

SPORTS

Youthful aspirations came true

Vin Scully heads into final week behind mic at Dodgers Stadium

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 20, (AP)—As an 8-year-old in the Bronx, Vin Scully would grab a pillow, put it under his family's four-legged radio and lay his head directly under the speaker to hear whatever college football game was on the air in 1936.

With a snack of saltine crackers and a glass of milk nearby, the red-haired boy was transfixed by a crowd roar that raised goosebumps. He thought about how much he'd like to be at the game. As time went on, he thought he'd like to call the action himself.

His youthful aspirations came true at 22 when he was hired by a CBS radio affiliate in Washington, D.C. The following year, he joined Red Barber and Connie Desmond in the Brooklyn Dodgers' radio and television booths. In 1953, at age 25, Scully became the youngest person to broadcast a World Series game, a mark that still stands.

Now 88, Scully is heading into his final week behind the mic at Dodger Stadium before concluding his career on Oct. 2 in San Francisco, where the Dodgers end the regular season against the rival Giants. His 67 years with the Dodgers make Scully the longest-tenured broadcaster with a single team in profes-



In this July 3, 2002 file photo, Los Angeles Dodgers television play-by-play announcer Vin Scully rehearses before a game between the Dodgers and the Arizona Diamondbacks, in Phoenix. (AP)

Dodgers when the franchise relocated to Los Angeles. Fans had trouble recognizing the lesser players during the team's first four years in the vast Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

"They were 70 or so odd rows away from the action," he said. "They brought the radio to find out about all the other players and to see what they were trying to see down on the field."

That habit carried over when the team moved to Dodger Stadium. Fans at the games held radios to their ears and those not present listened from home or the car, allowing Scully to connect generations of families with his words.

"God has been so good to me to allow me to do what I'm doing," said Scully, a devout Catholic who attends Mass on Sundays before heading to the ballpark. "A childhood dream that came to pass and then giving me 67 years to enjoy every minute of it. That's a pretty large thanksgiving day for me."

The Dodgers plan to honor their second-longest tenured employee (behind former manager Tom Lasorda) starting Tuesday night with a Scully bobblehead giveaway.

Friday is an appreciation day for Scully with a pregame ceremony featuring speakers from his career and a postgame fireworks show set to the top calls of his career.

The first 50,000 fans at Saturday's game against Colorado will receive a limited edition solid bronze coin. On the front is an image of Scully with his signature greeting of "It's time for Dodger baseball."

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sional sports.

"I will miss it," he said Monday. "I know that dramatically."

Scully discovered his lifelong love of baseball walking home from grade school. He passed a Chinese laundromat and saw the score from Game 2 of the 1936 World Series: Yankees 18, Giants 4.

"My first reaction was, 'Poor Giants,'" he recalled, noting he lived near the team's home at the Polo Grounds and attended many games for free after school. "That's when I fell in love with baseball and became a true fan."

Fittingly, his last game will be 80 years to the day he saw that score in the window.

"It seems like the plan was laid out for me and all I had to do was follow the instructions," Scully said.

Has he ever.

Though the years, Scully has entranced generations of baseball fans with his dulcet tones as he spins stories about the game and its players while working alone on the air. He still relishes the crowd's cheers, a sound he says is "like water out of a showerhead."

Scully credits the birth of the transistor radio as "the greatest single break" of his career. In 1958, he accompanied the

Porcello gets 21st win as Red Sox rally past Orioles

Dodgers edge Giants, increase NL West lead to 6 games

BALTIMORE, Sept. 20, (AP)—Rick Porcello pitched a four-hitter for his major league-high 21st victory while David Ortiz and Mookie Betts hit two-run homers as the Boston Red Sox beat the Baltimore Orioles 5-2 on Monday night to extend their lead in the American League East.

Coming off a four-game sweep of the Yankees, Boston sustained its late-season surge in the opener of an important four-game series for both clubs. The Red Sox stand atop the division by a season-high four games.

Adam Jones homered and Mark Trumbo picked up his 102nd RBI, but the Orioles dropped into a tie with Toronto for the first AL wild card.

Porcello (21-4) struck out seven and walked none in his third complete game of the year. Five days earlier against Baltimore, the right-hander gave up one run in eight innings but took the loss.

Playing his final regular season series in Baltimore, the 40-year-old Ortiz connected against rookie Dylan Bundy (9-6) with a man on in the fifth for a 5-1 lead.

Dodgers 2, Giants 1

In Los Angeles, Adrian Gonzalez hit a game-ending double in the ninth inning as Los Angeles rallied for a testy 2-1 victory over San Francisco that increased its NL West lead to six games.

Two innings after a shoving match broke out when tempers again flared between Madison Bumgarner and Yasiel Puig, the Dodgers' comeback in the ninth began with pinch-hitter Andrew Toles' leadoff single.

Corey Seager singled past diving second baseman Joe Panik on a two-strike pitch from Javier Lopez (1-3), allowing the speedy Toles to reach third.

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Justin Turner's single tied the game, and Gonzalez followed with a drive to deep right field that eluded Hunter Pence. Joe Blanton (6-2) got the win in relief.

Rangers 3, Angels 2

In Arlington, Texas, Ian Desmond had an RBI single with no outs in the ninth inning as Texas moved closer to the AL West title.

Elvis Andrus led off the ninth with a sharp single to left off Jose Alvarez (1-3) before Carlos Gomez turned an attempted sacrifice into a bunt single. Desmond, an All-Star center fielder, followed with his hit to right that scored Andrus.

Andrus also homered for the Rangers, who cut their magic number to three in pursuit of their second consecutive division title.

Alvarez, the sixth Angels pitcher, had got out of a bases-loaded jam in the eighth following a 38-minute rain delay.

Closer Sam Dyson (3-2) worked a scoreless ninth for the victory.

Blue Jays 3, Mariners 2

In Seattle, Marco Estrada took a no-hitter into the seventh inning and Edwin Encarnacion hit his 41st home run too lift Toronto over Seattle in the opener of a critical three-game series.

Estrada (9-9) had allowed only two walks before Robinson Cano led off the seventh with a line drive up the middle on a 2-1 pitch. Cano and Nelson Cruz walked in the fourth inning, but Estrada otherwise kept the Mariners off the bases.

The Blue Jays pulled even with Baltimore for the first AL wild-card spot. Both teams are 2-1/2 games clear of Detroit and three ahead of Seattle and Houston.

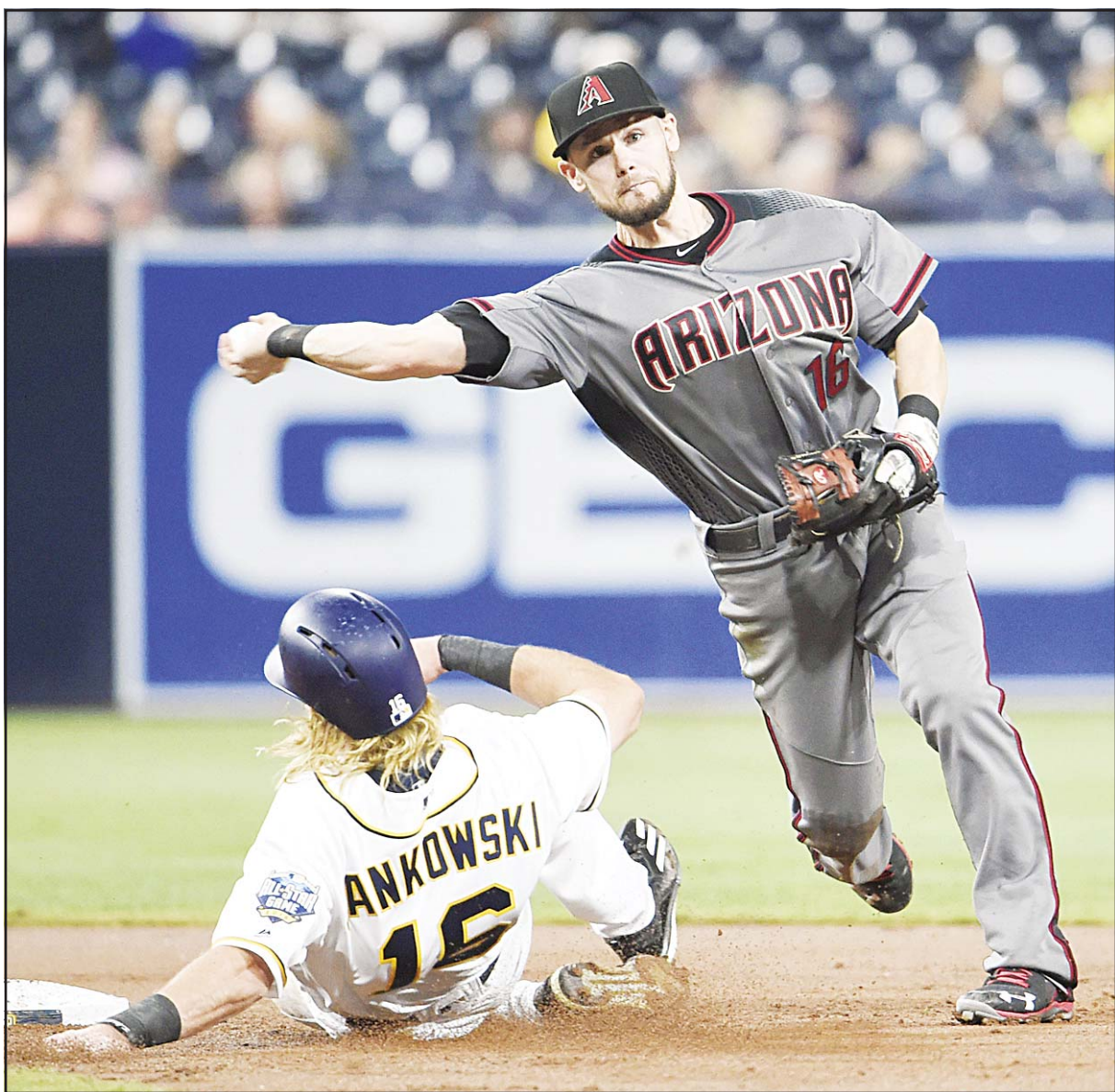
Tajuan Walker (6-11) allowed three runs in 5-1/3 innings. Roberto Osuna got his 34th save.

Cubs 5, Reds 2

In Chicago, Dexter Fowler hit a tie-breaking single with two outs in the seventh inning as Chicago beat Cincinnati.

Fowler's line drive into center field capped a three-run rally for the Cubs after they were shut down by Tim Lincecum most of the night. It also made a winner of Jason Hammel (15-9), who pitched seven solid innings.

Jason Heyward added a two-run homer in the eighth as the Cubs moved seven games ahead of Washington for the best record in the National League, lowering their magic number for clinch-



Chris Wigglesworth #16 of the Arizona Diamondbacks throws over Travis Jankowski #16 of the San Diego Padres as he turns a double play during the third inning of a baseball game at PETCO Park on Sept. 19, in San Diego, California. (AP)

Same number, new sport

Tebow works out at Mets camp

PORT ST LUCIE, Florida, Sept. 20, (AP)—Tim Tebow has arrived to begin his baseball career.

The 2007 Heisman Trophy winner and former NFL quarterback got to the New York Mets' complex early Monday, and his first workout as part of their instructional league team began later in the morning.

He was given jersey No. 15, the same number he wore as a quarterback as a national-championship-winning phenomenon in college at Florida

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— where he also donned blue and orange, the same color scheme as the Mets — and as a much-maligned one in the NFL with Denver and the New York Jets.

He showed some power, hitting three balls in batting practice off the chain-link fence in right-center — better than just about anyone else did. He showed some rust, popping up a half-dozen pitches in that same BP session.

And he showed a need for work, after one of his throws sailed well over someone's head and nearly onto an adjacent field during a simple game of catch.

"It was a lot of fun," Tebow said. "It

ing home-field advantage throughout the NL playoffs to five. That's the only major goal still out there during the regular season for major league-leading Chicago after it secured the NL Central title last week.

Blake Wood (6-4) allowed three runs in 1-2/3 innings.

Braves 7, Mets 3

In New York, Aaron Blair won for the first time in 13 major league starts, Freddie Freeman drove in three runs off a misfiring Noah Syndergaard and Atlanta slowed New York's wild-card chase.

Freeman had four hits for the Braves, who have the worst record in the National League, and rookie Dansby Swanson had three hits and three RBIs.

New York had won 11 of its previous

14 games. The Mets have a one-game lead over San Francisco and St. Louis for the first NL wild card.

Pitching on five days' rest rather than four, Syndergaard (13-9) allowed five runs, eight hits and three walks in 3-2/3 innings.

Blair (1-6) gave up six hits in six innings and lowered his ERA to 7.71.

Cardinals 5, Rockies 3

In Denver, Carlos Martinez threw five effective innings and added a two-run double, helping St. Louis gain ground in the NL playoff race.

The Cardinals moved into a tie for the second wild card with the Giants.

Martinez, who turns 25 on Wednesday, gave himself an early birthday present by holding Colorado to two runs while striking out six. The right-hander is 9-1 on the road this season.

Martinez (15-8) helped his own cause with a two-out double as part of a three-run fourth. He also was hit just below the left leg by a fastball from Tyler Anderson (5-6) in the third two pitches after Randal Grichuk lined a two-run homer.

Astros 4, Athletics 2

In Oakland, California, Marwin Gonzalez hit a tiebreaking, two-run single off Ryan Madson in the ninth inning as Houston came from behind to beat Oakland.

The Astros trailed 2-1 going into the eighth but tied it on pinch-hitter Tyler White's RBI double, then scored twice in the ninth to bolster their slim playoff hopes.

Jose Altuve and Carlos Correa opened the inning with singles. After Evan Gattis was intentionally walked, Gonzalez lined the first pitch from Madson (5-7) into center field to drive in Altuve and Correa.

Former Oakland reliever Luke

Gregerson (4-1) retired three batters for the win. Ken Giles pitched the ninth for his 12th save.

Mets' complex said instructional league workouts last year drew maybe a couple dozen people, tops. A news helicopter circled over the field where Tebow worked for more than an hour.

He got a huge cheer from fans for executing his first official drill, one where he learned how to take a lead off first base.

Tebow is one of 58 players on the Mets' instructional league roster, and at 29 he's also four years older than any other invitee. Two of the players on the roster won't even turn 18 until next year.

Tebow's last time playing true organized baseball was in his junior year of high school, when he batted nearly .500 for Nease High near Jacksonville, Florida. He worked out for scouts in Los Angeles last month and not long afterward the Mets signed him to a deal that included a \$100,000 bonus.

"A lot of people would say, 'Well, it puts a chip on your shoulder,'" Tebow said. "I mean, I guess I have a little chip. You want to prove people right. Not really the naysayers, it's more that I want to prove the coaches right, the Mets organization, my teammates, play with my teammates and try to be the best baseball player I can — more importantly, the best person I can."



Tim Tebow (right), bats as Patrick Mazeika (11) waits his turn at the New York Mets' complex on Sept. 19, in Port St. Lucie, Fla. (AP)

In Miami, Giancarlo Stanton homered and Miami beat Washington.

Christian Yelich, Ichiro Suzuki and Derek Dietrich also drove in a run for the Marlins and A.J. Ramos pitched the ninth for his 38th save in 41 chances.

Brian Ellington (3-2) picked up the win with an inning of relief while Mat Latos (7-3) took the loss.

Royals 8, White Sox 3

In Kansas City, Missouri, Yordano Ventura picked up his first complete-game victory, Kendrys Morales hit a three-run homer and Kansas City defeated Chicago.

The Royals have won three straight, keeping their faint playoff hopes flickering with 12 games remaining. The Royals went 14-5 against the White Sox this year. Ventura (11-11) gave up nine hits, struck out five and walked one. His only other complete game in the majors was a July 28 loss at Texas.

Morales homered off Carlos Rodon (7-10) in a four-run fifth. Morales homered in back-to-back games, bringing his total to 29. The last Royal to hit 30 home runs in a season was Jermaine Dye, with 33 in 2000.

Padres 3, Diamondbacks 2

In San Diego, Clayton Richard was sharp for six-plus innings and Wil Myers homered as San Diego defeated Arizona.

Richard (3-3) won his third straight decision, charged with two runs and six hits. He struck out two and walked two. Brandon Maurer pitched the ninth for his 11th save in 13 chances.

Braden Shipley (4-4) was gone after four innings.

MLB Scoreboard

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20, (Agencies): Results and standings from the MLB games on Monday			
Kansas City	8	Chicago W Sox	3
Boston	5	Baltimore	2
Atlanta	7	NY Mets	3
Miami	4	Washington	3
Chicago Cubs	5	Cincinnati	2
Texas	3	LA Angels	2
St. Louis	5	Colorado	3
Houston	4	Oakland	2
San Diego	3	Arizona	2
LA Dodgers	2	San Francisco	1
Toronto	3	Seattle	2

American League

Eastern Division			
	W	L	PCT
Boston	86	64	.573
Baltimore	82	68	.547
Toronto	82	68	.547
NY Yankees	77	72	.517
Tampa Bay	64	85	.430

Central Division			
	W	L	PCT
Cleveland	86	63	.577
Detroit	79	70	.527
Kansas City	77	73	.513
Chicago W Sox	72	78	.480
Minnesota	55	95	.367

Western Division			
	W	L	PCT
Texas	89	62	.589
Houston	79	74	.515
Seattle	79	71	.527
Oakland	66	84	.440
LA Angels	65	85	.433

National League

Eastern Division			
	W	L	PCT
Washington	88	62	.587
NY Mets	80	70	.533
Miami	75	75	.500
Philadelphia	67	83	.447
Atlanta	59	91	.393

Central Division			
	W	L	PCT
Chicago Cubs	95	55	.633
St. Louis	79	71	.527
Pittsburgh	74	75	.497
Milwaukee	68	82	.453
Cincinnati	63	87	.420

Western Division			
	W	L	PCT
LA Dodgers	85	65	.567
San Francisco	79	71	.527
Colorado	72	78	.480
Arizona	63	87	.420
San Diego	63	87	.420

MLB Leaders

American League	
BATTING: Altuve, Houston, .337; Pedroia, Boston, .325; Trout, Los Angeles, .318; Martinez, Detroit, .317; Ortiz, Boston, .317; Betts, Boston, .314; Ramirez, Cleveland, .311; Lindor, Cleveland, .310; Cabrera, Detroit, .309; Escobar, Los Angeles, .306.	

RUNS: Donaldson, Toronto, 114; Betts, Boston, 113; Trout, Los Angeles, 113; Bogaerts, Boston, 111; Springer, Houston, 110; Kinsler, Detroit, 106; Desmond, Texas, 104; Machado, Baltimore, 102; Altuve, Houston, 101; Dozier, Minnesota, 99; Pedroia, Boston, 99.
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RBI: Encarnacion, Toronto, 118; Ortiz, Boston, 118; Pujols, Los Angeles, 112; Betts, Boston, 108; Ramirez, Boston, 106; Trumbo, Baltimore, 102; Davis, Oakland, 99; Dozier, Minnesota, 98; Napoli, Cleveland, 98; Beltre, Texas, 98.

HITS: Altuve, Houston, 199; Betts, Boston, 198; Pedroia, Boston, 191; Bogaerts, Boston, 181; Machado, Baltimore, 179; Lindor, Cleveland, 179; Cano, Seattle, 176; Abreu, Chicago, 175; Desmond, Texas, 171; Cabrera, Detroit, 169.

DOUBLES: Ortiz, Boston, 47; Betts, Boston, 40; Altuve, Houston, 40; Ramirez, Cleveland, 39; Machado, Baltimore, 39; Cabrera, Cleveland, 37; Longoria, Tampa Bay, 35; Kipnis, Cleveland, 35; Dozier, Minnesota, 35; Schoop, Baltimore, 35.
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TRIPLES: Eaton, Chicago, 9; Andrus, Texas, 7; Escobar, Kansas City, 6; Bradley Jr., Boston, 6; Bourne, Baltimore, 6; Dyson, Kansas City, 6; Gardner, New York, 6; Beckham, Tampa Bay, 5; Cabrera, Chicago, 5; Dozier, Minnesota, 5; Trout, Los Angeles, 5; Buxton, Minnesota, 5; Miller, Tampa Bay, 5; Altuve, Houston, 5; Naquin, Cleveland, 5; Betts, Boston, 5; Donaldson, Toronto, 5; Ellsbury, New York, 5.

HOME RUNS: Trumbo, Baltimore, 43; Dozier, Minnesota, 41; Davis, Oakland, 40; Encarnacion, Toronto, 40; Davis, Baltimore, 38; Frazier, Chicago, 37; Cruz, Seattle, 37; Machado, Baltimore, 36; Ortiz, Boston, 35; Longoria, Tampa Bay, 35.
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STOLEN BASES: Davis, Cleveland, 40; Dyson, Kansas City, 28; Altuve, Houston, 27; Trout, Los Angeles, 26; Upton Jr., Toronto, 26; Betts, Boston, 24; Andrus, Texas, 22; Ramirez, Cleveland, 21; Kliewer, Tampa Bay, 20; Desmond, Texas, 20.

PITCHING: Porcello, Boston, 21-4; Hagg, Toronto, 19-4; Kluber, Cleveland, 17-9; Price, Boston, 16-8; Timlman, Baltimore, 16-6; Sale, Chicago, 16-8; Iwakuma, Seattle, 16-11; Hamels, Texas, 14-5; Verlander, Detroit, 14-8; Wright, Boston, 13-6.
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ERA: Tanaka, New York, 2.97; Sale, Chicago, 3.03; Porcello, Boston, 3.08; Kluber, Cleveland, 3.12; Sanchez, Toronto, 3.17; Duffy, Kansas City, 3.18; Verlander, Detroit, 3.22; Quintana, Chicago, 3.26; Hagg, Toronto, 3.27; Wright, Boston, 3.33.

STRIKEOUTS: Verlander, Detroit, 223; Archer, Tampa Bay, 221; Price, Boston, 217; Kluber, Cleveland, 215; Sale, Chicago, 215; Hamels, Texas, 187; Pineda, New York, 184; Duffy, Kansas City, 181; Pomeranz, Boston, 180; Porcello, Boston, 174.

SAVES: Britton, Baltimore, 45; Rodriguez, Detroit, 43; Robertson, Chicago, 35; Colome, Tampa Bay, 34; Dyson, Texas, 34; Osuna, Toronto, 33; Madson, Oakland, 30; Kimbrel, Boston, 27; Jeffress, Texas, 27; Allen, Cleveland, 27.

National League	
BATTING: LeMahieu, Colorado, .349; Murphy, Washington, .348; Votto, Cincinnati, .321; Blackmon, Colorado, .319; Segura, Arizona, .319; Seager, Los Angeles, .313; Realmuto, Miami, .312; Prado, Miami, .311; Marte, Pittsburgh, .311; Braun, Milwaukee, .308.	

RUNS: Bryant, Chicago, 115; Arenado, Colorado, 105; Blackmon, Colorado, 104; LeMahieu, Colorado, 101; Seager, Los Angeles, 99; Goldschmidt, Arizona, 97; Votto, Cincinnati, 93; Freeman, Atlanta, 93; Segura, Arizona, 91; Myers, San Diego, 90.

RBI: Arenado, Colorado, 124; Murphy, Washington, 104; Rizzo, Chicago, 101; Gonzalez, Colorado, 99; Kemp, Atlanta, 99; Bryant, Chicago, 96; Yelich, Miami, 94; Russell, Chicago, 93; Duvall, Cincinnati, 92; Bruce, New York, 91.

HITS: Segura, Arizona, 190; LeMahieu, Colorado, 184; Murphy, Washington, 184; Seager, Los Angeles, 182; Prado, Miami, 176; Blackmon, Colorado, 169; Arenado, Colorado, 168; Freeman, Atlanta, 167; Bryant, Chicago, 166; Votto, Cincinnati, 163.
