

The Athletic MLB and Culture Staff Jun 17, 2024

Eight teams debuted new uniforms this season: the Twins, [Cleveland Guardians](#), [Detroit Tigers](#), [New York Mets](#), [Philadelphia Phillies](#), [St. Louis Cardinals](#), [Tampa Bay Rays](#) and [Toronto Blue Jays](#).



With each new uniform set introduced, many opinions have been espoused online and at the ballpark. All versions seem to have their detractors and defenders, stirring up purists and progressives alike.

Our writers ranked each uniform using a scoring system of 1-30 (1 being the best), and those totals then were averaged and ranked. Here are their takes:

29. Los Angeles Dodgers (Average score: 25.75)



Joe Kelly. (Jayne Kamin-Oncea / USA Today)

The uniforms, in addition to showing love to the Hispanic community, [celebrate Fernando Valenzuela](#) and his outstanding rookie season in 1981, which resulted in a World Series championship.

On-field debut: Aug. 20, 2021

C. Trent Rosecrans (29): Just lazy. While I’m not an all-out hater of dark jerseys on dark pants, the switch to white pants from blue pants was an improvement. But the fact they needed to change it tells you all you need to know about how much effort was put into these.

Tyler Kepner (29): With all of Hollywood to use as a theme, slapping “Los Dodgers” on a blue jersey (over blue pants, no less) was almost aggressively dull.

Stephen J. Nesbitt (29): Odds are, if you go to a game at Dodger Stadium and sit at least 10 rows back, you’ll forget these are City Connects. It’s hard to miss them when they’re gone if you barely noticed them in the first place.

Jason Jones (16): I like “Los Dodgers” but as a Los Angeles native, “Los Doyers” would have been better. They’re not terrible, but not great. Kinda in the middle. More black on the jersey might have helped.



GO DEEPER
Dodgers unveil Fernandomania 'City Connect' uniforms

28. Detroit Tigers (24.75)



Tarik Skubal. (Junfu Han / USA Today)

An homage to the Motor City's ingenuity, these unis feature [several car-inspired details](#), including tire treads, VIN tags and road signs.

On-field debut: May 10, 2024

Rosecrans (26): At least in other hype videos, they pretend to like the new uniforms, but in this one half the people are wearing regular Tigers gear and they rap about the Old English D, which only has a cameo on the uniform's sleeve patch. The tire tracks look like the people wearing this have been run over, which may be an appropriate metaphor for the last decade or so of Tigers baseball, but it's hardly inspiring.

We got next. [#MotorCity pic.twitter.com/vhKEHgWeGw](#)

— Detroit Tigers (@tigers) [May 6, 2024](#)

Kepner (27): This predictable "Motor City" theme is begging for the Jaws of Life. It's yet another dark jersey over dark pants combo, with a cap that looks like a mid-level prize option at a carnival.

Nesbitt (27): In case the "Motor City" nickname didn't get the theme across, you've got tire tracks down the placket (?), a VIN tag on the cap and helmet (??), and a sleeve patch designed like the M-1 road sign (???). We get it! Cars! It could have been worse, I guess. Shocked that the designers didn't just slap "[SOUTH DETROIT](#)" across the chest while they were at it.

Jones (19): I'm fine with "Motor City" but it goes overboard with the car references. Who wants a jersey with tire marks?! Might as well have used a license plate for names on the back.



GO DEEPER

Behind the Tigers' City Connect jersey design: Paying homage to the Motor City

27. [Pittsburgh Pirates](#) (24.5)



Connor Joe. (Charles LeClaire / USA Today)

Incorporating the colors of black and gold is a Pittsburgh sports thing. Also, notice in the shirt the asteroid, which [references the city's "steelmark" logo](#).

On-field debut: June 27, 2023

Nesbitt (25): These are bright and loud, but not novel. Going with black and yellow in a city where every team wears black and yellow is safe. That's fine. But this franchise has a rich history of interesting and unusual uniforms from which inspiration could have been drawn.

Kepner (16): The yellow-over-black works really well; it's the combo the Pirates wore in their last World Series victory, Game 7 in 1979 World Series. But "PGH" is just so lazy. Give us a new pirate, or go back to that [rugged rapscallion from '79](#).

Rosecrans (28): There's no better example of being so close yet so far away than this thing. It's much like the [Braves](#) in that it's almost more of a throwback than a City Connect, but at least the Braves' uniform looks good on its own. This does not.

Jones (29): I guess it's illegal for teams from Pittsburgh to not wear black and yellow. The huge "PGH" feels like someone's initials. These are too basic.

26. Philadelphia Phillies (23.5)



Bryson Stott. (Bill Streicher / USA Today)

Taking its palette from the city's official flag, the blue-and-yellow kit incorporates some of Philly's most [famous historical iconography](#).

On-field debut: April 12, 2024

Nesbitt (23): These were billed as “unapologetically Philly.” Nothing says Philly like a font pulled from our founding fathers’ documents. Nothing says Philly like a disconcerting blue gradient. Nothing says Philly like a numeral style that makes [Trea Turner](#)’s number [look like a question](#) mark. So edgy. So historic. So unapologetically Philly.

Rosecrans (20): This is one where I think it’s important to see the uniform on the field. I defended this when it was announced and we saw the studio pictures. I was wrong. Seeing this on the field, it’s, well, a series of choices. The biggest difference between glamor shots and game action is just how utterly ridiculous the gradient from blue to black looks with the jersey going into the pants. The hat is elite, but it’s not enough to save everything beneath it.

Kepner (26): The stylish caps can’t save this hot mess. From the jagged wordmark to the bizarre numerals to the ridiculous color scheme, it’s a certified phiasco. According to the official press release, “Philly has always been a place unafraid to revolutionize, start anew and work hard to make change.” Maybe so, but it’s also a place that sees through pandering nonsense like this.

Jones (25): Nothing about these really makes me think “Philly.” I guess the Liberty Bell on the hat? Keep this uniform on Phillie Phanatic and I’m fine. It looks like a costume for the mascot.

25. [San Francisco Giants](#) (22.0)



Brett Wisely. (Sergio Estrada / USA Today)

The Golden Gate Bridge is on the sleeves of the jersey. There's also a [story with the fog gradient](#) throughout the uniform.

On-field debut: July 9, 2021

Kepner (14): There was real potential here with the bridge-and-fog theme. It's a clean look, but without another color, it seems unfinished. Subtle black accents would have punched it up.

Rosecrans (19): These have always looked incomplete to me. Still do.

Nesbitt (28): Devastatingly poor execution. Using fog as a gradient theme is, in theory, an inspired choice. But these come out looking awkward and cheap. The bridges look bad. The fonts of the "SF" and "G" logos clash. It all just looks like a big L.

Jones (27): Players look like containers of orange sherbet on the field. The bridge had real potential if these were designed knowing the A's would be leaving Oakland after this season. Welp, it's a swing and a miss.



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San Francisco Giants' City Connect uniforms feature Golden Gate Bridge, fog

24. [Baltimore Orioles](#) (21.5)



Gunnar Henderson. (Tommy Gilligan / USA Today)

Basic black uniforms connecting with the city's arts culture courtesy of mosaic designs. ["You can't clip these wings."](#)

On-field debut: May 26, 2023

Rosecrans (11): My initial reaction was that it was a bit generic, as if it should have a UPC sleeve patch, but it's grown on me. It's fine.

Kepner (21): It's a boring jersey — the kaleidoscope of colors is mostly hidden on the inside collars and sleeves — but the set looks much better now that the team has switched from black pants to white. The "B" on the hat is sharp; they should use this style (rendered in orange), as their alternate insignia instead of "O's," with its upside-down apostrophe.

Nesbitt (26): At least the [Reds](#) tried. The Orioles' all-black unis are readable, but the only interesting elements are the socks and the sleeve piping.

JUST IN: The [@Orioles](#) have revealed their City Connect uniforms pic.twitter.com/bVYP8U10RO

— MLB Life (@MLBLife) [May 22, 2023](#)

Jones (28): Yawn. The colorful parts are barely noticeable.



GO DEEPER

Unveiling the Orioles' City Connect uniforms: Odd, slightly clever, underwhelming

23. [Chicago Cubs](#) (20.25)



Jordan Wicks. (Matt Marton / USA Today)

In an attempt to unite Chicago's 77 neighborhoods, ["Wrigleyville" was born](#).

On-field debut: June 12, 2021

Kepner (19): I like how the "Wrigleyville" lettering mimics the famous marquee outside the ballpark. But those dark pants — ugh! They should ditch them for white pants with a stripe of green Wrigley ivy crawling up the side.

Rosecrans (23): I lump this one with the [White Sox](#) because they both look more like bad souvenir stand jerseys than actual uniforms. The use of the star from the Chicago flag inside the C on the cap is solid, but that can't make up for the rest.

Nesbitt (21): For such a storied franchise, in an iconic stadium and a colorful city, this is remarkably unspectacular. If I were a Cubs fan going to a game and they were wearing this boring all-blue (yet not Cubbie blue) uni, I'd be bummed.

Jones (18): It's not bad. It's also not spectacular. I don't hate it. But it doesn't do much for me.



GO DEEPER
Cubs unveil Wrigleyville 'City Connect' uniforms

22. Minnesota Twins (20.0)



Jorge Alcala. (Matt Krohn / USA Today)

The blue and yellow color scheme and ripple pattern on the jersey [pay tribute to the elements](#) of the Land of 10,000 Lakes.

On-field debut: June 14, 2024

Kepner (28): There's so much they could have done to weave in the natural beauty of a Minnesota summer, but by plunging into the deep waters of a "ripple effect," the whole thing drowns. As for the postal code "MN" wordmark, I'd stamp it: RETURN TO SENDER.

Rosecrans (21): This has big end-of-the-cycle energy, when all enthusiasm for a project is over and you just want to put something out so it's done. While not terrible, it's just ... there. Here are a few suggestions I think could help:

1. White pants.
2. Remove "10,000 LAKES" from the side of the hat.
3. Sleeve patch as primary logo.

Boom. You're not getting an A if you make those changes, but you don't have to worry about bringing down your final grade so far that it gets uneasy.

Nesbitt (16): Forgot how many lakes? It's [on the side of your cap](#), in 10,000-point font.

Jones (15): Fan of the details on the jersey, even though these could be mistaken as knock-off [Seattle Mariners](#) jerseys at a glance. A top-tier decision would have been to go with purple for Prince.



GO DEEPER
'They are sick': Twins ditch traditional colors as City Connect jerseys finally unveiled

21. [Houston Astros](#) (18.25)



Justin Verlander. (Troy Taormina / USA Today)

Houston has a respected reputation for its space education. “Space City” has [similar font as the NASA logo](#) from the 1970s.

On-field debut: April 20, 2022

Kepner (20): Do people in Houston ever say they’re from “Space City”? Wouldn’t that name work better for a self-storage facility? I love the lettering and numerals, which evoke the NASA wordmark. But given the Astros’ history of innovation — like the glorious “Tequila Sunrise” jerseys of the 1970s-80s — they should have used something more whimsical than navy-over-navy.

Nesbitt (11): Each element of this City Connect uni is, on its own, quite agreeable. The yellow-to-orange gradient is everywhere from the cap to the socks. The NASA “worm” font is fun. The uni number on the pants is a nice throwback touch. But the dark blue background steals from all that goodness. If Nike reprints this as a white jersey, it would soar up these rankings.

Rosecrans (22): When [Ronel Blanco](#) was [throwing his no-hitter](#), I was distracted by the way the placket fell between letters and looked like it said “SPACIE CITY.” I like elements of this one, but it’s just too much blue. Maybe using an orange hat, or at least an orange crown with a blue bill would break up all the blue a little.

Jones (20): The colors are great. Space City? I could do without that. How about “H-Town” on the front? The “H” on the hat is the best part.

20. New York Mets (18.0)



Jose Quintana. (Brad Penner / USA Today)

An homage to all boroughs, these unis take inspiration from the people, bridges and transit that [power the city](#).

On-field debut: April 27, 2024

- Kepner (15):** It's better up close than in action, because the names and numbers are hard to read in the black-over-dark-gray style. I love the bridge on the hats and helmets, but they should have leaned into the purple a little more, especially for the cap emblem.
- Rosecrans (13):** They look better on the field — the purple accents are great — but the helmet alone bumps up their ranking. While I don't like the bridge motif on the hat, I love it on the batting helmet. The best part is the subway map in the lining of the hat. As is the case with too many of the City Connects, the best parts are hidden from view.
- Nesbitt (22):** Why go with "NYC" across the chest? "Queens" is right there. It's only faintly Metsy. And it's a flop, for me.
- In our City Connect era. [#IYKNYKhttps://t.co/dJI9OgVfSA pic.twitter.com/4YUeZb6Yic](#)
- New York Mets (@Mets) [April 19, 2024](#)
- Jones (22):** The "NYC" style lettering and colors remind me of a Negro Leagues jersey. Feels like this was a missed opportunity not going with "Queens" and leaning more into the purple accents. More Queensbridge could have led to a great partnership with rap legend Nas.



GO DEEPER
Behind the Mets' new City Connect jersey design: Why is it NYC instead of Queens?

19. Toronto Blue Jays (17.75)



Tim Mayza. (Dan Hamilton / USA Today)

These ‘Night Mode’ themed uniforms feature vibrant colors meant to reflect Toronto’s [energetic nightlife and illuminated skyline](#).

On-field debut: May 31, 2024

Kepner (24): White outlines could have accentuated the fun skyline motif, but without them, we’re left with an illegible blur from more than a few feet away. And have I mentioned that black jersey/black pants is a tired act?

Rosecrans (16): The evolution of my reaction to this one:

Hat leaks: So good! This could be the best one yet!

Jersey leaks: So bad! This could be the worst one yet!

Official release: Oh yeah, not good.

On-field debut: Better than expected.

Nesbitt (19): Cool colors. Entirely illegible. Rinse, repeat.

Jones (12): I really like the design. It probably would have worked better against a white, gray or light blue backdrop, but I still like it. Maybe it is just because I really like Toronto as a city and seeing the skyline makes me happy.



GO DEEPER

Blue Jays unveil City Connect uniforms

T-17. [Texas Rangers](#) (17.5)



Jesús Tinoco. (Jim Cowser / USA Today)

The uniform is a nod to Texas' independence day. The jersey also [features a peagle](#), a mythical creature blended from the minor-league logos of the Dallas Eagles and Fort Worth Cats (originally called the Panthers).

On-field debut: April 21, 2023

Kepner (12): The hat is a jumbled mess, and the number "0" looks weird, but this set does have an 1800s-Texas kind of vibe; you could picture a cowboy wearing it as he struts through the double doors of a saloon. Also, they created an animal! It's a panther-eagle mix called a peagle. I'm all in on the peagle.

Rosecrans (10): I think this uniform is similar to my feelings about the movie "Talladega Nights" — the parts are better than the whole. You can tell a team is onto something when the merchandise associated with the uniform is more successful than the uniform itself. If the peagle hoodie were black instead of navy, I'd already own it.

Nesbitt (24): When the headliner of your City Connect is the mythical creature you created for a sleeve patch, and the warm-up act is a lid with a hilariously oversized "TX," you've swung and missed.

Jones (24): Looks like the jersey was meant to be worn with Wrangler jeans and an oversized belt buckle. Don't get me started on the peagle. It just confuses me.

T-17. [Arizona Diamondbacks](#) (17.5)



Justin Martinez. (Joe Camporeale / USA Today)

[“El Camino de las Serpientes”](#): The way of the serpent. These uniforms show love to the Sonoran Desert and Arizona’s Hispanic culture.

On-field debut: June 18, 2021

Nesbitt (20): The “Serpientes” script is nice. Really nice. But there’s a missed opportunity for a snake logo on the cap, and overall the uniform is overwhelmed by the desert-sand backdrop.

Rosecrans (18): There are maybe five people on Earth who remember the movie “Megaforce,” but it was some weird early-80s paramilitary fantasy movie that featured some weird desert camouflage and everything was that sand color. This reminds me of what Megaforce’s softball uniforms would look like. That’s not a compliment.

Kepner (25): I can see what they’re going for with the sand color scheme, but they take it too far when they use it for the pants, too. Credit, at least, for using the Spanish word for “snakes” rather than the lazy “Los _____” format we often see in MLB and the [NBA](#).

Jones (7): “Serpientes” on the jersey is one of the best things in the City Connect series. Especially with a snake used to spell out the word. It also leans into the Hispanic culture of the region, and the gold jersey is different.

16. St. Louis Cardinals (16.75)



Dylan Carlson. (Jeff Curry / USA Today)

A more traditional and understated take on a City Connect, save for the [center-stage homage](#) to St. Louis' favorite son, Nelly.

On-field debut: May 25, 2024

Nesbitt (18): Having studied all 28 designs, I've come to appreciate a safe approach. This looks like a Cardinals jersey. It's not better than what they already have, but not atrocious, either.

Kepner (18): What a shame they didn't perch the birds on the Gateway Arch, as [designer Cameron Guzzo](#) suggested on Instagram. And while the younger demographic in St. Louis might use the phrase "The Lou," to everyone else, it means "the bathroom."

Rosecrans (27): Milquetoast and uninspired. It's a spring training jersey and an airport souvenir stand hat.

Jones (4): Nelly's music introduced me to St. Louis culture in the early 2000s. He said, "I'm from The Lou and I'm proud!" So just like "The A" for Atlanta, this Cardinals jersey resonates. This isn't overly creative, and I'm fine with it.

What can I say? City nicknames on City Connect jerseys work for me — except for Space City.

15. [Milwaukee Brewers](#) (15.0)



William Contreras. (Benny Sieu / USA Today)

“Brew Crew” always has been a team nickname. MKE is the abbreviation for Milwaukee’s international airport. Look closely and [notice the city’s area code](#) within the MKE.

On-field debut: June 24, 2022

Nesbitt (12): I like these! The grill is genuinely great. The caps are a bit of a bother. I once came home from Milwaukee with a [free Brewers T-shirt](#) that had “MKE” across the chest. No one knew what it meant. Stop trying to make airport codes happen.

Kepner (13): The MKE/414 mashup and the pointy wordmark don’t do it for me. I’d have preferred an all-out, gut-busting tribute to sausage varieties. Nothing goes better with brew.

Rosecrans (24): I’ve always hated “Brew Crew” as a nickname, but it’s even worse seeing it here. The airport code/area code hat logo is just too forced and jumbled. This one would jump about five places if the hat used the same grill logo that’s on the sleeve.

Jones (11): Brew Crew is one of the more fun nicknames in baseball (I know Rosecrans disagrees). The “MKE” on the hat isn’t my favorite, but the colors are vibrant and different enough from the usual Brewers look for me.



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Brewers reveal new City Connect uniforms

14. Cincinnati Reds (14.75)



Alexis Diaz. (Katie Stratman / USA Today)

Cincinnati's uniforms represent a [modern-day visual of the city](#). Looking to the past is the opposite of what they tried to do here.


On-field debut: May 19, 2023

Rosecrans (2): Yep, I'm going full-on homer with this one. I was skeptical when I first heard that the Reds' City Connect was going to be all black, in part because I hate the black drop shadows on the Reds' regular uniforms ... but man, it's been a breath of fresh air, even for a team that wore [29 uniform combinations](#) in one season.

Nesbitt (17): The all-black look is fabulous in studio lighting or framed on your wall. But designers need to take pains to make an all-black uniform work in games, and this doesn't pass that test. The "CINCY" and number font are unreadable.

Kepner (23): Black hats, black jersey, black pants — lighten up, guys! The new logo is a nifty, modern twist on the classic wishbone-C, but the whole thing is just too dark.

Jones (17): The cap is cool, but the more I look at it, the more the uniform reminds me of something I'd create in a video game.

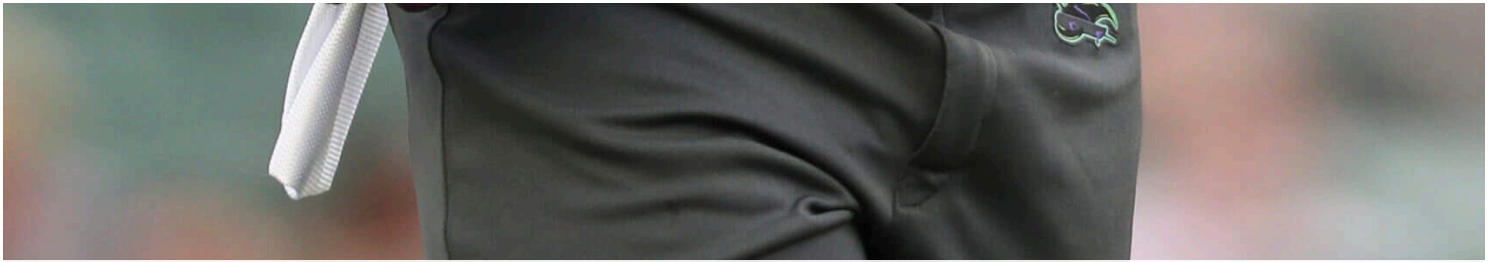


GO DEEPER

Reds' City Connect uniforms give an often nostalgic team opportunity to look forward

13. Tampa Bay Rays (14.25)





Yandy Diaz. (Mady Mertens / USA Today)

A skateboard-influenced design meant to evoke the [counterculture energy](#) of the team's home.

On-field debut: May 3, 2024

Rosecrans (3): I ordered my hat the day it was announced. I absolutely love it. The green accents are fantastic and I think if the numbers were that same color and more visible, this might take the top spot. The hat logo is the best the Rays have ever had and it should exist well beyond the three-year cycle.

That City Connect glow though >>>> pic.twitter.com/rIho1KH8fF

— Tampa Bay Rays (@RaysBaseball) [June 15, 2024](#)

Kepner (22): Using black letters and black numbers on black jerseys makes no sense. Paired predictably with black pants, the whole thing just looks like a black void from a distance, like a Spinal Tap album cover. And yes, I understand that [referencing a 40-year-old movie](#) proves the point that these unis are made for a younger generation.

Nesbitt (9): Stitch for stitch, this is one of the coolest designs yet, with a dope logo, a cap tip to skateboard culture and neon flourishes all over. Worn best when players are decked out in colorful belts, sleeves and high socks. Without those, the look loses much of its sizzle.

Jones (23): I feel the glow with this one. I don't mean that in a good way. Reminds me way too much of the New Orleans Pelicans' fusion of black and neon this season, which I was not too fond of either.

12. Los Angeles Dodgers II (13.25)





Freddie Freeman. (Courtesy of Jon SookHoo / Los Angeles Dodgers)

A second wave of City Connect Dodgers uniforms pays homage to the city and its ties to the organization since moving from Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1958 — including the front workmark and the number typefaces.

On-field debut date: June 22, 2024

Rosecrans (25): What do you get when you combine the branding of Disney and Pop Tarts? Well, the new Dodgers Brand Connect! But hey, at least they didn't make it "The Doyers."

Kepner (8): You gotta love the nonsensical "storytelling" that accompanies each of these uniforms. The Dodgers say their front typeface has an "upward trajectory (that) speaks to the city's pursuit of what's above and beyond." Also, that upward trajectory looks exactly like the DirecTV typeface. The uniforms feature a "galaxy of stars," we're told, which represent "the brilliance and diversity of Los Angeles." Also, they look like sprinkles on an ice cream cone. Laughable explanations aside, I actually really like this one, as City Connects go. As a one-off, the name-under-number style on the back is kind of fun, and the Dodgers still look like the Dodgers, which is more than most teams can say.

It's all in the details. 📷 pic.twitter.com/w9OTizBzKV

— Los Angeles Dodgers (@Dodgers) [June 17, 2024](#)

Nesbitt (15): For a second effort, it's not a home run. But the sprinkles look should at least sell well at the team store, and the cap logo, name-on-back positioning and color scheme are all moderately interesting elements.

Jones (5): This is a much better effort. Love the blend of the old and the new. The blending of the "LA" and "D" is nice. The look feels very Hollywood and futuristic. It's baseball meets "Star Trek." The hat is the best part, but I like the overall look.

11. Boston Red Sox (13.0)



Kenley Jansen. (Bob DeChiara / USA Today)

Going against the grain — no red — Boston pays homage to Patriots' Day, as well as the Boston Marathon.

On-field debut: April 17, 2021

Rosecrans (8): You know the theory about how your first pizza will always be your ideal pizza? This is kind of like that — it was the first City Connect and as such, it's what I think of when I think of the City Connect. That said, I still actually like it. While it's a huge departure, it makes sense with so many of the Patriots' Day touches and the marathon. I like that it's completely different and is more about the city than the ballclub.

Kepner (17): Yes, these are the colors of the Boston Marathon. So maybe do it as a one-off on Patriots' Day. Any more than that, and it's out of step for a city and ballpark with many more sources of inspiration.

Nesbitt (14): As a two-time Boston Marathon attendee (not to brag), I think this is a cool idea and unique look. But there's so much history in Boston — and so much Red Sox uni history — that I think if designers took another crack at this, they'd come up with something more evergreen.

Jones (13): No red on a Red Sox jersey is bold. I'm sure there's a UCLA alum somewhere with this cap who doesn't care that it represents Boston or has anything to do with the Boston Marathon.

10. [Kansas City Royals](#) (12.5)



Hunter Renfro. (Jay Biggerstaff / USA Today)

Dark blue meshing with light blue. It's a tip of the cap to why it's called the "[City of Fountains](#)."

On-field debut: April 30, 2022

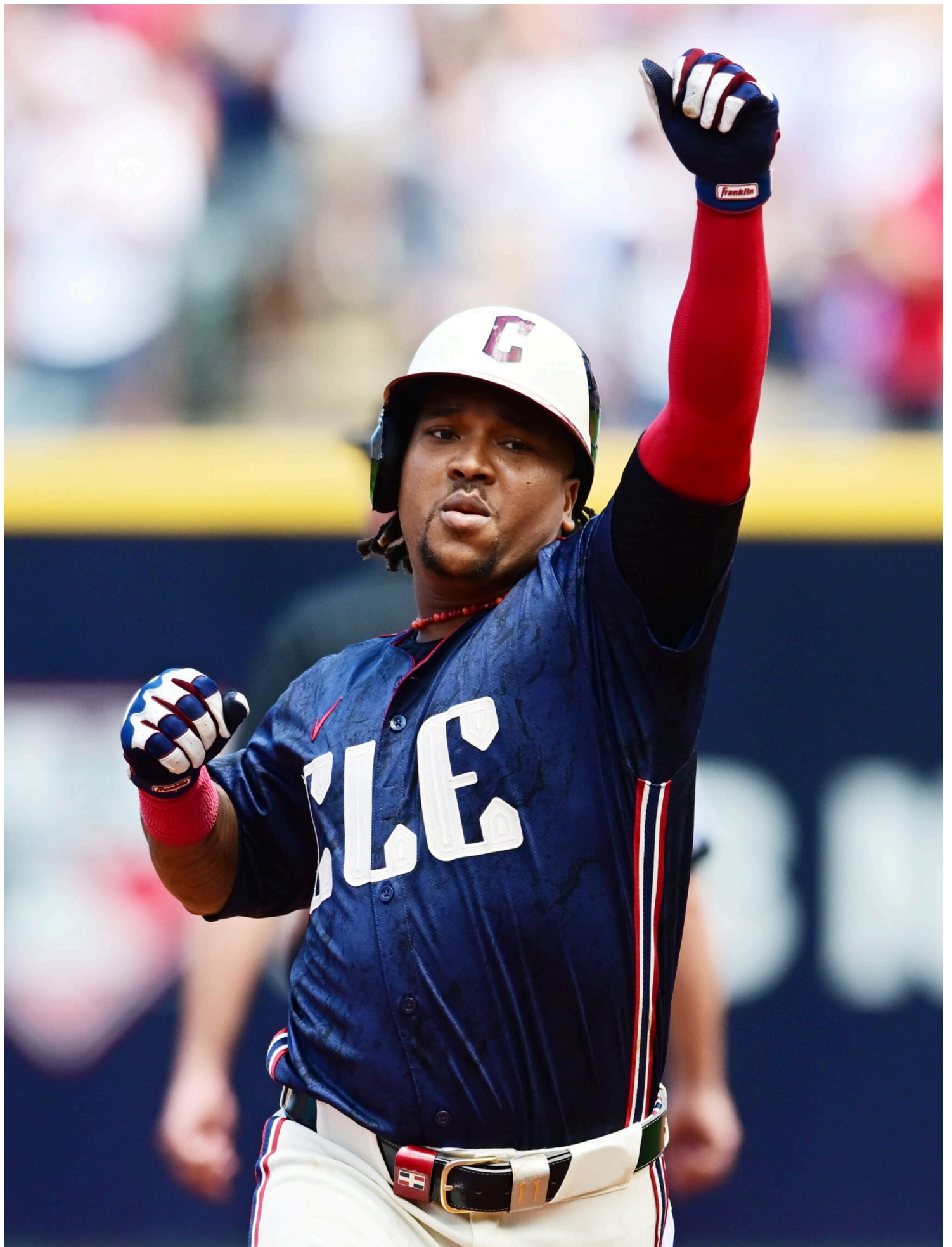
Kepner (10): A rare conservative offering with the KC emblem patterned on the city flag and rendered like a fountain. And this has my favorite unseen element: "HEY HEY HEY HEY" on the inside collar, in tribute to the [Beatles' Little Richard cover](#) that plays after every home win.

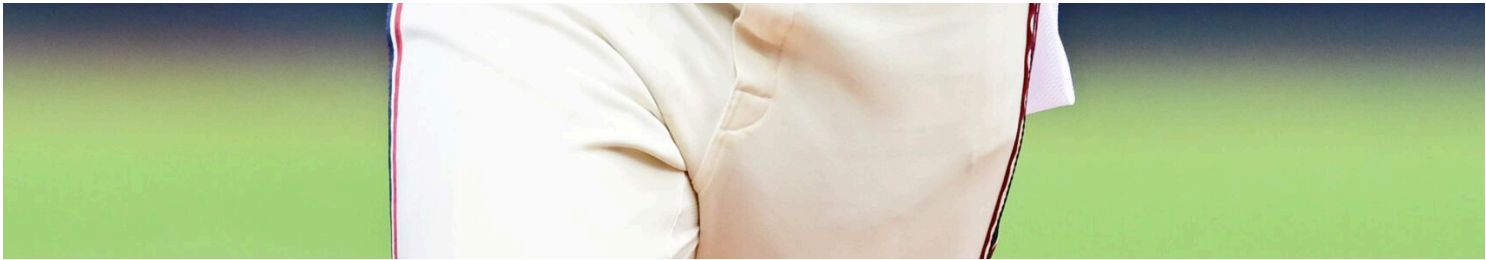
Nesbitt (13): This one doesn't demand deep analysis. The fountain-inspired logo is neat, but the overall look doesn't sing. It's all right, but tame for an alternate. Nothing grabs your attention.

Rosecrans (17): Nez is right.

Jones (10): I'm a big fan of the color scheme. Give me all shades of blue.

9. [Cleveland Guardians](#) (12.25)





José Ramírez. (Ken Blaze / USA Today)

The classic color scheme, textured pattern and Art Deco influences are a nod to Cleveland's [famous Guardians of Traffic](#).

On-field debut: May 17, 2024

Kepler (1): I've felt all along that the Guardians should do more with the actual "guardians" — the bridge statue figures near the ballpark — to help folks embrace the 2021 rebrand. It's hard to rally around a "flying G" insignia, after all, and this set includes a new logo that should become permanent. As for the uniform itself, the racing stripes are a welcome callback to the "Major League" era, the art deco font is classy, and I love how they weave little home plates into the CLE lettering.

Rosecrans (14): One of the things I've liked about the City Connects is trying to get away from the tired red, white and blue color scheme that is too prominent in baseball. Cleveland had a chance to do something new when they renamed themselves but just did the same old, same old.

Nesbitt (8): The more I see this one in action, the better it is. Each element is distinct and in agreement with the rest of the design. No one's asking for the organization to lean harder into the "Guardians of Traffic" bridge pillars, but I'm digging the Art Deco font and the 1990s vibes.

Jones (26): I imagine it's not easy figuring out what to do with the Guardians' name because there isn't much history with it yet. They tried, but ultimately these feel like the pants from the movie "Major League" and a jersey that's still in the works.



GO DEEPER

Behind Guardians' City Connect design: A nod to an iconic Cleveland landmark

8. Chicago White Sox (8.75)



Jared Shuster. (Kamil Krzaczyński / USA Today)

Dark gray, white pinstripes and gothic font prove to be a winner. [Notice the “Chi”](#) — also in gothic lettering — where “Sox” normally is on the cap.

On-field debut: June 5, 2021

Kepner (9): The White Sox claimed black-and-white as their color scheme in late 1990, and they’ve owned that look ever since, setting a trend that far too many teams have clumsily tried to imitate. I’ll make one exception for dark-jersey-over-dark-pants, and this is it.

Nesbitt (10): It’s very White Sox. If you like that, great. If you don’t, you still probably find this design inoffensive.

Rosecrans (15): I get why they did it and why some people like it, but it looks like a knock-off White Sox jersey you’d find on a clearance rack. And the hat? Huge downgrade, even if it’s just the three letters. It seemed cool when they did it, but it hasn’t aged well.

Jones (1): The black White Sox jerseys have long been a favorite. My affinity goes back to Snoop Dogg wearing a team jacket in the “Deep Cover” video in 1992, followed by Dr. Dre wearing the cap in the “Nuthin But A G Thang” video. I’m not from Southside Chicago, but if I was, I’d proudly wear this jersey to the ballpark.

7. Los Angeles Angels (8.5)



Kevin Pillar. (Kiyoshi Mito / USA Today)

There’s a California beach theme within these uniforms. The left sleeve has asymmetrical stripes that [remind some of retro surfboards](#).

On-field debut: June 11, 2022

Kepner (3): This feels straight out of SoCal in the ’60s, when the Angels arrived on the scene. The swirly, bubbly letters, the beach-blanket sleeve stripes — it looks like something you’d see on “Gidget.” Fun, fun, fun.

Nesbitt (4): Just delightful. It’s simple yet sharp, winking at the surf and skate culture while not completely throwing out the classic Angels look.

Rosecrans (6): You could’ve told me this was the team’s new everyday uniform and I’d just think they upgraded. It doesn’t feel City Connect-y enough but it’s hard to knock it for being just a good, solid baseball uniform. And hey, it’s better than the Dodgers, and how often can you say that about the Angels?

Jones (21): Feels very old-school in a way that doesn’t work for me. Could it be my Dodgers bias? Probably. I don’t like the Angels claiming Los Angeles from Orange County. Lean into Anaheim and the OC next time.



GO DEEPER

Angels unveil City Connect jerseys on a beach

6. Seattle Mariners (7.5)



Luis Castillo. (Stephen Brashear / USA Today)

This uniform [honors the city's original MLB team, the Pilots](#), and it features Mount Rainier on the sleeve and a trident on the cap.

On-field debut: May 5, 2023

Nesbitt (1): There's this line from a radio program I listened to as a kid: *If you're going to borrow, borrow from the best*. That's what the Mariners have done, bringing the Seattle Pilots back to life. For all the [wildness, weirdness and wackiness](#) of Seattle baseball, the Pilots got the look right. The trident logo. The chest font. The piping. Chef's kiss.

Kepner (6): The jersey and hat are so sharp that the black pants (while horrible) don't ruin it for me. The 1969 Pilots and the early Mariners teams didn't win very much, but I'm always in favor of honoring a city's baseball history. And I'm a sucker for the trident.

Rosecrans (9): I love the Pilots-inspired wordmark, but I don't like the black, especially on the bill of the cap. There are very few caps I like where the bill is a different color than the crown and going from the blue to the black is jarring. There is just way too much black and blue together for me.

Jones (14): The cap is top-notch. It's my favorite part of the uniform. The colors and font on the chest are all nice touches. And it's a bit of a throwback. That's big for someone who loves throwback jerseys and still wears them when relaxing.



GO DEEPER

'My Oh My': Mariners' City Connect uniforms capture essence of future nostalgia

5. [San Diego Padres](#) (7.25)



Ha-Seong Kim. (Denis Poroy / USA Today)

A [binational fan base is celebrated](#) with these uniforms. Many of the team's fans hail from San Diego, Tijuana, Mexico and Baja California.


On-field debut: July 8, 2022

Nesbitt (5): Wonderfully whimsical color scheme. Bravo. Pink and mint dominate the design. There's yellow trim and name-on-back lettering, and most accessories seem to be yellow. It's a lot. But it all works on the white uni. Different sleeve colors — who woulda thought!

Rosecrans (7): I'm not sure this would work anywhere else, but in San Diego it's fantastic.

Kepner (11): Before they finally switched back to brown, the Padres' uniforms had gotten so maddeningly boring that I can't complain about their wacky City Connects. These uniforms are pretty silly, but they're also lively and fun. Nothing wrong with that.

Jones (6): This is perfectly San Diego. That's the best way to summarize this look.



GO DEEPER

Padres release City Connect uniforms

4. [Washington Nationals](#) (6.5)



Lane Thomas. (Geoff Burke / USA Today)

“Back in bloom”: The Nationals use a [well-known signature of the city](#) in their alternate uniforms.

On-field debut: April 9, 2022

Rosecrans (4): Pink is underutilized in sports uniforms. Gray has been overutilized, especially in the last decade. These two work in harmony on this gorgeous set. While I’m not a fan of airport codes (or what looks like airport codes) on uniforms, the rest is enough to make up for it. (If they’d just used “DC” on the breast, it’d be an easy No. 1 for me.)

Kepner (7): The cherry blossoms work perfectly here — distinctively D.C. and a new element to a baseball uniform. The pink-and-gray combo is a welcome contrast to Nike’s default dark, tough-guy costumes. Don’t love “WSH” though.

Nesbitt (7): Heartbreaking that this set is going away after the 2024 season. It’s a beauty.

Jones (8): I’m usually meh with gray uniforms. For some reason, I like the pink and gray combo. It’s a great combination for a suit-and-tie for church and works surprisingly well for the uniform.



GO DEEPER

Nationals reveal new City Connect jerseys

3. Atlanta Braves (5.5)



Matt Olson. (Medy Mertens / USA Today)

Hank Aaron [chasing his 715th home run in 1974](#) reminds many of this uniform. “The A” offers a look of nostalgia for older fans.

On-field debut: April 8, 2023

Kepner (5): You’ve gotta appreciate a uniform that honors Hank Aaron breaking the home run record in 1974. I’ve never cared for the lowercase “a” from those caps, so I love that they replace it here with the current “A.” Extremely well done.

Nesbitt (2): Most City Connects feel as if the design process began with outlawing anything remotely signature about the team’s current look. Not here. Crisp white unis with blue and red accents and hidden tributes to Hammerin’ Hank? Looks sublime. That’s all I care about here.

Rosecrans (12): So close to being good — the ’70s Braves uniforms are gorgeous. But there’s something about the unoriginality that makes me dislike it. But what I really dislike is the “The A.” I think there’s a difference between City Connects, throwbacks and alternates. This one is more throwback than City Connect.

Jones (3): Adding “The” next to the “A” puts this one over the top and makes it one of the best of the bunch. Almost all my friends say they are going to “The A” and not Atlanta. I know this is a tribute to Hank Aaron, but “The A” gives it just the right amount of modern flavor.

2. [Miami Marlins](#) (5.0)



Josh Bell. (Rhona Wise / USA Today)

The uniform is a slightly modified tribute to the [Cuban Sugar Kings](#), a Triple-A team that won a championship in 1959.

On-field debut: May 21, 2021

Rosecrans (1): Wonderful. No notes. Better than what they normally wear and anything they've worn before. The story makes it even better.

Kepner (4): It's the only red jersey I can think of with white pinstripes, so it pulls off the rare trick of being unique yet uncluttered. Love the crown on the cap.

Nesbitt (6): The crown logos are a nod to the Havana Sugar Kings, a Cuban team that was the Cincinnati Reds' Triple-A affiliate from 1954 to 1960. It's bold and it works. Miami, baby!

Jones (9): I'm a sucker for jerseys with heavy historical connections. The nod to the Havana Sugar Kings is a winner here. The colors are bold, as they should be when representing Miami.

1. [Colorado Rockies](#) (3.0)



Ryan Feltner. (Rhona Wise / USA Today)

The Rocky Mountains, a predominantly green appearance and the letter font have these uniforms looking similar to the state of Colorado's license plate.

On-field debut: June 4 2022

National

Boxing
Bundesliga
Champions League
Championship
College Football
College Sports
Copa America
Copa del Rey
Culture

Men's World Cup
Mixed Martial Arts
MLB
MLS
Motorsports
NASCAR
NBA
NFL
NHL

US

Arizona
Atlanta
Baltimore
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Golf	UK Women's Football	Los Angeles	Wisconsin		
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League One	Women's Hockey				The Windup
League Two	Women's World Cup				Prime Tire
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