

2 OUT BOTTOM OF THE 12th

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MLB6

PERFECT PIRATES

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



Pittsburgh stole a march on the rest of the division and now owns the best record in the league following a perfect 9-0 week. They opened with a sweep at home to the Astros, followed up with a sweep on the road in Philadelphia and ended the week with a home sweep of the Mets to take a 12 game divisional lead. Cincinnati were beaten at home by the Cubs in their opening series but a victory at home over the Rockies and a road win in San Diego left them with a solid 5-4 return for the week. Chicago didn't build on their good start as they were defeated in their 2nd series in Washington but they did end the week well with a home win over the Braves to give them a solid 5-4 return for the week. Houston were beaten by the Giants in their 2nd series and in Los Angeles in their final series for a very poor 2-7 record for the week.

San Diego opened their week with a great home sweep over the Giants. They beat New York on the road in their 2nd series and even defeat at home to Cincinnati in their final series didn't take the gloss off an otherwise good 6-3 return. San Francisco reacted magnificently to the shock of their opening sweep as they won in Houston in their 2nd series and swept the Nationals in their final series for a solid 5-4 week despite their poor start. Los Angeles were beaten in Colorado in their opening series and in Atlanta in their 2nd but they came back well in their final series to beat Houston for a good end to an otherwise below par 4-5 week. Colorado didn't build on their good start as they were beaten in Cincinnati in their 2nd series and at home by the Phillies in their 3rd for a below par 4-5 record for the week.

Atlanta started the week with a solid series win in Philadelphia, a great series win over the Dodgers set them up for a big week but defeat on the road in Chicago in their final series left them with just a solid 5-4 return but they do hold a 7 game lead atop the division a lead that looks very comfortable indeed. Washington too started like a house on fire as they defeated the Mets in New York. Victory in their 2nd series at home to Chicago gave them a great chance of a good week but a sweep handed out by the Giants in San Francisco left them with just a below par 4-5 record for the week. Philadelphia were swept in their 2nd series at home by the Pirates but victory on the road in Colorado rescued some pride from an otherwise poor 3-6 week. New York were beaten at home by the Padres and swept on the road in Pittsburgh in their final series for a very poor 2-7 week and the chances of retaining their divisional title look bleaker by the week.

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MILWAUKEE SURGE

Milwaukee opened their week with a crushing sweep of Detroit, they followed that with a victory on the road in Toronto and ended their week with a hard fought sweep at home over Boston for an excellent 8-1 return and an 8 game divisional lead. Chicago also started in style with a great home sweep of the Twins, defeat in their 2nd series in New York looked to have slowed their progress but victory in their final series at home to Tampa Bay gave them a good 6-3 record for the week. Detroit were beaten in their 2nd series at home by Seattle but they ended the week on a high with victory in Oakland to cap an otherwise poor 3-6 week. Minnesota were swept at home by Texas in their 2nd series and defeated in Los Angeles by the Angels in their final series for a terrible 1-8 record for the week.

Texas started their week with a good sweep on the road in Oakland, they followed that up with another road sweep, this time in Minnesota before surprisingly losing at home to the Blue Jays for a disappointing end to an otherwise very good 7-2 week. Seattle opened with a hard fought sweep over the Angels, victory in Detroit in their 2nd series set up a good week but defeat at home to the Yankees in their final series left them with just a good 6-3 record for the week. Los Angeles rallied after their opening sweep to win in Boston and victory in their final series at home to the Twins gave them a good end to a below par 4-5 week. Oakland were beaten in Tampa Bay in their 2nd series and at home by Detroit in their 3rd for a very poor 2-7 return for the week.

Tampa Bay started the week with a good home victory over Toronto, their 2nd series was another home win, this time over Oakland but they didn't finish off their week as they lost their final series in Chicago for a solid 5-4 return. New York were beaten at home by Boston in their opening series but subsequent wins at home over Chicago and on the road in Seattle gave them too a solid 5-4 record for the week. Toronto were beaten at home by Milwaukee in their 2nd series but they finished the week well with a win in Texas for a good end to an otherwise below par 4-5 week. Boston didn't build on their good start as they were beaten at home by the Angels in their 2nd series and swept in Milwaukee in their final series for a poor 3-6 record for the week.

White Sox News (Delayed)

"I'm satisfied with the progress we've made so far, we've now strung together three consecutive winning weeks and, with our key players running into form, there are signs we are capable of making mid-season run like we did last season. This season I'm wondering whether it will do us any good - even if we average 6-3 for the rest of the season we probably still wouldn't catch up with the Brewers. Still, despite last season's playoff appearance, this team is all about building for the future, and solid starts from Colon, Guerrero and Davis pitching and Beltre, Werth, Nelson and Escobar with the bat are promising in that respect."

Yankees

At the halfway point I'm still in contention and this division is as tight as ever even if we are lacking the quality of earlier seasons. All the plans from preseason have been ditched, all the talk about getting younger and cheaper has gone out of the window, and the overpaid veterans are forming an orderly queue outside The Bronx, knowing full well that the mug running the show can't resist splashing the losing points on anyone who can hit .250 and get by on 6 losing points per turn. Jay Bell and Craig Biggio certainly boost the average age and the lucky-not-to-be-waived Craig Shipley helps make up an ageing trio that would put Bananarama to shame. Pitching-wise the bullpen is keeping me in contention, the starters having long ago started their in-house 'who can be hit the most' contest, and as if to round everything off I've had my worst injury ever this season, about 20 games, for Eduardo Sierra who wasn't doing that well anyway. All this and I'm in third place, only 4 games off the lead, so it could be worse. Rob's Devil Rays are a big surprise as they're usually booking their winter breaks around this time of the season and Paul's Blue Jays are hanging around as ever. Elsewhere it's good to see Messrs Gibson and Reed getting a bit of competition, long overdue some would say. Good luck everybody for the rest of the season.

Apology

Hello everybody, this is my groveling apology for the lack of a newsletter for so long. Although we've been a trifle busy at work, South Tyneside Homes eh Mr. Greener, it is still no excuse. How can I expect you all to send in contributions if you can't be sure they are going to be published. From now on the newsletter is back, and back to normal unless I go on holiday. If anybody wants to receive an emailed version of the newsletter, just drop me an email and you'll go on the mailing list. It's that long since I done one, I don't know which of the new guys need information on their franchises, again just drop me a line. On a personal note, it's great to have Troy back in Seattle, it's a worry that Kev may have left the Dodgers and it's great that the Braves are kicking my ass in the NL East. Good luck for the rest of the season everyone and get those contributions in.

Deadline for Contributions: Saturday 17th June 2006