

**MLB Baseball Weekly --- Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006**  
**BY MATTHEW HATFIELD**

**I**n this late posted (sorry there baseball fans) edition of MLB Weekly, we examine the upcoming five-game series between the Yankees and Red Sox. Is it the number one rivalry in all of sports? PLUS – I'll answer up the e-mailer question of the week and present to you 'Hot' 'Not' as well as the trivia + stat weekly fixing.....

**Danny from Ohio Writes: "I happened to catch part of your Top Ten hitters and pitchers in baseball history series and was wondering if you could give some of us who missed the final write up the complete list for both?"**

Hatfield Re: Well, I usually don't do this, but what the heck, I'm in a good mood today. Sure! What Danny is eluding to is during last year's MLB Weekly, I selected a hitter and pitcher each week who I thought was one of the 'Top Ten' of all-time. Now – these type of lists are always going to have controversy and certainly differing opinions. It wasn't easy to put together, especially considering I'm not your typical baseball historian who does these things. Nonetheless, here's how the lists look:

**Hatfield Sports Top Ten Hitters Of All-Time (no particular order):**

*Hank Aaron*  
*Babe Ruth*  
*Willie Mays*  
*Barry Bonds*  
*Stan Musial*  
*Joe DiMaggio*  
*Lou Gehrig*  
*Mickey Mantle*  
*Ted Williams*  
*Ty Cobb*

**Hatfield Sports Top Ten Pitchers Of All-Time (no particular order):**

*Walter Johnson*  
*Warren Spahn*  
*Christy Matthewson*  
*Roger Clemens*  
*Bob Feller*  
*Sandy Koufax*  
*Lefty Grove*  
*Bob Gibson*  
*Cy Young*

### **Yankees/Red Sox: Series Is Bigger For??**

**The Red Sox.** You're home, in Fenway Park, just 1.5 games back of the Yankees. Despite New York playing better baseball for the last two months-plus or so, the chance is there to pass them is there before Tuesday strikes. It's also important to show you matchup with them talent wise after the Yankees trading for Bobby Abreu, Cory Lidle and Craig Wilson – and Boston coming through with no deals before the trading deadline.

**Hinske Help?** Boston traded for Eric Hinske, a former American League Rookie of the Year winner, from Toronto. This move gives them some added flexibility as he can line up in the outfield, at third or base or at first base. He'll come in handy when Kevin Youkilis or Mike Lowell need a day of rest. Hinske, a left-handed bat that solidifies the Red Sox lineup, also could play when Trent Nixon takes a day off in the outfield. By no means do I think this move alone puts Boston past New York in the AL East – they'll need that pitching to get hot down the stretch. But it's a start.

Who is the series bigger for – the Yankees or Red Sox in your opinion? Which two teams will meet in the World Series? Send us those – and any of your questions that could be read and answered on my upcoming blog – to [hatfieldsports2k4@yahoo.com](mailto:hatfieldsports2k4@yahoo.com)!

### **HOT:**

**Oakland Athletics - Winners of six straight heading into Friday, the A's are awesome as usual in the month of August (12-2 record). If Frank Thomas doesn't Comeback Player of the Year, who should?**

**Devil Rays outfielder Carl Crawford - One of the fastest and most effective base stealers in the sport, Crawford is 10-for-19 swinging the stick in the last seven days.**

**Angels pitcher Kelvim Escobar - Without Bartolo Colon healthy, Escobar has really had to pick up his game. Since the start of July, he is 4-1 with a sub-3.50ERA and he went seven strong while only allowing one run in his latest outing Thurs. night.**

### **NOT:**

**Seattle Mariners - Can these guys EVER beat Oakland? Losers of eight straight overall and 15 consecutive head-to-head with the A's (longest active streak in baseball), Seattle is floundering hopelessly out of contention for the division title.**

**San Diego Padres - With the LA Dodgers suddenly right there with Oakland as one of baseball's hottest team, the Pads (2-8 in their last 10) – as it was predicted about a week ago – have taken a small step back in the division partly due to their offense.**

**STAT OF THE WEEK:**

**On Tuesday night, the Arizona Diamondbacks defeated the Colorado Rockies in 18 innings. Also on Tuesday night, the Chicago Cubs defeated the Houston Astros 18 innings. What historical significance does this hold? It marked the first time ever in Major League Baseball history that two games went 18 innings on the same day.**

**TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE WEEK:**

**Earlier this week, New York Mets shortstop Jose Reyes hit for a cycle and had three home runs in the same game. Since 1900, how many times before Reyes' accomplishment did it happen?**

*Last Week's Answer: Minnesota's Rick Lysander (1983)*