

# 2 OUT BOTTOM OF THE 12th

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## MLB6

## PERFECT BRAVES

### 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



Alistair Brearley, Reds



Atlanta served notice of their intentions this season as they completed the first perfect week so far. They started with a great sweep on the road in Philly, returned home to sweep the Padres and then finished with their best result of the week with their sweep in Pittsburgh opening up a 4 game lead at the head of the division. New York opened with a hard fought win at home to Washington, they then beat Los Angeles before a road trip to Chicago which brought a sweep and a very good 7-2 return for the week. Philadelphia recovered well from their opening sweep to defeat Chicago but a loss on the road in San Francisco in their final series left them with a poor 3-6 week. Washington were swept by Pittsburgh in their 2nd series and defeated on the road in Colorado in their 3rd for a terrible 2-7 return.

San Francisco opened with a good series win in San Diego, they followed that up with a great sweep in Cincinnati and finished the week with a home series win over Philadelphia for a very good 7-2 record. Colorado started with a home victory over the Dodgers, they then went on to win in Houston and they rounded their week off with their 3rd series win at home to Washington for a good 6-3 return. Los Angeles were beaten in New York in their 2nd series and swept at home by the Reds in their final series for a terrible 2-7 week. San Diego were swept by the Braves in their 2nd series and beaten at home by Houston in their 3rd for a terrible 2-7 record for the week.

Pittsburgh started with a good series win at home to Houston and built on that in their 2nd series as they swept the Nationals in Washington. Things went a little pear shaped from there though as they were swept at home by the rampant Braves to give them only a solid 504 return following such a good start. Chicago had an excellent start as they swept Cincinnati on the road but that was as good as it got as they lost their 2nd series in Philadelphia and were swept at home by the Mets in their final series for a below par 4-5 return. Houston were beaten in their 2nd series at home to Colorado but they did salvage a series win in their final attempt on the road in San Diego to cap a below par 4-5 week. Cincinnati suffered their 2nd sweep of the week at home to the Giants but a sweep of their own in their final series on the road in LA left them with just a poor 3-6 record for the week.

### Inside this issue:

NL Round-up	1
AL Round-up	2
Yankee Report	2
White Sox News	3
Hall of Fame	3
Detroit Switch	3

## Rangers on the March

Texas started their week with an impressive sweep on the road in Oakland, they followed that up with a solid series win in Detroit and finished the week with a cracking sweep of the Yankees for an excellent 8-1 week and a 3 game lead atop the division. Seattle started with a sweep of the Angels and a second on the road in Minnesota but a sweep of their own at the hands of Toronto in their final series left them with only a good 6-3 record. Los Angeles were beaten in Tampa Bay in their 2nd series but a great sweep at home over the Tigers in their final series rescued something from an otherwise disappointing 4-5 week. Oakland were swept in Boston in their 2nd series but a home victory in their final series against the Twins left them with only a terrible 2-7 record for the week.

Boston opened their week with a good series win in New York, they followed up with a home sweep of the A's and ended well with victory on the road in Chicago for a very good 7-2 return. Toronto were beaten in Tampa Bay in their opening series but they fought back well to beat Chicago at home and then to sweep the Mariners in Seattle for a good 6-3 record for the week. Tampa Bay beat the Angels in their 2nd series but defeat on the road in Milwaukee in their final series left them with just a solid 5-4 return for the week. New York were beaten at home by the Brewers in their 2nd series and swept in Texas in their final series for a terrible 2-7 week and the place at the foot of the division.

Milwaukee started with victory on the road in Detroit, they followed that up with a great series win in New York and they ended well with a home victory over Tampa Bay for a good 6-3 return for the week. Chicago started with a hard fought home win over the Twins but defeat in their 2nd series in Toronto and at home to the Red Sox in their final series left them with a below par 4-6 record for the week. Minnesota were swept by Seattle in their 2nd series and beaten in Oakland in their 3rd for a terrible 2-7 return. Detroit were beaten by the Rangers in their 2nd series and swept on the road in Los Angeles in their final series to mirror the Twins terrible 2-7 week.

## Yankee Report

Once again it looks like the AL East is going to kick itself black and blue all season and then wonder why it doesn't win the World Series. Last turn I went from top to bottom, a journey which hints at inconsistency (spot on) but which also shows the precarious nature of our division...lose a few and it's back to the cellar, win a few and you're a roaring success. I keep saying to Kevin that there are times when I don't understand how this game works, how I can fill my turnsheet with hopes of winning 7 games only to lose 7 and not have a clue as to why, but then that's why I like MLB6 as well, it's the uncertainty that keeps me going...and this is a very uncertain team this year. I'm 80% happy with my starting rotation but the 20% I'm not happy with will be given until about week 10 to improve or he's out. The bullpen will settle eventually but I feel I need one more quality arm, perhaps to use as a closer. The batting is all over the shop as usual although Sanders and Davis continue to defy age and logic, both hitting well for 50 year olds. I must improve my bench this year, it cost me badly last year and despite remarks to the contrary last year, I'll take any help I can get, not necessarily young players only. I feel I've got as good a chance of winning this division as any other year but it'll be the little improvements I can make that will matter...I've got the LP's, so fingers crossed.

# White Sox News

The start for the ChiSox has been steady rather than spectacular. Similar to last season, we have given up a lot of unearned runs in the opening two weeks and this has made it difficult for our pitching to settle down - surprisingly we are second last in the AL in ERA after leading last season. On the batting side we've been a bit better than I expected following the loss of experienced players from 5th and 6th in the order, and that with Brett Butler having a terrible first week and then getting himself injured. As the season goes on I expect us to sustain nearly that level of performance with the bat and for our pitching to improve significantly, which means I am hopeful for us to finish somewhere around the 90 win mark again, though the focus in Chicago remains on rebuilding. If the Brewers continue as they've started that could well mean we finish in second place this time, but after several seasons (until the last one) of the AL Central being won by a team with a losing record it would be a welcome change to have two competitive teams in the division. I don't expect the Twins to be a major threat, hopefully they'll not make me eat my words this week, and the Tigers don't look too strong either.

## Hall of Fame

I would just like to take this opportunity to welcome Alistair Brearley into the MLB6 Hall of Fame. He is the 8th member to be inducted and joins a very illustrious set of peers with excellent records and he can be very proud of his achievements with the Reds.

## Gadd at the helm in Detroit

John Gadd is the new skip of the Tigers and will face the task of becoming the only manager at the franchise to have a winning record. Detroit relocated from Kansas in season 9 and seasons 1-6 saw Pete Belton 433-467 (.481) in the hot seat. Stuart Alger 167-256 (.395) was the next manager and the franchise seemed to be going nowhere fast. Mark Gamble 54-81 (.400) relocated the franchise to Detroit but found the pressure too intense and he bailed out after less than a season. David Stothard 226-260 (.465) led the Tigers to 2 successive divisional titles in seasons 10 and 11 but a lowly position in season 12 saw his demise. John Gadd takes over charged with the task of igniting the spark in Detroit. Good luck John, I hope you can stick around for a while.