



***Clips***  
*(September 14, 2011)*

*From LATimes.com*

## **Angels' Howie Kendrick homers twice in 6-3 win over Athletics**

### **Bullpen comes to Jerome Williams' rescue and Howie Kendrick hits a couple of two-run home runs.**

**By Mike DiGiovanna**

The Jerome Williams joy ride turned into a high-wire act Tuesday night. Good thing for the wild right-hander the Angels bullpen and defense were there with a safety net.

Reliever Hisanori Takahashi, pitching in a rare high-leverage situation, bailed Williams out of trouble in the fifth inning of a tie game, and the veteran left-hander combined with Bobby Cassevah, Scott Downs and Jordan Walden to throw 42/3 scoreless innings.

Howie Kendrick crushed a pair of two-out, two-run home runs, and the Angels turned four double plays in a 6-3 victory over the Oakland Athletics that kept them three games behind the Texas Rangers in the American League West with 14 to play.

Williams was 3-0 with a 3.51 earned-run average since being called up on Aug. 17, a promotion that ended a four-year odyssey that included tours in Taiwan, Mexico, Puerto Rico and two independent leagues.

He walked four in 252/3 innings of his first six games but was all over the place Tuesday night, allowing three runs and seven hits and walking five in 41/3 innings.

"You walk five, you're going to get killed — that's not my game," Williams said. "Fortunately, the guys behind me played their butts off and turned a few nice double plays."

The Angels, who had only two hits in 11 at-bats with runners in scoring position, snapped a 3-3 tie in the seventh, a rally Erick Aybar sparked with a single. Aybar took second on Peter Bourjos' sacrifice bunt and third on Hank Conger's single to center.

With the infield in, Maicer Izturis hit a chopper toward the middle that shortstop Cliff Pennington gloved. But his throw home was wide, and Aybar, running on contact, scored easily for a 4-3 lead.

The Angels tacked on two runs in the ninth when Bourjos singled and scored on Kendrick's two-run shot to left, which gave him a career-high 18 homers on the season.

"A great game by Howie," Manager Mike Scioscia said. "He gave us a big boost with both his home runs. We have a finite amount of games left, and we need guys to produce the way they can."

Walden notched his 30th save with a scoreless ninth, becoming only the fifth rookie closer since 2000 to record 30 or more saves. The others are Neftali Feliz, Craig Kimbrel, Kazuhiro Sasaki and Jonathan Papelbon.

The Angels took a 3-0 lead in the third when Aybar doubled and scored on an error, Izturis singled and Kendrick homered to center. Williams nearly gave it all back in the bottom of the third.

Michael Taylor walked and scored on Jemile Weeks' double. Pennington reached on an infield single. Hideki Matsui walked to load the bases, and Josh Willingham walked to score Weeks to make it 3-2.

Oakland still had the bases loaded with no outs, but Williams struck out Scott Sizemore and got Ryan Sweeney to ground into a 4-6-3 double play.

Williams employed the same exit strategy in the fourth after Allen doubled with one out and Taylor reached on an infield single. Weeks bounced into a 4-6-3 double play.

Williams wasn't as Houdini-like in the fifth after walking Pennington and Matsui to open the inning. Willingham blooped an RBI double to right to tie the score, 3-3.

Sizemore struck out looking, and Scioscia summoned Takahashi, who got Sweeney to fly to shallow left, Matsui holding. Kurt Suzuki was intentionally, and Allen grounded out.

"There were a lot of baserunners on that field for Oakland, with seven walks and eight hits," Scioscia said. "Holding them to three runs tells you our bullpen and defense did a good job."

*From LATimes.com*

### **Slumping Mark Trumbo gets a seat on the bench**

**The struggling rookie, coming off two games in which he was 0 for 8 and left numerous runners in scoring position, is not in the lineup against Oakland. Another rookie, Mike Trout, also sits.**

**By Mike DiGiovanna**

Reporting from Oakland — Mark Trumbo is mature for a 25-year-old with one year of major league experience. The rookie first baseman says he has "a pretty good perspective on things," and knows hot streaks and slumps are "part of a 162-game season."

But consecutive games like Trumbo had Sunday and Monday night, when he was 0 for 8 with four strikeouts and twice failed to score runners from third with fewer than two out in losses to the Yankees and Athletics, have strained that outlook.

"You're never as good as you think you are, and you're never as bad as you think you are, but sometimes I get way too down on myself," said Trumbo, who leads the team with 26 home runs and 80 runs batted in.

"I've had a couple of rough games. I take it as hard as anybody. It wears on me. I understand we're in a pennant race with a very limited amount of games left, and that can add to the pressure."

Manager Mike Scioscia has noticed. Trumbo, who had started 45 of 46 games since July 24, was not in Tuesday night's lineup. Howie Kendrick made his first start at first base since July 3, and Maicer Izturis played second.

"His last 10 at-bats, we've seen a little tighter grip on the bat," Scioscia said of Trumbo. "This is a good time for him to catch his breath, and hopefully he'll finish strong."

Like most struggling rookies, Trumbo is expanding the strike zone even more than usual; the young slugger is not known for his plate discipline — he has 108 strikeouts and 25 walks in 496 at-bats.

In Sunday's 6-5 loss, Trumbo popped out with the bases loaded and one out in the fifth inning, missing a chance to expand on a 5-4 lead. In the seventh, with runners on second and third and two out, he grounded out.

Trumbo struck out three times in Monday night's 6-3 loss in Oakland, once with men on second and third with none out in the fourth.

"I fouled off some pitches I could have handled, and I haven't gotten a ton of good pitches to hit," said Trumbo, who is batting .111 (five for 45) with 18 strikeouts against the A's. "I also feel like a few calls have gone against me.

"You never like to use that as an excuse, but it hurts when a guy is trying to work on his plate discipline. Combine that with chasing pitches, and now I'm in a hole every at-bat."

### **Growing pains**

**Mike Trout**, who has two hits in his last 25 at-bats, took a seat next to Trumbo on the bench Tuesday night. The 20-year-old outfielder has excellent plate discipline for his age but is having Trumbo-like problems.

"I've been chasing pitches away," said Trout, who has nine strikeouts in his last five starts, one with a runner on third and one out Monday night. "And once I get out of my zone, I start thinking. I have to recognize that pitch and know where it's going to end up."

Peter Bourjos also had rough games Sunday and Monday, misplaying two balls in center field in Sunday's loss and going 0 for 4 with two strikeouts Monday.

Could the Angels' youngsters be succumbing to pennant-race pressure?

"They've had some rough days, and it's affected where those games ended up, but I don't think the focus should be just on the young guys," Scioscia said. "These guys have gotten us here, and they'll finish strong down the stretch."

*From LATimes.com Angels blog*

### **Slumping Angels Trumbo and Trout to sit vs. A's**

Rookie first baseman Mark Trumbo, hitless with four strikeouts in his last eight at-bats, and 20-year-old outfielder Mike Trout, who has two hits in his last 25 at-bats, will be on the bench for the start of the Angels' game against the Athletics in the Oakland Coliseum on Tuesday night.

Manager Mike Scioscia moved second baseman Howie Kendrick to first base, a position he has not played since July 3, and Maicer Izturis will start at second. Torii Hunter, Vernon Wells and Peter Bourjos will start in the outfield, and Bobby Abreu will be the designated hitter for the Angels, who are three games behind Texas in the American League West with 15 to play.

"His last 10 at-bats, we've seen a little tighter grip on the bat," Scioscia said of Trumbo. "This is a good time for him to catch his breath, and hopefully he'll finish strong."

Trumbo, who leads the team with 26 home runs and 80 runs batted in, is not known for his plate discipline -- he has 108 strikeouts and only 25 walks in 496 plate appearances. But as with most rookies who struggle, Trumbo's problems have come because he is expanding the strike zone.

"I fouled off some pitches I could have handled, and I haven't gotten a ton of good pitches to hit," Trumbo said. "I also feel like a few calls have gone against me. You never like to use that as an excuse, but it hurts when a guy is trying to work on his plate discipline. Combine that with chasing pitches, and now I'm in a hole every at-bat."

Trout is having similar problems at the plate.

"I've been chasing pitches away," said Trout, whose plate discipline is very advanced for his age. "And once I get out of my zone, I start thinking. I have to recognize that pitch and know where it's going to end up."

The Angels' lineup: 2B Maicer Izturis, 1B Howie Kendrick, DH Bobby Abreu, RF Torii Hunter, 3B Alberto Callaspo, LF Vernon Wells, SS Erick Aybar, CF Peter Bourjos, C Hank Conger, P Jerome Williams.

The Athletics' lineup: 2B Jemile Weeks, SS Cliff Pennington, LF Hideki Matsui, DH Josh Willingham, 3B Scott Sizemore, CF Ryan Sweeney, C Kurt Suzuki, 1B Brandon Allen, RF Michael Taylor, P Guillermo Moscoso.

-- Mike DiGiovanna in Oakland

*From LATimes.com Angels blog*

### **Angels open 2012 season at home, close on road**

The Angels will open the 2012 season with a three-game series against the Kansas City Royals at home on April 6 before going on a road trip to face Minnesota and the New York Yankees. They will close the season with a six-game trip at Texas and Seattle.

The Angels will face the National League West in interleague play, including the annual home-and-away series against the Dodgers. The Angels will also play at San Diego and Colorado. The Arizona Diamondbacks and San Francisco Giants will play in Angel Stadium.

For more on the 2012 schedule later, go to [www.latimes.com/sports](http://www.latimes.com/sports).

-- Mike DiGiovanna in Oakland

*From OCREgister.com*

### **Angels quietly staying in AL West race**

**By Bill Plunkett**

OAKLAND - If a pennant race happens in the forest with no one around to hear -- can it make any less noise than it would at the Oakland Coliseum these days?

Playing in front of fewer fans than they used as extras in "Moneyball" for the second consecutive night, the Angels held their place in the AL West race by scoring three times in the final three innings and taking a 6-3 victory over the Oakland A's on Tuesday night.

The Texas Rangers also won Tuesday and maintained their three-game lead over the Angels with 14 to play.

There was little to inspire positive word-of-mouth goodwill among the assembled masses – 11 pitchers combined to walk 12 in a game that threatened to outlast the local BART schedule and the Angels won despite going 2 for 10 with runners in scoring position.

But the Angels did get a pair of two-run home runs from Howie Kendrick, 4 2/3 innings of two-hit relief from four pitchers – and managed to score a runner from third base with less than two outs.

“We got a good game from Howie tonight and we needed it on offense,” Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. “He gave us a boost with those home runs. We need some guys to move forward and give us some momentum this week, and hopefully Howie will be in that group.

“We need contributions from a lot of guys and we need guys to produce the way they can. We’ve seen flashes of it over the last 30 games. ... But, like we’ve said, there’s a premium on us scoring enough runs to get games under our control.”

Control was an issue for Angels starter Jerome Williams who stumbled for the first time since joining the Angels rotation. He lasted just 4 1/3 innings against the A’s, allowing seven hits and walking five in that time (after walking only four in his first 25 2/3 innings with the Angels) with some help from plate umpire Gary Cederstrom’s unforgiving strike zone.

“There were some pitches we didn’t get called,” Scioscia said. “But you have to be able to absorb that by getting in the zone early and then expanding.

“Jerome was behind in counts. His stuff was good, but it’s tough for anyone’s stuff to play when you’re always 1-and-0, 2-and-0.”

Williams managed to slither away from major damage with double plays in the third and fourth innings (two of four double plays turned by the Angels in the game) and left the game tied 3-3.

“I can’t walk guys. That’s not my game,” Williams said. “I pound the (strike) zone a lot. I didn’t do that enough tonight. Fortunately, I got those two double plays. But I should never have got in those situations.”

Four Angels relievers followed Williams with Hisanori Takahashi starting the relay by leaving the bases loaded in the fifth. He, Bobby Cassevah, Scott Downs and Jordan Walden combined to shut down the A’s the rest of the way.

“There were a lot of baserunners on that field for them tonight – seven walks and eight hits,” Scioscia said. “Holding them to three runs with that many baserunners tells you our bullpen did a pretty good job.”

The Angels broke the tie in the seventh when Maicer Izturis came up with runners on second and third and one out. Six times in the previous two games (losses to the Yankees and A’s) the Angels had gotten a runner to third base with less than two outs but failed to get him home.

This time, Izturis hit a ground ball to A’s shortstop Cliff Pennington with the infield in. The ‘contact play’ was on and Aybar took off from third base, scoring the tie-breaking run when Pennington’s throw home was way off the mark.

Kendrick’s second home run of the game came in the ninth and gave Walden a cushion to close out the game for his 30th save of the season. He is only the fifth rookie pitcher since 2000 to have a 30-save season, joining Neftali Feliz, Craig Kimbrel, Kaz Sasaki and Jonathan Papelbon.

*From OCREgister.com*

### **Strand' by me: Angels in the clutch**

**The common thread to the Angels' peculiar season has been an actual, and sometimes perceived, reluctance to drive in men in scoring position.**

#### **By Mark Whicker**

**TORII HUNTER:** Although Hunter has famously grounded into eight double plays with men in scoring positions he has actually improved his RISP average to .285 and has 54 RBI in 162 RISP plate appearances. But he remains 1 for 9 with two RBI in bases loaded situations. Overall he is hitting .261.

**BOBBY ABREU:** Not having a vintage year, Abreu is nevertheless a tough out when it counts. He's hitting .309 in RISP situations with an outstanding .933 OPS, having driven in 42 runs in 126 plate appearances. Six times he's come up with bases loaded and has driven in seven runs.

**MARK TRUMBO:** The rookie isn't expected to master the nuances of situational hitting at this stage, and Trumbo is hitting .243 in RISP situations, as opposed to .256 overall. But he has only struck out 20 times in those 136 plate appearances. His average with men on base rises to .264.

**HOWIE KENDRICK:** Kendrick is hitting .290 and can end the season with an OPS over .800 for the first time in his career. But with men in scoring position he is hitting only .248. Kendrick has driven in 38 runs in 145 plate appearances with RISP, but he has walked 12 times, significant because he's only walked 28 times overall.

**VERNON WELLS:** In a disappointing year, Wells is hitting .220 overall but .255 with men in scoring position, with 35 RBI in 111 plate appearances. He's actually 5 for 9 with eight RBI in 13 plate appearances with Angels on first and third.

**ERICK AYBAR:** The Angels shortstop is hitting .276 with men in scoring position and has driven in 44 runs in 118 of those plate appearances. That compares to .273 in all situations. Don't blame the bases-loaded problems on Aybar. He's a .417 hitter when the sacks are full.

**MAICER IZTURIS:** Known as a late-game producer for years, Izturis' RISP average is down a bit from his normal production. He is hitting .281 overall, .263 with men at second and/or third. With the bases loaded, he is 1 for 7 with three RBI.

**ALBERTO CALLASPO:** Statistically Callaspo is having a nice year although he might not deliver the longball like some third baseman do. With men in scoring position he is hitting a solid .291 and has only struck out seven times in 129 plate appearances, with 36 RBI. With two out and men in scoring position, Callaspo is 19 for 59 with 23 RBI.

**PETER BOURJOS:** The rookie center-fielder is hitting .275 in all situations, .239 with men on second and/or third base. His OPS in non-RISP situations is .835, but .684 otherwise. In 125 plate appearances with RISP, Bourjos has driven in 26 runs.

**JEFF MATHIS:** You wouldn't expect Mathis to move the line very much in RISP situations, but his .203 average is over the Mendoza line and superior to his overall batting average. He has 20 RBIs, including a homer, in 79 plate appearances in run-scoring situations.

*From OCREgister.com*

### **Sneak peek: Angels' favorites auction baskets**

**Slide show:** The Angels Wives' fundraiser for the Angels Baseball Foundation features baskets of Angels memorabilia and the favorite items of Angels players and coaches. The baskets will be auctioned at [angels.com/auctions](http://angels.com/auctions) from Sept. 14 to Sept. 28, 2011.

By Marcia Smith

#### **Angels Starting Pitchers Basket**

**Starting bid:** \$400

#### **Contents:**

**2011 All-Star RHP Jered Weaver:** autographed, used running shoe; autographed baseball and game-used sleeveless jersey (2009, with Adenhardt 34 patch); **RHP Dan Haren:** autographed jersey, autographed baseball card, autographed baseball; **RHP Ervin Santana:** game-used bat, autographed baseball; **RHP Jerome Williams:** autographed baseball; **RHP Joel Pineiro:** autographed jersey, autographed baseball; **Rookie RHP Garrett Richards:** autographed baseball; **Rookie RHP Tyler Chatwood:** autographed baseball

#### **2011 All-Star RHP Jered Weaver's Black Bucket**

**Starting bid:** \$250

Jered Weaver and his fiancée, Kristin Travis, had fun hunting down the movies, music, games and snacks and filling a black beer tin.

#### **Contents:**

**Memorabilia:** Jered Weaver autographed a worn Angels batting practice hat, a game-used batting glove, a new cleat and a new Long Beach State Dirtbags T-shirt. He also included his baseball card, framed.

**His favorite movies:** Blu-ray versions of "Napoleon Dynamite" and "Dumb and Dumber."

**His music choice:** A Sublime CD and an iTunes gift card.

**Having fun with friends?** Weaver and Travis put in a deck of playing cards and pack of poker chips, the LeftCenterRight dice game and a mini basketball, since the Lakers fan likes to work on his shot indoors.

**His favorite snacks:** A pack of Big League Chew, a bag of beef jerky, a box of Milk Duds, and a bag of his favorite cookies, Snickerdoodles.

**A bonus surprise:** Weaver is a fan of SpongeBob SquarePants, whose image adorns a beach towel. The California-born Weaver likes the beach too.

Jered Weaver and his fiancée, Kristin Travis, had fun hunting down the movies, music, games and snacks and filling a black beer tin.

**More about this basket:** Travis (above) had to go to several stores to find Big League Chew, Jered's favorite gum.... Travis, a former 49ers soccer player, met Weaver when they were both student-athletes at Long Beach State...."A lot of people might not know this but Jered, for some reason, loves SpongeBob," Travis says.

Just for fun:

**The Harens toss in Titleist golf balls, a mini Nerf football, a KitKat bar and the Matt Damon-Ben Affleck debut vehicle, "Good Will Hunting" on DVD.**



### **RHP Dan Haren's Favorites Basket**

**Starting bid:** \$250

Dan and Jessica Haren show off the three-time All-Star's fun side as a father to two young children and a player who has been a part of the rotation for four teams in nine MLB seasons.

**More about this basket:** With a bobblehead army, a beard trimmer and a Passion Pit CD, Haren showed tastes off the beaten (base)path.

### **RHP Ervin Santana's Favorites Basket**

**Starting bid:** \$250

Ervin Santana and his wife, Amy McMurtray, show in this basket how the right-hander who threw the July 27 no-hitter is still a kid at heart.

**Contents:**

**Memorabilia:** Ervin Santana autographed a game-used 2009 sleeveless jersey (with the Adenhardt 34 patch) and a baseball. There is also a Santana photo.

**His favorite toys:** The car enthusiast includes a copy of Automobile magazine, a remote-control sports car and a remote-control helicopter.

**Guilty pleasure snacks:** There are two lollipops from his favorite cartoon, "The Smurfs," and a gift card to In-N-Out.

Ervin Santana and his wife, Amy McMurtray (above), show in this basket how the right-hander who threw the July 27 no-hitter is still a kid at heart.

**More about this basket:** Amy says Ervin loves cartoons and racing his vast collection of remote-control vehicles, which include cars, copters and four airplanes.

### **Angels Coaches Ballbag**

**Starting bid:** \$300

**Contents:**

This "basket" comes in an official Angels ballbag bearing a 2011 game-used Mike Scioscia jersey, Angels bat, official MLB base and a baseball each autographed by the entire coaching staff: Angels manager Mike Scioscia, bench coach Rob Picciolo, hitting coach Mickey Hatcher, pitching coach Mike Butcher, first base coach Alfredo Griffin, third base coach Dino Ebel, , bullpen coach Steve Soliz and bullpen catcher Tom Gregorio.

**Hitting coach Mickey Hatcher:** game-used autographed patriotic Angels hat; **Pitching coach Mike**

**Butcher:** autographed worn red Angels hat; **Bench coach Rob Picciolo:** autographed red 50th anniversary game-used Angels hat; **Third base coach Dino Ebel:** autographed used fungo bat

**ALSO:** Angels beach towel, titanium Angels bracelet and titanium Angels necklace

### **Manager Mike Scioscia's Favorites Equipment Bag**

**Starting bid:** \$400

Mike and Anne Scioscia practically packed up their kitchen – and a Scioscia memorabilia room -- into an

overstuffed, new Angels equipment bag of Italian cooking treats.

**Contents:**

**Memorabilia:** Mike Scioscia not only autographed the typical baseball fare of a baseball, ballcap, new Angels short-sleeved windbreaker and framed photo of him holding the 2002 World Series trophy; he also signed two Italian cookbooks and the handle of a wooden pizza peel. There's also a Scioscia bobblehead.

**Read any good books lately?** An Italian cookbook and "Meatballs" cookbook, both autographed and inscribed by the manager and excellent cook, will guide you through this culinary adventure.

**Make an Angels kitchen:** They included two glasses, liquid soap, napkins, a white apron, a red kitchen towel, a coffee mug and hot pad/oven mitt – all adorned with the Angels logo. **He's good behind the plate:** The former catcher and his wife include a pepperoni pizza plate, red cooking utensils, red oven mitts, a red strainer, a large pepper grinder, a wire napkin holder and Cucina liquid kitchen soap.

**What's for desert?** Two boxes of Italian ice and Double Bubble bubble gum.

Mike and Anne Scioscia practically packed up their kitchen – and a Scioscia memorabilia room -- into an overstuffed, new Angels equipment bag of Italian cooking treats.

**More about this basket:** This basket is so elaborate that its contents come in Angels luggage.... There are a lot of personal touches to this Italian cook's dream package.

**Hitting coach Mickey Hatcher's Favorites Basket**

**Starting bid:** \$250

Mickey and Patty Hatcher put together an assortment of country and western-themed items for the Angels – and Dodgers fan.

**Contents:**

**Memorabilia:** Hatcher, who played six seasons including the 1988 World Series winning season as a Dodgers outfielder, autographed a gray Angels jersey, a blue Dodgers jersey, six baseball cards, a glove and a baseball inscribed with "1988 World Champs."

**Going outdoors?** The Hatchers include a pair of red Kaenon sunglasses (with case), a sleeve of Titleist golf balls and a Floater Fishing Lure.

**For listening, viewing and doing pleasure:** In the basket are CDs of All-Star Country and "John Wayne's True Grit;" DVDs of second season of the CBS drama, "NCIS," and "Star Trek, The Movie" and Nintendo Wii Sports.

**Angels Infielders Basket**

**Starting bid:** \$400

**Contents:**

**2011 All-Star second baseman Howie Kendrick:** game-used gray jersey, autographed bat and autographed baseball; **Rookie first baseman Mark Trumbo:** autographed game-used bat; **Shortstop Erick Aybar:** sleeveless game-used jersey, bobblehead and autographed baseball; **Third baseman Maicer Izturis:** autographed batting gloves (new) and autographed baseball; **Third baseman Alberto Callaspo:** worn, autographed batting practice cap and autographed baseball; **Reserve infielder and pinch hitter Russell Branyan:** game-used broken bat and worn, autographed batting practice cap

**2011 All-Star second baseman Howie Kendrick's Favorites Basket**

**Starting bid:** \$250

Howie Kendrick and his wife, Jody, assembled a basket of the second baseman's newest hobbies and some of his old favorites.

**Contents:**

**Memorabilia:** Howie Kendrick autographed a jersey and a baseball with the inscription “ASG 2011.” He also included a new custom-fitted black Rawlings glove personalized with “HK 47.”

**He is a budding photographer:** : For the first time, Kendrick has printed out, signed and framed two color photographs that he took. One is of a base at Angel Stadium, the other of a MLB baseball sitting idle in the infield at Camden Yards.

**He loves movies and music:** The Kendricks included Blu-rays of “Transformers” and the HBO movie, “61\*,” about Roger Maris' quest to break Babe Ruth's single-season home run record. There's also an iTunes gift card.

**His favorite snacks:** A bag of Red Vines and a gift card to Chick-fil-A.

Howie Kendrick and his wife, Jody, assembled a basket of the second baseman's newest hobbies and some of his old favorites.

**More about this basket:** Jody Kendrick says that Howard commits and intensely pursues any hobby he picks up. Since February 2011, it has been photography. He prefers taking black and white photographs and, until now, had never shared his prints with the public....He eats Chick-fil-A every day, Jody says.

**Infielder Russell Branyan's Favorites Basket (Part 1)**

**Starting bid:** \$200

Russell and Jill Branyan contributed enough items for two baskets showcasing his hobbies.

**Contents:**

**Memorabilia:** The brawny infielder and pinch hitter autographed a baseball, a photo, a cleat and game-used batting gloves.

**Items from his man cave:** Two Power Balance necklaces, a Johnny Cash CD, two Hot Rod magazines and a set of fishing lures.

**Infielder Russell Branyan's Favorites Basket (Part 2)**

**Starting bid:** \$200

Russell and Jill Branyan contributed enough items for two baskets showcasing his hobbies. The second basket (in the back right of the photo) features some of the items the father enjoys with his kids.

**Contents:**

**Memorabilia:** Russell Branyan signed a baseball, a cleat and a pair of game-used batting gloves.

**For the kids:** Kids batting gloves, a Rally Monkey pillow pet and “Polar Express” on DVD.

**Angels Catchers Basket**

**Starting bid:** \$200

**Contents:**

**Catcher Jeff Mathis** (center): autographed, game-used cleats and autographed baseball

**Rookie catcher Hank Conger** (left): autographed used bat and autographed baseball

**Catcher Bobby Wilson** (right): game-used broken bat, autographed wristbands, autographed baseball and autographed, game-used 50th Anniversary Angels hat

## Catcher Bobby Wilson's Favorites Laundry Basket

**Starting bid:** \$200

Expecting their first child, Bobby and Lori Wilson had a fun time building their basket together. Bobby even picked out a container, a black laundry basket.

### **Contents:**

**Memorabilia:** Bobby Wilson autographed the toe area of the game-used cleat he wore when he caught Ervin Santana's historic no-hitter on July 27 at Cleveland. He also signed a pair of batting gloves and a batting practice hat.

**He likes other sports too.** Check out the fishing pole kit, the TaylorMade sleeve of golf balls and tees and golf club brush, a Nerf football and the mini Spalding basketball.

**Just for fun:** The Wilsons put in a deck of UNO cards and a Monopoly board game.

**His favorite snacks and drinks:** They're represented hit with a Starbucks gift card, a can of Diet Coke, grape-flavored Gatorade and Hersey chocolate bars.

**Movies and music?** Bobby selected a George Strait CD and DVDs of the comedies "Anchorman," "Old School," and "Yes Man," and the action flick, "Troy."

Expecting their first child, Bobby and Lori Wilson had a fun time building their basket together. Bobby even picked out a container, a black laundry basket.

**More about this basket:** Lori says that Bobby is a huge Will Ferrell fan, as you can tell by his DVD choices....When he has time, he loves to golf and fish.

## Angels Bullpen Pitchers Basket

**Starting bid:** \$300

### **Contents:**

**2011 All-Star rookie closer Jordan Walden:** autographed new cleat and autographed baseball; **LHP Hisanori Takahashi:** autographed jersey and autographed baseball; **LHP Scott Downs:** game-used, autographed cleat and autographed baseball; **RHP Rich Thompson:** autographed new cleat and autographed baseball; **RHP Bobby Cassevah:** autographed baseball; **RHP Fernando Rodney:** autographed baseball; **RHP Trevor Bell:** autographed baseball; **Bullpen coach Steve Soliz:** autographed baseball; **Bullpen catcher Tom Gregorio:** autographed baseball; **Yoichi Terada (Takahashi's translator):** autographed baseball

**ALSO** You get to carry your own backpack too like a rookie reliever. Scott Downs' family picked out a kid's backpack with frogs and filled it with bullpen favorites such as candy, sunflower seeds and a 20-ounce can of Red Bull

## 2011 All-Star rookie closer Jordan Walden's Favorites Blue Bin

**Starting bid:** \$200

The right-hander known for throwing a 100-mph fastball worked with his girlfriend, Deanna Evans, to show off his loves for golf, the Dallas Cowboys and gut-busting junk food.

### **Contents:**

**Memorabilia:** Jordan Walden autographed a baseball, a game-used, Angels red undershirt and a new cleat. He also added a 2011 All-Star Game souvenir hat. **He has many guilty-pleasure foods:** Walden and Evans put in a jar Vlasic Bread and Butter pickles, a box of Hot Tamales, a Butterfinger candy bar, a bag of Flamin'

Hot Cheetos, pizza-flavored Goldfish crackers, a bottle of Sweet Baby Ray's barbecue sauce, a box of Orville Redenbacher kettle corn popcorn and a Subway gift card.

**Aside from the Angels, the only other sports team this Fort Worth, Texas native and resident roots for is the Dallas Cowboys:** Check out the Dallas Cowboys 12-pack of coasters and pebble-grained bottle Koozie. It's almost big enough for the blue Gatorade in the bin.

**Favorite sports to play?** Golf. Walden includes a Srixon hat and a sleeve of golf balls.

**Staying indoors?** Walden threw in a deck of playing cards, a season of the HBO baseball comedy series "Eastbound & Down" on DVD, the Johnny Depp-as-a-drug-smuggler flick "Blow" on Blu-ray and "MLB 2011 The Show" on Sony PlayStation 3.

### **2011 All-Star rookie closer Jordan Walden's Favorites Blue Bin**

**Starting bid:** \$200

The right-hander known for throwing a 100-mph fastball worked with his girlfriend, Deanna Evans, to show off his loves for golf, the Dallas Cowboys and gut-busting junk food.

**More about this basket:** According to Evans (above), Jordan's love of the Dallas Cowboys and golf are "over the top."... Also, Jordan eats kettle corn every day.

### **RHP Rich Thompson's Favorites Red Crate**

**Starting bid:** \$200

The right-handed relief pitcher and his wife, Ashley, mixed in a variety of autographed Angels memorabilia, items showing he's a car enthusiast and an abundance of must-have souvenirs and snacks from his homeland of Australia.

**Contents:**

**Memorabilia:** Rich Thompson autographed a new cleat, a game-used red Angels undershirt and a red Angels beanie.

**He loves cars:** Check out the copy of Mustangs magazine, Top Gear magazine and "Top Gear" Season 14 on DVD.

**He was born in Hornsby, Australia and resides in Sydney, Australia:** Enjoy the movie "Australia" on DVD, a country music CD by Australian Keith Urban, a black T-shirt with popular Aussie sayings, an Australia flag, a boomerang, an Australian street sign and Aussie pencils. Have dinner at Outback Restaurant (gift card included) or snack on kangaroo jerky, vegemite spread, assorted Aussie candy bars and cookies including Tim Tams (chocolate biscuits) Lamington Fingers (sponge fingers dipped in chocolate and coconut).

**He likes coffee:** Have a cup with the Starbucks gift card.

The right-handed relief pitcher and his wife, Ashley, mixed in a variety of autographed Angels memorabilia, items showing he's a car enthusiast and an abundance of must-have souvenirs and snacks from his homeland, Australia.

**More about this basket:**

Rich Thompson's wife, Ashley, says that kangaroo jerky is as popular in Australia as deer jerky is in America.... They elected to use a red crate instead of the more common wicker basket because "it was different."... A number of the treats, such as the Tim Tams chocolate biscuits, were brought to America when Thompson's parents visited here from Australia.

### **LHP Scott Downs' Favorites Cooler**

**Starting bid: \$200**

The funny, laid-back, left-handed set-up man from Kentucky had his whole family help out with his basket, showing off his favorite leisure-time games, music, movies and snacks.

**Contents:**

**Memorabilia:** Scott Downs autographed a game-used cleat and a baseball. There's also one of his worn, trademark red Angels beanies that he wears around the clubhouse to keep his long brown hair out of his face.

**He likes card games and puzzles:** Check out Sudoku game, deck of playing cards and poker chips.

**Classical or country?:** Country. Definitely. He included CDs from Kenny Chesney and Brad Paisley

**Comedy or drama?:** Comedy. He threw in a season of his TV favorite “Two and a Half Men” on DVD and his favorite movie “Ace Ventura: Pet Detective” also on DVD. He even included viewing snacks with a PayDay candy bar, a box of Hot Tamales and a Starbucks mug and pound of coffee. **He was Kentucky's**

**1994 Mr. Baseball :** Born in Louisville, Ky., Downs pitched for the University of Kentucky, where he was a 1997 All-SEC first-team selection. He resides in Lexington, Ky., and roots for UK – included is a UK ballcap – in all sports, especially basketball and baseball.

The funny, laid-back, left-handed set-up man from Kentucky had his whole family help out with his basket, showing off his favorite leisure-time games, music, movies and snacks.

**More about this basket:** Scott Downs and his wife, Katie, let their children, Harrison, 9, and Grayson, 5, grab some markers and go wild on the cooler to decorate it... Scott is a huge UK sports fan, having grown up and made his permanent residence in Lexington, Ky.... One item that didn't make the cooler is a 12-pack of Scott's favorite drink, Big Red soda, but he does love coffee, which is represented in the cooler.

**Angels 2011 All-Stars Basket****Starting bid: \$400****Contents:**

MLB baseball autographed by all three Angels 2011 All-Stars Jered Weaver, Howie Kendrick and Jordan Walden

**RHP Jered Weaver:** autographed new cleat, autographed All-Star replica jersey, autographed batting glove (not from 2011 All-Star Game) and game-used, autographed 2011 All-Star Game souvenir hat

**Second baseman Howie Kendrick:** autographed 2011 All-Star hat and game-used broken bat (not from 2011 All-Star Game)

**Rookie closer Jordan Walden:** used, autographed turf shoe (not from 2011 All-Star Game)

**Angels Outfielders Basket****Starting bid: \$400****Contents:**

**Four-time All-Star, 9-time Gold Glove winner Torii Hunter:** game-used broken bat, autographed jersey, autographed baseball and game-used, autographed cleats; **Center fielder Peter Bourjos:** autographed bat and autographed photo; **Three-time All Star, 3-time Gold Glove winner Vernon Wells:** autographed batting gloves, autographed used cleat and autographed baseball; **Two-time All-Star, 2005 Gold Glove winner Bobby Abreu:** game-used broken bat, autographed jersey and autographed baseball

**Center fielder Peter Bourjos' Favorites Basket****Starting bid: \$200**

Ashley-Grace Miller, Bourjos' girlfriend since he was 15 years old, did the shopping in their hometown of Scottsdale, Ariz., and knew all of his favorites dating back to their teens.

#### **Contents:**

**Memorabilia:** Peter Bourjos signed an 8x10 photo, a Spring Training batting helmet and a pair of batting gloves. He donated a used broken bat too.

**He loves serial-killer TV and popular hit comedies:** Season 1 of the Showtime's "Dexter" is part of his DVD favorites, which include "Caddyshack," "Wedding Crashers," "Talladega Nights" and "The Wedding Singer."

**Fun food:** Bags of Swedish Fish, Lifesavers, Cobalt Blue gum and BBQ-flavored sunflower seeds provide a movie-time snack. They're also Bourjos' preferred game-time eats.

**Game time?** Bourjos and Miller enjoy playing the "Apples to Apples" word party and cards – there's a deck included – with friends.

**Extras:** They've added gift cards to iTunes and a Bourjos' drive-thru favorite, Sonic.

Ashley-Grace Miller, Bourjos' girlfriend since he was 15 years old, did the shopping in their hometown of Scottsdale, Ariz., and knew all of his favorites dating back to their teens.

**More about this basket:** "I felt like the Easter Bunny when I came off the plane with all this stuff," says Miller (above), an Arizona State graduate who works for an immigration law practice in Arizona and plans to go to law school.... The card game, UNO, would have made the basket had it not been sold out.... Peter used to carry around a roll of Lifesavers every day when he was in high school.

#### **Left fielder Vernon Wells' Favorites Basket**

**Starting bid:** \$250

Vernon Wells and his wife, Charlene, combined the three-time All-Star's love of Mexican cooking and cuisine, good coffee, sweet desserts, golf, the NFL and his faith for this massive basket of goodies.

#### **Contents:**

**Memorabilia:** Vernon Wells autographed a jersey, a baseball, a pair of batting gloves and a game-used cleat.

**He resides in Southlake, Texas during the offseason:** A Sean Foley Instructional Golf Blu-ray disc and a Dallas Cowboys baseball cap show Vernon's outside-of-baseball sports pursuits.

**Having Mexican tonight?** The basket includes the Williams Sonoma Mexican cookbook, actress Evan Longoria's "Eva's Kitchen" cookbook, three types of gourmet salsa, an avocado slider and two margarita glasses.

**After dinner:** Enjoy making Vernon's favorite dessert, red velvet cake, with the Sprinkles Red Velvet cupcake mix, and coffee with a Starbucks gift card, mug and insulated tumbler.

**His favorite drama:** The whodunit with a twist, "Usual Suspects," makes the cut on DVD.

**Special addition:** Vernon included a leather-bound copy of his daily devotional book, "Jesus Calling," written by Sarah Young.

Vernon Wells and his wife, Charlene, combined the three-time All-Star's love of Mexican cooking and cuisine, good coffee, sweet desserts, golf, the NFL and his faith for this massive basket of goodies.

**More about this basket:** Charlene says that their family has season tickets to watch the Dallas Cowboys, Vernon's favorite NFL team and the team on the only baseball cap in the basket....The instructional golf video in the basket was made by the production company Vernon co-owns with the golf instructor, Sean Foley, who has been Tiger Woods' swing coach.

*From OCREgister.com*

## **Angel Stadium workers get raise, avert strike**

**Ratified contract includes 25 cents raise this year for ushers, janitors, ticket takers and ticket sellers.**

**By Eric Carpenter**

ANAHEIM – Angel Stadium ushers, janitors, ticket sellers and ticket takers voted late Tuesday to ratify a new contract with the Angels, averting a strike in the last month of the regular season.

Negotiators for Service Employees International Union, which represents 400 stadium employees, announced last week that they had reached a tentative deal with the ball club after months of stalled negotiations and a threatened strike. But that deal still needed to be ratified by members.

The actual vote was not released.

The deal includes an immediate 25-cents-an-hour increase in wages and keeps bonuses for playoff and World Series games, union officials said. There will be another 25-cent raise, for the 2013 season, and a 30-cent increase for the 2014 season.

Also, employees had expressed concern about management not relying on seniority to determine scheduling. Union officials said that John Carpino, president of Angels Baseball, has now made a promise – with a federal mediator present – that the team would engage in a process to ensure scheduling is fair for employees with seniority.

In many cases, the part-time jobs are second jobs for younger workers or supplement incomes for retired employees.

Employees had argued that while the Angels continue to be one of Major League Baseball's most successful franchises, they pay their employees lower hourly wages than any other club in California – including the Giants, A's, Padres and Dodgers.

Janitors at Angel Stadium now make \$11.97 with the immediate raise; in San Francisco, janitors make \$15.15, and in Oakland: \$17.50.

Still, it's better than the wage freeze the Angels were originally proposing, union officials said.

“The worker-elected bargaining committee said that they felt that management finally showed some respect for the years of hard work that many stadium workers had put in,” union spokesman Mike Chavez said in a statement.

A second union, representing food workers at Angel Stadium, was still negotiating for a contract with Aramark, which handles food and beverage service at the stadium.

The Angels, on a road trip, return to the stadium on Sept. 23, ending the regular season there on Sept. 28.

*From OCREgister.com Angels blog*

## **Kendrick, Izturis lift Angels to 6-3 win**

**By Bill Plunkett**

The Angels finally scored a runner from third base with less than two outs Tuesday and the run broke a tie on their way to a 6-3 victory over the Oakland A's.

The Rangers also won Tuesday, leaving the Angels three games out with 14 games to play.



Angels starter Jerome Williams stumbled for the first time since joining the Angels rotation, lasting just 4 1/3 innings Tuesday. He allowed seven hits and walked five in that time but somehow escaped with a 3-3 tie.

The Angels broke that tie in the seventh inning when Maicer Izturis came up with runners on second and third and one out. Six times in the previous two games (losses to the Yankees and A's) the Angels had gotten a runner to third base with less than two outs but failed to get him home.

This time, Izturis hit a ground ball to shortstop Cliff Pennington with the infield in. The 'contact play' was on and Erick Aybar took off from third base, scoring when Pennington's throw home was way off the mark.

That lead was enough until Howie Kendrick widened the margin with his second two-run home run of the game in the ninth inning.

After Williams' rough start, four Angels relievers — Hisanori Takahashi, Bobby Cassevah, Scott Downs and Jordan Walden — combined to hold the A's to only two hits over the final 4 2/3 innings.

[Click here](#) for Tuesday's notebook with more on Mike Trout's slump and the Angels' starting rotation plans.

– *Reporting from Oakland.*

*From OCREgister.com Angels blog*

## **Arkansas Travelers lose game one of championship series, feel like crying**

**By Sam Miller**

Matt Shoemaker pitched eight innings, struck out 10, walked one, and left with a 4-1 lead in the first game of the Texas League championship series. But the Travs' bullpen, excellent all year, melted down in the ninth, and Arkansas fell behind in the series.

David Carpenter entered the game having never allowed a run as a Traveler, 19 consecutive scoreless appearances since his promotion from Inland Empire (where he had a 0.93 ERA). But he hit the first batter he faced and allowed a home run to Jaff Decker next. He walked the third batter he faced and that was it. Robert Fish came in, with a 3.26 ERA for the year and more than 12 Ks per nine innings. He got one out on a grounder, then gave up the line drive single that tied the game. Fish out, Steven Geltz in. Geltz had a 3.09 ERA for the year, and 13 Ks per nine, and just 14 walks for the entire season. He walked the first man he faced, then walked the second, then walked the third, forcing in the winning run on a walk-off walk.

Matt Long had three hits and scored twice. Roberto Lopez homered. They'll try to even the series tonight, with Chris Scholl pitching.

*From SGVTribune.com*

## **Aybar supplies speed, Kendrick has the power in Angels victory**

**By Gideon Rubin**

Infielders serve as catalysts in Halos' victory.

OAKLAND - With the Angels' offense hitting a wall at the most inopportune of times, Erick Aybar's feet and Howie Kendrick's power came to the rescue.

Aybar's speed sparked two pivotal rallies and Kendrick homered twice as the Angels survived a shaky start from Jerome Williams to defeat the A's 6-3 in front of 13,212 at Oakland Coliseum on Tuesday in a game they needed to win to keep pace with American League West-leading Texas in baseball's most competitive race.

Texas, which led the Angels by three games going into Tuesday, defeated Cleveland 10-4.

"Great game from Howie tonight," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "He gave us a big boost with both his home runs. We definitely need some guys to start moving forward and carrying the momentum for us in these last couple of weeks, and hopefully Howie's going to be one of those guys who's in that group.

"Good night for him, and we need some other guys to start following suit so we can get a little more momentum going."

Aybar got the momentum started by forcing the issue with some aggressive baserunning in a three-run third.

After leading off the inning with a double to right, Aybar took third on Bourjos' foul pop-up that Oakland first baseman Brandon Allen fielded just in front of the fence. He came all the way around to score on the play when Allen overthrew third baseman Scott Sizemore.

Bourjos' pop-up was the 14th consecutive hitless at-bat with runners in scoring position dating to Sunday. The Angels were hitless in their first five at-bats with runners in scoring position Tuesday, a streak that ended when Hank Conger singled in Aybar.

Kendrick hit a two-run homer in the third that made it 3-0.

The A's closed to within 3-2 in a third inning that could have been much worse from an Angels standpoint. Williams allowed three walks, two hits, and committed an error. The A's had the bases loaded with no outs and two runs already in when Williams struck out Scott Sizemore and then got Ryan Sweeney to ground into an inning-ending double play.

The Angels turned four double plays on the night, of which shortstop Aybar was involved in three.

His speed again was a factor in what turned out to be a decisive seventh. He led off with a single, took second on Bourjos' sacrifice, stole third and scored on Izturis' grounder to shortstop with a drawn-in infield.

"(Williams') stuff was good, it's just tough to play when you're always 1-0, 3-1 and that's where he was tonight," Scioscia said.

The Angels stretched their lead to 6-3 on Kendrick's second homer of the night, a two-run shot to left off Michael Wuertz.

Jordan Walden, who was among four relievers who pitched Tuesday, earned his 30th save with a scoreless ninth. But it was Angels reliever Hisanori Takahashi who did the real heavy lifting.

Takashi (4-3) inherited a one-out, second-and-third situation when he relieved Williams in the fifth and got Sweeney to fly out to left. Then after walking switch-hitter Kurt Suzuki, he got Allen to hit an inning-ending fielder's choice.

"Those guys minimized some damage," Scioscia said. "There were a lot of baserunners out there on that field for Oakland ... and holding them to three runs with that many baserunners showed that our bullpen made pitches."

The Angels' inability to hit with runners in scoring position, an area they struggled with earlier this season, appears to have resurfaced in recent days. They were 2 for 11 in that department Tuesday and are 2 for 24 in their last three games.

*From Angels.com*

## **Kendrick homers twice as Angels keep pace**

**By Lyle Spencer**

OAKLAND -- Normally a second baseman, and one of the best, Howard Kendrick moved over to first on Tuesday night to give Mark Trumbo a night off, with Maicer Izturis sliding in at second.

The right side of the Angels' infield did everything right, providing defense, offense and raw power.

"I guess I hit like Trumbo," Kendrick said through a wide grin, having torched the A's with a pair of two-run homers in a 6-3 victory that kept the Angels three games behind Texas in the American League West race.

Looking for an elixir after a pair of demoralizing losses, the Angels found it from Kendrick and an infield defense anchored by Izturis that turned four double plays to frustrate the A's.

"Accidents, a couple of mistakes out over the plate," Kendrick said, referring to homers 17 and 18 against starter Guillermo Moscoso in the third inning and reliever Michael Wuertz in the ninth to seal it. "All I was trying to do was put a good swing on the ball.

"We had some tough losses, but at the same time, we're a good team. We have a lot of guys here who have battled. Jerome [Williams] had a tough start, but the bullpen came in and did a great job. [Hisanori] Takahashi has been great all year, then [Bobby] Cassevah, [Scott] Downs and [Jordan] Walden.

"Those guys all came through, and we made some plays behind them."

Patching together a run in the seventh inning with Erick Aybar as the catalyst, the Angels had a one-run lead in the ninth when Peter Bourjos dropped a leadoff bunt against Wuertz, stole second, took third on Jeff Mathis' bunt and trotted home when Kendrick turned on a pitch and unloaded his telling blow to left-center.

It was his second multi-homer game of the year and fourth of his career.

Aybar, who jump-started the three-run third inning, singled leading off the seventh and scored on Izturis' fielder's-choice grounder after a sacrifice by Bourjos and Hank Conger's single.

The win went to Takahashi, who replaced a wobbly Williams with one out in the fifth and restored order after the A's had tied it. Takahashi is 4-3. Walden nailed down his 30th save with a dominant ninth.

Fautino De Los Santos, the third A's pitcher, absorbed the loss. He is 2-2.

Neither Williams nor Moscoso could make it through the fifth inning, as both starters ran up high pitch counts.

"Walk guys, you get killed," said Williams, who walked five -- two more than he had in 22 innings of his first three starts for the Angels, all wins. "Fortunately, I got those two double plays. Every time I throw that sinker, I have confidence they'll make the play."

Izturis was involved in all four double plays turned by the Angels, starting the first two behind Williams.

Moscoso retired the first six Angels before Aybar doubled leading off the third, scoring when first baseman Brandon Allen threw wildly past third for an error when Aybar advanced on a foul popout by Bourjos.

After Izturis singled with two outs, Kendrick launched his first homer to center for a three-run lead. Kendrick has a shot at doubling his previous career high of 10 homers in a season.

Williams, who left two men stranded after singles in the first, walked No. 9 hitter Michael Taylor leading off the third and sent him to second with an errant pickoff throw. Jemile Weeks cracked an RBI double to center.

An infield hit by Cliff Pennington and consecutive walks by Hideki Matsui and Josh Willingham forced home a run. Williams controlled the damage by striking out Scott Sizemore and getting Ryan Sweeney to bounce into a double play.

Another leadoff walk, to Pennington, was costly in the fifth. Matsui also walked, reaching for the third time, and when Torii Hunter was unable to glove Willingham's fly ball to shallow left, the A's had tied it and had runners at second and third.

Williams struck out Sizemore but was replaced by the southpaw Takahashi with Sweeney, a left-handed hitter, coming up. Sweeney flied out to shallow left, the runners holding. After Kurt Suzuki was walked intentionally, Allen rolled out to Kendrick at first.

"We had way too many opportunities to blow that game open, and we didn't come through with runners in scoring position," A's manager Bob Melvin said. "Guys that normally come through for us didn't, and on top of that, we hit into double plays. It was a rough night for us offensively when we had runners on."

The Angels turned their third double play of the night in the seventh behind Cassevah. Downs worked the eighth, inducing a fourth double-play grounder.

"They had a lot of baserunners with seven walks and eight hits," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "Holding them to three runs with all those baserunners tells you our bullpen did the job."

"Our whole defense has been good all year. The infield defense has been not only solid. It has range and has been spectacular at times. Turning double plays ... it's all part of what we need to do to support our pitchers."

Getting loud noises from sources such as Kendrick is another part of the plan with two weeks left in the stretch run.

"Great game by Howie tonight, and we needed it on the offensive side," Scioscia said. "He gave us a big boost with both his home runs. We definitely need some guys to move forward and carry the momentum for the next couple of weeks, and we hope Howie's one of the guys in that group."

*From Angels.com*

## **Angels hope to gain ground behind Weaver**

**By Quinn Roberts**

In a place they've had little success this season, the Angels will send ace Jered Weaver to the hill Wednesday at Oakland Coliseum just when they need him the most.

Holding a 6-12 record against the A's in their last 18 games in Oakland, Los Angeles will look to Weaver to not only win the rubber match of the three-game set, but keep the team in the hunt for a playoff spot.

After a 6-3 win Tuesday, the Angels still trail the Rangers by three games in the American League West.

The team hopes Weaver can find the same magic that allowed him to deliver one of his finest performances of the season his last time out against the Yankees.

Surrendering just one run on three hits to New York, the right-hander tossed eight dominant innings, walking two and striking out 11 in a no-decision.

"We're very comfortable he's got a lot of gas left in his tank," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said of Weaver, who is 10 innings away from the career-high 224 1/3 he established last season.

"He had an extra day [of rest between starts] and rebounded well," Scioscia said. "He threw the ball as we expected down the stretch. It was a heckuva game he pitched."

Depending on how Weaver does Wednesday will also determine if Scioscia will move the Angels' ace up on three days' rest. That would come Sunday in Baltimore so he can start the series season finale against the Rangers.

"I don't think we'd want to do it after a 130-pitch outing," Scioscia said. "Your preference would be as early as possible, but you can do it at the end [of the season], too."

Countering Weaver for the A's will be right-hander Rich Harden.

Averaging 10.82 strikeouts per nine innings this season, Harden holds the third-best mark in the AL among pitchers with 60 or more innings.

Tallying 10 in his last start against the Royals, Harden (4-2, 4.74 ERA) took a no-decision after he surrendered four runs in five innings.

"He was throwing 95 miles per hour and a funky, nasty changeup that doesn't fade, it was cutting," Royals manager Ned Yost said. "Guys were saying, 'Is that a slider or is that a changeup?' But he was punching us out left and right on it. He caught us in between -- it was hard, then soft, and it was hard to gauge it."

In his only other start against the Halos this season, he allowed three runs on four hits, while striking out nine in seven innings for a no-decision.

### **Angels: Success when big three on mound**

The Halos are 55-37 in games started by Weaver, Dan Haren and Ervin Santana. However, the club is just 26-30 in games started by others.

As a unit, the starting rotation has held opponents to one run or fewer 39 times, second-most in the Majors.

### **A's: Crisp likely to return this season**

Coco Crisp was in uniform on the field during Tuesday's batting practice, marking a positive sign for the injured A's outfielder.

Crisp's MRI on his sore right ankle came out negative, meaning there's a good chance he'll return by season's end.

"He's pretty tough and can play with some pain, so I don't rule anything out," manager Bob Melvin said. "I definitely believe he'll be playing here, I just don't know which day. I don't want to throw a date out there and put pressure on him."

- One day after being hit in the left temple by a line drive off the bat of Kurt Suzuki during batting practice, closer Andrew Bailey was available for Tuesday's game with the Angels after undergoing X-rays that proved negative, however he did not pitch.

### **Worth noting**

- The Angels are 20-10 in games Weaver starts.
- The Angels are 12-3 in their last 15 home games but just 7-12 in their last 19 road affairs.
- When opponents score first, the A's are 22-62 this season.

*From Angels.com*

## **More than a mentor, Torii a Clemente nominee**

### **Charitable endeavors have Halos outfielder up for annual award**

**By Lyle Spencer**

ANAHEIM -- Now that he's a right fielder, having moved from center late last season to accommodate the arrival of Peter Bourjos, the Angels' Torii Hunter feels an even closer kinship to the late, great Roberto Clemente.

"Sometimes I'll make a strong throw," said Hunter, a nine-time Rawlings American League Gold Glove Award winner, "and I'll think, 'Clemente used to do this.'"

"Roberto Clemente was one of the greatest of all time. I've been lucky to have been nominated for the award in his name a number of times. It's one of the best honors a player can receive."

Hunter is the Angels' 2011 nominee for the **Roberto Clemente Award**, presented annually in the Hall of Famer's name for humanitarian contributions. His teammates will tell you there could be no better candidate than Hunter in their sport.

"Torii could run for mayor here," said Vernon Wells, a multiple Clemente Award nominee and team winner during his days in Toronto. "He takes the time for anyone and everyone and is genuinely involved in every conversation."

"The thing with Torii is that when you come from where he grew up [in Pine Bluff, Ark.], you have a very real perspective on the challenges involved. A lot of the kids he can help now, he feels for them with every fiber of his being. He knows the hardships that go with living in certain areas."

Hunter rose from difficult circumstances in his hometown to become a major player on and off the field. He has used those early life experiences to inspire young players throughout the game, such as young Angels outfielder Jeremy Moore.

"We have similar backgrounds," Moore said. "Torii took a personal interest in me and has taken me into his home, taken me to a Super Bowl, showed me things I never could have imagined."

"He came to [Class A Advanced] Rancho Cucamonga in 2009 on a rehab assignment and changed my career around. I was just kind of drifting, without much direction. He made me realize what I was capable of doing. He gave me real hope -- and the direction I'd been lacking. He means the world to me."

Wells, who spends his offseasons near Hunter in the Dallas area, has taken part in considerable charity work with Hunter over the years.

"We're put in a position to make an imprint on a lot of lives off the field, whether it's with money, our name, whatever forum we have as players to change lives," Wells said. "The good thing is the number is growing of players going out and doing things -- and Torii has always been at the forefront."

All 30 nominees have immersed themselves in the type of humanitarian and community efforts that distinguished Clemente, a life that ended at age 38 on New Year's Eve 1972, when the plane he was using to deliver aid to Nicaraguan earthquake victims crashed.

Fans will once again have the opportunity to participate in the selection of the national winner. They can cast votes for any of the 30 club nominees through Oct. 9.

The fan-ballot winner will be tallied as one vote among those cast by a special selection panel of baseball dignitaries and media members. The panel includes Commissioner Bud Selig and Vera Clemente, widow of the Hall of Fame right fielder.

Voting fans will also be automatically registered for a chance to win a trip for four to the 2011 World Series to see the national winner presented with the Clemente Award.

Hunter has been active in the community throughout his career, with the Twins and the Angels.

His primary charitable work is his own "Torii Hunter Project," founded in January 2006. It is a comprehensive, long-term effort to impact youth in need in various parts of the United States. The project has four areas of focus related to youth: sports, community, education and wellness.

Hunter and his wife, Katrina, have contributed more than \$1 million to the project and have formed partnerships to fund efforts in the Torii Hunter Project. These efforts include youth athletic facilities in Southern California and Pine Bluff, assistance for children in need, homeless families, children with terminal illnesses and other community-based and wellness support.

In Las Vegas in 2008, alongside tennis great Andre Agassi, Hunter unveiled the "Heart of a Champion" program designed to assist the development of more than 50,000 middle- and junior-high-school students in Anaheim, Minneapolis and Pine Bluff. The program also provides college scholarships to 100 students from Anaheim, Pine Bluff and Las Vegas over the next four years.

Hunter has received the Marvin Miller Man of the Year Award presented by the MLB Players Association and MLB's prestigious Branch Rickey Award for his tireless efforts off the field.

*From Angels.com*

## **Angels welcome Royals for 2012 opener**

**By Lyle Spencer**

The Angels will launch the 2012 season at home on Friday, April 6, against the Kansas City Royals, according to the schedule released by Major League Baseball on Wednesday.

The Angels' season wraps up on the road with a three-game series in Texas and another in Seattle. Following their opening series against the Royals, the Angels will hit the road for three games with Minnesota and three with the Yankees, the first of two trips to the Bronx.

The Angels will face American League West-rival Texas for the first time in a three-game series opening on May 11 in Arlington, following a three-game series in Minnesota.

Oakland makes an early appearance for a four-game AL West series in Anaheim starting April 16. Seattle's first Angel Stadium visit comes from June 4-6.

Interleague Play in 2012 for manager Mike Scioscia's troupe will feature National League West teams. The Angels initiate the action in San Diego against manager Bud Black's Padres in a three-game series starting on May 18.

Following that series, the Angels hit the road for AL West destinations Oakland and Seattle. Improving their play inside the division will be a major focus for Scioscia and Co. after experiencing difficulties with the A's, especially, and also the Rangers this season.

The Yankees pay their lone visit to Angel Stadium for a three-game series opening on May 28. That will be followed by three games against Texas, the Rangers' first trip to Anaheim.

A six-game trip will pick up Interleague Play on June 8 with a three-game series at Coors Field in Denver against the Rockies. The Angels then will get their first look at their traditional rivals, the Dodgers, at Dodger Stadium starting on June 11.

The D-backs will visit Angel Stadium on June 15 for three games, followed by the Giants for a three-game set. The Angels conclude Interleague Play with the Dodgers at Angel Stadium in a three-game set June 22-24.

The Angels have a history of flourishing in Interleague Play with a 152-124 record. They were 13-5 this season while facing the NL East and the Dodgers.

The longest homestand of the season will be a 10-game stretch from Aug. 10-19, bringing Seattle, Cleveland and Tampa Bay to Southern California. It will be a four-game series with the Rays, who also come to Anaheim in July.

The Angels will have home-and-home series against Boston in August. In a challenging trip, the Halos visit Fenway Park for three games starting Aug. 21 followed by three games against the Tigers at Comerica Park.

Returning home, they'll face Boston three more times starting on Aug. 28.

In contrast to this season, with a final road trip taking them to Baltimore and Toronto, the Angels will not travel to face clubs outside the AL West next September. Series against the Tigers (Sept. 7-9) and the White Sox (Sept. 21-23) will be staged at Angel Stadium.

*From ESPN.com*

### **Howie Kendrick's HRs help Halos keep up with Rangers**

OAKLAND, Calif. -- Erick Aybar's defense, speed and quick decision-making gave the Angels a rare late lead at the Oakland Coliseum. Howie Kendrick's power made it stand up.

Aybar scored the go-ahead run on a wild throw home in the seventh inning and Kendrick homered twice, including a two-run insurance blast in the ninth, to lift Los Angeles to a 6-3 win over the Athletics on Tuesday night.

"We need contributions from a lot of guys and we need guys to start producing the way they can," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "Howie gave us a big boost with both his home runs. We need some other guys to start following suit and we can get a little more momentum going."

The Angels can't afford many hiccups down the stretch.

Los Angeles remains three games behind division-leading Texas, which beat Cleveland earlier in the day. The Angels and Rangers finish the regular season with a three-game series in Anaheim.

Maicer Izturis added two hits and an RBI and Aybar also had two hits for the Angels, who snapped a two-game losing streak.

Aybar, batting .476 over his last six games, singled leading off the seventh and was sacrificed to second. Hank Conger's hit moved Aybar to third before Izturis hit a grounder off Fautino De Los Santos (2-2) to shortstop Cliff Pennington. Aybar broke for home on the play and made it safely when Pennington's throw was wide of the plate.



"We definitely need some guys to start moving forward and carrying some momentum for us in these last couple weeks," Scioscia said. "We've seen glimpses of it ... but right now there's a finite amount of games (left) and there's a premium on us scoring the runs that are going to let us get games under our control."

Hisanori Takahashi (4-3), the first of four Los Angeles relievers used in the game, pitched 1 2/3 innings for the win while rookie Jordan Walden worked the ninth for his 30th save.

The Angels combined for seven walks but matched their season high of four double plays to limit the damage and win for only the third time in their last 13 games at the Coliseum.

It was also Los Angeles' sixth victory on the road since Aug. 1.

Kendrick hit a two-run home run in the third off starter Guillermo Moscoso, then added another two-run blast in the ninth.

"Accidents," Kendrick said. "A couple mistakes out over the plate. All I was trying to do was put a good swing on it."

Josh Willingham doubled and drove in two runs for the A's, who had won five of six against their AL West rivals before Tuesday's loss.

The A's left the bases loaded in the fifth and stranded eight runners overall.

"We had way too many opportunities to blow that game open and we didn't come through with runners in scoring position," Oakland manager Bob Melvin said. "Guys that normally come through for us didn't, and on top of that we hit into double plays. It was a rough night for us offensively."

Neither starter was around for the decision.

Moscoso carried a no-hitter into the eighth inning of his previous start against Kansas City on Sept. 7 and retired the first six Angels before Aybar's double in the third.

Peter Bourjos followed with a foul pop-up near the Angels bullpen that first baseman Brandon Allen chased down. Aybar wisely tagged up at second and beat Allen's throw to third, then scored when the ball skipped past Oakland third baseman Scott Sizemore and Moscoso backing up on the play.

Izturis singled to keep the inning going, and Kendrick capped it with his 17th home run of the season to give the Angels a 3-0 lead.

Angels' right-hander Jerome Williams had control problems in the bottom of the frame and nearly gave it all back.

A former first-round pick of the San Francisco Giants, Williams gave up an RBI double to Jemile Weeks and a bases-loaded walk to Willingham -- one of three free passes he issued in the inning.

Williams continued to struggle, giving up back-to-back walks in the fifth. Willingham then doubled in front of diving right fielder Torii Hunter, scoring Pennington with the tying run.

Kendrick's second home run came off reliever Michael Wuertz. The Angels slugger, who has four multi-home run games in his career, has 18 homers this season.

#### Game notes

Oakland CF Coco Crisp had an MRI on his sore right foot and Melvin said he expects Crisp to play again this season. ... Scioscia kept rookie 1B Mark Trumbo out of the lineup because he felt the rookie might be pressing a little. "This is a good time for him to catch his breath and hopefully finish strong," Scioscia said. "The last 10 at-bats you're seeing a little tighter grip on the bat. To reach our goal we need him to get back to where he could be. ... RHP Jered Weaver, second to Detroit's Justin Verlander for lowest ERA in the AL, pitches for the Angels on Wednesday. Weaver (16-7) has a three-game losing streak on the road. ... RHP

Rich Harden (4-2), who last beat Los Angeles more than a year ago, goes for Oakland. ... Oakland Raiders defensive lineman Richard Seymour threw out the first pitch.

*From ESPNLosAngeles.com*

## **Angels, nearly lulled to sleep, awoken**

**By Mark Saxon**

OAKLAND -- **Jerome Williams** pitched in front of bigger crowds in Taiwan. He probably pitched in front of bigger crowds in independent ball.

The Angels are in the heat of the only meaningful division race in baseball, but the past two games here have had all the ambience of intrasquad games on a back field, with tiny crowds scattered throughout a massive, football-configured stadium. For a while, the Angels seemed to be falling under the lull of the collective ennui, with starting pitchers unable to throw strikes and hitters flailing away in the clutch.

"Sometimes, it can be tough. You can hear every guy, every person's voice in the crowd," **Howie Kendrick** said. "But, at the same time, they've got fans supporting them, that's baseball, we love the game and we've got to come out focused on playing and winning."

In the end, the Angels' beleaguered bullpen provided a little structure and Kendrick provided about all the offense the Angels were going to get with two two-run home runs in a 6-3 win over the Oakland A's Tuesday night. This team certainly isn't looking like it's primed for a big finish, but stranger things have happened.

Manager **Mike Scioscia** is just hoping for a little offensive continuity. It looked like the Angels might have been finally hitting their stride, but the last couple of weeks have been largely halting and sputtering on the offensive side. Unlike in previous seasons, when the Angels had hitters like **Vladimir Guerrero**, **Tim Salmon** or **Troy Glaus**, it's going to have to be a collective effort.

Unless, of course, Kendrick can keep up this power pace. Before this season, he had never hit more than 10 home runs in a season. Tuesday, he hit his 17th and 18th home runs. They've come in bunches, specifically early in the season and, now, late.

"It was a good night for him and we need some other guys to start following suit and we can get a little more momentum going," Scioscia said. "We need contributions from a lot of guys."

Home plate umpire **Gary Cederstrom**, as usual, had a teeny strike zone and it showed. The Angels issued seven walks, five by Williams. He's a control guy with a good sinker and cutter. He doesn't have strikeout stuff, so the last thing he wants to do is issue walks.

"You walk guys, you get killed," Williams said. "That's not my game."

*From ESPNLosAngeles.com*

## **Angels 6, A's 3: Three Up, Three Down**

**By Mark Saxon**

OAKLAND -- The Angels won a meandering, sloppy game in Oakland to keep their pennant hopes robust.

Howie Kendrick mashed two home runs to power the Angels to a 6-3 win that kept them three games behind the first-place Texas Rangers with 14 games left.

### **The Good:**

**Howie's hammer.** Most people expected **Kendrick** to hit for high batting averages, because that's what he has always done. If this keeps up, they'll start calling him a power hitter. In an era when power numbers have been declining, Kendrick has a chance to double his career best in home runs (He needs two more). He mashed his 17th, a two-run shot, in the third inning, and his 18th in the ninth. Kendrick also has set a career high with 79 runs scored, an underrated stat.

**Walden's work.** Rookie closer **Jordan Walden** has been far from perfect, but he filled a tough role at a tender age and held up better than most young guys do. Walden recorded his 30th save with a perfect ninth inning, becoming the fifth rookie closer since 2000 to reach that mark. The others are **Neftali Feliz**, **Craig Kimbrel**, **Kazuhiko Sasaki** and **Jonathan Papelbon**. Judging by that list, Walden could be a good one.

**Middle worth.** The middle part of the Angels' bullpen has been soft all year, often turning narrow deficits into blowouts or narrow leads into losses. Tuesday these guys finally stood their ground. **Hisanori Takahashi** joined the guys named above to shut Oakland down after Williams struggled with command. Takahashi bailed Williams out of a two-one, one-out jam and added a scoreless sixth.

### **The Bad:**

**Nibbling.** The pace of this game was akin to a Yankees-Red Sox game, without the heated rivalry or big crowds. It seemed as if every pitcher who entered the game insisted on pitching more slowly than the last. The Angels walked seven batters, part of the problem, and A's starter **Guillermo Moscoso** worked as if he was hoping to earn overtime pay.

**Reality check.** The **Williams** reclamation story was beginning to create some buzz around the Angels, for good reason. After four years out of the majors, Williams had energized the sagging back end of the Angels' rotation with three solid starts. His run finally hit a little snag against Oakland's patient lineup. Williams allowed seven hits and five walks in 4 1/3 innings, forcing the bullpen into heavy duty.

**Pressure check.** Manager **Mike Scioscia** benched **Mark Trumbo** for Tuesday's game because he thought the rookie slugger was gripping the bat a little too tightly in recent at-bats. But Trumbo's not alone. The Angels haven't been producing lately in the clutch, something that has plagued them periodically. They went 2-for-11 with runners in scoring position.

*From ESPNLosAngeles.com*

## **Fernando Rodney not happy in role**

**By Mark Saxon**

OAKLAND -- What happened to **Fernando Rodney**, the Angels reliever who has -- step by step -- sunk as far as a reliever can go while still retaining a uniform?

He began this season as the Angels closer, was demoted after four outings to the setup man and, now, struggles to get outs in blowouts. He has walked 28 batters in 32 innings, the highest pace of his career.

According to Rodney, losing the faith of manager **Mike Scioscia** and getting sporadic work have affected his performance. He said he never understood why he was replaced by **Jordan Walden** as the closer so early in the season.

"Four games ... In 162 games, that's not a lot," Rodney said. "Look around baseball. A lot of teams have problems with their closers. St. Louis, Kansas City, the Chicago White Sox. They get more chances. I've walked too many guys, but I know I can do my job. I feel good."

Rodney is 3-5 with a 4.50 ERA. Opponents have batted just .224 against him, but the high walk totals and issues in high-leverage situations cost him Scioscia's trust.

"His fastball command has been poor, not just with location but even getting it over the plate," Scioscia said. "He's throwing it very hard. At times, he's maybe tried to overthrow it a little bit. Fernando's stuff is still there. It's just a matter of getting it over the plate early enough to use all his pitches.

"We certainly haven't given up on him, but right now, you have to hold leads and we've been going with **Bobby [Cassevah]**, **Scott [Downs]** and Jordan, because their production is much better."

Rodney, a free agent after this season, said he would like to go somewhere he can get more regular work. He has pitched just twice this month, including Monday night when he had struggle mopping up an inning with the Angels trailing 6-2.

"I'm a relief pitcher. My whole career, I'm pitching every day or every two or three days," Rodney said. "I can't get comfortable."

*From FoxSports.com*

## **Angels-Athletics Preview**

The next two weeks will determine if the **Los Angeles Angels** can close the gap in the AL West race and return to the postseason.

Sending **Jered Weaver** to the mound more often may improve their chances.

Weaver looks to set a career high in wins and continue his recent dominance of the **Oakland Athletics** as the visiting Angels go for a second consecutive win in the finale of this three-game set Wednesday.

Los Angeles (81-67) is second in the AL West, three games back of first-place Texas with 14 remaining. The rivals conclude the regular season with a three-game set in Anaheim in two weeks that could determine the division champion.

The Angels missed the playoffs last year after winning the previous three West titles, and manager Mike Scioscia is preparing to use Weaver (16-7, 2.44 ERA) on three days' rest to keep that from happening again.

"He will definitely come back on three days at some point," Scioscia told the team's official website.

This time, Weaver is getting the ball on normal rest, and he's coming off a dazzling effort despite not getting a decision in Friday's 2-1 win over New York. The right-hander struck out 11 while yielding one run and three hits over eight innings.

For Weaver, it was a vastly improved effort after he'd split his previous two starts while surrendering 13 runs in 11 innings.

"It was good to be able to bounce back against a lineup like that," Weaver said. "Those guys can hit a bunch of homers and put some balls in play, so to have a good one like this brought the confidence level back up."

Confidence shouldn't be a problem for the right-hander in this matchup, as he's 2-0 with a 1.19 ERA in three meetings with the A's (67-81) this year. He held them to two runs in 6 2-3 innings of a 4-2 win at Oakland on July 16 after losing all three of his visits there in 2010.

Another win Wednesday would give Weaver a career high of 17.

**Howie Kendrick** connected for two homers and four RBIs in Tuesday's 6-3 victory as the Angels avoided a three-game losing streak. Three of Kendrick's last five hits have left the park.

"We need contributions from a lot of guys and we need guys to start producing the way they can," Scioscia said. "Howie gave us a big boost with both his home runs (Tuesday). We need some other guys to start following suit and we can get a little more momentum going."

**Maicer Izturis** is doing his part, hitting .356 with 10 doubles over his last 17 games. He has three hits in this series, including two hits and an RBI on Tuesday.

Another loss will assure Oakland of its fourth losing season in five years.

**Rich Harden** (4-2, 4.74) will try to delay that fate for one game as he takes the mound for the series finale.

The right-hander has a bloated 7.63 ERA but no decisions over his last three starts. He last pitched in an 11-6 loss to Kansas City on Sept. 5, striking out 10 in five innings but also giving up four runs and eight hits.

Harden has beaten the Angels more than any other club, going 6-3 with a 3.77 ERA in 16 career meetings.

*From USAToday.com*

## **Los Angeles Angels Team Report**

### **INSIDE PITCH**

The Angels have stayed in the AL West race deep into September with the youngest roster in Mike Scioscia's tenure as manager. But some of the young players have begun to sag down the stretch.

Rookies Mark Trumbo and Mike Trout were not in the starting lineup Tuesday after going a combined 0-for-8 with six strikeouts in Monday's loss to the A's.

Trout has just two hits in his past 25 at-bats. Trumbo is hitless in five at-bats with runners on base in his past two games, including two at-bats with a runner on third base and less than two outs when he failed to bring in the run.

"It's a good time for him to catch his breath, and hopefully he'll finish strong," manager Mike Scioscia said of giving Trumbo the day off Tuesday during the Angels' 6-3 win at Oakland. "His last 10 at-bats, I think we're seeing a little tighter grip on the bat."

The danger of young players in their first pennant race starting to feel the pressure is something the Angels have reason to be concerned about down the stretch.

"They're young guys," veteran outfielder Torii Hunter said. "They've never been to the postseason, never been in a playoff race. The league is going to make adjustments, especially during crunch time like this. Now, they have to make adjustments. Simplify things. In a pennant race, you don't try to do too much, just simplify."

"Easier said than done."

## NOTES, QUOTES

—RHP Jordan Walden retired the A's in order in the ninth inning of Tuesday's 6-3 victory to earn his 30th save of the season. He had already set the franchise rookie record for saves and is now one of only five rookies to have 30-save seasons since 2000. The others are Neftali Feliz, Craig Kimbrel, Jonathan Papelbon and Kaz Sasaki.

—INF Howie Kendrick made his first start at first base since July 3 and went 2-for-5 with a pair of two-run home runs Tuesday. Kendrick has a career-high 18 home runs this season (his previous best was 10) and a .475 slugging percentage that would also be a career high.

—RF Torii Hunter hit his 20th home run of the season over the weekend. It is the fourth consecutive season with the Angels that he has hit at least 20 home runs, making him the eighth player in franchise history to have such a streak. Tim Salmon holds the franchise record with six consecutive 20-homer seasons (1993-98).

—RHP Jered Weaver will start Wednesday's series finale in Oakland. It looks increasingly likely that Weaver will then start on three days' rest Sunday in Baltimore. That would put Weaver on track to start twice on the Angels' season-ending homestand (including the season finale against the Rangers). Weaver is 8-1 with a 1.81 ERA in 14 starts at Angel Stadium this season.

—RHP Jerome Williams had his first poor start as an Angel, lasting just 4 1/3 innings and walking five. He had walked only four in his first 25 2/3 innings with the Angels. However, he got double plays in the third and fourth innings to get out of trouble, and he allowed just three runs, leaving with the game tied.

**BY THE NUMBERS:** 57-31 — The Angels' record in games when they hit at least one home run.

**QUOTE TO NOTE:** "There were a lot of baserunners on that field for them tonight — seven walks and eight hits. Holding them to three runs with that many baserunners tells you our bullpen did a pretty good job." — Manager Mike Scioscia, on the 4 2/3 innings of one-hit, shutout relief provided by Hisanori Takahashi, Bobby Cassevah, Scott Downs and Jordan Walden in the Angels' 6-3 victory at Oakland on Tuesday.

## ROSTER REPORT

### MEDICAL WATCH:

—RHP Francisco Rodriguez (right shoulder inflammation) went on the 15-day disabled list retroactive to May 10, and he was transferred to the 60-day DL on Aug. 10. He will treat the problem with rest and rehab.