

2 OUT BOTTOM OF THE 12th

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MLB6

ANGELS LEAD WEEK

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



Los Angeles Angels led the way in the inter-league week but it could be a little too late to make a difference. They opened with a great series win in the home of MLB6 and cross city rivals the Dodgers, the swept the Cubs at home in their 2nd series and ended the week with a great win in Washington for a very good 7-2 record for the week. Texas were a little tardy out of the blocks as they lost a tight series in San Francisco but a hard fought victory in their next series at home to the high-flying Braves and a comfortable sweep on the road against the Cubs sealed a great end to a good 6-3 week. Oakland were beaten in San Diego in their opening series, at home by Pittsburgh in their 2nd but victory in their final series on the road in Philadelphia at least gave them a series win from an otherwise below par 4-5 week. Seattle were swept on the road in Colorado to open the week, a home defeat by the Mets in their 2nd series left them struggling and even victory in their final series on the road in Pittsburgh couldn't gloss over a poor 3-6 week.

Tampa Bay started the week with an emphatic sweep on the road against the Mets, they were brought back to earth with a surprise defeat on the road in Colorado in their 2nd series but they closed out the week well with a home victory over Cincinnati for a good 6-3 week and a 1 game lead atop the division. Toronto swept the Nationals in their opening series of the week but like the D-Rays they lost their 2nd series, this time in Houston. Again like Tampa, Toronto rallied in their final series at home to the Dodgers to record the series win and earn a good 6-3 record for the week. Boston won in Atlanta in their opening series, they suffered defeat in San Francisco in their 2nd but fought back well to defeat Houston in their final series for a solid 5-4 record for the week. The Yankees were beaten in Philadelphia in their opening series, in Cincinnati in their 2nd and at home to San Diego in their 3rd for a poor 3-6 record for the week and plenty of ground to make up on the leaders.

The White Sox started their week with a hard fought series loss in Pittsburgh but they rallied well with a sweep on the road in San Diego and a home win over Colorado to cut the gap at the top of their division to only 6 games following their good 6-3 week. Detroit were beaten on the road in Cincinnati in their opening series, their 2nd series was much better as they pounded the Phillies in an easy sweep before losing on the road to the Mets in another close series for a solid 5-4 return for the week. Milwaukee opened with defeat on the road to the Cubs in their opening series and despite winning well over the Dodgers in their 2nd series defeat at home to the Giants in their final series left them with a below par 4-5 week. Minnesota continues to toil, they lost their opening series on the road in Houston, they lost their 2nd series at home to the Nationals and they were swept in Atlanta in their final series for a very poor 2-7 record for the week and even worse, they are 3 games behind the Tigers for the ignominious honour of

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having the worst record in the league.

That leaves the NL where from the bones of the above review, the Braves pulled a further game clear of the Mets with the other two teams floundering. The Central saw the status quo maintained with the Pirates and Reds posting respective 5-4 weeks, but the Cubs dropped away a little following a very poor week. San Francisco pulled further clear of the Padres in the West who in turn pulled a game further away from the Dodgers. Don't count the Dodgers out yet, if they are still coached they won't lay down and die this early. Colorado are not quite out of it yet either.

Texas Tribune

Good to see the newsy back. I've been struggling with mine during a busy period for me (Wedding and the like). Thankfully my Rangers haven't suffered too much though we need to be right on our toes with Mr Dilworth back. It occurred to me that we've won the past 2 WS - unusual for 2 teams in the same division. I am pretty happy with where we are so far - the offence has carried us for the past month. The pitching carried us early. If they ever click together I think we'll be pretty tough. We'll need to be, the standard of competition in the AL is very high. The AL East alone has some cracking teams. Simon's papering over the cracks approach has been less successful this season as I think the Devil Rays emergence and the Blue Jays return to form has hampered the Yankees. The Red Sox are no mugs either. I'm glad we don't play in the East.

The Brewers are looking the most improved team with better than advertised pitching and a surprising amount of offence. I spoke at length to Paul about MLB6 as we recently went on a road trip to the US to take in some baseball. I think we both fear each other's team! The White Sox pitching is the key to the division - if they can step up in the last 8 weeks, i think they'll be tough to beat, but so far it's looking unlikely, which is something of a surprise to me.

As for the West... we'll try and stay ahead of Troy and just keep on plugging away. I've been very pleased with the addition of Carl Everett (replacing the retiring Ryan Church) and recent pickup Drew Mansfield has been valuable as we've been plagued by injuries to our infield. He himself went down this week continuing that trend. Some of our younger players, Teixeira and Delluci have been above expectations, whilst C Matt Pearce had an awful first 8 weeks and was under .200 until relatively recently. I'm hoping he'll go on a tear soon.

That's the view from the AL! The NL looks to be Pirates & Braves... though I'm sure the Mets have a trick or two up their sleeves and the Giants are looking pretty solid.

Milwaukee Bugle

Think it is going to be nip and tuck all the way to round 18 in AL Central this season. Just can't seem to shake off those White Sox and in reality I never thought I would be able to, Rob is fine manager.

The team is running really well, I have players now who can come in and do the same standard of job a day in day out starter would do offensively. For example catcher Kade Johnson hasn't had the best of season and found himself in AAA for 18 games, Keith Osik took over and for the season is hitting .341. Problems at the corner infield positions are still occurring and we have put in an offer for Todd Zeile of the Astros to try and address 1st base, 3rd base may take a little while longer. Tyler Houston is adequate and has a fine glove but Wes Helms needs a season or two more before coming the every day starter.

Pitching is not as solid as last season, but it has depth with both Miseses and Neugebauer in the bullpen as we have a surplus of left handed pitchers on the staff. Victor Santos has been the revelation of the season with the ball in his hand, allowing an ERA of 2.57 and hitting average of .172 through 13 starts and 19 appearances on the mound. The pitching staff has depth and also a future with the likes of Johnson, Ford and Buddie in the starting rotation now and Kolb, Jones and Eveland in line to join them over the next few seasons.

Overall thoughts just over the half way mark? Delighted to be top of the division, we have proved we can play against the top teams in the AL.

BUT there is a long way to go, the White Sox won't give up and this upcoming series is a tough one in Chicago. The playoff run in will be a tense and exciting one as there are two teams in each division that could take a divisional title, then only one of three who finish second will make the playoffs! PHEW!

New York Times

I'm not particularly happy with my lot as we go into the second half of the season but on reflection, the loss of Matsui and Piazza has taken it's toll. You could probably add another 70-90 runs onto our total if those two had been here and at least 10+ victories but you can't live in the past. With the loss of another 3 batters over the coming 2 season, I think the rebuilding season may have to be extended a little. In Karim Garcia, Carlos Beltran and Casey Blake we have hope for the future so I can't be too downhearted. Bochtler is in his final season on the other side of the ball but he hasn't lived up to expectations anyway. Potential wise on the pitching we have bucketfuls and if Lindstrom and strange live up to expectation things should be fine here too. This year, I'm pretty much resigned to having to fight out the wild-card spot as I can't see the Braves faltering now. Alan and Gordon have done a fantastic job in Atlanta and long may they remain there. I do hope Kevin Reed is still insitu at the Dodgers as it would be a crying shame to lose a coach of his calibre. Dave has strengthened up the Giants who are looking good and what a season for the Padres. Nigel and Alistair our Hall of Famers from the Central are slugging it out again with the Cubs and Astros not that far off the pace. In the AL it's great to see Troy home to put the squeeze on Mike in the West, Robert and Paul look to be going to have a battle royal in the Central, as do Rob and Paul in the East. At this time, please spare a thought for my mate Simon who flies to Germany on Tuesday. Portugal v Mexico Wednesday and looking like Argentina v Mexico in the 2nd round, it's a tough job mate but somebody has to do it. Who's going to get my sandwich at lunchtime while you're away.

Good luck everyone, this season is building nicely and hopefully there should still be more twists and turns to come.

Consolidated Standings

<u>Franchise</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>%age</u>	<u>Str</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Agnst</u>	<u>Diff</u>
Pittsburgh Pirates	61	29	0.678	W1	548	395	153
Texas Rangers	61	29	0.678	W5	531	384	147
Atlanta Braves	58	32	0.644	W3	568	344	224
Milwaukee Brewers	57	33	0.633	L2	478	384	94
Tampa Bay Devil Rays	55	35	0.611	L1	519	383	136
Toronto Blue Jays	54	36	0.600	L1	519	383	136
Chicago White Sox	51	39	0.567	L1	484	418	66
Seattle Mariners	51	39	0.567	L1	434	381	53
San Francisco Giants	51	39	0.567	W2	401	424	-23
New York Mets	50	40	0.556	W1	511	406	105
Cincinnati Reds	49	41	0.544	W1	530	441	89
New York Yankees	48	42	0.533	L2	524	447	77
Chicago Cubs	44	46	0.489	L6	401	404	-3
Boston Red Sox	44	46	0.489	W1	410	465	-55
San Diego Padres	43	47	0.478	W2	418	431	-13
Houston Astros	40	50	0.444	L1	446	458	-12
Los Angeles Dodgers	40	50	0.444	L2	440	531	-91
Los Angeles Angels	39	51	0.433	W1	397	469	-72
Colorado Rockies	36	54	0.400	W1	430	547	-117
Washington Nationals	35	55	0.389	L1	363	479	-116
Oakland Athletics	31	59	0.344	W2	313	477	-164
Philadelphia Phillies	31	59	0.344	L2	307	492	-185
Detroit Tigers	27	63	0.300	L1	363	507	-144
Minnesota Twins	24	66	0.267	L4	254	480	-226

Deadline for Contributions: Saturday 1st July 2006