

The Flushing Ledger

NEW YORK METS · BEAT COVERAGE

JUNE 2030 MONTHLY RECAP

NEW YORK, N.Y.

Mets Sweep Monthly Hardware as Division Lead Balloons to Five Games

An 18-9 June turns a first-place tie into breathing room — and for the first time all season, it's not just one player carrying the headlines. Three different Mets went home with league honors.

BY MARISOL KWAN · FLUSHING LEDGER STAFF

Thirty days ago, the Mets were tied. New York and Washington both sat at 35-22 on May 31, dead even atop the National League East with a full summer of head-to-head baseball still to come. That race lasted almost exactly one month. New York went 18-9 in June, Washington cooled off after a hot start to the month, and the Mets enter July alone in first place at 53-31 (.631), five full games clear of the Nationals — the most comfortable this division has looked all year.

The story of the month, though, wasn't the record. It was the trophy case. Tyler Uberstine, who has spent the season as the bullpen's long-relief and swingman option, was pressed into five spot starts in June while the front office managed the rotation's workload — and simply dominated. Over 35.1 innings across those five starts, Uberstine went 5-0 with a 1.78 ERA and 25 strikeouts, and the league voters noticed: he was named the National League's Top Starter of the Month, an unusual honor for a pitcher who's made exactly seven starts all year and doesn't hold a rotation spot.

"He's not a starter. He was just better than all of them for a month."

Juan Soto did what Juan Soto does, except louder. The right fielder posted a .306/.397/.622 line in June with 9 home runs, 25 RBIs, and 23 runs scored, and took home the National League Batter of the Month award for his trouble — New York's manager telling reporters afterward that "he's been around long enough to know what it takes to put a stretch such as this together... and he doesn't keep that

The rest of the staff had a stranger month than the headline arms. Garrett Crochet quietly had the best rate stats of anyone in the rotation — a 1.69 ERA over 32 innings, missing bats at a 14.3 K/9 clip — without any hardware to show for it. Tarik Skubal, the best pitcher in baseball for most of May, came back to earth some in June (4.60 ERA), and rookie Nolan McLean had his roughest stretch of the year (5.02 ERA, 0-3). Braxton Ashcraft continued to struggle in the rotation's back end (5.93 ERA), which is very much part of why his name keeps coming up in trade conversations — more on that below. None of it mattered much in the standings; Uberstine's five borrowed starts and the bullpen behind him more than covered for the shakier turns up top.

JUNE, BY THE NUMBERS

Record	18-9
Team ERA	3.60
Team AVG / OPS	.257 / .789
Home Runs	46
Team Strikeouts (pitching)	274
Top Batter (OPS)	J. Soto, 1.019
Top Arm (ERA, min. 10 IP)	G. Crochet, 1.69
Saves, Díaz / Hader	shared duty

The bullpen's shared-closer arrangement kept working exactly as designed — Edwin Díaz posted a 1.80 ERA over 10 innings in June, with Josh Hader again the more heavily-used option by raw save total. The transaction log, meanwhile, stayed almost as quiet as it was in May: the lone move was a minor, low-stakes June 7 swap that sent

to himself. He's always talking to the younger guys in the clubhouse, helping 'em any way they'll let him." Soto's season line is now up to .273/63 H/17 HR/54 RBI/47 R through 84 games, a full-season pace that would represent a career year even before accounting for a hot June.

Ryan Clifford grabbed the third piece of hardware, taking National League Player of the Week honors on the strength of a 10-for-26 week with 4 home runs and 11 RBIs — a .385 average that, as the wire put it, made even his line-drive singles look like towering shots. Clifford's timeshare partner at first base and DH, Spencer Torkelson, was nearly as hot without winning anything for it: a .305/.372/.537 line of his own in June. Between the two of them, the 1B/DH platoon that some worried would be a timeshare controversy has instead been the most productive spot in the lineup for two straight months.

JUNE HARDWARE

- **Tyler Uberstine** — NL Top Starter of the Month (5-0, 1.78 ERA, 35.1 IP across 5 spot starts)
- **Juan Soto** — NL Batter of the Month (.306/.397/.622, 9 HR, 25 RBI)
- **Ryan Clifford** — NL Player of the Week (.385 AVG, 4 HR, 11 RBI in a 7-day stretch)

org depth to an independent-league club and brought back a 22-year-old complex-level lottery ticket, barely worth a mention on its own. The bigger story sitting in the front office's inbox is a trade offer, not a trade — the Colorado Rockies floated Braxton Ashcraft and minor-league outfielder Jacob Friend for center fielder Druw Jones late in the month. It's still on the table as July opens; the front office's read so far is that it's a lateral move rather than a real upgrade, and it's being weighed rather than rushed (full breakdown in the Command Center's Trade Deadline Notes).

NL EAST STANDINGS — THROUGH JULY 3, 2030 (84 G)

Team	W	L	PCT	GB
New York Mets	53	31	.631	—
Washington Nationals	48	36	.571	5.0
Atlanta Braves	44	41	.518	9.5
Philadelphia Phillies	40	43	.482	12.5
Miami Marlins	40	44	.476	13.0

Washington was actually the hotter team for stretches of June before cooling to 3-7 over its last 10; New York, at 7-3 over the same window, is the team still trending up as the calendar turns to July.

The All-Star break is still weeks away, but for the first time this season New York looks less like a team in a division race and more like a team that's already decided it. Three individual trophies in one month is a nice trick, but the number that matters is the five games in the loss column — and a rotation that can absorb a Skubal off-month and a McLean rough patch without the record even flinching is exactly the kind of depth a first-place club wants heading into the summer.