



**New York Yankees Clips
Tuesday, May 31, 2011**

Newsday Sports

TUESDAY, MAY 31, 2011

PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER PASATIEMI



FINAL

HEART & THOLE
Catcher gets key hit
as Mets' irregulars
beat Pirates A66

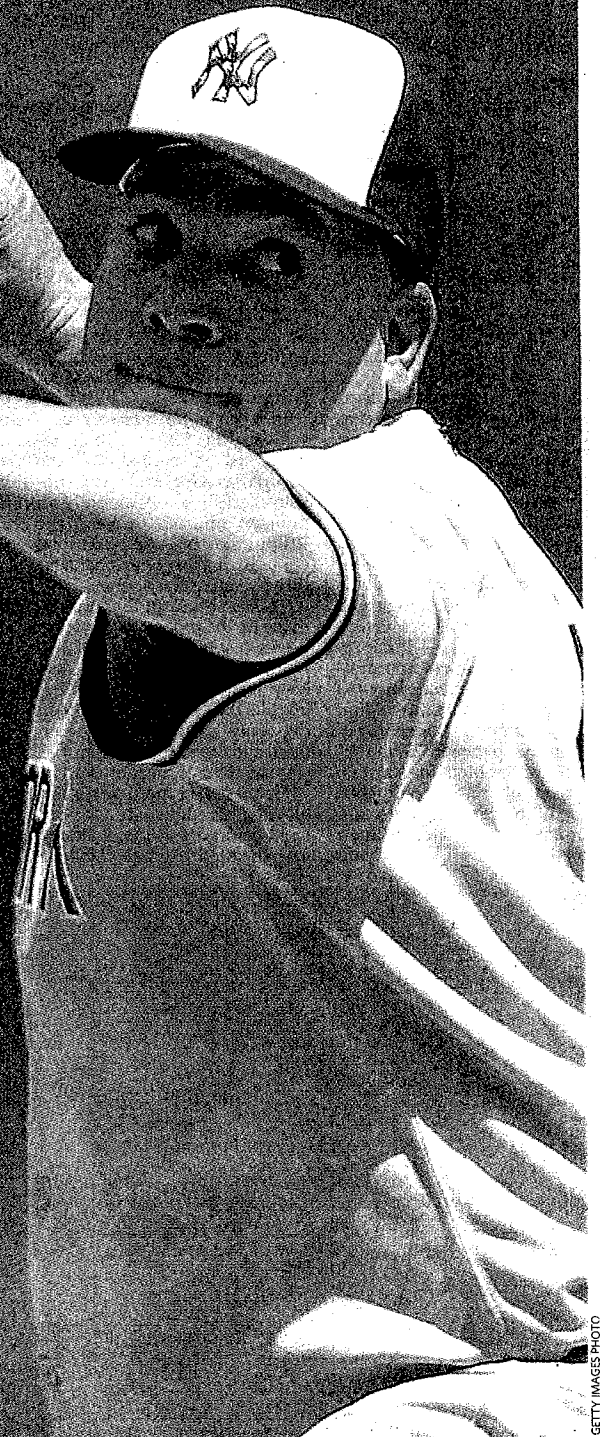
newsday.com

Jeter 3,000-hits database at
newsday.com/yankees

Bartolo Colon
allowed four hits,
walked none and
struck out six in
Yankees' 5-0 win
over A's.

COMPLETE STOP

Colon throws his first
shutout since 2006 A64



GETTY IMAGES PHOTO

Colon gets an 'A'

■ . . . And another, and another, in his four-hitter

■ Pitches first shutout in five years; Tex hits 16th HR

BY ERIK BOLAND
erik.boland@newsday.com

OAKLAND, Calif. — A small, handmade sign hung over the railing in right-centerfield proclaiming some fans' thoughts about the pitching matchup.

It read: "King of the Hill," a reference to Oakland starter Trevor Cahill, to this point the ace of a strong A's rotation.

But Bartolo Colon overthrew Cahill yesterday afternoon, seizing the throne for a day with a 5-0 complete-game victory in front of 35,067 at Overstock.com Coliseum.

Colon (3-3, 3.26), who turned 38 last Tuesday, allowed four hits and no walks and struck out six. He needed only 103 pitches, 71 of which were strikes, in his first shutout since July 5, 2006, at Seattle when he was with the Angels.

And absolutely, the complete game was important to him, as a quick conversation with Joe Girardi showed after the eighth. "He told me he had two more in him," Girardi said with a laugh. "I said, 'Well, I don't want to go two more. I want this to be it.'"

With a man on third and one out in the ninth, Colon preserved his shutout by inducing a foul pop and a fly to left. "It means a lot to me," he said, "and I thank the manager for letting me pitch the ninth inning."

Cahill (6-3) — whose ERA increased from 2.02 to 2.31 in his 6²/₃-inning outing — recovered after a rough first inning in which the Yankees gave Colon a 3-0 lead. Derek Jeter singled on the game's second pitch — career hit No. 2,981 — and after Curtis Granderson flied out to deep rightfield, Mark Teixeira ripped Cahill's 1-and-2 pitch deep to right-center for his 16th homer of the season, tying Granderson for the team lead.

It was Teixeira's fourth homer in the last five games

SCORECARD

Y 5 : 0 A's

Tonight Yankees at Oakland

TV: YES, 10:05 p.m.
Radio: WCBS (880)

COUNTDOWN TO 3,000

Hits needed

19

Derek Jeter yesterday:
1-for-3, walk, RBI, run
Career total: 2,981
Targeting: 2,987 — Sam Rice

newsday.com/jeter3000

and seventh in the last 11. He has 16 RBIs in the 11 games and 38 for the season. Robinson Cano's RBI double made it 3-0.

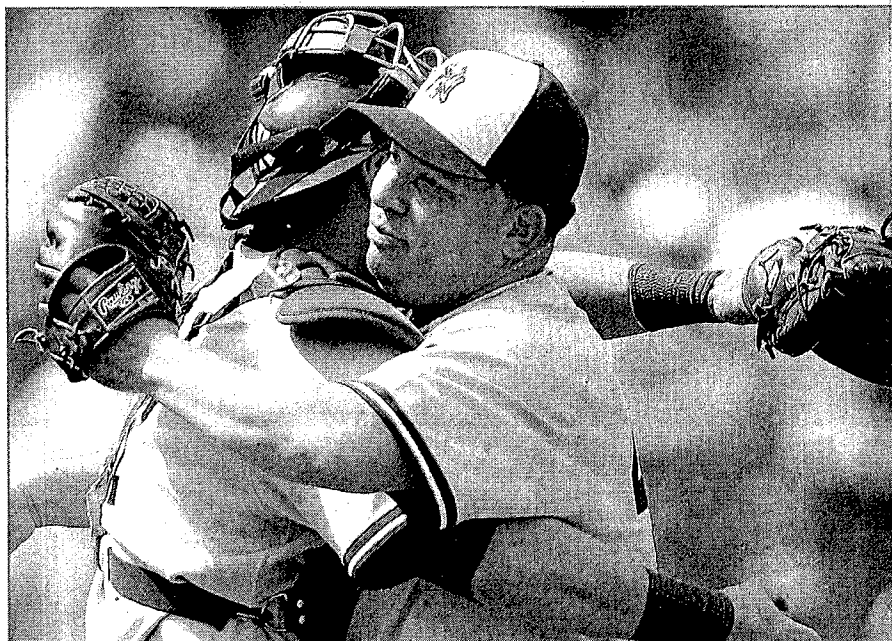
That was plenty for Colon, who allowed Girardi to spare his relievers for a second straight game. The bullpen was on fumes after heavy use Friday and Saturday night in Seattle, but CC Sabathia pitched eight innings Sunday and Colon needed no relief at all.

It has reached the point in the clubhouse that the surprise element regarding the righthander, signed to a minor-league deal in the offseason, has disappeared.

"He's been doing it since, what, the middle of February?" Jeter said. "No, it's not surprising anymore."

The surprise, Teixeira said, "is when he gives up hits, because he's been throwing the ball so well."

Colon believes he's a better pitcher now than when he came up and was mostly a power pitcher. "His ball moves a little bit more now," said Jeter, who had a sacrifice fly in



Bartolo Colon embraces catcher Francisco Cervelli after his four-hit, no-walk shutout against the A's.

the seventh. "When he first came up, he reared back and threw 100 mph and was pretty straight. Now his ball is moving all over the place."

The question, of course, surrounds Colon's durability because of his recent history of injuries. It hasn't been a problem to this point, and yesterday — as was the case in the pitcher's prime — his velocity stayed consistent throughout.

Colon struck out the second batter he faced, Daric Barton, looking at a 95-mph fastball. David DeJesus, the game's final batter, flied out softly to left on a 95-mph fastball.

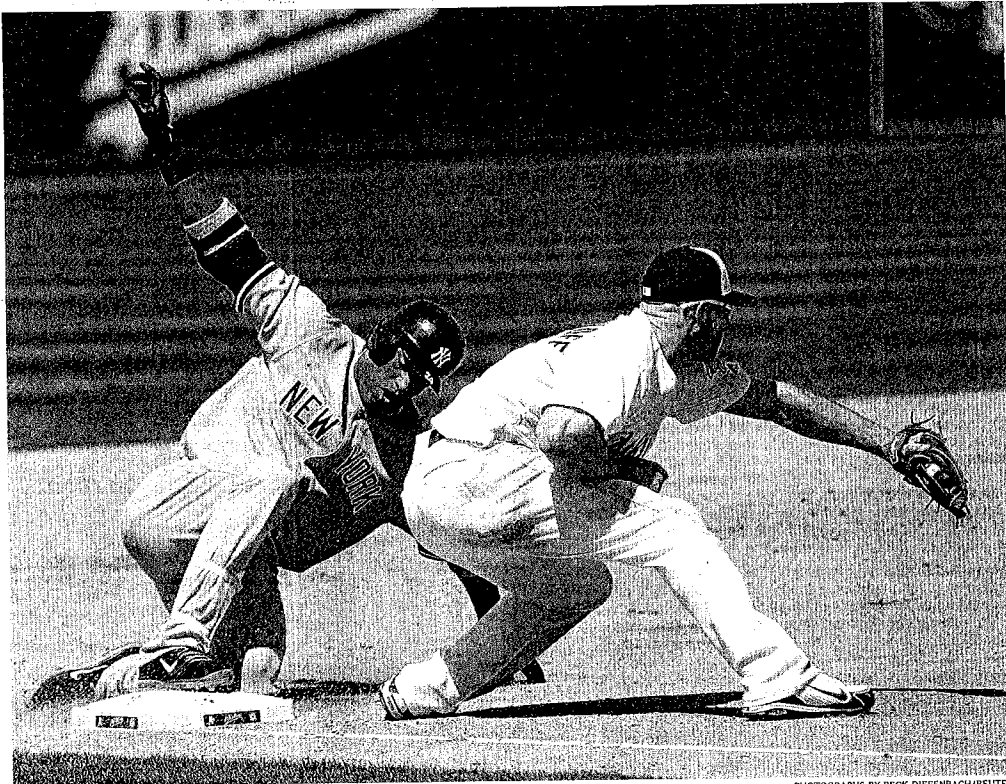
"I feel really good," Colon said. "I thank God I'm healthy and I'm helping the team to win. I feel really strong physically and mentally right now."

Girardi said he'll continue to keep an eye on Colon, but beyond that, he's just enjoying the ride. "You have to be careful," he said, "but there's nothing where we've seen his stuff drop off. None of us really know. But there's nothing that tells me he can't continue to do this."

O'NEILL SAYS YES TO MORE TIME IN THE BOOTH

A61

NY
TIMES
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PHOTOGRAPHS BY BECK DIEFENBACH/REUTERS

Robinson Cano beating a throw to Kevin Kousseroff on his triple in the eighth. Cano also doubled, raising his average to .284.

With Shutout, Colon Continues to Be a Surprise

By BEN SHPIGEL

OAKLAND, Calif. — Since Bartolo Colon last pitched here in September 2007 — a time before elbow surgery, before retirement was considered, before a rejuvenating

YANKEES	5	medical
ATHLETICS	0	treatment

— the stadium has changed names twice, but its features have remained the same. The roomy dimensions and acres of foul territory reward pitchers unafraid of contact, encouraging them to throw strikes. And one thing Colon can do, has done, is throw strikes.

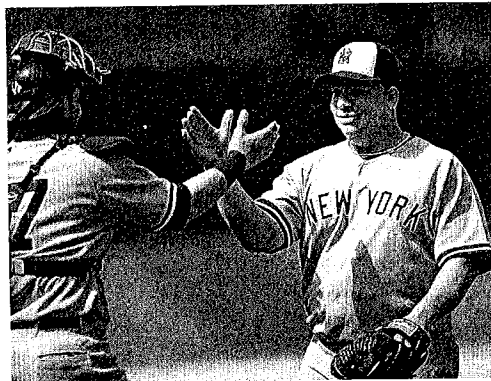
Colon dismantled the Oakland Athletics in a 5-0 complete-game victory Monday afternoon at Overstock.com Coliseum, throwing strikes at their knees, on the corners of the plate and everywhere in between. If Colon was unafraid of contact, the Athletics had trouble making it, striking out six times and hitting the ball hard about once every hour.

In his first start since turning 38 last Tuesday, Colon retired 26 of 30 hitters, allowing four hits while pitching his first shutout since July 5, 2006, in Seattle, his only win of an injury-ravaged season with the Angels.

"It doesn't matter if I'm 38 years old," Colon said through an interpreter. "I feel really good right now."

That response has been uttered at various times this season, and it has often been viewed with skepticism, as if at some point in the not-too-distant future Colon will cease feeling really good. That his shoulder, his knee, something will give out, and the Yankees can thank him for his services, for stabilizing their rotation, and wish him well.

Through 8 starts and 11 appearances over all, Colon has shown a remarkable capacity for endurance, a product of his efficient approach. And as long as he continues throwing 95 miles an hour in



Bartolo Colon pitched a shutout, his first since July 5, 2006. Colon (3-3) allowed four hits and struck out six batters.

the ninth inning, which he reached on his 103rd and final pitch Monday, the Yankees will continue to believe — and hope.

"As long as he does it five days from now," Derek Jeter said with a shrug.

His point conveyed the right message, but it was imprecise. Colon will receive an extra day's rest before his start Sunday against the Angels, and then another extra day after that, profiting from fortuitous days off on the schedule. And that, the Yankees hope, will only help.

"If you can do that, I think you can keep him strong and healthy," said Manager Joe Girardi, who expressed concern in spring training that Colon, having not thrown 100 innings since 2005, might not withstand the physical grind of a full season. "None of us really know, you just don't. There's nothing that tells me that he can't continue to do this."

As evidence, the Yankees point to two things. First, the crispness, the sharpness, of Colon's

pitches, especially a two-seam fastball that has become his signature. And second, his command, which has been on display since his first bullpen session of spring training in early February. His 4.42 strikeout-to-walk ratio is among the top seven in baseball, up there with control freaks like Roy Halladay, Cliff Lee and Dan Haren.

Colon has not walked any of the 69 hitters he has faced to lead off an inning this season. No other American League pitcher has started more than 30 innings without walking the leadoff hitter.

"If we didn't have him in our rotation, we'd be scrambling right now because this league is so tough, our division is so tough," said Mark Teixeira, who hit his seventh home run in 11 games, a two-run shot in the first off Trevor Cahill, to account for all the offense Colon would need. Teixeira added, "He's not only been healthy but he's been fantastic."

Colon allowed a leadoff double

in the second to Josh Willingham before retiring the next 12 batters in a row.

"When I have men in scoring position, I concentrate better," Colon said.

He apparently concentrated better in the ninth, too, needing only seven pitches to get out of an inning that started with a leadoff double by Cliff Pennington.

With Colon coasting and the Yankees leading by four runs, Girardi said he intended to send him out for the ninth, but not without checking with Colon. After the eighth, Girardi stopped him in the dugout to gauge his stamina, to see if he could work one more inning.

"He told me he had two more in him," Girardi said. "I told him: 'I don't want to go two more. I want this to be it.'"

The Yankees had gone an A.L.-record 341 games without a nine-inning complete game until C. C. Sabathia pitched one last Tuesday against Toronto. Now the Yankees have had two in less than a week.

For Colon, it was the 32nd complete game of his career, tying him with Boston's Tim Wakefield for third among active pitchers. Will there be a 33rd? Colon benefited Monday from facing a poor offensive team in a ballpark where the ball does not carry well. Not as if it matters to the Yankees, whose surprise at his success faded about a month ago. Now they expect it, and so does Colon.

INSIDE PITCH

FRANCISCO CERVELLI caught in place of RUSSELL MARTIN, who was scratched about an hour before the game because of a sore left big toe. ... JOE GIRARDI said he would be thrilled if PHIL HUGHES, on the disabled list since April 15 with right shoulder inflammation, were able to return directly after the All-Star break.

BASEBALL

COLON OUTING

EXTRA INNINGS

STAT OF THE DAY

13-3 The Yankees are 13-3 in day games this season, the best mark in the majors.

TEST YOUR YANKEE IQ

Freddy Garcia will make his 300th career start in the American League tonight in Oakland, becoming only the fifth active pitcher to reach that mark. Who are the other four?

UNSUNG HERO

Playing on the 16th anniversary of his first big-league hit, Derek Jeter finished the day 1-for-3 with a sac fly, a walk, a run scored and an RBI, moving within 19 of the 3,000-hit mark.

MIA

Russell Martin was a late scratch yesterday with a sore left big toe, but the catcher is expected to be back in the lineup tonight.

NEXT GAME

Tonight, 10:05, at A's,
Freddy Garcia
 (3-4, 3.26)
 vs. **Brett Anderson**
 (3-4, 2.84); TV: YES

Answer: CC Sabathia, Bartolo Colon, Tim Lincecum and Mark Buehrle.



Derek Jeter drives in Brett Gardner with sacrifice fly in seventh inning as Bombers pull away from A's. Earlier, the Captain singles in the Yanks' three-run

Tex feels the power as first-inning home run

OAKLAND — The weather may not be heating up for the Yankees, but Mark Teixeira is.

Teixeira gave the Yankees all the offense they needed yesterday, belting a two-run home run in the first inning off Trevor Cahill to spark the Bombers' 5-0 win. It was Teixeira's 16th home run of the season, his fourth in the past five games and seventh in the past 11.

"I've said it before, home runs come in bunches," Teixeira said. "Right now I'm just kind of in one of those streaks where I'm hitting the ball out of the park a lot. Hopefully, it keeps up. I feel pretty good up there."

Teixeira's home run pushed his hitting streak to seven games. He's hitting .310 (9-for-29) during the stretch.

"Tex is a guy, it seems like when it starts to warm up, he's one of those guys that really warms up," Joe Girardi said. "Even though we haven't been in really warm weather,

he's really warmed up. We've had a couple of hot days at home, but Tex is a guy that can carry a club, that can put up a lot of runs for you in a hurry and he's been doing that."

JULY TARGET

Phil Hughes will throw his third bullpen session tomorrow, setting up the weekend's live batting practice session in Anaheim. Girardi declined to speculate as to when Hughes might return, though he said early July was not out of the question.

"We're just taking it day-by-day and you have to see how he bounces back and how he feels," Girardi said. "It's probably, realistically, some time in July."

HI-DEKI

Yesterday wasn't the first time Hideki Matsui had faced

the Yankees as an opponent, but the 2009 World Series MVP caught up with former teammates including Derek Jeter, Jorge Posada and Mariano Rivera.

"He needs four more home runs for 500, so I'm happy for him," said Jeter, referring to Matsui's combined total between Japan and the majors. "Obviously I don't want him to get it while we're here, but I've always told you he's one of my favorite teammates. He was fun to play with, fun to watch. It's good to catch up with him."

Yankees
 insider

BY MARK FEINSAND

ALL ACES

The Yankees have already faced Michael Pineda, Felix Hernandez and Cahill during this road trip, and, believe it or not, things aren't going to get any easier in the coming days.

EARNNS ALL A'S

Enjoys a holiday picnic, blanks Oakland on 4 hits

BY MARK FEINSAND
DAILY NEWS SPORTS WRITER

OAKLAND — When the Yankees signed Bartolo Colon to a minor-league contract over the winter, nobody knew what to expect from the former Cy Young winner.

It's hard to imagine anybody could have predicted this.

Colon continued his storybook season with a four-hit shutout of the A's at the Coliseum yesterday, leading the Yankees to a 5-0 win.

"He's really exceeding our expectations and he's been huge for us," Mark Teixeira said. "If we didn't have him in our rotation, we'd be scrambling right now."

Colon struck out six and didn't issue a walk, improving to 3-3 with a 3.26 ERA. The shutout was his first since July 5, 2006, when he blanked the Mariners while pitching for the Angels.

"Thank God that I'm healthy and that I'm helping the team win," Colon said through an interpreter. "It doesn't matter that I'm 38 years old; I feel really good."

The Yankees have won eight straight against the A's, giving them a 22-4 record against Oakland since Joe Girardi took over in 2008.

When the Yankees signed him, Colon hadn't pitched in the majors since July 2009, having spent the past year and a half rehabbing his arm — and getting a procedure in which stem cells were injected into his elbow and shoulder, a procedure MLB is investigating — to make one last push at big-league glory.

Derek Jeter joked that his first thought upon hearing of Colon's signing was that the pitcher "should be well-rested," but after watching the big righthander pitch since spring training, Jeter and his teammates are no longer surprised when Colon throws a gem.

"Bartolo's never had issues with his stuff," Jeter said. "He wasn't healthy there for a while. As long as he's healthy I don't see any reason why he can't produce."

Colon became the second Yankees starter to record a complete-game win in the past six games after the team went more than two years without one before a ninth-inning rally gave CC Sabathia a victory over the Blue Jays last week.

Colon became the second Yankees starter to record a complete-game win in the past six games after the team went more than two years without one before a ninth-inning rally gave CC Sabathia a victory over the Blue Jays last week.



first to get within 19 hits of 3,000. Photo by Getty

goes long way

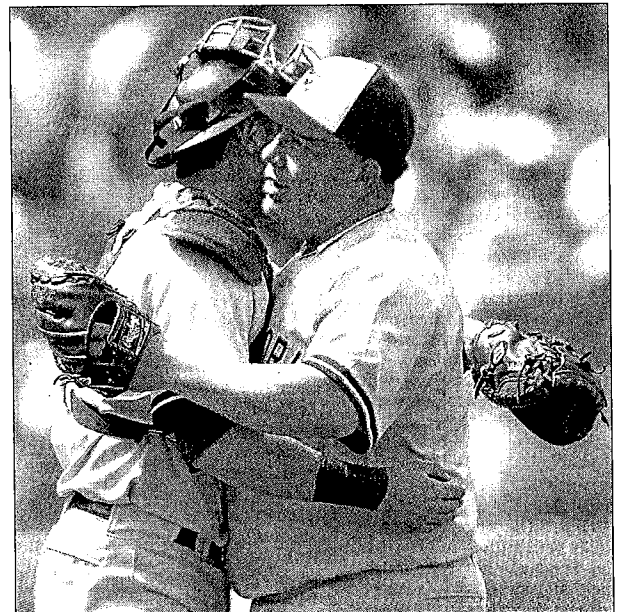
The A's will start lefthanders Brett Anderson (2.84 ERA) and Gio Gonzalez (2.17) in the final two games of the series, then the Angels will open the weekend series with Jered Weaver (2.10) on Friday and Dan Haren (2.29) on Saturday.

"I can't really think of a tougher stretch we'll necessarily see," Girardi said. "There's a lot of good pitching in our division, too, when you run through teams, but this is pretty good."

NEVER FORGET

Girardi spent some time reflecting on the meaning of Memorial Day, thinking of his father, who served during the Korean War.

"I've been to Walter Reed (hospital in D.C.) and seen what people have done in giving up their life for us," Girardi said. "I definitely reflect. This is a special day. This is a day we should honor those men and women."



Bartolo Colon gets a hug from Francisco Cervelli after connecting all afternoon with catcher en route to his first shutout since July 2006. Photo by Getty

The shutout was the first of the season for the Yankees, who hadn't held an opponent scoreless since last Sept. 2, when they blanked the A's by the same score.

"It picks up a club, gives the bullpen a chance to take a breath and get a couple days," Girardi said. "During a long year, that's important."

The Yankees opened the game by doing what they do best, pouncing on starter Trevor Cahill in the first inning. Jeter singled to open the game, then Teixeira belted a 1-2 pitch deep into the right-field stands, giving the Bombers a 2-0 lead.

The Yankees have outscored their opponents 80-44 in the first two innings this season, including a 42-16 edge in the opening frame. They have scored the game's first run 32 times in 52 games.

"That's huge because Cahill's one of the best pitchers in baseball," Teixeira said. "We didn't get a lot of hits off him (4 in 6 1/2 innings) but we made them count."

Alex Rodriguez followed Teixeira's home run with a walk, then Robinson Cano doubled him in, making it 3-0.

Cahill settled down and held the Yankees off the board until the seventh, when Jeter's sac fly pushed the lead to 4-0.

Colon worked his way through the A's lineup with ease all afternoon. He retired the side in order in the first, then after allowing a leadoff double by Josh Willingham in the second, he retired 12 in a row before allowing Kevin Kouzmanoff's leadoff single in the eighth. After the eighth was over, Girardi asked Colon if he had enough left to finish the game.

"He told me he had two more in him," Girardi said. "I said, 'Well, I don't want to go two more. I want this to be it.' He said he was great."

Colon gave up a leadoff double to Cliff Pennington in the ninth, but he got the next three outs, finishing the day having retired 25 of the 29 batters he faced.

"I always think he has that extra in the tank," Girardi said. "His last pitch was 95 mph. He has the ability. He gives up a leadoff double in the ninth and they don't score again, so he knows how to do it. He's been doing it for a long time."

COLON AUTHORS

Sore toe keeps Martin sidelined

By GEORGE A KING III

OAKLAND — Russell Martin, who was in Joe Girardi's original lineup yesterday, was scratched because of lingering soreness in his left big toe.

Francisco Cervelli caught Bartolo Colon's four-hit complete-game in the Yankees' 5-0 win over the Athletics while Martin, who fouled a ball off the toe in the third inning Saturday night in Seattle, missed a second straight game.

"He didn't look like he was walking great," Girardi said of Martin, who was on the field for the stretching program, but didn't take batting practice. "We will shoot for [tonight]."

Hitting coach Kevin Long can't take a bat to the plate for his hitters, but that doesn't make it any easier on him when they struggle.

"When you put in the time and effort and don't get the results it affects you," said Long, who is trying to get Jorge Posada (.169 after an 0-for-4 game) and Nick Swisher (.212, 1-for-3) out of season-long slumps.

Phil Hughes' rehab program calls for him to throw a bullpen session tomorrow and pitch batting practice this weekend in Anaheim. However, there is no concrete date for the right-hander to go on a minor league rehab assignment.

When will Girardi begin to get excited about Hughes'

YANKEES NOTES

possible return? "When he gets to the point where he goes on a rehab and makes multiple starts," Girardi said. "I really don't have a date."

Which means there is no telling when Hughes will be ready to rejoin the rotation.

"Realistically, sometime in June," Girardi said of Hughes, who hasn't pitched since April 14 due to right shoulder inflammation.

Sixteen years to the day after recording his first big league hit off Seattle's Tim Lincecum, Derek Jeter opened yesterday's game with a sharp single to center field for his 2,981st.

Look for Andrew Jones somewhere in the lineup tonight and tomorrow, because the A's are starting lefties Brett Anderson and Gio Gonzalez.

Jones, who has driven in seven runs in his past two starts, is hitting .268 (11-for-41) with four home runs and 10 RBIs against lefties and .143 (2-for-14) without a homer and an RBI versus right-handers.

Posada, who likely won't be in the lineup as the designated hitter in either game, has one hit in his last 17 at-bats.

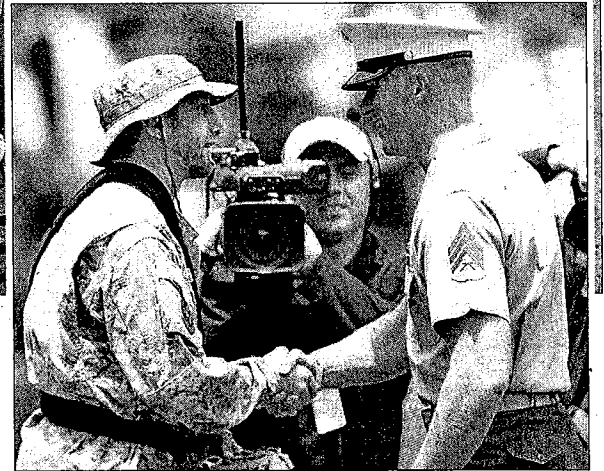
Alex Rodriguez went 0-for-3, ending a nine-game hitting streak.

Brett Gardner stopped a 0-for-13 slide with a ninth-inning bunt single.



MILITARY MEMORIES: Derek Jeter greets Cpl. Farrell Gilliam (above) and injured Athletics pitcher Dallas Braden breaks out his camos to catch the first pitch from Sgt. Dayton McConnell (right) of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, before the Yankees' 5-0 victory yesterday.

Getty Images (2)



ON DECK

YANKEES AT AS

Tonight — 10:05
RHP Freddy Garcia (3-4, 3.26) vs. LHP Brett Anderson (3-4, 2.84)

Tomorrow — 3:35 p.m.
RHP A.J. Burnett (5-3, 3.99) vs. LHP Gio Gonzalez (5-2, 2.17)

Both games on YES and WCBS (880 AM)

INSIDE THE MATCHUPS

YANKEES: Garcia will attempt to string together back-to-back wins for the first time this season. He allowed three runs on eight hits in 6 1/3 innings to get the win in the Yankees' 7-3 win over the Blue Jays on Wednesday. He is 3-3 with a 4.18 ERA in nine career starts at Oakland.

ATHLETICS: Anderson had not won (three losses) in five starts before blanking the Angels on three hits over eight innings in a 4-3 A's win Thursday. He is 0-3 with a 4.68 ERA in four career starts against the Yankees, the only AL team he has faced more than once without beating.

WHO'S HOT

In his last 13 games, Mark Teixeira has seven home runs and 16 RBIs.

WHO'S NOT

In his last 10 games, A's DH and former Yankee Hideki Matsui is batting .172 (5-for-29) with no extra-base hits.

STAT SO?

After Coco Crisp went 0-for-4 yesterday, opponents' leadoff hitters are batting .181 against the Yankees this season, the lowest in the majors.

COMPLETE FEAT

Teixeira supplies fireworks

By GEORGE A. KING III

OAKLAND — Robinson Cano carried the Yankees in April, but has gone cold of late. Alex Rodriguez hasn't been the muscle man in the middle of the lineup. Designated hitter Jorge Posada continues to struggle, and though Nick Swisher has displayed signs of life lately, he is searching.

That leaves Mark Teixeira and Curtis Granderson to carry the Yankees, and Teixeira did exactly that yesterday in a 5-0 win over the A's at the Coliseum with a two-run homer off Trevor Cahill during a three-run first inning.

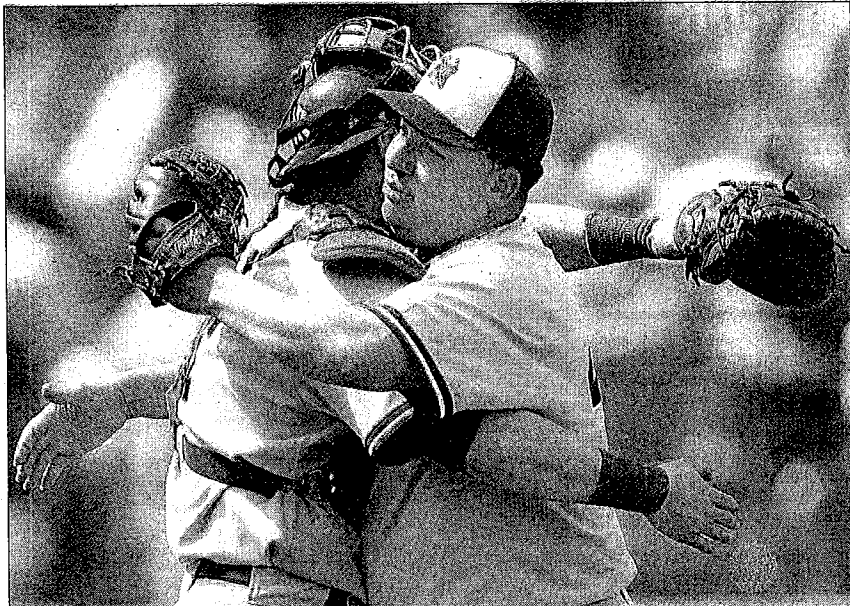
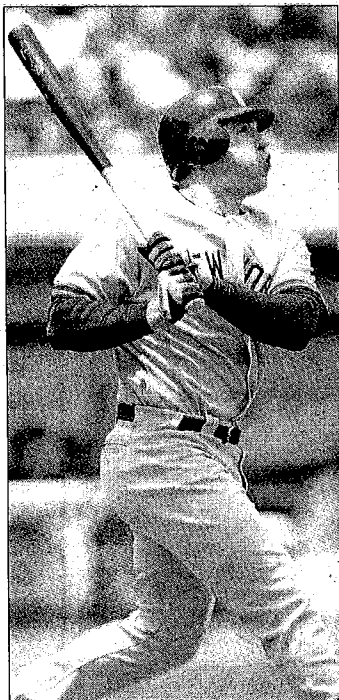
"That was huge — Cahill is one of the best pitchers in baseball," Teixeira said of the big inning. "We didn't get a lot of hits, but we made them count."

Cahill did not allow another run until the seventh, when the Yankees used walks and stolen bases by Brett Gardner and Francisco Cervelli to score a run.

"Home runs come in bunches," said Teixeira, who has 16 for the season, including four in the past five games and seven in 11. "Hopefully I can keep it up. I feel pretty good."

After Derek Jeter led off with a single and Granderson flied out in the first, Teixeira planted a 1-2 pitch into the right-field seats for a 2-0 lead. Rodriguez then walked and scored from first on Cano's double.

"He is one of those guys," Joe Girardi said of Teixeira getting hot as the temperature rises. "Tex can carry a club. He can put a lot of runs up in a hurry."



VETERAN'S DAY: Thirty-eight-year-old Bartolo Colon (above) embraces catcher Francisco Cervelli after tossing a complete-game, four-hit gem yesterday, when the Yankees won 5-0 after being staked to an early lead by Mark Teixeira's (left) 16th home run of the season, a two-run shot in the first inning. AP (above), Getty Images (left)

Four-hitter shows Yanks can blank on vet

By GEORGE A. KING III

OAKLAND — A phone call made from Tony Pena to Yankees general manager Brian Cashman has turned into the steal of the off-season.

Pena, the Yankees' bench coach, managed Bartolo Colon in the Dominican Winter League and recommended the Yankees, after not landing free agent Cliff Lee and watching Andy Pettitte retire, bring the veteran right-hander to spring training knowing that arm problems had kept him out of the big leagues last season.

Figuring there was nothing to lose because the investment was minimal by Yankees' standards, the club invited Colon to spring training and placed him in the mix for a rotation spot.

Yesterday, Colon pitched the Yankees to a complete-game 5-0 victory over the A's in front of 35,067 at the Coliseum. Combined with the Red Sox's 7-3 loss to the

White Sox last night, the win pushed the Yankees back into a first place in the AL East. At 29-23, the Bombers are .002 ahead of Boston (30-24).

For a team that has a \$200-plus million payroll, the \$900,000 investment in Colon is off-the-rack shopping. But Colon, who took over Phil Hughes' spot in the rotation, has brought more than anyone could have imagined in February.

"I am not surprised anymore," Derek Jeter said of Colon. "He dominated in spring training."

Coming off his worst outing of the season in which he allowed six runs and seven hits in six innings to the Blue Jays, Colon (3-3) allowed four hits, struck out four, did not walk a batter and required 103 pitches to post his ninth career shutout and first since 2006.

He allowed a leadoff double to Josh Willingham in the second inning, a leadoff

BOXSCORE / P. 52
Yankees 5
Athletics 0

single by Kevin Koussamanoff in the sixth, an infield single to Kurt Suzuki to start the eighth and a double to Cliff Pennington that opened the ninth. In between the first and second hits, Colon retired 12 straight.

The 38-year-old, who has a 3.26 ERA, won for the first time since April 27.

"It meant a lot to me," Colon said of manager Joe Girardi allowing him to finish.

Mark Teixeira supplied Colon with an early cushion when he planted a two-run homer, his 16th of the season, into the right-field seats off starter Trevor Cahill (6-3) in the first inning. Robinson Cano added an RBI double later in the frame.

Jeter, who went 1-for-3 and is 19 shy of 3,000 for his ca-

reer, drove in a run with a sacrifice fly in the seventh and the Yankees added a run in the ninth on Francisco Cervelli's sac fly to right.

Colon is part of an MLB investigation into a doctor who used a stem cell procedure on the pitcher's right arm last April, because the doctor has administered human growth hormone to patients. The doctor said he never gave Colon HGH. Several pitchers are looking into the procedure, and with the way Colon is throwing — he was throwing 94 mph in the ninth inning — more will be on the way.

According to Girardi, Colon told him at the end of the eighth that he had "two more" innings left. Of course, only one was required.

Colon's complete game followed CC Sabathia's eight-inning outing Sunday, so Girardi was able to give his primary relievers two

days of much-needed rest.

"I feel pretty good," said Colon, who held the A's hitless in six at-bats with runners in scoring position. "Thank God I am healthy and helping the team win."

The question is: How far can Colon take this magic carpet ride?

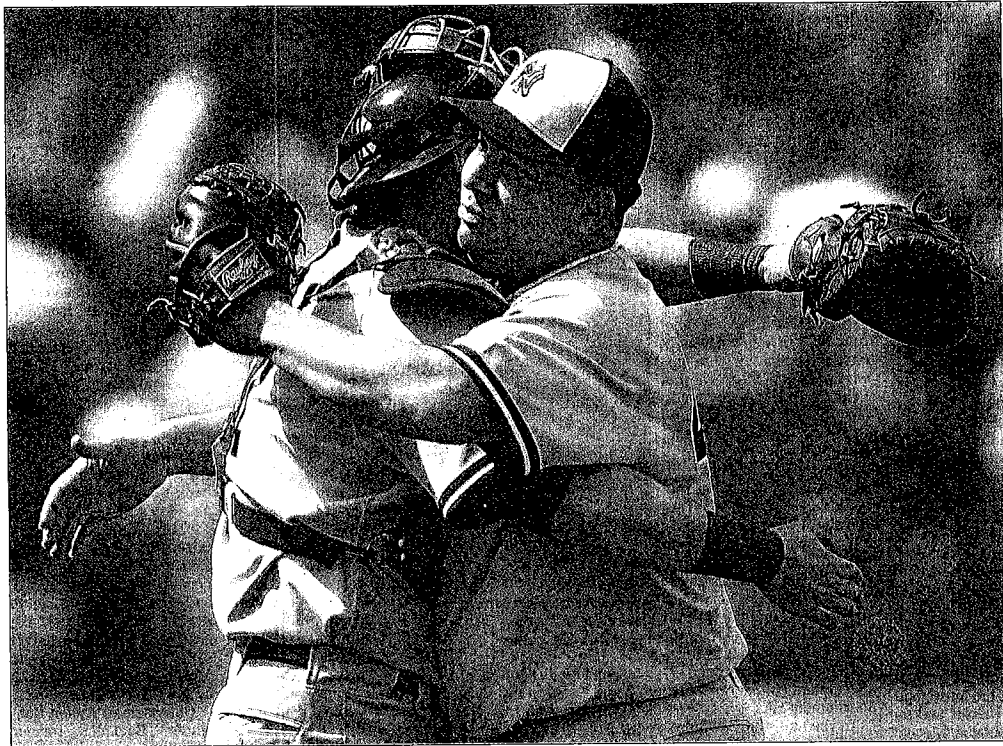
Considering their history and age, some believe the Yankees should be grateful for the two strong months Colon and Freddy Garcia have provided. Others believe that Garcia is no bigger health risk than any other pitcher.

Girardi is aware of Colon's health and gave him an extra day of rest this time through the rotation. He will get another extra day the next time he pitches because Thursday is a day off for the Yankees.

"You have to be careful, but we have not seen his stuff drop off," Girardi said.

george.king@nypost.com

JOURNAL
NEWS
5/31/11



The Yankees' Bartolo Colon, right, and Francisco Cervelli embrace after Monday's 5-0 win over Oakland. BEN MARGOT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Colon captures past magic

Veteran throws 5-0 shutout, but how long can 38-year-old last?

By Chad Jennings
cjennings@lahud.com

OAKLAND, Calif. — Before Monday's ninth inning, Yankees manager Joe Girardi went looking for his starting pitcher. Bartolo Colon was approaching 100 pitches, and Girardi wanted to



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Blog at yankees.lhblogs.com

know how he was feeling. Could he pitch one more inning?

"He told me he had two more in him," Girardi said. "I said, 'Well, I don't want to go two more. I want this to be it.'"

That was it. Colon finished what he started, wrapping up a 5-0 Yankees win against the Athletics with a 95-mph fastball on his

final pitch of the day. It was the Yankees' first shutout since last September, and Colon's first since 2006 when he was with the Angels.

"To be quite honest with you, he's been doing it all year," Derek Jeter said. "Sometimes he's going to give up runs, but we have a lot of confidence with him on the mound. He's been pitching like this pretty much since spring training."

At this point, the biggest ques-

tion with Colon is a big-picture version of the one Girardi asked on Monday: How much longer can he go?

Exactly one week ago, Colon turned 38 years old. He's already pitched 66 1/3 innings this season, his second-highest single-season total since 2005. He didn't pitch at all last season, and Jeter joked that his first thought when the Yankees signed Colon was, "He

See YANKEES, 4C

YANKEES: Colon shuts down Athletics

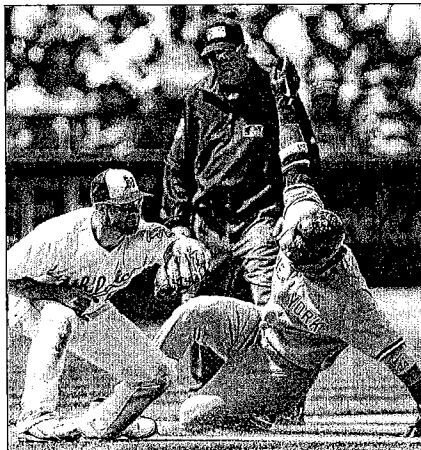
Continued from 1C

should be well-rested."

From complete unknown to arguably the Yankees' second-best starter, Colon has a 3.26 ERA through 11 appearances, eight of them starts. He has allowed just 15 walks and has not walked any of the 69 batters he's faced to lead off an inning. No other American League pitcher has started more than 30 innings without a leadoff walk.

"As he logs more innings, he's kind of in some different water for him because he's older, and he hasn't done this for a while where he's made 32 starts," Girardi said. "But his stamina looks fine. The big thing about Bartolo is he never throws a lot of pitches. Very seldom do you see him throw 100 pitches in five innings. He may throw 100 in a game, but his innings are pretty economical."

After the Yankees gave him a 3-0 lead in the first inning, Colon allowed a leadoff



Robbinson Cano slides in safely with his second triple of the year ahead of the tag by Oakland's Kevin Kouzmanoff in the Yankees' 5-0 win. BEN MARGOT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

double in the second inning, then retired 12 in a row. He scattered four hits, walked none and struck out six. He needed just 103 pitches to

finish the complete game.

"I feel really good," Colon said. "I thank God that I'm healthy, and I'm helping the team to win. I feel really

strong physically and mentally right now."

The Yankees are 22-4 against the A's since Girardi took over as manager in 2008. Oakland's starter, Trevor Cahill, had allowed as many as three earned runs in a game only twice this season, but the Yankees scored that many in the first inning when Mark Teixeira hit a two-run home run and Robbinson Cano had an RBI double.

Teixeira has hit seven home runs in 11 games and is tied with teammate Curtis Granderson for the second-most homers in the American League (16).

Two late-inning insurance runs hardly mattered because Colon was dealing, and he kept dealing to the very end.

MAY 31, 2011

Colon Masterful as Yankees Roll

By DANIEL BARBARISI

OAKLAND—This winter, the Yankees tried to throw huge dollars at Cliff Lee, only to see him take \$120 million from the Philadelphia Phillies instead.

Burned, they rolled the dice on Bartolo Colon, who signed for a paltry \$900,000 after spending 2010 out of baseball.

What were the odds that at the end of May, the Yankees could say they got the more effective pitcher?

Stunningly, so far, they can. Lee has a 4-4 record and a 3.50 ERA for the Phillies. Colon, after pitching a complete game, four-hit, no-walk masterpiece against the Oakland A's Monday, has a 3-3 record and a 3.26 ERA.

It was his first shutout since 2006, as Colon has proven that he's back. Now the only question is how long he can keep this up.

Monday, the Athletics never had a chance, as Colon picked them apart in New York's 5-0 win.

Josh Willingham doubled to right-center in the second inning, robbing the crowd of drama on a day when Colon had no-hit stuff. Colon then stayed perfect until the sixth inning, when he gave up a single to Kevin Kouzmanoff.

In the eighth inning, Colon was still pitching in the mid-90s, cruising past the overmatched Athletics. He let light-hitting Cliff Pennington lead off with a double, then stranded him on the bases. Before the ninth inning, Colon told manager Joe Girardi that he could pitch two more innings if needed.

"I think his last pitch was 95 miles an hour," Girardi said. "He has the ability—he gives up a leadoff double in the ninth, and they don't score again. He knows how to do it. He's been doing it for a long time."

Colon is making an unlikely case for an All-Star berth. He doesn't walk anyone. His strikeout-to-walk ratio is sixth-best in the American League—and he rarely makes mistakes. He has stamina, strikeout ability and veteran savvy. He thinks he's a better pitcher now than when he was 28, because he's smarter and throws more strikes.

"I feel really good right now. It doesn't matter if I'm 38 years old. I feel really good right now," Colon said.

Without Colon, the Yankees would be far behind the Red Sox and Rays in the AL East.

"If we didn't have him in our rotation, we'd be scrambling right now," first baseman Mark Teixeira said.

There is a reason behind Colon's late-career resurgence. He underwent an experimental procedure in the spring of 2010 where stem cells were used to rebuild his injured elbow and shoulder. He is the only known major league pitcher to undergo such a procedure, and so for the moment, he is in uncharted waters. It is not clear how long he can continue to perform like this —perhaps only a few more starts, perhaps indefinitely. The Yankees are building in extra days of rest for Colon to ease the burden on his rebuilt arm and aging body.

Derek Jeter said he and his teammates don't worry about Colon falling apart. "As long as he does it five days from now. I don't sit around and try to predict the future."

Colon threw so well that it felt like he was the only pitcher in the park, but Oakland's Trevor Cahill shut down the Yankees for much of the game. Fortunately, the Yankees got their runs early, and that would be all they needed.

Sixteen years ago Monday, Jeter notched his first career hit in his second game, and fittingly, he led off this game with a single. As Jeter stood on first, Teixeira got the Yankees out to an early lead, crushing a home run to right field, his 16th of the season.

Robinson Cano added another with an RBI single, and then Cahill held the Yankees virtually hitless for the next six innings, allowing only a single to Francisco Cervelli in the second.



Everything Jersey

Bartolo Colon tosses shutout as Yankees beat Athletics, 5-0

Published: Monday, May 30, 2011, 10:56 PM Updated: Monday, May 30, 2011, 10:58 PM



By **Marc Carig/The Star-Ledger**

OAKLAND, Calif. — OAKLAND, Calif. — Bartolo Colon had just made Kevin Kouzmanoff look silly.

In the eighth inning of the Yankees' 5-0 victory over the Athletics today, Colon threw a 94 mph fastball that darted with so much movement, Kouzmanoff had no choice but to watch a third strike cross home plate. Really, that one pitch alone answered manager Joe Girardi's question, though he asked it of his pitcher anyway.

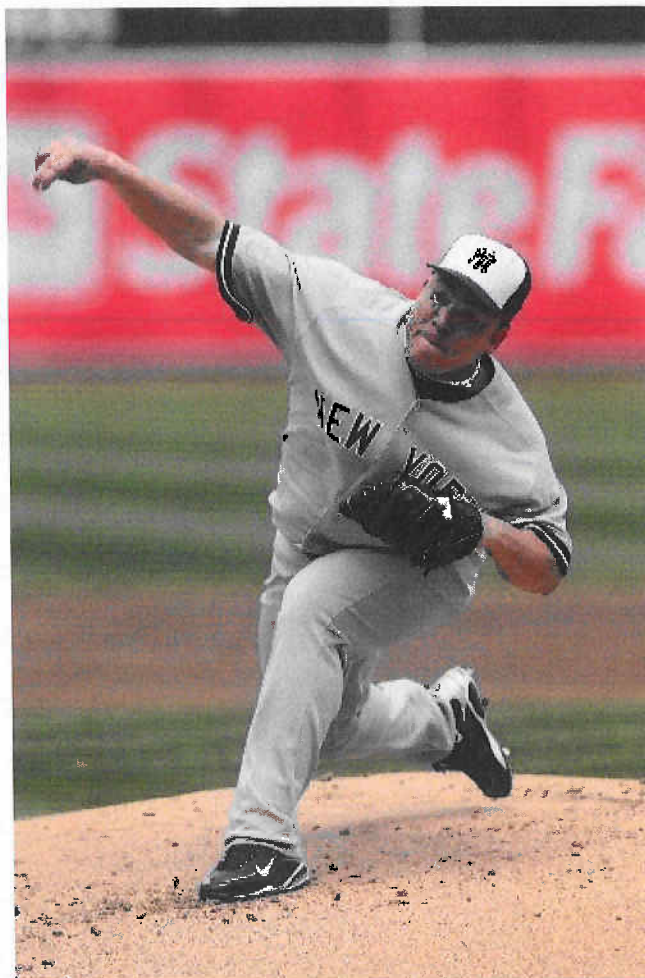
Did Colon have one more dominant inning left in his 38-year-old right arm?

"He told me he had two more in him," Girardi said. "I said, 'Well, I don't want to go two more. I want this to be it.' He said he was great."

Colon looked great in the ninth inning as well, allowing a leadoff double before squeezing the last signs of life from the A's, en route to capping his first shutout since 2006. In what has already been a remarkable season for the new Yankee, he added a signature moment.

"It means a lot to me, and I thanked the manager (for letting me) pitch the ninth inning," Colon said through a translator.

In nine innings, Colon needed just 103 pitches to scatter four hits against an overmatched A's offense.



Cory Edmondson/US Presswire

Yankees pitcher Bartolo Colon delivers in the first inning today.

Yankees' Bartolo Colon shuts out A's, 5-0

MONDAY, MAY 30, 2011 LAST UPDATED: TUESDAY MAY 31, 2011, 6:23 AM

BY PETE CALDERA

OAKLAND, Calif. — Bartolo Colon had just completed a fast eighth inning when Yankees manager Joe Girardi asked the right-hander if he had enough left to pitch the ninth.

Bartolo Colon gave up just four hits in beating the Athletics on Monday in Oakland.

“He told me he had two more [innings] in him,” Girardi said. “I said, ‘I don’t want it to go two more.’”

A few minutes later, Colon finished off his first complete game in five years – a four-hit shutout to snap the Athletics’ four-game winning streak.

“He’s been so good this year, it’s like a surprise if he gives up hits,” Mark Teixeira said, following Monday afternoon’s 5-0 win at **Oakland** Coliseum. “He’s just been throwing the ball so well.”

Not long ago, the surprise was in Colon’s ability to crack the Yankees’ starting rotation and stay there. By now, solid outings have come to be expected from Colon – though his 103-pitch Memorial Day effort was his best yet as a Yankee.

“No, it’s not a surprise anymore,” Derek Jeter said after the Yanks improved to 2-2 on this nine-game West Coast trip, where Colon proved once more that he was worth taking a chance on.

“If we don’t have him in our rotation, we’d be scrambling right now,” Teixeira said of the 38-year-old who wasn’t in the majors last season.

Colon faced three batters over the minimum Monday, with no walks and six strikeouts.

“It means a lot to me that the manager let me pitch the ninth inning,” Colon said through an interpreter. Colon’s ninth career shutout was his first since July 5, 2006, for the then-Los Angeles Angels at Seattle – his only victory that season. A year earlier, Colon won 21 games and the AL Cy Young award for the Angels.

“I remember when he won the Cy Young, he was a very similar pitcher,” Teixeira said. “You’d look up and it would be the eighth inning, and he’d still be pitching [after] 70 or 80 pitches. He’s so efficient.”

Continuing his power surge, Teixeira gave Colon (3-3) a quick lead with a two-run homer off Trevor Cahill in a three-run first inning. It was Teixeira's fourth homer in his past five games, and his seventh in his last 11.

Robinson Cano lashed an RBI double in the first off Cahill (6-3), charged with four runs in 6^a innings. The Yankees (28-23) added single runs in the seventh and the ninth on sacrifice flies by Jeter and Francisco Cervelli.

Despite the score, "I always pitch like the game's 0-0," said Colon, who provided a two-line reason on how he's morphed back into a reliable starter. "Before I used to throw harder. Now, I throw more strikes."

It is Colon's economy of pitches that gives the Yankees hope that he can maintain this Fountain-of-Youth performance.

"You never see him throw a lot of pitches. He doesn't have long innings, and it doesn't take a lot out of him," Girardi said. If he stays on that course, "I think you can keep him strong, keep him healthy."

Colon maintained his aggressive pace by stranding Josh Willingham after a leadoff double in the second. Cliff Pennington led off the ninth with a double, and he was the only other A's runner to get as far as third.

"His ball moves a little bit more now," Jeter said comparing the new Colon to the Cy Young version. "I think he was more of a thrower when he first came up."

Teixeira described Colon as a fastball pitcher with enough deception to keep fooling hitters — and fending off Father Time.

"He hasn't just been healthy," Teixeira said, "he's been fantastic."

Colon hurls complete-game gem vs. A's

Righty scatters four hits, notches six strikeouts as Yanks cruise

By Bryan Hoch / MLB.com | 5/30/2011 8:49 PM ET

OAKLAND -- There were some shrugs when Bartolo Colon showed up this spring and tried a Yankees uniform on for the first time, carrying memories of what he used to be and no guarantees for the future.

Flash forward a few months, and the Yankees can't imagine where they'd be without him. Colon continued his amazing comeback on Monday with a complete-game four-hit shutout in a 5-0 victory over the A's.

"Especially from a guy who hadn't been in the league for a couple of years, he's really exceeding our expectations," said Mark Teixeira, who homered for the fourth time in five games. "If we didn't have him in our rotation, we'd be scrambling right now."

What could the Yankees have promised Colon, out of baseball since 2009 and admittedly out of shape, back under the Florida sun? They knew his resume as an American League Cy Young Award winner and a perennial strike-thrower, but those glory days seemed to be behind him.

Colon continues to prove everyone wrong, recapturing his old form and perhaps even improving on it. The A's consistently flailed at everything the 38-year-old fired their way, walking none and striking out six in a 103-pitch masterpiece.

"It doesn't matter if I'm 38 years old," Colon said through an interpreter. "I feel really good right now. The only difference is that I throw more strikes now. I used to throw harder. Now I throw more strikes."

Sporting Stars & Stripes Memorial Day caps, the Yankees provided Colon with all of the support he'd need in the first inning, getting to Trevor Cahill for three runs. One would have been enough.

Derek Jeter led off the game with a single, his 2,981st career hit. The captain was aboard when Teixeira went into the right-field seats for a two-run shot, his 16th of the season.

Robinson Cano followed an Alex Rodriguez walk with a run-scoring double to right-center field before being cut down on an outfield assist rounding second base.

Against an Oakland lineup that has less homers (30) than Teixeira and Curtis Granderson (16) combined, the lead held up, even as Cahill settled in and limited the Yankees to a hit over the next six innings.

They could thank Colon, who worked efficiently against a punchless A's lineup in front of a sellout crowd at the Coliseum. Oakland manager Bob Geren didn't even search for answers, only compliments.

"If the guy was average and really didn't have much and shut us down, then you maybe want to think a little more about what happened," Geren said. "But their guy was exceptional today."

Josh Willingham owned the hardest-hit ball off Colon, a second-inning double that pelted the wall in right-center. Oakland wouldn't have another baserunner until Kevin Kouzmanoff singled in the sixth.

In the eighth, Kurt Suzuki legged out an infield hit and was promptly erased on a double play.

Girardi said it was an easy decision to leave Colon in to try for his first complete game since July 5, 2006, when he was pitching for the Angels at Seattle.

"He told me he had two more [innings] in him," Girardi said. "I said, 'Well, I don't want to go two more. I want this to be it.' He said he was great, and we were going to send him back out."

Girardi had yanked Colon two turns back in the rotation, when he had shut down the Orioles on 87 pitches through eight innings in Baltimore, and paid the price when closer Mariano Rivera blew the save.

Given a five-run cushion thanks to sacrifice flies off the bats of Jeter and Francisco Cervelli, Girardi barely bothered to communicate with his bullpen this time, letting it sit dormant.

Even after Cliff Pennington opened the ninth with a double, this one was Colon's all the way. Why not? Colon was still pumping the strike zone in the mid-90's.

"That has always been his trademark, even when he was with Cleveland and the Angels," Girardi said. "I don't know if you necessarily expect it with all the innings he's logged and all the injuries that he's went through, but that was in his DNA."

Colon has now made eight starts and has 66 1/3 innings under his belt, so it seems valid to wonder if this magic ride can continue all season. Even if not, the Yankees are loving it while it lasts.

"He should be well rested," Jeter said with a grin. "Bartolo's never had issues with his stuff. He wasn't healthy there for a while. As long as he's healthy, I don't see any reason why he can't produce."

After his first Yankees win back on April 20, Colon stood in the visiting clubhouse in Toronto and glowed about how thankful he was to be carried on the roster, promising to bring home his spikes as a souvenir of a long-awaited turn on center stage.

As David DeJesus popped a fly ball for the final out, the burly hurler's game face melted into a goofy grin. The roles have reversed. These days, it is Colon who seems to be carrying the Yankees.

"I just thank God that I'm healthy, and I'm helping the team to win," Colon said.

Yanks' Bartolo Colon blanks A's in complete game effort

Associated Press – May 30, 2011

OAKLAND, Calif. -- [Bartolo Colon](#) believes he's a better pitcher at age 38 after missing an entire season than he was during his harder-throwing, Cy Young award-winning days.

He sure pitched that way against Oakland, throwing a four-hitter for his first shutout in nearly five years as the [New York Yankees](#) beat the Athletics for the eighth straight time, 5-0 on Monday.

"I feel really strong physically and mentally right now," Colon said through an interpreter. "I feel really good right now. It doesn't matter that I'm 38 years old. I feel really good right now."

[Mark Teixeira](#) hit a two-run homer off [Trevor Cahill](#) (6-3), [Robinson Cano](#) added an RBI double and [Derek Jeter](#) recorded his 2,981st career hit and drove in a run for the Yankees, who have won 22 of 26 games against Oakland since the start of the 2008 season.

But the story of the game was Colon, who dialed up a performance reminiscent of his AL Cy Young award season in 2005.

"When he first came up he just threw the ball as hard as he could," Jeter said. "Now he's hitting his spots, his ball is moving, he's getting ahead of guys. He's become more of a pitcher. I think he was more of a thrower when he first came up."

The Yankees have now won back-to-back games behind strong starts from Colon and [CC Sabathia](#) after losing the first two games of their nine-game West Coast trip.

Colon allowed no walks and struck out six to snap a five-start winless stretch with his first shutout since blanking Seattle 4-0 on July 5, 2006, with the Angels.

He was extremely efficient, needing just 103 pitches for the complete game, and was still strong at the end -- hitting 95 mph on the radar gun on his final pitch.

"It just showed you how on he was today with his location," manager Joe Girardi said. "We've seen it before when his location is as good as it was today it's tough to score runs."

This marked the latest step in a remarkable comeback season for Colon, who was out of baseball a year ago and was brought by the Yankees to spring training on a minor league deal. Colon earned a spot in the rotation early this season and has maintained it with a 3.26 ERA in the opening two months of the year.

"He's really exceeding our expectations," Teixeira said. "He's been huge for us. If we didn't have him in our rotation, we'd be scrambling right now."

The offensively challenged A's were shut out for the sixth time this year, getting only four baserunners against Colon (3-3) to snap a season-longest four-game winning streak.

"Today was just one of those days where we got beat," Oakland second baseman [Mark Ellis](#) said. "They threw it better than us, they hit better than us and they caught better than us. All I can say is we have two more games in this series."

Cahill was shelled in two starts against the Yankees last year, allowing 14 runs in 10 innings in two losses. He started this game much the same way with a three-run first inning.

Jeter got it started with a leadoff single and scored with one out on Teixeira's 16th home run and seventh in the past 11 games. [Alex Rodriguez](#) then walked and scored on Cano's double. Cano was caught on the play rounding too far past second and Cahill settled down after that. He retired [Jorge Posada](#) to get out of the first and then gave up just one hit and no runs over the next five innings.

"I made a bad pitch and he made me pay for it," Cahill said. "Other than that, in a game like this against a team like that, you make a couple mistakes and that's all it takes."

The Yankees added an insurance run in the seventh. [Brett Gardner](#) and [Francisco Cervelli](#) walked and pulled off a double steal. Gardner then scored on Jeter's shallow fly to center field when [Coco Crisp](#)'s throw home was far off target. Cahill allowed four runs, four hits and five walks in 6 2/3 innings and is winless in his last four starts.

That proved to be more than enough for Colon. After allowing a leadoff double to [Josh Willingham](#) in the second inning, Colon retired the next 12 hitters. [Kevin Kouzmanoff](#) broke that streak with a leadoff single in the sixth.

[Kurt Suzuki](#) reached on an infield hit in the eighth before being erased by a double play. Colon then pitched around [Cliff Pennington](#)'s leadoff double in the ninth to finish his ninth career shutout.

Game notes

Yankees C [Russell Martin](#) was scratched before the game with a sore left big toe. His replacement, Cervelli, became the first Yankees catcher to steal two bases in a game since Girardi did it June 27, 1996, against Baltimore. ... Monday was the 16th anniversary of Jeter's first career hit. ... A's starters have allowed four runs or fewer in 28 straight starts, the longest streak for the team since a 32-gamer in 1980-81.



Monday, May 30, 2011

Colon still thumbing nose at Father Time

By Wallace Matthews
ESPNNewYork.com

OAKLAND -- Here it is, Memorial Day, and [Bartolo Colon](#) continues to make a fool out of Father Time, a liar out of Mother Nature and a mockery out of modern athletic training methods.

He's 38, looks 48, and probably orders his pants with a 58-waist. He hadn't pitched a full season in the big leagues since 2005, the year he won the AL Cy Young Award, when the [New York Yankees](#) decided to roll the bones and invite him to spring training as a non-roster invitee on a cut-rate minor league deal.

The gamble paid off when he made the team as a long man in the bullpen even though he outpitched every younger, stronger, higher-priced arm on the roster.

Now, that no-risk \$900,000 investment continues to pay huge dividends for the Yankees. Colon not only found his way into the rotation when [Phil Hughes](#) got hurt, the case can be made that he is now 1A in the rotation, a slight second to [CC Sabathia](#) only on the basis of service time, certainly not performance.

On the day after Sabathia threw an eight-inning gem at the Mariners, Colon went the nominal ace one better, dropping a complete game shutout on the [Oakland Athletics](#) that was every bit as economical as the deal the Yankees signed him to back in January.

Needing just 103 pitches, 71 of them strikes -- and most of those nasty two-seamers on one edge of the plate or the other -- Colon allowed just four hits, walked no one and struck out six as the Yankees cruised to an easy 5-0 victory in the opener of a three-game series.

In fact, it had been so long between complete-game shutouts for Colon that it was not at all certain he would even remember the last one. But the same way his arm remembers how to throw a fastball, his mind retained the memory of that day.

"I think it was in 2006 against the Mariners," he said. July 5, 2006, to be exact, a four-hitter. Three starts later, his season was over. He pitched sporadically over the next three seasons, never throwing more than 100 innings, and didn't pitch at all in 2010 before the Yankees got a tip from their bench coach, [Tony Pena](#), that Colon might be worth taking a look at after pitching well for Pena's team in the Dominican Winter League.

Now, two months and eight starts into his second career, no one is surprised when Bartolo Colon pitches well anymore. Quite the contrary.

"He's been so good this year that it's like a surprise if he gives up a hit," said [Mark Teixeira](#), who provided all the help Colon would need with a two-run homer in the first inning off [Trevor Cahill](#). "He's really exceeding our expectations. If we didn't have him in our rotation we'd be scrambling right now."

Colon has been so good, in fact, that when Teixeira says something like, "He's been huge for us," as he did several times in the postgame clubhouse, it's not even a joke anymore.

Even with his worst outing of the season (6 IP, 6 ER vs. the [Toronto Blue Jays](#)) just a week behind him, the question of whether Colon could still pitch in the major leagues has long been answered.

It has since been replaced with a new question: How much longer can he keep it up?

"None of us really know," Joe Girardi said. "He's thrown a lot of innings before in his career but he hasn't done it in a while and he is 38. So you have to be careful, but we haven't really seen his stuff drop off at this point."

This represents a sea change in the manager's thinking, since the reason he gave for not awarding the No. 5 spot in the rotation out of spring training to Colon over [Freddy Garcia](#), who has also pitched well, was concern over Colon's durability due to the nearly six years of inactivity. But of necessity, attitudes change, and with Hughes not expected to pitch again before the All-Star break and likely beyond, a healthy, effective Colon is no longer a bonus but practically a necessity. "I stopped being surprised by him in February," said [Derek Jeter](#),

who singled in the first inning (No. 2,981) and drove in the Yankees' fourth run with a sacrifice fly. "When he first came up he threw the ball as hard as he could, 100 miles an hour but pin-straight. He was more of a thrower back then. Now his ball is moving all over the place. He's more of a pitcher now."

Teixeira concurred with Jeter's assessment, that the development of a two-seam fastball has added movement to his repertoire without compromising a lot of velocity; Colon hit 95 mph on his final pitch of the game. The downward movement of his ball seems especially perplexing; three of his K's were looking, on fastballs that on videotape looked to be right down the middle.

And then, of course, there is that mysterious procedure in which a concoction of Colon's fat and bone marrow stem cells were injected into his arm by a surgeon in the Dominican Republic to ease his chronic shoulder and elbow woes, a procedure that Major League Baseball is said to be "investigating."

Whatever the reason, Colon agrees he is a better pitcher now than he was in his prime, but he attributes his success more to better control than to better stuff or to weird science.

"I throw more strikes now," he said through an interpreter. "And less walks."

Girardi thought Colon's moment of truth came in the second inning when [Josh Willingham](#) led off with a double into the right-center gap, but went no farther as Colon retired, in rapid succession, [Hideki Matsui](#) on a foul out, [Kurt Suzuki](#) on a strikeout and [Mark Ellis](#) on a groundout.

The A's didn't get another baserunner until [Kevin Kouzmanoff](#) singled to lead off the sixth, and one more in the ninth, when [Cliff Pennington](#) led off with a double.

Although he had [Joba Chamberlain](#) warming up, Girardi never moved a muscle on the Yankee bench, having been assured after the eighth by Colon that he was good to finish up.

"I asked him how he felt," the manager said, "and he told me, 'I can go two more.'"

Only one was necessary, of course, and for the third time in a week -- Sabathia pitched a complete game against Toronto on May 24 -- the stretched Yankees bullpen had a vital day off.

Colon, too, had had a day off, working on an extra day's rest on Monday due to an off-day in the schedule last Thursday. He will have an extra day before each of his next two starts because of days off this Thursday and next Monday.

"The extra days off will help him," Girardi said. "But there's nothing that tells me that he can't continue to do this."

Asked how long he believed Colon was capable of keeping this up, Jeter said, "I don't sit around trying to predict the future. As long as he can do it again five days from now, that's all I care about."

But a full two months into the season, the Yankees are no longer surprised to get quality pitching out of Bartolo Colon. Now, the question is one they hardly dare ask: How long will it all last?

...

Teixeira's 16th home run of 2010 didn't arrive until July 9, and he still ended up with a team-leading 33. But Teixeira, whose first-inning shot into the right-field seats was his fourth in five games and seventh in his past 11, refused to predict how many he might wind up with this year. "Home runs come in bunches and right now I'm just in one of those streaks where I'm hitting them out of the park a lot," Teixeira said. "I don't know what it is but I hope I can keep it up. I wish I could bottle it." ... [Russell Martin](#) was in the original starting lineup but was scratched after the pregame stretch, still suffering soreness from fouling a ball off his left big toe Saturday night in Seattle. Girardi said he originally hurt it after being hit by a line drive in batting practice about three weeks ago and aggravated it two nights ago. "My hope is he'll be available [Tuesday]." ... [Jorge Posada](#) went 0-for-4 and is now 0-for-10 on the road trip and 1-for-his-past-17. ... [Robinson Cano](#) knocked in the third run of the game in the first inning with a double to right, but was thrown out after overrunning second base. ... Garcia (3-4, 3.26) faces LHP [Brett Anderson](#) (3-4, 2.84) Tuesday night, first pitch at 10:05 p.m.



Monday, May 30, 2011

Rapid Reaction: Yankees 5, Athletics 0

By: Wallace Matthews

What it means: That whatever they shot into **Bartolo Colon's** arm should be marketed as a wonder drug for pitchers throughout the major leagues. The big guy came out smoking and never gave the A's a chance, going the distance to throw the Yankees first shutout since 2009 (**CC Sabathia**).

What's good: Nine innings pitched, no runs and just four hits allowed, no walks and six strikeouts, that's what's good. Staked to a 3-0 first-inning lead, Colon, the strike-throwing machine, needed just 103 pitches to go the distance. **Mark Teixeira** hit his 16th HR -- a number he did not reach until July 9 last year -- in the first for a 2-0 lead, **Robbie Cano** doubled in another (and got thrown out over-running second base), and **Derek Jeter**, who led off the game with a single, hit No. 2,981, drove in the fourth with a sacrifice fly. **Francisco Cervelli**, pressed into service at the last minute when **Russell Martin** came up lame with a bruised left foot, had a hit and a walk and stole two bases. **Brett Gardner** created the fourth run on his own by walking, stealing second and third, and scoring on Jeter's sac fly to shallow center.

What's not so good: Hate to pick on a guy, but **Jorge Posada** continues to drown at the plate. Posada took an 0-for-4, struck out twice, average down to .169. On some pitches, especially breaking stuff, looks like a shot fighter who just can't pull the trigger anymore.

What's next: The Yankees other ageless wonder, **Freddy Garcia** (3-4, 3.26) gets the start tomorrow night vs. LHP **Brett Anderson** (3-4, 2.84), first pitch at 10:05 p.m.

NEWSDAY 5/31/11

YANKEES NOTEBOOK

Sore toe sidelines Martin

BY ERIK BOLAND
erik.boland@newsday.com

OAKLAND, Calif. — Catcher Russell Martin, originally in yesterday afternoon's lineup, was a late scratch because of a sore left big toe. "He stretched, but it's still sore," Joe Girardi said. "He didn't look like he was walking great . . . We'll shoot for [today]."

Martin hit a foul ball off the toe Saturday in Seattle, although he stayed in that game.

■ Hughes by the break?

Phil Hughes threw in the outfield before yesterday's game and is scheduled to throw a bullpen session today. He could throw batting practice this weekend in Anaheim.

Girardi said it is "realistic" that the righthander could be back by July. "I think it would be earlier than [the All-Star break], but we'll see," he said.

Hughes has said he hopes this isn't a second spring training for him, but Girardi said that's pret-

ty much the case. "It's got to be pretty close to that to get built up," he said. "Do you need six starts? I don't know, but you're going to need at least four or five so when you're coming to help us, you're not going three innings and then we have to go to somebody else. You have to be able to give some distance and be able to bounce back."

■ Still scuffling

The struggles of 2009 World Series MVP Hideki Matsui continue. He was 0-for-3 and his average dropped to .222. He remained at 496 career homers, including those he hit as a Japanese major-leaguer. "Obviously, I don't want him to get [No. 500] when we're here," said Derek Jeter, who visited with Matsui. "But I've always told you, he's one of my favorite teammates."

■ Extra bases

Jorge Posada (0-for-4) is 0-for-10 this trip and is in a 1-for-17 slump. He fell to 0-for-27 as a righthanded hitter.

Hughes on track for July return

Sore-armed starter might face hitters by this weekend

By Chad Jennings
cjennings@lohud.com

OAKLAND, Calif. — Phil Hughes is almost ready to face hitters, but he's still more than a month away from rejoining the Yankees' rotation.

Manager Joe Girardi said the All-Star break is a reasonable target for the injured starter.

YANKEES NOTEBOOK

"It's probably, realistically, some time in July," Girardi said Monday.

Working his way back from shoulder inflammation, Hughes will throw another bullpen session on Wednesday and could face hitters by the weekend, but Girardi said the process will be similar to spring training. Hughes still has to build arm strength, go on a rehab assignment and make multiple starts before he'll be ready to return to the big leagues.

"Do you need six starts (like in spring training)?" Girardi said. "I don't know, but you're going to need at least, I would say, four or five. At least. So when you're coming into a game, and you're coming to help us, you're not going three innings and then we've got to go to somebody else. You've got to be able to give some distance and then bounce back."

Martin scratched: Catcher Russell Martin was a late scratch from the Yankees' lineup against Oakland,

forced to sit out because of a sore toe.

Martin was hit by a ball in batting practice about three weeks ago, and on Saturday night, he fouled a ball off the same spot, his left big toe. He skipped Sunday's game at Seattle as a matter of course — it was a day game after an extra-inning night game — but the toe was still bothering him during batting practice on Monday.

Francisco Cervelli took his place behind the plate. Girardi is hopeful Martin will return tonight.

JOURNAL NEWS 5/31/11

EXTRA BASES

Old friends: Still wildly popular in the Yankees' clubhouse, former outfielder and designated hitter Hideki Matsui was a welcome sight on Monday when the Yankees played his Athletics.

"He needs four more home runs for 500, so I'm happy for him," Derek Jeter said, referring to a number that includes Matsui's career in Japan. "Obviously I don't want him to get it while we're here, but I've always told you he's one of my favorite teammates."

Yankee clippings: Jeter extended his hitting streak to five games. He's 19 hits away from No. 3,000. ... The Yankees are 13-3 in day games, the best such record in the majors. ... Mark Teixeira is on a seven-game hitting streak, but Alex Rodriguez's nine-game hitting streak was snapped.

Chad Jennings



Everything Jersey

Yankees' Mark Teixeira finds his homers tend to come in bunches

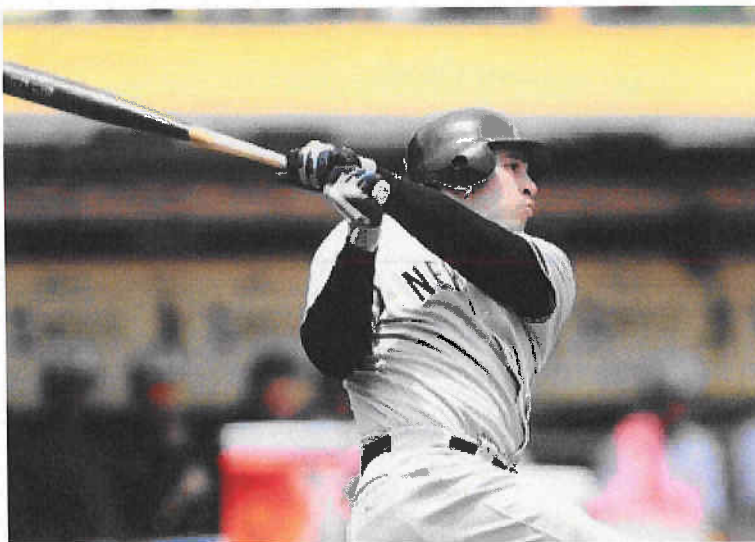
Published: Monday, May 30, 2011, 10:10 PM Updated: Monday, May 30, 2011, 10:15 PM

By **Marc Carig/The Star-Ledger**

OAKLAND, Calif. — Mark Teixeira isn't sure what triggers these sprees, or whether there's anything that he can do to extend them. But the Yankees first baseman has always been able to bank on knowing that there will be weeks when home runs seem to come in bunches.

"And right now I'm just kind of in one of those streaks where I'm hitting the ball out of the park a lot," Teixeira said tonight, following **the Yankees' 5-0 victory against the Athletics.**

"Hopefully, it keeps up. I feel pretty good up there."



Ezra Shaw/Getty Images

The Yankees' Mark Teixeira hits a two-run home run in the first inning against the Athletics today.

Teixeira blasted a two-run shot in the first inning off A's right-hander Trevor Cahill to give the Yankees a 2-0 lead.

It was his fourth home run in his last five games and the seventh in his last 11. He has knocked in 16 runs during that same stretch.

"Tex is a guy that can carry a club, that can put up a lot of runs for you in a hurry and he's been doing that," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said.

Teixeira has made a habit of helping the Yankees jump out to quick starts. Of his 15 homers this season, 10 have come within the first three innings, and 10 have come with runners on base.

"I wish I could bottle it up. This game would be much easier. But you just never know. You hit a bunch in a one or two week period and then you don't hit one for three weeks. That's just the way it is sometimes."

Catcher Russell Martin missed today's game with lingering soreness in the big toe of his left foot.

Martin was originally in the starting lineup though Girardi scratched him about an hour before first pitch. He could be available today for the second game of the series.

"My hope is he's available," Girardi said.

About three weeks ago, Girardi said Martin took a liner off his toe during batting practice.

After Martin fouled a ball off the same spot on Saturday, Girardi rested him yesterday. The scratch gave Martin back-to-back days off.

Francisco Cervelli, his replacement in the lineup, went 1-for-2 with a walk. He swiped two bases and knocked in a run with his ninth inning sacrifice fly.

Right-hander Phil Hughes likely won't be ready to return until July, though Girardi wouldn't rule out a return before the All-Star Break.

"He's going to need multiple starts before he can help you," Girardi said. "So, we're not to that point."

Even if he goes on a rehab assignment soon, Girardi said Hughes will need four or five starts just to get built up again. He has been on the disabled list with shoulder inflammation since April 15.

Hughes played catch today and is scheduled to throw a bullpen session on Wednesday.

For more Yankees coverage, follow Marc Carig on Twitter at

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Everything Jersey

Yankees scratch Russell Martin from starting lineup against A's

Published: Monday, May 30, 2011, 3:47 PM Updated: Monday, May 30, 2011, 5:34 PM



By **Marc Carig/The Star-Ledger**

OAKLAND, Calif. — Russell Martin fouled a ball off his left big toe on Saturday night. On Sunday, with a day game following a night game, he found himself out of the lineup partly to rest the foot. On Monday, he was scratched, even though he told Yankees manager Joe Girardi before the game that he was fine.

The move sounds more precautionary than anything else.

Meanwhile, right-hander Phil Hughes likely won't be ready to return until July, though Girardi wouldn't rule out a return before the All-Star Break.

"He's going to need multiple starts before he can help you," Girardi said. "So, we're not to that point."

Even if he goes on a rehab assignment soon, Girardi said Hughes will need four or five starts just to get built up again. He has been on the disabled list with shoulder inflammation since April 15.



Noah K. Murray/The Star-Ledger

Yankees catcher Russell Martin was scratched for today's game against the A's.

Bartolo Colon (2-3, 3.77 ERA) faces the A's right-hander Trevor Cahill (6-2, 2.02 ERA). The Memorial Day lineups:

YANKEES (28-23)

1. Derek Jeter, SS
2. Curtis Granderson, CF
3. Mark Teixeira, 1B
4. Alex Rodriguez, 3B
5. Robinson Cano, 2B
6. Jorge Posada, DH
7. Nick Swisher, RF
8. Brett Gardner, LF
9. Francisco Cervelli, C

ATHLETICS (27-27)

1. Coco Crisp, CF
2. Daric Barton, 1B
3. David DeJesus, RF
4. Josh Willingham, LF
5. Hideki Matsui, DH
6. Kurt Suzuki, C
7. Mark Ellis, 2B
8. Kevin Kouzmanoff, 3B
9. Cliff Pennington, SS

For more Yankees coverage, follow Marc Carig on Twitter at

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05/30/11 9:19 PM ET

Martin scratched from lineup with sore toe

By Bryan Hoch / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- Yankees catcher Russell Martin was scratched from Monday's 5-0 victory against the Athletics with soreness in his big left toe.

Martin fouled a ball off his foot in Saturday's extra-inning loss to the Mariners at Safeco Field and did not play on Sunday, given the day game after a night game off.

Manager Joe Girardi said that Martin could be ready to return to action on Tuesday.

"My hope is he's available," Girardi said. "The toe's sore. It started about three weeks ago and he seemed to get over that ... and he hit the ball off the same toe."

Martin was listed in New York's original lineup on Monday, but Girardi scratched Martin after talking to him after batting practice.

Francisco Cervelli replaced Martin behind the plate and went 1-for-2 with a walk and a sacrifice fly.

Teixeira's hot May continues with another homer

OAKLAND -- The outfield dimensions at Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum aren't the friendliest around the league, but the way Mark Teixeira is slugging, there aren't many ballparks that will hold him anyway.

Teixeira homered for the fourth time in five games and the seventh time in 11 contests on Monday, blasting a two-run shot to right field off Trevor Cahill in the first inning of New York's 5-0 victory over Oakland.

"I've said it before, home runs come in bunches," Teixeira said, "and right now I'm just kind of in one of those streaks where I'm hitting the ball out of the park a lot. Hopefully it keeps up. I feel pretty good up there."

Now tied with Curtis Granderson for the team lead in homers with 16, 11 of Teixeira's blasts have come with men on base.

"He's been on a great streak for us," manager Joe Girardi said. "It seems like when it starts to warm up, he's one of those guys that really warms up. Tex is a guy that can carry a club, that can put up a lot of runs for you in a hurry, and he's been doing that."

Teixeira has been frustrated by his slow starts and even tried a new equation this spring, subbing extra swings in the batting cage for minutes normally spent in the weight room. But nothing seems to serve as a substitute for just flipping the calendar to May and onward.

"I wish I could bottle it up," Teixeira said. "This game would be much easier. But you just never know. You hit a bunch in a one- or two-week period and then you don't hit one for three weeks. That's just the way it is sometimes."

Jeter 19 hits shy of reaching 3,000 milestone

OAKLAND -- The countdown will follow Derek Jeter every time he sets foot into a batter's box from here on, with the Yankees captain now standing 19 hits away from rolling his odometer to 3,000 hits.

But Jeter had time to kid around about a milestone with one of his old buddies on Monday, joshing the A's Hideki Matsui about his continuing pursuit of a 500th homer -- he's four shy, having hit 332 in Japan and 164 in the Majors.

"I'm happy for him," said Jeter, who was told of the mark by several reporters from Japan. "Obviously I don't want him to get it while we're here, but I've always told you he's one of my favorite teammates. He was fun to play with, fun to watch. It's good to catch up with him."

Matsui went 0-for-3 in the Yankees' 5-0 win over the A's on Monday. He is batting .222, with three homers and 19 RBIs in 46 games this season.

He was allowed to sign with the Angels as a free agent after earning World Series MVP honors with the Yankees in 2009, having hit all but 24 of his MLB homers in pinstripes after debuting with the Bombers in 2003.

"It's good to see him," manager Joe Girardi said. "He meant so much to our organization and what we did in 2009."

As for Jeter, who singled in the first inning off Oakland's Trevor Cahill, he said that thoughts of the 3,000th hit are still being kept at bay.

"That's still a ways away. We're trying to win games," Jeter said. "I'm trying to have good at-bats, and hopefully it's going to come."

Girardi reflects about veterans on Memorial Day

OAKLAND -- The Yankees curiously examined the new blue-and-white caps they were issued for Monday's Memorial Day matinee against the Athletics, working to break the bills in before taking them onto the diamond.

Joe Girardi would be wearing the stars and stripes on the interlocking 'NY' during the game, but in his heart, the Yankees manager said that he was quietly paying tribute to Memorial Day as well.

"My father [Jerry] served in the Korean War," Girardi said. "I've had uncles serve. Being to Walter Reed [Army Medical Center] and seeing what the people have done, giving up their lives for us, I definitely reflect. This is a special day and a day that we should honor those men and women."

The Yankees flew to the Bay Area from Seattle after their game on Sunday, and Girardi said that he liked to think that baseball teams play to entertain the service members on this holiday.

"Because of what these men and women have done for our country, if it is an outlet for them, I think we should always play," Girardi said. "There should be plenty of games for them to watch. They should be able to watch their favorite teams."

Entering play on Monday, the Yankees were 21-17 on Memorial Day dating back to 1971, when the holiday first began to be celebrated on the last Monday in May. They did not play on Memorial Day in 1973, 2004 or '05.

A's looking to keep Yankees in ballpark

By Cash Kruth / MLB.com | 5/30/2011 7:40 PM ET

The A's have the lowest ERA in the Majors and have given up only 30 home runs this season. The Yankees have out-homered the next-closest team by 20, with 49 percent of their runs coming via the home run.

On Monday, the Yankees got a win over the Athletics' vaunted pitching staff with a 5-0 victory. On Tuesday, Oakland left-hander Brett Anderson (3-4, 2.84 ERA) looks get the best of New York's offense and Freddy Garcia (3-4, 3.26 ERA) and tie the three-game series.

"It's a really good test this series and the next when you have two high-powered offensive teams in the Yankees and the Red Sox," A's manager Bob Geren said prior to Monday's series opener. "What you need is to throw strikes and keep the pitch counts down so they don't wear you down, and try to keep the ball in the park. The Yankees have scored the majority of their runs on home runs, and it's almost impossible to say don't let the other team get a homer.

"But the thing you try to do is limit the baserunners in between, in case they do knock one out of the park. You want to make as many of them as you can solo, but obviously try to avoid them altogether, but minimize baserunners for teams like that."

The A's hope Anderson is the Yankees' kryptonite, as the left-hander has allowed just one home run this month and only four this season (three of which came in one start on April 30). Meanwhile, the Bombers have homered in 41 of the team's 52 games this season.

Although Anderson has allowed only two homers to current Yankees batters -- Derek Jeter and Mark Teixeira -- he has struggled in his career against New York, going 0-3 with a 4.68 ERA in four starts. The 23-year-old left-hander is coming off one of his best starts of the season, holding the Angels to only three hits in eight shutout innings on May 26.

Backing New York's potent offense is Garcia, who has been impressive in eight starts. The 34-year-old has posted two consecutive quality starts and three in his past four outings. On Wednesday against Toronto, Garcia earned the victory, holding the Blue Jays to three runs on eight hits in 6 1/3 innings.

Yankees: Teixeira goes deep again

With his two-run first-inning home run Monday, Teixeira continued his impressive hot streak and now has homered in seven of his last 11 games. During that stretch,

Teixeira is hitting .261, with 16 RBIs and nine runs scored. Eleven of his last 16 homers have come with men on base.

- Despite Monday's 5-0 win, the Yankees have lost four of their last six series openers, going 9-10 in such games overall.

Athletics: Geren happy with progress

Monday's loss snapped Oakland's four-game winning streak, during which it had recorded double-digit hits in each victory. Still, before Monday's game, Geren said he was pleased with how his club was playing.

"We're starting to put things together," Geren said. "Our pitching, our defense, our offense seem to be jelling at the same time. It's good timing when you have a series against the Yankees, followed by the Red Sox. It's a good test for us right now."

- The A's now are 3-1 on their current six-game homestead.

Worth noting

- Jeter is hitting .429 (6-for-14) in his career off Anderson, while Teixeira is batting .500 (6-for-12), with six RBIs against the lefty.
- Yankees catcher Russell Martin was scratched from Monday's game with soreness in his big left toe.
- Monday's loss snapped a three-game Memorial Day winning streak for the A's.



Tuesday, May 31, 2011

Yankees Daily Briefing 05/31/11

By: Rebecca Glass

Over the past 18 innings, Yankees pitching has allowed just one run. On Tuesday, they'll send **Freddy Garcia** to the mound. In his last start, Garcia allowed three runs on eight hits in 6.1 innings in a **7-3** Yankees win. Garcia and the Yankees will face Oakland's **Brett Anderson**; Anderson is **3-4 with a 2.84 ERA** in 2011.

1) **Double-A Trenton** was the only affiliate to win their game on Monday.

Triple-A Scranton lost to Indianapolis 8-5.

Jesus Montero had two hits in four at bats, including a double.

Trenton beat Portland 6-4, completing a **7-1 road trip**.

Dellin Betances pitched five innings, allowing three runs on five hits. He walked one while striking out six.

High-A Tampa had a scheduled off day, while Low-A Charleston lost to Savannah, 3-1.

In Charleston, **Slade Heathcott** had one hit in three at bats, struck out twice and walked once. **J.R. Murphy** was hitless in four at bats and struck out once.

2) **Wallace Matthews** writes about the season that **Bartolo Colon** is having.

Signed to a **minor league deal** in January, Colon has been phenomenal for the Yankees in 2011, with a **3.26 ERA** in 11 games, which includes eight as a starter. As Matthews notes, the question now is how long Colon might keep producing as he is. With Monday's complete game shut out bringing his innings total to 66.1, Colon's already eclipsed his **innings total for 2009**, and reached the most innings he's pitched in the major leagues since 2007. That said, even if Colon falters later in the season, he has arguably already given the Yankees far more than they expected -- via **wins above replacement**, Colon is already the **second most valuable Yankees pitcher**, trailing only **CC Sabathia**.

3) **Katie Sharp**, **Mark Simon** and Doug Kern take a look at **what the league was like when Derek Jeter debuted**. Among the highlights that stand out are **Barry Bonds** hitting his 267th career home run in Montreal, and **Cal Ripken Jr.** not yet breaking Gehrige's consecutive games mark.. By the end of Jeter's contract, it is possible that there will be players making their major league debuts who had yet to be born when Jeter made his.

4) **Joel Sherman** writes that the Yankees, Tigers and Diamondbacks are **all happy with the three-team trade** that sent **Curtis Granderson** to the Yankees, **Ian Kennedy to the Diamondbacks** and **Austin Jackson and Phil Coke** to the Tigers.

Indeed, after struggling for much of 2010, Granderson has been fantastic for the Yankees in 2011; only **Jose Bautista**, **Howie Kendrick** and **Jose Reyes** have been **more valuable** than Granderson in 2011. As Sherman notes, the idea of who "won" the trade has changed over time -- and will likely continue to do so, but as is the case with any decent trade, all of the teams were arguably made better by it. Indeed, Scherzer and Coke are **two of the Tigers' most valuable pitchers** while with the help of **Kennedy**, the Diamondbacks **are now in first place** in the NL West.



Monday, May 30, 2011

Jeter's road to 3,000 started 16 years ago

By: Mark Simon

On May 30, 1995, [Derek Jeter](#) got his first major-league hit, a fifth-inning single against Mariners starter Tim Belcher. Many more hits would follow and now Jeter is on the verge of 3,000 hits.

Jeter made his debut on May 29 and here's what his then-manager told the New York media upon his arrival.

"I'm anxious to see the way he handles himself in the clubhouse up here," said Buck Showalter. "That was one of the things that impressed me about Derek when I got to follow him the end of last year. He is very mature for his age. I don't want to get into what Derek has to do to stay up. We want him to relax and do what he's capable of doing. We hope Derek makes us a better club."

What was the baseball world like the day Jeter got his first MLB hit?

- The Yankees were in the midst of a horrible slump. From May 13 to June 10, they lost 19 of 24 games to fall from first place to fifth place in the AL East. One of those losses was on May 30, a game the Yankees led 3-2 heading into the eighth inning, but a trio of pitchers allowed four runs in the bottom of the inning and they lost 7-3 to the Mariners.
- [Alex Rodriguez](#) had zero career homers (he hit his first on June 12).
- [Mariano Rivera](#) has zero career saves. He did have one career win (on May 28 vs the Athletics).
- [Jorge Posada](#) was in his second season at Triple-A Columbus. He would make his major-league debut on September 4, 1995, when he entered as a defensive replacement in the ninth inning (his first major-league at-bat would come in April 1996).
- The Red Sox were in first place in the AL East. [Tim Wakefield](#) won his second game of the season and 16th of his career on May 30 (he finished 16-8 and third in AL Cy Young voting in 1995).
- The Phillies had the best record in baseball (23-8). The Indians had the best record in the AL (20-9). Sound familiar?
- There were 28 teams, but only 13 of the current stadiums were used for baseball. Coors Field was in its first season, Jacobs Field its second, Camden Yards its fourth.
- [Barry Bonds](#) hit home run number 267 that day at Montréal.
- [Cal Ripken](#) played game number 2,039 of his consecutive games played streak and was 3-for-4 with a double (coincidentally, May 30, 1982 was the first game of the streak).

How about some of our current ESPN analysts?

- [Barry Larkin](#) won the MVP in '95. The Reds won at Pittsburgh on May 30, but Barry went 0-for-5 (one of just three 0-for-5 days he had that year).
- John Kruk was playing in his final season, with the White Sox. He went 0-2 with two walks on May 30, dropping his average to a season-low .231.
- [Aaron Boone](#) was playing for the Winston-Salem Warthogs, a High-A Reds affiliate in the Carolina League.
- [Chris Singleton](#) was in his second season with the San Jose Giants, a High-A team in the California League.
- [Nomar Garciaparra](#) was a member of the double-A Trenton Thunder, which was then the Red Sox affiliate.

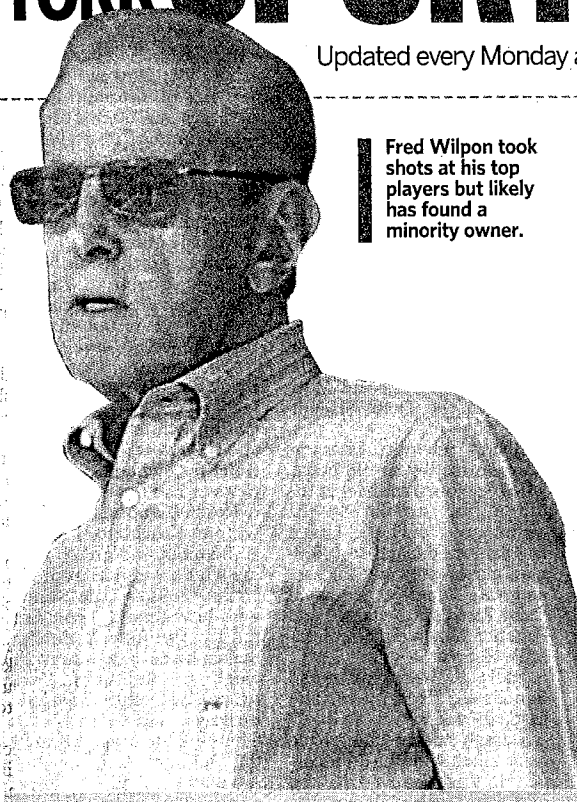
Katie Sharp, Doug Kern and Mark Simon contributed to this post

THE NEW YORK SPORTS index

A weekly rewind and ranking of the biggest players, athletes, teams and stories from the past week

BY BOBBY BONETT AND MARK LA MONICA

Updated every Monday at noon with photos and video at newsday.com/nysi



Fred Wilpon took shots at his top players but likely has found a minority owner.

FRED WILPON
The Mets' owner made waves last week with pointed remarks about his team's core in an interview with The New Yorker. Wilpon went after David Wright, Carlos Beltran and Jose Reyes, drawing a great deal of criticism for the timing of his rant. Of course, good news followed in the form of a potential investor in the team. Translation: A possible \$200-million cash injection for the struggling franchise.

DAVID EINHORN
Of course, the week that Einhorn becomes the favorite to gain minority ownership of the Mets, he's overshadowed by Fred Wilpon. Still, Einhorn's emergence as a potential part owner of the team served as pleasant news for a club that hasn't had much of it this season. Einhorn brings with him quite a resume, including childhood softball games next door to Bud Selig's house, a public clash with Microsoft's leadership, and \$659,730 in winnings in a 2006 World Series of Poker event.

ISLANDERS
The Isles' busy offseason kicked into high gear last week. First, Charles Wang, Garth Snow and Butch Goring were among speakers at a rally for the team's proposed new arena. Then, the Isles agreed to a five-year deal with 23-year-old right wing Kyle Okposo. Finally, team captain Doug Weight announced his retirement, and subsequent appointment to assistant coach and special adviser to Snow.

MARIANO RIVERA
Mo made his 1,000th appearance as a Yankee on Wednesday, becoming the first major-league pitcher to accomplish the feat with one team. Granted, appearance No. 1,001

NEW YORK TOP 10

Week of May 23-29

didn't go too well — a loss to the Mariners on Saturday, but we'll give the surefire Hall of Famer a pass.

GARY CARTER
A week after being diagnosed with brain tumors, Carter received more bad news, learning that a tumor on his brain is likely malignant. The Hall of Famer received support from former teammates, including Keith Hernandez, who said: "It's my worst fears. What can you say? My prayers go out to him."

NORTHWESTERN WOMEN'S LACROSSE
Perhaps Northwestern University should consider a name change to "Long Island University at Northwestern." Why? Nine Liers led the way for the Wildcats in the national championship game Sunday, an 8-7 win over top-ranked Maryland. Shannon Smith, a junior from West Babylon, won MVP honors for the tournament, totaling 18 total goals, including four in the finale.

FREDDY GARCIA
The fossils at the back

end of the Yankees' rotation just keep delivering. Garcia went 6 $\frac{1}{3}$ innings against the Blue Jays on Wednesday, allowing three runs en route to picking up his third win. Garcia's ERA is an impressive 3.26.

RAFAEL SORIANO
Will a trip to the disabled list be what the doctor ordered for the Yankees' troubled setup man? Soriano, saddled with a 5.40 ERA this season, is expected to miss two months with an inflamed ligament in his right elbow.

DILLON GEE
Last year it was R.A. Dickey. This year, it's Dillon Gee. Coming out of nowhere, Gee continued his winning ways Wednesday, pitching effectively against the Cubs to improve to 4-0. Gee bounced back from an ugly four-run first inning to hold the Cubbies scoreless over his final five.

CLINTON PORTIS
Fan of crazy outfits and absurd news conferences? Then root for Clinton Portis' wish to come true. The former Redskin wants to land in New York to exact revenge against the team that cut him. Mileage on his legs has to be a concern, though. Portis is 29, and has totaled only 13 games in the last two seasons.

Notable on newsday.com

On Freddy Garcia:
How will he show up and perform against Boston, a team that's patient and makes you throw strikes? I'm a lifelong Yankees fan and one word answers my question. Disaster. — *Dante55*

On Gary Carter:
Gary Carter is the role model we all wish we could be. There are not many like him in sports or any other venue. I remember in Game 6 when he hit that single starting the eventual ruination of poor Bill Buckner and Sox. I pray

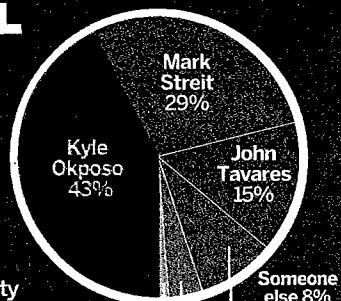
that God grants him recovery so he can live a long life with his family. — *NoTea4Me*

On David Einhorn:
Did anyone ever take into consideration that this guy may be the ticket to keeping Reyes? It's less than 50% but the % just went up from where it once was. — *ItsYankeeFailure*

On Doug Weight:
A class act all around, a true gentleman and ambassador to the game. — *msac904*

THE POLL

Who should be the next captain of the Islanders?



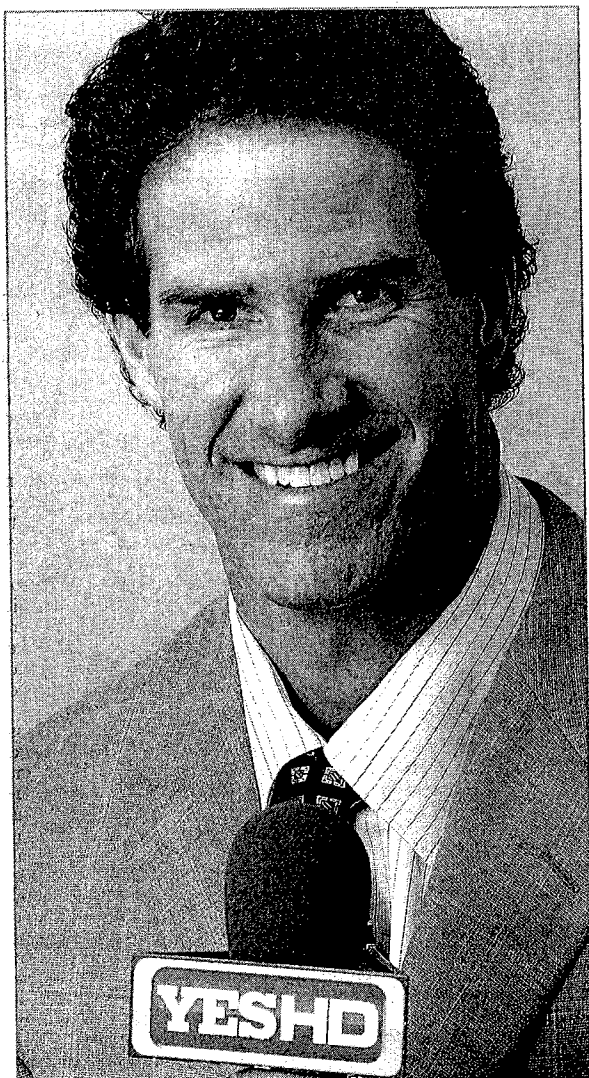
YOU VOTE
Are you concerned yet about the possibility of the NFL canceling regular-season games?

SPORTS MOST

Most-read sports stories on newsday.com last week

- 1 Mets approve minority sale to David Einhorn
- 2 Report: Madoff says Wilpons didn't know
- 3 Carter likely has malignant brain tumor
- 4 Report: Mets are 'bleeding cash'
- 5 Wright reacts to Wilpon's "superstar" dig

O'Neill's double likely a hit for YES



Former Yankee and popular broadcaster Paul O'Neill will be getting more air time, but he says he won't be doing 162 games.

It has been 10 years since Paul O'Neill played for the Yankees, so long that when young autograph-seekers are sent over by excited parents, they sometimes ask who the old guy is.

But even after all these years, O'Neill feels connected. It starts on the field, where — improbably — some of the late-1990s gang still is at it.

"It brings back a lot of memories," he said. "I can still see myself talking to [Derek] Jeter, talking to Jorge [Posada] after a tough loss or a good win."

And it extends into the television booth, where O'Neill keeps up with the Yankees by analyzing games for YES.

All good, right? Yes, but only to a point. O'Neill has been popular among viewers since he started broadcasting soon after retiring. But he has determinedly refused to make it a full-time second career.

There was too much catching up to do on family time back home near Cincinnati and too little taste for returning to the long baseball grind.

But with his second son heading off to college and only a high school-age daughter left at home, O'Neill budged this season. After years of limiting himself to about 20 games, he will roughly double that, with 14 games in June alone, including the Yankees' visit to Cincinnati.



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Might that number grow even more when he becomes an empty-nester in a few years?

"Not to the point of making it an everyday job," he said before last Wednesday's game against the Blue Jays. "I don't ever see myself doing 162 games. But I could see myself doing 80 or something."

Until then, the arrangement works perfectly for O'Neill, 48. He regularly gets to visit New York, where he remains among the most popular former Yankees alive, but he leaves time for family and for Right Field Charities, the umbrella for a variety of fundraising activities.

Rob O'Neill, Paul's brother and agent, said much of the charitable work revolves around golf, which takes him to events large and small. (Rob said Paul once hit a 375-yard drive in a long-drive contest.)

That and YES keep him as busy as he cares to be.

O'Neill's vibe on YES is similar to that of SNY's Keith Hernandez. Each was regarded as the heart and soul of his team and each has a relaxed, unpredictable sense of humor that belies his on-field demeanor.

"I believe he is our genera-

tion's Phil Rizzuto," play-by-play man Michael Kay said. "He is so funny on the air. He has stream of consciousness that comes out of his mouth."

"I've told him, 'Paul, if you did 75 games, you'd be a superstar. You'd be on national TV.' They would hire him on Fox."

O'Neill, who credits Kay with drawing him out, said, "When you watch a baseball game, you can only go over the stats and numbers so many times before it becomes like you're going to school."

During that day game last week, O'Neill and Kay kibitzed about everything from O'Neill's credentials for "Dancing With the Stars" to an invitation he once had to appear on "Celebrity Apprentice."

"He's a total babe in the woods when it comes to the business, which I think makes him good; he's not beholden to any structure," Kay said. "Paul has an air of goofiness to him but he's never going to go off the rails. He could really be one of the best, but I don't think he'll ever work that much."

Probably not. "You get out of baseball because of the everyday grind, and if you're going to do full-time announcing, you're right back into it," O'Neill said.

A busy June will test whether he wants to expand his schedule further. "We'll see how I do," he said. "I might get overexposed."

NEWSDAY 5/31/11

THE CHASE

HOME RUN DERBY

The 1961 race between Roger Maris & Mickey Mantle to break Babe Ruth's record of 60 home runs.

MARIS
12

MANTLE
14



YANKEES' RECORD: 23-17

May 31, 1961
Yankees 7, Red Sox 6

Yankees				Red Sox			
ab	r	h	bi	ab	r	h	bi
Boyer 3b.....	5	1	1	Schilling 2b.....	5	0	2
Kubek ss.....	4	1	0	Geiger cf.....	4	0	0
Maris rf.....	4	2	1	Yasrzemski lf.....	3	0	1
Mantle cf.....	3	1	2	Hardy ph-lf.....	2	1	2
Reed cf.....	0	0	0	Wertz 1b.....	5	1	0
Berra lf.....	5	0	1	Jensen rf.....	3	0	0
Skowron lb.....	4	0	0	Malzone 3b.....	4	0	3
Howard c.....	4	1	2	Pagliaroni c.....	4	0	1
Richardson 2b.....	4	1	2	Buddin ss.....	4	1	0
Sheldon p.....	2	0	0	Brewer p.....	0	0	0
Arroyo p.....	1	0	1	Muffett p.....	1	0	0
				Nixon ph.....	0	1	0
				Repulski ph.....	0	0	0
				Harrell pr.....	0	1	0
					35	6	9
Totals	36	7	11	7	Totals	35	6
Yankees.....	101	500	000	—	7	6	—
Red Sox.....	010	010	211	—	6	—	—

LOB — Boston 7, Yankees 8, 2B — Richardson, Boyer, Arroyo, Wertz, 3B — Kubek, HR — Maris (12), Mantle (14), Malzone (3), SH — Geiger, GIDP — Wertz, Boyer, DP — Boston 3, Yankees 1, E — Richardson, Boyer, Buddin.

Yankees				Red Sox			
IP	H	R	ER	IP	H	R	ER
Sheldon, W 1-2.....	6 2/3	5	4	2	2	2	2
Arroyo.....	1 2/3	4	2	2	0	0	0
McDevitt, S 1.....	1/3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brewer.....	1	3	1	1	2	1	1
Muffett, L 0-5.....	4 2/3	6	6	2	1	1	1
Wills.....	1/3	1	0	0	1	1	0
Nichols.....	2	1	0	0	0	0	0

WP — Arroyo, HBP — Kubek (by Muffett), T — 2:52, A — 17,318.

Both players homered in the game. Maris hit a solo shot to right to lead off the third and Mantle hit a two-run shot to right-center in the fourth.



Shields, Halladay lead respective leagues in crowded Cy Young race

Cliff Corcoran > MLB AWARDS WATCH

Posted: Monday May 30, 2011 1:42PM ; Updated: Monday May 30, 2011 3:12PM

The major league average ERA hasn't been below 4.00 over a full season in nearly 20 years. The last time it happened was 1992, when the league mark was 3.75. Thus far this season, it's 3.80. For all the talk about last year being a "year of the pitcher," this year has been even more so. As a result, the pitching leader boards are crowded, making the task of paring that crowd down to just five top Cy Young candidates in each league surprisingly difficult. Six men are tied for the major league lead in wins, and just two of those six appear below. A dozen pitchers have ERAs below 2.40, but two of the three qualifiers with marks below 2.00 have spent time on the disabled list, further confusing the matter.

Neither league has a runaway favorite, but both lists below generally break down to a top three followed by two chosen from a far larger crowd of similarly deserving candidates. Coin flips were not used to determine the final spots on these lists, but they were considered.

NOTE: All stats through Sunday, May 29; League leaders in bold, major league leaders in bold and italics. The number in parenthesis after each player's name reflects his rank on the previous list (HM stands for honorable mention).

American League

1. James Shields, RHP, Rays (3)

Season Stats: 5-3, 2.15 ERA, 0.97 WHIP, 8.7 K/9, 4.50 K/BB, **3 CG, 2 SHO**

Last Four Starts: 2-2, 2.40 ERA, 1.03 WHIP, 11.1 K/9, 6.17 K/BB, 1 SHO

Shield's only non-quality start of the season came in his second turn back on April 8. In nine starts since then, he has posted a 1.66 ERA while averaging nearly eight innings per start (a league-leading 7.8 IP/GS to be exact). His best start of the season came two turns ago in Miami, when he shutout the cross-state Marlins on a walk and three singles while striking out a career-high 13 men. Shields is tied with defending AL Cy Young award winner Felix Hernandez for the league lead in strikeouts (81 in one fewer inning in and one fewer start than Hernandez), leads the league in quality starts (10, tied with Jered Weaver and Justin Verlander) and quality start percentage, is fourth in the league in ERA, and second in strikeout-to-walk ratio.

2. Jered Weaver, RHP, Angels (1)

Season Stats: 6-4, 2.10 ERA, 0.95 WHIP, 8.1 K/9, 3.85 K/BB, 2 CG, 1 SHO

Last Four Starts: 0-2, 2.57 ERA, 1.04 WHIP, 7.1 K/9, 3.14 K/BB

Weaver, who started the season 6-0, hasn't won a game since April. That's hardly his fault. Four of his six May starts were quality, yet the Angels lost three of those outings, with the loss twice being hung on Weaver himself. In his last three starts, he posted a 1.64 ERA, yet went 0-1. In two of his last three starts the Angels didn't score at all, and in his last turn, Weaver threw nine scoreless innings against the Twins in Minnesota only to watch the Angels lose 1-0 in the tenth. On the season, Weaver has received just 3.23 runs of support per game, yet he's still second in the league in wins. He's also third in ERA, strikeouts (77) and innings pitched (85 2/3), and fifth in WHIP.

3. Dan Haren, RHP, Angels (2)

Season Stats: 5-3, 2.29 ERA, 0.94 WHIP, 7.7 K/9, **5.29 K/BB**, 1 SHO

Last Four Starts: 1-1, 3.14 ERA, 1.12 WHIP, 5.7 K/9, 3.00 K/BB

The field behind Shields and Weaver is crowded, but Haren stands out from the pack for leading the league in strikeout-to-walk ratio and ranking just a third of an inning behind Verlander for the league lead in innings pitched. One of Haren's 86 1/3 innings came in relief (and earned him a win), but that only speaks to his added value as a workhorse. Amazingly, given the rest of his numbers, Haren's win against the Twins on Sunday was his first since April 17. In his seven starts between wins, Haren posted a 2.74 ERA and averaged more than seven innings per start, yet the Angels scored more than three runs in only one of those seven games, going 2-5 overall and handing Haren three losses and four no-decisions.

4. Josh Beckett, RHP, Red Sox (N/A)

Season Stats: 4-2, **1.80 ERA**, 1.01 WHIP, 8.1 K/9, 2.52 K/BB

Last Four Starts: 2-1, 1.46 ERA, 1.26 WHIP, 8.4 K/9, 1.92 K/BB

By allowing two runs in six innings to the Tigers on Sunday night, Beckett doubled his run allowance for the month. He opened May with 18 1/3 scoreless frames across three-plus starts (one of them shortened by rain), then allowed just one run in each of his next two starts before the dam burst for that deuce on Sunday. In fact, in 11 starts this season, Beckett has allowed more than one run in just four of them and more than two runs just twice. Meanwhile, the Red Sox have scored more than four runs in a game he started just once all year, handing him five no-decisions and a loss on Sunday night, when they failed to score at all.

5. Alexi Ogando, RHP, Rangers (N/A)

Season Stats: 5-0, 2.33 ERA, 0.91 WHIP, 6.5 K/9, 3.13 K/BB, 1 SHO

Last Four Starts: 2-0, 2.54 ERA, 0.95 WHIP, 6.4 K/9, 3.33 K/BB, 1 SHO

With apologies to the A's Trevor Cahill and Gio Gonzalez and Mariners rookie Michael Pineda, among others, Ogando gets the last spot here. Pressed into action as a starter when Tommy Hunter pulled his hamstring during the final days of spring training, Ogando has yet to throw fewer than six innings in any of his ten starts and has only twice allowed more than two runs in a game. He has been extremely lucky, not only because he has avoided the loss in both of his clunkers, the second of which occurred Sunday night against the Royals, but because his opponents have hit just .209 on balls in play. He also missed an early-May start against the Yankees due to a blister. Still, he has a better strikeout-to-walk ratio than Cahill and Gonzalez, both of whom pitch in much more forgiving ballpark, and a lower ERA than Pineda even after Sunday's stinker. He's also the only one of the four starters with a complete game and he averages more innings per start than any of the other three.

Off the list: Jon Lester (4), Justin Masterson (5)

National League

1. Roy Halladay, RHP, Phillies (1)

Season Stats: 6-3, 2.35 ERA, 1.04 WHIP, 9.2 K/9, **6.62 K/BB, 4 CG**

Last Four Starts: 1-2, 2.61 ERA, 1.16 WHIP, 8.4 K/9, 4.83 K/BB, 2 CG

Halladay has struck out 200 or more men four times in his career, including in each of the last three seasons, but no one would ever call him a strikeout pitcher. He has never topped eight strikeouts per nine innings in a season in which he has qualified for the ERA title. Rather, all those Ks have been partially a product of all those innings (he has averaged 250 1/3 innings in those four 200-strikeout seasons). Yet, Halladay has increased his strikeout rate, however slightly, in each of the last three seasons, and this year he is striking out more than a man per inning. Last year was the first of his career in which he struck out ten or more in three starts, and this year he already has two such starts, one of which saw him tie his career high with 14 punchouts. Dating back to that start against the Padres on April 24, Halladay has struck out 61 men in 55 2/3 innings, a rate of 9.9 K/9. Meanwhile, he's leading the league in fewest walks per nine for the third year in a row. He's the best pitcher in baseball. Period.

2. Jair Jurrjens, RHP, Braves (N/A)

Season Stats: 7-1, **1.51 ERA**, 1.02 WHIP, 5.2 K/9, 3.45 K/BB, 1 CG

Last Four Starts: 3-1, 1.52 ERA, 0.94 WHIP, 5.5 K/9, 3.60 K/BB

An oblique strain delayed the start of Jurrjens' season until April 16, but he set the tone for his season immediately upon his return by holding the Mets to just two hits and a walk across seven scoreless innings. Jurrjens has nine quality starts in as many opportunities this season, and has yet to throw fewer than six innings or allow more than two runs in a game. The 25-year-old is in a six-way tie for the major league lead in wins, but leads both leagues in ERA by a considerable margin. He doesn't strike out many men, but has compensated by being even stingier with walks and home runs, handing out just 1.5 free passes per nine innings and allowing just three taters in 65 2/3 frames. He trails Halladay largely because Halladay has thrown 20 more innings and a lot can change over such a span, but Jurrjens is averaging just a third of an inning less per start (7 1/3 to Halladay's 7 2/3). The only other National Leaguer with more than nine starts who is averaging more innings per start than Jurrjens is the Cardinals' Kyle Lohse, and the difference is minuscule (7.303 to Jurrjens' 7.296).

3. Tim Lincecum, RHP, Giants (5)

Season Stats: 5-4, 2.22 ERA, 1.05 WHIP, 9.2 K/9, 3.29 K/BB, 1 SHO

Last Four Starts: 2-1, 1.82 ERA, 1.01 WHIP, 6.7 K/9, 2.75 K/BB, 1 SHO

Lincecum didn't allow a run in three of his five May starts, striking out 12 Mets in seven scoreless innings on May 4, twirling eight scoreless in a 1-0 win against the Diamondbacks his next time out and shutting out the cross-bay A's on three singles and no walks two turns ago. Overall, he posted a 1.47 ERA on the month and fell one out shy of posting five quality starts in five opportunities. He has done all of that despite the continued erosion of his strikeout rate, which has declined in each of the last three seasons. Lincecum has struck out just 13 men in 21 2/3 innings over his last three starts, a rate of 5.4 per nine innings. That might just be a random dip, but it bears watching. His last three-start stretch with a strikeout rate that low came late last July. He then went winless with a 7.82 ERA in August.

4. Kyle Lohse, RHP, Cardinals (N/A)

Season Stats: 7-2, 2.13 ERA, **0.92 WHIP**, 5.3 K/9, 3.13 K/BB, 1 SHO

Last Four Starts: 3-0, 1.93 ERA, 1.04 WHIP, 5.8 K/9, 3.60 K/BB

Lohse takes the fourth spot here against my better instincts. He has been extremely lucky on balls in play thus far this season, with opponents hitting just .224 on fair balls that don't leave the park. Combine that with his low strikeout rate and the 4.79 career ERA he has compiled over his ten previous big-league seasons, and Lohse's success doesn't seem sustainable. Still, a third of the way through the schedule, I have to evaluate him based on his performance more than his projection. Sorry, Clayton Kershaw. Beyond luck, or perhaps good team defense, which has certainly contributed, Lohse has, like Jurrjens, limited walks and home runs, but the latter seems like luck as well, as he lacks Jurrjens track record for keeping the ball in the park.

5. Josh Johnson, RHP, Marlins (2)

Season Stats: 3-1, 1.64 ERA, 0.98 WHIP, 8.4 K/9, 2.80 K/BB

Last Three Weeks: 0-0, 1.50 ERA, 2 GS, on DL with inflammation in right shoulder May 17.

In giving Roy Halladay the edge over him on this list three weeks ago, I referred to the Marlins' ace as "the somewhat fragile Johnson, who has made 30 starts just once in his career." Johnson hit the disabled list with inflammation in his pitching shoulder two starts later. He's expected back next Monday after missing just three starts, an absence brief enough not to force him out of this race, but the same shoulder issue ended his season a month early last year, and such an early reoccurrence suggests there's a larger underlying problem with the joint. I'm not optimistic about Johnson's ability to rediscover and maintain his pre-injury dominance over another twenty starts, but given that he has thrown just 5 1/3 fewer innings than Jurrjens, it's too soon to drop him from the list entirely.

Off the list: Jaime Garcia (3), Shaun Marcum (4)

No secret formula to D-backs' success

**TRACY
RINGOLSBY**



Updated May 31, 2011 12:12 AM ET

Don't get caught up in paralysis by analysis while trying to figure out the sudden rise of the **Arizona Diamondbacks** in the NL West.

The Diamondbacks did not stumble upon a secret formula.

Longtime baseball executive Dan O'Brien Sr. often said the biggest challenge facing new executives and owners was "it takes them a few years to realize that round is still the best shape for a wheel."

Kevin Towers, who took over as the Diamondbacks' general manager last September, learned during his days in San Diego how to build a contending team. Towers can appreciate how statistical reports can provide supplemental information for decision making, but he's not wedded to the point of overlooking the human factor that is a part of performance.

And though Arizona manager Kirk Gibson is filing out lineup cards for the first time on a non-interim basis, he brings with him a pedigree as one of the most hard-nosed competitors to have played in the big leagues. Gibson understands that mental commitment is as critical as physical ability.

Now, the season is only about a third of the way over, so it's far too early to declare as cured everything that ailed the Diamondbacks under the control-freak mentality of the previous administration. That, of course, included a general manager who micromanaged to the point of overseeing lineups and who bought into the silly idea it was no different for a pitcher to get the 27th out of a game than any of the 26 others.

There is, however, hope again in Arizona.

The Diamondbacks did, after all, wake up on Memorial Day a half-game ahead of San Francisco in the NL West, the first time they had been in first place since September 2008. Big deal? Well, this is a team coming off back-to-back last-place finishes, having lost 92 games in 2009 and 97 games in 2010.

And it's not like this team is feeding off the emotions of jumping to a fast start this season. These Diamondbacks had every reason to doubt themselves as recently as two weeks ago, but Gibson, supported by an All-Star-caliber coaching staff that includes the likes of Alan Trammell, Don Baylor and Matt Williams, wouldn't allow it.

So a team that two weeks ago was stumbling along with a 17-23 record, nestled into that familiar last-place spot in the NL West, went on a streak in which it has won 14 of its past 16 games, including a just-completed 6-1 trip in which it took three of four in Colorado and then swept a three-game series in Houston.

The keys to their success?

Well, there is Gibson, of course, but don't overlook that part of Gibson's strength is that he has the support of Towers. This isn't like Bob Melvin, who managed Arizona to the NL West title in 2007.

In trying to ensure the development of **Justin Upton**, called up while he was still a teenager, Melvin felt at one point that Upton would benefit from being sent to the minor leagues to remind him that the effort he was giving wasn't good enough for a big league player. The previous administration looked at Melvin like he had a third eye and expressed concern that such a move might hurt Upton's feelings.

With Towers and Gibson, the focus is on healing what ails the franchise they inherited, not trying to coddle individuals.

"Gibby and the coaching staff have done a great job of mentoring," Towers said. "They are teaching (the players) how to win. They have changed the culture. It's old school."

Gibson makes it sound simple.

"The message that was sent to the clubhouse when we started spring training is that we will compete each and every inning, every at-bat, every pitch," he said. "Even when we are down, we are not going to give in. A sign of good teams is that they don't ever give in and lay down. So far, so good, but we've got a long way to go. It is not about a good couple weeks or month or half a season. It's about sustaining the approach."

And it's about getting the people who fit.

That's where Towers has a magical touch.

Towers has been on the job only since the last week of September, but his imprint is on this team. Of the 25 players on Arizona's active roster, 12 were acquired since Towers came on the job.

A former pitcher, Towers believes a key to competing is making sure the manager has the late-inning arms to not let games slip away. And nothing underscores Towers' ability to evaluate talent than the Arizona bullpen. A year ago, the 'pen had 24 blown saves and 5.74 ERA.

This year's version has been among the most consistent in baseball.

It is built around:

- Closer **J.J. Putz**, an offseason free-agent signee who is 16-for-16 in save opportunities and has a 1.57 ERA.
- Right-handed setup man **David Hernandez**, who came from Baltimore in the trade of strikeout-prone, defensively challenged third baseman Mark Reynolds, and has a 1.85 ERA.
- And left-handed specialist Joe Paterson, a \$50,000 winter draft pick from San Francisco, who has an 0.77 ERA.

With bullpen depth, it should be no surprise that Arizona is 13-7 in one-run decisions and has been able to stay in games well enough to enjoy seven victories in its final at-bat.

"I don't know if there was a lot of respect (for the Diamondbacks) the last couple of years, but we've gained respect this year," said Towers.

It is, after all, hard to ignore a team that is sitting in first place in the NL West, becoming the target that the rest of the division is now aiming for.

The Other Side of Sparky

Monday, May 30, 2011 7:51 pm

Written by: [Steve Henson](#)

There was no funeral for Sparky Anderson when he died last November. No memorial service, either. No one from the legendary baseball manager's family attended the opening day ceremonies in his honor in Cincinnati or Detroit. And no one named Anderson showed up at an awards dinner for him last week in Los Angeles.

Many in baseball are perplexed by his dying wish that his passing go without traditional observance. Understanding the reason begins with recognizing that Sparky Anderson and George Anderson -- Sparky's given name -- were vastly different sides of the same person. George administered last rites to Sparky years ago.

When he and his wife visited a dying friend in a hospital, a priest dropped in to comfort the friend but saw the familiar face sitting across the room and excitedly began talking baseball. George was mortified. He'd been a devout Catholic his entire life, often rising at daybreak to attend Mass. But he decided then and there: no church service when he passed.

George was committed to putting his family first. Sparky was folksy and friendly and a diamond icon as manager of the Reds from 1970 to 1978 and Tigers from 1979 to 1995, but at a cost familiar to many who make baseball a career. He was immersed in the season nine months a year and unable to say no to charity organizers, writers, friends and former players the other three.

Sometimes nothing was left by the time he got home, sometimes he barely recognized who his children had become and they could barely stand who he'd become. But once he took off the uniform for the last time and left the broadcast booth for good, he morphed back into George. He found sturdy common ground with his two sons and daughter, and relished time with his grandchildren, nephews and nieces. As he lay dying Nov. 4, 2010, even through the thick haze of dementia, he knew who he wanted to be in death.

He'd go as George Anderson.

**

The intent of the Rod Dedeaux Award dinner last week was noble, and giving the honor to Anderson wasn't contrived: The late Dedeaux -- who won 11 national titles as USC baseball coach -- had been Sparky's childhood mentor, and proceeds went to the Major League Baseball Urban Youth Academy. But the event confirmed that George made the right decision for his family.

Joe Morgan, Tom Seaver, Doug Harvey, Vin Scully and others reminisced about Sparky, the nickname George took on as a hot-tempered minor league manager in the 1960s and his persona until he retired as one of the most successful big league skippers of all time.

A funeral and memorial would have included a parade of well-meaning baseball people paying homage to Sparky -- the Dedeaux Award dinner by a factor of 10. They would have thought they were doing the right thing. They wouldn't have known better. It would have been miserable for George's wife of 57 years, Carol, and the kids.

George's final days were all about family. By his side was his oldest son, Lee, whose long hair and rebelliousness at a time his conservative father enforced strict grooming rules on the Reds in the 1970s was described in Joe Posnanski's excellent book *The Machine*.

Lee Anderson, a successful concrete contractor and man of integrity, still wears his hair beyond shoulder length at age 52. George not only learned to accept it, he came to love it dearly because his son's locks were the same gleaming blast of premature white as his own.

**

My insight into the Andersons comes from being their neighbors since the 1960s. I played on a 12-year-old team with Lee. My mom and Carol Anderson sold baked goods together to raise money for the Little League. Later I coached Lee's younger brother, Albert, and their cousin Mike Sheehan, who has remained a lifelong friend. I observed George and I observed Sparky. Then I observed George again.

Throughout our 40-year acquaintance I addressed him only as Mr. Anderson. I've been a sportswriter my entire career and never wrote a story about him until now. I didn't tell him what I did for a living; why complicate a perfectly good friendship with that sort of information? To Mr. Anderson, I was the local guy he called Stevie who coached teenagers year after year as a volunteer. That was something he could respect.

After the infrequent seasons when his team didn't make the playoffs, he would help out with our fall league. He'd show up in paint-splotted pants, hit mile-high fungoes and give the kids funny nicknames. I'd recklessly wave a runner around second while basecoaching, and after the inning he'd shake his head and say, "Never make the third out of an inning at third base, Stevie. Never."

The kids would pile into his wood-paneled station wagon and we'd drive to the farm communities of Oxnard and Fillmore for games. Opposing teams would see us approach the field and blink hard: The man with the white hair was instantly recognizable, and the kids would form a single-file line to have him autograph their gloves before we'd play ball.

Days like that blurred the line between George and Sparky. He was there for the love of his son and a love of the game. Nobody called him Captain Hook and nobody expected him to run away with the pennant. Baseball can be a simple pleasure, and Mr. Anderson enjoyed reminding himself of that out of the spotlight in Thousand Oaks.

**

Home openers at Detroit and Cincinnati this season were odes to both cities' most successful manager. The Tigers raised a flag with his name on it at Comerica Park and will retire his No. 11 on June 26. The Reds had retired his No. 10 in 2005. Both teams are wearing patches on their jerseys that say "Sparky."

All are fitting nods to a manager whose 2,194 victories ranks sixth all-time. While he was alive, the ceremony Anderson most cherished besides his Hall-of-Fame induction came Jan. 29, 2006, at a small private school a block from his home. California Lutheran University christened its new baseball stadium the George "Sparky" Anderson field. It was appropriate because his 40-plus year relationship with the school was an effective blend of George and Sparky.

George took brisk early morning walks around the university track with matronly school secretaries and nerdy professors. Sparky held a celebrity golf tournament each year that raised money for the baseball program.

George occasionally sat quietly in the corner of the dugout during practice, and he'd pull aside marginally talented Division III players and whisper sage advice. Sparky would show up at a Cal Lutheran game in February before heading to spring training and sign autographs until the sun dropped behind the Santa Monica Mountains.

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Dennis Gilbert, a Chicago White Sox executive and former superagent to Barry Bonds and others, surveyed the well-heeled throng sipping cocktails before taking their seats at the Dedeaux Award dinner. He was disappointed no one from Anderson's family had come, but he understood.

"Sparky felt uncomfortable at places like this," Gilbert said. "He'd say, 'I don't want to be a greenfly.'"

That would have been George talking. Ridding his backyard garden of those plant-sucking greenflies, or aphids, was a challenge he took seriously. Sparky would have had the Dedeaux Award crowd eating out of his hand; George would have avoided it with a polite wave of the same hand.

Sparky was an entertaining speaker, unsophisticated yet insightful, ungrammatical yet pointed. He was best off-script, talking not about baseball but about life. It was then that George's sensibility sneaked into the message.

A son of Lance Parrish, who caught for the Tigers under Anderson from 1979 through 1986, played at Biola University, another small private Southern California school. Anderson came to the team's banquet at Parrish's invitation a few years ago and the coach asked him if he'd say a few words.

"He jumped at the opportunity, which kind of surprised me because he wasn't asked to do it in advance," Parrish told The Sporting News. "He poured his heart out to everybody. He talked about the importance of being a good person and caring about people and doing the right thing.

"I don't think he talked about baseball one sentence, but he let everybody know what was on his heart. It was just a great night."

One of Anderson's favorite pieces of wisdom was simply to be nice. "It doesn't cost a nickel to be nice to people," he'd say. "It's something you can give away for free and it means more than a million dollars."

Since his death, that's all anyone wanted to express. His former players and friends needed a place and time to say nice things about a man they admired: the great manager Sparky Anderson. A few were able to do so thanks to the Dedeaux family, who knew well the story of the big-eared 14-year-old kid in 1948 that lived a block from the USC campus asking Dedeaux if he could serve as the Trojans' bat boy.

Dedeaux called him what his mother called him: Georgie. Along the way he became Sparky, an iconic figure who belonged to baseball first and family second. He retired at 61, young for a manager, giving him ample time to adjust his priorities.

The Andersons didn't need a funeral or a memorial service to convey any of that. Their strength was ensuring that Sparky went quietly. George Anderson rests in peace.

Draft rich in intrigue and talent

By **Jeff Passan**, Yahoo! Sports *May 30, 2011*

The rebirth of the draft within the last decade altered baseball, and so much for the better. After salaries exploded and payroll disparities spread during the 1990s, the chasm threatened to ruin lower-revenue markets.

How could they possibly compete with free-agency behemoths? Easy, we now know: The Rule 4 draft, held every June, this year a week from today. It is why five of the eight teams with the lowest payrolls this season sit above .500 right now, and why the other three – Kansas City, Pittsburgh and San Diego – could join them by next season. The smartest teams realized there is no greater (or cheaper) place to find talent than in the draft and Latin America. And those who treat amateurs as a priority will rebuild faster and with a foundation far more stable.

This year's draft is as rich in intrigue as it is in talent. Not since 2005, and 1985 before that, has baseball seen such a surplus of impact players clustered in one draft. More pitching heavy than either of the previous standouts, which are widely considered the two greatest since the draft's inception in 1965, the Class of 2011 lacks a definitive No. 1 overall pick.

And so unlike last year, when Washington went no-brainer with **Bryce Harper**, and the year before, when the Nationals took the no-brainer of no-brainers with **Stephen Strasburg**, the **Pittsburgh Pirates** need to figure out upon whom they're going to lavish millions of dollars.

The franchise doesn't exactly have a draft history chockablock with success. Its previous picks in the first slot: **Bryan Bullington** (2002), **Kris Benson** (1996) and Jeff King (1986). Complicating matters: The likelihood they may have to draft someone represented by ...

1. Scott Boras, the agent who more or less runs the draft. Think it's an exaggeration? The top three players on at least one team's draft board are Boras advisees. And even beyond the first handful of picks, Boras wields massive influence with his machinations.

Dallas Jesuit outfielder **Josh Bell** this week sent a letter to the Major League Baseball Scouting Bureau urging it to tell teams not to draft him, according to Baseball America, because he was firm on his commitment to the University of Texas. It might be a tactic to drop Bell to a team with whom he really wants to sign. It surely will raise his price for whichever team drafts him and attempts to wrangle him. And it's undoubtedly a tactic of Boras, Bell's adviser, to take a system with team-heavy leverage and weigh it back to the player, in this case a switch hitter with immense raw power.

Randy and Alan Hendricks did it brilliantly last year with Zach Lee, a sure-thing LSU signee whom the Dodgers locked up for \$5.25 million. And if Bell, whose mother is a professor, is serious about heading to Austin, he can only hope to mimic the success of ...

2. Gerrit Cole and his million-dollar gamble. Cole grew up a **New York Yankees** fan. They chose him with the 28th overall pick in the 2008 draft in hopes of convincing him not to attend UCLA. They failed. While a firm offer never materialized, the Yankees were willing to pay upwards of \$4 million to sign Cole.

He's going to get more this year as the player with the draft's best stuff. Cole is Strasburg Lite, which is to say he's an excellent version of the highest-touted prospect in the draft's history. Like Strasburg, Cole regularly hits 100 mph on scouts' radar guns. Like Strasburg, he's got a ruthless breaking ball. Unlike Strasburg, the stats don't match the scouting reports.

Four UCLA pitchers have started eight or more games this season. Cole's 3.28 ERA ranks last among them. While his walk rate is down significantly, so is his strikeout rate – 108 in 107 innings, a good number, yes, but for someone who throws 101 mph not so much.

Early in the season, Cole had, at very least, drawn even with ...

3. Anthony Rendon as the top candidate to go No. 1 overall, though his struggles this season have damaged the perception that he's a no-doubt star. The skills remain, particularly a .523 on-base percentage. A shoulder injury sapped his power, however, and limited him to DH duties nearly all season. Rendon dropped from 26 home runs last year to six this year. Even more, the injury threw into question his ultimate position.

A third baseman during his first two years at Rice, Rendon played second base last week. Whether it was to compensate for his shoulder issues – the extent of which remain unclear – or simply showcase versatility, it nevertheless interested one scouting director, who opined: “Is he *trying* to tell us something is wrong?”

He doesn't have to say it. Scouts smell it, like when ...

4. Matt Purke started throwing in the high 80s this spring. The TCU left-hander joined Rendon and Cole in the first-pick discussion before the college season after going 16-0 last year, and he just as quickly dropped – and dropped and dropped and dropped – almost certainly out of the first round.

Like Rendon, Purke is suffering from an uncertain shoulder ailment. The difference: shoulder injuries devastate pitchers' careers, and any questions about a pitcher's health raises flags red and white – stay away from the kid, who ought to surrender any idea of a big bonus coming his way.

Already Purke has seen one come and go. The **Texas Rangers** drafted him 14th overall two years ago and offered him \$6 million. He agreed. MLB vetoed the bonus, saying it was too much. The Rangers lowered the deal to \$4 million. Purke rejected it, a move that looked smart before this year.

Purke does have options, even if clubs are balking at his 1.51 ERA and 55 strikeouts in 47 2/3 innings. A draft-eligible sophomore, he can pitch in a summer league to build his value before the mid-August signing date. Or he can just return to TCU and hope the new collective-bargaining agreement doesn't include mandatory slots that would drive down bonuses.

Wherever he goes, it's not going to be where he thought, leaving a left-handed-starting vacuum that ...

5. Danny Hultzen was happy to fill. Hultzen, in fact, was a lot like Purke his sophomore season. His stock dropped alongside his velocity, and while his numbers at Virginia remained strong, his hype disappeared.

The mph returned to his fastball this spring, and Pittsburgh is now considering Hultzen with the top pick. His stats certainly play the part: 10-3, 1.59 ERA, 136 strikeouts and 16 walks in 96 1/3 innings. His handedness (left), his intelligence (high), his polish (like a freshly shined shoe) and his path to the major leagues (short) only increase the attractiveness.

Hultzen is not as much low-ceilinged as he is a finished product, and he comes with leather seats and the Bose stereo. He doesn't include the V8 engine that ...

6. Trevor Bauer brings to every start. Bauer draws the greatest differences of opinion in the draft. At least one team doesn't have him on its board, fearful of the injury risk. Another has him No. 1. The rest are trying to figure out whether he's really Tim Lincecum 2.0 or Dr. Thunder to Lincecum's Dr. Pepper.

Bauer looks the part. He stands a lithe 6-foot-1. He patterns his delivery after Lincecum's, and it's a mighty good imitation, long stride, limbs flying all over the place, everything. His fastball tickles mid-90s regularly, his curveball is slow and angry, and he's also got a slider and changeup he throws for strikes.

He's one of the three starters at UCLA whose numbers dwarf Cole's. Actually, they're better than anyone else's in the country. In 127 2/3 innings, Bauer has struck out 189 and allowed 107 baserunners. Opponents are hitting a silly .152 off him. His ERA is 1.27.

Bauer is Mr. Upside, a title regularly reserved for the best high school pitcher in each draft and one that mistakenly gets assigned to ...

7. Dylan Bundy and his high-level repertoire. Bundy, out of Owasso, Okla., is the best high school pitcher in the draft, and not just because he has hit 100 mph this spring. He also resembles older players in stuff, body and work ethic.

Trained by his diligent father, Denver, since he expressed an interest in working out at 13, Dylan grew into a 6-foot-1, 200-pound machine who looks more running back than pitcher. He comes with a ready-made cut fastball – a pitch almost always learned on the cusp of the major leagues or once in them – and an arm that through years of long toss, his advisers believe, is conditioned to handle heavy workloads.

Bundy has been described as a college pitcher in a high schooler's body, while his friend ...

8. Archie Bradley is a high school pitcher in a college quarterback's body. Yes, Bradley is one of the annual two-sport stars who must choose between millions of baseball dollars and the hundreds of thousands college football teams offer.

(Kidding. But not really.)

Bradley committed to Oklahoma, where Bob Stoops recruited him as perhaps Landry Jones' successor. For an Oklahoma kid, there is no better job, and it's why Bradley's name comes with a \$20 million price tag. Absurd? Sure, especially considering Strasburg received \$15.1 million. An indication that they expect well over the recommended slot? No doubt.

Even if Bradley gets one-third of what Strasburg did, it's going to be nothing compared to what ...

9. Bubba Starling can ask. Starling – the third of the Great Plains' Great Trio, out of suburban Kansas City – is a Nebraska commitment as a dual-threat quarterback. He's also a 6-foot-5, 200-pound center fielder who Brian McRae, a coach of Starling's this summer, called "the best high school player I've ever seen."

Just how high Starling goes depends on a team's willingness to play chicken. One plus: Clubs can spread out dual-sport athletes' bonuses over five years. Another: Once players enter the realm of multiple millions of dollars – Starling would demand upwards of \$7 million, a record for a high school player – it's almost impossible to turn down, especially if the NFL institutes a rookie salary cap and neuters the salaries of young players.

The minus ...

10. Scott Boras represents Starling, and he's not afraid to send his advisees to college. Cole went. Bell could go. Plenty more top players from this draft who aren't Boras clients – Connecticut outfielder George Springer and right-hander Matt Barnes, Kentucky starter Alex Meyer, Vanderbilt ace Sonny Gray and Texas righty Taylor Jungmann – went, too.

Boras loves college baseball and believes the only thing standing between it and more success and exposure are scholarship limits. The NCAA allows baseball teams to hand out 11.7 scholarships. Lacrosse and cross-country/track and field get 12.6 each.

And yet Boras is a brass-tacks sort, and he sees what college did for Cole, for Rendon, for so many others. What Boras can do for them will be one of the fun subplots to watch over the next few months.

Pittsburgh hasn't been keen on taking Boras clients in the past. Neither, for a long time, was Kansas City. Then it took **Mike Moustakas** and **Eric Hosmer** in back-to-back years, starting the farm-system renaissance that today infuses its future with excitement.

Whoever the Pirates do pick, he should help. And that, after all, was the point of the draft in the first place: lift up the afflicted. For decades, only the smartest teams understood that principle. In a year like this, it's evident to everyone.

Rollins, Fearless Forecaster, Makes Call on N.B.A. Finals, Too

When it comes to baseball, Jimmy Rollins has been exceptionally accurate in the forecasting business. He predicted that

**WILLIAM C.
RHODEN**

**SPORTS
OF THE TIMES**

the Phillies would win 100 games in 2008; they won 103 and captured the World Series. In 2009, he predicted that the Phillies would meet the Yankees in the World Series; they did. (He also said that Philadelphia would win; well, can't win 'em all.)

Now Rollins has turned his eye to the N.B.A. finals, although he admits that he's torn. Dallas faces Miami in what should be a compelling series beginning Tuesday. Rollins is partial to Dallas because he and Mavericks guard Jason Kidd are from the Bay area — Rollins was born in Oakland, Kidd in San Francisco. He also likes Dallas because he thinks that Kidd, a veteran of 17 N.B.A. seasons, and Dirk Nowitzki, a veteran of 13, have paid their dues and deserve a championship ring.

As much as professional athletes bravely talk about not allowing their careers to be shaped or defined by championships, their careers are in fact so shaped and defined. Rollins won the World Series in 2008. The hardware makes a difference.

“It's weird, but it's a sort of validation of everything that you've done,” he said Sunday after Philadelphia completed a three-game series with the Mets at Citi Field. “All the hard work you've put into it, all the sacrifices, everything — family time, vacation time, holidays you don't get — when you win a championship, it's all worth it.”

If a professional athlete does not win a championship? “It's

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like the dream that you never finish,” he said.

Kidd and Nowitzki have had outstanding careers, but if they retire without winning a championship, they will always be second-guessing themselves. Rollins, now in his 12th season, said he did until he finally won.

“You start thinking, Maybe I just could have pushed a little bit harder or said this or done that,” he said.

He noted that Kidd had played in two N.B.A. finals.

“You still ask yourself,” Rollins said, “What could I have done to help us win? I wanted to say something but I didn't want to rock the boat. Maybe I should have said something.”

“When you finally win, all the doubts are pushed out. It's like your career is started over at that point, because now you are playing as a champion forever, as opposed to the guy who's always chasing the dream.”

But there is a part of Rollins that wants to see LeBron James win his first N.B.A. title. Rollins didn't like the way James made his public announcement in July that he was leaving Cleveland, but he respected the boldness of the move, effectively putting the world on notice that it was championship or bust.

James became a target of criticism the way Rollins had in 2007, when he predicted that the Phillies, not the Mets, were the team to beat in the National League East. Rollins was proved right. Philadelphia surged into first place down the stretch as the Mets collapsed.

“When you put yourself out there, you put yourself at risk,” Rollins said. “But it's a great place to be. You can build a legacy off something like that.”

“Everybody was waiting for LeBron to fail. Miami started off slow and everybody was like, ‘See? I told you it wouldn't work.’

Everybody wants you to fail as much as they want you to succeed.”

Rollins said his risk-taking ultimately had a positive effect on his teammates, although in the beginning, several were angry for his putting them on the spot.

“They didn't know what to do; they never had to go out there and perform under that pressure,” Rollins said. “It's not only what you said, but it's that you put a lot of pressure on everybody else.”

That was the point: to force everyone on the team to perform to his potential and embrace winning.

“Isn't this what we're supposed to do?” Rollins said. “Because I said we're going to win, I put more pressure on us to win? We're paid to win. We play to win every single day. In spring training, this is what we talk about. It was having the courage to believe that you could actually do it, and that's what changes you. You have to dare to believe.”

This was all well and good, but now it was prediction time.

Who did Rollins think would win the N.B.A. championship: Miami, lifted by LeBron James's boldness, or Dallas, with Jason Kidd, Dirk Nowitzki and the nobility of standing in line and waiting one's turn?

“They both have a lot of weapons, but I think Dallas will win because they're the better scoring team,” Rollins said. He said that all of the matchups were more or less even except one. Point guard play? “No one's better than J-Kidd,” he said.

Far be it from me to challenge someone who has been as accurate with predictions as Jimmy Rollins. But he has this one wrong: LeBron James floats like a butterfly, stings like a bee.

It's Miami.

ROUNDUP

Staying for Finish, Toronto's Reyes Ends Winless Streak at 28

By The Associated Press

Jo-Jo Reyes won for the first time in 29 starts by throwing his first career complete game and Jayson Nix hit a two-run homer to lead the host Toronto Blue Jays to an 11-1 win over the Cleveland Indians on Monday night.

Reyes (1-4) allowed one run and eight hits, earning a victory for the first time in nearly three years. His previous victory came with Atlanta against the Los Angeles Dodgers on June 13, 2008. The left-handed Reyes went 0-13 with a 6.59 earned run average in his 28 starts between wins.

The crowd of 12,902 stood and cheered "Jo-Jo, Jo-Jo!" as Cleveland's Jack Hannahan batted with two outs in the ninth. Catcher J. P. Arencibia embraced Reyes after Hannahan struck out. One fan held up a sign reading "I believe in Jo-Jo."

Reyes avoided becoming the first pitcher to go winless in 29 starts. Oakland's Matt Keough went 28 starts between victories in 1978 and 1979, matching a mark first set by Boston's Cliff Curtis in 1910 and 1911.

TIGERS 6, TWINS 5 Alex Avila's double in the eighth, which appeared to hit a fan in the stands down the left-field line, brought home Jhonny Peralta from first for host Detroit.

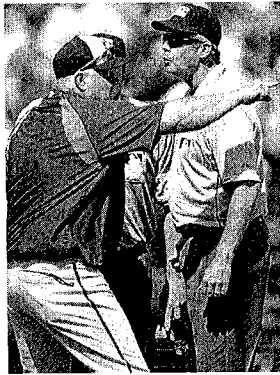
With Peralta on first and two outs, Avila hit a ball down the line that rattled along the short fence as fans reached over for it. The umpires stopped the play after the ball appeared to strike a fan, but they let the run stand instead of sending Peralta back to third. Minnesota Manager Ron Gardenhire came out to argue and was ejected.

The crew chief Gary Darling, who was umpiring third base, said after the game he called fan interference and ruled Peralta would have scored without it. Replays showed a fan in an orange shirt standing in a small area of seats that juts out toward the field. The ball appeared to bounce up and hit the fan.

The Minnesota left-hander Francisco Liriano was placed on the 15-day disabled list with inflammation of his throwing shoulder, less than a month after pitching a no-hitter.

WHITE SOX 7, RED SOX 3 Alexei Ramirez and Carlos Quentin each drove in two runs in a four-run sixth inning as visiting Chicago stopped Jon Lester's seven-game winning streak and sent Boston to its fourth loss in 17 games.

RANGERS 11, RAYS 5 Mike Napoli homered twice — giving him four in three games — and drove in five runs as visiting Texas won in its first meeting with Tampa Bay since the Rays eliminated the Rangers in the opening round of last year's playoffs.



DUANE BURLISON/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Twins Manager Ron Gardenhire was ejected for arguing a call in a loss to the Tigers.

ANGELS 10, ROYALS 8 Torii Hunter's second home run, a two-run shot off Joakim Soria in the ninth, powered Los Angeles to a come-from-behind victory on the road. The rookie Eric Hosmer homered, doubled and drove in four runs as Kansas City took a 6-1 lead over Ervin Santana after two innings.

MARINERS 4, ORIOLES 3 Jack Cust hit the

second triple of his career to drive in two runs for host Seattle. Ichiro Suzuki, mired in the worst slump of his career — 1 of 22 over his previous five games — had two singles and scored twice. The Mariners have won 10 of 12 games and are 19-11 over their past 30 games.

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PHILLIES 5, NATIONALS 4 Roy Halladay beat the Nationals franchise for the 10th straight time, despite giving up multiple home runs for the first time this season.

Halladay (7-3) allowed 10 hits and 4 runs over seven innings, striking out five without a walk for visiting Philadelphia. Ryan Howard and Raul Ibanez hit back-to-back homers in the fourth and each drove in a run in the Phillies' seventh-inning rally. Halladay gave up solo home runs to Washington's Michael Morse, Danny Espinosa and Laynce Nix. Halladay had allowed a total of two home runs in his first 11 starts. Halladay is 11-1 against the Nationals and the Expos franchise since losing June 28, 2002, in Montreal.

GIANTS 7, CARDINALS 3 Madison Bumgarner won his second straight after losing his first six decisions and Andres Torres gave visiting San Francisco, which has the National League's worst offense, a boost with his first career grand slam. Kyle McClellan (6-2) was knocked out after four innings in the worst outing of his first season in the St. Louis rotation, missing a chance to tie for the major league victory lead.

REDS 7, BREWERS 3 Jay Bruce hit a three-run homer and finished a double short of the cycle as Cincinnati opened a nine-game homestand with a victory after a 2-8 trip. Milwaukee, which went 8-1 on its last homestand, saw its road record fall to 8-18, the worst in the N.L.

PADRES 3, BRAVES 2 Pinch-hitter Kyle Phillips led off the 10th inning with his first career home run and visiting San Diego won its third straight. Phillips, a rookie with a .167 average in 30 at-bats, hit the second pitch from Atlanta's George Sherrill (1-1).

ASTROS 12, CUBS 7 Jeff Keppinger and J.R. Towles homered and visiting Houston rallied past Chicago to end a three-game losing streak. Clint Barmes and Hunter Pence also added back-to-back home runs in the fifth inning for the Astros.

LASORDA FIGHTS INFECTION The former Los Angeles Dodgers manager Tom Lasorda, 83, is recovering from a bacterial infection that caused him to be hospitalized. The team said Lasorda was resting at home after spending four days in the hospital last week.

A Marine Focuses on the Mission

From the deck of an aircraft carrier turned tourist attraction on a sunny, humid Memorial Day morning, Sandy Alderson stepped forward to share in the dropping of a ceremonial wreath

HARVEY ARATON

ON BASEBALL

into the water below in memory of those who had served aboard the decommissioned ship. On a more personal note, Alderson, a former Marine infantry officer and the Mets' first-year general manager, had a moment to reflect on how his father died last November after surviving 3 wars and 33 years as an Air Force pilot. John Alderson was struck by a car on a street in St. Petersburg, Fla., and died in a hospital less than an hour later.

"He had a lifetime of good luck and a moment of bad luck," Alderson said.

The elder Alderson was a sprightly 87 when he decided to make the 3.4-mile walk home after leaving a restaurant just before midnight on a Saturday night on Nov. 13. No criminal charges were filed against the 21-year-old driver, and Alderson said there was no point in dwelling on the incongruity of it all.

"With the experiences I've had, military or baseball, one accepts a certain randomness that exists, and you have to deal with the circumstances as they arise and not be terribly concerned about fairness of the situation," Alderson said.



GUY CALAF FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Mets General Manager Sandy Alderson took part in a Memorial Day ceremony at the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum on Monday.

son said in a quiet moment below deck aboard the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum on the far West Side.

In another moment, a different setting, he might have been referencing the unlucky situation he stepped into this season after Commissioner Bud Selig matched him with the Mets' principal owner, Fred Wilpon, last winter. The fallout from a \$1 billion suit

against Wilpon and his partner, Saul Katz, by a court-appointed trustee representing the victims of Bernard L. Madoff is a ground-shifting event for the franchise that may require years for recovery. Injuries and other issues — Jose Reyes's bereavement leave being the latest — continue to add to the uncertainty.

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'My dad and I shared everything, baseball-wise. He was excited about this chapter of my career and was looking forward to spring training.'

SANDY ALDERSON

A Marine Taught to Focus on the Mission

From First Sports Page

Much of what Alderson said about the circumstances regarding his father's death could thus be applied to the daunting work ahead. "You simply have to deal with it as it is, that's the best approach," he said. "Try to make the best of what you have. That's the way my dad approached things, and that's the way I do."

Alderson brought three Mets to the Intrepid ceremony — pitchers Jason Isringhausen and Mike Pelfrey and infielder Justin Turner. The appearance began a week of events by the Mets to honor the military by an organization that can get given the disorderliness of recent years.

On this first Memorial Day without the father who was still playing in a seniors softball league at the time of his death, you got the feeling that Alderson would not deviate from his life's lessons or baseball's conventions, would not let emotions guide him as he rides out the ownership storm.

He was clear-eyed and firm of

voice — pausing only to clear his throat — as he spoke of the passion he and his father shared for baseball, the doubleheader John Alderson had taken him to as an 8-year-old at the old Comiskey Park in Chicago.

As an Army brat steadily on the move, there weren't many more opportunities although two were special, practically bookends.

When the itinerant life took the family to Japan, father and son watched the Yankees play a series of exhibitions in Japan in 1955 and then again when they opened the 2004 season in Tokyo against Tampa Bay.

"He took me to the game in '55 and I took him to the game in 2004, when he was long retired," Alderson said. "I told him, 'We've got to be the only two people in the ballpark who'd seen the Yankees play the last time they were in Japan.'"

Alderson recalled how his father loved to join the Oakland Athletics in spring training when he was the architect of the Tony La Russa-managed teams that won the World Series in 1989.

John Alderson would shag fly balls and bond with the clubhouse man, a military man himself.

When John Alderson took interest in his son's work, he was just returning the favor. As a college student at Dartmouth in 1967, Sandy Alderson finagled a correspondent's visa to get into the Philippines, where his father would train after flying missions in Vietnam.

"I went on a test op, sat in the back seat while he flew," Alderson said. "Highly irregular." He left out the best part, or at least the part his father delighted in telling. John Alderson was skilled and playful enough as a pilot to leave the contents of his son's stomach in the rear seat.

"He was a very gregarious soul," Sandy Alderson said, admitting to the vacuum created by the accident. His mother, Gweny, died in 1997, and "when you lose one parent, you realize how important they are and the surviving parent becomes all that more important. So my dad and I shared everything, baseball wise. He was excited about this chapter



ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

Sandy Alderson's father, John, who fought in three wars, died after he was struck by a car.

of my career and was looking forward to spring training."

Then came that "certain randomness," and the man who flew bomber planes in World War II, Korea and had two tours in Vietnam — one of them after Sandy Alderson had served there — was struck down taking a walk. He was wearing a Mets cap and the 1989 World Series ring his son had given him 20 years ago.

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Keeping An Eye On the Ball

Lots of questions have been asked about David Einhorn's purchase of a minority stake in the Mets: Will his investment shore up the Mets' finances? (Maybe.)

**ANDREW
ROSS SORKIN**

DEALBOOK

(Probably.)

But on Wall Street, a very different question is quietly being asked: Will Mr. Einhorn, one of the great value investors of his generation and an obsessive stock picker, take his eye off the ball? (Pun intended.) It is a question that invariably is raised whenever a wealthy financier seeks to live out his childhood fantasy by acquiring a professional sports team, a race horse or even a yacht.

"An obsessive focus on work is part of what makes hedge fund managers succeed," said Sebastian Mallaby, the author of "More Money Than God: Hedge Funds and the Making of a New Elite."

He noted that "David Swensen, the great hedge fund talent scout who runs the Yale endowment, says that he looks for this not-quite-normal single-mindedness when he decides where to commit Yale's money. So it clearly is a red flag when a hedge fund manager starts to take too much pleasure in his hobbies."

Wall Street players have long collected sports teams, some successfully, some less so. In 2002, Stephen Pagliuca, the managing partner of Bain Capital, helped lead a group of friends to buy the Celtics, who then went on to win the championship in 2008. Bain continued to thrive, but not to the same extent of rivals like the Blackstone Group and others.

Meanwhile, Thomas Hicks, a leveraged buyout baron who founded Hicks, Muse, Tate & Furst, bought the Texas Rangers in 1998. His firm nearly went under after a series of bad telecom investments he made in 1999; he left the firm in 2004. And just three years ago, Stanley Druckemiller, the famed hedge fund manager, sought to buy the Pittsburgh Steelers. He eventually withdrew his bid, but perhaps it was a signal that he had already shifted his interests away from the markets. Last year, he announced he would shut his firm.

In an apparent effort to preempt any red flags and to demonstrate his commitment to money management, Mr. Einhorn's firm, Greenlight Capital, sent a private letter to its investors last week

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Keeping an Eye on the Ball

From First Business Page

within minutes of the announcement that he was personally in negotiations for the Mets stake: "David will continue to have the vast majority of his net worth invested in Greenlight products: the hedge funds, Greenlight Masters and Greenlight Re. His role as president and portfolio manager of Greenlight Capital will not change in any way."

So far, Mr. Einhorn's investors, at least publicly, have only praise for him. Several privately questioned whether he can remain focused on his investment funds at the same time that he thrust himself into the public eye as the potential future owner of the Mets.

Some pointed out that Mr. Einhorn has proved he can multitask. He has written a best-selling book about one of his investments, competed in the World Series of

Poker, finishing 18th, and is an active director of several charities.

And he's never exactly shied away from the press. He took to the airwaves in spring 2008, presciently questioning the numbers at Lehman Brothers. Just last week, he called for the firing of Steven Ballmer, Microsoft's chief executive.

None of that compares with being the owner of a sports team in New York City, the media capital of the world. On Saturday night, when Mr. Einhorn attended the Mets vs. Phillies game at Citi Field, the virtually unknown financier — to most sports fans, at least — was bombarded by cameras and questions. Pictures of him drinking a beer in a luxury box appeared on television and in newspapers. He was wearing a Mets cap — and, in perhaps a nod to his investors, a polo shirt embroidered with the Greenlight logo. (Hedge funds rarely get that kind of marketing exposure.)

He can expect more flash bulbs over the next two years. According to people involved in the negotiations, he will have the right to acquire a 60 percent stake in the Mets from the Wilpon family. The only way the Wilpons would be

able to block him would be to repay the \$200 million investment he made for 30 percent of the baseball team. Mr. Einhorn would get to keep his stake for free.

Much of the outcome hinges on whether the Wilpons have to turn over their fortune to the trustee of the Madoff Ponzi scheme. All of this is a roundabout way of saying that's likely to be grist for the sports media — and business media — as speculation runs rampant about whether the Wilpons will lose their team to Mr. Einhorn. The danger, of course, is that it becomes a distraction.

So far this year, Mr. Einhorn's \$7.9 billion fund is underperforming the market. His fund was down 2.6 percent at the end of last month, while the S.& P. 500 was up 8.43 percent during the same period.

Mr. Einhorn, however, is a long-term investor. He has long told investors, successfully, to disregard short-term performance, a mantra he has said should be applied to the Mets.

"If I were invested in Einhorn's fund, I would not pull my money out," Mr. Mallaby said. "But it is natural for investors to be asking questions."

Reyes Goes on Leave, And Mets Slug 15 Hits

By KEN BELSON

In a season riddled with injuries, underwhelming play and off-field distractions, Jose Reyes has been a consistent bright spot on the Mets. He is leading the Na-

METS	7	League in
PIRATES	3	doubles, triples and

hits, and playing with the abandon that is sure to make him much sought-after if he becomes a free agent after this season.

Now the Mets, already missing David Wright and Ike Davis, will have to make do without Reyes as well. On Monday, Reyes left the team after the death of his grandmother and may be gone as long as a week on bereavement leave.

With Reyes gone, Manager Terry Collins juggled his lineup for Monday night's opener of a four-game series against the Pittsburgh Pirates. He moved Ruben Tejada to shortstop from second base, inserted Willie Harris at third base and moved Justin Turner to second base from third. Daniel Murphy hit cleanup because Jason Bay, who is hitting .241, was given the day off.

Nevertheless, the Mets found a way to beat the Pirates, 7-3, despite hitting poorly with runners in scoring position. After compiling a season-high 17 hits on Sunday, the Mets added 15 on Monday, including three each by Murphy, Tejada and Angel Pagan.

"These guys have rallied around each other," Manager Terry Collins said. "They've hung in there, they've played hard."

After three poor at-bats, Josh Thole had the key blow, a two-run double in the seventh inning that broke a 3-3 tie.

"I was able to redeem myself," Thole said.

The hit made a winner out of Dillon Gee (5-0), who gave up three runs in seven innings and struck out a career-high eight batters. "That's my main goal, to be consistent," Gee said. "I want them to know what they're going to get out of me every time I go out there."

The Mets needed Gee to be sharp because they had trouble offensively early in the game. They scored twice in the second inning with help from a passed ball and infield hits by Pagan and Tejada. But they squandered chances in the third and fourth innings because of double plays.

In the fifth, the Mets loaded the bases when Turner was hit by a pitch and Carlos Beltran and Murphy singled. Pagan then hit a ball up the middle that shortstop

Ronny Cedeno could not handle, which allowed Turner to score.

As has happened often this season, the game included news away from the field. Davis, who injured his ankle in Colorado this month, will return to New York from Florida to have further tests, a potentially ominous sign. There is no date for Wright to return to the lineup, either.

There are also major questions about the future of the franchise. During batting practice, David Einhorn spoke formally in public for the first time since it was announced last Thursday that he was in talks to buy a minority stake in the team.

Einhorn, a hedge fund mogul, said that the deal being negotiated with the Wilpon family was a "win-win" agreement that he hoped would be completed by the end of June.

Einhorn declined to provide specifics about the deal, citing a confidentiality agreement, and he refused to confirm reports that the agreement included an option for him to buy a majority stake in the team.

"When the agreement first came, there was a lot of reaction that this was a very one-sided agreement in favor of the Wilpons," said Einhorn, who was wearing a Mets cap. "And now, as other stuff, much of which is not correct, has come out, there's a lot of you" saying that the agreement "is in favor of me."

"And I think both of those characterizations are wrong," he said. "This agreement is a fair agreement."

Einhorn said that the remaining elements of the talks were "down to very, very small issues, and mostly documentations and approvals."

Still, Einhorn — who made his name buying heavily discounted companies — would not guarantee that the team's finances would not deteriorate further.

"I can't make any such assurance," Einhorn said. "It'll be what it'll be. It's not that people aren't going to try really hard to avoid that type of circumstance. The future is uncertain, and there's a wide range of possible outcomes in all sorts of things. It's true in life and it's true in this circumstance as well."

INSIDE PITCH

The Mets activated reliever **BOBBY PARNELL** from the disabled list on Monday to take **JOSE REYES**'s roster spot. ... **R. A. DICK- EY**, who partly tore the plantar fascia in his right foot last week, will make his scheduled start Tuesday.

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BILL KOSTROUN/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Carlos Beltran, left, and Daniel Murphy scored on a double by Josh Thole that broke a 3-3 tie in the seventh inning.



May 30, 2011

Yesterday's transactions

BASEBALL

American League

Chicago White Sox: Purchased the contracts of RHP Brian Bruney and RHP Jeff Marquez from Charlotte (IL). Designated INF Dallas McPherson for assignment.

Minnesota Twins: Placed LHP Francisco Liriano on the 15-day DL, retroactive to May 23. Recalled RHP Anthony Slama from Rochester (IL). Activated LHP Jose Mijares from the 15-day DL. Optioned LHP Dusty Hughes to Rochester.

National League

Chicago Cubs: Placed INF Jeff Baker on the 15-day DL. Called up INF D.J. LeMahieu from Tennessee (SL).

New York Mets: Placed SS Jose Reyes on the bereavement list. Activated RHP Bobby Parnell from the 15-day DL.

Pittsburgh Pirates: Placed C Ryan Doumit and INF Steve Pearce on the 15-day DL. Transferred RHP Ross Ohlendorf from the 15-day to the 60-day DL. Purchased the contracts of C Dusty Brown and INF Josh Harrison from Indianapolis (IL).