

# 2 OUT BOTTOM OF THE 12th

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## MLB6

## WHAT A FINISH

### 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



Where to start, East I think as the Yankees produced the culminating act to a late season tear and in doing so secured the division. They opened with a good series win in Boston and followed up with sweeps over Detroit and in Oakland to snatch the division from the D-Rays with an excellent 8-1 week. Toronto opened with a series win over Tampa, followed with a sweep over Minnesota and ended with victory Los Angeles for a very good 7-2 week but just not enough to make the post-season even though they tied with 2 other teams with 94 wins. Tampa were beaten at home by Seattle in their 2nd series but victory in Detroit in their final series was gave them a below par 4-5 week but with 94 wins too they make it into the play-offs as the wild-card team. Boston were swept at home by Texas in their 2nd series and beaten in Minnesota in their final series for a very poor 2-7 week and the wooden spoon in the most difficult division in the league.

Chicago secured the Central title as they opened with a fine sweep on the road in Minnesota, they followed up with a home sweep of Oakland and ended with victory in Seattle for an excellent 8-1 week and victory in a very close division. Milwaukee opened with victory over Detroit, they then recorded a great sweep at home over the Angels but defeat in Texas against his old mate Coach Sim in the final series left the Brewers and Coach Denyer with a good 6-3 week but agonisingly short of the wildcard by a few lousy runs. Detroit were swept in New York in their 2nd series and beaten at home by Tampa in their final series for a very poor 2-7 week. Minnesota were swept in Toronto in their 2nd series but victory at home to Boston in their final series was a good end to an otherwise very poor week and season.

Texas were surprisingly beaten at home by Oakland in their opening series but they showed why they are the best in the AL as they stormed back to record a sweep in Boston and victory at home over the Brewers for a good 6-3 week and the best record in the league this year. Seattle opened with a good win in Los Angeles, they followed up with an even better victory in Tampa Bay and ended the week with defeat at home to Chicago for a solid 5-4 return and plenty of optimism for next season. Los Angeles were swept in Milwaukee in their 2nd series and beaten at home by Toronto in their final series for a very poor 2-7 end to the season. Oakland were swept in Chicago in their 2nd series and at home by the Yankees in their final series for a very poor 2-7 week and last place in the division.

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## Miracle Mets

New York provided the come back of the year as they secured the wild-card spot at the expense of the unfortunate Reds this week. They opened with a good win in Washington and doubled up with a home victory over Colorado but 2 losses in the opening 2 series should have been the end of the Mets season as they faced the Reds in their final series trailing by 2 games. A remarkable sweep in that final series in Cincinnati coming from 5 runs down in Game 2 and 3 down in Game 3 to give the Mets a very good 7-2 week and just enough to claim the wild-card berth. Washington recovered from their opening loss to absolutely thrash Houston in their 2nd series but defeat in Los Angeles in their final series left them with just a solid 5-4 return for the week. Atlanta opened with victory at home to Philadelphia, they were beaten at home by San Francisco in their 2nd series and in Houston in their 3rd for a below par end to their 2nd divisional crown season. Philadelphia recovered from their opening loss to beat Cincinnati but defeat in San Diego in their final series gave them a below par end to a very disappointing season.

San Francisco celebrated their 2nd divisional crown with a good final week. They opened with victory at home over the Padres, followed up with victory in Atlanta and ended a most consistent week and season with victory at home over the Cubs for a good 6-3 record and more importantly the side-stepping of Pittsburgh for another week at least. Los Angeles started with a win over the Rockies, they were beaten in Chicago in their 2nd series but ended the season well with victory over Washington for a solid 5-4 week and plenty of optimism for next year. Colorado were beaten in New York in their 2nd series but victory at home over Pittsburgh in their final series left them with a below par 4-5 week but everyone here is looking forward to next year with relish. San Diego were beaten in Pittsburgh in their 2nd series but they ended the year with a home win over the Phillies giving them a 4-5 record for the week and their best season return for some 11 seasons.

Chicago opened with a good series win at home over Cincinnati, they followed up with another great home win over the Dodgers but defeat in their final series on the road in San Francisco left them with a solid 5-4 week and renewed optimism for next season. Pittsburgh were beaten in their opening series on the road in Houston, they recovered well to beat the Padres in their 2nd series but defeat in Colorado left them with a below par 4-5 week as they prepare for the Mets in the first round of the play-offs next week. Houston didn't build on their good start as they were thumped by Washington in their 2nd series but victory at home to Atlanta in their final series gave them a below par 4-5 record for the week and bottom place in the division. Cincinnati were beaten in Philadelphia in their 2nd series and swept at home by the Mets in their final series for a very poor 2-7 week and a very disappointing end to an otherwise good season.

## Chicago Sentinel

I'm very happy with the performance of the White Sox during the regular season. We got great contributions from veterans Butler, Durham and Guerrero, each having 100 RBI seasons, developing future star Beltre had another solid season, and mid-season free agent signing Finley really made the difference between us being pretenders or contenders. We also had some promising performances from our younger guys and have high hopes of them developing into regular starters in the near future. On the pitching front our young rotation once again did very well - six starters with a combined experience of 24 seasons and we managed to tie for league lead in ERA, I can only expect them to get better from here on in. We did have some bullpen struggles late in the season as we chopped and changed some personnel in an effort to cut costs, hopefully it won't hurt us too much in the postseason. Last season at this stage we got swept and only managed to score one run. I'm hopeful we'll do a bit better this time round, but in our last regular season meeting with the Yankees we were on the wrong end of a thrashing. They finished the season very strongly and we'll have to play to the best of our ability to have any hope of a result.

# MLB6 History

<u>Coach</u>	<u>Franchise</u>	<u>Wins</u>	<u>Losses</u>	<u>%age</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Franchise</u>	<u>Wins</u>	<u>Losses</u>	<u>%age</u>
Dave Tyrrell	Angels	19	8	0.704	Graeme Odgers	Cubs	223	274	0.449
Kevin Reed	Dodgers	1379	682	0.669	Pete Harris	Cubs	209	259	0.447
Mike Sim	Rangers	922	536	0.632	Charles Mayell	Red Sox	8	10	0.444
Paul Beaumont	Blue Jays	582	372	0.610	Stuart Alger	Rockies	91	116	0.440
Kevin Gibson	Mets	1197	774	0.607	Graeme Odgers	Expos	158	202	0.439
Mark Stinton	Indians	158	103	0.605	Malcolm Lake	Phillies	118	152	0.437
Quentin Jenkinson	White Sox	65	43	0.602	David Kinghorn	Indians	377	487	0.436
Simon Greener	Yankees	992	667	0.598	Gary Hutton	Astros	43	56	0.434
Ian Clark	Blue Jays	679	473	0.589	Phil Townend	Orioles	58	77	0.430
Allan Molloy	Giants	888	633	0.584	Maru Nunes-Vas	Mets	27	36	0.429
Alistair Brearley	Reds	766	548	0.583	Mick Hankin	Mariners	212	283	0.428
Dave Pinder	Giants	115	83	0.581	Adam James Pritchard	Giants	23	31	0.426
Nigel Beck	Pirates	1175	850	0.580	Scott Porter	Rangers	274	374	0.423
Ian Clark	Rockies	31	23	0.574	Rob Falconer	Expos	125	172	0.421
Keith Finch	Orioles	297	234	0.559	Austen Hindman	Mariners	87	120	0.420
Alan/Gordon Milnes	Braves	181	143	0.559	Gary Potts	Brewers	102	141	0.420
Troy Dilworth	Mariners	610	497	0.551	Ian Sanderson	Phillies	116	163	0.416
Dave Hunt	Reds	436	356	0.551	Alaister Pawley	Expos	101	142	0.416
Simon Creasey	Orioles	89	73	0.549	Peter Hale	Cubs	86	121	0.415
James Hoddinott	Angels	79	65	0.549	Chris Walker-Smith	Cardinals	26	37	0.413
Juan Angel Perez	Cardinals	315	263	0.545	Colin Dowding	White Sox	74	106	0.411
Ronald Shreij	Rockies	181	152	0.544	Matthew Parsons	Cubs	114	165	0.409
Mark Cooper	Athletics	136	116	0.540	Mark Wheeler	Braves	467	676	0.409
Ken Hatton	Indians	275	235	0.539	Robert Dorman	Rockies	180	261	0.408
Alan Clements	Red Sox	583	524	0.527	Mark Hodson	Braves	44	64	0.407
Paul Valentine	Red Sox	439	398	0.524	Stewart Jones	Rockies	175	257	0.405
Simon Round	Brewers	46	44	0.511	Mark J Hall	Braves	128	188	0.405
Mark Ferris	White Sox	206	199	0.509	Neil Coulson	Astros	29	43	0.403
Rob Byrne	Devil Rays	201	195	0.508	Mark Gamble	Tigers	54	81	0.400
Richard Godley	Braves	109	107	0.505	Martin Radford	Expos	61	92	0.399
Robert Crowther	White Sox	480	474	0.503	Michael Dutton	Athletics	287	433	0.399
Matthew Christie	Cardinals	36	36	0.500	Michael Thompson-Hill	Phillies	111	168	0.398
Neil Briggs	Brewers	183	186	0.496	Stuart Alger	Royals	167	256	0.395
Stephen Montague	Rockies	314	325	0.491	Mark Hall	Athletics	147	231	0.389
Martin Willan	Angels	950	985	0.491	Neil Bassett	Padres	804	1302	0.382
Paul Lancaster	Astros	428	445	0.490	Carl Wright	Athletics	194	319	0.378
Barry Andrews	Dodgers	22	23	0.489	Robert Bushnell	Brewers	102	168	0.378
Scott Fitton	Brewers	79	83	0.488	Tony Eatough	Phillies	27	45	0.38
Rob Cowburn	Astros	109	116	0.484	Darren Cousins	Cubs	47	79	0.373
Pete Belton	Royals	433	467	0.481	Paul Ingram	Athletics	66	114	0.367
Martin Gregson	Phillies	203	220	0.480	John Gadd	Tigers	59	103	0.364
Jordanna Lake	Giants	159	174	0.477	Geoff Cooksey	Red Sox	52	92	0.361
Tony Howe	Mets	34	38	0.472	Darren Farman	Phillies	281	502	0.359
David Stothard	Tigers	226	260	0.465	Paul Scrivens	Pirates	29	52	0.358
David Houghton	Devil Rays	409	473	0.464	Tobias Graf	Expos	76	140	0.352
Adrian Bunn	Mariners	125	145	0.463	Mick Hankin	Cubs	63	126	0.333
Paul Denyer	Brewers	449	523	0.462	Stuart Smith	Twins	125	253	0.331
Tony Lee	Cubs	62	73	0.459	B & P Henderson	Cubs	68	139	0.329
Kenny Reeves	Yankees	204	246	0.453	Adam Yates	Athletics	20	43	0.317
Daniel Nugent	White Sox	61	74	0.452	Eric Van Genderen	Astros	39	87	0.310
Tony Howe Haysom	White Sox	146	178	0.451	Guy Handley	Twins	16	38	0.296
Phil Townend	Nationals	376	461	0.449	Simon Campbell	Mariners	7	20	0.259

## Texas Times

Many congratulations on sneaking into the playoffs! I bet you can hardly believe it but although I do feel a bit for Alistair, you can't argue with a sweep over the Reds to legitimize the Mets claiming the final NL playoff spot. After a number of seasons as top seed in the NL it may be your expectations are lower as w/c representative, but a team can win it all from that spot and you have little to lose. The Pirates look a tough proposition.. good luck to you both.

In the AL it was if anything, even more exciting. The sad part of the Rangers beating the Brewers, which in turn sent the Devil Rays through is that Paul D and I are great mates, but he will no doubt remember a couple of seasons ago when his Brewers beat my Rangers on the final series to send the Yankees into the playoffs and condemning the Rangers to the Continental Series. That hurt at the time and I suspect Paul is feeling the same now, as is Paul B in Toronto. For 3 teams to finish with the same record, and for 2 not to make the playoffs is something I can't recall seeing before. That said I do think the Devil Rays deserved a playoff spot for making the running all of the season.

I can't help but admire the job Simon has done with the Yankees. They looked a year away from being ready pitching wise but have finished with a respectable 5th in the AL in ERA. I look at my Rangers and see a team very similar to the Yankees, with young pitching and quality veteran hitting. I hope that the extra year or two our pitching has on the Yankees will be important if we should meet. I just hope it's not in the Continental series.

Nice job in the West by Dave Pinder - he's kept his team on track in a season where the Dodgers legendary coach Kevin Reed retired, and the Rockies appointed another legendary coach in Ian Clark. Ian made something of a splash in just a few weeks and will be a different proposition over a full season.

So 8 teams remaining and the Rangers have a 1 in 8 shot at retaining their crown. It's such a tough ask (as my own 1-4 WS record shows) to win 1 WS, never mind repeat and I think despite being in the no1 seed spot, it'll take something akin to a miracle for us to win again. We're ready and waiting, let's see how things fall.

## Ramblings

Wow, what a week. I felt a little guilty after throwing in the "Lose a few games and make it interesting Alistair" line last week but on further analysis we probably just deserved to be in the play-offs as the Mets ERA and batting is slightly better than the Reds but that will come a little consolation to Alistair. We face the tough task of stopping the Pirates, not easy but we'll give it a go. In the AL congratulations to my mate Simon on his division crown and to Rob (CW) and Rob (TB) for making the play-offs. Good luck to all of you as Mike will be a tough nut to crack.

It's time to think of Hall of Fame again and the decision on the new inductee will be made during the play-offs. I already have a candidate in mind but would be grateful for nominations and reasons why.

Troy, your email address is keep being rejected, drop me a note where you want the emailed newsletter to go and if anybody else requires an electronic version just drop me an email and I'll get it on the mailing list.

Lastly if anybody needs anything, stats, advice or just a chat drop me an email and I'll sort it out.

Very best of luck everyone, here's to a great post-season.

**Deadline for Contributions: Saturday 21st October 2006**