

2 OUT BOTTOM OF THE 12th

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MLB6

D-RAYS SHINE

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



Tampa Bay started season 13 with a series win at home to the Red Sox, they followed that win up with a home sweep over Oakland and they finished well with a hard fought victory in Chicago for a very good 7-2 return for the week. New York were slowly into stride going down in their opening series at home to the Blue Jays but they fought back well with a home win over Chicago and a hard fought road win in Seattle for a solid 5-4 week. Toronto didn't build on their good start as they lost their second series at home to Milwaukee and their final series on the road in Texas for a below par 4-5 start to the season. Boston were beaten at home by the Angels in their 2nd series and they were swept in Milwaukee in their final series for very poor 2-7 record for the week.

Texas began their defense of their World Championship with a defeat on the road in Seattle but business was back to normal in their 2nd series with a sweep in Minnesota and with victory at home to Toronto in their final series the Rangers settles for a good 6-3 start to the season. Los Angeles opened their season with a cracking sweep on the road in Oakland. Victory in their 2nd series on the road in Boston set them up for a great week but defeat in their final series at home to the Twins only left them with a good 6-3 return. Seattle built on their great start with a 2nd series sweep on the road in Detroit but defeat at home to the Yankees in their final series left them with only a good 6-3 record for the week. Oakland suffered their 2nd sweep of the week on the road in Tampa in their 2nd series but a home win in their final series over the Tigers gave them a good ending to an otherwise very poor week.

Milwaukee started the week with defeat on the road in Chicago but a cracking victory on the road in Toronto in their 2nd series and a great sweep over Boston in their final series gave them a good 6-3 record for the week. Minnesota opened with a good series win in Detroit, they were rocked back in their 2nd series as they were swept at home by the Rangers but they showed great character in their final series win in Los Angeles giving them a below par 4-5 week. Chicago didn't build on their good start as they were beaten in New York in their 2nd series and at home by the Devil Rays in their 3rd for a below par 4-5 record for the week. Detroit were swept at home by the Mariners in their 2nd series and beaten on the road in Oakland in their final series for a very poor 2-7 start to the season.

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Padres Form Continues

Following on from their success in the Season 12 National Series, the Padres opened Season 13 with a very good 7-32 return. They started with a home defeat at the hands of the Dodgers but a fantastic sweep on the road in New York and a home sweep over the Reds gave the Padres faithful a great start to the season. Los Angeles were beaten on the road in Atlanta in their 2nd series but a victory at home over the Astros in series 3 left them with a solid 5-4 return for the week. San Francisco started with a road victory in Colorado but subsequent defeats on the road in Houston and at home to the Nationals left them with a below par 4-5 week. Colorado were beaten in Cincinnati in their 2nd series and at home by the Phillies in their final series for a poor 3-6 record for the week.

Atlanta opened the week with a comfortable road win in New York, they followed with victory at home over the Dodgers and ended their week with a win on the road in Chicago for a good 6-3 record for the week and confidence boosting wins over two of last year's divisional winners. Philadelphia started with a good series win over Washington and despite being swept at home by the Pirates in their 2nd series they fought back to win in Colorado for a below par 4-5 week. Washington were beaten at home by the Cubs in their 2nd series but they came back well to win in San Francisco for a good end to an otherwise below par 4-5 week. New York were swept at home by the Padres in their 2nd series but they came back to defeat the Pirates in Pittsburgh for a poor 3-6 start to the season.

Chicago started with a good victory on the road in Pittsburgh, they followed up with another road win in Washington but defeat at home in their final series against the Braves left them with just a solid 5-4 return for the week. Pittsburgh recovered from that opening loss to record a fine sweep on the road in Philadelphia but a defeat at home in their final series at home to the Mets left them with only a solid 5-4 week. Cincinnati started with a home win over Houston and followed that up with another home win over the Rockies. A sweep at the hands of the Padres in their final series put the spoke in an otherwise decent week but the record shows them with a below par 4-5 return. Houston recovered from their opening loss to win at home against the Giants but defeat in Los Angeles in their final series left them with a below par 4-5 record for the week.

Brewers News

PITCHING-The strongest part of the team- was concerned about going into the season with 4 starters who were all lefties, picking up Fraser addresses that concern, still to decide who makes the drop into the bullpen. It may be a case of the pitcher who isn't in form drops every week, we will see.

The bullpen has improved over the off season; Eldred is the old head of the group while Eveland and Sheets will continue in AAA. Eveland may find himself promoted if Mike Jones struggles in the majors.

BATTING-The Achilles heel last season, has improved but still to see if the bats can put runs on the board when needed. Tony Graffanino is a surprise this season improving in the ratings; Hammonds will lead off but still a weakness at 1B with Bill Hall. Last year's rookie Wes Helms will feature more in the scheme of things playing off the bench and also backing up Tyler Houston.

THE SEASON - Last season we matched the season's before win loss record and improved better in the stats. This season we look for an improvement in the win loss record and maybe push the White Sox a bit more.

Welcome to new manager John Gadd, especially so as he is in the AL Central. Predictions for the final standings, well the White Sox then any three of us behind them, I think it is the White Sox's title in the AL Central

A Brave New World

Two years ago the Braves were one of the worst teams in the league - they posted a 59-103 record and were rewarded with the 3rd overall pick in the Draft. In an effort to inject new life into the Franchise Alan Milnes was coaxed out of retirement - it has been 10 years since he had skippered in the Majors and this time he brought his son Gordon along with him. Now the Braves sit atop of the NL East and with the Mets facing a rebuilding season this could be the Braves year.

One of the first decisions the Braves new management team had to make was who to select with that 3rd pick. Alan Milnes felt that the team's pitching was so poor that Tim Scott or Manny Guerrero would be the best pick whilst Gordon felt that 2B Ryan Langerhans was the outstanding prospect. Gordon won the argument and Langerhans went on to bat .290 with a slugging percentage of .520 hitting 39 doubles, 6 triples and 25 home runs - impressive numbers for a rookie. The Padres picked Scott first overall and started 30 games for them and had a 7-7 record with a 3.97 era. Guerrero was still available when the Braves picked and he went on to play in 38 games for the Nationals with a 9-9 record and a 4.90 era.

The Braves spent much of last season on the fringes of the Wild Card race before falling out near the end, however their 85-77 record an impressive 25 more wins than the previous year.

Throughout the year the Milnes family were carefully building a roster capable of challenging for a post-season place and they entered the season fairly confident. Their first series would be a real test - the Mets, World Series runners-up and a team that went 15-3 against the Braves last year.

The series got off to a cracking start for the Braves with Russ Ortiz pitching a complete game as the Braves won 5-2, Game 2 went to extra innings but a Langerhans 10th inning HR sparked a 10-7 Braves win and Game 3 saw the Mets pull out a 4-1 win. Still the Braves were happy with a series 2-1 win. Next up was the Dodgers and again the Braves had a 2-1 series win. Finally the Cubs were the opponents for the third series and again the Braves went 2-1 with Nerio Rodriguez pitching a complete game.

Editors Note

Sorry about the technical difficulties last time, things are up and running again now. Not the best of starts for my Mets but I knew this year would be very difficult with two of the finest power hitting players in the league retiring from my squad. No complaints from me, I'll just have to get on with it. I'll do a summary of the Tigers history for John next time and take this opportunity to welcome him to the league. If you want an electronic copy of the newsletter just drop me an email and I'll add you to the mailing list. Having trouble with Paul Beaumont's email address so if anybody has an up to date address for him I'd be grateful if you sent it to me. I've had no suggestions for a Hall of Fame inductee, I have an idea myself so I'll let you know next time if I don't get any alternate suggestions.

Deadline for Contributions: Saturday 25th February 2006