



# PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 10, 2008

## **TEJADA PULLS AHEAD OF RAMIREZ IN CLOSE SHORTSTOP RACE IN BALLOTING FOR THE 79<sup>th</sup> ALL-STAR GAME**

Shortstop Miguel Tejada of the Houston Astros has overtaken Hanley Ramirez of the Florida Marlins in National League balloting for the 79<sup>th</sup> All-Star Game, to be played on Tuesday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at Yankee Stadium.

Tejada leads the race among N.L. shortstops with 726,835 votes, while Ramirez, who led in the first two balloting updates, is second with 607,528. Tejada, the 2005 All-Star Game Ted Williams MVP Presented by Chevrolet, is a four-time A.L. All-Star who is in his first season in the National League. Tejada is batting .300 with seven home runs and 39 RBI this season. Ramirez, the 2006 N.L. Rookie of the Year who is now vying to make his Midsummer Classic debut, is hitting .300 with 14 home runs and 31 RBI.

Chicago Cubs rookie Geovany Soto is still top contender behind the plate with 969,853 votes, ahead of two-time All-Star Brian McCann of the Atlanta Braves (578,276) and last year's starting N.L. backstop, Russell Martin (350,694) of the Los Angeles Dodgers. Soto is batting .278 with 10 home runs, 39 RBI and a .527 slugging percentage on the year. McCann, who is second behind Soto in balloting, is hitting .306 with 12 home runs, 37 RBI and a .579 slugging percentage, while Martin, who is fifth among N.L. catchers in balloting, has a .314 average, five home runs, 26 RBI, five stolen bases and a .422 on-base percentage.

Philadelphia Phillies second baseman Chase Utley has remained the leading vote-getter among all National Leaguers with 1,284,961. Also holding on to first place with more than a million votes are Houston Astros first baseman Lance Berkman (1,046,249) and Atlanta Braves third baseman Chipper Jones (1,110,171). Cubs teammates Alfonso Soriano (1,088,866) and Kosuke Fukudome (918,262) are the leading outfielders and are joined by Cincinnati Reds 13-time All-Star Ken Griffey, Jr. (775,759), who last night became the sixth player in history to record his 600<sup>th</sup> career home run.

The 2008 American League and National League All-Star Teams will be unveiled on Sunday, July 6<sup>th</sup> on the 2008 MLB All-Star Game Selection Show Presented by Chevrolet, televised nationally on TBS following the weekly

Sunday MLB on TBS match-up. The American League All-Star Team will have nine starters elected via the fan balloting program, while the National League All-Star Team will have eight fan-elected starters. The pitchers and reserves for both squads – 23 for the N.L., 22 for the A.L. – will be determined through a combination of “Player Ballot” choices and selections made by the two All-Star managers – American League skipper Terry Francona of the Boston Red Sox and National League manager Clint Hurdle of the Colorado Rockies – in conjunction with Major League Baseball.

Immediately following the announcement of the American League and National League All-Star rosters, fans will have the opportunity to select the final player for each League's 32-man roster at MLB.com. The Monster 2008 All-Star Final Vote will provide fans the opportunity to cast their votes from a list of five players from each League over a four-day period. For the fourth year, fans will be able to vote for their Final Vote selections on their mobile phone. Both winners of the Monster All-Star Final Vote will be announced after the voting has concluded on Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup>. Finally, fans once again will have the opportunity to participate in the official voting for the 79<sup>th</sup> All-Star Game's Ted Williams Most Valuable Player presented by Chevrolet via the Monster All-Star Game MVP Vote on MLB.com.

The 79<sup>th</sup> Major League Baseball All-Star Game, being held at Yankee Stadium in its final season, will be televised nationally by FOX Sports, in Canada by Rogers Sportsnet and Sportsnet HD and televised around the world by Major League Baseball International, with pregame ceremonies beginning at 8:00 p.m. (EDT). ESPN Radio will provide exclusive national radio coverage that will also be available on XM Satellite Radio, while MLB.com will provide extensive online coverage.

The remaining updates will be released as follows:

<b>BALLOTING ANNOUNCEMENT SCHEDULE</b>	
Monday, June 16 <sup>th</sup>	AL Balloting Release #4
Tuesday, June 17 <sup>th</sup>	NL Balloting Release #4
Monday, June 23 <sup>rd</sup>	AL Balloting Release #5
Tuesday, June 24 <sup>th</sup>	NL Balloting Release #5
Monday, June 30 <sup>th</sup>	AL Balloting Release #6
Tuesday, July 1 <sup>st</sup>	NL Balloting Release #6
<b>Sunday, July 6<sup>th</sup>: Starters &amp; Reserves Announced</b>	

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# 2008 NATIONAL LEAGUE ALL-STAR BALLOTING UPDATE

June 10<sup>th</sup>



<b>FIRST BASEMEN</b>			
#	<i>Player</i>	<i>Club</i>	<i>Votes</i>
1.	Lance Berkman	Astros	1,046,249
2.	Derrek Lee	Cubs	771,516
3.	Albert Pujols	Cardinals	700,777
4.	Ryan Howard	Phillies	368,012
5.	Prince Fielder	Brewers	317,039

<b>CATCHERS</b>			
#	<i>Player</i>	<i>Club</i>	<i>Votes</i>
1.	Geovany Soto	Cubs	969,853
2.	Brian McCann	Braves	578,276
3.	Yadier Molina	Cardinals	458,084
4.	J.R. Towles	Astros	367,248
5.	Russell Martin	Dodgers	350,694

<b>SECOND BASEMEN</b>			
#	<i>Player</i>	<i>Club</i>	<i>Votes</i>
1.	Chase Utley	Phillies	1,284,961
2.	Mark DeRosa	Cubs	589,637
3.	Kazuo Matsui	Astros	523,335
4.	Dan Uggla	Marlins	366,848
5.	Orlando Hudson	Diamondbacks	333,998

<b>OUTFIELDERS</b>			
#	<i>Player</i>	<i>Club</i>	<i>Votes</i>
1.	Alfonso Soriano	Cubs	1,088,866
2.	Kosuke Fukudome	Cubs	918,262
3.	Ken Griffey, Jr.	Reds	775,759
4.	Carlos Lee	Astros	587,027
5.	Carlos Beltran	Mets	518,838
6.	Ryan Braun	Brewers	514,913
7.	Matt Holliday	Rockies	507,628
8.	Hunter Pence	Astros	500,857
9.	Pat Burrell	Phillies	487,131
10.	Rick Ankiel	Cardinals	478,136
11.	Justin Upton	Diamondbacks	458,461
12.	Nate McLouth	Pirates	392,398
13.	Michael Bourn	Astros	389,748
14.	Ryan Ludwick	Cardinals	367,941
15.	Chris Young	Diamondbacks	358,148

<b>THIRD BASEMEN</b>			
#	<i>Player</i>	<i>Club</i>	<i>Votes</i>
1.	Chipper Jones	Braves	1,110,171
2.	Aramis Ramirez	Cubs	726,973
3.	David Wright	Mets	655,105
4.	Ty Wigginton	Astros	359,989
5.	Mark Reynolds	Diamondbacks	292,702

<b>SHORTSTOPS</b>			
#	<i>Player</i>	<i>Club</i>	<i>Votes</i>
1.	Miguel Tejada	Astros	726,835
2.	Hanley Ramirez	Marlins	607,528
3.	Ryan Theriot	Cubs	583,433
4.	Jose Reyes	Mets	498,007
5.	Jimmy Rollins	Phillies	442,885