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Padres take 2 of 3 in Shea

The San Diego Padres opened up their season with wins of 6-4 & 10-1 before losing the wild final game of the series 8-7 to the New York Mets. San Diego's big two starters, David Cone and Kevin Brown, each pitched 7 innings to get their first wins of the year. Game 3 was the star of this series, a game with ebbs and flows that was a blast for the attending Flushing faithful. The Mets got to Padre starter Erik Hanson in the second. Mike Bordick singled in Mike Lansing who led off with a double, he scored on Bogar's single and an Omar Vizquel error let in the third run. SD tied it in the third helped by a Vizguel double and Bernie Williams single. The Mets took a 5-3 lead in the 4th on a Quinton McCraken single and a Bordick squeeze. Lenny Harris singled in the 5th, cutting lead to 1, but Jay Buhner singled for 6-4 in the 5th. Tony's Clark and Gwynn tied it with RBI in the 6th and the Padres took their first lead on Vizquel's 370 foot HR with two out in the 8th. The Mets fought back, Bordick driving in the winning run. Bob Patterson closed it out, 8-7.

Royals & Mariners hook up.

Kansas City took 2 or 3 and the series in front of their fans and fountains. After winning game 1 in the game of the week (see page 2) the Royals outlasted the Mariners 4-3 behind Mike Mussina's strong start and a perfect relief appearance from closer Ricky Bottalico who retired all 5 men he faced with 3 Ks. Hot starts by Ellis Burks and Ken Caminiti got K.C. off to a hot start, but the Mariners would not be denied in game 3. Chan Ho Park was very strong and a 5 run 7th inning blew the game open on the way to an 8-5 Mariners victory. It was doubles galore for Seattle as Ozzie Smith, Frank Thomas, and Jim Edmonds all doubled in runs in the fateful inning that Larry Walker cleaned up with a run scoring single for the 5th and final run.

League Stan	ndings as of this Morning			
	W	L	PCT	GB ▲
Chicago Cubs	8	1	.889	-
St. Louis Cardinals	6	0	1.000	5
New York Yankees	5	1	.833	1.5
Toronto BlueJays	6	3	.667	2
Los Angeles Dodgers	3	3	.500	3.5
Seattle Mariners	1	2	.333	4
Oakland A's	5	7	.417	4.5
Atlanta Braves	2	4	.333	4.5
Kansas City Royals	2	4	.333	4.5
San Diego Padres	2	4	.333	4.5
Minnesota Twins	0	3	.000	5
New York Mets	2	10	.167	7.5

Cards sweep Dodgers in LA.

Before this season started, George Will told Buster Olney "St. Louis is the best team in Wartime". He may be right. The Cardinals opened the season at last seasons regular season champs, and took all three games 5-3, 10-1, & 5-4. In game 1, John Smoltz took down golf buddy Greg Maddux by 1 shot in the round that afternoon, and then beat him that night with 8.1 innings before Trevor Hoffman got the final two outs for his first save of many this season. Game 2 had Pedro Martinez fight has scratch his way through 8.2 innings for his first win. Pedro is not used to scattering 11 hits on the mound, but gave up only 1 earned run in his 14 base runners. LA got to Ben McDonald early, scoring 7 earned runs over 4.1 innings. Game 3 was a roller coaster ride that didn't end well for the Hollywood faithful. Entering the bottom of the 7th down 2-1 and Roger Clemens cruising, the Dodgers John Jaha doubled to start a rally that Cliff Floyd's double started Chavez Ravine fans into a frenzy. Juan Gonzalez came up next in the tie game and blasted a 377-foot drive into the crazed left field stands. LA's Ramon Martinez started his 9th IP with a walk to Walt Weiss. Mike Fetters came in, and it all exploded. Ray Lankford tripled to score Weiss and with 2-outs Moises Alou doubled home Langford and Bichette. Closer Hoffman saved the 5-4 win 1-2-3.

Blue Jays sweep Twins

Toronto opened the season with a 3 game sweep in the Metrodome, by scores of 4-1, 13-5, and 5-1. Al Leiter opened up the series with a complete game 4-hitter to beat Twins ace Curt Schilling. The batters putting together 16 hits, including 4 homers, led to the win in game 2 that was credited to Eddie Guardado's 2 relief innings. Game 3 was another pitching duel where Al's brother Mark Leiter was able to outlast Charles Nagy to get the win, saved by John Wetteland. The powerful Twins are led by their Big 3: Barry Bonds, Mark McGwire, and Cecil Fielder. The Blue Jays staff held them to 3 for 32 for the series, with only 3 RBI and 9 Ks. Andres Gallaraga led the Blue Jays in hits going 6 for 14 with 4 runs and 3 rbi, but 8 different players had a least 3 hits in the series in a real team effort. Darryl Hamilton and Darrin Fletcher were the only Twins with 3 hits.

Yankees take 2 of 3 Bayside

The Oakland Athletics are excited about the changes they've made, and a tight hard fought series with the Yankees showed how improved they are. The Yankees won game 1 in 11 innings, but scoring runs in the 8th and 9th innings of Yankee star closer Mariano Rivera showed the grit this new Oakland team has when you cross the Bay Bridge. After losing game one 5-3, Steve Trachsel pitched 8 innings to help them win 10-5. The A's thought they'd win the rubber match, but the Bronx Bombers showed their strength scoring 6 runs in the final two innings of game 3 to win 8-3. Eric Anthony was big for the Yankees driving in 5 runs while Rusty Greer scored 4. I-Rod, the new star of the big apple, had 4 hits as did Reggie Jefferson to lead NY. No pitcher tallied more than 5 IP in the series. A's 3B Gary Gaetti was easily the top player in the series, going 6 for 14 with 4 HRs, 2 doubles, scoring 6 and driving in 6.

Page 2

Cubs sweep in Atlanta

The Chicago Cubs came within 3 outs of winning last seasons World Championship, and the got off to a strong start to return in Atlanta sweeping the series 9-2, 5-3, and 11-9 against the Braves. Roberto Alomar batted .500 in the series and scored 6 runs while Wade Boggs drove in 6 for a strong offense that battered Braves pitching on the opening weekend. Gary Sheffield's all around great play saw him gather 7 hits, 4 rbi, 3 runs scored and a defensive gem in the series. The new look Braves struggled to get wins, but fought hard to stay in game led by young super shortstop Alex Rodriguez who went 5 for 10 in the series with 3 doubles and a homer, scoring 5 and driving in 4 more. Tom Glavine was the only Braves pitcher to have a decent series and Atlanta's pitching coach railed against the staff for a 7.07 ERA on the opening home series, but Glavine said after Game 3 that he believe Pedro Astacio, Alex Fernandez, and his mates will right the ship.

NYY sweep subway series.

The Mets took the train over to the Bronx to battle the Yankees in three tight hard fought games, but in each case the bombers came up with a win. Despite only outscoring their visitors 14-10, the Yankees won all three games 2-1, 5-3, and 7-6. Game 1 saw the winning run score because of two errors by Mets P Jeff Juden and 3B Scott Brosius allowing Jeff Frye on base, and then to third base before Brian McRae scored him on a Sac-Fly. Game 2 saw the Yankees open up a 4-1 lead behind starter Ismael Valdes clawed back to make it a 5-3 game and got the tying run to the plate before Mariano Rivera saved it for the home team. Game 3 had the Yankees out front from a 5-run 3rd inning capped by a grand slam from Eric Anthony, but again the Mets fought back, with Brosius making in 7-6 in the top of the 8th on a 2-run homer. The final out in the ninth was a deep drive by PH Brian Jordan, but feel just short in center field.

Early season injuries!!!

Some teams have already felt the bite of bad luck on the injury front, with two teams experiencing a multi-game injury in game 1.

Chicago lost starting CF Otis Nixon for 20 games in their opening tilt. San Diego 2B Joey Cora went down for 6 games on a take out slide and Toronto star pitcher Kevin Appier was injured for 5 games with a back strain as well, but the major news was superstar Sammy Sosa getting injured in game 1 for the Cardinals with a severe tendon injury and being lost for 3 months to the Cardinals.

Cardinals win Missouri set

We have an early World Series favorite. St. Louis is 6-0 and has allowed only 11 runs in 6 games. The Cards swept the Royals at home 9-2, 5-1, & 5-0. They never trailed in the series. Alou has come in for Sosa and hit .444, Pedro Martinez has an early 0.52 ERA, the team's OPS is over 250 points higher than opponents, and have outscored them 36 to 11. Kansas City's Eric Young got 5 more hits in the series and has an early .444 average to start the year at 12 for 27. The Royals will need to shore up their pitching in order to move up the standings. It's very early in the year, but a 7.06 ERA through their first 6 games has manager Scott Pollack scratching his head for answers. KC fans believe he will find some.

Game of week–KC 16, Sea 13

Seattle opened the game scoring 12 runs in their first 3 innings. Reggie Sanders homered once (3rbi) and Frank Thomas twice (5rbi) to build a 12-2 lead through 3. Steve Avery, MVP of the game, entered with 2 on in the top of the fourth, and not only got out of the inning unscathed, but pitched 6 innings allowing only 3 base runners and 1 run on Reggie Sanders second dinger of the game. KC score 14 of the final 15 runs in the game behind Ken Caminiti on base 6 times (3 hits, 3 BB), Ellis Burks going 4 for 5; Tom Pagnozzi's 5 rbi, and Derek Jeter's 4 runs scored.

Dodgers come south and filet the Friars

San Diego took great pride in giving out their World Series rings when the rival Dodgers showed up in town. Then the Dodgers took out some brooms and beat the Padres all over their bodies! LA swept SD 4-3, 7-2, and 5-3. San Diego took an early lead in all three games, but had no staying power and were eventually overpowered by their rivals to the north. Doc Gooden and Ben McDonald were able to outlast their counterparts Tim Belcher and David Cone to allow Billy Wagner to set up Mike Fetters for saves in games 1 and 3. Greg Maddux didn't need any help in game 2 as the longer the game went on, the more dominant he got to outlast Andy Ashby and three Padre relievers. Juan Gonzalez went 4 for 10 in the series with a double, homer, and 5 rbi to lead the Dodger attack. John Jaha and Bobby Bonilla chipped in with big hits in their 3,4,5 slots to help Gonzalez. Tony Gwynn was 5-10 with two walks for the home side.

A's sweep Mets at home

The Oakland A's but three great games together to win against the Mets and the unbelievable series that Scott Brosius put together. Oakland took game 1 5-3 behind a great relief game after starter Paul Quantril fought through 4.2 innings. Dave Mlicki, Mike Munzon, Mike Maddux, and Jose Mesa held the Mets at bay to win the game. 19 Oakland hits led to a 15-8 win in game 2. Edgar Renteria and Gary Gaetti combined for 6 hits, 4 runs and 7 rbi to lead the A's in game 2. Pat Hentgen was able to go 7.1 innings for the win. Oakland scored 7 runs in innings 4 and 5 to win game 3 7-2 and send Steve Trachsel to a 3-0 record to begin the season. All A's runs came on homers - a 3-run bomb from Tim Salmon and a grand slam from Eric Davis - to lead to the sweep. On the losing side, NYM third basemen Scott Brosius went 7-13; scoring 5 runs, driving in 6 rbi; and belting 5 homers!! If he'd have gotten any help, things would have been very different for the Mets.

Cubs sweeps home opening series vs. A's

The Chicago Cubs are off and running in their attempt to return to the world series as they have opened the season 6-0 with three more wins against the Oakland A's. Game 1 was an 11-1 blowout as Mark Portugal threw a complete game 4 hitter and an 8-run 5th inning did in A's starter Jason Isringhausen. The first 8 Cubs reach in the rally that included 7 singles, 2 walks and a HBP. Game 2 was a pitchers battle between A's Paul Quantrill and Cub Chad Ogea but two rbi in the sixth from Hal Morris and Joe Girardi took the game from 2-1 to 4-1, and the A's were unable to mount a tying rally against T.J. Matthews and Robb Nen. In the final game of the series, Chicago spotted starter Mark Clark a 3-0 in the first, and Jason Giambi's attempt at heroics weren't enough of overcome Gary Sheffield's rbi singles and Barry Larkin's homer. Sheffield was 4 for 9 with 3 walks in the series for Chi.

Atlanta goes north of border to win 2 of 3.

The Atlanta Braves traveled to Toronto for a three game series looking for their first win of the season, and were able to take games 1 and 2 in the series 5-3 and 8-6. The Blue Jays released their anger in game 3 scoring early and often for a 13-4 victory. Atlanta was able to get runs in each of the first three innings in game one on hits by Chipper Jones, Mickey Morandini, and Alex Rodriguez. A double by Brady Anderson and a dinger from Jermaine Allensworth tied it up, only to have A-Rod untie it with another single in the 5th. Chipper knocked in the final run. Atlanta jumped out 6-0 and 8-2 in game 2 before Dan Naulty was able to get the final 5 outs. In game 3, Brave Alex Fernandez and Jay Allen Watson battled through 5 IP at 3-3, but Toronto scored 10 runs in the next three inning to win it. Brady Anderson's grand slam was the big blow, & Ken Griffey Jr. drove in four more.



Cubs take two of three vs. Mets in Shea

The New York Mets hosted a tight series against the Cubs, but Chicago's winning ways helped them win the series. In game 1 Chicago jumped on Met starter Bob Tewksbury for 6 runs (5 earned) in 1.2 IP and fought to hold on 6-5. Gary Sheffield homered in the first, Barry Larkin in the second, and Wade Boggs doubled in 2 to send Tewksbury to an early shower. The Met's loaded the bases in the 9th, and scored 3, but needed 4 to tie. Game 2 took 12 innings to decide after a Roberto Alomar triple tied it up for Chicago in the top of the 9th at 4, but as chances spilled by for both teams, Gary Sheffield homered to left field and Robb Nen closed it out for a 5-4 Cub win. The Mets decided they'd had enough for game 3 and jumped all over Mark Portugal early and often. Scott Brosius homered and singled to drive in runs and Darren Lewis drove in two spotting Jamie Moyer with a 6 -0 lead. Jeff Juden went 3.2 IP in relief for the save

Toronto bounces back; take 2 of 3 from A's

Toronto has a great offensive team this season, and after dropping game 1 to the visitors from northern California 3-2, Toronto put up 22 runs in the final two games with wins of 9-5 and 13-0. A's pitcher Steve Trachsel was able to hold the Blue Jays to just one earned run over 8.1 innings, but was losing 2-1 to Mark Leiter when John Wetteland came in after Chuck Knoblauch homered to start the sixth inning. Edgar Renteria singled and stole two bases to score on Eric Davis grounder to second base, and the Tim Salmon gave the A's a lead they would never relinquish. Andres Galarraga was the big bat for Toronto in games 2 and 3, going a combined 6 for 11, scoring 4 runs, driving in 5, and hitting 2 home runs. He got lots of help from Ken Griffey Jr., Manny Ramirez, and Brady Anderson as well. Edgar Renteria was the top hitter for Oakland at 5 for 13 in the series.

Min 1 IP	P per Team Game Average Team	ERA
L. Chan Ho Pari		0.00
2. Pedro Martino		0.52
B. Hideo Nomo	NYY	1.00
I. Kevin Brown	SD	1.29
Mark Leiter	Tor	1.42
6. Ismael Valdes	s NYY	2.08
7. John Smoltz	StL	2.20
B. Kevin Appier	Tor	2.31
Ramon Martin	nez LAD	2.45
10. David Cone	SD	2.77
Saves	Team	SV
Jose Mesa	Oak	2
Mike Fetters	LAD	2
Robb Nen	ChC	2
Trevor Hoffma		2
Mariano Rive		2
6. 6 Players Tie		1
Strikeouts	Team	K
John Smoltz	StL	19
Steve Trachs		19
B. Mark Clark	ChC	14
Ramon Martin		13
. Italion ward		13
Podro Martin		
Pedro Martino	Ten	
6. Al Leiter	Tor	12
6. Al Leiter Omar Daal	NYM	12
Omar Daal David Cone	NYM SD	12 11
Omar Daal David Cone Pat Hentgen	NYM SD Oak	12 11 11
Omar Daal David Cone	NYM SD Oak	12 11
6. Al Leiter Omar Daal 3. David Cone Pat Hentgen 10. 5 Players Tie	NYM SD Oak	12 11 11
Al Leiter Omar Daal David Cone Pat Hentgen Davers Tie	NYM SD Oak d	12 11 11 10
Al Leiter Omar Daal David Cone Pat Hentgen David S Players Tie Min 1 IF Batting Avera	NYM SD Oak d Team Game	12 11 11 10 BA
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Al Leiter Omar Daal David Cone Pat Hentgen S Players Tie Min III Batting Avera Dave Burba Hideo Nomo Roger Cleme Mark Clark Kevin Appier Smael Valdes	NYM SD Oak d Por Team Came age Team Att NYY sns StL ChC Tor s NYY k SEA	12 11 11 10 BA .133 .133 .167 .167 .171 .172
Al Leiter Omar Daal David Cone Pat Hentgen S Players Tie Batting Avera Dave Burba Hideo Nomo Roger Cleme Mark Clark Kevin Appier Ismael Valdee	NYM SD Oak d Por Team Game age Team Atl NYY StL ChC Tor s NYY k SEA To ChC	12 11 11 10 BA .133 .133 .167 .167 .171 .172