

# MLB App UX Assessment HCD Approach

Milwaukee Brewers Kayley Reith August 2nd, 2025

#### MLB App

# **Project Importance**



- Primary digital touchpoint for MLB fans
- 10 Million+
   downloads with
   consistent seasonal
   usage (Google Play 2024)



- Real-time scores and streaming, driving daily fan interaction
- over 11.5 billion
  minutes watched,
  marking a 9.8%
  increase from the
  previous year (Major League
  Baseball 2023)

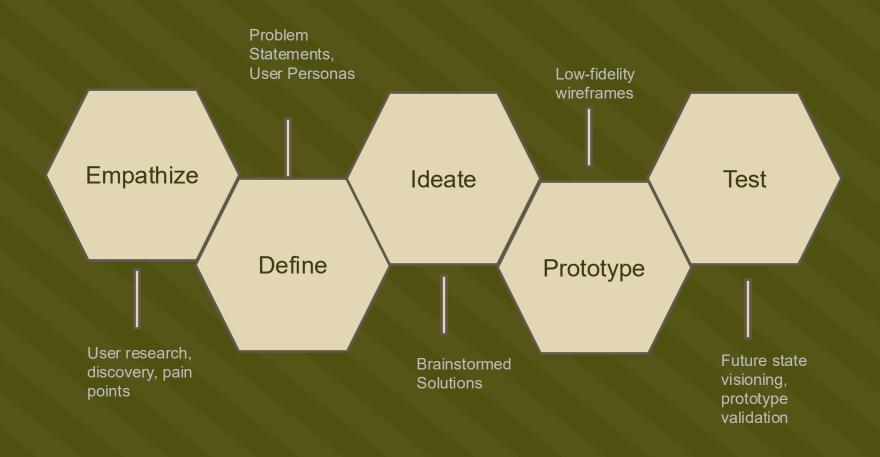


- Revenue and engagement driver through user retention & features
- The MLB app generated an estimated \$5 million in worldwide revenue last July (SensorTower 2025)

#### Human-Centered Design (HCD) Framework

# **Project Approach**

The Human-Centered Design framework ensures that every design decision is informed by user research, enabling iterative solutions that align with real-world needs.



#### User Research and Discovery

# **Empathize**

User reviews offer actionable insight into key usability challenges and pain points in the MLB App.

#### Change the stats back



★★★★★ edited Fri · nickname18402648...

Why when I open the app do I find a media player when my team is playing?? I can't watch them on the app. STOP this goofy nonsense. When I open the app, I should be met with simple game info or upcoming game info. Not a media play that immediately starts despite the fact that I cannot even watch the game. And enough with this stupid team stats thing. When I click stats, just show me the stats for the league. I don't need that to be customized to me team. And while I'm at it, ENOUGH WITH THE ADS ON THE SLEEVES. STOP THAT NONSENSE NOW. EVEN THR NIKE LOGO LOOKS AWFUL ON THE JERSEYS.

#### Small text makes reading difficult

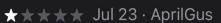


★★★★★ edited Thu · robgarbo

Box score text is tiny without any way to make it larger. A classic UX fail for usability.

#### Best feature removed.





In past seasons I was able you were able to keep scores at the top of the screen and check in game stats while watching a game but they removed that option. It was a cool feature to have. Now I need to close the game, look for scores and go back to the game, same with in game stats. It was a fun app now it is not.

#### Gone downhill

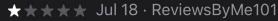




★★★★★ edited Sun · Lovely Spam

App used to be so much better! Could see other game scores and game and player stats while watching game. Now a hopeless mishmash. Shame!

# Does anyone from MLB actually try the app?



Watching video highlights is super annoying. Once you select a new video, you need to scroll up quickly and get the video control interface out of the way as fast as you can to not miss the clip.

The video should stay visible when you are scrolling the list of videos!

#### Scoring



★★★★★ Jul 19 · Quilter825

Would like to see scoring on first page along with win/loss record

#### User Research and Discovery

# **Empathize**

#### **Current State Overall Themes**

Critical Reviews

#### **Lack of Prioritized Game Information**



 Users want immediate access to scores, win/loss records, and upcoming games, but the app prioritizes media or promotional content.

#### **Disjointed In-Game Experience**



 Streaming lacks integrated stats and scores, forcing users to exit the game view to find relevant data.

#### **Poor Accessibility and Readability**



 Box score text is too small, with no customization options, limiting usability for many fans.

#### **Frustrating Media Interactions**

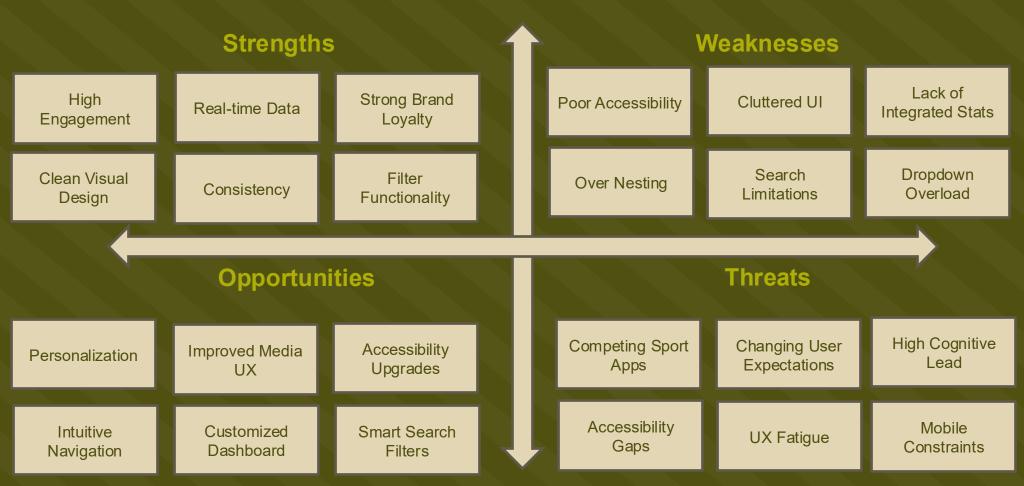


 Video playback is obstructed by UI elements, and autoplay behavior feels intrusive

#### **SWOT Analysis**

## Define

SWOT analysis evaluates the MLB App's user experience by identifying internal **strengths** and **weaknesses**, and external **opportunities** and **threats** to guide strategic design decisions.



#### Problem Statements & User Requirements

## Define

#### **Actionable Problem Statements**

- Users struggle to access live stats during streaming
- Box score text is too small and lacks customization
- Navigation feels cluttered and overwhelming
- Users must exit game view to check scores

#### **User Requirements**

- Provide integrated stat overlays in the video view or personalized score dashboard
- Enable adjustable font sizes for better readability
- Implement streamlined dropdown menus with shallow hierarchy to reduce cognitive load and improve discoverability
- Display real-time scores within the streaming interface

#### **Brainstormed Solutions**

# Ideate

"How Might We" questions reframe user problems into open-ended prompts that spark creative solutions. They help bridge the gap between user insights and design ideas.

#### **How Might We Questions:**

... simplify navigation for faster access to scores and teams?

... reduce cognitive load in dropdown menus and filters?

... personalize
the app
dashboard
based on
favorite teams
or recent
activity?

#### **User Needs**

- Users want live stats during streaming
- Box score text is illegible and too small to read
- Navigation feels overwhelming on home pages and little customization on stats pages
- Users exit game view to check scores

#### **Design Concepts**

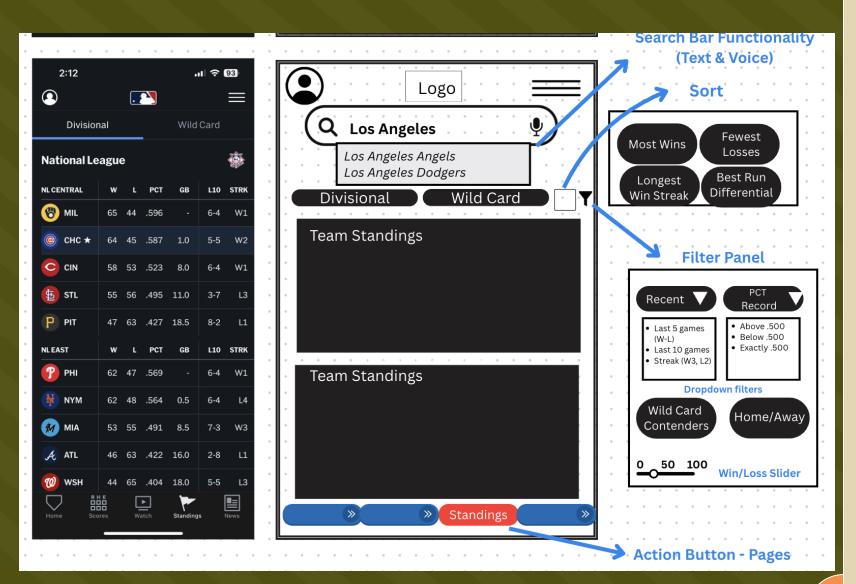
- Stat overlay in video view
- Font size customization slider
- Shallow dropdown menus with smart filters
- Personalized team/player/score dashboard

#### Wireframes and App Layout

# Prototype

#### **Critical Requirements**

- Fast, intuitive team search with autosuggestions
  - Saves time and reduces friction for users looking up teams
  - Reduces cognitive load and effort
- Smart sorting and filtering by performance metrics
  - Helps users quickly find topperforming or trending teams
- Clear, scannable standings data
- Mobile-friendly layout with responsive filter controls
  - Ensures usability across devices

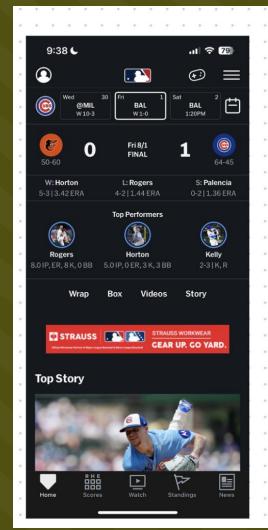


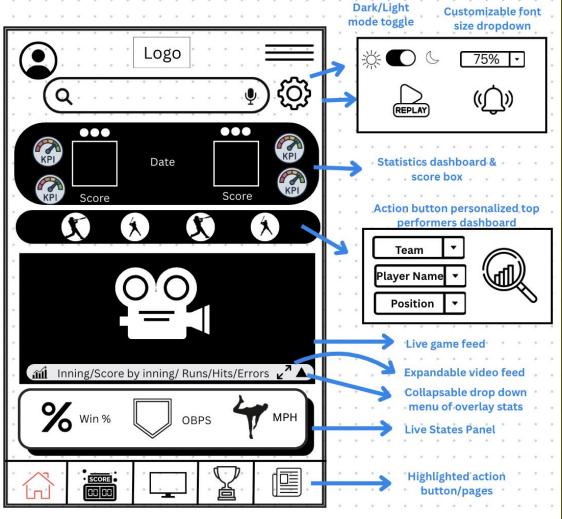
#### Wireframes and App Layout

# Prototype

#### **Critical Requirements**

- Accessibility & Font Readability Customization
  - Enhances comfort and usability for diverse visual needs
- Personalized Player Dashboard with Easy Navigation
  - Speeds up access to relevant stats with minimal effort
- Expandable Statistics Overlay
  - Supports user control by letting them choose when and what to view
- Horizontal Team Stats Below Video Footage
  - Keeps users informed without disrupting viewing experience





#### Future State Visioning

## Test

In a hypothetical future state, testing would be conducted to evaluate the effectiveness and usability of the MLB apprototype. The testing would involve the identified user group to ensure meaningful and targeted feedback.

## A/B Testing

Compare two design variations to determine which performs better

e.g., Test two versions of the Sort dropdown one with icons and one with text labels

# User-Driven Roleplay

Users complete tasks based on realistic and personal scenarios that reflect user behavior

e.g., User navigates how they would check to find their team's standings

# Usability Testing

Observe users as they navigate the prototype to identify pain points and evaluate ease of use

e.g., Ask users to filter standings by division and win streak while thinking aloud

# Identified User Group

Baseball engaged users: baseball fans, players, coaches, sport bettors

Experience focused users: general app users, first-time users, mobile tech users, casual sport fans

## MLB App Users

# **Impact**



Broader Accessibility & Inclusivity



Enhanced User Engagement & Retention



Smarter, Context-Aware Information Delivery

MLB App

# Conclusion

User-Centered Enhancements

Scalable Impact

Design Evolution

Refined features directly address user pain points accessibility, navigation, and data clarity Improvements support broader accessibility, deeper engagement, and smarter content delivery

Prototype 2 builds on core functionality with more personalized, intuitive, and context-aware interactions

# Thank You

Thanks so much for your time! I'd love to answer any questions or dive deeper into the prototype.

#### MLB App

# **Sources**

Major League Baseball. (2023). MLB.TV engagement report. Internal data summary. (Note: If this is unpublished or proprietary data, you can cite it as a personal communication or internal source.)

App Store Reviews. (2025). User feedback on MLB App. Retrieved from MLB App listing on Apple App Store.

Google Play Store. (2024). MLB App download statistics. Retrieved from the Google Play Store app listing.

Major League Baseball. (2023). MLB.TV engagement report. Internal data summary. (Note: If this is unpublished or proprietary data, you can cite it as a personal communication or internal source.)

SensorTower. (2025). *MLB - Overview - Apple App Store - US*. Retrieved August 2, 2025, from <a href="https://app.sensortower.com/overview/493619333?country=US">https://app.sensortower.com/overview/493619333?country=US</a>