

Baseball tidbits newsletter – interesting and random stuff, fodder for bar bets.

Good morning and happy Father's Day. Last week I included a blurb on my first trip to Yankee Stadium in 1964. Last night, almost 60 years later, I got to join my 3 year old grandson as his dad (and mom) for his first game at Fenway Park. Huge number of St. Louis Cards fans. So many they were able to drown out the home fans with chants of "Lets Go Cardinals" in support of an 11-2 St. Louis win. This week the usual anecdotes, some history and trivia, plus some thoughts on father-son duos in MLB. Pour yourself some coffee and enjoy.



THREE THINGS TO PONER THIS MORNING

This bears repeating from time to time. 1968. **Bob Gibson**. 1.12 ERA. Completed 28 of 34 starts, 13 of them shutouts. Think about that.

And while you ponder Gibson, remember 1988. For 59 consecutive innings that August and September, **Orel Hershiser** did the impossible. Over six astonishing September starts — all complete games — he put nothing but zeroes on the board.

Tack on four shutout innings on the back end of his final start of August, and the Dodgers ace spun off 59 innings in a row without allowing a single run.

56 straight games with a hit. **Joe DiMaggio** set the mark in 1941, Only **Pete Rose** (44 games) has even gotten within two weeks of him — and that was 44 years ago. No one else, *in the last eight decades*, has even reached 40 games.

THIS WEEK'S TRIVIA CHALLENGE

On the Fenway scoreboard it mentioned that **JD Martinez** is one of five players who have hit 3 HRs in a game for three different teams.

The other four:

Rangers-Braves-Yankees, retired 2016

Mets-Cubs-A's, retired 1986

Mariners-Rangers-Yankees, retired 2016

Cardinals-New York Giants-Yankees, retired 1953

Name them (the Fenway scoreboard did not). Answer at the end.

MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

When **Mike Mikolas** of the Cards came within one strike of a no-hitter against the Pirates Tuesday some stats came up—252 no-hitters thrown since 1900, 21 of them perfect games.

When **Yadier Molina** corralled the sky-high pop off the bat of Pirates' star **Ke'Bryan Hayes** in the sixth inning of Tuesday's Game 1, the 39-year-old catcher/18 year veteran passed **Ivan "Pudge" Rodriguez** for first in MLB history with his 14,865th putout as a catcher.

Matt Carpenter is off to quite the start with the Yankees.

5 homeruns in his first 10 games with New York, tying three Yankee greats -- **Eric Hinske**, **Shelley Duncan** and **Barry Foote**. Then he hit his 6th to tie **Trevor Story** as the only player since 1900 to hit 6 HRs in his first 10 games with a team.

Carpenter in his first 10 games, 30 at bats, 8 hits, 6 HRs and .333/.467/1.125 slash line.

Happy times in Yankee-land. 60 games/37% of the season. Yankees 44-16, 5th best start through 60 games in team history. The 4 teams ahead of them:

1939 47-13

1988 46-14

1953 46-14

1928 44-16

All won the World Series.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. may have just taken the phrase "like father, like son" to a whole new level.

On Monday, the Blue Jays star played in his 403rd career game, tallying three hits, three RBIs and a strikeout in five at-bats. He also slugged his 87th career home run and lifted his career on-base percentage to .363.

Well, a little under 25 years ago, there was another fresh-faced Dominican slugger taking Canada by storm. His name was -- wait for it -- **Vladimir Guerrero**. Vlad Sr. made an immediate impact on the Montreal Expos, becoming one of the best players in franchise history. Through his first 403 career games, he hit 87 home runs and had an OBP of .364.

Dig even deeper and you'll find that in his 402nd career game, Vlad Sr. had almost the exact same stat line that Vlad Jr. had in his 403rd, hitting a home run and tallying two RBIs and a strikeout in a 3-for-5 performance. Pretty cool, right?

Guerrero Sr. went on to play another 1,744 games in MLB, slugging 449 homers overall and finishing with a career OBP of .379. Guerrero Jr. will have a lot of work ahead of him if he wants to continue to emulate his father's Hall of Fame career, but matching it almost to a tee across his first 3 1/2 big league seasons isn't a bad start.

Freddie Freeman, in his first season with the Dodgers, has been below average. He's hitting just .223 and owns a mere .597 OPS. He's striking out 21% of the time, which isn't a lot for most players, but is for him.

But Freddie Freeman, also in his first season with the Dodgers, has been absolutely *fantastic with runners on base*. He's hitting .381, with a 1.118 OPS. He's striking out only 7% of the time. He's been one of the greatest hitters in the game. It's the biggest gap in baseball.

Everyone's a little better with runners on base, of course. Last year, the Majors had a .710 OPS with the bases empty and a .751 OPS with runners on, an expected effect of pitchers having to manage the basepaths as well as the batter's box.

How often does Freeman face a shift?

- Bases empty: 84%
- Runners on: 51%

This is generally true for most lefties, but not quite to this extent. (Major League lefties see a shift 62% of the time with the bases empty, and 50% with runners on.) His rate of being shifted against with the bases empty is also going up, while being shifted against with runners on is not.

He's hitting .386 with **Mookie Betts** on first, and .364 with Betts on second.

But what's most interesting is just how much contact he's making, especially when there are runners in scoring position. Freeman has whiffed only three times in 70 RISP plate appearances; the ensuing 4.3% strikeout mark would be the third lowest of the last 10 years, among players with at least that many times up, and **Nori Aoki** (2015) and **Andrelton Simmons** (2016) were hardly the power threats Freeman is, anyway.

One great way to not strike out is to never be in a two-strike count, and Freeman is indeed a bit more aggressive with runners on, apparently trying to just get a ball in play. Toss in the fact that he's making more contact with runners on and swinging earlier in the count, well, it's a big difference:

How often is Freeman in a two-strike count?

- Bases empty: 51%
- Runners on: 37%

Splits--This year, for example, he's got a .289 average at home and a .288 mark on the road. He's got a .288 average against righty pitchers and a .290 average against lefties. He's reliably consistent, more so than most any other hitter in baseball.

Twins career leaders for most HRs by CF--**Kirby Puckett** (1986) and **Torii Hunter** (2006) hit 31 home runs while primarily playing center field

Only player not named **Rickey Henderson** to lead AL in stolen bases in the 1980's? **Harold Reynolds** of Seattle, stole 60 in 1987 when injuries limited Henderson to 95 games.

All four players who had 175 or more RBIs in a season did it in the 1930's:

Hack Wilson, 191 for the 1930 Cubs

Lou Gehrig, 184 for the 1931 Yankees

Hank Greenberg, 183 for the 1937 Tigers

Jimmie Foxx, 175 for the 1938 Red Sox

The Brewers' offense showed up for what became a historic Wednesday night at Citi Field. The 10-2 victory was manager **Craig Counsell**'s 564th win as Milwaukee's manager, pushing him past **Phil Garner** for the all-time franchise record. Counsell has led the Brewers to the post-season 4 times.

Ron Guidry delivered 248 strikeouts in his remarkable 1978 season -- when "Louisiana Lightning" won the Cy Young Award with a 25-3 record and 1.74 ERA -- still stand as the franchise record.

The San Diego Padres woke up Friday in first place—first time in 13 seasons they are at the top of the NL west in mid-June.

Padres right-hander **Joe Musgrove** tossed seven innings of two-run ball in a win against the Cubs, becoming the first pitcher to open a season with 12 straight quality starts since **Corey Kluber** in 2018. Musgrove's start marked the 16th time a Padres pitcher has completed seven innings this season, the most in baseball.

Vaughan Grissom, The fifth-ranked Braves prospect swatted a pair of grand slams in back-to-back innings, about as close as one can come to **Fernando Tatis Sr.**'s feat of two grand slams in one inning. Grissom also added a double and a single and scored five times in High-A Rome's 22-1 rout of Asheville.

Only pitcher to pitch in the World Series for both the Red Sox and the Cardinals? **Joe Kelly**—he started game 3 of the 2013 WS for the Cards, and pitched in all five games of the 2018 WS for the Sox.

Atlanta Braves won 14 games in a row, one short of the franchise record. The Braves hit an MLB-best 35 homers during their winning streak, which ran from June 1-June 15. This was greater than the combined home run total by the Angels (12), Brewers (11), Guardians (seven) and Tigers (two). The streak took the Braves from 10½ games out of first place in the National League East to four games. The Cubs broke the Braves streak, the win snapped a 10 game Chicago losing streak.

Speaking of hot...The Phillies re 14-2 since firing **Joe Girardi** and replacing him with **Rob Thomson**, they are a season high 5 games over .500...the Yankees have won 9 straight and 16 of 17.

The three Yankees pitchers besides **Mariano Rivera** to save 40 or more games in a season--**Dave Righetti** (46 in 1986), **John Wetteland** (43 in 1996) and **Rafael Soriano** (42 in 2012)

Jed Lowrie joined a team packed with young homegrown talent when he made his major league debut with the Red Sox in 2008.

The Sox had **Clay Buchholz, Jacoby Ellsbury, Jon Lester, Jonathan Papelbon, and Dustin Pedroia**, among others, on a team that had just won the World Series. Now Lowrie is the only one of that group still playing. At 38, he's the oldest member of the Oakland Athletics and plays the role of part-time infielder.

Last walk-off steal of home in the big leagues? **Marquis Grissom**, in Game 3 of the 1997 ALCS for the Indians.

IMMACULATE

In the second inning of Houston's 9-2 win over Texas on Wednesday, Astros pitcher **Luis Garcia** struck out **Nathaniel Lowe, Ezequiel Duran and Brad Miller** on nine pitches, recording what is colloquially known as an immaculate inning. Praise be.

In the seventh, Astros pitcher **Phil Maton** saw the same hitters ... and **also struck them out on nine pitches**. Just like that, double the perfection.

It's the first time in MLB history two immaculate innings have occurred on the same day — and this happened on the same day, in the same game, against the same team, ***to the same hitters***. How?

Garcia became the eighth and Maton the ninth pitchers in Astros history to throw immaculate innings, and the first since **Will Harris** on Sept. 27, 2019. There are 105 immaculate innings on record in Major League history.

Astros immaculate innings

Phil Maton, June 15, 2022, at TEX

Luis Garcia, June 15, 2022, at TEX

Will Harris, Sept. 27, 2019, at LAA

Brandon Backe, April 15, 2004, vs. MIL

Shane Reynolds, July 15, 1999, vs. DET

Randy Johnson, Sept. 2, 1998, at ATL

Mike Magnante, Aug. 22, 1997, vs. COL

Pete Harnisch, Sept. 6, 1991, vs. PHI
Bob Bruce, April 19, 1964, vs. STL (Colt 45s)

AS ALWAYS, INTERESTING INSIGHTS FROM JAYSON STARK

A lot has changed in the world since October 2014, as **Ned Yost, Bruce Bochy and Madison Bumgarner** could obviously remind us. But then the Royals visited San Francisco this week, eight years after the 2014 Giants-Royals World Series. And I couldn't help but notice what *hadn't* changed.

Still playing for the Giants: **Brandon Crawford and Brandon Belt**

Still playing for the Royals: **Salvador Perez**

I love it when there are still vestiges of stability in sports. And these two franchises love it themselves. So how rare is this? Three players who stick around so long, never leave and are still playing for the same teams when they meet this many years after a World Series matchup?

Baseball-Reference's awesome Kenny Jackelen examined that question for us. He took the entire interleague-play era (1997-2022). Then he looked at only World Series teams that met again at least eight years later, with at least three returning players, who never changed teams in between and with at least one playing for each team.

Braves-Yankees: He found a bunch of Braves and Yankees still around from the 1996 and 1999 World Series when those teams met again in 2006 and 2009. That group (in various combos): **Derek Jeter, Bernie Williams, Jorge Posada, Mariano Rivera** (Yankees) and **Chipper Jones, John Smoltz and Andruw Jones** (Braves).

Indians-Braves: Those teams met in the 1995 World Series. But when they held a rematch nine years later, in 2004, two Braves (**John Smoltz and Chipper Jones**) and one Clevelander (**Omar Vizquel**) were still around for the reunion tour.

But that's it, in a quarter-century of these possibilities ... until Giants-Royals. Tells us something about turnover in modern baseball, doesn't it?

THE IMMACULATE DISSECTION

A lot of words have been used in my house to describe the condition of me and my home office. "Immaculate" would not be one of them.

Fortunately, I get to delve into a whole different definition of “immaculate” in this column. And fortunately, it doesn’t involve filing, vacuuming or sorting through the 898 old media guides in my closet. Instead, our topic today is that baseball miracle known as the “immaculate inning.” So I’d like to express my deep appreciation to the Astros and Rangers for changing that subject.

What happened in that Astros-Rangers game Wednesday can’t happen. Shouldn’t happen. Shouldn’t be possible. Shouldn’t ever be possible again, certainly. But ...

Somehow or other, for the first time in *recorded* history (and almost certainly any other kind of history), the Astros pitched *two* immaculate innings (three up, three down, three strikeouts, three pitches each) ... in the same game ... *against the same three hitters*.

Bottom of the 2nd, Rangers Batting, Behind 1-6, Astros' Luis Garcia facing 6-7-8										
b2	1-6	0	---	3,(0-2)	O	TEX	Nathaniel Lowe	Luis Garcia	2%	89% Strikeout Swinging
b2	1-6	1	---	3,(0-2)	O	TEX	Ezequiel Duran	Luis Garcia	1%	90% Strikeout Swinging
b2	1-6	2	---	3,(0-2)	O	TEX	Brad Miller	Luis Garcia	1%	91% Strikeout Swinging
									0 runs, 0 hits, 0 errors, 0 LOB. Astros 6, Rangers 1.	

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Well, call me an overreactor if you’d like, but this seemed kind of unlikely. So I set out to find out exactly how unlikely. OK, here’s exactly how unlikely.

- In the 35 seasons we know as “the pitch-count era,” the Rangers had only one previous immaculate inning pitched against them. *And then they had two in the same game.*
- But that previous immaculate inning was thrown 32 years ago, by the Royals’ Jeff Montgomery on April 29, 1990. I’m guessing the three hitters involved in Wednesday’s immaculate daily double don’t recall that one too well ... since Nathaniel Lowe and Ezequiel Duran *hadn’t made their debut on Planet Earth yet* – and Brad Miller *was 6 months old*.
- Since that game, the Rangers had played 5,060 games — with no immaculate innings. And then they had two of them *in the same game*.
- In between those games, Rangers hitters had accumulated 174,338 at-bats ... 35,492 strikeouts ... in *more than 45,000 innings* ... and still avoided any immaculate innings. But then Wednesday, they had two of them in a span of 21 at-bats ... and 15 strikeouts ... and six innings. Because of course they did.

- In between those games, the Rangers faced **Félix Hernández** 58 times ... **Justin Verlander** 33 times ... **Randy Johnson** 30 times ... **Roger Clemens** 28 times ... **Roy Halladay** 20 times ... and **Pedro Martinez** 14 times. And none of those guys had *any* immaculate innings against them. But then **Luis Garcia** and **Phil Maton** had two *in the same game*.

- Also in that same period, a gentleman named **Nolan Ryan** pitched four seasons for the Rangers ... threw 572 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings ... struck out 605 hitters ... and never had *any* immaculate innings with the team. But then ... aw, you get the idea.

- And I should probably mention that the Astros had thrown only one immaculate inning (by **Will Harris**) in the last 17 seasons. ... And in those 17 seasons, the list of pitchers who threw zero immaculate innings for them included Verlander, Clemens, **Gerrit Cole**, **Roy Oswalt**, **Zack Greinke**, **Brad Lidge**, **Charlie Morton** and **Lance McCullers Jr.**, among others. ... But then Garcia and Maton fired two of them in the same game. You can't make this stuff up.

OK, so let's see now. What were the odds of that happening? I decided there were two ways to look at that.

I called on Weird and Wild's official math guru/odds calculator, Greg Stoll, inventor of the invaluable Win Expectancy Finder at gregstoll.com. And in mere minutes (or approximately six months faster than it would have taken me), he had the answer.

- The odds of the same team throwing two immaculate innings in the same game? They would be *1 in 7.47 million*.

- But the odds of the same team throwing two immaculate innings in the same game *against the same three hitters*? Now you've got some decimal points spinning. Those odds would be *1 in 67.2 million*.

- Or, to put this in terms we can more easily relate to, this should happen once *every 27,670 seasons*. But it happened Wednesday, in this Weird and Wild season, before our very eyes.

Baseball! It's a beautiful, and occasionally immaculate, thing.

How the Yankees shut down Steph Curry and Steven Stamkos

What a time to be alive. It's NBA Finals time. It's Stanley Cup Final time. It's baseball season. And every once in a while, in my brain at least, the three of them mush together to form a giant must-devour stew.

Which is how I found myself comparing the Yankees to the Warriors, Celtics, Lightning and Avalanche this week.

You see, the Yankees played their 60th game of the season — and came out of it with an almost unheard of .733 winning percentage (44-16). And I thought: You see .733 winning percentages in those other sports all the time. But in baseball? Almost never.

Then, however, I went down a Sports-Reference rabbit hole again and found ... that after 60 games, neither team in the NBA Finals had a .733 winning percentage ... and neither did those two teams in the Stanley Cup Final. And then I thought: Hmmm, I bet that doesn't happen much.

So I asked my friends at STATS Perform to take a look. Glad I did.

- Since **the NBA-ABA merger (in 1976-77)**, STATS found only three baseball teams whose winning percentage after 60 games was better than all four of the finalists in the other two sports after *their* first 60 games:

<u>Year</u>	<u>MLB Leader</u>	<u>Best of NBA/NHL</u>
1998	Yankees .767 (46-14)	Bulls/Jazz .756
2001	Mariners .783 (47-13)	Avalanche .720
2022	Yankees .733 (44-16)	Avalanche .726

Since **NHL expansion (in 1967-68)**, we add three more teams.

<u>Year</u>	<u>MLB Leader</u>	<u>Best of NBA/NHL</u>
1969	Orioles .717 (43-17)	Canadiens .678
1969	Cubs .678 (40-19-1)	Canadiens .678
1968	Tigers .661 (39-20-1)	Celtics .659

Now before that, back in the 1950s, this happened almost every year. So we'll skip past that, because here comes the Yankees' real challenge: Can they pull this off over a *full* season?

Wish them luck. According to STATS, only one team has ever gone on to win the World Series *and* had a better record than all four of the NBA/NHL finalists. You'll be surprised.

<u>Year</u>	<u>MLB Leader</u>	<u>Best of NBA/NHL</u>
1957	Braves .617 (95-69)	Celtics .611

So that was **Henry Aaron's** 1957 Braves, who didn't just beat **Mickey Mantle's** Yankees that year — but also Bill Russell's Celtics! And now it's **Aaron Judge** versus Steph. Who ya got?

CLEMENS ON THE HILL — Fifteen years after **Roger Clemens** threw his final pitch, his son, Kody, ambled over from third base and made his big-league pitching debut Wednesday in a Tigers-White Sox game that went off the rails. I'll try to restrain myself because this could have been its own Weird and Wild column.

Last outing by Roger (9/16/07) — 24 batters faced, 2 hits
First outing by Kody (Wednesday) — 7 batters faced, 3 hits

Hits by Abreus vs. Roger — one (by **Bobby**, on 7/27/05)
Hits by Abreus vs. Kody — one (by **José**, Wednesday)

First walk issued by Kody — to **Danny Mendick** (Wednesday)
Last walk issued by Roger — to **David Ortiz** (9/16/07)

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO VERLANDER/SCHERZER/PRICE? Not so long ago, the Tigers sent three Cy Young Award winners to the mound in pretty much every series. Then on Wednesday, they sent three position players — **Kody Clemens, Barnhart and Harold Castro** — to the mound *in the same game*.

That enabled the White Sox's **Leury García** to make *three outs against position players in one game* (strikeout against Castro, grounded into a double play against Barnhart). But we digress, because...

Over the 105 seasons from 1913 to 2017, we saw exactly one team use three true position players to pitch in the same game. That was **George Bamberger's** 1979 Brewers (**Sal Bando for three innings, Jim Gantner and Buck Martinez**). And then ...

It's now happened three times just since 2018! **David Ross's** Cubs did it twice (July 20, 2018 and April 28, 2021, aka, the Anthony Rizzo Game). And then **A.J. Hinch's** Tigers on Wednesday. Welcome to ...

Baseball! In 2022!

WHAT'S THAT STREAKING IN THE EAST? It was Weird and Wild enough that the Braves and Phillies had simultaneous winning streaks of 10 (Braves) and nine (Phillies) games, respectively, this month. But here's what's truly Weird and Wild about that:

They were that hot, at the same time — *but neither of them was in first place!*

This was another project in which loyal readers egged me on to spend way too much time on it. But here goes:

How many other times in the divisional era (1969-2022)? That would be *no* other times when two teams had concurrent winning streaks that long without either of them starting or ending the streak in first place. So what about ...

How many times before there were divisions (1901-1968)? You'd think this would have been way easier back in the days when there were just "leagues," not four or six divisions, right? I thought so until I looked ... because it happened only two times in the modern era *prior* to divisions:

- On Sept. 30, 1961, the [Pirates](#) had a 12-game win streak going and the Cardinals were at nine — but they were 19 and 14 games out of first, respectively.
- On Sept. 5, 1926, the Senators and Indians each won their ninth game in a row, and a lot of good that did them. They were nine and 14 out of first, respectively.

Shohei Ohtani this week against the Mets. threw a baseball at 101 miles per frigging hour. And then he hit a baseball with an exit velo of 104.4 mph. And that's a thing that isn't supposed to happen.

The only men in the Statcast era (2015-22) to throw a pitch that hard and hit a home run that hard in the same game, according to Statcast Wizard Jason Bernard:

Noah Syndergaard, on Aug. 16, 2016 ... and ... (yep) Ohtani himself, in the epic first inning of his first start as a pitcher last season, on April 4, 2021.

THE 5-5 CLUB — How'd the Mets finish off their Sunday Night Baseball extravaganza against the Angels last weekend? With the first five-out, five-strikeout, no-hit save of **Edwin Díaz**'s career. But that's not all. It was just the sixth five-out, five-whiff, hitless save since the dawn of the modern save rule in 1969. And the other five constitute a spectacular group!

Giovanny Gallegos — 23 days earlier (May 20, 2022)

Armando Benitez — April 4, 1997

Rob Dibble — July 20, 1992

Tom Henke — July 7, 1989

Goose Gossage — May 14, 1982

(SOURCE: *Baseball-Reference/Stathead*)

In other words, four of these *in half a century* ... and then two of these *in three weeks*.

Extra credit: **Josh Hader** (8 outs, 8 K's on April 30, 2018) and **Dibble** again (6 outs, 6 K's on April 23, 1991).

18 AND OUT — Tigers pitcher **Elvin Rodriguez** worked his way into last week's column for his historic 10-run, four-long-ball visit to Yankee Stadium. So at least his next start, last Friday at the Blue Jays, went better than that. As in eight more runs and three more homers. Whereupon ...

The Tigers thought it might be time to get Elvin to Toledo! I'd love to think he'll figure it out and make it back to the majors. But just in case he doesn't, you should know that no pitcher has given up 18 runs in his final two appearances for any team since ...

1940!

And that year, two pitchers did that: **Joe Kraskauskas** (18 and see ya for the Senators) and **George Caster** (23 *in his last two outings* and sayonara for the A's).

SIX OF ONE, HALF-DOZEN OF THE OTHER — **Matt Swarmer** started for the Cubs last Saturday at Yankee Stadium and did something that hadn't been done by any Cubs pitcher since ... 1884!

Let's sum up his day this way:

Swarmer last Saturday: 6 home runs to 22 batters

Jake Arrieta in 2014: 5 home runs all season — to 614 batters

OUT OF SIGHT — Tuesday in St. Louis, **Yadi Molina** caught a foul popup. Apparently, he's done it before — because it was the 14,865th putout of his remarkable career. And it meant he has now recorded more putouts than any catcher who ever lived.

But when you just say that, it still doesn't put it in its proper perspective. So how about this:

- That's more putouts behind the plate than **Yogi Berra** (19 seasons) and **Manny Sanguillen** (13 seasons) combined.
- It's more putouts than **Mike Scioscia** (13 seasons) and **Mickey Cochrane** (13 seasons) combined.
- It's more putouts than **Bill Dickey** (17 seasons) and **Elston Howard** (15 seasons) combined.
- And it's more putouts than his two brothers — **Bengie and José** (28 total seasons) — combined.

JOE WILHOIT-ONE OF BASEBALL'S GREATEST COMEBACKS

ALWAYS INTERESTING HISTORY FROM BASEBALLROUNDTABLE.COM

Today seems like an appropriate time to revisit one of professional baseball's greatest comebacks. In 1919, Wichita Jobbers' outfielder **Joe Wilhoit's** professional baseball career appeared to be "down and out." In fact, it was a moral victory and, perhaps, a morale booster, when he beat out an infield single in the first inning of a game played on this date (June 14) in the 1919 Western League season. Wilhoit, a former major leaguer who had appeared in the World Series just two years before, found himself playing in the low minor leagues (Class A) and struggling to hit his weight (the 6' 2", 175-pounder was hitting just .198 at the time). *Little did Wilhoit realize that his scratch hit would start a comeback that stretched all the way to the Boston Red Sox and the baseball record books.* But I'm getting ahead of myself here. Let's take a look at Joe Wilhoit's baseball journey.

Wilhoit, a "plus" outfielder, got a late start on his professional career (after attending DePaul University), but seemed destined to make the most of it. In 1916, at age 30, he was signed by the National League Boston Braves after hitting a combined .323 in three minor-league seasons (394 games).

Note: Wilhoit did play semi-pro ball while at DePaul and "late start" may be a misnomer, as Wilhoit's year of birth – listed as 1885 in the Baseball Encyclopedia – has been noted as being as late as 1891 in other sources.

On Opening Day 1916, Wilhoit found himself batting third and playing RF for the Boston club – going 0-for-3, but driving in a run on a sacrifice fly as the Braves won 5-1 over Brooklyn. Major League pitching proved tough to handle for Wilhoit, who managed just four hits in 31 at bats in his first month in the big leagues. He finished his rookie season hitting .230, with two homers, 28 RBI and 18 steals in 116 games.

The following year, Wilhoit truly "hit the road." He started the season with the Braves, hitting .274 in 54 games. Then in late July, the Braves let him go (for the waiver price) to the Pirates, where he played in just nine games (getting two hits in 10 at bats) before moving on again (on August 5) in another waiver move, this time to the contending New York Giants. Wilhoit seemed to finally find his stroke, finishing up the season by hitting .340 in 34 games (17-for-50) with the Giants. He even got into two games in the World Series (as a pinch hitter) – lining into a double play in the eighth inning of game two and drawing a walk in the fifth inning of game six. In 1918, however, he was unable to repeat his late 1917 magic and he got into just 64 games for the Giants, hitting .274, with no home runs and 15 RBI.

In 1919, the downward slide became steeper, as Wilhoit started the year with the Seattle Rainiers of the Pacific Coast League, where he was hitting just .164 after 17 games. Next stop on the slide was Wichita of the Class-A Western League, where (as noted earlier in this post) Joe's hitting woes continued – until that June 14, 1919, infield single.

From that moment forward, Joe Wilhoit embarked on an unbelievable – and still unmatched – hitting streak. From June 14 to August 19, Wilhoit hit in a professional baseball record 69 consecutive games. During the streak, Wilhoit had 50 multi-hit games, compiled a .515 batting average (153 for 297), and collected 37 extra base hits (four home runs, nine triples and 24 doubles). Wilhoit ultimately led the Western League in batting average at .422 – collecting 222 hits in 128 games. *Side note: Some sources indicate Wilhoit went 153-for-299 during the streak (a .512 average).*

The biggest mid-streak threat came in game 62 (the first game of an August 14 double header) at Omaha. Wilhoit was hitless after nine innings – and with the score tied 3-3 in the Omaha half of the ninth, the potential winning (and streak-ending) run was thrown out at the plate. Wilhoit, given new life, continued the streak in style, with a game-winning two-run home run in the 11th inning.

The streak finally ended (at 69 games) on August 20, with Wichita playing Tulsa in Wichita. Wilhoit came to the plate four times and recorded a strikeout, fly out and ground out, before drawing an unpopular walk in his final trip to the plate. The home town fans reportedly gave Joe a long ovation and passed hats through the stands – collecting more than \$600 for the popular outfielder (the average monthly pay in Class A at the time was around \$200).





Wilhoit's comeback earned him a return ticket to the major leagues, where he went 6-for-18 (.333) with five walks in six games with the Boston Red Sox. Despite the late season look, Wilhoit was back in the minors in 1920, hitting .300 at AA Toledo. From there, it was three seasons at Salt Lake City of the Pacific Coast League – where he hit .339, .317 and .360, before retiring from baseball. Wilhoit died of lung cancer in 1930.

Joe Wilhoit stats: **Major Leagues** – four seasons (283 games), .257-3-74, with 93 runs scored and 28 steals; **Minor Leagues** – eight seasons (1,101 games), .336, with 33 home runs and 26 steals.

SURRENDERING SIX HOMERS IN A GAME



On June 12 in 1886, the National League St. Louis Maroons' righty **Charlie Sweeney** set an all-time MLB record by giving up seven home runs in a single game. Sweeney gave up 21 hits (including the seven dingers) in a 14-7 loss to the Detroit Wolverines. Why do I note that "accomplishment" here? Because, just yesterday, Cubs' 28-year-old rookie right-hander **Matt Swarmer** tied the modern (post-1900) MLB record by giving up six homers in an 8-0 loss to the Yankees in New York. More on that in a paragraph or two, but first let's look at Sweeney. Notably, that season, Sweeney gave up just two more long balls in his other 10 starts (all complete games). On the season, he was 5-6, 4.16.

Sweeney pitched in the major leagues (National League, Union Association and American Association) from 1883-1887 and, in 1884, went a combined 41-15, 1.70 for the NL Providence Grays and Union Association Saint Louis Maroons. That season, he pitched 492 innings (53 complete games) and fanned 337 batters. It was the 21-year-old's second major league season – he had gone 7-7, 3.13 in 20 games for Providence in 1883 – and there is evidence the heavy 1884 workload took a toll on Sweeney's arm. (*In his final three MLB seasons, Sweeney was 16-30, 4.24 and fanned just 120 in 392 frames*). Sweeney is also reported to have had issues with adult beverage consumption and a hot temper. (In later life, he had several brushes with the law triggered by violent confrontations.) Notably, over his career, he surrendered just 24 home runs in 1,030 2/3 innings

Now back to Swarmer. His six-homer game came in his third MLB start. He was 1-1, 1.50 going into the game, and had surrendered three long balls in 12 innings. In the June 11 contest he gave up a:

- solo homer to Yankee DH **Aaron Judge** on his second pitch of the game (Judge led off the bottom of the first);
- solo home run to RF **Giancarlo Stanton** with one out in the fourth;
- solo homer to 2B **Gleyber Torres** on the very next pitch;

- solo shot to C **Jose Trevino** leading off the fifth;
- solo long ball to **Judge** with one out in the fifth; and
- solo shot to 1B **Anthony Rizzo** with two out in the fifth.

Swarmier pitched five innings and gave up six runs on seven hits, walking none and fanning four. He became just the tenth pitcher since 1900 to give up six homers in a game and just the second to give up six solo shots in a single game.

Let's briefly look at the rest of the list of six-homer pitching appearances. As you skim through these you may note that of the ten six-homer games in the modern era:

- Only one pitcher became a six-homer victim in relief;
- Three "victims" actually recorded victories in their games;
- All the pitchers on the list are right-handers;
- There are two complete games on the list;
- One pitcher gave up six home runs in his only MLB start;
- The shortest six-homer outing (tied) was 2 1/3 innings;
- In three of the games, the opposing pitcher launched one of the long balls.

Larry Benton, RHP, Giants ... May 12, 1930

The 34-year-old righty Benton was in his eighth MLB season, when he started against the Cubs (in Chicago) and gave up nine hits, seven runs (six home runs) in a 6 2/3- inning stint. Notably, Benton, got the win despite giving up the six long balls. He took a 14-0 lead into the bottom of the fifth when he gave up a two-out solo home run to Cubs' RF Cliff Heathcote. In the sixth, Benton surrendered three-run shot to 2B **Clyde Beck**. In the seventh, he gave up solo home runs to Heathcote; CF **Hack Wilson** and 1B **Charlie Grimm**, as well as a three-run blast to Beck (ending Benton's day after 6 2/3 frames). Benton finished the season at 8-15, 5.50. For his 13 season MLB career, he was 128-128, 4.03 and gave up 0.4 home runs per nine innings. For the Giants in 1926, he went 25-6, 2.73 – leading the league in wins and complete games (28 in 36 starts).

Hollis "Sloppy" Thurston, RHP, Dodgers ... August 13, 1932

The 33-year-old Thurston was in the eighth of nine MLB season when he gave up six homers to the Giants in an 18-9 Dodgers road win. Despite the long balls, Thurston pitched a complete game – giving up eight earned runs on nine hits. (The Dodgers collected 24 hits and three home runs of their own.)

Thurston gave up consecutive, one-out, solo home runs to 1B **Bill Terry**, RF **Mel Ott** and CF **Freddie Lindstrom** in the fourth; a solo shot to Terry in the fifth; and solo shots to Terry and Ott with two outs in the ninth.

Thurston went 12-8, 4.06 on the season and 89-86, 4.24 in nine MLB campaigns. Over his career, he gave up 0.5 home runs per nine innings. In 1925, with the White Sox, he went 20-14, 3.80 and led the AL in complete games (28) and innings pitched 330.

Tommy Thomas, RHP, Browns ... June 27, 1936

Wow! Another six-homer complete game. Thomas went the distance for the Browns in a 10-6 loss to the Yankees (16 hits, six walks, two whiffs) in St. Louis. (The Browns did lead 4-1 after four innings). The home runs included: a solo shot by Yankee P **Red Ruffing** leading off the third; a solo shot by SS **Frankie Crosetti** leading off the fifth and a three-run home later in the inning by LF **George Selkirk**; solo home runs by RF **Joe DiMaggio** and 1B **Lou Gehrig** (the first two batters) in the seventh; a three-run dinger by Crosetti in the ninth.

Thomas went 11-9, 5.26 in 1936 and 117-128, 4.11 in 12 MLB seasons (1926-37). He gave up 0.6 HR per nine innings over his career. His best season was 1927, when he went 19-16, 2.98 for the White Sox, leading the AL in 307 2/3 innings pitched.

Bill Kersieck, RHP, Phillies ... August 13, 1939

Kersieck did not last long the big leagues, just one season, with an 0-2 record and a 7.18 ERA in 23 games (two starts). In his first-ever start, he lasted four innings (Phillies versus Giants in New York) and left after giving up seven runs on seven hits (six home runs among them) and four walks. He took the loss as the Phillies fell 11-2. Kersieck gave up a solo homer to CF **Frank Demaree** with two outs in the first; a two-run shot to Demaree in the third; and solo shots to 1B **Zeke Bonura**, 2B **Alex Kampouris**, P **Bill Lohrman** and LF **Jo-Jo Moore** in the fourth (the last three consecutively).

Kersieck's final career line was 0-2, 7.18 in 23 appearances (giving up 1.9 home runs per nine innings). He did pitch one complete game – a 6-1 loss to the Cubs on September 15, 1939 in which he gave up 14 hits in eight innings.

George Caster, RHP, Athletics ... September 24, 1940

Caster's six-homer game came in a season (1940) when he led the AL with 19 losses (four wins and a 6.56 ERA). Caster has the distinction of tying for the fewest innings pitched while giving up six homers in a game – 2 1/3 frames. Caster came on in relief to open the fourth inning, with his Athletics down 5-3 to the Red Sox (in Philadelphia). That frame, he gave up a two-run home run to Ted Williams in the fourth and a solo shot to **Joe Cronin** in the fifth. Then in the fifth, the roof fell in. (Well, there really weren't any "roofed" ballparks at the time, so maybe the sky tumbled down.) It went like this:

- Triple CF **Dom DiMaggio**;
- Sacrifice fly, scoring DiMaggio, by RF **Doc Cramer**;
- Solo Homer, LF **Ted Williams**;

- Solo Homer, 1B **Jimmie Foxx**;
- Solo Homer, SS Joe Cronin;
- Triple, 2B **Bobby Doerr**;
- Two-run homer, 3B **Jim Tabor**;
- **Les McCrabb** relievers Caster.

Caster pitched in 12 MLB seasons (1934-35, 1937-46), going 76-100. He twice led the AL in losses (1938 and 1940). He also had a league-topping 12 saves in 1944, when he went 4-4, 2.44 in 42 games (his best MLB season). He gave up 0.8 HR per nine innings over his career.

Tim Wakefield, RHP, Red Sox August 8, 2004

Wakefield lasted five innings in his August 8, 2004 start for the Red Sox (versus the Tigers in Detroit), Surprisingly, despite giving up six home runs in five innings, he left with a 10-7 lead and got credit for the ultimate 11-9 victory. Wakefield gave up a solo home runs to C **Ivan Rodriguez** with two outs in the bottom of the first; consecutive solo shots to RF **Craig Monroe** and 3B **Eric Munson** with one out in the second; solo home runs to **Alex Rodriguez** and 1B **Carlos Pena** in the third; and a solo shot to DH **Dmitri Young** in the fifth. Wakefield was in his 12th MLB season at the time of the six-homer game. He finished the campaign at 12-10, 4.87 – and his career stat line was 200-180, 4.41. The one-time All Star gave up 1.2 home runs per game over his career.

R.A. Dickey, RHP, Rangers April 6, 2006

The 31-year-old Dickey pitched in just one MLB game in 2006 (he had 22 minor-league appearances/19 starts that season). In fact, Dickey, who broke into professional baseball in 1997, spent at least part of every season from 1997 through 2010 in the minor leagues – before pitching seven full MLB seasons (2011-17, Mets, Blue Jays, Braves) during which: he went 87-81 in 269 games (226 starts); led the league in starts three times; and won a Cy Young Award (2012 Mets). In his April 6, 2006, start (for the Rangers) versus the Tigers in Texas, he lasted 3 1/3 innings, giving up seven runs on eight hits and one walk, while fanning one. The six homers went: solo shot, 3B **Brandon Inge** leading off the top of the first; solo home run for RF **Magglio Ordonez** with two out in the first; solo homer by 1B **Chris Shelton** leading off the second; solo homer by Shelton (again) with one out in the fourth; two-run homer by CF **Craig Monroe** and solo homer by LF **Marcus Thames** also with one out in the fourth.

Dickey pitched in 15 MLB seasons and went 120-118, 4.04 in 400 appearances (300 starts). In 2012, when he won the NL Cy Young Award, he went 20-6, 2.73 and led the league in starts (33), complete games (5), shutouts (3), innings pitched (233 1/3) and strikeouts (230). He gave up 1.1 home runs per nine innings over his MLB career.

James Shields, RHP, Rays ... August 7, 2010

Shields started for the Rays (against the Blue Jays in Toronto) on August 7, 2010. He lasted just four innings in a 17-11 slugfest won by the Blue Jays. Shields took the loss, giving up eight runs on nine hits and four walks, fanning two. The home runs: a two-run homer by C **J.P. Arencibia** in the bottom of the second; a home run (on the first pitch) to DH Adam Lind leading off the second, followed in the inning by a home run by 2B Aaron Hill, a fly out and a home run by 3B **Edwin Encarnacion**; a home run by RF **Jose Bautista** leading off the fourth and a home run by Hill with two outs in the inning (both solos).

Shields pitched in 13 MLB seasons (2006-2018) and went 145-139, 4.01, giving up 1.2 home runs per nine innings. In that 2010 season, he went 13-15, 5.18. In 2016, he tied for the MLB lead in losses with 19 and, in 2018 (his final season), he tied for the MLB lead with 16 losses. His best season was 2011, when he went 16-12, 2.82 for the Rays and was an All Star selection.

Michael Blazek, RHP, Brewers ... July 27, 2017

Blazek lasted just 2 1/3 innings (tied for the fewest among the games in this list) in his July 27, 2017 start for the Brewers (versus the Nationals in Washington D.C.). He gave up eight runs on seven hits and one walk (four whiffs) in a 15-2 Brewers' loss. **It was his only career MLB start.**

He gave up just two runs over the first two innings (on a Bryce Harper home run in the first), but things unraveled in the bottom of the third:

- P **Max Scherzer** walked;
- CF **Brian Goodwin** homered;
- SS **Wilmer Difo** homered;
- RF **Bryce Harper** homered;
- 1B **Ryan Zimmerman** homered;
- 2B **Daniel Murphy** flied out;
- 3B **Anthony Rendon**, homered;
- **Wily Peralta** relieved Blazek.

Blazek pitched five MLB seasons (2013, 2015-17, 2019) and went 8-6, 4.50 in 113 games (just one start). He gave up 1.4 HRs per nine innings. His best season was 2015, when he went 5-3, 2.43 for the Brewers in 45 appearances.

Primary Resource: Baseball-Reference.com

LOU BOUDREAU PROVED BILL VEECK WRONG

Baseballegg.com

Probably no other individual in history won a pennant and World Series for spite. But that's what **Lou Boudreau** did in 1948.

The object of Lou's prideful venom was the team owner: **Bill Veeck**, who had a pretty large chip on his shoulder too.

All Boudreau did in '48 was hit .355 with 199 hits, 34 doubles, 18 home runs, and 106 RBI. He played in all but two games and Cleveland won their first pennant in nearly three decades. The team finished in a flatfooted tie with the Red Sox, and in a one-game playoff to decide the flag at Fenway Park, Boudreau went 4-for-4 with a pair of home runs. In the World Series, Handsome Lou drove in three more runs and the team won the championship. Cleveland is still waiting to repeat that feat.

But Lou didn't just do those things in 1948. Had it been so, that would have been enough to make him one of the most important shortstops in baseball history. No, Boudreau was also the manager of the Indians that season. Considering all he did: playing a brilliant shortstop, managing the roster, making the pitching changes, coddling the egos of a veteran clubhouse, and navigating the delicate situations of a newly integrated team, his was one of the most amazing seasons any man has ever produced in baseball history.

But just two years earlier, Veeck had tried to trade his shortstop and remove the managerial reins from Lou's clutches.

"I liked Lou," Veeck said later, "but when I bought the team I wanted him to do one thing: play shortstop. I didn't think my star should be managing too. When I couldn't convince [Boudreau] to step down I decided to trade him."

The Browns agreed in principle to a deal for Boudreau in 1947, but it fell through when St. Louis could not satisfy Lou's demands to be paid like a manager/player.

"The best and worst thing I ever did was try to get rid of Boudreau," Veeck said. "He got back at me by winning the pennant and World Series."

Indeed, the city of Cleveland probably would have revolted against Veeck had he succeeded in trading their star shortstop/manager. The team had elevated Lou to the position in 1942 when the Illinois native was just 24, making him the youngest manager in baseball history.

When fans got word in 1947 that Veeck was trying to deal Lou, throngs of them showed up at the team offices to protest. Newspaper editorials criticized Boudreau and threatened a boycott. That was enough to make Wild Bill rethink his strategy. His reward was the magical '48 season.

Boudreau was a superstar before he ever wore the uniform of the Indians. At the University of Illinois, Lou was a two-sport star in basketball and baseball. He preferred the court to the diamond, but in the late 1930s, there was more money and fame in baseball. In 1939 he took over at short and held that position in Cleveland for more than a decade. He was a five-time All-Star, and in 1948 he was named American League Most Valuable Player.

"I never worried about anything hit to the left of me," said teammate and third baseman **Ken Keltner**. "Lou would get it."

Boudreau was a fundamentally gifted athlete. He was known as one of the smartest players in baseball, even at a young age. He revised the defensive shift and made it even more dramatic, employing it against **Ted Williams** and other great hitters. He also learned to rely on his catcher to help manage the pitching staff. **Jim Hegan** became one of his best friends, and the two men basically spoke a secret language when they were in the field defensively, calling pitches and plays.

He was always on the lookout to get two outs instead of one: Boudreau still holds the AL record for most seasons leading the league in turning double plays by a shortstop, with five.

After the Indians let him go, Boudreau played for and later managed Boston. He never again won a pennant, but managed more than 2,400 games, his last for the Cubs in 1960, returning him to his beloved Illinois.

Maybe he had to be in the field, hovering over the dusty infield, staring at his catcher and the enemy batter to be effective. Maybe that's why Boudreau's success as a skipper came when he was young and still sweating as a player under the heavy flannels of a uniform.

"I loved beating the other team," Boudreau said years later. "The best feeling is knowing you did everything to defeat your opponent, that they couldn't stop you."

Boudreau was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1970. Bill Veeck sent a congratulatory telegram. According to Mrs. Boudreau, Lou tossed it in the waste basket. "He never read it," she said.

FOR FATHERS DAY, A LOOK AT THE BEST FATHER-SON BASEBALL PAIRS.

Baseball-Reference.com's Wins Above Replacement (WAR) was used as a rough guideline, with preference given to pairs in which both players achieved significant success. That's why each player on the list accrued at least 10 career WAR, while some other duos that include a Hall of Famer (Yogi Berra, Tony Gwynn, Tony Perez and Tim Lincecum, for example) were not included.

All pairs are listed with the father first, and each player's career WAR in parenthesis.

1. Bobby Bonds (57.9) and Barry Bonds (162.7)

No player in MLB history has racked up more WAR as a position player than the younger Bonds, a seven-time MVP Award winner who owns the single-season and career home run records and pretty much rewrote baseball in the early 2000s. Only allegations of performance-enhancing drug use have kept him waiting for Cooperstown's call. And while Barry overshadows his father, Bobby shouldn't be underrated. The two Bondses are the only two players in history to combine for at least 300 career home runs with at least 400 steals, as well as the only two to go 20-20 in 10 different seasons.

2. Ken Griffey Sr. (34.5) and Ken Griffey Jr. (83.8)

This pair actually played together with the 1990-91 Mariners, famously smacking back-to-back home runs against the Angels on Sept. 14, 1990. At the time, Griffey Sr. was finishing up a 19-year career that included three All-Star selections and a pair of World Series rings with the Big Red Machine. While he was more steady than spectacular -- logging an OPS+ between 96 and 129 in 14 seasons -- his son became a megastar. With 630 home runs and 10 Gold Glove Awards, Griffey Jr. cruised into Cooperstown on the first ballot in 2016

3. Felipe Alou (42.2) and Moises Alou (39.9)

This isn't even the whole baseball family. Felipe's brothers, Jesus and Matty, both played 15 seasons in the Majors, with the latter also producing more than 20 WAR. Their cousin Jose Sosa, pitched briefly in MLB, and their nephew **Mel Rojas** pitched 10 seasons and collected 126 saves. And another of Felipe's sons, Luis Rojas, managed the Mets in 2020-21. But just between the two of them, Felipe and Moises played 34 MLB seasons and racked up more than 4,200 hits, 500 home runs and 750 doubles. And that doesn't include Felipe's 14 years as a manager in Montreal and San Francisco.

4. Vladimir Guerrero (59.5) and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. (11.3)

There is still plenty of time for this combo to move up on this list. Despite being just 23 years old and in his fourth Major League season, Vlad Jr. and his father are already the fourth-most valuable father-son pairing in baseball history. And Junior is well on his way to matching Senior's Hall of Fame career numbers. On June 13, the Blue Jays star played in his 403rd career game and slugged his 87th career home run, lifting his career on-base percentage to .363. A little under 25 years ago, there was another fresh-faced Dominican slugger taking Canada by storm -- Vladimir Guerrero. Vlad Sr. made an immediate impact on the Montreal Expos, becoming one of the best players in franchise history. Through his first 403 career games, he hit 87 home runs and had an OBP of .364 -- just a smidge better than Junior. If this trend continues, we should expect another 40-some-odd WAR from Vlad Jr. and another 350 or so home runs.

5. Ray Boone (25.8) and Bob Boone (27.4)

There actually have been four big league Boones across three generations, and this pair could just as easily include either of Bob's sons, Bret (22.8 WAR) or Aaron (13.5 WAR), who also manages the Yankees. Bob, a seven-time Gold Glove Award winner, played 19 MLB seasons and ranks third all-time with 2,225 career games caught. His father, Ray, posted a 114 OPS+ in 13 seasons as an infielder, snagging a pair of All-Star selections.

6. Mel Stottlemyre (40.7) and Todd Stottlemyre (21.0)

For some reason, MLB's father/son duos are *heavily* tilted toward position players, with the Stottlemyres two of just four pitchers on this list. Mel made five All-Star teams in 11 seasons with the Yankees and posted a career 112 ERA+, but he might have been even better as a pitching coach, earning four World Series rings in that role with the Yanks after winning one with the Mets. Mel also had two sons pitch in the Majors, and while Mel Jr. lasted just one season, Todd carved out a 14-year career in which he threw more than 2,000 innings and won rings with the 1992 and '93 Blue Jays.

7. José Cruz (54.4) and José Cruz Jr. (19.6)

Like Felipe Alou, Jose Cruz was one of a trio of MLB brothers, with Hector spending nine seasons in the bigs and Tommy getting a couple cups of coffee. José played 19 MLB seasons, including 13 with the Astros, and he ranks among that franchise's all-time leaders in many offensive categories, including third in WAR, hits, and stolen bases, and first in triples. His son became the third overall pick in the 1995 Draft and put together a solid 12-year career of his own, including a 30-30 campaign for Toronto in 2001.

8. Gus Bell (15.8) and Buddy Bell (66.3)

Like the Boones, the Bells have three generations of Major Leaguers, the most recent of which features brothers (David and Mike). While David (the current manager of the Reds) essentially equaled Gus' WAR total, Gus was a four-time All-Star outfielder with the Reds in the 1950s. Buddy made five Midsummer Classics himself, winning six Gold Glove Awards at the hot corner and producing four seasons of at least 6 WAR. Only nine players who have spent at least two-thirds of their career at third base have accrued more value.

9. Sandy Alomar (10.5) and Roberto Alomar (67.0)

Mainly a second baseman, Sandy Alomar generated most of his value from his glove and his baserunning over 15 seasons, recording 227 steals. Yet he had two sons who enjoyed even more successful careers, with the younger Sandy becoming a Rookie of the Year Award winner and six-time All-Star catcher, and Roberto developing into a Hall of Fame second baseman. The latter made 12 straight All-Star squads from 1990-2001, captured 10 Gold Glove Awards and won a pair of World Series titles with the 1992-93 Blue Jays.

10. Dizzy Trout (45.2) and Steve Trout (13.2)

While there's no relation to Mike Trout, these two did plenty well. Dizzy (given name: Paul) spent most of his 15-year career with the Tigers and pitched in more than 500 games. He was a two-time All-Star and finished as the AL MVP runner-up to teammate **Hal Newhouser** in 1944, when he led the AL with 40 starts, 33 complete games, 351 1/3 innings and a 2.12 ERA. The next year, Dizzy helped Detroit to a World Series victory over the Cubs. For his part, Steve was the eighth overall pick in the 1976 Draft by the White Sox and started more than 200 big league games over 12 seasons.

11. Cecil Fielder (17.2) and Prince Fielder (23.8)

Both father and son were imposing, powerful sluggers. Both, amazingly, finished with exactly

319 career home runs. Cecil placed second in the AL MVP race with the Tigers in both 1990 and '91, when he walloped a combined 95 home runs and drove in 265. Prince reached the 50-homer mark himself in 2007 and was an even more accomplished hitter than his father, with a career 134 OPS+. Unfortunately, a neck injury forced him into an early retirement at age 32 in 2016.

Some other notable pairs:

- **Randy Hundley and Todd Hundley**
- **Julian Javier and Stan Javier**
- **Dave LaRoche and Adam LaRoche**
- **Vern Law and Vance Law**
- **Gary Matthews Sr. and Gary Matthews Jr.**
- **Hal McRae and Brian McRae**

THIS WEEK'S TRIVIA CHALLENGE ANSWERS

On the Fenway scoreboard it mentioned that **JD Martinez** is one of five players who have hit 3 HRs in a game for three different teams. Name them.

The other four:

Mark Teixeira	Rangers-Braves-Yankees
Dave Kingman	Mets-Cubs-A's
ARod	Mariners-Rangers-Yankees
Johnny Mize	Cardinals-New York Giants-Yankees

HOUSEKEEPING

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