

2 OUT BOTTOM OF THE 12th

Issue 217 Editor: Kevin Gibson, 31, Jedmoor, Hebburn, Tyne & Wear, NE31 1ET. Email:kevinsmets@blueyonder.co.uk

MLB6

TAMPA HIT TURBO

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



Tampa Bay hit the boosters this week firmly establishing themselves at the head of the division following an excellent 8-1 return. They opened with a cracking sweep at their nearest rivals Toronto, beat the team with the most wins in the league Texas at home in their next series and ended with a sweep on the road in Minnesota to put their marker well down for the remaining weeks of the season. New York opened with a solid win in Boston, followed with a home victory over Minnesota and ended with victory over the Angels for a good 6-3 week and still a chance of making the play-offs. Toronto bounced back well from their opening sweep to record a sweep of their own over Detroit and with victory in Oakland in their final series they did rescue a solid 5-4 record from a terrible start. Boston too recovered from a slow start to beat Seattle in their 2nd series and with victory in Detroit in their final series they too had a solid 5-4 record in the end.

Texas started in style with comfortable sweep over Oakland, defeat in Tampa in their 2nd series wasn't in the script but they showed character to end the week with victory over Chicago for a good 6-3 record. Seattle opened with a good win on the road in Los Angeles, they were beaten in Boston in their 2nd series but victory at home over Milwaukee gave them a solid 5-4 week. Los Angeles didn't recover from that opening loss as they were swept in Chicago and beaten at home by the Yankees in their final series for a very poor 2-7 week. Oakland were beaten in Milwaukee in their 2nd series and at home by Toronto in their final series for a very poor 2-7 week.

Chicago started with a good victory on the road in Minnesota, they built on that with a super sweep at home over the Angels but defeat in Texas in their final series left them with a good 6-3 return and it closed the gap to the Brewers at the top of the division to just 1 game. Milwaukee were beaten at home by Detroit in their opening series, a home win over the A's looked to have got them back on track but defeat in Seattle in their final series left them with a below par 4-5 record for the week. Detroit didn't build on their good start as they were swept in Toronto in their 2nd series and beaten at home by Boston in their final series for a poor 3-6 week. Minnesota were beaten in New York in their 2nd series and swept at home by Tampa in their 3rd for a very poor 2-7 week

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Reds Apply Pressure

Cincinnati started with a hard fought victory on the road in Chicago, they doubled their tally with a good win on the road in Washington and ended well with a great sweep over the high flying Braves for a very good 7-2 record for the week. Chicago recovered well from that opening loss to sweep the Padres and with victory on the road in Colorado in their final series Chicago ended the week with a good 6-3 record despite their early setback. Pittsburgh were beaten on the road in Houston in their opening series and at home by the Dodgers in their 2nd but a sweep on the road in San Francisco frilled up a solid 5-4 week. Houston didn't build on their good start as they were beaten in Philadelphia in their 2nd series and at home by the Mets in their 3rd leaving them with a below par 4-5 week.

Atlanta opened with a win at home over the Phillies, they built on that with a super sweep of the Rockies in their 2nd series but they were swept themselves on the road in Cincinnati in their final series leaving them with just a solid 5-4 return. Washington started with a good series win at home over the Mets, they were beaten at home by the Reds in their 2nd series but victory in San Diego in their final series gave them a solid 5-4 record for the week. Philadelphia bounced back from their opening loss to beat Houston and they carried on their good form with victory on the road in Los Angeles for a solid 5-4 week. New York were beaten at home by the Giants in their 2nd series but victory in Houston gave them a good finish to an otherwise below par 4-5 week.

San Francisco started with a good home win over San Diego and they followed up with a good win on the road in New York but they were brought back down to earth with a bang as they were swept at home by Pittsburgh leaving them with a below par 4-5 week. Los Angeles were beaten at home by Colorado in their opening series, they came back well with victory on the road in Pittsburgh but defeat at home by Philly in their final series left them with a below par 4-5 return. Colorado didn't build on their good start as they were swept in Atlanta in their 2nd series and beaten at home by Chicago in their 3rd for a poor 3-6 week. San Diego were swept in Chicago in their 2nd series and beaten at home by Washington in their 3rd for a very poor 2-7 record for the week.

Tampa Times

Things are going much better than expected. I'm shocked to be atop the division so late in the season especially in such a tough division. However I'm aware there is a long way to go and that I'm a little thin in depth so I'm definitely not planning for post season play just yet. I've a nicely balanced batting line up and though the pitching is a bit weak, it's excelled this year. With a bit of luck Hamilton will be a star in the league for many a season to come. To only give up 5 HR's in a small stadium in 26 starts is amazing. (Of course I've cursed him now!). Off the field the finances are going great although GMs in this league seem to have wages and LPs under control. What pleases me most with Tampa is that they aren't the finished article yet. Each week I see obvious improvements I can make and there is a ton of potential in the pitching staff. It's going to be a fun 6 weeks until the end of the season and it'll go down to the wire for a few teams (the Mets included).

MLB6 Power Ratings from Paul Denyer

Based on the Season Team Stats reports these rankings are calculated on a points system where leading a category gives you the maximum points (12), second (11) and so forth.

BATTING – calculated on RUNS, TOTAL BASES, HOME RUNS, RUNS BATTED IN, BASE ON BALLS, STRIKE OUTS, SACRIFICES, STOLEN BASES, HITTING AVERAGE, ON BASE % AND SLUGGING %.

PITCHING – calculated on COMPLETE GAMES, EARNED RUNS, HOME RUNS, BASE ON BALLS, STRIKE OUTS, SAVES, HITTING AVERAGE AND ERA.

FIELDING – calculated on FIELD SAVES, ERRORS AND DOUBLE PLAYS.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

TEAM	FIELDING PTS	BATTING PTS	PITCHING PTS	TOTAL
Texas	19	119	87	225
Tampa Bay	27	104	78	209
Chicago WS	35	98	75	208
Toronto	27	94	76	197
NY Yankees	16	119	48	183
Milwaukee	33	65	73	171
Seattle	22	64	85	171
Boston	18	62	51	131
LA Angels	11	55	57	123
Detroit	7	42	30	79
Minnesota	15	23	27	65
Oakland	15	23	27	65

NATIONAL LEAGUE

TEAM	FIELDING PTS	BATTING PTS	PITCHING PTS	TOTAL
Atlanta	28	109	82	219
Pittsburgh	11	116	86	213
NY Mets	31	102	64	197
Cincinnati	21	110	62	193
Houston	28	93	43	164
San Francisco	24	51	64	139
Chicago Cubs	23	46	64	133
Colorado	21	69	23	113
San Diego	16	48	66	128
LA Dodgers	10	65	13	88
Washington	7	36	45	88
Philadelphia	14	26	26	66

Houston Astros

A big welcome to Gary Hutton who took over the Houston franchise back in week 8 and here is the late and somewhat rollercoaster history of his franchise.

Houston has always been something of an under-achieving franchise since the departure of it's original coach Paul Lancaster 428-445 (.490) as he is the only one to have steered the club to a divisional title, way back in season 5. Neil Coulson 29-43 (.403) took over in season 6 and didn't last too long as he was replaced after only a few weeks by Eric Van Genderen 39-87 (.310) who led them into season 7. It was here that the franchise under the coaching of Chris Walker-Smith relocated to St Louis but like his 2 predecessors he didn't last long. Juan Angel Perez 315-263 (.545) came in and although the team looked a little brighter they couldn't handle the big guns of Pittsburgh and Cincinnati. On his departure Rob Cowburn 109-116 (.484) took the franchise home to Houston where it is on the arrival of Coach Hutton. The team looks fine on the batting side but the pitching staff will need remodeling if they are to compete with the bid boys. I hope Coach Hutton sticks around for a while and brings the success to this club that it's fans so richly deserve. Good luck Gary, it's a tough division.

Just a reminder, I go away on the 13th August so if anyone can do a guest editor role while I'm away I'll need to know by next time to enable me to publish where people can send in their contributions.

Deadline for Contributions: Saturday 29th July 2006