

## Mariners defend dome, take 2 of 3 from Twins.

Seattle felt like they didn't play well in their opening series, and were hoping to prove to the home fans their first series was a fluke. Randy Johnson took the mound for the home side against Tim Wakefield and a pitchers duel ensued. Wakefield allowed only 3 runs in 8 IP, but the Unit countered with 11 Ks of 7.1 and his 2 ER stood up in a 3-2 final. Reggie Sanders was the hitting star going 3-3 with 2 RBI. Curt Schilling set out to even the series in Game 2 for the Twins, and he held a 2-1 lead into the bottom of the ninth, but a Mike Blowers single tied the game honoring a great outing for starter Donovan Osborne (8.1 IP 7Ks, 2 HR (Bonds and McGwire)). Seattle finished it off in the bottom of 10 with a Larry Walker triple scoring Jim Edmonds for the win. Seattle went for the sweep with Jeff Fassero and held a 4-0 lead through 6, but the Twins scored 7 in the next two at bats to win 7-4. Mark McGwire and Todd Zeile both homered in the 7th and Mike Macfarlane pinch hit to drive in the winning runs in the 8th.

## Yankees sweep Cardinals

The New York Yankees hosted the St. Louis Cardinals in the Bronx and swept the visitors 6-3, 6-2, 8-2. More impressively, they did it by beating the Cardinals big three starters; Pedro Martinez, Roger Clemens, and John Smoltz. In game 1 Ismael Valdes allowed just 2 ER over 8.1 IP for the win. Pedro Martinez K'd 12, but allowed 12 hits and 5 ER over 6 innings to take the loss. Paul Wilson went 6 IP in game 2 to beat Clemens who lasted only 4.1 IP. In game 3, Scott Sanders relieved an injured Todd Stottlemyre for the win as John Smoltz lasted only 3 innings. Ivan Rodriguez and Mark McLemore each went 6-12 in the series, 10 different Yankees drove in a run during the series, a true team effort.

### League Standings as of this Morning

	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago Cubs	12	3	.800	-
Toronto BlueJays	10	5	.667	2
New York Yankees	9	6	.600	3
San Diego Padres	9	6	.600	3
Los Angeles Dodgers	5	4	.556	4
St. Louis Cardinals	8	7	.533	4
Seattle Mariners	9	9	.500	4.5
Oakland A's	5	7	.417	5.5
Kansas City Royals	4	8	.333	6.5
Minnesota Twins	5	10	.333	7
Atlanta Braves	2	7	.222	7
New York Mets	6	12	.333	7.5

## Dodgers win 2 of 3 from NYY

The 4-2 L.A. Dodgers welcomed the 5-1 Bronx Bombers to Chavez Ravine for an important early season series. L.A. jumped out early as Mickey Tettleton homered to score 2 and Jorge Fabregas doubled in another for an early 3-0 lead for the home side off Yankee starter Todd Stottlemyre. Tom Candiotti had entered the game for injured starter Ramon Martinez and would eventually get the win. Jeff Shaw pitched 4 innings for a save in his best Rollie Fingers impression from 1971 in the 5-1 Dodger win. The frustrated Yankees unloaded on the Dodger bullpen in game 2. Los Angeles took a 2-1 lead into the 9th but Mike Fetters blew the save on a 2-out single by Marquis Grissom. After an easy 9th for Mariano Rivera, the Bombers were at it again in the 10th. Greg McMichael relieved Fetters after a 1-out error put runners on first and second. After striking out Thomas Howard, McMichael allowed single-double-walk-single-single-single for 6 runs, 4 earned and an 8-2 Yankee win. Game 3 was a 9 inning battle of great pitching, and Los Angeles had Greg Maddux to give them a little edge and a 3-2 victory. In the bottom of the 8th, LA got to Roberto Hernandez on a single by Julio Franco and a groundout by Bobby Bonilla. Fetters aided Maddux in the 9th and held on for a 3-2 win for L.A.

## Padres win 2 of 3 in K.C.

San Diego traveled to Kansas City and scored 1 in the top of the first but lost captain Tony Gwynn for the series. In the bottom of the first, former Padre Albert Belle belted a 3 run homer and flashed last seasons title ring at the bench on his middle finger leading the Royals to 7 straight runs. The Padres were never really able to make a game of it and lost 12-9. SD pitcher Kevin Brown took the hill for game 2 and dominated for a Padres 5-1 win. Brown's complete game 6 hitter with 8 Ks never let the Royals get going. Russ Springer was great out of the pen for the home side, but with only 6 singles in 9 innings it became a wasted effort. Game 3 was a back and forth battle early. With KC leading 3-2 in the 5th, the Padres scored 3 to take the lead 5-3, and three more in the seventh to extend to 8-4. 1B Will Clark led the charge going 4-5 and Steve Finley scored 4.

## Cardinals lose first series of year, 1-2 vs. Seattle

Seattle was able to take game 1 of the series behind a heroic effort from Chan Ho Park. Darryl Kile started for Seattle and had a collision covering first base that injured both himself and Cardinals catcher Jason Kendall. Park entered the game with no outs and runners on the corners and pitched his way out of the jam scoreless as part of his 5.2 IP for the win. Jim Edmonds was the hitting hero (3-5, 1R, 2rbi) to beat Roger Clemens. St. Louis bounced back in game 2 as Bobby Jones earned win # 1 and CL Trevor Hoffman save # 3 in a 5-3 Cardinals victory. Jason Kendall returned from the previous day injury to go 4-5 and raise his average to .393 Sean Estes pitched well for 5 innings but took the loss. Game 3 was an 11 inning thriller that is our game of the week (see pg. 2) where John Smoltz and Randy Johnson battled a hard 9 until the bullpens settled it in 11 with a 4-3 Mariners victory.

## Twins sweep series against the Braves in close games.

The Braves flew up to the land of a thousand lakes for an early season series in Minnesota, and despite a valiant fight, the home side showed no mercy and took the brooms to them 4-3, 2-1, and 7-5. In game 1 Willie McGee gave the visitors a 2-1 lead with an inside the park homer and Mariano Duncan gave Atlanta a 3-2 lead in the 8th on a single, but Mark McGwire hit a 2-run game winning homer in the bottom of the 8th. In game 2, a 1-0 Braves lead was undone by a 421 foot bomb to dead center field by Big Cecil Fielder in the 6th and a Mark McGwire sacrifice fly in the 7th that scored speedy Delino DeShields to give the Twins a 2-1 victory. More of the same in game 3, as a 2-0 Brave lead through two was undone by a 3-run 451 foot bomb from Barry Bonds and a Pat Mears triple in the 4th gave the Twins a 5-3 lead that became a 7-5 final. Atlanta will need to fix it's late game pitching issues or it could be a long year.

## Toronto wins series vs KC

The Blue Jays continued their early winning ways winning games 1 and 3 of a series against the Royals 4-3 and 4-0. Kansas City jumped out 3-0 in the first thanks to RBI from Ellis Burks, Albert Belle, and Tino Martinez, but never score again. Ken Griffey Jr's 3 rbi and solid pitching from Al Leiter, John Wetteland, and Jeff Brantley were enough to come back and take the game. Kevin Appier and the bullpen shut out the Royals in game 3 and four different Jays knocked in a run. Manny Ramirez continued his hot start going 3-4. Game 2 however was a vengeful night for the Royals. 18 runs and 21 hits off Mark Leiter, Eddie Guardado, Randy Myers and Chuck McElroy were enjoyed as every Royal had ate least 1 hit. Melvin Nieves went 4-6 driving in 4, Ken Caminiti drove in 4 more going 3-6, and Mike Greenwell went 4-5 with three more rbi. Mike Mussina got his 3rd win of the year.

## Cubs start season 10-2 after winning series vs. Mariners.

The Chicago Cubs have started the 1996 season on fire, winning in every possible way. Game 1 of this series was a 10 inning pitching masterpiece where Mark Clark, Pedro Borbon and Mel Rojas combined for just 2 hits and 6 walks over 37 batters and 30 outs. Dave Nilsson singled for the winning blow to score Roberto Alomar in a 1-0 win. Jaime Navarro took the hill in game 2 against Darryl Kile and allowed just 4 hits in 6.1 IP before T.J. Matthews and Robb Nen combined for 2.2 innings of no-hit relief. Reggie Sanders 6th HR of the year was the only run for Seattle as Wade Boggs, Robbie Alomar, and Barry Larkin each drove in one for the Cubbies. At 10-1 to start the year, Chicago went for the sweep with Mark Portugal on the mound, but Donovan Osborne and the Mariners had enough. Larry Walker drove in 3 with a homer in the 5th after he had already scored in the first on a sacrifice fly by Mike Piazza to give Seattle a four run lead. John Mabry and Tom Goodwin drove in runs in the 6th to cut the lead to 4-2, but in the 7th Ozzie Smith homered to right; that's right- a homer for the Wizard; and the Mariner bullpen made it stand up. Randy Johnson came in on his bullpen throw day to pick up the save!

## StL/Sea Gm.3 wins G.O.W.

Randy Johnson (Sea) and John Smoltz (StL) battled in a pitchers duel for our game of the week. The Big Unit tossed a no hitter through 4 IP and then Reggie Sanders hit a 509 foot bomb to give Seattle a 2-0 lead. It seemed like that would be enough, but not against these Cards. In the 7th Dante Bichette started a rally and B.J. Surhoff came of the bench for a PH 3-run dinger for the lead. Smoltz cruised into the 8th when Craig Biggio went deep to tie it at 3. Hoffman entered and pitched 2.1 stellar innings matching 2.0 from Troy Percival. Hoffman tired for StL, Toby Borland entered, and Reggie Sanders went deep again with 1 out in the 11th inning for a super 4-3 Mariners win.

## Fighting Friars battle Twins.

San Diego was able to hold home field to take 2 of 3 games against the visiting Twins. Andy Ashby and Ken Hill battled in a pitchers duel in game 1 and San Diego won 2-0. Ashby pitched 7 allowing just four base runners and three relievers combined to allow just 1 hit over the final two innings and Mark Wohlers got the save. Game 2 was the best game of the series. Mark McGwire hit a 3-run homer in the top of the first, but Bernie Williams singled in two in the bottom of the frame. In the bottom of the 2nd, a Joey Cora double and Tony Gwynn single gave San Diego a 4-3 lead, but Cecil Fielder doubled in the top of the third score 2 for a 5-4 lead. The Twins took a 6-4 lead into the 7th when Will Clark homered to cut it to 1. Omar Vizquel singled in the tying run in the 8th and Edgardo Alfonzo hit a sac fly to win it in the 9th 7-6. Curt Schilling dominated game 3 for the Twins allowing only 1 ER over 8 innings in a dominant 6-1 win for Minnesota. Jim Eisenreich went 3-5 with 3 rbi for Minnesota.

## Mets sweep in homerdome

The Mets traveled to Minnesota and swept a series from the Twins on scores of 9-3, 10-6, and 4-3. It was the largest offensive outburst for the Mets in this early season, and according to their manager it was "right on time". Jaime Moyer took the hill to battle Twins starter Tim Wakefield in game 1, but with the game tied at 3, Bob Patterson entered for the Mets as was the hero on the day. Patterson tossed 3.1 perfect innings allowing Fred McGriff (4-5 5rbi) and friends to get to Wakefield and Bob Wickman. The Mets ran out and hid in game 2 score 6 runs of Ken Hill as Scott Radinsky held of a late Twin rally for his first save. Game 3 featured a Juan Guzman complete game win with 6 Ks. Again the Mets ran out 4-0 off Charles Nagy behind hitting stars Lance Johnson and Mike Bordick, but the Twins fought back with homers from Barry Bonds and Mark McGwire, but fell just one run short; getting swept in the process.

## Yankees get rude welcome in San Diego

New York flew across the country on a high to continue their dominance over the Padres, but apparently the plane food was poisoned as the Bronx Bombers got only 15 hits and scored only 3 runs in a Padres sweep; 5-2, 2-0, and 9-1. David Cone and Hideo Nomo had a pitchers duel in game 1 at 2-2 through 7 1/2 innings. In the bottom of the 8th, four of the first five Padre batters walked, and San Diego scored 3 runs on 1 hit before Mark Wohlers saved it. Scott Sanders pitched a find game 2 for New York, but Tim Belcher, Norm Charlton, and Mark Wohlers combined on 3 hits and no walks in a 2-0 shutout. Many Yankees could be heard screaming from the dugout at plate umpire Steve Palermo for his calls in this game. Game 3 got away early for the frustrated Yanks, as San Diego scored in each of the first 5 innings and coasted to a 9-1 final score.

## Toronto takes 2 of 3 in Seattle, then parties in the fish market before the flight home!

Seattle fought hard to win game 1. Sean Estes battled hard for the home team, allowing only 3 hits in 7.1 IP to counter a fine outing from Jack McDowell and his bullpen. Jim Edmonds and Mike Piazza each drove in runs in the first and seventh, and a Dean Palmer homer in the 9th was not enough to stop Troy Percival from picking up the save in the 2-1 final. Jeff Fassero and Al Leiter had a southpaw battle in game 2, but Toronto learned not to let the Mariners get settled. Andres Gallaraga homered off Fassero in the 2nd and Manny Ramirez, and Ed Taubensee helped him plate 4 more in the 3rd. That was enough for Leiter and friends help John Wetteland get the save in a 5-4 win. Mark Leiter out battled Randy Johnson in game 3, and the Unit got battered for 7 ER in 6 IP. Dean Palmer was the star with 3 homers and 6 rbi in the 9-3 win before dinner.

### League Leaders as of This Morning

Min 3.1 Plate Appearances per Team Game

Batting Average	Team	AVG
1. Tony Gwynn	SD	.404
2. Ellis Burks	KC	.396
3. Ken Caminiti	KC	.394
4. Steve Finley	SD	.382
5. Paul Molitor	Atl	.368
6. John Mabry	ChC	.365
7. Reggie Jefferson	NYY	.360
8. Andres Galarraga	Tor	.359
9. Manny Ramirez	Tor	.356
10. Dave Nilsson	ChC	.354

Min 3.1 Plate Appearances per Team Game

On Base Percentage	Team	OBP
1. Ken Caminiti	KC	.512
2. Tony Gwynn	SD	.491
3. Ellis Burks	KC	.473
4. Mark McGwire	MIN	.453
5. Alex Rodriguez	Atl	.450
6. Walt Weiss	StL	.444
7. Paul Molitor	Atl	.442
8. Jeff Bagwell	Oak	.431
Bernie Williams	SD	.431
10. Dave Nilsson	ChC	.429

Min 3.1 Plate Appearances per Team Game

Slugging Percentage	Team	SLG
1. Dean Palmer	Tor	.933
2. Mark McGwire	MIN	.917
3. Ken Caminiti	KC	.818
4. Gary Gaetti	Oak	.756
5. Reggie Sanders	SEA	.700
6. Ken Griffey Jr	Tor	.690
7. Andres Galarraga	Tor	.688
8. Scott Brosius	NYM	.687
9. Juan Gonzalez	LAD	.667
10. Gary Sheffield	ChC	.635

Min 3.1 Plate Appearances per Team Game

On Base + Slugging	Team	OPS
1. Mark McGwire	MIN	1.370
2. Ken Caminiti	KC	1.330
3. Dean Palmer	Tor	1.298
4. Ken Griffey Jr	Tor	1.106
5. Ellis Burks	KC	1.098
6. Andres Galarraga	Tor	1.093
7. Gary Gaetti	Oak	1.089
8. Reggie Sanders	SEA	1.073
9. Scott Brosius	NYM	1.068
Alex Rodriguez	Atl	1.068

Runs	Team	R
1. Ken Griffey Jr	Tor	15
2. Steve Finley	SD	14
3. Barry Larkin	ChC	13
Brady Anderson	Tor	13
Roberto Alomar	ChC	13
Brian Jordan	NYM	13
7. 11 Players Tied		12

Hits	Team	H
1. Andres Galarraga	Tor	23
Reggie Sanders	SEA	23
3. Lance Johnson	NYM	22
4. Roberto Alomar	ChC	21
Craig Biggio	SEA	21
Gary Sheffield	ChC	21
Steve Finley	SD	21
Manny Ramirez	Tor	21
9. 5 Players Tied		20

Doubles	Team	D
1. Andres Galarraga	Tor	7
Steve Finley	SD	7
3. Lance Johnson	NYM	6
Jim Edmonds	SEA	6
Jeff Cirillo	NYY	6
6. 6 Players Tied		5

Triples	Team	T
1. Lance Johnson	NYM	2
Marquis Grissom	NYY	2
Mike Blowers	SEA	2
Dean Palmer	Tor	2
Reggie Jefferson	NYY	2
Eric Young	KC	2
John Mabry	ChC	2
8. 32 Players Tied		1

Home Runs	Team	HR
1. Mark McGwire	MIN	9
Dean Palmer	Tor	9
3. Scott Brosius	NYM	8
Reggie Sanders	SEA	8
5. Ken Griffey Jr	Tor	7
6. Gary Gaetti	Oak	6
Barry Larkin	ChC	6
Jay Buhner	NYM	6
Larry Walker	SEA	6
Frank Thomas	SEA	6

Runs Batted In	Team	RBI
1. Dean Palmer	Tor	18
2. Mark McGwire	MIN	17
Frank Thomas	SEA	17
4. Lance Johnson	NYM	15
Gary Sheffield	ChC	15
Reggie Sanders	SEA	15
7. 5 Players Tied		14

Stolen Bases	Team	SB
1. Brian McRae	NYY	9
2. Dante Bichette	StL	8
3. Brian Jordan	NYM	7
4. Kenny Lofton	LAD	6
5. Brady Anderson	Tor	5
Jeff Frye	NYY	5
7. Mark McLemore	NYY	4
Lance Johnson	NYM	4
Ken Griffey Jr	Tor	4
Delino DeShields	MIN	4

Walks	Team	BB
1. Barry Bonds	MIN	15
2. Mark McGwire	MIN	14
3. Barry Larkin	ChC	13
Ken Griffey Jr	Tor	13
5. Walt Weiss	StL	12
Jeff Bagwell	Oak	12
7. Jay Buhner	NYM	11
Frank Thomas	SEA	11
9. 3 Players Tied		10

## Mariners take two of three in Shea.

Seattle sent Darryl Kile out for Game 1, and a complete game 1 hitter with 9 Ks got him his first win of the year. Devon White broke up the no hit bid in the bottom of the 7th with the Mets down 5-0, and Kile finished it out with a 6-0 win. Reggie Sanders hit two more homers in the win. Game 2 was much closer as Donovan Osborne (8 IP, 6 H, 3 ER) helped the Mariners battle Mets starter Donnie Wall (6.1 IP, 11 H, 2 ER) to a 3-3 tie, but in the top of the 9th Seattle got to Met reliever Jeff Juden as Frank Thomas took a low outside fastball 420 feet to dead center, landing it just over the apple for a 4-3 lead. Troy Percival entered for Seattle to get the save. Game 3 was one of those games fans will talk about for years. Seattle entered the top of the 8th trailing 6-5, and scored 7 times including a grand slam by Thomas; then gave it all back allowing 7 in the bottom of the inning to lose 13-12, including a 3 base error for the winning runs.

## Cubs battle Cards in great Archway series.

The Cubs are the early season leader, and betting favorite in Vegas, to win the 96 World Series, but St. Louis has other plans. Unfortunately in game 1, someone forgot to tell Cardinal Bobby Jones about the plan as he got shelled for 7 runs in 2/3 of an inning in a 12-3 loss. Pedro Martinez had gone home early to rest for game 2 in St. Louis, and after hearing about what happened the night before, he ensured his Cardinals teammates he'd give them a chance to win. Pedro was as good as his word. Martinez tossed 6.2 innings in getting his third win of the year, and Walt Weiss, Ray Lankford, and Vinny Castilla helped the home town Cardinals lead for all nine innings in a 6-3 win. As the Cardinals fans started to scream at their Chicagoan arch rivals, something went wrong in game 3. Trailing 2-0 in the top of the 5th, the Cubs put up another 7-run inning on their way to a 10-6 wins and a 12-3 start to the season.

### League Leaders as of This Morning

Min 1 IP per Team Game

	Earned Run Average	Team	ERA
1.	Kevin Appier	Tor	1.40
2.	Ramon Martinez	LAD	2.19
3.	Darryl Kile	SEA	2.25
4.	Andy Ashby	SD	2.50
5.	David Cone	SD	2.57
6.	Kevin Brown	SD	2.70
	Pedro Martinez	StL	2.70
8.	Donovan Osborne	SEA	2.74
9.	Hideo Nomo	NYY	2.91
10.	2 Players Tied		3.00

	Wins	Team	W
1.	Mike Mussina	KC	3
	Pedro Martinez	StL	3
	Steve Trachsel	Oak	3
4.	22 Players Tied		2

	Losses	Team	L
1.	Ken Hill	MIN	3
	Juan Guzman	NYM	3
	Frank Castillo	NYM	3
4.	19 Players Tied		2

	Saves	Team	SV
1.	Mark Wohlers	SD	4
	Trevor Hoffman	StL	4
3.	Mike Fetters	LAD	3
	Robb Nen	ChC	3
	Troy Percival	SEA	3
6.	Jose Mesa	Oak	2
	John Wetteland	Tor	2
	Mel Rojas	ChC	2
	Mariano Rivera	NYY	2
10.	12 Players Tied		1

	Blown Saves	Team	BISv
1.	Mike Bielecki	SEA	2
	Bob Patterson	NYM	2
3.	10 Players Tied		1

	Innings Pitched	Team	IP
1.	Curt Schilling	MIN	33.0
2.	Pedro Martinez	StL	30.0
3.	Mark Clark	ChC	28.2
4.	Charles Nagy	MIN	28.0
5.	Ken Hill	MIN	27.2
6.	John Smoltz	StL	26.2
7.	Juan Guzman	NYM	26.1
8.	Al Leiter	Tor	26.0
9.	Jeff Fassero	SEA	25.1
10.	Randy Johnson	SEA	24.2

	Strikeouts	Team	K
1.	Pedro Martinez	StL	33
2.	John Smoltz	StL	31
3.	Randy Johnson	SEA	29
4.	Al Leiter	Tor	28
5.	Curt Schilling	MIN	27
	Jeff Fassero	SEA	27
7.	Hideo Nomo	NYY	26
8.	Roger Clemens	StL	25
9.	Mike Mussina	KC	22
10.	4 Players Tied		21

	Strikeouts Per 9 IP	Team	
1.	Roger Clemens	StL	11.44
2.	Shane Reynolds	KC	11.12
3.	Hideo Nomo	NYY	10.80
4.	Randy Johnson	SEA	10.58
5.	John Smoltz	StL	10.46
6.	Ramon Martinez	LAD	10.22
7.	Pedro Martinez	StL	9.90
8.	Al Leiter	Tor	9.69
9.	Omar Daal	NYM	9.64
10.	Jeff Fassero	SEA	9.59

	Walks Per 9 IP	Team	BB/9
1.	Greg Maddux	LAD	0.44
2.	Roger Clemens	StL	0.92
3.	Ismael Valdes	NYY	1.29
4.	John Smoltz	StL	1.35
5.	Steve Avery	KC	1.69
6.	John Burkett	ChC	1.96
7.	Shane Reynolds	KC	2.12
8.	Jeff Fassero	SEA	2.13
9.	David Cone	SD	2.14
10.	Kevin Brown	SD	2.31

	Batting Average	Team	BA
1.	Donovan Osborne	SEA	.175
2.	Andy Ashby	SD	.176
3.	Dave Burba	Atl	.182
4.	Mark Clark	ChC	.183
5.	Steve Trachsel	Oak	.184
6.	Jaime Navarro	ChC	.185
	Scott Sanders	NYY	.185
8.	Kevin Appier	Tor	.186
9.	Hideo Nomo	NYY	.205
10.	David Cone	SD	.207

	WHIP	Team	WHIP
1.	Donovan Osborne	SEA	0.91
2.	Kevin Appier	Tor	0.93
3.	Andy Ashby	SD	0.94
4.	Steve Trachsel	Oak	0.96
5.	Jaime Navarro	ChC	1.02
6.	David Cone	SD	1.05
7.	Dwight Gooden	LAD	1.11
	Kevin Brown	SD	1.11
9.	Tom Glavine	Atl	1.15
10.	Mark Clark	ChC	1.19

	Home Runs Per 9 IP	Team	HR/9
1.	Dwight Gooden	LAD	0.00
	Greg Maddux	LAD	0.00
	Andy Ashby	SD	0.00
4.	Al Leiter	Tor	0.35
5.	Kevin Brown	SD	0.39
6.	Jaime Navarro	ChC	0.46
7.	Curt Schilling	MIN	0.55
8.	Jack McDowell	Tor	0.56
	Steve Avery	KC	0.56
10.	Pedro Martinez	StL	0.60