

2 OUT BOTTOM OF THE 12th

Issue 187 Editor: Kevin Gibson, 31, Jedmoor, , Hebburn, Tyne & Wear, NE31 IET. Email:kevin@mets91.freereserve.co.uk

MLB6 THERE IS LIFE IN THE BAY

Hall of Fame

Kevin Reed, Dodgers



Ian Clark, Blue Jays



Kevin Gibson, Mets



Mike Sim, Rangers



Alan Molloy, Giants



San Francisco burst back to life this week following several indifferent efforts and brought themselves right back into the wild-card race. They started with an easy sweep of the Padres, followed up with a win in Montreal and ended in style with victory over the cards for a very good 7-2 return. Los Angeles started with a win over the Rockies, a sweep in St Louis solidified their week but a surprise loss at home to the Phillies in their final series only gave them a good 6-3 record for the week. Colorado recovered from their opening loss to record a fine series win in New York and ended with a home victory over the Cubs for a solid 5-4 record for the week. San Diego were beaten in Chicago in their 2nd series but they rallied for a rare series win at home to the Braves in their final series for poor 3-6 return and the worst record in MLB6 with only 27 wins.

The Mets opened with a very hard fought sweep win at home to the Phillies, and despite losing at home to the Rockies in their next series they bounced back in fine style with a resounding sweep of the Pirates for a very good 7-2 record for the week. Philadelphia took heart from their opening sweep as they didn't deserve to be on the losing side and they progressed to record a good win over the Reds and an even better series win in LA for an unlucky 4-5 return for the week. Montreal were beaten at home by the Giants in their 2nd series and on the road in Cincinnati in their 3rd for a poor 3-6 record for the week. Atlanta didn't build on their good start as they were swept at home by the Pirates in their 2nd series and defeated in San Diego in their 3rd to mirror the Expos poor 3-6 week.

Pittsburgh started with a hard fought series win in Chicago, they followed up with an impressive sweep in Atlanta but in their final series they were comprehensively swept by the Mets for a solid 5-4 return for the week and a still comfortable 9 game lead atop the division. Cincinnati were beaten at home by the Cardinals in their opening series, on the road in Philadelphia in their 2nd but they won their last series at home to the Expos to record a below par 4-5 record for the week. Chicago beat the Padres in their 2nd series but defeat on the road in Colorado left them with a below par 4-5 record for the week. St Louis were swept by the Dodgers in their 2nd series and defeated in San Francisco in their 3rd for a poor 3-6 return for the week.

Sorry guys, Seattle were the headline makers again in the AL as they well and truly took control of the West following another cracking week. They opened with a good wins in Oakland and in Chicago before returning home to trounce the Blue Jays for an impressive 7-2 record for the week. Oakland were beaten in Yankee Stadium in their 2nd series but they bounced back in fine style with a hard fought sweep of Milwaukee for a solid 5-4 return for the week. Anaheim started with a good series win over the Rangers, they followed up with another good win in Milwaukee but a home defeat in their final series left them with only a solid 5-4 return for an otherwise good week.

Inside this issue:

NL Recap	1
AL Recap	1
Seattle Sentinel	2
	3
	3
	4
	6

Tampa started with a good series victory over Boston, they solidified that with an even better series win over the Rangers and ended well with a victory on the road in Minnesota for a good 6-3 return for the week. New York were beaten on the road in Toronto in their opening series but subsequent wins at home to the Athletics and on the road in Detroit left them with a solid 5-4 record for the week. Toronto built on their opening victory with a hard fought sweep of the Twins in their 2nd series but a sweep of their own in Seattle in their final series took the gloss off an otherwise impressive 5-4 week. Boston beat the tigers in their 2nd series and Anaheim in their 3rd to record a hat trick of 5-4 records for the east this week.

Detroit opened with a hard fought win over the Brewers but defeats on the road in Boston and at home to the Yankees left them with a below par 4-5 record for the week. Minnesota won their opening series on the road in Chicago but a sweep in Toronto and defeat at home to Tampa bay meant that they only recorded a poor 3-6 week and their lead atop the division is cut to only 2 games. Chicago were beaten at home by the high flying Mariners in their 2nd series and on the road in Texas in their 3rd for a poor 3-6 record for the week. Milwaukee had a week to forget as they beaten at home by the Angels in their 2nd series and swept in Oakland in their 3rd for a very poor 2-7 record for the week.

After receiving top billing in the newsletter last week I guess I had to write in :-). The fact is that we are 10 games clear in the AL West. The problem is that in the last 3, maybe 4 seasons, we have led the division only to see the Rangers come sailing past us in the run-in. Last season, for example, we put in a great final 9 games only to see the Angels pip us on the final day of the regular season and deprive us of the Wild card spot. They then ended up in the World Series too! In light of these false dawns, a certain sense of realism has to be maintained when considering this sizeable cushion we now have. I still expect the Rangers to fight to the very end and in Mike Sim they have a great GM and he's also a top bloke too!

SEATTLE SENTINEL – Troy Dilworth

The truth is, I've been very surprised and very happy for that matter with how our season has gone up until now. Looking at the Week 12 stats, I see my Mariners are top of the pitching and 2nd in the batting in the AL. Quite how we are top of the pitching, god only knows!?! It's safe to say that this pitching unit need a medal as they have performed streets ahead of what I could have possibly have expected from them and long may that continue :-). The reason I say that is because, at present, my best pitcher is only an 8* guy and I only have five 8* pitching guys in total too! The other strange thing considering our current record is that the make up of my squad is far from ideal. I'm short of a couple of infielders and have been just about all season. That isn't the only squad issue my Mariners have neither. I'm not totally happy with the mix of pitchers within the squad and I've been trying to rectify this issue for awhile with mixed fortunes. During my stint at the Mariners I have never quite got to grips with the club's finances and this has caused me problems at times. The good news for me, is that my team's total wage is now mid 90's and yet we are still performing within the diamond. If in the near future we can keep the finances under wraps then we may yet find and keep the consistency that we will need if we are ever to win the World Series. Taking all of the above into account it is safe to say that this is the best chance of winning the AL West that I've had in recent times. I guess we'll all find out whether this was just another false dawn in the weeks to the end of the season or maybe we are for real this time ... who knows for sure.

Texas Talk – Mike Sim

Six weeks to go and time for the Rangers to catch the Mariners is running out fast. Troy has done a great job with the Mariners - their pitching is really as good as it gets in MLB6 and their offence is second in runs scored in the AL (albeit a distant second to the Yankees run machine!). For us to overtake them, well let's just say it's going to take a collapse by Seattle

as well as a spurt by Texas. We were pleased to sign Glen Davis this week who replaces Cesar King. King was a highly touted player who never quite seemed to live up to the promise of his first two seasons. His wages got a bit higher than I was comfortably paying. I'm certain he'll sign on somewhere else and probably go on to have a long and productive career. Davis offers us the chance to spell Matt Pearce behind the plate. Pearce's excellent defence means he's caught every pitch so far this season and I need to keep his bat in the line-up down the stretch so he'll probably go to DH. Davis is an excellent fielding catcher and I can't see any drop off happening. The addition of Davis does give us another speedy guy - he had 17 SB's in his

63 games with Montreal. I think our offence has been missing something - we seem to be getting a lot of innings with 2 hits and a walk but no runs, which really hurts. Our pitching has been a pleasant surprise and no-one has been a bigger surprise than ex-reliever Kenny Rogers. I had expected Rogers to anchor the bullpen if he made the team - his wages are a bit high. However he got a chance in the rotation when injury hit and he's been light's out at times - 14-3 in 17 starts - can't ask for more. The two young RHP Colby Lewis and Rosman Garcia have really done well. Lewis is 11-2 and Garcia 8-7 and considering they have barely 5 years experience between them, I can't complain. Garcia could do with a bit more run support and he'd be a 10 game winner already.

So what chance to catch the Mariners or the Blue Jays for the wild card? Depends how quickly Davis settles in - I can't afford any more 4-5 weeks. It also depends how hard Troy has been pushing his team - if the Mariners stamina holds up I can't see us reeling them in. If he's got to rest key players a lot down the stretch... we may have a chance. For the wild card.. I can't see the Blue Jays faltering - Paul is too experienced to burn out his team in the first half. Can we even hold off the ex-

Mets Close Up – Kevin Gibson

With the division wrapped up it's time for my big guns to take a little R & R. I've made the mistake in the past of playing probably the strongest side available to me at all times and this I'm sure has been my downfall in the post-season. Cameron, Reyes, Matsui, Perez and Phillips will be rested at least this week with possibly a couple of others next time as well. The batting is up there with the best, only 3 points shy of the superb Dodgers so I can't begrudge the lads a little rest. The pitching is a little fickle but not too much to get overly worried as I think they are just about ready to deliver. Trachsel is back from injury this week and will take the #2 spot in the rotation, Wheeler will bolster the pen and with Glavine and Heilman in good form the rotation should do OK. I worry with the lack of depth from the bench and those worries could be exaggerated this week in LA but I shan't worry too much about this week's results as it's the bigger picture that concerns me now. The year the Mets won the World Series I had a simple plan, beat the Dodgers and I set the team up in such a way as to negate the big power hitters they possess. I'm not saying that I have done the same this year but if we do face them in the post season I'll be ready. The AL has some good teams especially my mate Simon's lot cross town (by the way we sit about 3 feet away from each other now at work, 35 years old and he insists on having Radio 2 on rather than Talksport), he should represent the AL in the big one but I can't see them beating the Dodgers. It's LA's to lose this year as I feel they are on another level than the rest of us, I know Kevin will think that this is piling the pressure on his lot but, look at the stats, they don't lie. It should be a fascinating 6 weeks and the post season promises to be probably the best ever in the history of MLB6.

How You Stand

Franchise	Won	Lost	%age	Str	For	Agnst	Diff
Los Angeles Dodgers	76	32	0.704	L2	890	519	371
New York Mets	70	38	0.648	W3	778	551	227
New York Yankees	70	38	0.648	W2	714	522	192
Seattle Mariners	70	38	0.648	W3	590	416	174
Pittsburgh Pirates	69	39	0.639	L3	663	504	159
Toronto Blue Jays	65	43	0.602	L3	565	478	87
Texas Rangers	60	48	0.556	W2	588	501	87
Cincinnati Reds	60	48	0.556	W1	575	513	62
Oakland Athletics	60	48	0.556	W3	583	552	31
San Francisco Giants	59	49	0.546	W2	561	503	58
Boston Red Sox	57	51	0.528	W1	512	487	25
Minnesota Twins	53	55	0.491	W1	514	518	-4
St Louis Cardinals	53	55	0.491	L2	536	545	-9
Colorado Rockies	52	56	0.481	L1	496	563	-67
Detroit Tigers	51	57	0.472	L2	463	539	-76
Anaheim Angels	49	59	0.454	L1	477	581	-104
Milwaukee Brewers	48	60	0.444	L4	411	449	-38
Chicago White Sox	48	60	0.444	L2	459	575	-116
Chicago Cubs	46	62	0.426	W1	493	610	-117
Montreal Expos	45	63	0.417	L1	478	614	-136
Atlanta Braves	38	70	0.352	L1	500	630	-130
Philadelphia Phillies	38	70	0.352	W2	445	594	-149
Tampa Bay D'Rays	32	76	0.296	L1	350	591	-241
San Diego Padres	27	81	0.250	W1	322	608	-286

Deadline for Contributions: Saturday 6th November 2004