

2 OUT BOTTOM OF THE 12th

Issue 228 Editor: Kevin Gibson, 31, Jedmoor, Hebburn, Tyne & Wear, NE31 1ET. Email:kevinsmets@blueyonder.co.uk

MLB6

TEXAS TANK ON

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



Texas started the week with a good series win on the road in Seattle, victory in Chicago in their 2nd series set them up for a great week and they delivered with a sweep at home to Toronto in their final series for a very good 7-2 week. Seattle recovered well from their opening loss to win on the road in Boston and a victory at home against Chicago in their final series gave them a solid 5-4 return for the week. Oakland started with a road win in Los Angeles and a win on the road in Detroit but a defeat at home at the hands of New York only left them with a solid 5-4 return for the week. Los Angeles were beaten in Tampa in their 2nd series but a win at home to Detroit rescued a good end to an otherwise below par 4-5 week.

Tampa started with a cracking sweep at home over the Yankees, they followed up with victory at home over LA and ended the week well with a win on the road in Minnesota for a very good 7-2 week. New York recovered well from their opening sweep to sweep Minnesota and victory in their final series on the road in Oakland left them with a solid 5-4 return for the week. Boston went down at home to Toronto in their opening series and they lost to Seattle in their 2nd but a good win in Milwaukee in their final series left them with a below par 4-5 record for the week. Toronto were beaten at home by Milwaukee in their 2nd series and swept on the road in Texas in their 3rd for a poor 3-6 return for the week.

Milwaukee opened their week with an emphatic sweep on the road in Detroit, they built on that with a road win in Toronto in their 2nd series but defeat at home to Boston in their final series left them with only a good 6-3 record for the week. Chicago started with a home win over Minnesota but subsequent defeats at home by Texas and on the road in Seattle left them with a below par 4-5 return. Minnesota were swept in New York in their 2nd series and defeated at home by Tampa in their 3rd for a very poor 2-7 record for the week. Detroit were beaten at home by Oakland in their 2nd series and at home by the Yankees in their 3rd for a very poor 2-7 record for the week.

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Pittsburgh Looking Good

Pittsburgh opened with a good home victory against Houston, they followed up with a sweep of San Diego but defeat on the road in Colorado in their final series left them with just a good 6-3 week. Cincinnati started with a home wins over Chicago and Los Angeles but defeat in San Francisco in their final series gave them only a solid 5-4 record for the week. Chicago recovered well from their opening loss to defeat Washington on the road but defeat at home in their final series at home to Atlanta gave them a below par 4-5 week. Houston were beaten in Philadelphia in their 2nd series but victory at home over New York in their final series ended well a below par 4-5 week.

Atlanta started with a victory at home over Washington, they doubled their score with another home win over Colorado and ended well with victory in Chicago for a good 6-3 return for the week. New York started with a hard fought victory over Philadelphia, they had another win at home to San Francisco before going down on the road in Houston for a solid 5-4 record for the week. Philadelphia recovered from their opening loss to defeat Houston but defeat in Los Angeles in their final series left them with a below par 4-5 record for the week. Washington were defeated at home by Chicago in their 2nd series and on the road in San Diego in their 3rd for a poor 3-6 record for the week.

Colorado started the week in fine style with a hard fought sweep over San Diego, they were beaten in Atlanta in their 2nd series but victory at home over Pittsburgh in their final series gave them a good 6-3 record for the week. Los Angeles won on the road in San Francisco in their opening series, they lost in Cincinnati in their 2nd series but fought back well to defeat Philly in their 3rd for a solid 5-4 week. San Francisco were beaten in New York in their 2nd series but victory at home over Cincinnati in their 3rd gave them a good end to an otherwise below par 4-5 week. San Diego were swept on the road in Pittsburgh in their 2nd series but victory at home over Washington in their final series gave them a good end to an otherwise very poor 2-7 week.

Mike Sim Speaks

Texas surprising has the best record in MLB6. The season 13 World Series was fantastic for the Rangers out-going stars Dave Berg, Glen Davis & Pedro Swann. As expected Berg and Swann retired. Last season's Ranger MVP Carl Everett was expected to follow suit, but turned up at spring training in good shape and ready to play. He is on a month-to-month contract with the Rangers who were a little concerned he might not stand up to the trials of another full season. Texas skipper Mike Sim had hoped to re-sign C Davis but Glen wanted to play every day and the Rangers already were carrying 2 good catchers in Matt Pearce and emerging youngster Rod Barajas. Davis signed with the Yankees in a smart move by Simon Greener who added a much needed bat. So with less offensive talent the burden fell to previous bit-part players and so far they've responded - Soriano, Mike Young, Mark Teixeira all have over 30 RBI's and the team is hitting over .300. The growth of Drew Meyer into a genuine leadoff hitter has been steady and his on Base% has been a plus at the top of a lively order. It can't last, there isn't enough talent for it to, but for now it's a great ride. So 36 games in, the Rangers have a 9 game lead - the expected challenge from Seattle hasn't materialised to date - injuries, notably to All-Star C Scott Jackson have derailed the Mariner O - 126 runs in 36 games is well below par for a playoff team. Troy is not one to panic and he'll be expecting a pick-up once Jackson is back. The injury bug spread to SP Fogg this week which is cruel luck as he pitched well in a win over Texas. Anaheim's skipper Marc Rivierra was understandably not expecting too much this season and is looking to shuffle his pack, particularly on the pitching front where his team are leaking almost 6 runs a game. It'll improve as his smart brand of man-

agement has an effect. The A's are not as bad as they are showing but they need another run a game to give their pitchers a chance to win consistently. The White Sox pitching factory continues to churn out high quality SP's - their current rotation has the potential to be one of the best in MLB6 history - it looks to have surpassed the Rangers grouping though curiously the White Sox don't have a pitcher in the top 12 in ERA so it's very much a team effort. The team that impressed me most in the Central in our first meeting was Milwaukee. Their brand of fast base runners (2nd in AL in doubles) and a strong LHP line-up meant they caused us all sorts of problems. They look capable of maintaining their challenge to the Sox all season. It seems early to be declaring the Central a 2 horse race but they reality may just be that the talent level in Detroit and Minnesota can't quite match their Central rivals. The Twins in particular have 2 of the most promising pitcher to come into the league in a long time in Brooks and Green. Guy is unlikely to have difficulty turning out a decent rotation though he might like to see LHP Pedro Sanchez emerge quickly. I think their team ERA will improve over the season to around 4. What will hold the Twins back is at the plate - they can hit for average, have some power and aren't bad in the field, but they seem to lack speed. Sadly the truth is they are just in a tough division and aren't quite ready. The Tigers have a lively batting line-up that hasn't clicked so far. I believe they'll improve at the plate - it's a shame really as they have made a decent start pitching wise. Great division the AL East. The "worst" team if any can be described like that are the Yankees. Simon has brought in some great pitching during the past few seasons, but has seen the majority of the team's great hitters get old and retire. He is one of the canniest skippers in MLB6 and if anyone can paper over the cracks it's Simon. Glen Davis is one example - he'll hit .300 with power and speed, plus he'll handle the young pitching staff. A great signing. Boston is almost there, they need to be watched carefully by the other teams as I feel they are close to a playoff team. They have the experience to put together a really consistent winning run. It's probably fair to say this crop of AL teams is as strong as any I've seen in MLB6. There really are 6 or 7 teams in the top 10 in MLB6, maybe more (sorry NL!). One such pair of teams are Toronto and Tampa Bay. The Devil Rays gave the Rangers a sound beating earlier in the season. They have the best offence in MLB6, testament to Rob's shrewd stewardship. With a core of Ledesma, Wells and Crawford they'll score on anyone. They have a quality catcher in Everett to guide a veteran pitching group. The lack of LHP would worry me a bit but it's not impacting the Rays in the W column so far. The Blue Jays offence looks as good on paper but they aren't quite firing - I think the Beaumont trademark large stadium is backfiring slightly on this group, but his record in management is the best in Gameplan baseball so chances are it'll come good and fast. Apparently there is baseball being played in the NL as well. Sadly I know nothing about that, least not till the inter-league week which conveniently is this coming week. The NL Champion Mets are starting to turn losses into wins but if ever a team needed a high draft pick, it's the Mets. Kevin's miracle working was never as good as last year when he took a (in my opinion) moderately talented bunch to within a few outs of winning the World Series - great management. If he can take this current bunch as far as the playoffs, it would top even that. The eye openers in the NL seem to be clear - the quiet, efficient management of Messrs Alan and Gordon Milnes and the bafflingly good pitching of the Rockies under MLB6 legend Ian Clark. 121 runs allowed in 4 weeks is incredible - a team ERA threatening to dip under 3 is testament to how big an impact Ian has had.

Deadline for Contributions: Saturday 17th February 2007