

# Baseball’s shorter flight seems to have no answers

BY ENO SARRIS AND EVAN DRELICH / THE ATHLETIC  
NYT News Service/Syndicate Stories

Something is going on with the baseball. Again. Deep fly balls are not flying as far this year in Major League Baseball, and the league office is acknowledging as much. A review by The Athletic of MLB’s publicly available data shows there has been more drag on the ball in 2025 than in any of the other nine seasons that MLB has tracked it. As a result, fly balls that have been hit as hard as in previous years are coming up four feet short, on average.

That indicates that this year’s ball is somehow different than last year’s, but it is unclear why. When contacted by the Athletic, MLB confirmed the difference in the ball’s performance, including the 4-foot reduction on long flies, but did not offer a specific explanation. The league says, though, that no intentional changes were made to the ball for this season.

“For the last several seasons, MLB has made drag information available to the public online, which is updated daily during the season,” league spokesperson Glen Caplin said in a statement. “We are aware of an increase in average drag this season and have provided information to the Major League Baseball Players Association on this issue as our experts continue to study any potential causes beyond normal variability in a product made by hand with natural materials. There has been no change to the manufacturing, storage or handling of baseballs this year, and all baseballs remain within specifications.”

A potentially tiny change in seam width or height is one theory the league office has identified, according to a person in the league who was not authorized to speak publicly, but nothing is conclusive at this point. Baseballs are hand-stitched, and league officials pointed out that there will al-



RYAN SUN Imagn Images

San Francisco Giants left fielder Daniel Johnson makes a catch for an out against the Los Angeles Dodgers on Saturday. Deep fly balls are coming up four feet short, on average, this season compared to previous years, leaving many scratching their heads.

ways be ball-to-ball and batch-to-batch variation. However, something appears to be happening this season at scale: On all but four individual days this year, there has been more drag on the ball than last season’s average.

The mean drag coefficient this year is .3514. The previous high in the Statcast era was .3462 in 2016. The ball is dragging more through the air, which would theoretically reduce how far the ball would go.

Some players said they had noticed that well-struck balls were no longer leaving the yard.

“I’ve definitely hit some balls that I thought were going to have a chance and they’ve been caught against the wall,” A’s slugger Brent Rooker said. “Maybe the extra drag is why my expected slugging percentage is 100 points higher than my actual slugging percentage.”

In meetings, players have brought the topic up to Commissioner Rob Manfred. He acknowledged to players that the ball has performed differently, said one meeting participant who was not authorized to speak publicly about the closed-door conversation.

“The players association has been monitoring baseball behavior throughout the season, and recently reached out to the commissioner’s office to review available data and request additional information on a range of baseball measures,” said Kevin Slowey, the union’s managing director of player services, in a statement.

MLB’s position is that game play has been largely unaffected. The league said that the results through Monday -- which marked the first 978 games, or about 40% of the season -- are “in line” with last year through the same number of games.

“Long fly balls hit at similar trajectories travel about four feet less than they did through this time last year,” Caplin said. “In terms of outcomes on the field, 2025 remains in line with 2024 results.”

MLB cited three statistics: home runs per ball in play were at 4.2% this year, compared with 4.1% in 2024; batting average was at .244, compared with .240; and runs per game were at 8.6, compared with 8.7.

The additional drag might be obscured by the fact that batters are hitting the ball a little harder this

year overall. At the same time, the missing length on fly balls could be reflected in other stats.

Across 28 of 30 MLB stadiums this year -- removing the two minor league parks that are being temporarily used in Sacramento, California; and Tampa, Florida -- home runs as a percentage of fly balls hit in March, April and May were at an eight-year low.

Professor Alan Nathan, who helped come up with the formula for drag on the baseball and who was on a league-organized commission that looked into the state of the ball back in 2018, said more work is to be done.

“When I correct for air density, using game-time temperature and elevation, I find that the ball traveled about 3.2 feet farther in 2024, with a standard error of about .5 feet,” said Nathan, professor emeritus of physics at the University of Illinois. He said that was in line with what he would expect based on the difference in drag coefficient. But, he cautioned, “I would not take this to be the definitive word on the subject, as there is much more analysis one might do.”

## MLB

# Schanuel double lifts Angels past Yankees

Field Level Media

Nolan Schanuel hit a tie-breaking broken-bat double with one out in the 11th inning Monday night and Los Angeles hung on for a 1-0 victory at New York. It was the Angels’ first 1-0 win against the Yankees since Aug. 1, 2008, in New York. The Yankees had a chance to rally in the bottom half when Brock Burke loaded the bases, but Hunter Strickland retired Anthony Volpe on one pitch to end it.

**Dodgers 6, Padres 3:** Shohei Ohtani pitched an inning for the first time in nearly two years and drove in two runs out of the leadoff spot as Los Angeles earned a victory over visiting San Diego. Ohtani, who is back to pitching after having a second Tommy John procedure during 2023, started and gave up one run and two hits on 28 pitches in his lone inning of work, reaching 100.2 mph on a fastball. At the plate, he had an RBI double in the third inning and a run-

scoring single in the fourth. Manny Machado hit a home run and had two RBIs for the Padres, who fell to 4-8 since June 4. Dylan Cease (2-6) yielded six runs on eight hits in five innings despite fanning nine.

**A’s 3, Astros 1:** Rookie Nick Kurtz walloped a two-run homer with no outs in the bottom of the ninth inning, giving the Athletics a victory over visiting Houston. JJ Bleday also homered for the Athletics, who have won a season-best four straight games after losing 24 of their previous 28 contests. Mason Miller (1-2) fanned two in a perfect top of the ninth.

**Red Sox 2, Mariners 0:** Roman Anthony hit his first major league home run and Lucas Giolito pitched six innings as Boston blanked host Seattle for its sixth consecutive victory. The Mariners had a three-game winning streak snapped. Mariners starter Logan Gilbert (1-2), who had been out since April 25 with a right elbow flexor strain, went five innings and allowed two



BRAD PENNER Imagn Images

The Yankees’ Paul Goldschmidt reacts after being tagged out at home in the 11th by Angels catcher Travis d’Arnaud.

runs on three hits with one walk and 10 strikeouts.

**Rays 7, Orioles 1:** Josh Lowe rapped his first lead-off home run, Jake Mangum went 3-for-4 with a double and three RBIs, and Tampa Bay throttled visiting Baltimore. Brandon Lowe (two-run homer), Jonathan Aranda, Junior Caminero and Christopher Morel each had two of the Rays’ 14 hits. Ryan Pepiot (4-6) tossed a career-high eight innings, allowed one run and fanned a season-high 11.

**Rockies 6, Nationals 4:** Mickey Moniak’s two-run home run capped a three-run ninth inning, and visiting Colorado rallied to send Washington to its ninth straight loss. Hunter Goodman led off the ninth with the

Rockies trailing 4-3 and smacked his second homer of the night, a shot against closer Kyle Finnegan (0-2). With two outs and a runner on, Moniak homered to right, just beyond the reach of a leaping Daylen Lile. Moniak added a triple for the Rockies, who have won two straight.

**Phillies 5, Marlins 2:** Trea Turner had three hits, including a home run, and drove in two runs as Philadelphia defeated host Miami for its fifth straight win. Max Kepler also added a homer and Mick Abel (2-0) surrendered one run and three hits over five innings for the Phillies. Orion Kerker pitched a perfect ninth inning to secure his first career save.

Classified

classifieds.kansascity.com

816.234.4636

FIND. BUY. SELL.

VISA

MARCA

DISCOVER

AMERICAN EXPRESS

## Legals

Legals & Public Notices

**OCC Newspaper Notice:**  
Notice is given that application has been made to the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Director for Licensing, 400 7th Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20219, for consent to merge:

Country Club Bank  
1 Ward Parkway  
Kansas City, Missouri 64112

with and into

First National Bank of Omaha ("FNBO")  
1601 Capitol Avenue  
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

FNBO plans to open new branches and expand locations and services in the Kansas City area after this merger is finalized. It is contemplated that the current main offices and branch offices of the above-named banks will continue to operate except as listed below. Due to overlapping locations and service areas with other existing nearby branches of Country Club Bank and FNBO, the following locations will likely be closed within 18 months of the merger: the Country Club Bank "Lakeview Retirement Center Branch" at 9100 Park Street, Lenexa, Kansas 66215; the Country Club Bank "Delaware Branch" at 401 Delaware Street, Leavenworth, Kansas 66048; and the FNBO "College Blvd. Branch" at 4650 College Boulevard, Overland Park, Kansas 66211. As part of the integration process, a thorough and extensive analysis of the combined branch footprint will be conducted and First National Bank of Omaha may, where appropriate, decide to close or consolidate additional branches, subject to any applicable regulatory requirements.

This notice is published pursuant to 12 USC 1828(c) and 12 CFR 5. Anyone may submit written comments on this application by **July 11, 2025** to: Director for Licensing, 400 7th Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20219, or by emailing LicensingPublicComments@occ.treas.gov.

The public may find information regarding this application, including the date of the end of the public comment period, in the OCC Weekly Bulletin at [www.occ.gov](http://www.occ.gov). Requests for a copy of the public file on the application should be made to the Director for Licensing, 400 7th Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20219, or by emailing Licensing@occ.treas.gov.

June 11, 2025

First National Bank of Omaha, Omaha, Nebraska

Country Club Bank, Kansas City, Missouri  
IPL0240530  
Jun 11,18,Jul 6 2025

Legals & Public Notices

**A Public Hearing on the**  
Little Blue Valley Sewer District's  
Operating Budget for fiscal year 2025-  
2026 will be held on Thursday, July  
10, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., at the District's  
Administration & Employee Services  
Building, 21208 East Old Atherton  
Road, Independence, Missouri.

NOTICE OF ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that the 291  
South Regional Community Improve-  
ment District (the "District") has called  
an election as follows: (a) the bound-  
aries of the District are generally lo-  
cated along US Highway 50 from SW  
Ward Road on the west to SE Hamblen  
Road on the east, including property  
located at or near (1) the southwest  
corner of the intersection of SW Ward  
Road and US Highway 50, (2) the  
northwest, northeast, and southeast  
corners of the intersection of SE Ham-  
blen Road and US Highway 50, and  
(3) the southwest and southeast cor-  
ners of the intersection of US Highway  
50 and Highway 291 South in Lee's  
Summit, Missouri; (b) the election is  
to approve a community improvement  
district-wide sales and use tax at the  
maximum rate of one percent (1.0%)  
for a period of twenty-seven (27)  
years or until such time as the District  
is terminated (if such time is less than  
twenty-seven (27) years) from the date  
on which such tax is first imposed for  
the purpose of providing funds for the  
construction of public improvements  
and the provision of certain services  
within the District's boundaries and for  
all other lawful purposes as allowed  
by the Missouri Community Improve-  
ment District Act, Sections 67.1401  
to 67.1571, RSMo, and the Petition to  
Establish the District as approved by  
the Lee's Summit City Council, and for  
the purpose of funding the costs and  
expenses associated with District op-  
erations and administration including  
services provided to the District for  
operation and administration, profes-  
sional fees incurred by the District and  
liability insurance for the directors and  
officers of the District; (c) the ballots  
for the election shall be mailed by the  
Jackson County Board of Election  
Commissioners to qualified voters  
no later than June 14, 2025; (d) the  
date of the election is June 24, 2025;  
(e) the qualified voters will consist of  
owners of real property located within  
the District pursuant to tax records of  
Jackson County for real property as of  
the thirtieth day prior to the date of  
the election; (f) the ballot shall be re-  
turned to the Jackson County Board of  
Election Commissioners in person, or  
by depositing the ballot in the United  
States mail addressed to the Jackson  
County Board of Election Commis-  
sioners and postmarked no later than  
the date of the election; (g) any qual-  
ified voter that did not receive a ballot  
in the mail or lost the ballot received in  
the mail may pick up a mail-in ballot  
at the Jackson County Board of Elec-  
tion Commissioners, 215 N. Liberty,  
Independence, Missouri 64051, Mon-  
day-Friday, except county holidays,  
during regular business hours, on or  
after June 14, 2025.  
IPL0229499  
Jun 11, 18 2025

NOTICE

The City of KCMO will receive Bids by  
2:00 PM, on 7/15/2025 at KCMO City  
Hall, 1st Floor 102W, Kansas City, MO  
64106 for Project: 07P25058 KCFD  
Station No. 7 Gender Neutral Rest-  
room Upgrades.  
IPL0239995  
Jun 10-13,15-20 2025

Animals

Dogs

**Mini schnauzers**  
Ready for their new homes, black and  
silver, vet checked, first shots and  
worming, 500. 573-789-4073

**Mini schnauzers**  
Mini schnauzers for sale,500, call  
573-789-4073

**Mini Bernedoodle & Cockapoo**  
Puppies for sale! 816-383-0489  
Midwestdoodleranch.com \$1500+

**chuhuhua pups**  
chahuahua black w fawn mks10 wks  
m/f  
\$350.00 text only 816 288 0696

Purebred Registered Britnays

Liver and orange males. Shots UTD.  
Ready to go. 660-562-9831

**Goldendoodl Puppies**  
14 wk old male female \$800  
785.633.3312

Auctions/Garage Sales

Estate Sales

**Estate Sale - 11725 Gillette St  
Overland Park, KS 66210**  
June 20 and 21, 2025 8 AM - 4 PM  
Home of Floral Designer must sell ev-  
erything in exclusive estate sale.

Garage Sales

**Neighborhood Garage Sale**  
Wornall Homestead - Kansas City Sat-  
urday, June 21st - 8:00 am to 2:00 pm  
62nd Ter. & Wornall Rd to 57th &  
Brookside BLVD

**OP NALL HILLS SUBDIVISION**  
Overland Park KS Annual Neighbor-  
hood Sale  
Wed 06/18 thru Sat 06/21  
Btwn Metcalf & Nall from  
95th to 105th  
35+ homes

Merchandise

Want to Buy

Certified buyer looking for R12, R22,  
& more! Call Peter at 312-500-4275

Miscellaneous

**Chiefs Season Tickets Wanted!**  
I will Buy your 2025 Season Tickets.  
Top \$ Paid! Please call 800-786-8425  
ext 2

Service Directory

Lawn/Garden/Landscaping/Trees

**SHRUB REMOVAL**  
Tim 913-620-1092

Clif's Outdoors \* 913-300-1657

I mow & trim shrubs all over Kansas  
City, both Mo. and Ks. sides.

Clif's Outdoors \* 913-300-1657

Accepting new mowing customers for  
2025 season, incl. residential,  
commercial, field, small apartments,  
churches, and estates.

NEED  
TO FIND  
THE BEST  
EMPLOYEE IN  
A HURRY?

Let Classifieds Help

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.  
KANSASCITY.COM

TOO MUCH  
STUFF?

Let Classifieds Help

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.  
KANSASCITY.COM

**BONUS:** Subscribers will find coverage of yesterday's MLB games in the Edition at [kansascity.com/edition](http://kansascity.com/edition).