

# 2 OUT BOTTOM OF THE 12th

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## MLB6

## YANKEES HIT BACK

### 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



New York started the week with a hard fought and well earned series win in Toronto, they followed that up with a good home sweep of the Tigers and finished off their week with a solid series win in Oakland for a very good 7-2 return and a 2 game lead atop the division after a couple of weeks played. Toronto recovered from that opening loss to win a close series against Minnesota and they ended in style with a very hard fought sweep in Los Angeles for a good 6-3 record for the week. Boston opened with a good sweep over the Devil Rays, they followed that up with an excellent series win over the Rangers but they let things slip a little in their final series going down in Minnesota but still a 6-3 week is a good return. Tampa bounced back from their opening sweep to beat Seattle but defeat in their final series in Detroit left them with a below par 4-5 week.

Texas opened their week with a hard fought victory at home to Seattle, they were set back on their heels a little in their 2nd series as they lost in Boston but they showed why they are champions in their final series as they bounced back to sweep the Brewers for the perfect end to a good 6-3 week. Seattle didn't recover from their opening loss as they lost their 2nd series in Tampa but they too showed strong resolve as they finished the week with a home sweep of the White Sox for a solid 5-4 record. Oakland started well with a good series win in Los Angeles but a sweep in their 2nd series by Chicago and defeat at home by the Yankees left the A's with a poor 3-6 week. The Angels didn't recover from their opening loss as they lost in Milwaukee in their 2nd series and were swept at home by Toronto in their 3rd for a very poor 2-7 week.

Milwaukee started week 2 with a solid home win over Chicago, they followed that up well with another home win, this time against the Angels but in their final series they were swept in Texas to leave themselves with a below par 4-5 week. Minnesota were beaten at home in their opening series by Detroit and on the road in their 2nd series by Toronto but they finished the week well with a good victory over the Red Sox to mirror the below par 4-5 week of the Brewers. Chicago recovered in style from their opening loss as they swept Oakland but a sweep on the road in Seattle in their final series left them too with a below par 4-5 week. Detroit didn't build on their good start as they were swept in New York in their 2nd series but a home win over Boston in their final series left them as with all the others in the division this week with a below par 4-5 return.

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## Giants Lead West

San Francisco started the week with a hard fought series win at home to Colorado, defeat in their 2nd series on the road in Atlanta looked to have halted their progress but they stormed back and ended the week with another sweep, this time Chicago to cap a very good 7-2 week. Los Angeles too started with a sweep, theirs was San Diego but a sweep inflicted on them by the Cubs in their 2nd series looked to have knocked the stuffing out of them. That wasn't the case as they like the Giants stormed back with their 2nd sweep of the week over Washington to earn a good 6-3 return for the week. San Diego didn't recover from that opening sweep as they lost on the road in Pittsburgh in their 2nd series and were beaten at home by the Phillies in their final series for a very poor 2-7 week. Colorado were beaten by the Mets in their 2nd series and by the Pirates in their 3rd for a very poor 2-7 week.

New York were beaten on the road in Atlanta in their opening series but they fought back well to defeat the Rockies at home in their 2nd series and a sweep on the road in Cincinnati in their final series rounded off a good 6-3 week for the Mets. Atlanta built on their good opening win as they defeated the Giants at home in their 2nd series but defeat in Houston in their final series left them with just a solid 5-4 return but they still hold a 2 game lead atop the division. Washington started the week with a good series win at home to the Phillies but defeat at home by Houston in their 2nd series and a sweep on the road in LA in their final series left them with a poor 3-6 record for the week. Philadelphia were swept at home by Cincinnati in their 2nd series and even victory in their final series on the road in San Diego wasn't enough to paper over a poor 3-6 week.

Pittsburgh started the week with a surprise defeat on the road in Chicago, but subsequent victories at home to the Padres and on the road in Colorado left them as it did everyone in this division with a solid 5-4 record for the week. Chicago went on from their great start to record a very rare sweep of the Dodgers but they were swept themselves in San Francisco in their final series for a poor end to an otherwise outstanding week. Cincinnati started with a great series win in Houston, they followed that up with a fantastic sweep on the road in Philadelphia but they were swept themselves in their final series at home to the Mets for a solid 5-4 week. Houston bounced back from their opening loss to record subsequent wins on the road in Washington and at home to the Braves to complete the full house of 5-4 weeks and leave this division as the tightest in the entire league with just a single game between all four clubs.

## New York Times

The Mets put a very inauspicious opening week behind them as they showed glimpses of the old Mets in week 2. The pitching took a major hit this week with the loss of Bochtler for about a squillion weeks but we'll just have to grit our teeth and bear it. Strickland and Glavine have pitched well with little run support this year whilst Trachsel and Stanton have been very solid indeed. Franco has been excellent from the 'pen and Wheeler looks great in the closer role with 4 saves to his name already. The batting sees 6 players batting over .300 so far but it is a long way removed from the heady days of the past few seasons which saw the names of Piazza and Matsui at the head of those 6 players. Beltran has started well but Redman, Wilson and Blake all need to step up to fill the void but they have not started that brightly. It's still early but we need to bring in a couple of quality bats and a starting pitcher wouldn't come amiss too. The Braves look good this year and have started well, I can't see the Mets winning the division this year but I will make sure we don't go down easily.

# Hall of Fame

The choice of inductees is not something taken lightly by this league, you don't get in lightly nor do you get in if anybody doesn't agree. This year I have the list down to two names. The first name is Paul Beaumont who took over the Blue Jays in season 8 and has since won 3 divisional titles and not been out of the top two in the division. He has over 100 wins 3 times but has yet to win the big one. That fact and the fact he has only 5 seasons in the league keeps Paul outside, just, this year anyway.

The second name may come as a bit of a surprise, it did surprise me actually when I analysed the stats and took into account his superb record. Like Paul, this coach has been over 100 wins 3 times and although he has won the division once less than Paul he does boast a World Series win. Alistair Brearley has led the Reds superbly in his 7 seasons and has developed a fantastic rivalry with Nigel in Pittsburgh. Alistair is the best and in my opinion a worthy addition to the Hall of Fame but if there are any dissenting voice let me know or the induction will be finalised next week.

**Deadline for Contributions: Saturday 11th March 2006**