

An Unthinkable Start

By Jesse Almeida 5/1/21 11:00 am

All we can say here at Beantown Takes is wow. This is not what many expected from the Boston Red Sox out of the gate. This team right now looks relentless, poised, and together. It seems like they are all in on the season. Now yes baseball is a long season, however if the Red Sox can keep this up this is going to be a very entertaining season.

In the month of April, the Red Sox went 17-10 and currently have the best record in the American League. The Red Sox currently stand in first place in the AL East up 3.5 games on the Blue Jays. On the better hand, the Yankees currently sit at a tie for the basement in the AL East at 12-14 (sorry Mike). The Red Sox are on pace to have 102 wins. Will that happen, most likely not, but a 90 win season would be a huge success and show a bright future for this team. Now the question is what has gone wrong with the Red Sox? Nothing, everything has gone picture perfect for this team at the moment.

The Red Sox are one of the best offensive teams in the league at the end of April. They are 3rd in the league in Batting Average at .258, 11th in Home Runs with 31, 7th in Runs Batted in with 115, and 2nd in On Base plus Slugging percentage at .759. This team has been hitting for power, getting many extra base hits, and driving in runs. Yes defense wins games, but If you can't produce offense and score runs, you can't win ball games.

We can talk about what the team has done as a whole on offense but there have been some notable players that have been absolutely killing it to begin the year for positional players. Our third star of the month goes to Xander Bogaerts. Is this a surprise? Probably not, but the fact that he was off to a slow start to begin the month and he worked his way up is what made his performance so far impressive. Bogaerts is third on the team in Home Runs with 4, he has 13 RBI's, batting at an average of .330, and an On Base plus Slugging of .915. The defense has not been there for Bogaerts but not enough to make it a negative in the teams performance. Bogaerts is a major key to this team's success and we will see if the production at the plate will continue for the X Man.

The 2nd star for the positional players in April is Rafael Devers. Devers has been a power horse this year at the dish. When Devers connects with the ball, it goes a long way. We got to witness one of his long bombs this year as he has hit 7 of them. Devers has drove in 21 RBI's so far with a .293 batting average, and a .958 OPS. Like Bogaerts his defense has been struggling, and can use improvement and has cost them a game or two, but his hitting is one of the best in the league. What makes Devers so scary is that he is only 24 years old. He still has time to develop his defense at third, maybe you can move him over to first base if his defense does not improve, but if you are Boston, you HAVE to lock Devers up in the long term.

We have to mention this player as he could arguably be one of the most entertaining players on the Red Sox to watch right now. You could arguably put him on the top 3 performers of the month, and that is Alex Verdugo. He has filled in the roll of Jackie Bradley Jr. and more. His defense has been absolutely elite as he has saved this team multiple games in the outfield. The game winning catch against the Twins in that double header gave me Andrew Benintendi vibes. When Verdugo does something great, he expresses it, and I love that about him. At the plate he has been solid. 3 Home Runs, 13 RBI's, .300 batting average, and an .863 OPS. I love Dugie and the Red Sox have themselves a young stud here.

But the 1st star of the month is easily J.D. Martinez. Jumbo Dong said that he wants this year to be his best year yet, and he is on pace for it. J.D. is arguably the best hitter in Major League Baseball this year at the moment, and easily the best Red Sox hitter at the moment. J.D. leads the Red Sox in every hitting category. He has 9 home runs, 25 RBI's, a .351 batting average, and a OPS at a ridiculous 1.175. J.D. has been clutch at the plate and he has been a different animal this season. After last year, Sox fans had their concerns that maybe he is running out of gas and he is proving them wrong. J.D. is an absolute beast and will continue to do so.

The one thing that had to be good in order for the Red Sox to be successful was their pitching. So far this year, it has been good. Nathan Eovaldi has been outstanding with a 3.38 ERA, 32 K's, and is 4-2. Nick Pivetta has looked really well also with a 2.81 ERA, 25 K's, and a record of 3-0. Eduardo has been Erod with a 3.52 ERA, 26 K's, and a record of 4-0. The starting pitching outside of Martin Perez, and Garrett Richards has

been exceeding expectations. I cannot wait till Chris Sale comes back. The bullpen has held their own for the most part. Whitlock, Andriese, and Barnes have been outstanding out of the pen. Sawamura is looking like Koji, and Ottavino has been ok for the most part. I would like to see Adam Ottavino, Josh Taylor, and Darwinzon Hernandez to be better but their inconsistencies have not affected this teams performance at all.

The one thing that the Red Sox needs to be better at is playing better at home. Playing at Fenway Park is a huge honor and this team is currently 8-8 at home. They need to play better in front of their home crowd. This is the only thing that they really need to improve on. Other than that, this team has been a huge success so far. Are the Red Sox back? It is a long season but this has been a surprise for sure. If you were to ask me, this team is sneaky good.

Sources:

[2021 MLB Team Batting Stats | ESPN](#)

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