.”

Merkle, in accordance with baseball custom and practice, if not in strict accordance to the rules, never bothered to touch second, instead running off the field to avoid the rush of fans storming onto the field in celebration. Somehow Cub second baseman Johnny Evers got the ball and stepped on second, holding the ball aloft to show the umpires-veterans Bob Emslie and Hank O'Day-that he had forced Merkle and the run didn't count. Less than three weeks earlier, on September 4, the Cubs had tried to win a ruling on a similar force-out against the Pirates but were overruled.

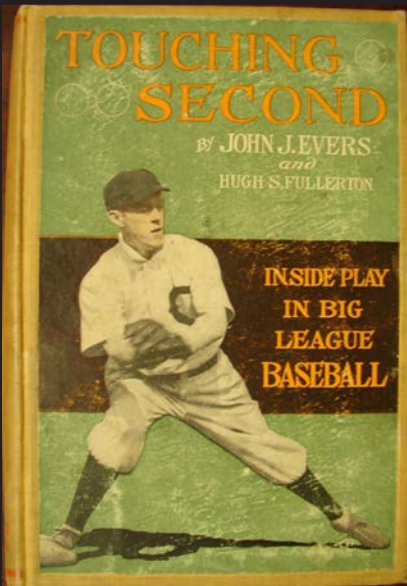
Not this time. The umpires, who had not seen the frenzied action at second base, declared the game a tie, as there was no way to clear the fans from the field. League president Harry Pulliam backed them up. The game was to be replayed, if necessary to determine a pennant winner. At season's end, the teams were indeed tied for first place. The game had to be replayed on October 8; the Cubs won and went on the World Series, which they also won (though not another for the next 108 years).

In the early 1990s Joe Evers, a nephew of Johnny, who had died in 1947, discovered a ball in a box, with an ink-marked notation across the sweet spot: “Merkle” and “Sept. 23, 1908.” This ball came up for auction in 1993, selling for a modest \$30,250. It came up again in 2020, selling for what still seems a modest \$76,375. Clearly, this was the ball Evers was holding when he touched second base to record the final out of the game. But was it the ball that Bridwell hit, which put Merkle out?

Not according to Charles Dryden, who wrote in the *Chicago Tribune*: “[Solly] Hofman [in center field] threw the ball to Evers, but before the latter could step on second base [Joe] McGinnity, who had been on the coaching line and was on his way to the clubhouse, took a hand and grabbed the ball away from Evers. Evers and [Joe] Tinker then grabbed McGinnity and wrestled with him trying to get the ball. They weren't successful, for the next minute the ball was sailing over toward the left field bleachers. Some Chicago player [Rube Kroh] rescued it and brought it in.”

Manager John McGraw stuck with Merkle for years to come, praising his headiness. The first sacker went on to Brooklyn and the Cubs and finished up with the Yankees. But he had been subject to relentless vilification. The same was true for NL president Pulliam, who committed suicide in 1909, in part because of the merciless hounding by New York baseball figures who believed his decision had cost the Giants a pennant.

When Fred Merkle nervously returned to the Polo Grounds for an old-timers' game in 1950, the fans gave him a standing ovation. He wept.



Did the title of Evers' book (1910) refer to Merkle?



The Merkle Ball, via Johnny Evers



Harry Pulliam, cigar label



Merkle at right, with Larry Doyle at Polo Grounds, 1950

WEEKLY AWARDS

PRESENTED BY CHEVROLET

Right fielder Fernando Tatis Jr. of the San Diego Padres was selected the National League Player of the Week presented by Chevrolet, and infielder/outfielder Dylan Moore of the Seattle Mariners was named the American League Player of the Week presented by Chevrolet.



Tatis won his third career weekly honor after previously winning on August 10, 2020 and April 26, 2021. It is the first weekly award for a Padres player since Jackson Merrill won last year on August 12th. Tatis is the eighth player in franchise history with at least three weekly awards as a Padre, joining Ken Caminiti (3x); Adrián González (4x); Hall of Famer Tony Gwynn (10x); Randy Jones (3x); Manny Machado (4x); Hall of Famer Fred McGriff (3x); and Phil Nevin (3x). Moore earned his first career honor and is the first Mariners player to win the award since Julio Rodríguez last season on September 23rd.



Cincinnati Reds shortstop Elly De La Cruz earned his third career Play of the Week Award, after previously winning on July 15, 2024 and earlier this season on April 7th. Overall, it is the fifth award for the Reds after Yasiel Puig won on May 19, 2019 and Will Benson won on April 10, 2023. De La Cruz is the third player since the inception of the award in 2019 to win multiple times within the first month of the season, joining Milwaukee's Lorenzo Cain in 2019 (3/28 and 4/26) and Baltimore's Cedric Mullins in 2024 (4/8 and 4/22). With one out in the bottom of the second

inning and the Reds holding onto a 1-0 lead, Jackson Holliday lined a ball back up the middle as De La Cruz ranged over and leaped into the air, sprawling out to make the catch and keep the potential tying run at second base.



Dylan Moore
Seattle Mariners



Fernando Tatis Jr.
San Diego Padres

2025 Weekly Awards			
Date	AL Player of the Week	NL Player of the Week	Electric Play of the Week
March 31 st	Aaron Judge, NYY .545 (6-for-11), 4 HR, 11 RBI, 2 2B, 3 BB, 8 R, .643 OBP, 1.818 SLG	Eugenio Suárez, AZ .286 (4-for-14), 4 HR, 7 RBI, 2 BB, 1 SB, 5 R, .412 OBP, 1.143 SLG	Griffin Conine's home run robbery
April 7 th	Alex Bregman, BOS .407 (11-for-27), 2 HR, 10 RBI, 5 2B, 2 BB, 7 R, .448 OBP, .815 SLG	Kyle Tucker, CHC .391 (9-for-23), 3 HR, 8 RBI, 11 R, .548 OBP, .913 SLG	Elly De La Cruz's sliding catch
April 14 th	Ty France, MIN .440 (11-for-25), 2 HR, 6 RBI, 2 BB, 6 R, .500 OBP, .760 SLG	William Contreras, MIL .391 (9-for-23), 3 HR, 10 RBI, 2 2B, 2 BB, 6 R, .423 OBP, .870 SLG	Dane Myers' game-ending catch
April 21 st	Dylan Moore, SEA .385 (10-for-26), 3 HR, 5 RBI, 1 BB, 6 R, 3 SB .407 OBP, .769 SLG	Fernando Tatis Jr., SD .375 (9-for-24), 4 HR, 7 RBI, 13B, 5 BB, 9 R, .483 OBP, .958 SLG	Elly De La Cruz's full-extension diving catch

SARAH'S FAVORITE NOTES OF THE WEEK

I'm Sarah Langs, a researcher for MLB, and I'm honored to have this space to share some of my favorite notes to wrap up each week of this wonderful sport.

WILD ONE AT WRIGLEY: In a crazy game at Wrigley Field, the Cubs and Diamondbacks combined to score 16 runs in the eighth inning. That was the most runs in an inning in the history of Wrigley Field, which opened in 1914 and became the Cubs' home in 1916, per the Elias Sports Bureau. The prior record had been 15 on Aug. 25, 1922, in the fourth inning. That time, the Phillies scored one and the Cubs scored 14 in their half of the inning.

FLYING FISH: Mike Trout hit two home runs on Saturday and the first was particularly majestic, going 484 feet with a 115.4 exit velocity. It's the longest home run in MLB since the start of 2024. Trout now has eight home runs of at least 470 ft under Statcast (2015), second to Giancarlo Stanton (10). His three home runs of at least 480 feet are tied with Stanton and Nomar Mazara for most in that span.

RED ALERT: The Reds won, 24-2, on Sunday and a big reason why was the production they got from the eighth and ninth spots, occupied by Noelvi Marte and Austin Wynns. They combined for 11 hits, the most by the eighth and ninth hitters in a game over the last 125 seasons. Marte and Wynns also had 13 RBI, tied for the second-most from those spots in a game since RBI became official in 1920. The Rangers had 14 RBI from the eighth and ninth hitters on August 22, 2007, also in Baltimore.

MY GIRL: Francisco Lindor led off with a home run in the first inning on Monday, joining 2017 Curtis Granderson and 2004 Kaz Matsui as the only Mets with a leadoff homer in back-to-back team games. He added another home run later in the game for his 20th career multi-homer game. Lindor passed Trevor Story for the third-most multi-homer games while playing shortstop in MLB history. He trails only Alex Rodriguez (33) and Ernie Banks (24).

ZEROES: The Padres threw their seventh shutout of the season on Tuesday in their 24th game. Their seven shutouts tied for the most through a team's first 24 games in MLB history, along with the 1992 Braves, 1968 Cleveland, 1958 Yankees, 1945 Tigers, 1914 Red Sox and 1909 Athletics.

HOLY COW: The Cubs scored 11 runs on Tuesday, the seventh time they reached at least 10 runs this season, in just their 25th game. That is their most games with at least 10 runs through the first 25 games of a season since 1895. It also tied the 2012 Red Sox for the most 10-run performances through a team's first 25 games in the last 20 years.

LAYING LUMBER: James Wood crushed a leadoff home run on Wednesday, to the tune of a 116.3 mph exit velocity. That tied Bryce Harper on June 15, 2017 for the Nationals' hardest-hit home run under Statcast (2015). It's also tied for the team's fifth-hardest hit batted ball of any kind in that span.

USE THE FORCE, LUKE: Twins' No. 3 prospect Luke Keaschall has wreaked havoc on the bases so far in his very young MLB career. Keaschall stole two bases on Wednesday to bring him to five for his career in just five games. That's tied for the most in a player's first five career games in at least the last 125 seasons, along with 1996 Luis Castillo, 1991 Ced Landrum, 1987 Donell Nixon and 1985 Vince Coleman.

CORBIN BARRELS: Corbin Carroll hit a leadoff home run on Wednesday, and added another in the seventh inning. Carroll's nine home runs are tied for the second-most through the team's first 24 games in Diamondbacks history, with 2010 Mark Reynolds, 2010 Kelly Johnson, 2004 Richie Sexson and 2000 Steve Finley. He trails only Luis Gonzalez, who had 13 home runs in 2001.

CURRENT IRONMAN: Matt Olson has played 644 consecutive games entering Friday, dating to May 2, 2021. There have been only seven other streaks of at least 600 to begin in the divisional era (1969), per Elias. They belong to 1982-98 Cal Ripken Jr (2,632 consecutive games), 1975-83 Steve Garvey (1,207), 2000-07 Miguel Tejada (1,152), 1978-83 Pete Rose (745), 1981-86 Dale Murphy (740), 1973-78 Rose (678) and 1969-73 Sandy Alomar Sr. (661).

For more great notes and baseball tidbits, follow Sarah on Twitter ([@SlangsOnSports](#))



UPON FURTHER REVIEW

Through Wednesday night's games, Major League Baseball has had 220 replay reviews, which have taken an average of one minute and twenty-two seconds. The 220 replay reviews consist of 186 Manager Challenges and 34 Crew Chief Reviews.

220 Replay Reviews
52 Confirmed (23.6%)
58 Stands (26.4%)
109 Overturned (49.5%)
0 Rules Check (0.0%)
1 Record Keeping (0.5%)
1:22 Average Time

LINE DRIVES

Compiled from Club Game Notes

DEFENSE IS KEY: The D-backs' 17 errorless games this season rank tied for second most in the NL with the Marlins, Giants, Cardinals and Mets, behind the Dodgers (18). Since 2024, the D-backs' .989 fielding pct. is the best in the Majors while their 75 errors are the fewest, ahead of the Braves (.988/78 E) and Cardinals (.988/85 E).

LUKE WHAT WE HAVE HERE: Luke Keaschall has hit safely in all five games played, going 6-for- 17 (.353) with three doubles, two RBI, four runs, four walks and five stolen bases. Keaschall's five steals are tied for most by a player in their first five games in AL/NL history, matching Luis Castillo (1996), Ced Landrum (1991), Donell Nixon (1987) and Vince Coleman (1985). The last Twins rookie to hit safely in each of their first five games was Brooks Lee, who hit safely in six-straight to start his career, from July 3-8, 2024. The club record for a rookie is 23, held by Kent Hrbek from April 17-May 13, 1982.

BRINGING THE LUMBER: James Wood ranks among National League hitters in home runs (T-2nd, 8), extra-base hits (T-7th, 13), slugging percentage (8th, .578) and OPS (10th, .934). He's tied for second in Major League Baseball with two leadoff home runs. He has reached base in 17 of his last 19 games. Over that span he has 11 extra-base hits (4 2B, 7 HR), 17 RBI, 11 walks, two stolen bases and 16 runs scored.

WITT STREAK: Bobby Witt Jr. has hit safely in each of his last 14 games, which matches Houston's Jeremy Peña for the longest active hit streak in the Majors. Witt Jr. is batting .360 (18-for-50) during the streak, raising his season batting average 64 points from .244 to .308. This is his eighth career hit streak of at least 10 games and the sixth since the start of last season, most in the Majors ahead of Francisco Lindor, who ranks second with four double-digit hit streaks. Bobby is one game shy of his career-best 15-game hit streak from July 14-Aug. 2, 2024, during which he hit .508

NEED AN RBI? WE KNOW A GUY: Infielder Wilmer Flores went 2-for-4 last night and drove in two more runs to give him a Major League-best 27 RBI entering play today. The two RBI last night also pushed Flores past his total of 26 from last season's injury-shortened, 71- game campaign. San Francisco is 11-4 this season when Flores drives in at least one run.

CRIME & PUNISHMENT: Catchers William Contreras (8-for-17) and Eric Haase (2-for-3) of the Brewers have thrown out a combined 10 of 20 baserunners attempting to steal (50.0%), tied with New York-NL (8-for-16) for the highest team caught stealing percentage in the majors. Contreras leads MLB with 8 runners thrown out attempting to steal.

LANGFORD LAUNCH PAD: Wyatt Langford hit his team-high sixth HR last night, and he has homered in each of the first two games in Sacramento. Langford has homered in two straight and three of his last four games. This is the third time in his career he has hit HR in back-to-back games, all since the start of last September (others 9/2-3/24 and 9/27-28/24). He has never hit HR in three straight in his career. Langford's early-season performance has him ranking among MLB's best in many categories according to Baseball Savant, including xwOBA (93rd percentile), xSLG (92nd), bat speed (85th), and barrel pct. (83rd).

AT THE HELM: Alex Cora managed his 999th career game today with Boston, one shy of becoming the 5th person to manage 1,000 games for the Red Sox (see box on right). Of the four who have managed 1,000 games for Boston, the only two with a better winning percentage than Cora's .536 mark are Joe Cronin (.539) and Terry Francona (.574).

LONG BALL LIVING: The Orioles have failed to homer in each of the last two games after hitting 19 home runs in the previous eight games beginning April 12, including six multi-homer efforts in that time...The Orioles are 2-8 when not hitting a home run, 7-6 when hitting at least on, and 6-2 when going deep at least twice in a game this season. Baltimore has six players with at least three home runs, tied for most in the AL and tied for third in MLB with the Braves, Cubs, Mariners, and Yankees, and trailing the Dodgers (8) and Diamondbacks (7). The O's have received 14 long balls from their 6-9 hole hitters, tied for the most in MLB with the Yankees. The club led MLB with 87 such homers in 2024.

A WALK IN THE PARK: Kyle Schwarber has reached base safely in 31 straight games dating back to last season (since 9/23/24) tying the longest streak of his career with a 31-game streak from May 26-June 28, 2022. Schwarber's streak is the longest active streak in MLB and the longest by a Phillies player since Alec Bohm's 36-game streak last season (7/7-8/20). During the streak, Schwarber is slashing .250/.396/.527 with a .923 OPS, 22 runs, nine home runs, 21 RBI and 25 walks to 30 strikeouts.

LET'S TOUCH BASE: The Reds reached base 78 times in this past weekend's three-game series victory at Baltimore (49 h, 27 BB, 2 HBP), their most in any three-game series since 1900, according to Elias, surpassing the previous best of 72 times on base achieved during a three-game set from 8/25-8/27, 1995 at PIT. CIN's 49 hits in the series were tied for its fifth-most in a three-game set during that same period and most since 8/25-8/27, 1995 at PIT (54). The Reds' 27 free passes were tied for their most in any three-game series since 1900 (also: 7/9-7/11, 1973 at Mon).



MLB ON-AIR THIS WEEK

(All Times ET)

Thursday, April 24 th :	Chicago White Sox @ Minnesota Twins Seattle Mariners @ Boston Red Sox Colorado Rockies @ Kansas City Royals [*] Baltimore Orioles @ Washington Nationals	1:10 p.m. 1:35 p.m. 2:10 p.m. 6:45 p.m.
Friday, April 25 th :	Philadelphia Phillies @ Chicago Cubs Baltimore Orioles @ Detroit Tigers Toronto Blue Jays @ New York Yankees Atlanta Braves @ Arizona Diamondbacks Pittsburgh Pirates @ Los Angeles Dodgers	2:20 p.m. 6:40 p.m. 7:05 p.m. 9:40 p.m. 10:10 p.m.
Saturday, April 26 th :	Toronto Blue Jays @ New York Yankees [#] Baltimore Orioles @ Detroit Tigers	1:05 p.m. 1:10 p.m.
Sunday, April 27 th :	Toronto Blue Jays @ New York Yankees Baltimore Orioles @ Detroit Tigers [#]	1:35 p.m. 1:40 p.m.
Monday, April 28 th :	New York Mets @ Washington Nationals St. Louis Cardinals @ Cincinnati Reds [#]	4:05 p.m. 6:40 p.m.
Tuesday, April 29 th :	Boston Red Sox @ Toronto Blue Jays Arizona Diamondbacks @ New York Mets Los Angeles Angels @ Seattle Mariners [*] Miami Marlins @ Los Angeles Dodgers	7:07 p.m. 7:10 p.m. 9:40 p.m. 10:10 p.m.
Wednesday, April 30 th :	Detroit Tigers @ Houston Astros Miami Marlins @ Los Angeles Dodgers Kansas City Royals @ Tampa Bay Rays Arizona Diamondbacks @ New York Mets Milwaukee Brewers @ Chicago White Sox [*]	2:10 p.m. 3:10 p.m. 7:05 p.m. 7:10 p.m. 7:40 p.m.
Thursday, May 1 st :	Arizona Diamondbacks @ New York Mets Minnesota Twins @ Cleveland Guardians Washington Nationals @ Philadelphia Phillies Boston Red Sox @ Toronto Blue Jays [#]	1:10 p.m. 1:10 p.m. 6:45 p.m. 7:07 p.m.

^{*} Denotes MLBTV Free Game of the Day; all other listings are broadcast on MLB Network
[#] Denotes both MLBTV Free Game of the Day and MLB Network broadcasted game

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



Friday, April 25 th	
Boston Red Sox @ Cleveland Guardians	7:10 p.m.
Texas Rangers @ San Francisco Giants	10:15 p.m.



Saturday, April 26 th	
Texas Rangers @ San Francisco Giants	4:05 p.m.
Philadelphia Phillies @ Chicago Cubs	4:05 p.m.
Houston Astros @ Kansas City Royals (FS1)	7:10 p.m.



Sunday, April 27 th	
Philadelphia Phillies @ Chicago Cubs	7:10 p.m.

SiriusXM

American League SiriusXM Channels

Athletics	Channel 841
Baltimore Orioles	Channel 843
Boston Red Sox	Channel 844
Chicago White Sox	Channel 846
Cleveland Guardians	Channel 848
Detroit Tigers	Channel 850
Houston Astros	Channel 851
Kansas City Royals	Channel 852
Los Angeles Angels	Channel 853
Minnesota Twins	Channel 857
New York Yankees	Channel 859
Seattle Mariners	Channel 864
Tampa Bay Rays	Channel 866
Texas Rangers	Channel 867
Toronto Blue Jays	Channel 868

National League SiriusXM Channels

Arizona Diamondbacks	Channel 840
Atlanta Braves	Channel 842
Chicago Cubs	Channel 845
Cincinnati Reds	Channel 847
Colorado Rockies	Channel 849
Los Angeles Dodgers	Channel 854
Miami Marlins	Channel 855
Milwaukee Brewers	Channel 856
New York Mets	Channel 858
Philadelphia Phillies	Channel 860
Pittsburgh Pirates	Channel 861
San Diego Padres	Channel 862
San Francisco Giants	Channel 863
St. Louis Cardinals	Channel 865
Washington Nationals	Channel 869



Channel 89