

2 OUT BOTTOM OF THE 12th – Issue197

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DODGERS STORM BACK

Los Angeles bounced back from a rare losing week with an excellent 8-1 return. They opened with a hard fought sweep in San Diego, followed with an emphatic sweep in Chicago and ended with a home win over the Phillies to surge clear atop the division. San Francisco started with a good win over the Rockies but defeats on the road in Atlanta and at home to the Pirates left the Giants with a below par 4-5 week. Colorado didn't recover from that opening loss as they suffered successive sweeps in Pittsburgh and at home to Washington for a terrible 1-8 record for the week. San Diego suffered their 2nd sweep of the week on the road in New York before returning home to lose to the Cubs for a terrible 1-8 week.

Washington opened the week with a hard fought series win on the road in Atlanta, they followed up with a solid home victory over the Astros before travelling to Colorado and finishing the week with a sweep for a very good 7-2 return. New York suffered a surprise home defeat to the Phillies in their opening series but a home sweep over the Padres and victory on the road in Cincinnati left the Mets with a good 6-3 week and a reduced 7 game lead atop the division. Philadelphia didn't build on their great start as they lost their 2nd series at home to the Phillies and their final series in LA leaving them with a below par 4-5 record for the week. The Braves bounced back from their opening loss to record a good series win over the Giants but a sweep on the road in Houston in their final series left them with a poor 3-6 return for the week.

Pittsburgh opened with a hard fought series win over Cincinnati, they followed up with a home sweep of Colorado and they ended the week well too with a good series win in San Francisco to jump to the head of the division with a very good 7-2 week. Houston started well too with a good series win in Chicago, defeat in Washington in their 2nd series didn't dampen their spirits as they swept the Braves in their final series to complete a good 6-3 week. Cincinnati recovered from their opening loss to beat the Phillies in their 2nd series but defeat at home to the Mets in their final series left them with a below par 4-5 record. Chicago were swept in their 2nd series but they rallied to win in San Diego in their final series to end a poor 3-6 week.

Rangers Slip Into Gear

Texas opened their week with a good series win over the Angels, they followed that with an even better series win on the road in New York before returning home to sweep the Brewers in their final series for a very good 7-2 week, moving them within 3 games of the divisional lead. Los Angeles recovered from their opening loss to sweep the Brewers in Milwaukee but defeat in their final series at home to the Red Sox left

them with only a solid 5-4 return. Seattle were beaten at home by Oakland in their opening series and on the road in Tampa in their 2nd, but they did rally in their final series to beat the White Sox but that is little consolation as their lead atop the division is halved following a below par 4-5 week. Oakland should have built on their great start but didn't as they were swept in Chicago in their 2nd series and beaten at home by Toronto in their 3rd for a poor 3-6 week.

Toronto opened with a good sweep in Tampa Bay, defeat at home to Minnesota in their 2nd series wasn't in the script but no matter, they fought back well to win on the road in Oakland for a good 6-3 record for the week. New York started with a super sweep at home to Boston but subsequent defeats at home to the Rangers and on the road in Detroit left the Yankees with just a solid 5-4 return for the week. Boston recovered well from that early sweep to beat Detroit at home in their 2nd series and victory in their final series in Los Angeles left the Red Sox with a below par 4-5 week. Tampa Bay also bounced back well as they defeated Seattle in their 2nd series and Minnesota on the road in their final series to match the Red Sox below par 4-5 week.

Detroit opened the week with a good win in Chicago and despite losing in Boston in their 2nd series they fought back well to beat New York for a solid 5-4 return. Chicago bounced back from their opening loss to record an emphatic sweep over the Athletics but defeat in their final series in Seattle left the White Sox with just a solid 5-4 return for the week. Minnesota started with a surprise loss on the road in Milwaukee but they recovered well to record a good series win in Toronto then defeat in their final series at home to the D-Rays left them with a below par 4-5 week. Milwaukee didn't build on their fine opening win as they suffered successive sweeps at home to the Angels and on the road in Texas for a very poor 2-7 week.

Deadline for Contributions: Saturday 28th May 2005.