

2 OUT BOTTOM OF THE 12th

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MLB6

TORONTO AGAIN

Hall of Fame

Kevin Reed, Dodgers



Ian Clark, Blue Jays



Kevin Gibson, Mets



Mike Sim, Rangers



Alan Molloy, Giants



Simon Greener, Yankees



Nigel Beck, Pirates



Toronto again took the plaudits this week although the Yankees matched them but still couldn't bridge the gap at the head of the division. The Blue Jays started with a hard fought victory over the Red Sox, moved on the road with another hard earned win in Detroit and ended in style with a slugfest against the Angels for a very good 7-2 week. New York won their opening series in Tampa Bay, followed that up with victory in Seattle and like the Blue Jays ended in style with a sweep of the Twins for a very good 7-2 return and a precious lead in the wild card race. Boston were swept in Minnesota in their 2nd series but they came back to defeat Oakland in their final series for a poor 3-6 record for the week. Tampa Bay were beaten in Texas in their 2nd series and at home by the Tigers in their 3rd for a poor 3-6 week and a tie of last place in the division with the Red Sox.

Chicago opened with a hard fought series win at home to the Brewers, defeat in their 2nd series in Anaheim slowed them up a little but they came back well to record a good win over the Rangers for a solid 5-4 return. Minnesota started their week with a good win in Detroit and they built on their good start with a superb sweep of Boston in their 2nd series. That set them up for an excellent week but a visit to Yankee Stadium in their final series earned them a sweep of their own and they ended with just a solid 5-4 return. Detroit were beaten in their 2nd series at home to the Blue Jays but victory on the road in Tampa Bay in their final series gave them a below par 4-5 record for the week. Milwaukee were beaten in their 2nd series on the road in Oakland but like the Tigers they recovered to take their final series at home to Seattle to mirror Detroit's below par 4-5 week.

Over in the AL West Texas started with a solid enough victory over their nearest rivals Seattle, they followed up with victory over the Devil Rays before falling short on the road in Chicago for a solid 5-4 record for the week. Los Angeles opened with a cracking sweep over the A's, followed up with a good victory over Chicago but they were out-played in their final series in Toronto leaving them with just a solid 5-4 week after such a promising start. Seattle were beaten at home by the Yankees in their 2nd series and on the road in Milwaukee in their 3rd for a poor 3-6 record for the week. Oakland recovered from their opening sweep to beat Milwaukee but defeat in their final series on the road in Boston left the A's with a poor 3-6 record for the week.

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HOUSTON, WE HAVE LIFT OFF

Houston took centre stage in the NL this week with a great week and looking at the division they may be the dark horses for a run at the post-season. They opened their week with a good victory over the Reds, they took their 2nd series at home to the Phillies and ended the week in fine style with a fantastic sweep of the Mets for a very good 7-2 record for the week. Cincinnati recovered from that opening loss to record a fine sweep at home to Washington but defeat in their final series on the road in Atlanta left them with just a solid 5-4 return for the week. Chicago started brightly with a home series win over the Pirates, they followed up with a road win in Colorado in their 2nd series but defeat at home at the hands of the Giants in their final series left them with only a solid 5-4 record for the week. The Pirates were swept in Los Angeles in their 2nd series but victory at home to the Padres did rescue a bit of pride from an otherwise poor 3-6 week.

San Francisco started their week with an emphatic sweep of the Padres they followed up going down at home to the Mets in their 2nd series but showed great character by winning on the road in Chicago in their final series for a good 6-3 record for the week. Los Angeles surprisingly went down on the road in Colorado in their opening series but a home sweep of the Pirates and a rare 2nd series loss in a week, this time in Washington, left them with just a solid 5-4 return. Colorado didn't build on their good start as they were beaten at home by Chicago in their 2nd series and on the road in Philadelphia in their final series for a below par 4-5 week. San Diego were beaten at home by the Braves in their 2nd series and on the road in Pittsburgh in their 3rd for a very poor 2-7 week but they look like they are going to win more games this year than they have for a number of seasons.

Atlanta opened with an unlucky defeat on the road in New York but victories on the road in San Diego and at home to the Reds in their final series left the Braves with a solid 5-4 record for the week. New York won in San Francisco in their 2nd series but they were totally outplayed by the Astros in their final series crashing to a sweep for a below par 4-5 return for the week. Washington started with a hard fought win in Philadelphia, they were swept on the road in Cincinnati in their 2nd series but victory at home in their final series over the Dodgers left them with a below par 4-5 week. Philadelphia were beaten in their 2nd series on the road in Houston but victory at home over the Rockies in their final series did salvage some pride from an otherwise below par 4-5 week

Yankee News - Simon Greener

It looks increasingly like a wild card spot is going to be my best hope, Toronto having run away from me in the Division. My aims this season were to get younger (failed), to rebuild the bullpen (nearly) and to watch my young starting pitchers gain valuable experience by getting hit all over the shop (definite pass). The hitting has been good but has been provided by veterans who, but for their good starts (Koelling), shouldn't be here any more. He was number one on my release list from last season but how could I now?..yes, he's overpaid but he's hammering the ball this season. With a lot of 0 potential players on my roster the draft will be used to get some hungry young talent and hopefully a few youthful free agents....knowing me however, I'll still be forking out for low potential superstars. My apologies if the editor isn't around for the next newsletter, he may have keeled over at the sight of a contribution from me.

Texas Times – Mike Sim

Despite cooling off in the past fortnight, this has been a dream season so far in Texas. Stung by missing out on the playoffs last year the players began to play sublime baseball from week 3 going 57-15 until week 12 and turning a 6 game deficit on the Mariners into a 17 game lead. Bearing in mind that the Mariners won the last World Series I'm delighted with the progress of the team this season. I took a chance and didn't rest anyone, barring injuries during the hot run, hoping to open up a sizable gap on the M's and now we're looking pretty tired. I've been resting some of the stars in rotation the past fortnight and barring a fantastic run from the M's will continue to do so until the playoffs. It would take a finish of disastrous proportions for us to miss out on the playoffs now but as the Indians and White Sox in MLB have shown this year, you can't take anything for granted.

This will be something of a win now season for some of our roster - Ryan Church is in his 15th year and out of potential, Fernando Vina is in his 11th and also out of potential. Pedro Swann is in his 17th season and out of potential. Between them they've contributed 79 HR's, 277 RBI's, 102 SBs whilst hitting about .310 combined. Take that sort of contribution out of any team and the result will be bad. We're grooming three young OF's, with the aim of two of them replacing Church and Swann but next season is likely to see a more modest offensive output from Texas.

We've been lucky to enjoy the superb performance of Dave Berg - a name well known in the AL where he has been an All-Star level player for many seasons. He has inspired fellow 2b Soriano to new heights. Alfonso has been a solid .250 hitter most of his time in Texas but this season he's been in great form, leading Texas with a .334 average and decent power. He's shown his skills in the field, playing mostly at SS, deferring to Berg at 2b. With all this offence the pitchers could have pitched a lot worse and we'd still have been in games, but they've really pitched well taking half a run off the team ERA of last season. Cordero has lead the staff in ERA but young RHP Almanazar has surprised me by picking up 15 wins. He's struggled of late but is still a talent for the future.

With 6 pitchers in double figures in wins there is a very solid look to the team. They are young and they'll need all their nerve whomever we may face in any post-season games.

The White Sox showed us record means little by beating us this week as did the Jays. The battle between the Yankees and Mariners for the final post season spot will leave one very good team watching the playoffs at home, whilst the victor will be dangerous.

It's been nice to see the Giants awaken after a slumber - good to see Alan is taking more control again. I understand the NL West may be about to see a new skipper land so the competition level is going to be even harder there soon! It's been interesting seeing a baseball rookie pairing of Messrs Alan and Gordon Milnes bring the Braves into contention. It's still possible they'll taste the post-season in their rookie year but it's going to be tough with two very strong central teams pushing each other for the title.

Wild Card Race

American League

Franchise	Won	Lost	%age	GB
	74	52	.587	—
	72	54	.571	2

National League

Franchise	Won	Lost	%age	GB
	72	54	.571	—
	67	59	.531	5
	64	62	.507	8
	62	64	.492	10

Deadline for Contributions: Saturday 15th October 2005