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**Who's Going To Need Baseball Tickets To Al West Games In August?**

**By Jay Nault**

Although the teams are still bunched up a bit, baseball tickets are still a relevant item in the cities of the AL West. Only 6.5 games separate first place from last, but form is beginning to take hold, and unless someone either goes extremely hot or very cold, this race is going to come down to the finish.

**Oakland A's**

Currently: The A's are beginning to play with some consistency, and they went 15–11 over the past 30 days, maintaining their hold on the division lead. Although there's no one dominant player on this typically–balanced A's team, Frank Thomas is quietly having a great comeback season. Barry Zito has been his reliable self in 2006.

Outlook: The A's are a solid team that may not be prone to ripping off 13 straight wins, but they're built to battle, and most likely won't swoon. They'll be right there until the end.

**Los Angeles Angels**

Currently: The Angels appear to be making a charge towards the postseason, and their last 30 days would bear this out. They had an eight–game winning streak interrupted by the All Star break, but still posted a nice 17–9 record over the past 30 days. Their offense is all about one superstar – Vladimir Guerrero. He's one of the most feared hitters in the AL, and as long as he's right, the Angels are a threat.

Outlook: This team has the talent to accomplish big things, and if they keep this momentum, don't be surprised to see them take the division.

**Texas Rangers**

Currently: The Rangers had another mediocre month, and this cost them in the standings. They went only 13–14, which included a six–game losing streak and a stretch where they lost seven of eight games. Baseball tickets did become a hotter item recently, though, as the Rangers acquired slugger

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Carlos Lee from the Brewers, adding some much-needed power to their lineup.

Outlook: If the Rangers get a boost from Lee, this is a team that could climb back into the race.

### Seattle Mariners

Currently: The Mariners had another mediocre month, going 11–13 over the past 30 days. They now find themselves in the cellar, and although they're only 6.5 games out as of this writing, they need to have a strong month to keep pace with the teams above them. They have the team to turn it around, as Ichiro Suzuki is one of the biggest pests to opposing pitching in recent baseball history.

Outlook: The Mariners, like the Rangers, need to turn it on now, or baseball tickets will become an afterthought in the Great Northwest.

By Jay Nault sponsored by

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## Professional Teams Past & Present

**By Dana Bradley**

Major League Baseball has existed since 1903 and is a professional baseball league that consists of teams in Canada and the US. This entity runs the American League. They have an organizational structure that allows them to run and organize both leagues.

The league's rules and structure are based on a constitution that has existed ever since 1876. In 1876, it was called the NL constitution then they called the Major League Baseball Constitution. The last revision of this constitution was in 2005. The constitution says that the commissioner hires and maintains the umpires and negotiates with the players, the marketers and the TV contracts.

Though the United States does not usually allow monopolies, Major League Baseball is allowed to be a monopoly. There are no competing professional baseball leagues in the United States. It is allowed to be a monopoly because the US Supreme Court ruled in 1922 that MLB is not interstate commerce. MLB has a production/multimedia and it called MLB Advanced Media. It maintains the

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<http://MLB.com>

website and all 30 of the individuals' teams' websites. The charter says this wing is independent of the league as far as editorial control. It is under the same ownership group and revenue-sharing group of MLB. MLB has also a production wing that focuses on video and broadcast call MLB Productions.

MLB has two leagues and there are 30 teams in the whole league. The National League is the oldest league and has 16 teams. The AL has 14 teams. The leagues do not have the same number of teams because of they did, they would have to play interleague games every day. They would like to have some rest days. Each league has three divisions based mostly on geography. The leagues are the NL East, the NL Central, the NL West, the AL East, the AL Central and the AIL West.

A team's regular season is 162 games, a duration that has lasted in both leagues since 1962. From 1904 to 1962, one season had 154 games. There were only 7 opponents that a team could play against and you played 22 games against each opponent. The number of games was changed in 1962 because the number of opponents expanded. You now had 9 opponents with 18 games against each opponent. This changed again when more interleague games were allowed, but the number of games stayed the same. A team's regular season is 162 games, a duration that has lasted in both leagues since 1962. From 1904 to 1962, one season was made up of 154 games. There were only 7 opponents that a team could play against and you played 22 games against each opponent. The number of games was changed in 1962 because the number of opponents expanded. You now had 9 opponents with 18 games against each opponent. This changed again when more interleague games were allowed, but the number of games stayed the same.

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