

2019 Chicago Cubs

manager: Joe Maddon

Standings:

Eastern Division		Central Division		Western Division		Cubs			
Atlanta	97- 65	St. Louis	91-71	LA Dodgers	106-56	ERA:	LA Dodgers	3.37	4.10 (3 rd)
Washington	93- 69	Milwaukee	89-73	Arizona	85-77	BA:	Colorado	.265	.252 (7 th)
NY Mets	86- 76	Chicago	84-78	San Francisco	77-85	FA:	St. Louis	.989	.981(14 th)
Philadelphia	81- 81	Cincinnati	75-87	Colorado	71-91				
Miami	57-105	Pittsburgh	69-93	San Diego	70-92				

FA: 117 errors (14th). 1B Anthony Rizzo won the Gold Glove.

Home: 51-30 **Best:** LA Dodgers 59-22 **Worst:** Miami 30-51
Road: 33-48 **Best:** Atlanta & LA Dodgers 47-34 **Worst:** Miami 27-54

Best: Seattle 4-0, Miami 6-1, NY Mets 5-2, San Francisco & Arizona 4-2, Oakland & LA Angels 2-1, Pittsburgh 11-8
Worst: Atlanta & Philadelphia 2-5, Washington 2-4, Cincinnati 8-11, Milwaukee & St. Louis 9-10

Top Pitchers	IP	Record	Shutouts	Saves	ERA	
Yu Darvish	178	6- 8			3.98	Allowed 33 HRs (tied most); 229 Ks (tied 7 th)
Kyle Hendricks	177	11-10	1		3.46	
Jon Lester	171	13-10			4.46	
Jose Quintana	171	13- 9			4.68	
Cole Hamels	142	7- 7			3.81	
Tyler Chatwood	76	5- 3		2	3.76	
Steve Cishek	64	4- 6		7	2.95	
Kyle Ryan	61	4- 2			3.54	
Brandon Kintzler	57	3- 3			2.68	
Pedro Strop	41	2- 5		10	4.97	
Craig Kimbrel	20	0- 4		13	6.53	

Staff: 3rd lowest in HRs allowed, 4th lowest in HRs allowed

Top Hitters	AB	Runs	Hits	HR	RBI	BA	EBH	SB	
Anthony Rizzo	512	89	150	27	94	.293	59	5	
Kris Bryant	543	108	153	31	77	.282	67	4	
Javier Baez	531	89	149	29	85	.281	71	11	
Willson Contreras	360	57	98	24	64	.272	44	1	
David Bode	303	47	78	11	41	.257	28	5	
Jason Heyward	513	78	129	21	62	.251	55	8	
Kyle Schwarber	529	82	132	38	92	.250	70	1	
<u>Albert Almora</u>	<u>339</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>.236</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>2</u>	
Nicholas Castellanos	212	43	68	16	36	.321	37	0	Lead ML in doubles (58)
Victor Caratini	244	31	65	11	34	.266	22	1	
Ian Happ	146	25	37	11	30	.264	19	2	
Ben Zobrist	150	24	39	1	17	.260	6	0	
Daniel Descalso	168	20	29	2	15	.173	8	2	

Cubs: 2nd in HRs (club-record 256; LA Dodgers:279), 5th in SA & Runs (814), 8th in Hits, 9th in 3B, and last in Stolen Bases.

Add/Lost: IF Daniel Descalso, RPs Brad Brach, Kyle Ryan, Rowan Wick, David Phelps (2-1, 3.18, 1S), Derek Holland (0-1), and Craig Kimbrel, IF/OF Nick Castellanos, IF/OF Tony Kemp, Xavier Ceden, C Jonathan Lucroy (LA Angels)

IF Tommy La Stella (LA Angels), Daniel Murphy (Colorado); P Mike Montgomery (1-2, 5.67) to Kansas City;
RP Carl Edwards Jr. (1-1, 5.87); RP Brad Brach (4-3, 6.13) to NYM; OF Carlos Gonzalez (.175, 1/3)
Cubs were rumored to show strong interest in OF Bryce Harper.

Rookies: P Adbert Alzolay (1-1, 7.30), P Danny Hultzen, P Alec Mills (1-0, 2.75, 1S), RP Dillon Maples (1-0, 5.40),
RP Rowan Wick (2-0, 2.43, 2S), and IFs Robel Garcia (.208, 5/11) & Nico Hoerner (.282, 3/17) Draft: P Ryan Jensen

Injuries: Brandon Morrow (arm; season), Caratini, Hendricks, Hamels, Contreras, Kimbrel, and Baez

Club:

- Attendance: 3,094,865.
- Cubs planned to have their own **TV network channel** (Marquee Sports Network) by 2020.
Move ended club's 71-year relationship with WGN.

- Carry over from 2018 season, SS **Addison Russell** served 40G suspension for domestic violence.
- **Joe Ricketts**, Cubs chairman Tom Ricketts' father, drew MLB's ire for political and personal emails league described as "offensive" and not in line with MLB's values.
- *Sports Illustrated* picked Cubs to finish 3rd in the Central Division; local scribes listed Cubs to finish 1st or 2nd.
- To offset Cubs fans heading to Miller Park, **Milwaukee Brewers** offered Wisconsin residents pre-sale tickets.
- Marital issues led IF/OF **Ben Zobrist** to take time off during season. Zobrist returned September 1st.

Stories:

- **Maddon's last season.** In 5 years, led club to 4 playoffs, Division Champions x 2, 1 pennant, and 1 World Series championship. **Maddon** later signed on to manage the LA Angels.
- **Problems:** Lengthy injuries (Morrow, Contreras, Hendricks, Baez and Bryant); absent starters Russell (DV) and Zobrist (personal); losing record on road; inconsistent starters; inability to score runs with men in scoring position.
- April 16-19: First time since August 3-5, 1971, that 3 starters (Quintana, Hamels, and Hendricks) pitched 7+ shutout innings.
- Cubs players not fans of **MLB Players Weekend uniform**. Cubs wore all-white, whereas Nationals wore all-black.
- Thirty third and final year for Cubs' organist **Gary Pressy**.

5/29: **Longer safety net needed:** Almora's foul ball at Houston's Minute Made Park fractured the skull of a young fan.

6/18: P Cole Hamels reached 2,500 strikeouts.

9/1: **Lee Smith Day** at Wrigley Field. Club brass, family, former teammates, and fans celebrated Smith's Hall of Fame enshrinement.

9/15: First time since June 1930 that Cubs scored 47 runs in 3 consecutive games.

9/15: **The bitter end:** Cubs lost 6 straight during final home stand (5 by 1 run) followed by a 3G sweep by the Pirates.

Season:

3/28: **Beat Texas** 12-4 (Lester). Baez (2-5/4 RBIs) hit 3-run HR in Cubs' 6-run 5th. Bryant added 3-run HR. Bote: 2-4/2B.

4/1: **Lost to Atlanta** 8-0 (Hendricks). Cubs committed 6 errors; only 2 Braves' runs were earned. Zagunis: 2-4/2B.

4/6: **Beat Milwaukee** 14-8 (Hamels). Heywood (2 HRs) and Caratini (HR) each went 3-3/3 RBIs. Baez HR; Bote: pinch 3-run 2B.

4/8: **Beat Pittsburgh** 10-0 (Brach for Lester). Cubs scored 6 runs in 2nd inning. Zobrist hit 2-run 2B, Schwarber hit 2-run HR.

4/12: **Beat LA Angels** 5-1 (Hamels). Contreras homered twice: Bote and Rizzo (2-run) each homered once.

4/17: **Beat Miami** 6-0 (Hamels: 7IP 3H, 8Ks). Descalso: 2-3/2B & 3 RBIs; Baez: 2-4/HR & 2 RBIs; Heyward singled in a run.

4/23: **Beat LA Dodgers** 7-2 (Quintana). Contreras doubled in 3 in Cubs' 4-run 1st; Rizzo and Baez homered. Cubs took 2 of 3.

4/27: **Beat Arizona** 9-1 (Darvish). Bote: 2 HRs, 5 RBIs; Rizzo: 3-5/2 2Bs, HR & 2 RBIs. Cubs out-hit D'Backs 12-2.

4/28: **Beat Arizona** 6-5 in 15 (Chatwood/Webster for Quintana). Zobrist hit 2-run 2B in 15th. Cubs used 9 pitchers.

5/1: **Beat Seattle** 11-0 (Lester). Mariners totaled 1 hit. Rizzo, Baez (3-5) & Contreras (2-3) each hit solo HRs and drove in 2 runs.

5/3: **Beat St. Louis** 4-0 (Hendricks CG 4-hitter). Rizzo: 3-3/3-run HR; Baez later added RBI 1B.

5/8: **Beat Miami** 3-2 in 11 (Edwards, Jr. for Hendricks) on Heyward's walk-off HR. Cubs led 2-1 after 8. Cubs took 3 of 4.

5/10: **Lost to Milwaukee** 7-0 (Quintana). Brewers led 1-0 after 6. Bote 2-3; Contreras 2-4.

5/11: **Beat Milwaukee** 2-1 in 15 (Chatwood for Hamels) on Contreras' HR. Cubs turned 6 DPs, Brewers 4 (set NL-record of 10).

5/14: **Beat Cincinnati** 3-1 (Hendricks/Cishek). Hendricks hit 2-run 2B in 2nd. Cubs out-hit Reds 11-3.

5/17: **Beat Washington** 14-6 (Hamels). Cubs hit 6 HRs. Bryant (3 HRs/5 RBIs), and 1 each by Contreras, Almora and Schwarber.

5/22: **Beat Philadelphia** 8-4 (Chatwood for Hamels). HRs by Almora (grand slam), Rizzo (3-run) and Baez (solo).

5/25: **Beat Cincinnati** 8-6 (Maples/Chatwood for Darvish) on Bote's RBI 2B in 8th. Almora, Russell, and Heyward homered.

5/29: **Beat Houston** 2-1 (Hendricks/Cishek). Cubs' runs came on solo HRs by Schwarber and Bryant. Cubs took 1 of 3.

6/1: **Lost to St. Louis** 7-4 (Chatwood for Quintana). Three-game sweep by Cards. Rizzo and Heyward hit solo HRs.

6/5: **Beat Colorado** 9-8 (Kinzler/Cishek for Darvish). Bode: 4-4/2B, HR & 7RBIs.

6/8: **Beat St. Louis** 9-4 (Lester). Cubs swept 3G series. Schwarber (HR) and Baez each drove in 2; Caratini hit pinch-hit 3-run 2B.

6/12: **Beat Colorado** 10-1 (Hamels). HRs by Schwarber (4 RBIs) and Baez (2 RBIs). Hamels: 2-3/2 RBIs.

6/13: **Lost to LA Dodgers** 7-3 (Lester). Cubs hit 2 HRs (Schwarber & Bryant), LA hit 4, including 2 by Cody Bellinger.

6/15: **Beat LA Dodgers** 2-1 (Ryan/Strop for Darvish) on Rizzo's 9th inning 2-run HR. Cubs were outhit 5-3.

6/19: **Beat White Sox** 7-3 (Lester). Contreras (2 HRs, 5 RBIs) hit grand slam in 1st. Bode's HR in 4th made score 6-3.

6/23: **Beat NY Mets** 5-3 (Cishek/Strop for Hamels) on Baez' 3-run HR in the 8th. Hamels and Rizzo each had an RBI 1B.

6/27: **Beat Atlanta** 9-7 (Chatwood/Kimbrel). Braves led 6-1 in the 4th. Heyward: 3B & 3 RBIs. Caratini & Schwarber homered.

6/29: **Beat Cincinnati** 6-0 (Quintana). Cubs led 1-0 after 7 on Heyward's HR. Baez hit grand slam in 8th.

7/1: **Lost to Pittsburgh** 18-5 (Alzola). Bucs led 10-4 after 5. Baez homered. Pittsburgh 1B **Josh Bell**: 4-6/3 HRs & 7 RBIs.

7/6: **Beat White Sox** 6-3 (Lester/Kimbrel). Tied at 1, Cubs scored 5 in 5th. Schwarber (2B) and Baez (2 2Bs) each drove in 2.

7/14: **Beat Pittsburgh** 8-3 (Quintana). Bucs led 3-1 after 3. Heyward, Almora, and Schwarber homered. Robel Garcia: 2-4/2 2Bs.

7/17: **Beat Cincinnati** 6-2 (Darvish/Kimbrel). Darvish's 1st win at Wrigley. Bryant and Russell homered; Heyward 2-run 2B.

- 7/19: **Beat San Diego** 6-5 (Strop/Kimbrel for Lester). Rizzo's grand slam made score 4-3. Baez HR. Winning run scored on error.
- 7/23: **Lost to San Francisco** 5-4 in 13 (Brach for Darvish) on Pablo Sandoval's HR. Bryant: 3-6/2B, 2 RBIs; Heyward: 2-5/RBI 1B.
- 7/27: **Lost to Milwaukee** 5-3 in 10 (Kimbrel for Lester) on Kestin Hiura's HR. Christian Yellich (3-5/HR) tied game at 3.
Cubs lost 2 leads: 2-0 in the 8th and 3-2 in 10th. Rizzo hit 2-run HR in the 3rd and Almora homered in the 10th.
- 7/31: **Beat St. Louis** 2-0 (Hendricks/Kimbrel) on RBI 1Bs by Happ and Baez. Cubs took 1 of 3.
- 8/2: **Beat Milwaukee** 6-2 (Quintana). Heyward homered in the 1st; Baez: 3-5/HR & 3 RBIs.
- 8/7: **Beat Oakland** 10-1 (Quintana). Happ (2-4) hit grand slam in 4th; Schwarber hit 3-run HR in 5th; Caratini solo shot in 8th.
- 8/8: **Beat Cincinnati** 12-5 (Chatwood for Hamels). Castellanos: 3-4/2 HRs; Happ: 2-5/HR & 4 RBIs; Lucroy: 3-5/2 RBIs.
- 8/10: **Lost to Cincinnati** 10-1 (Hendricks). Reds OF Aristedes Aquino hit 3 of the club's 6 HRs. Cubs split 4G series.
- 8/15: **Lost to Philadelphia** 7-5 (Strop for Darvish) on Bryce Harper's 9th inning grand slam. Phillies swept 3G series.
- 8/17: **Beat Pittsburgh** 2-0 (Lester/Wick). No score after 6. Bryant homered in 7th. Each team had 4 hits.
- 8/21: **Beat San Francisco** 12-11 (Kinzler/Kimbrel for Darvish). Cubs behind 11-10 in the 8th before Bryant hit go-ahead 2-run HR.
Castellanos (4-5/HR, 3 RBIs) and Schwarber (3 RBIs) each hit 2-run HRs. Rizzo: 2-4/2B & 3 Runs.
- 8/25: **Lost to Washington** 7-5 in 11 (Chatwood for Hamels). Russell, Caratini, and Schwarber homered. Nats swept 3G series.
- 8/29: **Beat NY Mets** 4-1 (Lester/Kimbrel). Game tied at 1 after 6. Victor Caratini: 3-4/2 HRs & 4 RBIs.
- 8/30: **Beat Milwaukee** 7-1 (Quintana). Castellanos: 2 HRs/4 RBIs; Schwarber (2-3/2B) also homered. Quintana RBI 2B.
- 9/3: **Beat Seattle** 6-1 (Lester). Castellanos (2-3) hit 3-run HR; Contreras (2-3) and Schwarber (3-3) each hit solo shots.
- 9/7: **Lost to Milwaukee** 3-2 (Kintzler for Darvish) on Christian Yelich's 2-out RBI 2B. Russell homered.
- 9/11: **Lost to San Diego** 4-0 (Hamels). Padres led 2-0 after 6. Cubs totaled 3 hits.
- 9/13: **Beat Pittsburgh** 17-8 (Lester/Mills). Cubs led 5-4 after 1. Contreras: 3-4/2 HRs; Castellanos: 2-4/HR, 3 RBIs;
Rizzo: 3-5/grand slam; Hoerner: 2-5/HR & 4 RBIs; Heyward doubled in 3 runs;
- 9/14: **Beat Pittsburgh** 14-1 (Hendricks). HRs by Bryant (4 RBIs), Hoerner (3 RBIs), Zobrist & Caratini. Castellanos: 2 2Bs, 3 RBIs.
- 9/15: **Beat Pittsburgh** 16-6 (Wieck for Quintana). Bryant (2 HRs/4 RBIs), Schwarber (HR/3 RBIs) & Castellanos (2 2B) went 3-5.
Kemp hit 2-run 3B and Lucroy added solo shot.
- 9/17: **Lost to Cincinnati** 4-2 (Darvish:13Ks -including club-record 8 in row). Reds led 3-1 after 1. Schwarber: 3-4/2B, 3B & 2 RBIs.
- 9/21: **Lost to St. Louis** 9-8 (Kimbrel for Quintana) on consecutive HRs by Yadier Molina and Paul DeJong. Ian Happ's 2-run pinch
HR in 5th tied game at 5. Hoerner's HR in 6th gave Cubs short-lived lead. Kemp's 2-run HR 8th put Cubs ahead 8-7.
- 9/26: **Lost to Pittsburgh** 9-5 (Quintana). Pirates led 7-0 after 5. Happ hit 2-run 2B in the 6th. Bucs swept 3G series.
- 9/28: **Beat St. Louis** 8-6 (Cishek for Hamels). **Maddon's last game.** Happ: 2 HRs/4 RBIs; Caratini and Schwarber also HR.

All Star Game: AL beat NL 4-3. Three Cubs played: IF/OF Kris Bryant (0-1), C Willson Contreras (0-2) and SS Javier Baez (0-2).

League:

2/7: Hall of Fame OF **Frank Robinson** passed away at 83. Robinson was MLB's 1st black manager (Cleveland Indians) and lone player to win the Triple Crown in each league (Cincinnati Reds and Baltimore Orioles).

- **Possible changes** for 2019: 20-second clock for pitchers, "universal" DH (AL and NL), and pitchers must face a minimum of 3 batters before being replaced.

For 2020: Tampa Bay Rays sought permission to play *home games* in Montreal during the Fall.

Something new: Home Run Derby winner received: \$1M. The 2019 winner: Peter Alonso, NY Mets.

Minor leagues tested robot umpires (umpires receiving calls in earpieces).

Year of huge contracts and contract extensions:

- Colorado re-signed **Nolan Arenado** to \$260M/8-year contract.
- OF Bryce Harper (WA) rejected club's \$300M/10-year offer and later signed \$335M/13-years with Philadelphia.
- LA Dodgers 3B **Manny Machado** signed \$300M/10-year pact with San Diego Padres.
- **Trends:** fewer singles, triples, stolen bases, sacrifice bunts, hit-by-pitches, and double-plays, and **more** HRs and strikeouts. While MLB HRs were up, attendance was down.
- To increase player safety (i.e. trafficking and exploitation), **MLB** and the **Cuban Baseball Federation** agreed to allow **Cuban players** (primarily 6-year vets, 25 years of age or older) to sign with US teams without having to defect.
April: President Trump declared ML deal with Cuba illegal.
For the fans: the AL's Chicago White Sox were the first club to add **safety netting from foul pole to foul pole**.
- **Fox** extended their contract with MLB through 2028. Pact: \$525M/year and included All Star Games and the World Series.

Fines and Suspensions:

SF CEO **Larry Baer** was suspended until July 1st following public altercation with wife; LA RP **Julio Urias** 20G for DV; Phillies OF **Odubel Herrera** was arrested and later suspended for remainder of season for DV; Pittsburgh RP **Felipe Vazquez** faced multiple felony charges for sexual contact with a minor. SF OF **Cameron Maybin** DWI.

The 9th **inning brawl** between Pittsburgh and Cincinnati led to 9 ejections and 8 suspensions (6 players, 2 managers). Reds suspended included manager David Bell, P Amir Garrett, P Jared Hughes, and OF Yasiel Puig. Bucs suspended included manager Clint Hurdle, P Keone Kela, IF Jose Osuna, and P Kyle Crick.

Trades: Yan Gomes & Brian Dozier (Washington), Robinson Cano, Edwin Diaz, Marcus Stroman (NYM), OF Nick Castellanos, RPs Craig Kimbrell and Brad Brach (Chicago Cubs), 1B Paul Goldschmidt & P Andrew Miller (St L), Jean Segura & RP David Robertson (Phil), AJ Pollock (LA Dodgers), P Dallas Keuchel and Shane Greene (Atl), Matt Kemp, Alex Wood, Yoenis Cespedes (Cin), Josh Donaldson (Atl), P Marcus Stroman (NY Mets); Trevor Bauer (Cin)

Noteworthy games:

- 3/28: **LA Dodgers** beat Arizona 12-5 (Hyun-Jin Ryu). Dodgers' Joc Pedersen and Enrique Hernandez each hit 2 of LA's 8 HRs.
- 5/2: **NY Mets** beat Cincinnati 1-0 (Noah Syndergaard: 4 Hits, 10Ks, CG) on Syndergaard's solo HR in the 3rd.
- 5/3: **San Francisco** beat Cincinnati 12-11 in 11 (Reyes Moronta) on Stephen Vogt's HR. Reds led 10-3 after 5.
- 5/4: **Milwaukee** beat NY Mets 4-3 in 18 (Taylor Williams) on bases-loaded 1B by Ryan Braun (6-8/2 2B).
- 5/5: **Cincinnati** lost to San Francisco 6-5 (Tony Watson). Reds' Eugenio Suarez, Jesse Winkler, and Derek Dietrich all homered on consecutive pitches in the 1st inning.
- 5/25: **San Diego** beat Toronto 19-4 (Cal Quantrill). Padres hit club-record 7 HRs. OF Hunter Renfro: 4-5/2 HRs, 3 RBIs, OF Wil Myers: 2-2/4 Runs, 2 HRs & 4 RBIs.
- 5/28: **Cincinnati** beat Pittsburgh 11-6 (Lucas Sims). Reds' 1B Derek Dietrich: 3 HRs & 6 RBIs.
- 5/31: **Colorado** beat Toronto 13-6 (German Marquez). Rockies' Trevor Story: 3-4/4 Runs, 2B, 2 HRs & 7 RBIs.
- 6/10: **Arizona** beat Philadelphia 13-6 (Zack Godley). D'Backs hit club-record 8 HRs; Phillies answered with 5 HRs.
- 6/16: **Atlanta** beat Philadelphia 15-1 (Mike Foltynewicz). OF Ronald Acuna (4-5) and 2B Ozzie Albies (HR) drove in 2 runs/ea.
- 6/30: **Philadelphia** beat Miami 13-6 (Jake Arrieta). Phillies' OF Bryce Harper: 3-4/HR & 4 RBIs; SS Jean Segura: 2-4/2B.
- 7/15: **San Francisco** beat Colorado 19-2 (Jeff Samardzija). Giants led 13-0 after 4. SS Brandon Crawford: 5-6/2 HRs, 8 RBIs.
- 7/17: **Arizona** beat Texas 19-3 (Robbie Ray). D'Backs OF Adam Jones: 4-6/2B, 2B Eduardo Escobar: 2-7/2 HRs & 5 RBIs.
- 7/18: **Washington** beat Atlanta 13-4 (Steven Strasburg). Nats' Strasburg: 3-3/HR & 5 RBIs.
- 7/19: **St. Louis** beat Cincinnati 12-11 (Michael Wacha). OF Jose Martinez hit 3-run HR in Cards' 10-run 6th.
- 8/3: **Arizona** beat Washington 18-7 (Robbie Ray). Eduardo Escobar (3-5/2 HRs & 7 RBIs) hit 2 of the club's 5 HRs.
- 8/16: **San Francisco** beat Arizona 10-9 in 11 (Will Smith) Teams combined to hit 12 HRs – 6 by each club.
- 8/17: **Milwaukee** beat Washington 15-14 in 14 (Junior Guerra) on Eric Thames' 2-run HR. Game included 6 lead changes. Brewers clubbed 7 HRs. Milwaukee's Christian Yelich: 5-6/2 HRs & 4 RBIs. Ryan Braun also hit 2 HRs.
- 8/18: **Washington** beat Milwaukee 16-8 (Erick Fedde). Nats' 8 HRs tied club record; Juan Soto and Brian Dozier each hit 2.
- 8/23: **Miami** beat Philadelphia 19-11 (Tyler Kinley). Game tied at 7 after 3. Marlins' Starlin Castro: 2 HRs & 5 RBIs.
- 8/24: **Pittsburgh** beat Cincinnati 14-0 (Trevor Williams). Pirates' Colin Moran hit grand slam in 6th inning.
- 9/2: **LA Dodgers** beat Colorado 16-9 (Walker Buehler). Dodgers OF Joc Pederson (3-3/5 RBIs) hit 2 of club's 6 HRs.
- 9/3: **Washington** beat NY Mets 11-10 (Javy Guerra) on Kurt Suzuki's walk-off 3-run HR. Nat's 7-run rally was a club record.
- 9/13: **St. Louis** beat Milwaukee 10-0 (Adam Wainwright). Cardinals 1B Paul Goldschmidt: 2 HRs & 7 RBIs.
- 9/18: **San Francisco** beat Boston 11-3 (Jeff Samardzija). Bruce Bochy won his 2000th game as a manager (1,049 with Giants).

Baseball juiced?

ML record 6,770 HRs were hit (previous: 6,105); 15 ML teams set franchise records for HRs. Minor league teams (International League and Pacific Coast League) began using *major league* baseballs. Outcome: HRs rose 58% (5,752 vs. 3,652).

- **LA Dodgers** set new NL record for HRs (279), including 22 in a 5-game span.
- NY Mets **Pete Alonso's** 53 HRs broke ML record set by NY Yankees' Aaron Judge (2017).
- Cincinnati Reds rookie OF **Aristides Aquino** hit NL-record 14 HRs in month of August.
- Mid-June: San Diego and Colorado split 4G series. Teams combined to score **ML record 92 runs** (Colorado 48, San Diego 44).
- **Washington** won division despite beginning the season 19-31 (3rd worst in NL).
- **LA Dodgers** set a new club-record for wins.

- Milwaukee's **Christian Yelich** won **NL batting title** despite having to sit out final weeks with a fractured knee cap.
- Washington pitcher **Matt Scherzer**, June Pitcher of the Month: 6-0, 1.00 ERA, and 68 strikeouts.
- St. Louis P **Jack Flaherty**'s post All Star Game ERA: 0.91.

Division series winners and losers:

Washington went 14-5 vs. Philadelphia
 Miami went 4-15 vs. Washington and Atlanta and 6-13 vs. NY Mets
 Pittsburgh went 4-15 vs. Milwaukee and 5-14 vs. St. Louis

Playoffs:

- 10/9: Division Series, G5: **St. Louis** beat Atlanta 13-1 (Jack Flaherty). Aided by (3) 2-run 2Bs, Cards scored 10 runs in the 1st.
 Braves' 10th straight playoff series loss.
 Division Series, G5: **Washington** beat LA Dodgers 7-3 in 10 (Daniel Hudson) on Howie Kendrick's grand slam.
 First time Nationals won a playoff series.
- 10/15: G4: **Washington** beat St. Louis 7-4 (Patrick Corbin). First time Expos/Nationals franchise made it to the World Series.
 Last time a team from Washington entered the World Series was 1933 (AL's Washington Senators).
- 10/29: World Series, G6: **Washington** beat Houston 7-2. Nats' **Steven Strasberg**'s playoff/Series record: 5-0.

- Last Year:** Manager Bruce Bochy, Cincinnati Reds broadcaster Marty Brennaman, C Brian McCann, David Freese,
 Bochy began coaching the San Francisco Giants in 2007.
 Brennaman started broadcasting Reds games in 1974.
- First Year:** SS Fernando Tatis Jr., Christian Walker, Bryan Reynolds, Aristides Aquino, Victor Robles,
 Mike Soroka, Dakota Hudson, Keston, Hiura, and Alex Verdugo
- #1 Draft Pick:** C Adley Rutschman (Baltimore)
- Clemente Award:** P Carlos Carrasco, Cleveland
- Rookie/Year:** 1B Pete Alonso, NY Mets
 Alonso's 53 HRs was an NL record for a rookie
- Exec of Year:** Erik Neander, Tampa Bay (AL)
- Mgr./Year:** Mike Shildt, St. Louis
- Comeback:** 3B Josh Donaldson, Atlanta
- MVP:** OF Cody Bellinger, LA Dodgers
- Cy Young:** Jacob de Grom, NY Mets
- Hall of Fame:** Lee Smith & Harold Baines (Committee), Pitchers Roy Halladay, Mariano Rivera (), and Mike Mussina;
 DH Edgar Martinez. Also: Jason Stark (Spinks Award), Al Helfer (Ford Frick Award)
 Rivera was 1st MLB player to be voted unanimously
- World Series:** Washington beat Houston in 7 games. Note: The visiting team won all 7 games