

American League

Table with columns: East, Central, West, W, L, PCT, GB, L10/STR, HOME, AWAY. Rows include Boston, New York, Tampa Bay, Toronto, Baltimore, Detroit, Chicago, Minnesota, Kansas City, Cleveland, Los Angeles, Texas, Seattle, Oakland.

SCORES

Yesterday's result All-Star Game: AL 4, NL 3 Sunday's results Detroit 10, Cleveland 1 Boston 6, Kansas City 0 Baltimore 4, Toronto 2 Oakland 7, Tampa Bay 3 Minnesota 13, White Sox 7 Seattle 5, Yankees 4 Monday's results No games SCHEDULE Today's games No games Thursday's games Seattle at Cleveland, 7:05 p.m. Angels at Oakland, 10:05 p.m.

INDIANS

Friday: Seattle, 7:05 p.m.; 18: Seattle, 7:05 p.m.; 19: Seattle, 1:05 p.m.; 21: at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.; 22: at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.; 23: at Toronto, 12:37 p.m.; 24: at Seattle, 10:10 p.m.; 25: at Seattle, 4:10 p.m.; 26: at Seattle, 4:10 p.m.; 27: at L.A. Angels, 10:05 p.m.; 28: at L.A. Angels, 10:05 p.m.; 29: at L.A. Angels, 3:35 p.m.; 31: Detroit, 7:05 p.m.; Aug. 1: Detroit, 7:05 p.m.; 2: Detroit, 1:05 p.m.; 4: Minnesota, 7:05 p.m.; 5: Minnesota, 7:05 p.m.; 6: Minnesota, 12:05 p.m.; 7: at Chicago White Sox, 8:11 p.m.; 8: at Chicago White Sox, 7:05 p.m.; 9: at Chicago White Sox, 2:05 p.m.; 11: Texas, 7:05 p.m.; 12: Texas, 7:05 p.m.; 13: Texas, 12:05 p.m.; 14: at Minnesota, 8:10 p.m.; 15: at Minnesota, 4:10 p.m.; 16: at Minnesota, 2:10 p.m.; 18: L.A. Angels, 7:05 p.m.; 19: L.A. Angels, 7:05 p.m.; 20: L.A. Angels, 7:05 p.m.; 21: Seattle, 7:05 p.m.

National League

Table with columns: Philadelphia, Florida, Atlanta, New York, Washington, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Houston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Colorado, Arizona, San Diego. Rows include Philadelphia, Florida, Atlanta, New York, Washington, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Houston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Colorado, Arizona, San Diego.

SCORES

Yesterday's result All-Star Game: AL 4, NL 3 Sunday's results Mets 9, Cincinnati 7 Cubs 7, St. Louis 3, 1st game Philadelphia 5, Pittsburgh 2 L.A. Dodgers 7, Milwaukee 4 Houston 5, Washington 0 Colorado 8, Atlanta 7 San Diego 10, San Francisco 4 Florida 8, Arizona 1 St. Louis 4, Cubs 2, 2nd game Monday's results No games SCHEDULE Today's games No games Thursday's games Cubs at Washington, 7:05 p.m. Mets at Atlanta, 7:10 p.m. Milwaukee at Cincinnati, 7:10 p.m. Houston at Dodgers, 10:10 p.m. Colorado at San Diego, 10:05 p.m.

REDS

Friday: Milwaukee, 7:10 p.m.; 18: Milwaukee, 7:10 p.m.; 19: Milwaukee, 1:10 p.m.; 20: at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.; 21: at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.; 22: at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.; 24: at Chicago Cubs, 2:20 p.m.; 25: at Chicago Cubs, 1:05 p.m.; 26: at Chicago Cubs, 2:20 p.m.; 27: San Diego, 7:10 p.m.; 28: San Diego, 7:10 p.m.; 29: San Diego, 7:10 p.m.; 30: San Diego, 12:35 p.m.; 31: Colorado, 7:10 p.m. Aug. 1: Colorado, 7:10 p.m.; 2: Colorado, 1:10 p.m.; 3: Chicago Cubs, 7:10 p.m.; 4: Chicago Cubs, 7:10 p.m.; 5: Chicago Cubs, 7:10 p.m.; 7: at San Francisco, 10:15 p.m.; 8: at San Francisco, 10:15 p.m.; 9: at San Francisco, 4:05 p.m.; 10: at St. Louis, 8:15 p.m.; 11: at St. Louis, 8:15 p.m.; 12: at St. Louis, 8:15 p.m.; 13: Washington, 7:10 p.m.; 14: Washington, 7:10 p.m.; 15: Washington, 7:10 p.m.; 16: Washington, 1:10 p.m.

American League leaders

Table with columns: Batting, RBI, Home Runs, Stolen Bases, Pitching, Saves. Rows include Bay, Minn., Bay, Bos., Morneau, Minn., Longoria, T.B., TorHunter, L.A., Teixeira, N.Y., Ahlil, Tor., JRivera, L.A., Konerko, Chi., Pena, T.B., Brayan, Sea., Cruz, Tex., Inge, Del., Morneau, Minn., Teixeira, N.Y., Wakefield, Bos., Beckett, Bos., Halladay, Tor., JerWeaver, L.A., Slowey, Minn., Verlander, Det., Greinke, K.C., Fuentes, L.A., Nathan, Minn., Papelbon, Bos., MaRivera, N.Y., Jenks, Chi., Shierrli, Bal., Aardsma, Sea.

National League leaders

Table with columns: Batting, RBI, Home Runs, Stolen Bases, Pitching, Saves. Rows include HaRamirez, Fla., Beltran, N.Y., Pujols, S.L., Tejada, Hou., Pierre, L.A., DWRight, N.Y., Kemp, L.A., Bonifacio, Fla., Pujols, S.L., Bourn, Hou., Morgan, Wash., Pierre, L.A., Fowler, Colo., DWright, N.Y., Kemp, L.A., Bonifacio, Fla., Marquis, Colo., Lincecum, S.F., Cain, S.F., Wainwright, S.L., JSantana, N.Y., Billingsley, L.A., Haren, Ariz., Bell, S.D., Rodriguez, N.Y., BWilson, S.F., Street, Colo., Franklin, S.L., Cordero, Cin.

ALL-STAR NOTEBOOK

Two firsts for Crawford: MVP, robbery

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Carl Crawford raced back to the left-field fence and leaped, his glove barely extending over the 8-foot wall. For a moment, everyone waited. And then the Tampa Bay speedster raised his mitt for all to see — yep, he caught it. Crawford made a timely grab and snatched the All-Star Game MVP award in the process last night, robbing Brad Hawpe of a go-ahead homer in the seventh inning

of the American League's 4-3 victory over the NL. "I don't think I've ever even robbed a home run before. Picked a good time to do it tonight," Crawford said. Making his third All-Star appearance, Crawford was elected by his fellow players as a reserve. He came off the bench as a pinch hitter in the fifth and singled his first time up before finishing 1 for 3. "It feels great to help the team win," Crawford said. "That's a part of my game —

defense." But even his own manager was impressed. "I've never seen him do that. The way he got to the position was great and, obviously, the catch was fantastic," said AL skipper Joe Maddon of Tampa Bay. Mays moved Baseball legend Willie Mays said he was so proud the night Barack Obama was elected president that he "cried for most of the night." The 78-year-old Hall of Famer spoke with reporters

as he flew with Obama from Michigan to St. Louis for the All-Star Game last night. Obama threw out the ceremonial first pitch. Mays, who played much of his career with the San Francisco Giants, said he met Obama in Chicago on election night in November. He said he reminded Obama that he had dreamed about the day when someone of their race would be elected president. Mays began playing baseball when segregation was widespread.

Longoria sits The American League All-Stars lost third baseman Evan Longoria to an infected right ring finger before the game. Michael Young from Texas started in his place and Chone Figgins from the Angels was added to the roster as a replacement. Figgins landed in St. Louis about 6:20 p.m. and received a special escort to the ballpark. He made it for the pre-game introductions.

All-Star oddities • The Phillies had their starting outfield at the game. Left fielder Raul Ibanez and center fielder Shane Victorino were in the starting lineup. Right fielder Jayson Werth was on the bench. The last team to send its outfield to the All-Star Game was the 1995 Indians, with Albert Belle (left) and Kenny Lofton (center) and Manny Ramirez (right). • Oakland's Andrew Bailey was the only rookie on either team.

NOTEBOOK

Selig shrugs off agents' talk of collusion

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Baseball commissioner Bud Selig denies that teams conspired against free agents after the 2008 season. As Michael Weiner prepares to take over from Donald Fehr as head of the players' association, several agents said they are pushing the union to file a collusion grievance against teams over their behavior during free agency last winter. "That's fine. They're entitled to their opinion," Selig said yesterday in St. Louis at a meeting of the Baseball Writers' Association of America. "Given the world we live in and what's happened in the last 18 months, I think this is one sport where I can't even fathom that anybody could think that." Jeff Borris, an agent whose clients include Barry Bonds, Brian Fuentes and Jason Istringhausen, said a day earlier: "There's a general level of suspicion in the air." The decision on whether to go

ahead with a grievance will be one of the first major decisions for the players' association since Fehr announced his retirement last month and its executive board recommended Weiner, the union's general counsel, for the top job. Weiner, who will take over from Fehr between the end of this season and the start of the 2010 season, struck a cautious note. "The new market will be what it's going to be," he said. The union filed collusion grievances after the 1985, 1986 and 1987 seasons. After arbitrators ruled in the union's favor, management agreed to a \$280 million settlement. A triple-damages provision was put into the sport's labor contract in 1990. As part of the latest collective bargaining agreement in 2006, players and owners settled potential claims that management may have conspired against free agents after the 2002 and 2003 seasons. Selig also said yesterday:

• Players on drug suspensions should not be allowed to go to the minor leagues before they return. Manny Ramirez drew sellout crowds last month in the minors when he played five minor-league games before his return to the Los Angeles Dodgers on July 3. "I believe that should be changed," Selig said. The current rules are in place through December 2011. • He's still examining Pete Rose's application for reinstatement. The career hits leader agreed to a lifetime ban from baseball in 1989 after an investigation concluded he bet on the Cincinnati Reds to win while he was manager of the team. Rose applied for reinstatement in September 1997 and met with Selig in November 2002. "It is under review," Selig said. "He did, as you know, accept voluntarily a lifetime suspension from Bart Giammatti, and there really isn't much more I can say about that."

Martinez to Phillies, source says A person familiar with the negotiations said Pedro Martinez has agreed to a one-year contract with the Philadelphia Phillies. The three-time Cy Young Award winner took a physical, and the Phillies plan a news conference today, according to the person who spoke on condition of anonymity because the announcement wasn't official. Martinez, 37, went 5-6 with a 5.61 ERA for the New York Mets last year. The free agent pitched in the World Baseball Classic before this season. Short hops Baseball writers have turned down a proposal to form a committee for developing guidelines on evaluating players from the steroids era in Hall of Fame voting. ... A private group examining stadium options for the Tampa Bay Rays said it doesn't think renovating Tropicana Field is a viable alternative to building a new facility.

American 4, National 3

Table with columns: AMERICAN, NATIONAL, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, AVG. Rows include Suzuki rf, Jackson p, Morneau 1b, Jeter ss, Bartlett ss, Mauer c, Granderson cf, Teixeira 1b, Martinez cf, Bay lf, Jones rf, Hamilton cf, Hernandez p, Papelbon p, Yuley 1b, Nathan p, Rivera p, Young 3b, Zobnist ph-2b, Hill 2b, Inge 3b, Halladay p, Buehrle p, Greinke p, Crawford ph-if, Ramirez ss, Hoffman p, Gonzalez 1b, Utley 2b, Hudson ph-2b, Pujols 1b, Cordero p, Bell p, h-Howard ph, Rodriguez p, Braun rf-if, Upton ph-if, Hawpe rf, Wright 3b, Billingsley p, Tejada ss, Victorino cf, Werth cf, Molina c, McCann ph-c, Lincecum p, Fielder ph, Franklin p, Haren p, Zimmerman 3b, Totals, American, National.

CLIPPERS

LaPorta's spirituality keeps him grounded

By Zach Swartz THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

When Matt LaPorta walks to the batter's box, the song that begins blaring over Huntington Park's loudspeakers is not the usual hip-hop or rock music that usually pops on when a hitter steps in. It's called 'Everlasting God,' a rock-pop number by Lincoln Brewster, and it serves as motivation for the Clippers' left fielder and first baseman. It also helps illustrate his relationship with God, which he calls his real drive for the game. "It's helped me through my career in the sense that baseball is not everything," LaPorta said recently. "There are important things in life other than baseball and how I perform on the baseball field. The most important thing is serving (God) and others." He didn't always feel that strongly. LaPorta grew up Catholic in Florida, but realized in high school that he wasn't getting as much from that religion as he'd hoped. At the urging of a friend, he

attended a nondenominational Christian service and found his spiritual home. But LaPorta's beliefs and baseball didn't mix until college. A standout first baseman at Florida, LaPorta went into his freshman season expecting to play every game. After starting only about half the time, LaPorta said religion was a major factor to keep him playing. "I struggled with that," LaPorta said. "It was hard not to be the guy, hard not to play. I just tried to focus more on reading my Bible and stuff and said, 'The only person that is going to be able to help me through this is God.' "I thought it was all about me. I worked so hard, I should be the best — I, I, I — but in essence it was all about God. By my senior year I realized that." LaPorta is not shy about displaying his faith. He wears a cross around his neck, points to the sky after he hits a home run and etches a cross in the dirt before each plate appearance. After three weeks with the

Cleveland Indians in May, his Twitter account (under the moniker Gator4God) announced, "Can't sleep. Headed back to Columbus because I got sent down. Not to worry it is all part of God's amazing plan." His other posts often quote Bible verses. LaPorta, 24, was the key acquisition in Cleveland's trade with Milwaukee last July for pitcher CC Sabathia. He batted a combined .279 with 22 home runs in double-A last season and was part of the United States' team that won the bronze medal in the Beijing Olympics. This season with the Clippers, he has maintained a batting average above .300 and his 11 home runs are tied for the team lead. But he has had troubles making the transition from the outfield, which he played for the first part of his two-year professional career, to first base. He batted .190 in his May call-up to the Indians. But it is faith through baseball — or perhaps, baseball through faith — that LaPorta said makes his road



COURTESY HERGESHEIMER | DISPATCH

Matt LaPorta points to the sky after every home run, something he has done 11 times this season for the Clippers. feel about that? In essence, I think God after every at-bat — whether I strike out or I hit a home run." zswartz@dispatch.com

ALL-STAR GAME MVPs

- 2009 — Carl Crawford, Tampa Bay, AL
2008 — J.D. Drew, Boston, AL
2007 — Ichiro Suzuki, Seattle, AL
2006 — Michael Young, Texas, AL
2005 — Miguel Tejada, Baltimore, AL
2004 — Alfonso Soriano, Texas, AL
2003 — Garret Anderson, Anaheim, AL
2002 — None
2001 — Cal Ripken Jr., Baltimore, AL
2000 — Derek Jeter, New York, AL
1999 — Pedro Martinez, Boston, AL
1998 — Roberto Alomar, Baltimore, AL
1997 — Sandy Alomar Jr., Cleveland, AL
1996 — Mike Piazza, Los Angeles, NL
1995 — Jeff Canine, Florida, NL
1994 — Fred McGriff, Atlanta, NL
1993 — Kirby Puckett, Minnesota, AL
1992 — Ken Griffey Jr., Seattle, AL
1991 — Cal Ripken Jr., Baltimore, AL
1990 — Julio Franco, Texas, AL
1989 — Bo Jackson, Kansas City, AL
1988 — Terry Steinbach, Oakland, AL
1987 — Tim Lincecum, Montreal, NL
1986 — Roger Clemens, Boston, AL
1985 — LARRY HOLT, San Diego, NL
1984 — Gary Carter, Montreal, NL
1983 — Fred Lynn, California, AL
1982 — Dave Concepcion, Cincinnati, NL
1981 — Gary Carter, Montreal, NL
1980 — Ken Griffey, Cincinnati, NL
1979 — Dave Parker, Pittsburgh, NL
1978 — Steve Garvey, Los Angeles, NL
1977 — Don Sutton, Los Angeles, NL