

2017 American League

Standings:

Eastern Division

Boston	93-69
New York	91-71
Tampa Bay	80-82
Toronto	76-86
Baltimore	75-87

Central Division

Cleveland	102-60
Minnesota	85-77
Kansas City	80-82
Chicago	67-95
Detroit	64-98

Western Division

Houston	101-61	ERA:	Cleveland	3.30
LA Angels	80-82	BA:	Houston	.282
Seattle	78-84	FA:	Cleveland	.987
Texas	78-84			
Oakland	75-87			

Best home record:	NY Yankees	51-30	Worst:	Detroit	34-47
Best away record:	Cleveland/Houston	53-28	Worst:	Chicago	28-53

League:

- New Collective Bargaining Agreement was made in early December. Pact included higher penalties for high-spending teams, a **cap on signing bonuses** for international amateurs, and **home-field advantage** for the World Series now goes to the league of the team that possesses the best season record. There would also be no international amateur draft. ML's 15-day term on the Disabled list was reduced to 10; luxury tax was harsher.

The league that won the **All-Star Game** no longer determined World Series home field advantage.

MLB planned to eliminate **rookie hazing**; **intentional walks** now require a manager's signal from the dugout; limited trips to the mound for catchers and infielders, use of a 20-second **pitch clock**, the lower portion of the strike zone re-altered, and for the low minor leagues: insert a runner at 2nd base at the start of extra innings.

After several foul-ball injuries – league discussed **extending the safety netting** beyond the 1st & 3rd base lines.

- White Sox' **Jose Abreu** and NY Mets' **Yoenis Cespedes** each testified about elite Cuban players smuggled illegally into the US (through Mexico). Focus was on agents Burt Hernandez, trainer Julius Estrada, and Amin Latouff. Each of the three coerced large payouts from the players in return. March: Hernandez and Estrada were found guilty.
- **Highest payroll:** LA Dodgers (\$242.1 M); NY Yankees ranked #2 (\$201.5 M), Boston 3rd (\$199.81 M), and Detroit 4th (\$199.8 M). **Lowest payroll:** Milwaukee (\$63.1 M); AL's Tampa Bay ranked 29th (\$70 M).
- **Nick-names** could be seen on the backs of jersey during Players Weekend (8/26-27).
- **Hurricane Henry** forced **Houston Astros** to play home games at Tampa Bay's Tropicana Field.
- **President Trump** created a stir by stating that any athlete who kneels during the national anthem should be fired.

1/22/17: Kansas City P **Yordano Ventura** was killed in a car accident.

11/7/17: Former Toronto P **Roy Halladay** died in a plane accident. Halladay (203-105): 8X All-Star and 2X Cy Young Award winner.

Fines and Suspensions:

- **St. Louis Cardinals'** punishment for hacking Houston's emails: \$2M and 2 top draft choices.
Chris Correa, Cardinals' former scouting director, was sentenced 46 months in jail and banned for life from baseball. Boston P **Matt Barnes** 4G for throwing at Manny Machado; Toronto OF **Kevin Pillar** 2G for using slur; Boston manager **John Farrell** 1G for arguing with the umpires; umpire **Joe West** 3G for negative comments directed at Texas 3B Adrian Beltre; Houston P **Mike Fiers** 5G for throwing at a batter's head;
- **Mid-May showdown** between Baltimore & Boston included hard slides, beanballs, racial slurs, and player (and fan) ejections. Manny Machado's hard slide into Dustin Pedroia led to close pitches and beanballs (from both teams); Orioles OF Adam Jones experienced racial slurs leading to 1 fan permanently removed from Fenway Park.
- Detroit 2B **Ian Kinsler** fined \$10K after criticizing umpire Angel Hernandez. In response, AL and NL umpires began wearing **white armbands** to protest rise in verbal attacks.

Boston Red Sox were fined for using an Apple watch to relay messages so they could steal opponents' hand signals.

NY Yankees were fined for using a dugout phone during 2009 World Series.

Suspensions from **Detroit-NY Yankees brawl** on 8/24: Tigers' Miguel Cabrera (7G), P Alex Wilson (4G); NY C Gaby Sanchez (3G), NY C Austin Romine (2G), and Tigers M Brad Ausmus (1G).

Major trades: OF Matt Holiday, RP Aroldis Chapman, OF Chris Carter, and P Sonny Gray (NYY), P Chris Sale (Boston), P Jason Hammel & OF Jorge Soler (KC), OF Josh Reddick, Carlos Beltran, and Jason Verlander (Hou), DH Kendrys Morales (Tor); C Wilson Ramos (Tampa); DH Edwin Encarnacion and OF Jay Bruce (Cle); P Derek Holland (Chicago); Mike Napoli (Tex); Ps Yovani Gallardo, Mike Leake, and 1B Yonder Alonso (Sea); OF Rajai Davis (Oak), and OF Justin Upton (LA Angels). RP Chapman signed \$86M/5-years

Noteworthy games:

- 4/23: **Boston** beat Baltimore 6-2 (Eduardo Rodriguez). Red Sox rookie OF Andrew Benintendi went 5-5.
4/25: **Detroit** beat Seattle 19-9 (Jordan Zimmerman). Ian Kinsler: 4-5/2 Runs. Tigers' 19 runs were club-record for Comerica Park.
4/28: **NY Yankees** beat Baltimore 14-11 in 10 (Aroldis Chapman) on Matt Holiday's 3-run HR. Yankees were down 9-1 in 6th.
5/7: **Boston** beat Minnesota 17-6 (Chris Sale). Red Sox scored 10 runs in the 9th on 7 hits and 5 walks.
5/29: **Houston** beat Minnesota 16-8 (Jordan Jankowski). After falling behind 8-2, Astros scored 11 runs (1 HR) in the 8th.
Toronto beat Cincinnati 17-2 (Marcus Stroman). Jays' Ezequiel Carrera and Devon Travis (2B) each had 4 hits.
5/30: **Boston** beat Chicago White Sox 13-7 (Chris Sale). Red Sox' Deven Marrero hit 2 of the team's 6 HRs.
5/31: **Houston** beat Minnesota 17-6 (Michael Feliz). DH George Springer (4-4) hit 2 of the Astros' 6 HRs.
6/3: **NY Yankees** beat Toronto 7-0 (Jordan Montgomery). Yankees hit 4 solo HRs in the 8th inning off Jason Grilli.
LA Angels beat Minnesota 7-2 (Matt Shoemaker). Angels' Albert Pujols hit career HR #600 – a 4th inning grand slam.
6/13: **Minnesota** beat Seattle 20-7. Twins totaled 28 hits. Eddie Rosario: 4-5/3 HRs & 5 RBIs; Eduardo Escobar: 5-6/2 RBIs.
6/24: **Oakland** beat Chicago White Sox 10-2 (Daniel Gossett). Score was 8-2 after 5.
Three Oakland rookies homered in their 1st ML game: Matt Olson, Jaycob Brugman, and Franklin Barreto.
7/2: **Boston** beat Toronto 15-1 (Drew Pomeranz). Red Sox totaled 21 hits; OF Mookie Betts: 4-6/2 HRs & 8 RBIs.
7/9: **Houston** beat Toronto 19-1 (Brad Peacock). Astro SS Carlos Garcia: 4-5/2 HRs & 5 RBIs; 2B Jose Altuve: 3-4/HR & 3 RBIs.
7/26: **Kansas City** beat Detroit 16-2 (Ian Kennedy). Royals' Eric Hosmer: 5-6/HR & 6 RBIs.
Texas lost to Miami 22-10 (Jose Urena). Rangers' Adrian Beltre was ejected for moving the on-deck batting circle.
7/30: **Texas** lost to Baltimore 10-6 (Wade Miley). Rangers' 3B Adrian Beltre collected his 3,000th career hit.
8/4: **Houston** beat Toronto 16-7 (Brad Peacock). Astros 1B Tyler White (4-5/5 RBIs) clubbed 2 of Houston's 5 HRs.
8/18: **Baltimore** beat LA Angels 7-5 (Darren O'Day) on Manny Machado's walk-off grand slam. Machado (3 HRs) drove in 7 runs.
8/23: **Baltimore** beat Oakland 8-7 in 12 (Miguel Castro). Orioles won on Manny Machado's HR.
Baltimore RP Zach Britton's streak of consecutive saves ended at 60.
8/24: **Detroit** beat NY Yankees 10-6 (Alex Wilson). Several of its batters (2 Tigers/2 Yankees) and close pitches led to 3 on-field fights and 8 ejections (see *Fines and Suspensions* above).
8/31: **Toronto** beat Baltimore 11-8 (Marco Estrada). Jays' Kendrys Morales: 4-5/3 HRs & 7 RBIs.
9/3: **Cleveland** beat Detroit 11-1 (Josh Tomlin). Indians' Jose Ramirez: 5-5/3 2Bs, 2 HRs & 3 RBIs.
9/5: **Detroit** beat Kansas City 13-2 (Blaine Hardy). 1B John Hicks and OF JaCoby Jones each hit 2 of the Tigers' 6 HRs.
9/9: **Chicago** beat San Francisco 13-1 (James Shields). Sox clubbed 6 HRs. 1B Jose Abreu hit for the cycle.
9/12: **Minnesota** beat San Diego 16-0 (Kyle Gibson). C Jason Castro (3-4/4 RBIs) hit 2 of the Twins' 7 HRs.
9/13: **Cleveland** beat Detroit 5-3 (Mike Clevinger). Indians 21st straight win.
9/30: Detroit beat Minnesota 4-3 (Buck Farmer). Tigers' Andrew Romine (1-3, 1/3 IP) played all 9 positions.

Streaks: Houston (+11), Texas (+10); Detroit (-10)

Cleveland won 11 games in a row earlier in the season than 22 straight (ML's 2nd longest) in August/September.

Playoffs:

- 10/5: **Houston** beat Boston 8-2 (Justin Verlander). Astros' **Jose Altuve**: 3-4/3 HRs.
10/29: G5 World Series: **Houston** beat LA Dodgers 13-12 in 10 (Joe Musgrove for Dallas Keuchel). Astros hit 5 HRs.

- MLB set a record for HRs in a single season.
- NY Yankees **Aaron Judge** clubbed rookie-record 13 HRs in 25Gs. Judge's 50 HRs was another rookie record. Judge also set Yankee record for number of HRs at home (33). Former record: Babe Ruth, 1921. The rookie OF also set the ML record for consecutive games with at least 1 strikeout (37).
- Cleveland IF **Jose Ramirez** set a record by totaling 14 extra base hits (10 2Bs, 3B, 3 HRs) in a 7-game span
- Boston P **Chris Sale** tied ML record by striking out 10+ batters 8 times.

- August: **Kansas City Royals** went 45 innings without scoring a run. Club was shutout 4X during that span.
- **Minnesota** entered the playoffs after losing 103 games the previous season.

All Star Game: AL beat NL 2-1 in 10 innings. MVP: Robinson Cano.

Last Year: OF Sam Fuld, OF/DH Carlos Beltran

First Year: Pitchers Chris Rowley and Keynan Middleton, OFs Aaron Judge, Andrew Benintendi, and Trey Mancini;
3B Max Chapman, and DH Matt Olson
Rowley is 1st West Point graduate to pitch in the majors. Lieutenant Rowley spent 2 years in active service.

#1 Draft Pick: SS Royce Lewis (Minnesota)

Clemente Award: 1B Anthony Rizzo, Chicago Cubs

Rookie/Year: OF Aaron Judge, NY Yankees

Comeback: 3B Mike Moustakas, Kansas City

Exec./Year: Chris Antonetti, Cleveland

Mgr./Year: Paul Molitor, Minnesota

MVP: 2B Jose Altuve, Houston

Cy Young: Corey Kluber, Cleveland

Hall of Fame: C Ivan "Pudge" Rodriguez, IF Jeff Bagwell, OF Tim Lincecum, executives John Schuerholz and Bud Selig
Also included: Cartoon character Homer Simpson (Homer at the Bat).

World Series: Houston Astros beat the LA Dodgers in 7 games.