




2 OUT BOTTOM OF THE 12th

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Hall of Fame

Kevin Reed, Dodgers 

Ian Clark, Blue Jays 

Kevin Gibson, Mets 

Mike Sim, Rangers 

Alan Molloy, Giants 

DODGERS LEAD THE WAY

LA maintained their lead atop the West but they had to put in a league leading 8-1 to do so as the Giants hit top gear too. The Dodgers opened with successive sweeps at home to the Rockies and Cubs and they ended their week with victory in Atlanta to maintain their 6 game cushion. San Francisco started with a home win over the Padres and with sweeps of the Mets at home and Chicago on the road they must have thought they had closed the gap on the Dodgers but alas no. Nevertheless Coach Molloy will be happy with the form of his team at present. Colorado recovered well from their opening sweep to defeat the Expos but defeat on the road in St Louis in their final series left them with a poor 3-6 return for the week. San Diego were swept at home by the Cards in their 2nd series and in Philly in their 3rd for a terrible 1-8 record for the week.

Pittsburgh started their week with a cracking sweep in Chicago, they followed with a good series win at home to the Phillies but surprisingly lost in Montreal, leaving them with a good 6-3 record for the week. St Louis lost their opening series on the road in Cincinnati but a sweep in San Diego and victory at home over the Rockies gave the Cards a good 6-3 week and keeps them in touch with the Pirates albeit 7 games back. Cincy didn't build on their good start as they lost at home to the Braves in their 2nd series and on the road in New York in their 3rd for a below par 4-5 record for the week. Chicago had a disastrous week as they went on from their opening sweep to record another

two on the road in LA and at home to the Giants for a 0-9 return.

New York got off to a flying start as they swept the Phillies but a sweep on the



Cesar Izturis - Leads the LA offense

road in San Francisco stopped them in their tracks. They did rally in their final series to beat the Reds but solid 5-4 weeks won't put much daylight between them and their divisional rivals. Montreal started with a good series win in Atlanta, but defeat in Colorado set them back in their 2nd series. Victory over the high flying Pirates in their final series was their best result but overall they only matched the Mets solid 5-4 week. Atlanta recovered from their opening loss to win in Cincinnati but defeat in their final series at home to the Dodgers left them with a below par 4-5 record for the week. Philadelphia stumbled on from their opening sweep to lose in Pittsburgh but a sweep of the Padres in their final series gave them a good end to an otherwise below par 4-5 week.

Over in the AL the Yankees started off poorly with a defeat in Toronto but they came back in fine style with successive sweeps on the road in Texas

and at home to the Indians for a very good 7-2 week and a 5 game lead atop the division. Boston started their week with victory over the Devil Rays, they followed that up with a superb sweep in Cleveland before ending the week well with a home win over Seattle for a very good 7-2 week. Toronto followed up their great start to the week with victory in Detroit but a loss at home to the Angels in their final series detracted from an otherwise solid 5-4 return for the week. Tampa were swept in Oakland in their 2nd series and defeated at home by the Tigers in their 3rd for a very poor 2-7 record for the week.

Oakland started the week in the worst style possible as they were swept at home by the Mariners but they stormed back to record successive sweeps of their own over Tampa and in Chicago for a good 6-3 return for the week. Seattle didn't build on their opening sweep as they lost at home to Milwaukee in their 2nd series

and on the road in Boston in their 3rd for just a solid 5-4 return. Anaheim started the week with a home loss to the Rangers but victories over Chicago and on the road in Toronto gave them a 5-4 week and keeps them in touch with the Rangers at the foot of the division. Texas themselves didn't build on their good start as they were swept at home by the Yankees in their 2nd series and defeated in Milwaukee in their 3rd for poor 3-6 record for the week.

Detroit opened the week with a very hard fought series win over the Brewers. Defeat in their 2nd series at home to the Blue Jays rocked them a little but they came back strongly to win in Tampa for a solid 5-4 week which takes them to the top of the division. Milwaukee recovered well from that opening loss to win in Seattle and with victory at home to the Rangers in their final series their 5-4 return keeps them only 8 games back of the Tigers in the tightest division in the

Hitting or Pitching – Coach Greener Writes

Following on from my whining about my team ERA in the last newsletter I find myself only just beginning to see how very different this season is for me. In the past, as Kevin will confirm given the fact that we regularly chew the fat about MLB6, my teams were built on starting pitching, a strategy which culminated in my best ever rotation a couple of seasons ago, the most expensive of the 5 being paid 8 points per turn, the least expensive 4. I also had two excellent pitchers at the top of the bullpen, both being paid around 5 or 6 per turn, and was, for most of that season, the best pitching team by ERA...and naturally I didn't get to the World Series. Having looked closely at the hitting

& pitching stats this season, the performance of my team seems to be not a million miles away from this years Dodgers, something I can pride myself on. Yes, we play in very different leagues but our pitching and hitting are placed about the same. My hardest task this season, apart from fighting off the Blue Jays (an excellent pitching team), will be to manage the batting fatigue and see if the hitters can keep up their blistering pace, while juggling my 6 man rotation (highest paid 4, lowest 2) as best I can. This is a new challenge for me, very different from the old 'throw your best 5 hurlers at them and see what happens' tactic that served me fairly well in the past, but brought no real

On the Streets of San Francisco – Alan Molloy

The Giants have been going through one of the worst slumps I've been involved in my years at the helm. Our usual slow start has been worsened by another spate of injuries to key players. Veteran 1B Jay Bell has already missed 3 weeks of action with 2 separate injuries as well as a major injury to ace pitcher Kevin Gross which was so serious that he was even sent to rehab to speed up his recovery. Add to this injuries to other key players not least Matt Wise one of our top relievers and there is some mitigation for our poor start. 2 weeks ago we showed signs of recovery with a good 6-3 record and this week we improved on that with a great 8-1 score. This coincided with the return of Kevin Gross who showed what we'd been missing with 2 complete games to help steady the starting ro-

tation. However this return to form could be temporarily halted next week as a result of injuries to 2 key starting pitchers. Despite this doom and gloom it's not all bad. Our starting rotation has been one of the best in the NL with Gross and Lee putting up excellent starting numbers although the real revelation has been 2nd year man Jerome Williams who has come out of the bullpen 20 times with a 5-1 record 2 saves and an ERA of 1.89. On the other side of the ball it's the usual suspects who are topping the stats charts although Alfonso Soriano has been a pleasant surprise as he currently bats .330 and a mention must go to J.T. Snow who is showing promise in his 2nd year batting .287 when he's covered for the injured Bell. I think that a fair summary of our season so far would be solid on both sides of the ball but one or two players need to

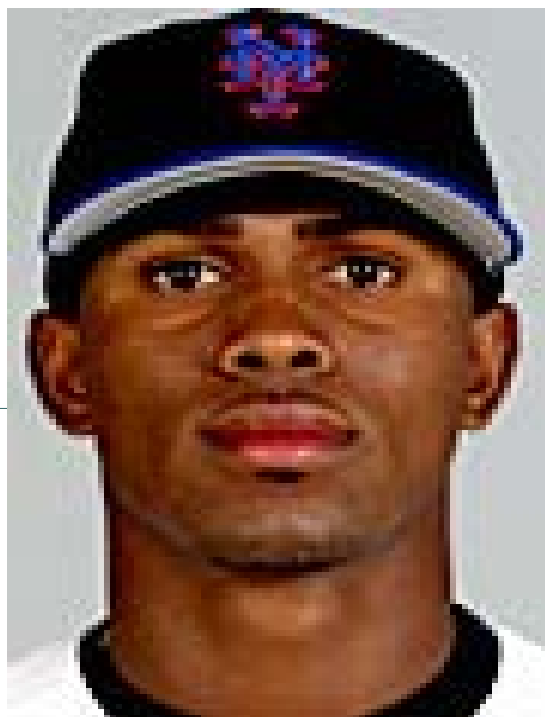
White Sox – The Story So Far – Robert Crowther

Despite our disappointing performance in week six I'm satisfied with our performance so far. Batting has been as consistent as I'd hoped, with the largely veteran lineup, for the first time that I can remember we have four batters over .300 - Morris, Durham, Butler and Ashley. We also have some good power numbers from middle order batters Cordero and Perez. Beltre has been solid in his first full year starting at 1B but he's possibly the only bright prospect among the batters this year. With several of our key men approaching retirement in the next two or three seasons we will be looking to pick up some quality prospects on the free agent list or in this year's draft. In the meantime I expect this unit to be reaching it's peak over this season and next. The pitching is somewhat the reverse of the batting, we have a lot of promising youngsters but are lacking the veteran leadership Tom Browning and William Baker provided last season. Mallette and Walsh have been disappointing so far, though Ritchie

has pitched OK and Portugal has started to turn things around. I'm hopeful that some of the youngsters will settle down as the season progresses, and I'm looking to make some changes at the top of the bullpen as we're not getting a lot of help in that department so far. As long as our young guys continue to develop I think we could have a dominant unit in 2-3 seasons, unfortunately that's not much help this year and will be just in time for the retirement of most of the batting lineup! This season I think we'll end up on about 85 wins, so probably not enough to claim a playoff spot unless we hit a particularly rich run of form in the latter stages of the season. Next year, with essentially the same batting lineup but a bit more experience among the pitchers I'm aiming for around 95 wins which should see us in contention. We could perhaps make more of a push this year if we're able to pick up a quality veteran pitcher or two but the FA market doesn't look like it will provide any and I'm

Another fine Mets – Kevin Gibson

Six weeks into the season, the Mets hold a slender 1 game lead atop the division and I'm not a happy bunny. The batting side of it can't really be faulted as we have 7 guys over .300 including Mike Piazza who returned late this week from injury and who should bolster the lineup. Jose Reyes (opposite) leads the Mets in doubles with 30 and he has been an integral part of the Mets solid batting form so far. The Pitching on the other hand has been nothing less than woeful with the exception of starters Trachsel and Glavine with Franco and Stanton working well from the bullpen. The team ERA of over 5 is a big worry and to be honest I can't really see where we can go to put it right as there is a distinct lack of quality pitching available on the free agent list. Training may be the answer unless somebody steps up over the next few weeks but for now I think we will just keep ticking over and try to open up a bit of a gap on the rest of the division. I learned yesterday that the Expos are looking for a new Coach so just maybe we can get by this year with what we have. The next few weeks will be very interesting for all of MLB6.



MLB6 Active Coaches

<u>Coach</u>	<u>Franchise</u>	<u>Wins</u>	<u>Losses</u>	<u>%age</u>
Kevin Reed	Dodgers	1158	516	0.692
Mike Sim	Rangers	631	395	0.615
Simon Greener	Yankees	739	485	0.604
Paul Beaumont	Blue Jays	314	208	0.602
Kevin Gibson	Mets	924	615	0.600
Allan Molloy	Giants	769	518	0.598
Alistair Brearley	Reds	520	362	0.590
Nigel Beck	Pirates	908	685	0.570
Carl Wright	Athletics	46	35	0.568
Juan Angel Perez	Cardinals	300	240	0.556
Alan Clements	Red Sox	355	320	0.526
Troy Dilworth	Mariners	355	320	0.526
Martin Willan	Angels	781	722	0.520
Phil Townend	Expos / Orioles	266	274	0.493
David Stothard	Tigers	106	110	0.491
David Houghton	Devil Rays	400	446	0.473
Robert Crowther	White Sox	242	280	0.464
Paul Denyer	Brewers	236	304	0.437
David Kinghorn	Indians	377	487	0.436
Graeme Odgers	Cubs / Expos	174	240	0.420
Mark J Hall	Braves / Athletics	237	349	0.404
Robert Dorman	Rockies	107	163	0.396
Neil Bassett	Padres	620	1054	0.370
Darren Farman	Phillies	152	271	0.359

Editors Comment

The newsletter, I admit, has been going downhill rapidly, so I've tried to sex it up a little in order to try to rekindle the interest amongst the active coached. I won't be able to do this every week unless I get help from you guys. It's your newsletter so let us all hear what you have to say. It doesn't matter if you think it's crap, it's your opinion and your opinion does count. Would you drop me an Email with your comments about the newsletter or any features you think I could add to make it a more enjoyable read.

Deadline for Contributions: Saturday 14th August 2004.