



**New York Yankees Clips**  
**Saturday, July 21, 2012**



# PAIN IN THE A'S

## Oakland burns Yankees again

By GEORGE A. KING III

OAKLAND, Calif. — Robinson Cano's ninth-inning leadoff homer provided hope on a night when there was very little going around.

Yet, for as much of a jolt that the opposite-field blast delivered to the Yankees' dugout, it didn't last very long.

In fact, four batters later the Athletics were mobbing Brandon Moss on the field after his single to right off Eody Eppley scored Yoenis Cespedes from second to give Oakland a pulsating, 3-2, victory over the Yankees in front of 24,148 at the O.co Coliseum.

For a second straight night, the Yankees' bats were muted by a young pitcher. Thursday night it was A.J. Griffin. Last night, it was Tommy Milone.

"When you don't get a lot of opportunities it's hard to score runs," manager Joe Girardi said of the 25-year-old Milone facing three batters with runners in scoring position across seven innings.

In losing consecutive games for the first time since July 2-3, the Yankees have scored five runs.

Milone, a 25-year-old lefty with the ability to throw several pitches for strikes, didn't allow a run in seven innings. He gave up six hits, didn't issue a walk and fanned a career-high 10.

Cano's opposite-field homer to left starting the ninth tied the score, 2-2. Cano extended his hitting streak to a career-high 23 games with a seventh-inning single. He went 2-for-4.

Ivan Nova went 6 <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings, allowed two runs and nine hits. Though he was effective pitching with runners on base, Nova struggled with the bags empty.

"He made some mistakes with the slider, he didn't get it low enough," Girardi said of Nova, who gave up a run in the third and another in

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the fourth but limited the A's to 2-for-10 with runners in scoring position.

"With runners in scoring position I think I focus more than when there is nobody on base," said Nova, who avoided a loss thanks to Cano's homer.

Coupled with a victory by the second-place Orioles, the loss sliced the Yankees' AL East lead to eight games.

Russell Martin greeted reliever Jerry Blevins with a leadoff homer — the Yankees' first extra-base hit of the game — to left in the eighth that cut the Oakland advantage to 2-1. It was Martin's 10th homer and gave the Yankees 10 players with double-digit home run totals.

Two outs later, Mark Teixeira was hit by a pitch on the left knee from Blevins, who was replaced by right-hander Evan Scribner. He needed one pitch to retire Alex Rodriguez on a stress-free fly to right.

After his single in the seventh, Cano made second on Nick Swisher's ground out to the left side. Swisher left the game after the at-bat with a mild left hip flexor strain. Andruw Jones, who struck out four times, moved from left to right and Raul Ibanez went to left.

Girardi hooked Nova with two outs and runners at the corners in the seventh. Lefty Boone Logan surfaced and A's manager Bob Melvin hit Jonny Gomes for the lefty-swinger Seth Smith. Logan walked Gomes and loaded the bases for the left-handed hitting Brandon Moss.

Logan required three pitches to strike out Moss and keep the deficit at 2-0.

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**STUPOR NOVA:** Ivan Nova makes the long walk to the dugout after being pulled from the game in the seventh inning of the Yankees' 3-2 loss to the A's last night. Getty Images

### ON DECK

#### AT ATHLETICS

**TONIGHT — 6:05**

RHP Phil Hughes

(8-7, 4.22)

vs. RHP Jarrod Parker

(6-4, 3.16)

**TOMORROW — 4:05**

LHP CC Sabathia

(10-3, 3.27)

vs. RHP Bartolo Colon

(6-8, 3.88)

All games on YES

Wires (550 AM)

#### INSIDE THE MATCHUPS

**YANKEES:** Hughes did not figure in the decision in his last start, a 6-3 Yankees victory on Monday against the Blue Jays. Hughes limited Toronto to two earned runs on four hits with three walks and four strikeouts through seven innings. In six career games against Oakland (four starts), Hughes is 2-0 with a 6.08 ERA.

**A'S:** Parker has struggled mightily in his last two starts, being tagged for 10 combined earned runs. In his last start, he surrendered four earned runs and nine hits with no walks and four strikeouts in an eventual 9-4 win over the Twins on Sunday, in which Parker got a no-decision.

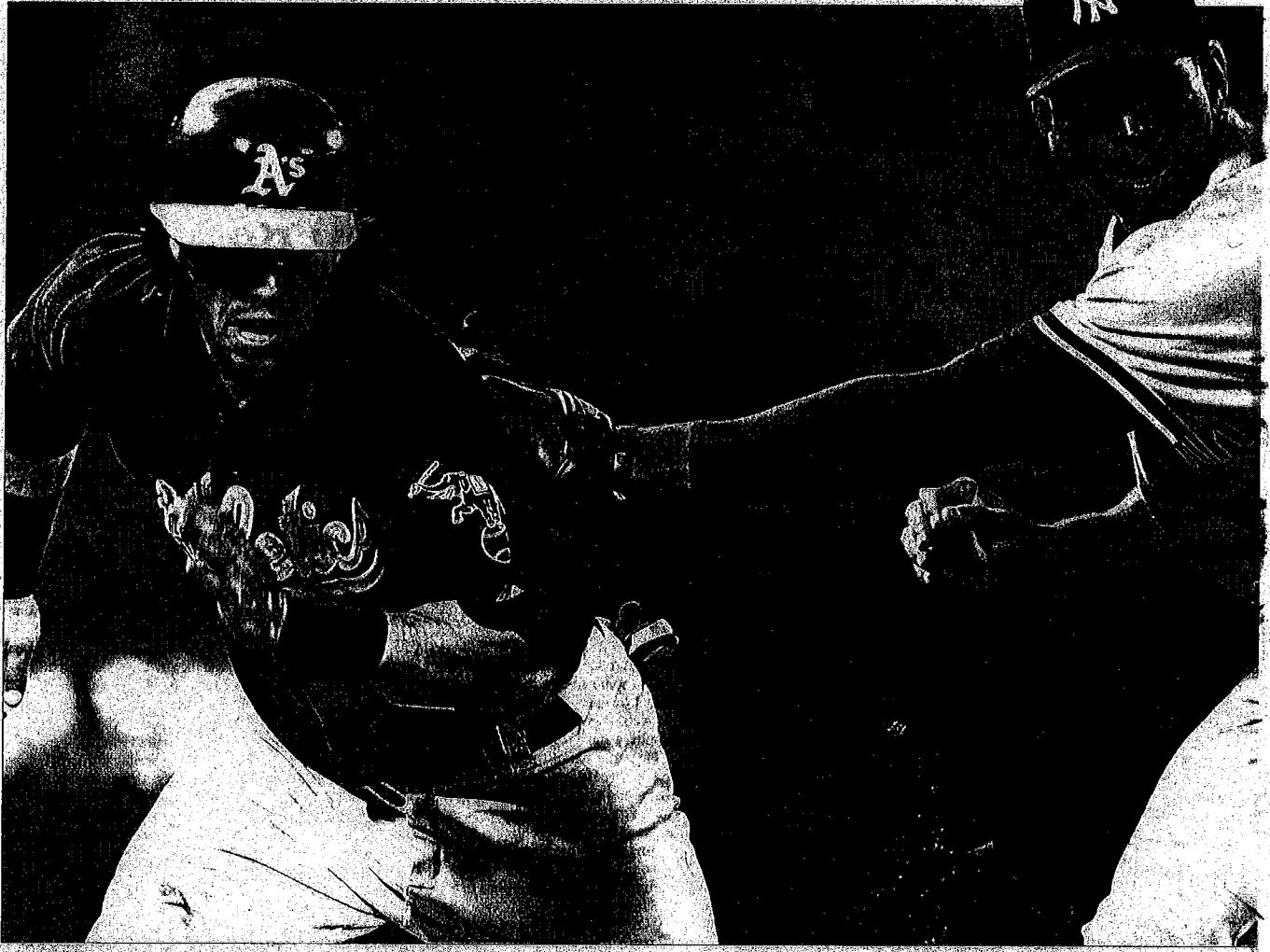
#### STAT SO?

**YANKEES:** Sabathia has become the fifth pitcher in the modern era to notch at least 10 wins in each of his first 12 major league seasons, joining Tom Seaver, Don Sutton, Carl Hubbell and Eddie Plank — all of whom are in the Hall of Fame.

**A'S:** Oakland's 4-3 triumph over the Yankees on Thursday snapped a nine-game home losing streak against the Bombers, which was tied for the second-longest such streak by the A's. The longest (by 2) against the Orioles from July 2, 1976 to April 27, 1979.

**BASEBALL**

# YANKS GET A'S



## EXTRA INNINGS

STAR OF THE DAY

**186** CC Sabathia turns 32 Saturday with 186 wins already on his resume. The last pitcher to win that many before his 32nd birthday was Catfish Hunter, who had 210.

**TEST YOUR YANKEES IQ**  
Which Yankees legend

to film in Monument Park on this date in 1984?

**NEXT GAME**

Tonight 8:05 at A's Phil Hughes (9-7, 4.22) vs. Jarrod Parker (6-4, 3.16)  
TV: YES



A: ROGER MARRIS

## Injury forces Nick out

**O**AKLAND — Nick Swisher, who left Friday night's game in the seventh with a mild left hip flexor strain, spent the first four seasons of his career in Oakland, even signing a long-term deal with the A's in 2007 that he thought would keep him in the Bay Area through the end of 2012.

But the A's traded him to the White Sox in January of 2008, eight months after he signed his

deal, ending his time in Oakland much earlier than he had anticipated.

Thursday, Swisher was heckled by A's fans in right field throughout the entire game, something that seemed to take him by surprise.

Swisher was 0-for-3 before leaving Friday night's game. Joe Girardi said Swisher "was probably day-to-day," but expected him to miss Saturday's game.

Eric Chavez, a long-time fan favorite in Oakland who was let go after the 2010 season, has also heard jeers during the Yankees' two series here this year.

"Coming back here is a little different; I've never been booed this much in my life," said Swisher, who blew a kiss to the crowd after his ninth-inning homer Thursday. "I got traded away, what can I say about that? They booed Chavy, they booed me — for what?"

# KICKED IN 9TH

## Cano's homer is wasted as Moss gathers winner

BY MARK FEINSAND  
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

OAKLAND — For two-plus years, the Yankees couldn't lose in Oakland. For the past two days, the A's seem to have finally figured out how to beat the Bombers.

Oakland handed the Yankees a 3-2 loss Friday night with a walk-off single by Brandon Moss, thwarting the Bombers after Robinson Cano had tied the game with a solo homer in the top of the ninth.

Cody Eppley entered the game with one out and nobody on in the ninth, but Yoenis Cespedes singled to center and Jonny Gomes reached on an infield single, putting the game-winning run in scoring position.

Moss lined the next pitch to right field, where replacement Andruw Jones tried unsuccessfully to throw Cespedes out at home, sparking an Oakland celebration at the plate.

The Yankees were also bitten by the injury bug again, as Nick Swisher left the game in the seventh inning with a mild left hip flexor strain. Jones replaced him.

Tommy Milone fired seven scoreless innings before watching Russell Martin and Cano tie the game with homers against the bullpen over the final two innings.

The rookie lefthander baffled

the Bombers, holding them to six singles while striking out a career-high 10 without issuing a walk.

Milone's 10 K's matched the most ever recorded by an Oak-

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land pitcher against the Yankees, the first time it has been done since Bobby Witt fanned 10 on July 2, 1993.

Ivan Nova was fortunate to give up only two runs over 6.2 innings, as he allowed nine hits — five for extra bases — and one walk, while striking out six.

Nova took the mound hoping to improve on what had been a subpar July, a month that saw him go 1-2 with a 5.00 ERA in his first three starts.

In addition to a pair of six-run outings, Nova had given up 24 hits in 18 innings, including three home runs in a loss to the Angels last week.

If Nova was going to turn things around, Oakland seemed as good a place as any. Nova was 7-1 with a 3.36 ERA in 10 starts on the road this season, a stark contrast to his 3-3 record and 5.19 ERA in eight Bronx starts.

The A's loaded the bases with two out in the first inning, but Nova retired Moss to strand the

runners. That would become a bit of a recurring theme for Oakland, which continually put men in scoring position without being able to deliver the knockout punch.

Oakland put the game's first run on the board in the third, getting a leadoff triple by Coco Crisp and a sacrifice fly by Jemile Weeks.

Another leadoff hit — this one a double by Moss — got the A's going again in the fourth. Brandon Inge followed with a double of his own, pushing the lead to 2-0 on Oakland's fourth extra-base hit of the night.

An error by Nova and a sac bunt put runners at second and third with one out for the A's, giving them a chance to break the game open. Nova struck out Crisp, then got Weeks to hit a popup to third, ending the threat.

Nova was victimized by yet another extra-base hit — he has allowed 64 this season, the most of any pitcher in the majors — as Josh Reddick led off the fifth with the double. Once again, Nova put a clamp on the inning, retiring the next three A's on groundouts.

The two-run cushion proved to be more than enough for Milone, as the soft-tossing lefty lulled the Yankees' bats to sleep with his variety of fastballs, curveballs and changeups.

## of game; Robbie's run now 23 in a row

### ROCKIN' ROBBIE

Robinson Cano was given a night as the Yankees' designated hitter Friday, his fourth turn there this season. Jayson Nix took Cano's spot at second base, his fourth start there and 24th overall at four different positions in the field.

"Nixy has played mostly everyday against lefthanders," Girardi said. "Alex has had some DH days, Jeet just had one the

other day, so I thought I would try to give Robbie one today."

Cano went 2-for-4 with a homer and a run scored, extending his hitting streak to a career-high 23 games.

### PHELPS HELPS

During David Phelps' first stint with the Yankees this season, he spent his final two weeks rotting away in the bullpen before the team sent him to the minors to get some work.



The 25-year-old is back for a third time, and it seems as if Girardi is ready to use him on a regular basis.

Phelps retired all seven batters he faced Thursday in relief of Freddy Garcia, keeping the Yankees in the game before they

ultimately fell short by a run.

Phelps displayed command and an ability to throw strikes, once again showing Girardi that he can get hitters out at this level.

"I felt great," Phelps said after striking out four of the seven batters he faced. "I said before the game, I was trying to carry over what I was doing down in the minor leagues. Just trying to attack guys and get ahead. I thought we were

able to do it."

Phelps has a 2.89 ERA this season in 16 appearances, 13 of them out of the bullpen. Although he stands as the only true long reliever on the team, Phelps will likely be given some chances to pitch in closer games when Girardi needs multiple innings from a reliever.

"Every time you go out it's like an audition," Phelps said. "You just want to go out and do your best every time."

Alex Rodriguez tags out A's Eric Sogard in rundown between third and home in eighth inning of Yanks' loss in Oakland Friday night. Photo by AP



## **Yankees lose to Oakland Athletics 3-2 as Brandon Moss drives in winning run**

Published: Saturday, July 21, 2012, 1:12 AM Updated: Saturday, July 21, 2012, 3:57 AM

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

OAKLAND, Calif. — Russell Martin and Robinson Cano hit solo home runs to put the Yankees in position to rally against the red-hot A's last night.

But for the second time in three days, the A's walked off their field as winners, sending the Yankees to a 3-2 loss when Brandon Moss lined a Cody Eppley pitch into right field to score Yoenis Cespedes.

After winning nine straight games at the Coliseum, the Yankees have dropped two straight here to the A's, who have roared into contention for a wild-card berth.

The A's battered Yankees right-hander Ivan Nova, who somehow sidestepped major trouble, leaving the game trailing 2-0 after an impressive performance by his counterpart, Tommy Milone.

Indeed, the Yankees did little against the rookie Milone, who departed after seven shutout innings. However, the lefty was failed by his bullpen.

In the eighth, Martin launched a leadoff homer that cut the Yankees' deficit in half. And in the ninth, Cano lined a solo shot to the opposite field off All-Star closer Ryan Cook, again leading off the inning.

But Moss ended it in the bottom of the ninth, forcing the Yankees to absorb a stunning loss.

Clay Rapada recorded the first out in the bottom of the ninth. Eppley then came in and gave up three consecutive singles.

In allowing two runs in 6 2/3 innings against the A's, Nova displayed some of his best and worst qualities.

Even before the A's turned Nova into an unwilling piñata, his propensity for allowing extra-base hits had been well established. Entering his start, Nova allowed 59 extra-base hits season, the most of any other pitcher in the majors. He only continued the trend against a red-hot lineup.

Josh Reddick started early, ripping a first-inning double of Nova, the first of five extra-base hits surrendered on the night. He added another double in the fifth.

Coco Crisp tripled to begin the third inning, which led to Oakland's first run (sacrifice fly by Jemile Weeks). And in the fourth, Brandon Moss and Brandon Inge hit back-to-back doubles in the fourth, putting the Yankees behind 2-0.

But there's a reason that Nova has nevertheless managed to win 10 games this season — and it goes beyond the run support the Yankees have often provided.

For all his troubles with extra-base hits, Nova has also kept damage to a minimum. With runners in scoring position, Nova has held opponents to a .128 average. Against the A's, Nova leaned on that ability to keep the game close, even though the score should have been more lopsided.

Nova left the bases loaded in the first inning then worked his way out of some self-inflicted trouble in the fourth.

The A's had already scored a run on Inge's double and had a chance at more when Kurt Suzuki's sacrifice bunt put runners on second and third. Nova had already made his task more difficult by kicking Eric Sogard's comebacker to the mound, an error that helped fuel the rally.



## Postgame notes: Yankees run into red-hot A's

Published: Saturday, July 21, 2012, 5:57 AM

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

OAKLAND, Calif. -- A few notes and quotes from the Yankees' **3-2 walk-off** loss to the A's:

-- The Yankees arrived in the East Bay as one of the hottest teams in baseball. But it's clear that they've run into a buzzsaw with the A's, who used their 10th walkoff win of the season to improve their record to 12-2 in July.

"Really, it starts with their pitching," catcher **Russell Martin** said. "Not many teams can contain us like they have in the last couple games. Their guy (last night), I didn't really see a good pitch to hit. Kept getting ahead, making good pitches, mixing his speeds, both sides of the plate."

Indeed, "their guy" was left-hander **Tommy Milone**, who threw three shutout innings. The rookie followed up a strong outing on Thursday night by fellow rookie **A.J. Griffin**.

-- Milone set a new career-high with 10 strikeouts. But he also earned another distinction, helping to end the Yankees' streak of scoring at least three runs in 43 straight games.

-- **Nick Swisher** will be out for tonight's third game in the series with the A's. **Swisher strained his left hip flexor**, though the starting right fielder said the injury was closer to his quad.

-- Martin's solo shot off in the eighth inning of A's reliever **Jerry Blevins** was his 10th of the season. The homer gives the Yankees eight players with at least double-digits in homers, the most in baseball. Cano's line drive homer in the ninth tied the game at two.

But it only set the stage for the A's latest walkoff win.



"I liked the way we were able to come back there, because he was pretty stingy," Girardi said. "I thought Milone had tremendous command of his fastball on both sides, and his changeup was really effective. You get a couple runs off the relievers, and you think, you know what? I think we're going to be able to come back and get ahead. But we weren't able to.

-- Yankees starter **Ivan Nova** allowed two runs on nine hits in 6 2/3 innings. But things could have been much worse for the right-hander, who did not factor in the decision. Though he struggled once again to limit extra-base hits, he seemed to hold firm, even when the A's put runners in scoring position.

Said Nova: "Sometimes, I think when I have runners in scoring position I think I focus more than when I have nobody on base."

-- Right-hander **Cody Eppley** had not allowed a run since June 28. In that span, the right-handed specialist has increasingly earned the trust of Girardi. But Eppley allowed three straight hits in the ninth inning, including **Brandon Moss'** game-winning single to right field.

"It's frustrating... I have been able to get the job done, and today just wasn't my day," Eppley said. "I didn't have some things go my way."

**Yeonis Cespedes** began the rally with a single to center. **Johnny Gomes** extended it with a ball that hit the ground with so much spin that it became an infield single. Lefties **Boone Logan** and Rapada had already been used, leaving Eppley to face the lefty Moss.

"He was there to get the righthanders out, Girardi said. " When he didn't get them out, it kinda set up their Inning. He's been so good for us against righthanders, and he's pitched well against lefthanders. And he was the next guy in line."

-- Cespedes is 6-for-8 in his first two games against the Yankees, who missed the Cuban sensation during their May visit to Oakland.

Said Martin: "Tough out right now.

**MLB.com**

## **Upstart A's on verge of taking series from Yanks**

By Jay Lee / MLB.com | 7/21/2012 2:20 AM ET

The last time the Yankees came to Oakland in May, they left town with a three-game sweep.

What a difference a few months makes.

The two teams take the field with the A's vying for their third straight win against the Yankees, which would seal a series win in the four-game set.

Oakland hasn't taken -- or tied -- a series at home against the Bombers since April 2007.

The surging A's, who are 12-2 in July, are winners of seven of their last eight games after Friday's 3-2 walk-off win, having rebounded from a rough start to the season to be right at the heart of the American League Wild Card race. The Yankees, owners of the best record in baseball, came to Oakland having won nine of their last 11 before dropping the first two games of the series.

Jarrod Parker takes the mound for the A's after having stumbled in his last two starts following a strong first half, giving up a combined 10 earned runs in 10 2/3 innings. The 23-year-old Parker is 6-4 with a 3.16 ERA this season.

"You're going to go through ups and downs over the course of a season," A's manager Bob Melvin said Friday. "If those are his low points, what we've seen recently, we'll take that. He's been really good regardless. I don't think tomorrow's any new kind of test for him."

Phil Hughes will be tasked with turning the momentum for the Yankees, and he limited the Blue Jays to two earned runs on four hits in seven innings in his last start despite repeatedly falling behind the count.

"It was a battle today," Hughes said after his last start. "I had a good fastball, but I was constantly behind in counts and trying to battle back into counts. It was tough. It was a grind, but I hung in there and just tried to keep it close. Unfortunately I gave up a lead, but the other guys battled back and got a win out of it."

### **Yankees: Chamberlain makes rehab start**

- Joba Chamberlain made a two-inning start for Class A Advanced Tampa Yankees on Friday, his fourth rehab appearance and his first above the rookie-ball level.

Chamberlain gave up two runs (one earned) on a pair of hits as he continues his march back to the Majors after elbow and ankle surgeries.

Pitchers are allowed 30 days of rehab in the Minors, and Chamberlain began his assignment on July 10.

**Athletics: Pennington place on DL**

- The A's placed Cliff Pennington on the 15-day disabled list Friday with left elbow tendinitis. Eric Sogard was called up to take his roster spot, and Sogard got the start at shortstop against the Yankees on Friday, going 1-for-4 with a triple.

Pennington has batted .197 this season, and will continue taking ground balls at shortstop while he is sidelined but will not swing a bat.

**Worth noting**

- Sunday's Yankees starter CC Sabathia turns 32 on Saturday.
- The Yankees have hit a home run in 11 straight games. The A's had entered Friday's game having homered in six straight games, but did not hit one out in the win.

NorthJersey.com

## Robinson Cano's heroics not enough as A's beat Yankees, 3-2

SATURDAY, JULY 21, 2012 LAST UPDATED: SATURDAY JULY 21, 2012, 3:02 AM  
BY PETE CALDERA  
STAFF WRITER  
THE RECORD

OAKLAND, Calif. – After Robinson Cano led off Friday night's ninth inning with a game-tying home run, the Athletics seemed destined to regret all of the chances they had to pull away from the Yankees.

But it didn't take long for the A's to switch off their disappointment and rally for another signature walk-off win.

Brandon Moss's one-out single off Cody Eppley scored Yoenis Cespedes from second base with the winning run, and the giddy Athletics charged out of their dugout to celebrate a 3-2 victory before 24,148 fans at the Coliseum.

In losing their second straight one-run game to the excitable Athletics (49-44), the Yankees (57-36) saw Nick Swisher exit in the seventh inning due to what the club termed as a mild left hip flexor strain.

Swisher thought the soreness was more in his quad.

"I kind of felt something tug halfway down the line," said Swisher, who then eased up as he ran to first on a seventh-inning groundout to third. "Instead of making something two, three weeks hopefully it's only two, three days."

Swisher was examined by the Athletics team physician and no further tests were planned.

"He's probably day to day," said manager Joe Girardi. "We'll see how he feels (today)."

Also, Mark Teixeira sported a post-game wrap on his left knee after being hit by a pitch in the eighth, though he remained in the game.

But Friday night's primary damage was inflicted by A's lefty Tommy Milone, who tossed seven shutout innings with 10 strikeouts and no walks and received a tough no-decision.

Milone's 10 Ks were the most by an A's pitcher against the Yankees since July 2, 1993, when Bobby Witt fanned 10 Yanks at the Coliseum.

"Not many teams can contain us like they did the last couple of games," said Russell Martin, whose eighth-inning leadoff homer against reliever Jerry Blevins cut the lead to 2-1. Until that shot, his 10th homer of the year, "I didn't really get a good pitch to hit all night."

Yankees starter Ivan Nova was hit hard at times, but yielded just two runs on nine hits and a walk in 6.2 innings.

Afterward, Nova admitted that his focus was more acute with runners on base. "I've got to focus the same way," said Nova, who gave up four extra-base hits with none on base.

Coco Crisp tripled and scored on Jemile Weeks' third-inning sacrifice fly, and back-to-back fourth-inning doubles by Moss and Brandon Inge made it 2-0.

Martin simply couldn't give cause or reason for Nova's admission of dropping in and out of focus with runners on base. "I still feel he's throwing the ball well," Martin said.

Oakland left 14 men on base and the A's were 2-for-13 with men in scoring position before Moss's game-winning single to right.

Cano had already extended his career-best hitting streak to 23 straight games with a soft fourth-inning single to left when he slammed a 1-0 pitch to left for an opposite-field, game-tying homer off closer Ryan Cook (4-2).

In the A's half of the ninth, Clay Rapada entered and struck out leadoff man Josh Reddick and Girardi summoned Eppley to face right-handed hitters Cespedes (4-for-5) and Jonny Gomes.

Cespedes rifled a single to center and Gomes followed with an infield hit, and the left-handed hitting Moss ripped a hard single to right. Andruw Jones had moved from left field to right when Swisher exited, and Jones' throw was late and off line.

"Not happy about it," Eppley said. "Today just wasn't my day."

Girardi had already used his other lefty, Boone Logan, who struck out Moss to end the seventh with the bases loaded. And David Robertson pitched a long, scoreless eighth where the Yanks cut down a runner at the plate.

An inning later, the A's danced off their major league leading 10th walk-off win. They pounded Moss with backslaps, Gatorade and whipped cream pies; the A's are 12-2 in July.

"I like the way we were able to come back there, because (Milone) was pretty stingy," Girardi said. "But they're playing well, there's no doubt about it."

**BRIEFS:** The Yankees streak of scoring at least three runs was snapped at 43 consecutive games. It was the longest such streak in franchise history over a single season. ...Jones struck out in all four at-bats, a season high. ...Cespedes is 6-for-8 in the first two games of this four-game set with a home run. "He's a tough out right now," Martin said. ...The Yankees have homered in 11 straight games, matching a season high.

### **Single in seventh pushes Cano's hit streak to 23**

OAKLAND -- The hit that officially extended Robinson Cano's hit streak to 23 games in Friday night's 3-2 loss to the A's at the Coliseum wasn't exactly smashed. The solo home run he hit to tie the score at 2 in the ninth inning was.

Cano's seventh-inning single off A's starter Tommy Milone -- a left-hander who turned in a great performance -- had some odd spin and bounced under the glove of A's shortstop Eric Sogard, keeping Cano's career-long hit streak alive. He ripped his 22nd homer of the season on a 1-0 fastball and to the opposite field two innings later, off A's closer Ryan Cook.

Cano popped to second and struck out looking in his first two trips, briefly talking to home-plate umpire Bill Miller after the fourth-inning whiff.

**MLB.com**

## **After Cano ties it, Yankees fall on walk-off hit**

By Evan Drellich / MLB.com | 7/21/2012 2:50 AM ET

OAKLAND -- The likelihood is the Yankees will remember this four-game series as, at worst, a speed bump. For Oakland, it's shaping up as a turning point.

The Yankees-as-litmus-test continued on Friday night for the A's, who downed New York, 3-2, behind rookie left-hander Tommy Milone and a walk-off, line single to right from Brandon Moss in the ninth inning. New York has dropped the first two games of this series, and the A's are surging with wins in seven of their last eight and five walk-offs in their last nine home games.

The A's have been making the Yankees swing it, with no walks issued by Oakland pitchers yet this series.

"Oh, they're tough," said Yankees catcher Russell Martin, whose solo home run in the eighth got New York on the board two pitches after Milone was pulled. "Really it starts with their pitching. Not many teams can contain us like they have in the last couple games. Their guy tonight, I didn't really see a good pitch to hit."

The walk-off came against Yankees righty Cody Eppley, who came on with one out and none on in the ninth and gave up singles to Yoenis Cespedes and Jonny Gomes to set up Moss' first-pitch hit. It's Eppley's first loss with the Yankees in 33 games, and one of his only blemishes.

"I just wanted to get ahead," Eppley said of his sinker on the outside corner that Moss pulled to right for the game-winner. "I wanted something down and away. I thought it got there. Maybe outer third instead of maybe the corner, but at that point I didn't really want to get behind."

The Yankees had just tied in the top of the frame, on a Robinson Cano opposite-field home run off A's closer Ryan Cook. Cook, Oakland's only All-Star, has given up solo homers to the Yankees on two straight nights.

Cano extended his hit streak to 23 games in his previous at-bat, a single in the seventh that was not solidly hit.

Briefly, the Cano homer made good on the pitching of Yankees relievers Boone Logan and David Robertson. The A's had the bags full in the seventh inning and two on in the eighth with two out, and both times did not score.



"It's not what you want to do, but it shows you something about him that he's able to get out of those innings," manager Joe Girardi said of Robertson.

Milone went seven innings, walked none and struck out a career-high 10, matching the record for an A's pitcher against the Yanks. The last time an Oakland pitcher reached the mark was nearly two decades ago, on July 2, 1993. Bobby Witt did it.

Yankees starter Ivan Nova, meanwhile, continued to get burned by extra-base hits. He worked out of trouble in a 26-pitch first inning but was fortunate to allow just two runs on a night he gave up nine hits, five of them for extra bases.

It's possible that the young pitcher focuses better when he most needs to.

"I know the guys are going to hit," said Nova, who struck out six and walked one in 6 2/3 innings. "I'm trying to leave my team close in the game as much as I can. When I have men on base, that's the time. Me and Freddy [Garcia] were talking after I had a man on third with one out, he told me, 'Why don't you throw 94-95 earlier in the inning, to the first hitter in the inning? Why do you wait until you have men on base to throw hard?' That's something I have to think about, figure out why I do that."

A pair of doubles off Nova came from A's right fielder Josh Reddick, who also pegged Mark Teixeira on a first-to-third attempt in the fourth inning with a perfect throw. The A's scored their first two runs in the third and fourth.

New York's only run until the ninth came on Martin's 10th homer of the season. That went to left field off another southpaw, Jerry Blevins, who entered to begin the seventh.

"I liked the way we were able to come back there, because [Milone] was pretty stingy," Girardi said. "You get a couple runs off the relievers, and you think, you know what? I think we're going to be able to come back and get ahead. But we weren't able to."

Before Martin and Cano homered, Milone worked out of a sixth-inning rally that was shaping up similarly to Thursday's, when the Yanks got on the board in a 4-3 loss. Alex Rodriguez, who was back at third base Friday, grounded into a force to end the threat with Derek Jeter on second and Teixeira first.

Again in the seventh, Milone worked out of trouble after Cano extended his hit streak to start the frame. Nick Swisher tweaked his left quad/hip area running to first base on a groundout in the inning and left the game. He is day to day.

The Yankees' streak of at least three runs scored ended at 43 games, a franchise-record that falls five short of the live-ball era record of 48, set by the 1994 Indians.



## Brandon Moss, A's score another walk-off win, this time vs. Yanks

### Associated Press

#### A's Walk Off To Top Yankees

Brandon Moss' single in the ninth lifts Athletics to the 3-2 win, improving to 12-2 in the month of July.

OAKLAND, Calif. -- Game-ending hits are becoming so routine these days in Oakland that concession workers have the celebratory whipped-cream pies waiting near the dugout whenever the Athletics are in position for another walk-off win.

[Brandon Moss](#) delivered the 10th of the season for the A's when he drove in [Yoenis Cespedes](#) with an RBI single with one out in the ninth inning Friday night to give Oakland a 3-2 victory over the [New York Yankees](#) for their seventh win in eight games.

"There's always that feeling based on the fact we've had so many," manager Bob Melvin said. "There's always that feeling when we get into the last at-bat at home. We just feel like something good is going to happen."

It has seven times in the past 14 home games in a remarkable run of late-inning heroics that have put the low-budget A's within a half-game of a wild-card spot in the American League.

Oakland leads the majors in walk-off wins with 10 players ending up on the receiving end of a pie and Gatorade bath.

"I enjoy it because I get to pie somebody different every night," outfielder [Josh Reddick](#) said. "We're not relying on the one person to carry this team right now. It's always fun to do that."

Cespedes started the winning rally with a single with one out in the ninth off [Cody Eppley](#) (0-1) for his fourth hit of the game. [Jonny Gomes](#) followed with an infield hit.

Moss, who had left the bases loaded twice earlier in the game, lined a single to right field, and Cespedes slid in safely ahead of an [Andruw Jones](#) throw to set off another celebration.

"Obviously it would be a lot less stressful if you could score the runs early in the game," Moss said. "But at the same time, when you get in that situation and have a chance to come through and you do, it's a huge adrenaline rush. It's a lot of fun. It's what you dream of as a little kid."

The Yankees were completely silenced by Oakland rookie [Tommy Milone](#), who struck out a career-high 10 batters in seven scoreless innings as the A's took a 2-0 lead.

But Oakland failed to build on the single runs scored in the third and fourth inning, squandering numerous scoring chances. The A's left the bases loaded in the first and seventh inning with Moss making the final out both times, and stranded 12 runners over the first eight innings.

That helped the Yankees tie the game with a solo homer by [Russell Martin](#) off [Jerry Blevins](#) in the eighth and by [Robinson Cano](#) against [Ryan Cook](#) (4-2) to lead off the ninth. Cook has four blown saves in 14 chances.

"You get a couple of runs off the relievers and you figure, you know what, maybe we're going to be able to come back and get ahead," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "But we weren't able to."

Milone allowed seven hits and no walks, and tied an Oakland record with his 10 strikeouts against the Yankees. He also helped end New York's streak of 43 consecutive games with at least three runs -- the longest in the majors since Cleveland's 48-game run in 1994.

The first two game of this series have been a far cry from New York's first visit to Oakland in late May when the Yankees overwhelmed the A's in a three-game sweep to extend their winning streak at the Coliseum to nine games. That was part of a nine-game overall losing streak for the A's, who have recovered since then to post the second-best record in the majors to the Yankees since June 2.

"Really it starts with their pitching," Martin said. "Not many teams can contain us like they have in the last couple games. Their guy tonight, I didn't really see a good pitch to hit. He kept getting ahead, making good pitches, mixing his speed, (throwing to) both sides of the plate."

After leaving the bases loaded in the first inning, the A's struck for single runs in the third and fourth innings against [Ivan Nova](#). [Coco Crisp](#) led off the third with a triple and scored on [Jemile Weeks'](#) sacrifice fly. Moss and [Brandon Inge](#) then hit back-to-back doubles to open the fourth to make it 2-0.

#### Game notes

Cano had two hits, extending his hitting streak to 23 games. ... Yankees OF [Nick Swisher](#) left the game in the seventh with a mild left hip flexor strain and is day to day. ... Milone is the fourth Oakland pitcher to strike out 10 against the Yankees, with [Bobby Witt](#) the last to do it on July 2, 1993. ... Oakland RF Josh Reddick threw out [Mark Teixeira](#) going from first to third on Rodriguez's single in the fourth for his ninth assist of the season.... Yankees RHP [Joba Chamberlain](#) (ankle) allowed two runs -- one earned -- and two hits in a rehab start for Class-A Tampa in the Florida State League. ... [Jarrod Parker](#) (6-4) makes his first career start against the New York Yankees on Saturday against [Phil Hughes](#) (9-7).



Saturday, July 21, 2012

## Rapid Reaction: A's 3, Yankees 2

**What it means:** That the Yankees may need to work on hitting 82 mph changeups. The powerful New York lineup managed just six singles -- four of them soft singles -- and no runs in seven innings against rookie **Tommy Milone**, who seems to be cut in the **Tom Glavine** mold. They stayed close because of some nifty escapes by **Ivan Nova**, and managed to tie the game on **Robinson Cano's** homer in the ninth, but they lost on the A's major league leading 10th walk-off win of the season.

**Another outfielder down?:** A day after the Yankees learned that **Brett Gardner** was likely to miss the rest of the season, they saw right fielder **Nick Swisher** leave the game with a mild left hip flexor strain. Swisher was hurt trying to beat out a ground ball in the seventh inning. There was no immediate word on his prognosis, but the Yankees have to be holding their breath that they haven't lost another outfielder.

**Tie it up:** Cano led off the top of the ninth with a game-tying solo homer against A's All-Star closer **Ryan Cook**. It was the 22nd homer of the season for Cano, who earlier in the game had extended his hitting streak to 23 games.

**But then:** **Yoenis Cespedes** greeted righty **Cody Eppley** with a one-out single, his fourth hit of the game. **Jonny Gomes** then reached on an infield single. **Brandon Moss** followed with a first-pitch single to right, driving in Cespedes.

**Living dangerously:** Nova somehow managed to get through 6 2/3 innings allowing two runs, even though he was in trouble virtually the whole night. Nova gave up nine hits. Five of them were extra base hits, including two doubles and a triple to lead off innings. It's been a problem all season for Nova, who came into the game allowing opponents to hit for a .509 slugging percentage, highest in the league.

**Struggling with Milone:** The Yankees were flummoxed all night by rookie lefty Tommy Milone, who held them to six singles and no walks. Milone's 10 strikeouts were the most by an A's pitcher against the Yankees since **Bobby Witt** in 1993. Milone, threw an assortment of tantalizing changeups. Milone, acquired from the Nationals in the **Gio Gonzalez** deal, has a 3.34 ERA this year.

**Martin Goes Deep:** **Russell Martin**, who came into the game hitting .180, led off the eighth inning with a homer against reliever Jerry Blevins. The Yankees are now the only team in baseball with eight players with at least 10 homers. Of course, they were the only team with seven, too.

**Walk this way, or not:** The Yankees did not draw a walk for a second consecutive game, marking just the seventh time since 2000 they failed to draw a walk two games in a row. The last time was Sept. 12-13,

2011, and prior to that it hadn't happened since 2006. In case you're wondering, the last time they went three straight games without a walk was June 12-14, 1991.

**One streak continues:** Cano extended his hitting streak to 23 games by poking a single into left in the seventh inning, just past the backhand attempt of shortstop **Eric Sogard**, who was playing Cano up the middle. Although a 23-game hitting streak doesn't sound all that historic, Cano is just the fourth Yankees player since 1942 (the year after **Joe DiMaggio's** record streak) to reach that number in a single season. **Joe Gordon** hit in 29 straight in 1942. **Derek Jeter** got to 25 in 2006 and **Don Mattingly** hit 24 in 1986.

**Another one ends:** The Yankees failed to score three runs, ending that streak at 43 games, the second longest such single-season streak in big league history.

**No glove required:** Nova reached out with his bare hand to snag a one-hopper from **Seth Smith** in the third inning. Although Nova made the play and recorded the out to end the inning, you can bet someone mentioned to him that it's not a good idea to try catching balls with his pitching hand.

**Gaffe on the bases:** **Mark Teixeira** was easily thrown out trying to go from first to third on **Alex Rodriguez's** single in the fourth inning. Teixeira, who was waved to third by third base coach **Rob Thomson**, was trying to get to third with one out, which is the only time such a gamble is acceptable. That being said, this was probably too much of a game. **Josh Reddick's** throw from right beat him by 10 feet.

**What's next:** The Yankees send **Phil Hughes** (9-7, 4.22) to the mound against Oakland rookie RHP **Jarrod Parker** (6-4, 3.16) on Saturday at 9:05 p.m.



## Yankees hit by injury again in the outfield

Published: Saturday, July 21, 2012, 1:23 AM Updated: Saturday, July 21, 2012, 2:07 AM

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

**Update:** Swisher said he felt a tug halfway down the first-base line as he tried to beat out his grounder in the seventh. The injury is closer to his quad although the team listed it as a left hip flexor strain.

"I let the doctors tell me what's going on," Swisher said. "I kind of go on feel and I feel pretty good right now. I feel like I'm walking normal, which is good. I think it's going to be one of those day-to-day type of things."

OAKLAND, Calif. — The **Yankees** have spent virtually all season down an outfielder.

Even in Brett Gardner's absence, the Yankees have built the best record in baseball, mostly behind the production of others who have picked up the slack. They've done so well in filling the void that it's conceivable that the Yankees let the trade deadline pass without trading for help.

But in one painful moment against the A's Friday night, the Yankees saw how quickly their fortunes could change.

Right fielder Nick Swisher left in the seventh inning after trying to leg out a ground ball. Television cameras captured Swisher grabbing at an area near his groin before disappearing into the clubhouse. A few minutes later, Raul Ibanez jogged into the game in Swisher's place.

Swisher has a mild left hip flexor strain. The severity of the injury was unclear, though if Swisher misses time, the Yankees might be forced to consider options in the trade market.

- Until David Phelps made the Yankees out of spring training, he had never worked out of the bullpen. Back in college, and even as a professional, Phelps had always kept a rotation spot.

Perhaps, a time will come when Phelps can make a similar claim for the Yankees.

But for now, the 25-year-old right-hander will step in as one of manager Joe Girardi's trusted arms in the bullpen.

"Having to be on point from the get-go as a reliever is one of the things that I've really had to focus on because I have to go out and be hitting my spots," said Phelps, who has a 2.89 ERA in 16 appearances.

Girardi said he envisions using Phelps as a replacement for Cory Wade, the right-hander who had climbed up in the bullpen's pecking order, only to be demoted after a sudden rash of ineffectiveness.

"I feel like I've gotten more accustomed to doing it," Phelps said. "It was a little more difficult at the start of the season. It was cold. It was the first time I'd ever done it. It was more difficult to get my arm loose."

But he had no problems earlier this week. In his last appearance, Phelps was flawless in 2½ innings during the Yankees' 4-3 loss to the A's on Thursday night.

- Robinson Cano extended his career-high hit streak to 23 games with a single in the seventh inning last night against the A's. And in the ninth, Cano's solo homer tied the score 2-2.

- Reliever Joba Chamberlain allowed two runs in two innings last night in his minor-league rehab appearance with High-A Tampa. Chamberlain also allowed a home run.

The runs were the first allowed by Chamberlain since beginning his rehab assignment.

- Little more than three weeks after suffering from a fractured left ankle, Andy Pettitte has been playing regular games of catch in the outfield. However, the lefty's ankle must continue to heal before the Yankees increase his activity level.

"I still think he's a little ways away," Girardi said. "That's got to heal more."



• Today at 3:00 PM

# NYMagazine.com

## Yanks Stay on West Coast With Left Field Empty

By WILL LEITCH

Such is the state of the Yankees' season so far that when the team announced last night that Brett Gardner officially wouldn't be back this season, no one really worried, at all. Gardner's been a nice piece for the Yanks — though it's worth noting that he'll be 29 years old next year and Baseball Prospectus was already advising that the Yankees move on before his speed and defense wane with age — but they've obviously been doing just fine without him. Even with the loss to the A's last night, it's tough to stress out too much about anything, really.

It is sort of amazing: Pretty much every team in baseball, with the possible exception of the Rangers and (maybe, though we remain unconvinced) the Nationals, is going to be involved in a mad, crazed dash for one of the five (five!) playoff spots in each league, and the Yankees already feel like they've made it. They not only have the biggest division lead in baseball — nine freaking games — they also have a 99.8 percent chance of making the playoffs, according to B-Pro. That's almost definitive.

(It is worth noting that a similar paragraph could have been written about the 2011 Boston Red Sox in August.)

The Yankees are going to continue using Raul Ibanez, Andrew Jones, and DeWayne Wise in left, though there are rumors they'll go after the recently released Rick Ankiel, which might be too much for our heart. But you can't really blame the Yankees for not doing much at all: This is all going too easily so far. Go ahead: Take a week off of games. They're all on the West Coast, and they start so late. You need a break. You look tired. It's the summer. Relax! All's good.

(If something goes wrong the rest of this year, this post will disappear and we will never discuss it again.)



**NEED FOR SPEED:** With Curtis Granderson (above, out on a play by Jemile Weeks during last night's 3-2 loss to the Athletics) the only healthy contributor of speed and power in the Yankees' outfield, the Bombers should consider dealing with the Phillies for the Flyin' Hawaiian, Shane Victorino (inset), who would give them better speed and defense than they're getting from Raul Ibanez or Andruw Jones. Reuters; N.Y. Post: Charles Wenzelberg (inset)

# Victorino would fill Bombers' outfield needs

**O**AKLAND, Calif. — The easy route would be to do nothing and hope the old guys, Raul Ibanez and Andruw Jones, continue to produce loud hits for the Yankees.

The Yankees, though, need to make a deal for an outfielder. Send a limo down the New Jersey Turnpike to pick up speedy Shane Victorino from the Phillies.

Victorino would put the Yankees that much closer to victory. The Athletics beat them for the second straight night, 3-2 at O.Co Coliseum.

Rent Victorino for the rest of the season. The Yankees have done a fantastic job overcoming all their injuries to forge the best record in baseball, but sooner or later, all those injuries will catch up to them. Speed is a most valuable component the Yankees lost when they lost Brett Gardner to an elbow injury.

To make matters worse, Nick Swisher had to leave last night's

game with a strained left hip flexor in the seventh inning. That injury meant Ibanez had to enter the game in left field and Jones had to swing over to right field. Jones, who started in left, struck out four times.

The Yankees need Victorino's speed. A change of scenery is needed by Victorino, who is a free agent after the season. The Phillies need bullpen help, so surely Yankees general manager Brian Cashman can come up with a deal that is reasonable for both sides. The Phillies are dead in the water, the Yankees are riding the wave, but they need more to get where they need to be to try to win World Series No. 28.

Victorino is brash enough to be a short-term success. A move north would re-energize the Flyin' Hawaiian, who would be a perfect fit in manager Joe Girardi's offense. Girardi loves to put pressure on opposing defenses, but he does not have that speed compo-



ment with Gardner out and undergoing elbow surgery next week.

This has not been the greatest season for Victorino, 31. He is batting .253, has 21 stolen bases, eight home runs and five triples. Last season he laced 16 triples and was an All-Star. He is hitting 22 points under his lifetime average and his on-base percentage is .317, but a change could change all that and bring life back to Victorino.

Gardner will be missed, especially in the postseason. Gardner had a huge series in the first-round loss to the Tigers last October, batting .412 with a .444 on-base percentage. Only Jorge Posada did better, batting .429

with a .579 on-base percentage.

So often in the postseason, it comes down to one run and Victorino is the type of player who can create that run. Victorino has a ton of postseason experience and batted .316 in the Phillies' first-round loss to the Cardinals last October. He is a .269 hitter in the postseason over 46 games with 25 runs scored.

The Yankees have the need, and the Phillies are going nowhere and could use bullpen help. The Yankees bullpen figures to get that much stronger soon, when Joba Chamberlain returns. Where there is a need, there is a way.

Ibanez and Jones had done a solid job this season but this is about getting better for October. The Yankees could use such an upgrade.

Victorino is making \$9.5 million this season.

His addition would put Ibanez and Jones back in their original roles, making the Yankees a stron-

ger team. Isn't that the bottom line?

The Yankees believe in their team, but adding talent never hurts. After the season there will be plenty of time to figure out the Yankees outfield for the future as the market sorts itself out.

The price for a Victorino rental would be much less than trying to acquire the Diamondbacks' Justin Upton. It would be difficult for the Yankees to put together such a package for Upton. Arizona general manager Kevin Towers knows the Yankees system well because he worked for them in 2010.

The answer to the Yankees' lack of speed and outfield shortfall is close at hand, just a short drive down the Turnpike, in Shane Victorino.

Right now, that is the best and speediest route to travel.

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**Yankees notes / P. 46**

# Ibanez, Jones doing all right in left

By Chad Jennings  
cjennings@ohud.com

OAKLAND, Calif. — Raul Ibanez is a friendly, soft-spoken man. He laughs easily, smiles often, and he always seems amused when it's suggested that his 40-year-old body must be wearing down from the grind of being a part-time outfielder in the Yankees' lineup.

When the Yankees signed Ibanez this offseason — not long after they signed another veteran outfielder, Andruw Jones — it was with the intention of Ibanez and Jones being regular designated hitters with some starts in the outfield.

Those two have become regular outfielders with a handful of starts at DH, and the Yankees are counting on their ability to hold up in the field and

## ON THE WEB

Friday's game ended too late for this edition. For details, log on to LoHud.com. Stay up to date on the Yankees at yankees.lhblogs.com.

at the plate.

"You always prepare," Ibanez said. "If I was told that I was going to DH this winter, and I prepared to DH, that would mean that I'm slacking on my offseason conditioning. I think every offseason, especially the older you get, you don't train the same. You prepare to go out there all the time. I don't understand how to not do something a lot."

Brett Gardner is heading toward season-ending elbow surgery, and the Yankees' left field situation has become a platoon

of the over-the-hill Ibanez and the perpetually sore Jones.

"Thirty-five (years old) with a lot of miles," Jones said.

It's not what the Yankees intended, but it just might be what they stick with for the rest of the year. With Ibanez starting against right-handers and Jones playing against lefties, the pair of platoon partners has combined for 24 home runs and 66 RBI heading into Friday's game in Oakland.

Ibanez turned 40 this season, and he seems to understand when he's holding up to more playing time than expected, but Ibanez has played at least 134 games in nine of the past 10 seasons, and he was regular DH for only one of those seasons (in 2005, when he played

in all 162 games). He's been on the disabled list once since 2004 and missed less than a month during that stint.

"If you don't prepare harder than you did the winter before, and you don't adjust, especially the older you get, then you're cheating yourself," Ibanez said. "You're not preparing yourself for what comes next."

Jones was once an MVP candidate with the Braves, but now his knees require regular ice, and he doesn't move like he did a decade ago.

"When they call my name, physically and mentally everything just kind of goes away," Jones said. "Might not feel good before the game when you wake up in the morning. But when you come to the field and you put your uniform on, it's

game on."

Ibanez and Jones can't replicate Gardner's speed, but they have replaced it with power. Baseball's trade deadline is less than two weeks away, giving the Yankees time to find an additional outfielder, but the Ibanez-Jones pairing has worked so far, and both say they're healthy enough to last through the season.

"We really appreciate what they do for us," manager Joe Girardi said. "Guys want to put up big numbers and they want to win. They're prepared to win, and that's what they worked on over the offseason. ... It's not just, play once every 10 days. They've gotten to play a lot, and I think they appreciate that as well."

# Raul well-prepared

Veteran has been able to fill the void for injured Gardner

BY ERIK BOLAND  
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OAKLAND, Calif. — Raul Ibañez paid due respect to Brett Gardner before pointing out the obvious.

Yes, losing the leftfielder for the season hurts but it's not as if the Yankees suddenly have to get used to it.

The reality is they've been used to it for some time.

"We've kind of been doing this pretty much the whole year, so it's not an adjustment for [Andruw Jones] or myself, or Dewayne [Wise] or anybody," Ibañez said of playing without Gardner, who appeared in just nine games before landing on the DL April 18.

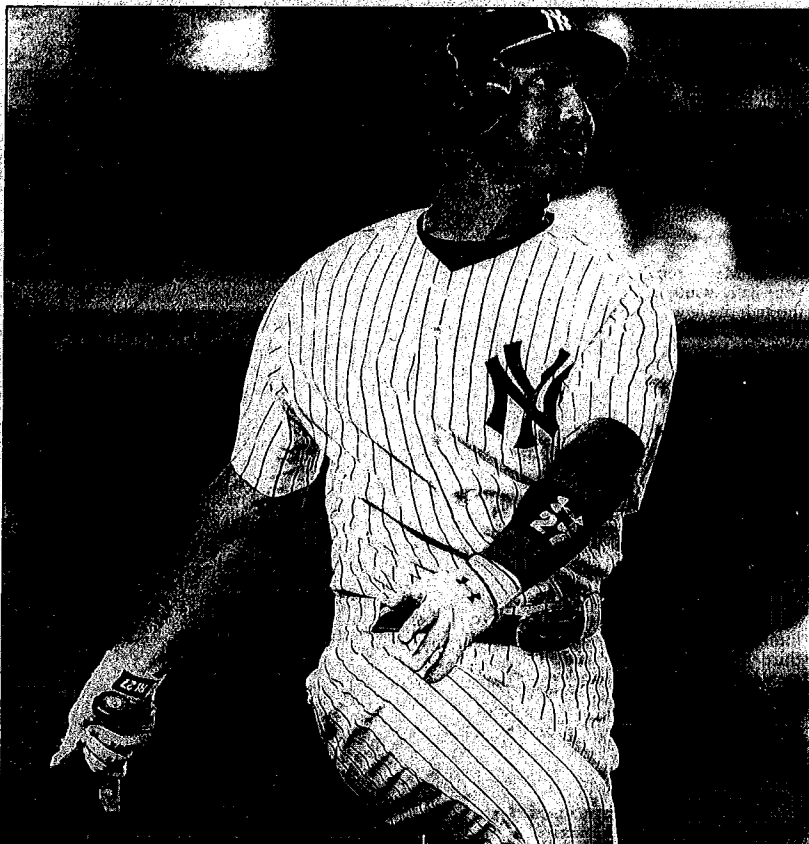
Ibañez will continue to get the majority of playing time in left, though he did not start Friday night. The 40-year-old, with 42 starts in left, came into Friday hitting .243 with 12 homers and 40 RBIs.

The original plan when the Yankees signed Ibañez in the offseason was to have him be the team's primary designated hitter against righthanders. The Yankees also were looking at, among others, fan favorites Johnny Damon and Hideki Matsui, but the organization thought Ibañez would be a better option in the field.

Regardless of his expected role, Ibañez said that he prepared as if he would be an everyday player.

"If I was told that I was going to DH this winter and prepared to DH, then that would mean I'm slacking on my offseason conditioning," he said. "I think every offseason, especially the older you get, you don't train the same. You actually step up your training. You prepare to go out there and play all the time. I don't understand how not to do something all out, as most players don't. If you don't do that, then you're cheating yourself."

The 35-year-old Jones, whose start in left Friday was his 22nd of the year, had off-season knee surgery, but said to this point, he hasn't experienced any issues.



Though slotted as a platooned DH, Raul Ibañez conditioned himself as if he would play every day.

**Saturday**  
Yankees  
at Oakland  
TV: YES, 9:05 p.m.  
Radio: WCBS (880)

"I feel good," he said. "Sore here and there, but everyone's sore."

Told that 35 isn't all that old, anyway, Jones smiled.

"Thirty-five with a lot of miles," he said.

Jones came into Friday hitting .239 with 12 homers and 26 RBIs. Wise, who provides at least some of the speed element Gardner did, has started nine games in left, as has utility man Jayson Nix.

"We have a lot of guys on the bench that can go out and get that job done," Jones said. "We

**NOW ONLINE**  
Friday night's Yanks-A's game ended too late for this edition.  
Story, photos at [newsday.com/yankees](http://newsday.com/yankees)

were looking forward to [Gardner] coming back and give us that boost with his speed and good defense. Right now, everybody needs to go out there and continue to do what we've been doing."

Which, Joe Girardi pointed out, has been winning. The Yankees entered Friday with the best record (57-35) in the majors, a record accrued almost totally without Gardner.

"He's a guy that helps us a lot but we've managed to amass

this record without him for most of the year and we're going to have to do it," Girardi said. "I wish he was coming back and I wish we had his speed element coming back, but we're not going to have it, so we'll have to figure out how to do it without him."

**Another outing for Joba.** RHP Joba Chamberlain had his fourth rehab outing Friday night, starting for high Class A Tampa in Bradenton. He allowed two runs — one earned — and two hits in two innings. He walked one and struck out one in throwing 32 pitches, 19 for strikes. Chamberlain's previous three starts came for the GCL Yankees and the 26-year-old is still on pace to return the first week of August, though general manager Brian Cashman hasn't ruled out Chamberlain coming back before that.

newsday.com NEWSDAY SATURDAY, JULY 21, 2012



Friday, July 20, 2012

## Raul ready to pay the toll

Raul Ibanez said on Thursday night that he's not worried about the toll playing the entire season in the outfield might take on his body. If he continues at his current pace, though, he'll be in a select group of players to play that regularly in the outfield at his age.

#27 LF

New York Yankees

### 2012 STATS

- GM75
- HR12
- RBI40
- R27
- OBP.302
- AVG.243

Ibanez has played 54 games in the outfield through the Yankees first 93 games, a pace for 94 games by season's end. If he plays 90 games, he'd be just the 10th player in history to play at least that many games in the outfield in his age 40 season or later.

Rickey Henderson and Stan Musial did it three times apiece. Barry Bonds and Steve Finley each did it twice. The others are Lou Brock, Hank Sauer, Johnny Cooney, Sam Rice and Jimmy Ryan.

After learning Thursday that Brett Gardner would likely be out for the rest of the season, manager Joe Girardi said he was comfortable finishing the season with a platoon of Ibanez and Andruw Jones.

## Ibanez: "You prepare to go out there all the time"

Posted By [Chad Jennings](#) On July 20, 2012 @ 9:02 am In [Misc](#) | [185 Comments](#)

Raul Ibanez always seems to laugh a little when someone asks how he's holding up under the strain of playing left field regularly. He seems to understand why the question is being asked, but the guy has played at least 134 games in nine of the past 10 seasons, and he was regular DH for only one of those seasons (in 2005, when he played in all 162 games). He's been on the disabled list once since 2004 and missed less than a month during that stint.

"You know you always prepare," Ibanez said. "If I was told that I was going to DH this winter, and I prepared to DH, that would mean that I'm slacking on my offseason conditioning. I think, every offseason, especially the older you get, you don't train the same. You prepare to go out there all the time. I don't understand how to not do something a lot."

[2]Now that Brett Gardner is having season-ending surgery, it seems the Yankees are going to keep leaning on the aging bodies of 40-year-old Ibanez and 35-year-old Andruw Jones.

"Thirty-five with a lot of miles," Jones said, smiling. "... When they call my name, physically and mentally, everything just kind of goes away. Might not feel good before the game when you wake up in the morning, but when you come to the field and you put your uniform on, it's game on."

The Yankees have gotten good production from both Jones and Ibanez, and they've used Dewayne Wise and Jayson Nix to give them breathers now and then. Neither hits for an especially good average these days, but both Ibanez and Jones are powerful hitters in the bottom third of the order.

They've combined for 24 home runs and 66 RBI.

"It's very unfortunate, we're going to miss Gardy, he's a great player," Ibanez said. "But we've been dealing with this pretty much the whole year, so it's not an adjustment for Druw or myself, or DeWayne or anyone."

"Don't forget," Jones said. "We've got Dewayne Wise. We've got Jayson Nix. We've got a lot of guys on the bench that can go out there and get the job done. So, we were looking forward to it, for him to come back and give us that boost with his speed and his good defense in left field. Right now, everybody needs to go out there and just continue to do what we've been doing and see what happens in the end."

Journal News 7/21/12

## YANKEES NOTEBOOK

# Phelps solid again in latest return to majors

By Chad Jennings  
cjennings@ohud.com

OAKLAND, Calif. — Twice this season the Yankees have demoted reliever David Phelps while promising that it was all for his own good. The Yankees have been impressed with what he's done in the big leagues, but they've tried to get him regular work as a starter in the minor leagues.

Each time Phelps has been brought back within a few days, and each time he's proven that he deserves to stay.

"There's always that doubt in your mind that something could happen," Phelps said. "That's why you cherish your time up here as much as you can."

Phelps' latest return came on Thursday, when he returned from a two-start minor-league stint and delivered 2½ perfect innings of relief in the Yankees' series opener against the Athletics. Phelps retired all seven batters he faced, four of them on strikeouts, and could be a viable rotation alternative if veteran Freddy Garcia falls back into his early-season

struggles.

The 25-year-old Phelps has a 2.89 ERA through his first 16 major-league appearances.

"Every time you go out it's like an audition," Phelps said. "You just want to go out and do your best every time."

**Chamberlain on the mound:** Joba Chamberlain made his fourth rehab appearance on Friday and struggled for the first time.

Pitching for High-A Tampa, Chamberlain allowed a leadoff home run in the first inning, then a-

lowed a single and a run in the second inning. The hits were the first allowed by Chamberlain since beginning his rehab from ankle and elbow injuries.

Chamberlain is expected back near the first of August. This was his first outing above rookie level, and the Yankees want him to pitch in back-to-back games at least once before finally activating him after more than a year on the disabled list.

**Nix back in the lineup:** Robinson Cano was giving a routine half-day off as the Yankees' designated hitter on Friday, mean-

ing utility infielder Jayson Nix made his fourth start at second base.

Filling the utility role that was expected to belong to Eduardo Nunez, the veteran Nix has proven surprisingly valuable with at least three starts at second, third, shortstop and left field.

"He's played really well for us," manager Joe Girardi said. "We knew of him, and we'd seen him hit some home runs in the big leagues, but the job he's done for us has been really, really good."

### **As Nix draws start, Girardi lauds value of role players**

OAKLAND -- Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez returned to third base on Friday while second baseman Robinson Cano moved into the designated hitter's spot for the second game of four against the A's.

Jayson Nix, one of several standouts on the Yankees' bench, made his fourth start of the year in place of Cano, batting eighth.

"He's played really well for us," manager Joe Girardi said. "We knew of him, and we'd seen him hit some home runs in the big leagues, but the job he's done for us has been really, really good."

Nix is hitting .298 this season against left-handers, even though two of his three homers have come against right-handers. The A's had a southpaw on the mound in Tommy Milone.

The Yankees' role players will have a greater spotlight on them now that Brett Gardner is probably finished for the season, and so far, Girardi's seen a group reminiscent of the '90s dynasty. Those are high compliments for Nix, Eric Chavez, Raul Ibanez, Andruw Jones, Chris Stewart, Dewayne Wise and Co.

"Pretty similar," Girardi said. "Productive guys. Whether it was a [Darryl Strawberry] or Tim Lincecum. Sometimes it was Cecil Fielder, Shane Spencer or Ricky Ledee. It's pretty comparable. We had guys who could hit the ball out of the ballpark and could play every day other places but chose to come to New York because they wanted a chance to win. It worked out pretty well for us."



## **Swisher day to day with left hip flexor strain**

OAKLAND -- Yankees right fielder Nick Swisher exited Friday's 3-2 loss to the A's after feeling his upper left leg grab at him running to first-base on a seventh-inning groundout.

The Yankees announced Swisher's injury as a mild left hip flexor strain, but he said it felt more like his quad was bothering him. He's day to day.

"It's more low. It's more my quad than it is anything," Swisher said in the visiting clubhouse at the Coliseum. "We're going to see exactly what happens tomorrow and we'll let you guys know from there."

Swisher dealt with a left hamstring strain from late April to early May and was bothered by his left and right groin in Spring Training. Those injuries are seemingly unrelated.

Swisher was trying to bust it out of the box on his grounder to third with the Yankees down, 2-0, in the seventh.

"Just tried to turn on that extra gear, went to go grab it and it grabbed something else," Swisher said. "I hate getting busted up like this, but we got to do what we gotta do to get back on the field."

Swisher was 0-for-3 with two strikeouts against A's left-hander Tommy Milone when he was removed.

The Yankees found out on Thursday that Brett Gardner is likely lost for the season and have been dealing with a seemingly high number of injuries this season. Asked about the disabled list, Swisher said "it's not in my vocabulary."

Swisher also had a right hip flexor strain in 2008.



Friday, July 20, 2012

Updated: July 21, 4:32 AM ET

## Nick Swisher out a few games

By Jeff Fletcher  
Special to ESPNNewYork.com

OAKLAND, Calif. -- The Yankees got a scare with another injured outfielder, but for now they are hoping it's nothing more than that.

[Nick Swisher](#) left Friday night's 3-2 loss against the A's with a mild left hip flexor strain that will keep him out at least a few days.

"He's day to day," manager Joe Girardi said. "We'll see how he feels tomorrow to make a true evaluation. He's not going to be a player for me tomorrow. Hopefully it's not long."

The Yankees have to be cautious with Swisher because they are already shallow in outfielders. With [Brett Gardner](#) almost certainly out for the season, [Raul Ibanez](#), 40, and [Andruw Jones](#), 35, are in a platoon in left field.

If Swisher is out for an extended period, the Yankees might be tempted to play both of the veterans on the corners, which could wear them down.

For now, though, Swisher said he's not thinking this will be a disabled list situation.

"That's not in my vocabulary," Swisher said of the DL.

The Yankees trailed 2-0 in the seventh when Swisher tried to beat out a ground ball to third baseman [Brandon Inge](#). He said he felt something tug and pulled up before hurting it worse.

"I kind of let up on it, which is good because I don't feel like I really yanked it," Swisher said. "I just felt like I tugged it rather than making something two or three weeks. Hopefully it's only two or three days."

Swisher said he was evaluated by the A's team physician. About 30 minutes after the game, he was in good spirits as he stood in the clubhouse.

"I'm feeling pretty good right now," he said. "I'm walking normal, which is good. I think it'll be one of those day-to-day things."

# Swisher: No to DL

## Nick vows fast return from injury

By GEORGE A. KING III

OAKLAND, Calif. — Nick Swisher said he doesn't believe in the disabled list, but he is not likely to play tonight against the Athletics and there is a question when the right fielder will return for the Yankees.

### YANKEES NOTES

Swisher left last night's 3-2 loss at O.co Coliseum with what the club described as a mild strain of his left hip flexor. Swisher said the problem was in another body area.

"It's more of a quad, hopefully it's only two or three days. I tried to beat it out and halfway down the line I felt something tug," said Swisher, who suffered the injury running to first in the seventh inning. "DL is not in my dictionary."

Manager Joe Girardi will evaluate Swisher daily.

"[We'll] take it day to day and see how he feels," Girardi said. "He is not a player for me [tonight], hopefully Sunday."

► **Mark Teixeira** was hit by a pitch on the left knee in the eighth inning and hobbled heavily to first. Nevertheless, he said there is not problem.

"I got lucky," Teixeira said.

► As the July 31 trade deadline approaches, the Yankees have



**MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Derek Jeter and the Yankees observe a moment before last night's road game against the As to pay respect to victims of the movie-theater shooting in Colorado. AP

kept in touch with teams who have dangled bullpen pieces.

**Mariano Rivera** going down with a torn ACL in early May and **David Robertson** missing a month proved how fragile relief pitching can be. Though **Cody Eppley** and **Clayton Kershaw** have done well, the Yankees always have their eyes open.

Yet they are not in a rush to make a move because of the progress **Joba Chamberlain** is making. Chamberlain, whose 30-day rehab assignment expires Aug. 8, made his fourth outing last night in Bradenton, Fla.

In two innings for Single-A Tampa, he gave up a run, two hits,

fanned one and walked one.

According to Yankees pitching coach **Larry Rothschild**, Chamberlain's fastball was clocked in the mid-90s.

The plan is for Chamberlain to throw a bullpen session Monday. The next test will have Chamberlain throw in back-to-back games. If he comes through that exercise with no problems, he could come off the disabled list before the end of July.

Chamberlain hasn't appeared in the big leagues since last June, when he underwent Tommy John surgery. During spring training, he underwent right ankle surgery after a trampoline accident.

► **Robinson Cano** went 2-for-4 with a home run during the Yankees' 3-2 loss last night, extending his hit streak to 23 games.

It was the longest active streak in the majors and the longest by a Yankee since **Derek Jeter** (1-for-4) hit safely in 25 in a row from Aug. 20-Sept. 16, 2006.

Since 1942, the year after **Joe DiMaggio's** record 56-game hitting streak, only three Yankees have had a single-season hitting streak of more than 22 games: **Joe Gordon** (29 games, May 13-June 14, 1942), **Jeter** and **Don Mattingly** (24 games, Aug. 30-Sept. 26, 1986).

# NorthJersey.com

## Yankees notes: Nick Swisher swings back

SATURDAY, JULY 21, 2012

### Swinging back

Nick Swisher didn't leave the Athletics as a free agent. He was traded – first to the White Sox, then to the Yankees. But that hasn't stopped the Oakland fans from heaping some extra abuse on the Yankees right fielder.

The venom seemed to have ratcheted up in Thursday night's series opener. Swisher's retort came in the form of a blown kiss after he'd homered in the ninth inning of Thursday's 4-3 Oakland win.

"I just don't care," Swisher said when asked about the crowd's game-long abuse. Swisher noted that Eric Chavez, another former A's favorite, was also a surprising target of venomous Oakland fans. The A's let the injury-prone Chavez become a free agent after the 2010 season.

### Joba's line

Joba Chamberlain went two innings in his fourth minor-league rehab appearance on Friday, yielding two runs (one earned) on two hits and a walk. He had one strikeout and gave up a home run pitching for Class A Tampa against the Pittsburgh Pirates' affiliate. Coming back from Tommy John surgery and a dislocated right ankle, Chamberlain won't quite be in manager Joe Girardi's bullpen thoughts until he appears in consecutive rehab games. "Once we get him doing back to back, I think you have a better idea," Girardi said.

### DH day

Robinson Cano served as the designated hitter Friday night, just his fourth start at DH this year. Cano was riding a career-high 22-game hitting streak into the game and he's batted .395 (34-for-86) over that span with six homers and 20 RBI. Jayson Nix started at second base.

### CC at 32

CC Sabathia turns 32 today. With 186 career wins, he has the most victories by a pitcher prior to his 32nd birthday since Catfish Hunter (210 wins) in 1978.

— Pete Caldera

07/21/12 3:04 AM ET

## **Ankle on mend, but Pettitte still a 'little ways away'**

By Evan Drellich / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- Left-hander Andy Pettitte took to the Coliseum outfield on Friday to play long toss, but Yankees manager Joe Girardi cautioned Pettitte still has healing to do before he can ramp up his throwing efforts.

Pettitte, 40, is on the 60-day disabled list because of a fractured left ankle and can't resurface in the Majors until the end of August at the earliest -- even if he were physically ahead of schedule.

"I still think he's a little ways away," Girardi said. "That's got to heal more."

## Pettitte, Leg on Mend, Has Worked to Keep His Head in Game

By DAVID WALDSTEIN

OAKLAND, Calif. — The moment Andy Pettitte was told by the team physician that he had a fractured fibula and would require six weeks of rest, he pulled out a calendar and counted ahead until he arrived at Aug. 9. He did not need to circle the date. It was immediately burned into his mind, and every day since then he has been mentally crossing days off like a child with an Advent calendar leading up to Christmas.

Pettitte will not be able to pitch in a game on Aug. 9, but he expects to be pain free and be able to get on a mound and begin the process of rebuilding his arm strength in time to pitch for the Yankees when his stint on the 60-day disabled list ends on Aug. 27.

"That's the goal," Pettitte said. "That's why I came out of retirement. I came back to pitch and to help this team win another World Series, and that hasn't changed. I wish I hadn't been hurt, but it's not going to stop me from doing what I set out to do in

come a protégé of Pettitte's. "I just said, 'Thanks a lot for leaving me,'" Hughes said.

Hughes has come to rely on Pettitte during games for pointers and advice. Pettitte will sit with Hughes on the bench between innings and offer his insight on mechanical issues, or make suggestions on how to approach a certain hitter.

"He's seen me pitch a lot and he knows me pretty well," Hughes said. "A lot of guys won't talk to the starting pitcher, but he figured out that I like it when he talks to me during games. It helps a lot."

So, despite being on the injured list, Pettitte has joined the Yankees on their West Coast trip, and he intends to stay with the team until he is sent out on a minor league rehabilitation assignment. On Friday he threw in the outfield for 20 minutes, and he threw the ball with authority.

His left ankle, which was broken when it was hit with a batted ball June 27, was heavily taped. But he can walk without a limp, and throw long distances on flat ground by turning his left foot directly toward his target. That takes pressure off the injured area, the outside of his fibula.

But when he throws with his left foot sideways, as he will when he pitches, he can feel discomfort from long distance. So when he makes throws that simulate a pitching motion, he shortens those distances because he cannot push off the left foot with great force yet.

"I still think he has a ways to go," Manager Joe Girardi said. "That's still got to heal more."

But by being able to throw at all, Pettitte can keep his arm in shape, which might cut down his rehabilitation time.

Usually, when pitchers are out for a substantial stretch, they require six weeks to get their arms back in shape, a period that replicates spring training and includes about five minor league starts. If Pettitte had to do that, he would not be back with the Yankees until the end of September. Minor league seasons do not last that long. Even if they did, Pettitte would not consider being out that long.

"My arm feels good," he said. "I've been able to throw and keep it in shape, for the most part. My being able to throw now should cut down on the time it takes to get ready."

Pettitte was pitching well when he was hurt. He was 3-3 with a 3.22 earned run average, and the Yankees were 6-3 in his starts. Over his last five starts, the Yankees were 4-1, and Pettitte's E.R.A. was 2.97. But he is not satisfied. The injury was an abrupt interruption after all the work he had put into coming back from retirement, and at no time did Pettitte consider abandoning his plan.

"I didn't come back to pitch only 60 innings," he said. "When I decided to come back, I was all in. You have to be, and if that means coming back from an injury, that's the way it has to be."



JASON SZENES FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Andy Pettitte, able to throw on flat ground, has been traveling with the Yankees since shortly after he was injured June 27.

### ONLINE: YANKEES-ATHLETICS

For coverage of the Yankees' game at Oakland on Friday:  
[nytimes.com/sports](http://nytimes.com/sports)

the first place."

Soon after the injury, Pettitte went back to his home in Houston for eight days. After all the emotional energy it took for him and his family to make the decision to come out of a one-year retirement and pitch for the Yankees, Pettitte suddenly found himself back home as if nothing had changed.

"It felt like I was retired again," he said. "I needed to be engaged with the game again, or I was going to lose my focus."

With the blessing of his wife and children, Pettitte wanted to return to the team, and the Yankees wanted him back, too. They needed to monitor his progress, but they also wanted his leadership in the clubhouse.

While he was in Houston, Pettitte received a text from teammate Phil Hughes, who has be-

# **THE WALL STREET JOURNAL**

WSJ.com

Updated July 20, 2012, 9:50 p.m. ET

Out for Season? Not So Fast

By DANIEL BARBARISI

OAKLAND—The list of Yankee players out for the season is long, and growing by the day. The list of Yankee players who insist they're not out for the year? Nearly as long.

The Yankees have had more than their fair share of injuries this year, from Michael Pineda's shoulder injury to Mariano Rivera's torn knee to Joba Chamberlain's horrific ankle injury. The latest is Brett Gardner, who will undergo surgery next week to trim bone spurs and remove elbow lining tissue, known as a plica, that was catching between the bones of the arm.

The Yankees proclaimed Gardner likely lost for the year Thursday, and his manager and teammates are proceeding on the premise that he is done for the year. That's much like the cases of both Rivera and Chamberlain, where at the time of their injuries team officials said they expected them to be lost for the season.

Brett Gardner's agent believes his client can return to the field in the 2012 season. Gardner will undergo surgery next week on his elbow.

Yet both players insisted they could return and play this year. Now Chamberlain appears to be a few weeks from returning, and Rivera, amazingly, is agitating to come back as well.

Meanwhile, Gardner's agent, Joe Bick, says not so fast—the reason they are opting for surgery is to preserve the best chance for him to return this year, which Bick believes Gardner can.

"Things have reached the point where we had to look at other options that re-open the possibility of him getting back on the field in the 2012 season. That's why he's elected to go this route."

Are the Yankees simply conservative in their estimations, or are these exceptional human specimens, beating their rehab projections through a combination of genetics and hard work?

Manager Joe Girardi said that he always goes with the most conservative projections—and if the player beats them, great. That's what they're doing with Gardner.

"I always make the assumption, you just manage the guys you have in the room anyway. You can't say, 'If we get this or we get that.' We're going to get it cleaned up; let's get him healthy and get him back on the track where he can help us next year," Girardi said.

He has also said that with the focus of the New York media and fan base, giving aggressive timetables is a recipe for a feeding frenzy when things go slightly off that schedule.

"One of the reasons that we give somewhat of a conservative timetable sometimes on guys is if all of a sudden you say he's going to be ready in three days or four days, and they're not ready then red flags go up everywhere," Girardi said.

Beyond conservative estimates, professional athletes are also amazing physical specimens, who can often beat established timetables through both their unusual physiques, their world-class care, and their commitment to their rehab.

The Yankees do not make their medical staff available for specific queries. But Dr. Joshua Dines, an orthopedic surgeon with the Hospital for Special Surgery, and doctor for the U.S. Davis Cup tennis team, who is working on a textbook about baseball-specific injuries, said that some people do heal faster than others, and that athletes are likely candidates for fast healing. But there's a trade-off.

"If some people can throw faster, and jump higher, can they heal more quickly? Probably—there's certainly a different biology," Dines said. "But it's balanced out—because the grandmother who's just walking around Costco after the surgery has much lower demands. So that probably balances it out—that she doesn't have to perform at as high a level as a Brett Gardner or a Joba Chamberlain."

There are other factors, as well. Rivera did significant pre-hab work, and was found to have a less significant tear than originally expected when he went in for surgery. Chamberlain's injury was also rare—if not unique—for a pitcher, so predicting his timetable was difficult.

Still, there is a baseline for human recovery, and following surgery, the body must heal—to say nothing of getting a player like Gardner back into baseball form. So even though any timetable has tremendous variability, there's always a low end. So plan for the worst.

"Six weeks to three months, sometime in that range," Dines said. "Because he can start swinging a bat at four weeks, maybe six weeks. So between two and three months is not unreasonable. But they're going to be more conservative about it, as they should. Expect the worst, hope for the best."





Thursday, July 19, 2012

Updated: July 20, 9:57 AM ET

## Brett Gardner needs elbow surgery

By Jeff Fletcher  
Special to ESPNNewYork.com

OAKLAND, Calif. -- [New York Yankees](#) outfielder [Brett Gardner](#) will undergo arthroscopic surgery on inflamed tissue in his right elbow, most likely ending his season.

The Yankees announced their plan for the speedy left fielder before Thursday's game against the [Oakland Athletics](#). The surgery will be performed next week by Dr. Christopher Ahmad.

Gardner has not played since April 17, when he suffered what was described as a bone bruise after attempting a diving catch against the [Minnesota Twins](#). After experiencing multiple setbacks in his rehab, Gardner underwent an MRI exam this week.

Yankees manager Joe Girardi already had acknowledged that he was preparing to finish the season without Gardner prior to Thursday's announcement.

"It's unfortunate," Girardi said. "We missed some of the things he brings to our club."

Girardi said he's comfortable finishing the season with the Yankees' left-field combination of [Raul Ibanez](#) and [Andruw Jones](#). Ibanez, who plays against right-handers, has 12 homers and 40 RBIs; Jones has 12 homers and 26 RBIs.

"They've done a great job," Girardi said. "Look at the numbers Andruw and Raul have amassed with homers and RBI, and we can use ([Dewayne Wise](#)) for defense late if you want to. They've done a good job."

"We do miss that speed element that Brett brought to the game, but I've been pleased with what these guys have."

## The difficulty of replacing Brett Gardner

Posted By [Chad Jennings](#) On July 20, 2012 @ 12:12 pm In [Misc](#) | [137 Comments](#)

Nothing about the Yankees roster changed yesterday — they've been without Brett Gardner since mid-April — the only thing that changed was the hope that Gardner might return.

"I always make the assumption, you just manage the guys you have in the room anyway," Joe Girardi said. "You can't say, 'If we get this or we get that.' We're going to get it cleaned up. Let's get him healthy and get him back on the track where he can help us next year."

With Gardner heading for season-ending surgery, the Yankees could look to replace him, but there's no real indication that they're going to be particularly aggressive in trying to fill a spot that's been open most of the season.

### <sup>[1]</sup>Solid production as it is

The most obvious reason that the Yankees don't necessarily have to replace Gardner is the only reason that really matters: They have the best record in baseball. Sure, the lineup has gone through dips when a run creator like Gardner would be helpful, but how much better would their record be if they had Gardner? I'm one of the biggest Gardner believers out there — I'm pretty far away from the camp that believes he's an overhyped fourth outfielder — but the Yankees are clearly able to win without him, and if that's the case, why go overboard to replace him? Andruw Jones and Raul Ibanez are far from complete players, but they've hit for power, just like the Yankees expected. In this lineup, the left fielder is a complimentary piece anyway, and the Yankees already have that.

### Still something left

A left-handed-hitting outfielder is hurt, so it makes sense to replace him with a left-handed-hitting outfielder. Right? Maybe not in the Yankees case, partially because Eric Chavez has been playing so well — keeping Ibanez in the field frees Chavez to play everyday against right-handers — and partially because the Yankees have plenty of left-handed, outfield role players. Dewayne Wise is already in New York, and the Triple-A outfield has Chris Dickerson, Kosuke Fukudome and Jack Cust (not to mention Russell Branyan if the Yankees wanted to give him regular DH at-bats). That might explain why Jon Heyman reports that the Yankees have no interest in [Juan Pierre](#)<sup>[2]</sup> or [Rick Ankiel](#)<sup>[3]</sup>, two left-handed outfielders who would seem to be quality role players.

### The system works

Remember when the Yankees were in spring training and Girardi explained that Eduardo Nunez would be a regular starter against left-handers? He indicated that either Alex Rodriguez or Derek Jeter would regularly DH vs. LHP, meaning Jones would be in left field and Gardner would be on the bench. If the Yankees planned for Gardner to be a part-time player from the beginning, then the plan is still working. His absence has basically allowed Chavez to play more often — which has been a good thing — at the expense of some outfield defense. Instead of Nunez resting Jeter or Rodriguez against left-handers, Chavez has rested Rodriguez against righties and Jayson Nix has rested Jeter against lefties. It's not a completely new lineup construction. It's just a slightly altered version of the original plan.

### What's the alternative?

At the end of the All-Star break, Brian Cashman acknowledged that this is an awkward roster to upgrade. "You'd have to put the pedal to the metal to overpay or significantly pay to find something that everybody says, 'This just significantly upgraded this aspect of the club,'" Cashman said. That's still true after news of Gardner's upcoming surgery. The Yankees still have a pretty good thing happening in their outfield, and a role player or platoon player wouldn't necessarily help that situation. Shane Victorino is one of my favorite guys I've ever covered — I'd love to see him show up in the Yankees clubhouse — but he's not having a very good year, and what exactly would his role be? Would Peter Bourjos or Denard Span play everyday for this team? Is Josh Willingham, Carlos Quinton or Justin Upton worth the prospect cost considering it isn't an overwhelming need in the short-term? Clearly the Yankees could upgrade with an acquisition, but the bigger the upgrade, the greater the cost.



Saturday, July 21, 2012

## First Pitch: Tex is what he is

When the Yankees signed **Mark Teixeira** to an eight-year, \$180-million contract before the 2009 season, they thought they were getting a player who would average about 34 home runs a season and drive in in the neighborhood of 113 runs a year. Plus, he was a borderline .300 hitter and by all accounts, an outstanding first baseman.

Now, as we approach the halfway point of his contract -- this is his fourth season in pinstripes -- Teixeira has been when the Yankees expected him to be, almost to the decimal point, and in some ways, he has been even better. In his first three Yankees seasons, Teixeira averaged 37 home runs a season and 114 RBI. This season, with 19 home runs and 64 RBI, Teixeira is on pace to hit 35 homers and drive in 118. Despite a series of injuries and illnesses, he has been extremely durable. And he has come as advertised as a defensive first baseman.

The only category in which he has declined is batting average.

Teixeira was a career .290 hitter before joining the Yankees but has batted just .264 in pinstripes. He has admitted to being "embarrassed" by his .248 average last year, and this season, has "raised" his average to .256 with a hot July, including two hits in last night's 3-2 loss to the Athletics.

The reason seems obvious: The so-called Teixeira Shift, increasingly utilized over the past three seasons when he bats left-handed. In his first year as a Yankee, when he batted .292 overall, his average as a left-handed hitter was .282.

But over the past three seasons, his average as a left-handed hitter has been atrocious -- .244 in 2010, .224 in 2011, .237 so far this season. And a possible indication that the shift is the reason is his batting average on balls in play (BABIP) as a left-handed hitter: .255 in 2010, .222 in 2011, .239 this season. Simply put, it means that as a left-handed hitter, he is often hitting it right at someone. Sounds like the shift.

Call it stubbornness if you will, but Teixeira knows what kind of a hitter he is. Although he paid the idea some lip service in spring training, he has been resistant to consciously trying to hit the ball the other way or, as he hinted he might, occasionally laying down a bunt.

The numbers tell you what Teixeira already knows: he is power hitter and a pull hitter, and in spite of the shift, and the effect it has had on his batting average, the power numbers have still been there the past two years, and barring an injury, will probably be there at the end of this year too.

So, the **Question of the Day** is: Does it really matter if Teixeira hits .250 as long as he continues to put up 35 jacks and 110+ RBI a season? After all, it's productivity that matters, and those numbers seem to indicate that he is a productive hitter in spite of his batting average. Can you live with Tex as he is? Let us know below.

Up now: **Jeff Fletcher** with the **Rapid Reaction** off last night's game, as well as the latest on **Nick Swisher's** injury and a very interesting blog item concerning **Raul Ibanez**.

**Coming soon:** **Katie Sharp** examines today's matchup in What2Watch4 later this morning. Jeff Fletcher will be in the clubhouse when it opens at about 5:30 p.m. for tonight's 9:05 p.m. start, **Phil Hughes** (9-7, 4.22) facing RHP **Jarrold Parker** (6-4, 3.16) in game three of this four-game series.

## **Joba works two innings for Yanks' High A affiliate**

OAKLAND -- Right-hander Joba Chamberlain's fourth rehab appearance on the way back from elbow and ankle surgeries was his first at a level higher than rookie ball.

In a two-inning start for the Class A Advanced Tampa Yankees on Friday, Chamberlain gave up two runs (one earned) on a pair of hits, one walk, one strikeout and one home run. The long ball came from the first batter Chamberlain faced, Dan Grovatt, a New Jersey-born 11th-round pick of the Pirates' from 2010. A Pittsburgh farm team, the Bradenton Marauders won the game, 3-2, and Chamberlain took the loss.

Chamberlain did not give up a run in four innings for the Gulf Coast League Yankees prior to Friday. Yankees manager Joe Girardi did not have a report on Chamberlain's outing when he met with reporters before the Yankees and A's played a 10:05 p.m. ET contest Friday.

Chamberlain has yet to pitch on back-to-back days.

"I don't think that would be the last test," Girardi said Thursday. "Let's let the powers that be make that decision."

Pitchers have 30 days to rehab in the Minors. Chamberlain's first appearance came on July 10.

New York Post 7/21/12

## Montgomery mowing 'em down on farm

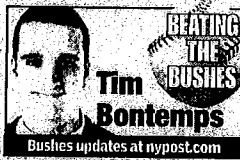
**M**ARK Montgomery has made pitching in pro ball look easy.

Montgomery, a 5-foot-11 right-hander from Longwood University, has done nothing but dominate all comers since the Yankees selected him in the 11th round of last year's First-Year Player Draft, earning himself a promotion to Double-A Trenton earlier this week.

Montgomery, who has yet to allow a professional home run, had immediate success last season after signing with the Yankees, splitting his year between short-season Staten Island and

Low-A Charleston. He didn't record a decision, but finished with a 1.91 ERA and 15 saves in 28  $\frac{1}{3}$  innings across 26 appearances with 51 strikeouts and just 13 walks.

After his stellar 2011 season, Montgomery proceeded to mow through the competition this year with High-A Tampa. Through 40  $\frac{1}{3}$  innings in 31 appearances, Montgomery went 4-1 with a sparkling 1.34 ERA and 14 saves. He allowed just 23 hits, striking out 61 while walking just 16.



► While Montgomery is headed to Trenton hoping to replicate his previous success, 6-foot-8 right-hander

Dellin Betances is finding his groove there after struggling with his command for the first half of the season with Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.

Betances is 1-1 with a 2.92 ERA through four starts with Trenton, allowing 13 runs (eight earned) in 24  $\frac{2}{3}$  innings. More importantly, Betances has man-

aged to cut his walk rate dramatically from where it was in Triple-A. Betances has struck out 25 and walked eight with Trenton, compared to striking out 71 and walking 69 in 74  $\frac{2}{3}$  innings before being demoted.

► Gary Sanchez, one of the highest-rated prospects in the Yankees system, has struggled to adjust to the Florida State League.

The 6-foot-2, 220-pound catcher is hitting .195 (9-for-47) with 15 strikeouts through 13 games with Tampa, though he does have two home runs.

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# **THE WALL STREET JOURNAL**

WSJ.com

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The Short Happy Life of a Yankee Nobody

By TIM MARCHMAN

When you think of the New York Yankees in the Derek Jeter era, you'll picture parades, shiny rings and trophies, piles of cash and Don Zimmer rushing Pedro Martínez. You'll also picture players so famous it's hard to believe they're real even when they're standing a foot away from you. It's what the Yankees are.

For most of their players, though, the Yankees are something else, too—a brief experience that ends as suddenly as it begins. For a player like Adam Warren, who pitched one game this year after four years in the minors, a short run with the Bombers might prove to be the highlight of an entire career. It makes you wonder if the true Yankee experience might not be about briefly making it in New York before moving on to something else, memories in tow.

Kevin Thompson played 32 games for the Yankees in 2006 and 2007, and remembers it all fondly.

"At my job right now, everybody wants to talk about, 'How was it, how was it?'" says Kevin Thompson, who played 32 games for the Yankees in 2006 and 2007. "It was great, man!"

Former Yankees love being Yankees. They'll talk about personalities: Jeter is probably even more revered by his former teammates than by fans. They'll also talk about moments, like the Yankee Stadium roll call—"the greatest feeling of all time," says Thompson—or having 15 reporters in front of your locker tell you that you've made the starting lineup. What they really like to talk about, though, is the pressure.

"You expect to be the best," says Andy Phillips, a coach with the University of Alabama who had about a season's worth of at-bats with the Yankees from 2004 through 2007. "I think that's what you take from it, more than anything, is a level of expectation that's unmatched anywhere I've ever been."

"Everything is expected to be done top notch," says Kevin Reese, who grew up a Yankee hater, hit .385 over a dozen games in 2005 and 2006, and now works for the team as a scout. "We're always expected to win."

Maybe this matters and maybe it doesn't, but takes of Yankee-dom make life in the organization sound a lot like prep school, with someone always there to remind you that how you dress, walk and talk represents where you come from, and tells people whether you want to succeed.

"We all strive to be part of something special," says Phillips. "Yes, there is an expectation to win. Yes, there is an expectation of success. But there's also an enjoyment in that. And it's still baseball."

The whole thing, players agree, is surreal. A breakfast invitation from Jeter, or a front row seat from which to enjoy the walking circus that is Alex Rodríguez, does not make it less so.

As a Yankee, you might think about a player like Mitch Jones, who hit 39 home runs for Trenton and never made it to the Stadium, and realize how much success has to do with chance, and having the right opportunity at the right time. Or you might find yourself swelling with the confidence that comes with Jeter and Rodríguez pretending that you are just as dangerous as the star with the eight-figure salary whom you are temporarily replacing. Either way, you will probably end up comparing the Yankees to everywhere else you've ever been.

"When I went over to the Oakland A's," says Thompson, "it was night and day. There were no reporters in there. No one cared. When I went to the Pirates, no one cared. Not that the players didn't care, but the markets really don't care. It's like, 'OK, you lose, you win, but it's just a game.'"

Think of the Yankees, and you might not picture Warren, or Reese, a successful pro scout, or Phillips, who's helping to build the baseball program at a great sports school, or Thompson, who after he got tired of standing around in the sun on hot fields went back to school to finish his bachelor's, and now hopes to start his own hedge fund.

For all the piles of money, demonstrative gestures toward internationalism and pennants waving above the field, though, this is mostly who the Yankees are, and have been: Basically normal people, as amazed by their surroundings as you would be, who try to enjoy everything

while they have the chance, and do their part to show they belong. There are a lot of myths in baseball. The idea that pinstripes carry a certain weight isn't one of them.

And as players like Warren, David Phelps and Dewayne Wise do their bit to kick in toward another slightly improbable run, this is probably worth keeping in mind: Yankees fans may, from time to time, get cynical. Their proxies on the major league roster mostly don't.

"Years later, you look back," says Phillips. "And just kind of shake your head, that you were part of that."



7/21/12

# Yogi's Hall in for inductions

COOPERSTOWN — Much to everyone's delight, Yogi Berra will be going to Sunday's Hall of Fame inductions after all.

Originally, the 87-year-old Yankee icon, who has been battling health and mobility issues in recent months, was not on the list of returning Hall of Famers for the inductions of Barry Larkin and the late Ron Santo. However, on Thursday, Yogi got a clean bill of health and the go-ahead from his doctors and called Hall of Fame president Jeff Idelson to say he was coming.

"Cooperstown is just never the same when Yogi isn't here," said Idelson, who then related that Berra's return included a



Yogi Berra will attend Sunday's Hall of Fame inductions. Photo by Getty

new Yogi-ism.

"I was telling him about how I'd just come from Baltimore, where they unveiled a statue of Earl Weaver at Camden Yards and how Weaver looked small in the statue," Idelson said.

"Yogi said, 'Yeah, I look small in the statue of me outside my museum, but I'm crouching!'"

All told, there will be 45 returning Hall of Famers for the inductions. Among the notable ones unable to attend are Tom Seaver, who reportedly has a hip condition that makes it difficult for him to fly right now, and Hank Aaron, who had a conflicting family event.

— Bill Madden

## Yankees notes: Reggie Jackson returns

FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2012

### Reggie returns

Back among the Yankees, Reggie Jackson declined any further comment about the firestorm created by his Hall of Fame opinions, which led to a public apology. "I'm here like you, I'm here to watch the game – watch them keep winning," Jackson said as the Yankees headed out for batting practice at the Oakland Coliseum.

A Yankees' special adviser, Jackson – who makes his home in the Bay Area – was in uniform before the Yankees and Athletics opened a four-game series. Jackson apparently has decided to skip this weekend's Cooperstown induction ceremonies after several Hall of Famers were critical of his recent remarks.

Jackson said he didn't view Kirby Puckett, Don Sutton, Phil Niekro and the recently deceased Gary Carter as Hall of Famers and questioned the legitimacy of Alex Rodriguez's batting records due to A-Rod's admission of steroids use as a Texas Ranger.

The Hall of Fame slugger later stated that his comments were "inappropriate and unfair" and that he would "make personal apologies to those within the Hall of Fame community that I offended and to the Yankees organization for any disruption that I caused in the clubhouse."

Jackson was in the Yankees' pre-game clubhouse but mostly out of the sight of reporters. Mr. October later observed batting practice from behind the cage but did not appear to have any direct contact with A-Rod.

"I think it's all behind us ... that's the most important thing," said manager Joe Girardi. "I think Reggie has made a number of calls to try to rectify everything. I'm okay with it. I'm glad he's here. Let's just move on."

### Phelps promoted

Right-hander David Phelps was recalled and reliever D.J. Mitchell was optioned to Class AAA Empire State. "We feel we can use him in a lot of situations," Girardi said of Phelps, who was 1-3 with a 3.05 ERA in 15 appearances (three starts) before he was sent down July 5 to build up his arm strength.

— Pete Caldera

# A plaque of manners

By DON BURKE

## Hall members chide Reggie for voicing snubs

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. — Reggie Jackson was nearly 3,000 miles away, embedded with the Yankees in Oakland, Calif. But even in absentia, Mr. October was the elephant in the middle of town yesterday as baseball royalty gathered for tomorrow's induction of Reds shortstop Barry Larkin and Cubs third baseman Ron Santo into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Jackson, Cooperstown Class of 1993, caused a stir a few weeks back when, in an interview with Sports Illustrated, in addition to questioning whether Alex Rodriguez and Roger Clemens deserved to be elected to the Hall of Fame when they become eligible given their alleged involvement with steroids, he listed several current members of the Hall whom he believed should not have gotten in without a ticket.

In that category, Jackson put the late Gary Carter, as well as Kirby Puckett, Jim Rice, Bert Blyleven, Don Sutton and Phil Niekro.

In the same article, Jackson said if any of the players suspected of using steroids were elected to the Hall of Fame, the current members of the Hall would boycott that year's ceremony.

Jackson has since apologized for his remarks. But instead of traveling here, as he does most years for en-



**ALONG FOR HIDE:** Reggie Jackson, weeks after making controversial comments about Hall of Fame exclusions, skipped this weekend's festivities in Cooperstown and followed the Yankees to Oakland, where he chatted with Rickey Henderson. AP

shrinement weekend, to answer for his comments or, at the very least, get ribbed for making them by the other members of this 297-member fraternity, Jackson chose to stay on the West Coast and renew

acquaintances with the Yankees. The club's hierarchy had told Jackson to stay from the team for several days earlier this month while the storm over his Alex Rodriguez comments blew over.

"I don't want to get into that," Hall of Famer Ferguson Jenkins said yesterday when asked about Jackson. "He doesn't choose his words correctly. You've got to think before you speak."

"I've known Reggie since he was 19 years old at [Arizona State University]. He doesn't think before he speaks and, unfortunately, he steps on his tongue with a big foot. We've been friends for a

long time. ... But he's got to choose his words better."

Tony Perez laughed when the subject of Jackson was broached. But then he grew serious.

"This is the Hall of Fame, and you're in it because you do something great in your career," he said. "Anybody who gets voted into the Hall of Fame deserves to be there."

Rollie Fingers was Jackson's teammate when the A's won three consecutive world championships in the early 1970s with Jackson doing a lot of the heavy lifting. When told the names of the players Jackson felt did not belong in the Hall of Fame, Fingers laughed when he heard Blyleven was among them.

"Blyleven? I guarantee you he got Reggie out more than Reggie got him," Fingers said. "Why would he say that?"

Fingers was right. In 131 at bats against Blyleven, Jackson hit .214 with six homers and 49 strikeouts.

"That doesn't sound like Reggie, bad-mouthing guys who are already in the Hall," Fingers said. "You could say the same thing for him: 'Gosh, he struck out more than anybody in the world [a record 2,597 times]. Why is he in the Hall?'"

"You don't say those things about other guys. But that's Reggie."

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## Rose thinks new ballot may juice his Hall case

By DON BURKE

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. — Still on the outside looking in, Pete Rose wants to get one thing straight.

"There's one thing I didn't do: I didn't cheat the game," baseball's all-time hits leader said yesterday as he sat at the back of a memorabilia shop along Main Street here and signed autographs.

Rose, 71, has been banned from the game and, thus, ineligible to

be on the Hall of Fame ballot since 1991 for betting on baseball while managing the Reds.

While Rose films a reality series for TLC scheduled to air in the fall, he is keeping a close eye on the Hall of Fame class of 2013 because several players connected to steroids — Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens and Sammy Sosa among them — will be on the ballot for the first time.

If any of them is elected to the Hall, Rose, baseball's all-time leader with 4,256 hits, figures it

can't do anything but help his cause.

"It would probably help me in the eyes of the people, the fans," he said. "They're both [steroids and gambling] bad. I'm not here to say one is worse than the other."

"Baseball is all about statistics. ... That's why baseball cards are worth more than football cards. That's why Babe Ruth memorabilia and Ty Cobb memorabilia and Honus Wagner memorabilia is worth more than Jim Brown's

It's the history of baseball. ... When you alter the statistics of baseball, it's bad. There's nothing good about it. I'm not here to say who did it or who didn't because I don't know. I wouldn't know what a steroid looks like.

"I can tell you what kind of player Bonds was, what kind of player Clemens was, what kind of player Sosa was. There again, I don't know if they cheated, when they cheated, I don't know how you put a cap on it. Do you take this year away from them or

something like that? I don't know.

"You can't comment on that without getting in trouble because they're all friends of mine. ... It's going to be interesting to see who [the writers] vote for."

As for his own possible enshrinement, Rose, who retired as a player in 1985, isn't losing any sleep over it.

"You never stop thinking about it," he said. "But you don't worry about it. It's not a big part of my life right now."

# Reggie's mouth talk of the town

BY MARK HERRMANN  
mark.herrmann@newsday.com

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. — Among at least a few of the early arriving Hall of Famers, Reggie Jackson is the straw that stirs the laughter. His former Athletics teammate and fellow Hall of Famer Rolie Fingers, in fact, was chuckling when he said of Jackson's recent eyebrow-raising comments, "When Reggie starts talking, you know everybody listens."

Jackson is not expected to attend the annual dinner and induction ceremonies this weekend, instead having chosen to rejoin the Yankees in Oakland after a brief forced hiatus in the wake of those controversial remarks in Sports Illustrated. The former slugger had questioned the credentials of some players who are in the Hall, and the worthiness of future candidates who have been tainted by steroids.

Ferguson Jenkins, who has known Jackson since the mid-1960s when their respective clubs were among the few that held spring training in Arizona, said, "He doesn't think before he speaks and unfortunately he steps on his tongue, with a big foot. He doesn't choose his words correctly. He doesn't think. I mean, you've got to think before you speak."

Jenkins likes Jackson, recalling him as a player for Arizona State and a young star with the Athletics. "He was a big name back then, and he played big," the former Cubs pitcher said. "When he went to the Yankees, he was even bigger. But he's got to choose his words better."

Fingers had heard about the Jackson interview but had not read it. So he asked which Hall of Famers Jackson had criticized. When someone mentioned



Rolie Fingers

Bert Blyleven, the former reliever laughed again and said, "Blyleven? I guarantee Blyleven got him more times than [the other way around]." And when someone mentioned Gary Carter as another target, Fingers said, "Carter, really? Why would he say those things?"

"That doesn't sound like Reggie, bad-mouthing guys who are already in the Hall. You could say almost the same thing about him: 'God, he struck out more than anybody in the world, why is he in the Hall? You don't say those things about other guys,'" Fingers said.

As for Jackson's prediction that the current Hall members would boycott the ceremony if players mentioned in baseball's steroid scandal were enshrined, Fingers said, "That's not a discussion we usually have. When we have our dinner, we usually talk about the guys who are in or the guys who are just coming in."

Tony Perez, who, like the other two inductees, was doing an autograph session, said, "I don't want to get into that. But this is the Hall of Fame. You're here because you did something great in your career. Everybody who got voted into the Hall of Fame deserves to be there, I guess."

## Rose unsure if suspected steroid users deserve Hall

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. — Pete Rose, the newest reality TV star, knows that former greats accused or suspected of having used steroids could face the same stark reality that he does: a lifetime without getting into the Hall of Fame.

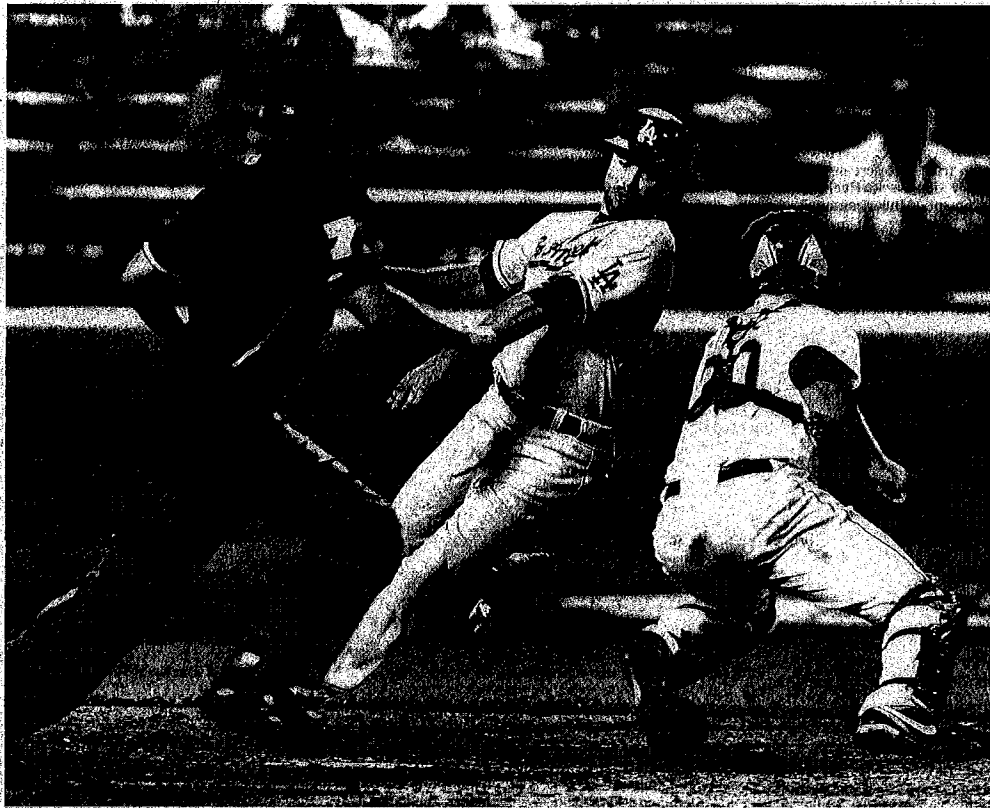
He simply doesn't know if they deserve that fate. Doing his annual induction-weekend autograph-signing at the Safe at Home collectibles shop a few doors down from the Hall and being filmed for a reality TV series with his fiancée, Rose said, "I'm not here to say who did it or who didn't. I wouldn't know what a steroid even looks like."

Mindful that Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens and Sammy Sosa become eli-

gible next year, he added, "I don't know if they cheated, when they cheated. I don't know how you'd put a cap on it. Do you take [one particular] year away from them? I can't comment on that without getting in trouble because those guys are all friends of mine."

Rose, banned from baseball for life for having bet on the game, acknowledged that if those guys get elected, it could help his own cause. "They both are bad," he said, referring to gambling and performance enhancing drugs. "I'm not here to say one's worse than the other. There's one thing I didn't do: I didn't cheat the game." — MARK HERRMANN

## BASEBALL



JASON SZENES/EUROPEAN PRESSPHOTO AGENCY

The Dodgers' Andre Ethier avoiding catcher Josh Thole in the seventh inning to score what turned out to be the decisive run.

## Struggle for Santana, and Mets' Rallies Fall Short

By TIM ROHAN

The Mets may be paying for a pricey memory. Johan Santana's pitch count hardly mattered Friday night once the Los Angeles Dodgers battered him for six runs in the first

**DODGERS** 7 three innings.  
**METS** 6 — It was his latest subpar performance since his June 1 no-hitter, when he threw 134 pitches, surpassing Manager Terry Collins' unofficial limit of 115.

That night, Santana's return from shoulder surgery — which cost him the entire 2011 season — was painted as heroic, and Collins was praised for ignoring his conscience and allowing Santana to throw the Mets' first no-hitter. In a foreboding moment, dismissed on a night that Mets fans savored, Collins said that if Santana were hurt later, "I'm not going to feel very good."

Santana has not been hurt, but he has not pitched well, and there were no tough decisions for Collins on Friday night at Citi Field. Santana threw only 72 pitches, 45 of them for strikes, and allowed at least six runs for the third straight start as the Mets lost to the Dodgers, 7-6. Compounding Santana's disheartening performance, the Mets lost for the sixth time in seven games since the All-Star break.

"He's not hurt, let's put it that way," Collins said, adding that placing Santana on the disabled list or skipping his next start would be among the options the team would discuss to "get some energy back in his arm."

Santana sounded as perplexed as Collins did. "I'm not able to execute the way I'm supposed to," he said. "I feel O.K. I don't feel my best right now, but at the same time, I'm not trying to find excuses."

Before the game, Collins had scoffed at the notion that the no-hitter was still affecting Santana — he complimented Santana's recent slider and fastball — and afterward he said he liked Santana's velocity, but not his command.

Yet Santana's 12th pitch, a belt-high, inside fastball at 88 miles per hour, arrived just slow enough for Matt Kemp to turn on it for a two-run homer.

Kemp got off to a torrid start this year, but he missed most of May and all of June with a hamstring injury. The home run was his second since returning.

Santana escaped the inning only after allowing another run on a two-out single by Jerry Hairston.

In the second, Santana's 48th pitch bounced before it reached catcher Josh Thole. Santana threw six straight pitches out of the strike zone, having walked Kemp to load the bases, and then walking Andre Ethier on four pitches to give the Dodgers a 4-2 lead. Earlier that inning, the 38-year-old Bobby Abreu began the Dodgers' rally by drawing a five-pitch walk.

Blame the walks, the general ineffectiveness or, perhaps, the shoulder, but Collins had relievers warming up before the inning was through.

Collins allowed Santana to continue, and throw a 60th pitch, a changeup that Luis Cruz will remember as his first home run in the major leagues. As dominant as Santana had seemed nine starts ago, it was a sobering moment: Cruz, a career minor-leaguer, fell behind, 1-2, then fouled off two pitches before putting a healthy swing on Santana's signature pitch.

Santana finished the inning, but he did not return. His record fell to 6-7, his earned run average climbed to 3.98, and the speculation that something was wrong with him heightened.

"Nah, that no-hitter stuff was a long time ago," Santana said. "I don't think that had anything to do with it. I'm just going through a tough time. Call it a slump, or whatever it is. It's just a tough time. That's about it."

Given Santana's previous two starts, Friday's flop was not a surprise. He had not pitched past the fifth inning in either loss, to the Cubs and the Braves, and the fifth inning had done him in each time. As part of a five-run fifth on July 6, the Chicago rookie Anthony Rizzo hit a two-run homer. As part of a six-run fifth on Sunday, Atlanta's Freddie Freeman hit a three-run shot.

Those lapses came just when it seemed Santana had quieted any lingering doubts about his shoulder. Although he allowed six runs in his first start after the no-hitter, Santana then gave up only 6 runs in 25 innings in his next four starts, twice holding his opponents scoreless. Three weeks

ago against the Dodgers in Los Angeles, Santana pitched eight scoreless innings.

After getting into an early hole Friday, the Mets kept battling back and falling just short. In the bottom of the first, David Wright nearly matched Kemp by driving a ball to deep left-center field, but it was not hit far enough and became a sacrifice fly, driving in the Mets' first run of the game.

After Santana exited, the Dodgers did not score again until they added a run in the seventh. By then, the Mets had scored one run in both the fifth and sixth innings. In the bottom of the seventh, the rookie Jordany Valdespin, batting as a pinch hitter, hit a two-run homer, cutting the Dodgers' lead to 7-6.

But Santana had not done them any favors, and they could not push another run across the plate. In the bottom of the ninth, Valdespin was on second with one out, representing the tying run, when Justin Turner struck out and Andres Torres popped out to end the game.

### INSIDE PITCH

DILLON GEE, who is recovering from a blood clot in his pitching shoulder, was in the Mets' clubhouse Friday. The Mets could expect Gee back in as few as eight weeks, though his recovery could take as many as 12, and his return this season is doubtful. Closer FRANK FRANCISCO (oblique) reported feeling fine after a long-toss session Friday. He could pitch by next week if a Sunday bullpen session goes well.

New York Times 7/21/12

## A Broadcaster With Something to Say

By RICHARD SANDOMIR

Tim McCarver's broadcasting career started in 1980 without much guidance from Harry Kalas and Richie Ashburn, his senior colleagues in the Philadelphia Phillies booth.

"Harry did his job, and that alone, just listening to his cadence, his rhythm, that was enough," McCarver said by telephone from Cooperstown, N.Y., where he will be honored Saturday afternoon as the winner of the annual Ford C. Frick Award for broadcasting. But Ashburn's advice was: "Pal, if you don't have anything to say, then don't say it, and I said: 'That's easy. I wouldn't say anything if I didn't have anything to say.'"

McCarver rarely lacks for something to say, a reflection of his innate enthusiasm and desire to educate viewers as he was schooled with the St. Louis Cardinals. Over 32 years — locally with the Phillies, the Mets, the Yankees and the Giants, and nationally with NBC, ABC, CBS and Fox — he has created a style that blends analysis born from his 21 years in a catcher's crouch, with historical references, groan-worthy puns, a tendency to hammer some points and savvy first-guessing before plays unfold.

"All I did was announce the game the way I thought it should be, and I found very early on that my observations were different from others," he said. "Not better or worse, just different." As a catcher looking out at the field,

he said, "you visualized without realizing it that this choreography was going on behind the pitcher, where you inadvertently learned all the positions and their responsibilities."

One day in the mid-1980s, he said, he asked Bill Webb, the longtime Mets TV director, if he could capture a shot of a shortstop, with his glove up to his face, silently telling the second baseman who would cover second on a ground ball hit to the pitcher. The shortstop's closed mouth meant he would cover; his open mouth meant the second baseman would.

"Between innings," McCarver said, "Webbie said, 'Is this what you're talking about?'" — a shot of the shortstop gesturing to the second base from the high first-base camera. "I said, 'How many times have you seen that?' He said, 'I've never seen that.'"

But the shot became routine enough on baseball telecasts that three years later, during a playoff series on ABC, Al Michaels said, "We've seen that so many times."

Early in their years together, Michaels said that he asked McCarver if he minded that he layered his play-by-play with analysis. Michaels, speaking from London, said: "Tim said, 'Absolutely not, I love it because it gives me a brand new palette so I can go somewhere else.' He embraced it, and I could take the rudimentary analysis out of play and hand him the baton."

Before McCarver's broadcasting was a major league career

that started when the Cardinals signed him at age 17. But he was nearly a Yankee. He was scouted at Christian Brothers High School in Memphis by Bill Dickey, the Yankee Hall of Fame catcher. Dickey tried to woo the McCarvers by bringing fresh catfish from his home in Little Rock, Ark. Dickey knew the Cardinals had the edge on the Yankees, who already had catchers Elston Howard and Yogi Berra and were eyeing another, Jake Gibbs.

"Bill was very persuasive and made it very difficult for me," McCarver said. The Yankees offered \$68,000. The Cardinals proposed a \$75,000 bonus and guaranteed salary of \$8,000 for five years.

"The Cards said, 'Take it or leave it; we don't negotiate,'" he said. "I thought they'd go away."

Signing with the Cardinals let McCarver establish deep connections to pitcher's Bob Gibson and Steve Carlton, whose link to McCarver grew stronger when both played in Philadelphia. Carlton's induction in 1994 was the reason that McCarver last traveled to Cooperstown. At a dinner the night before the ceremony, the host, George Grande, asked McCarver to talk about the left-handed Carlton.

McCarver recalled saying: "If Carl Hubbell goes down in the history of baseball for having the best screwball, if Sandy Koufax goes down as having the best curve, and Nolan Ryan goes down as arguably having the best fastball, then Steve Carlton will



STEWART CAIRNS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

The TV analyst Tim McCarver in Cooperstown, where he will be honored as the Ford C. Frick Award winner on Saturday.

go down as having the best slider in the game."

Then, he added: "I looked over his shoulder and this very familiar figure was swimming his way through the crowd. It was Gibson. And No. 45 gets about four inches from my face and said, 'The best left-handed slider in the history of the game.' He made his point, skulked away and giggled."

If anything cemented McCarver's role as a premier analyst, it was joining the Mets' broadcasting crew in 1983. McCarver was becoming known nationally — he called games for NBC in '80 and '81, and was hired at ABC Sports in '84, four years after failing an audition there — but he joined the Mets as they were building their credibility on the way to winning the '86 World Series.

"Looking back, it was the right

time, but I didn't feel that way at the time," he said. "Having Strawberry come up in May, and then they made the deal for Keith Hernandez." Mets General Manager Frank Cashen, McCarver said, telephoned him at his apartment in New Jersey and asked what he knew about Hernandez. "I said: 'Well, he's some player. I don't think I've ever seen a first baseman his equal defensively, and he's a good hitter.'"

McCarver spent 16 seasons with the Mets — "the most exciting years of my professional life" — in a delightful booth partnership with Ralph Kiner, whose stories, humor and historical gravitas have long merged with his malaprops, mispronunciations and memory lapses. Kiner called McCarver "Sid," "Ted" and "Jim," and "Tim MacArthur," too.

A longtime catcher's experience, joined by groan-worthy puns.

Sometimes, Kiner simply forgot his friend's name (and his own).

Kiner once had to describe the entrance of a San Diego Padres reliever while satisfying a sponsor, American Cyanamid. McCarver had checked the sponsor lineup beforehand, saw the company's name and said, "Oh boy, that's tough to pronounce." And, he added, "Sure enough, Ralph said, 'The Padres make a pitching change, and this is brought to you by American Cyanide.'"

"We were advocating cyanide pills," McCarver said. "That's how bad the Mets were playing."

McCarver has called a record 22 World Series and 21 All-Star Games. But it has been his insights, not his longevity, that earned him the Hall of Fame's Frick Award. But, Michaels believes, longevity is partly responsible for some of the barbed criticism, his friend has received in recent years.

"He's been doing almost all the big games," he said. "He was the guy you got, period."

How long McCarver will continue to broadcast baseball at Fox, or anywhere else, is not known. He has a year left with Fox, the same time left on Fox's baseball contract. "I have certainly thought about it," said McCarver, who is 70. "Could be, whoever wins the next contract is looking for another demographic."

July 20, 2012, 8:37 p.m. ET

An Endless Soccer Experiment

By JOSHUA ROBINSON

When Chelsea squares off against Paris Saint-Germain at Yankee Stadium on Sunday, the patch around first base, normally Mark Teixeira's domain, will be a goalkeeper's six-yard box. The area around second base might belong to Frank Lampard or Zlatan Ibrahimovic. And the third-base corner, for once, will be completely irrelevant, away from a soccer field that runs from the first-base dugout to the left-field bleachers.

It's certainly not what Yankee Stadium was designed for, but by cramming in soccer for the first time since it opened in 2009, the ballpark will enter a long history of New York venues' welcoming the beautiful game. In fact, at least 13 major professional venues in the New York area have hosted soccer, including various iterations of Yankee Stadium and the Polo Grounds. That means that soccer has had more homes here than baseball, football, basketball and, it seems, boxing—even if the arenas were often an awkward fit.

"I think the energy and the passion of the fans transcends whatever architectural objections there are," said former Cosmos goalkeeper and current Red Bulls announcer Shep Messing.

Obviously, places like Red Bull Arena in Harrison, N.J., and MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford are natural hosts for soccer. One is the first purpose-built MLS venue in the area and the other was designed, at least in part, with major international games in mind. This summer's wild Brazil-Argentina game stands out as the highlight.

But soccer has been in plenty of less natural venues too, from Madison Square Garden to Citi Field to the city's oldest, long-departed ballparks. Soccer was even played at Ebbets Field after the Brooklyn Dodgers left for the West Coast.

"It was just normal for these venues to take on every sport imaginable, because they were just trying to fill the seats and make money," said Jeffrey Kroessler, author of "The Greater New York Sports Chronology." "There was no nobler goal to it all."

#### The Ballparks

The earliest high-profile match at a major baseball venue on record seems to be a 1905 contest at the Polo Grounds between a New York all-star team and a visiting side from England known as the Pilgrims.

Before that game, the New York World had announced that all 11 of the New York players were absolutely "confident of besting the Britishers at their own game of 'soccer.'"

In front of 3,000 fans, the Pilgrims won, 7-1.

But the score wasn't what made the headlines the next day. The newspapermen were more impressed by how much safer the English version of football was compared to its American cousin, a brutal college sport that many critics wanted abolished.

"'Socker' is Fast, Not Murderous," screamed a World headline the next day. "Athletes Wore Light Costumes, Kicked Ball Only, Refraining from Mayhem." The New York Herald pointed out that "not a man of the twenty-two was carried off the field; not an ambulance call sounded."

Something beyond the lack of blood must have appealed to ballpark owners, though, because they just kept bringing it back, weaving it into the fabric of the city's most storied venues. Today, that history has been largely forgotten.

League championship game as early 1914. And the Polo Grounds and Yankee Stadium were both announced as the regular homes of local clubs in 1923. Indeed, with deep roots in New York and New Jersey's immigrant communities, soccer was an ideal candidate to fill empty seats during the baseball offseason.

"I believe soccer is the coming fall-to-spring outdoor sport of the nation," Giants President Charles Stoneham told reporters at the time. He added: "I am confident the game's presentation under suitable conditions in the big-league ballparks will vastly increase its public following, which has grown to goodly proportions in recent years."

The attendance figures for soccer games in ballparks in the 1920s were enough to convince some columnists that Stoneham was right. In 1926, for instance, 46,000 people packed the Polo Grounds to watch a New York all-star side take on the Hakoah Sport Club, an all-Jewish team out of Austria.

"Though it be lese majesty [treason] to voice the thought, the day may come when the diamonds will be transformed into soccer fields," the New York Sun's George Trevor wrote. "We hope we won't live to see this eventuality for, to our way of thinking, baseball is the infinitely more attractive game."

Trevor, then, would have been disappointed to see that major foreign squads continued to visit the city's three ballparks on an almost yearly basis for the next four decades.

And of those dozens of teams, the cream of the crop was the Real Madrid side that beat Austria's Graz Sports Club at Ebbets Field in 1959.

Chelsea may arrive at Yankee Stadium as defending European champions, but that Real Madrid team—which featured legends like Alfredo di Stefano and Ferenc Puskas—had just won the European Cup, too. Four times in a row.

#### The International Soccer League

New York, however, was not only a destination for European soccer royalty. An annual tournament called the International Soccer League invited a raft of not-always-popular sides to the city between 1960 and 1965.

Take the league's 1965 edition, which saw this motley assortment descend on Downing Stadium on Randall's Island and the newly opened Shea Stadium: a local club called the New Yorkers, Portuguesa of Brazil, Varese of Italy, Kilmarnock of Scotland, Ferencvaros of Hungary, West Bromwich Albion of England, Polonia Bytom of Poland, and Dukla Prague of then-Czechoslovakia.

And no one seemed to care. Much like the MetroStars would do in Giants Stadium four decades later, those teams played to vast expanses of empty seats, failing to arouse the excitement of 1930s and 1940s.

When Portuguesa beat a West Ham side that boasted Bobby Moore, who later captained England to its only World Cup title, only 5,130 of Shea's 55,000 seats were occupied.

#### The Cosmos

A decade later, the Cosmos were getting to know that echoing empty-stadium feeling all too well.

Though they started at Yankee Stadium in 1971, they spent the next four seasons on the fringe of the scene. There were two seasons at Hofstra and then two more at Downing Stadium, a place The Wall Street Journal described in 1975 as a "dilapidated arena, dating from the Works Progress Administration of Franklin Roosevelt, with a bumpy, patchy field and lighting so uneven as to leave the four corners of the playing area in darkness."

It took Pelé to change everything.

"Before he came, we had played there with crowds of 3,000, 4,000 or 6,000 people," said Messing. "The field was like dirt and rocks and they spray-painted it green."

Pelé made his debut in the summer of 1975 in front of 300 reporters and 21,278 fans at Downing Stadium—not quite a sellout. Surprisingly, the attendance figures did not improve much the next season when they moved into Yankee Stadium, where the Cosmos averaged 18,227.

Their regular season finale there in August 1976 was the last time soccer was played at the Stadium, in any of its incarnations.

The following season, after a brief playoff stint at Shea, they finally hit the big time with a brand new venue to match. As the Cosmos grew into the toast of the town, their games at Giants Stadium became one of the hottest tickets around.

That year, the Meadowlands drew more than 75,000 to Cosmos games on three occasions. And Pelé called the last one, his farewell game, the "greatest moment of my life." This from a man who won three World Cups and scored 1,281 career goals.

#### The Indoor Experiment

From the very beginning of Madison Square Garden's 1941 experiment with indoor soccer, everyone could tell it was a huge mistake. The surface the organizers had picked for their tripleheader of fast-paced, 7-on-7 games was terrazzo.



And on that marble-like flooring, the players' soft-soled shoes had all the grip of a Teflon pan. "Minor dizzy spells caused by skulls banging the floor were too numerous to count," according to one newspaper. Not to mention the free-for-all fight that broke out in the middle of a game and sent two players to the hospital.

Yet, somehow, the evening was not seen as a complete fiasco: more than 8,000 fans had turned out for the simple reason that they enjoyed sports and, well, this was a sporting event.

"There were minor league hockey teams that consistently had successful runs in the Garden, too, and even minor league boxing cards that would sell out," Kroessler said. "It was a sporting town. And you had a large enough fan base in New York that could sustain it."

Other New York-area arenas would give it a shot in the decades that followed, too. From 1978 to 1984, the Nassau Coliseum was home to the New York Arrows of the Major Indoor Soccer League and, briefly, to a team called the New York Express.

More recently, the New Jersey Ironmen played at Newark's Prudential Center before the Xtreme Soccer League suspended operations in 2009.