



**New York Yankees Clips**  
**Tuesday, June 11, 2013**



FOXSports.com

# Yankees-Athletics Preview

**AP** Associated Press

UPDATED JUN 10, 2013 4:11 PM ET

The **New York Yankees** have regrouped since a difficult stretch but face a formidable challenge in their next series.

The Yankees not only have to attempt to end the Oakland **Athletics'** recent home dominance but also try to snap Bartolo Colon's string of stellar outings in Tuesday night's opener of a three-game set.

New York (37-26) earned its sixth win in seven games Sunday - 2-1 over Seattle - on **Chris Stewart's** ninth-inning single and took three of four over the Mariners to open its 10-game West Coast road trip. The Yankees, though, now face a team that's won eight straight home games and will have its top starter on the mound.

Colon (7-2, 3.14 ERA) is 4-0 with a 0.90 ERA in his last four starts and pitched a five-hitter against the **Chicago White Sox** on May 31 in his only home game over that stretch. That run has come while rumors continue to swirl about his future.

Colon is among a number of players being investigated for their involvement with Biogenesis of America, a closed anti-aging clinic that allegedly supplied performance-enhancing drugs. Colon served a 50-game suspension last season after testing positive for synthetic testosterone.

He would appear to be in for a struggle in his next start as he's 0-3 with an 11.05 ERA in his last five starts against the Yankees, but he had a respectable performance in his only matchup this season. Colon, who pitched for the Yankees in 2011 before heading to Oakland, gave up three runs over 5 1-3 innings in a 4-2 defeat May 4.

That was the only loss for Oakland (38-27) in a three-game series at Yankee Stadium, and it's won four straight at home over New York. The A's, though, will have to face **CC Sabathia**.

Sabathia (6-4, 3.74) is 3-1 with a 1.94 ERA in his last seven matchups, and the Bay Area native is 2-0 with a 2.49 ERA in his last three visits to Oakland. He also enters this game having won back-to-back starts but is 0-2 with a 6.29 ERA in his last four on the road.

Sabathia recorded his first complete game this season Wednesday against Cleveland, throwing a seven-hitter in a 6-4 win that was the 197th of his career.

"He looked real good. He had no-hit stuff," outfielder Brett Gardner told the team's website. "He looked really good. The final line, he gave up four runs, but I thought he pitched great."

The A's home win streak is their longest since a 10-game run Aug. 11-Sept. 1, 2006, and Oakland had won 18 of 21 overall before suffering back-to-back losses to the Chicago White Sox this weekend.

The A's pitchers have posted an AL-best 2.63 ERA in those 23 games after putting up a 4.35 ERA in their first 42.

"We know we have the guys here who can pitch. Early on they kind of got off to a little rough start and the bats were able to pick them up. But lately what's been separating us from the other teams is our pitching by far," third baseman **Josh Donaldson** said.

Before its current surge, Sabathia had accounted for New York's lone victory in an eight-game span.

Robinson Cano



# ROBBIE SET TO ROCK

## Unfazed despite 4-for-33 slide

BY MARK FEINSAND  
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

OAKLAND — Robinson Cano has plenty of experience with slumps.

The second baseman's career began back in 2005 with a 2-for-23 skid, giving Cano a quick lesson on dealing with the ups and downs of the long season.

So despite the current 4-for-33 slide that has dropped his average from .296 down to .272 over the past 10 games, Cano believes he's one swing away from turning things around.

"I don't want to sound cocky, but I feel good," Cano said. "I think I'm about to get hot."

Cano has displayed hot-and-cold tendencies throughout his career, none more prominent than the end of the 2012 season. After scorching the ball to the tune of a .615 average with a .628 OBP and 1.026 slugging percentage in the final nine games of the regular season, Cano's bat went cold in October. He hit .075/.098/.125 in nine postseason games, one of the biggest reasons for the Yankees' flameout and sweep at the hands of the Tigers in the ALCS.

Unlike that two-week stretch, Cano isn't chasing bad pitches or taking overly aggressive swings. He's hit some balls hard during the past 10 games, including four or five during the Mariners series that found their way into the opposing team's gloves.

"I don't feel like he's lost, feeling for his swing or discouraged with what he's doing," hitting coach Kevin Long said. "With Robbie, he knows he's one game from getting real, real hot — and I feel the same way. I don't feel like he's far off or doing anything drastic that would

be a red flag."

Cano's biggest problems this season continue to come against lefties, pitchers he used to abuse with regularity. He's hitting .200/.262/.347 against them, a precipitous drop from his .318/.387/.596 line against righthanders.

Cano feels like his approach has been the same, he's either just missed some pitches or been a victim of bad luck. Unlike the homestands, where he found himself striking out and hitting ground balls with regularity, he feels the Seattle series was a step forward despite his 2-for-13 performance.

"When you struggle, things don't look the same," said Cano, who had a three-run home run in the first game against the Mariners and a hard RBI single in the first inning of the third game. "Everybody sees something is wrong, something is happening. (Saturday) I got a hit when the first pitch was a slider on the ground. I got a hit, so it's good, right? If I hit a ground ball to first base, I'm in a slump. The good thing is I feel good mentally and physically. I feel good at the plate."

Given the recent struggles of the entire lineup this side of Brett Gardner, it would be easy to speculate that Cano — universally regarded as the best hitter on the team — has been putting too much pressure on himself while Curtis Granderson, Derek Jeter and Alex Rodriguez remain on the DL and other teammates such as Vernon Wells continue to slump.

Neither Cano nor Long buys into that theory. "Honestly, no," Cano said. "I just go out there and play the same game that I always play."

"I know this guy as well as anybody in the game, having been with him for nine years," Long said. "I haven't sensed or seen any of that. He's the same guy. He comes to work, he's prepared and ready to go every day. He knows what's in there and he knows his talent. It will come out."

### ON DECK YANKS AT



TUESDAY  
10 P.M., YES  
CC Sabathia  
(6-4, 3.74) vs.  
Bartolo Colon  
(7-2, 3.14)

WEDNESDAY  
10 P.M., YES  
Phil Hughes  
(3-4, 4.80) vs.  
Dan Straily  
(3-2, 4.67)

THURSDAY  
3:30 P.M., YES  
Hiroyuki Kuroda  
(6-5, 2.84) vs.  
Jarrod Parker  
(5-6, 4.68)

## Robinson Cano Doesn't Know Anything About a Slump

DANIEL BARBARISI June 10, 2013

OAKLAND, Calif.—Since the calendar turned to June, Robinson Cano's batting average has dropped 20 points, and he has gone into one of the few extended slumps of his season. And yet he remains his usual, supremely confident self.

He is aware of how this looks. He gets that when a player is slumping, he isn't supposed to blame bad luck and trumpet how good he feels at the plate—or he'll sound, as Cano puts it, "cocky."

Robinson Cano isn't hitting, but he isn't worried

But he is Robinson Cano, so he says it anyway.

"Honestly, I'll tell you this: I feel good. I don't want to sound cocky, but I feel good," Cano said, going on to explain that he is whacking balls all over the field, but "they're not falling. I feel pretty good. I think I'm about to get hot."

That is Cano, in a nutshell. He doesn't change who he is. He doesn't make apologies if he feels he is doing well but not getting results. He announces that he's good, even though he has four hits in his last 10 games, only one for extra bases.

"I would say I've been better than I was at the beginning of the season," Cano said. "I've been swinging, hitting balls right at people. They're not falling right now. [But] I feel good at the plate."

This is why Cano, despite being one of the best players in baseball, still has his detractors. He continues to get criticism over whether he runs hard enough to first base; whether he dives enough chasing ground balls; whether he is a true franchise cornerstone, the kind of player worth lavishing a megadeal on when he hits free agency this winter.

Yankees owner Hal Steinbrenner has expressed his desire to sign Cano long-term, and even broken his own prohibition on negotiating extensions midseason to get it done. But Steinbrenner said last week there have been no significant developments in the negotiations.

Until recently, Cano was having another typically strong season, and even his recent slump hasn't tarnished his overall line too badly: Entering Tuesday's season opener here against the A's, Cano has a .272 batting average with 15 home runs, 40 RBIs, a .339 on-base percentage and an .839 OPS (on-base-plus-slugging percentage). He leads all American League second basemen in voting for the All-Star Game, and he has spent much of the season as the only star in the depleted Yankee lineup, an island of productivity amid the ebbing and flowing production of stand-ins like Vernon Wells and Kevin Youkilis.

It has taken a little getting used to, Cano admitted.

"It's different," he said. "We've been winning games by one run or two runs, not like before when we used to win by five or seven."

It could be that Cano has felt that extra pressure to constantly carry the team, and that it has affected his performance.

"I'm sure he has a little bit," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "I think it's just human nature to do that. Robbie is a very relaxed player and I think that probably helps him in that situation."

But Girardi, too, said that he expected his star player to bounce back, and soon. And he made his own predictions for Cano: a hot streak is looming, just as Cano said.

And when your manager is saying it, maybe it isn't that cocky after all.

"He's just going through a little bit of a time when he's struggling," Girardi said. "It just means that he's going to get hot again. That's what it means to me, and I'm looking forward to that because it means that it's fun to watch."

# THE BRETT OFFENSIVE

## Gardner surging as Yanks' big bats slump

By GEORGE A. KING III

OAKLAND — Brett Gardner is the new Robinson Cano.

And if that continues for a long stretch, the plucky Yankees will have to rely even more heavily on a pitching staff that has kept them close to the AL East lead.

"This is the best I have ever seen him swing on a consistent basis," Yankees hitting coach Kevin Long said of the leadoff man who brings a smoking bat into tonight's first of three games against the A's at the Coliseum. "He is barreling up everything. Lefties, righties, and he is hitting for power."

In the past 17 games, Gardner is hitting .365 with three homers and 11 RBIs.

The left-handed hitter was limited to 16 games last year due to a right elbow injury that required July surgery, and he hit .259 in 159 games in 2011, so Gardner faced questions of whether he could give the Yankees more this year. On May 24, Gardner was batting .254.

"People were looking at Gardner early and saying, 'Is this where he needs to be?'" Long said. "Now you look at him and you say, 'He's locked in, and he's ready to go.' It took him not only spring training but a couple

of months as well."

What is the reason for the streak that raised Gardner's average to a team-leading .284 and featured a four-hit game Sunday, three of them against Felix Hernandez, in a 2-1 victory?

"He's more aggressive this year," Long said. "He has swung at a lot more first pitches. He is real good early in counts, and he is ready to hit the fastball."

Gardner said returning late last year and having a full spring training put him in position to hit, but lately he has been ridiculous.

"If I wasn't able to come back at the end of last season it probably would have been different as far as this season," Gardner explained.

While Gardner, the AL Player of the Week for hitting .520 (13-for-25), is sizzling, Cano is slumping and Mark Teixeira is attempting to find his way after missing the first two months of the season with a right wrist tendon injury.

Joe Girardi said Cano's 3-for-28 (.107) slump isn't causing him problems. Nor is his .272 average.

"I'm not going to worry about Robbie, he is the least of my worries," Girardi said of the Yankees' best hitter whom they need to get

straightened out while Kevin Youkilis and Teixeira chip away the rust.

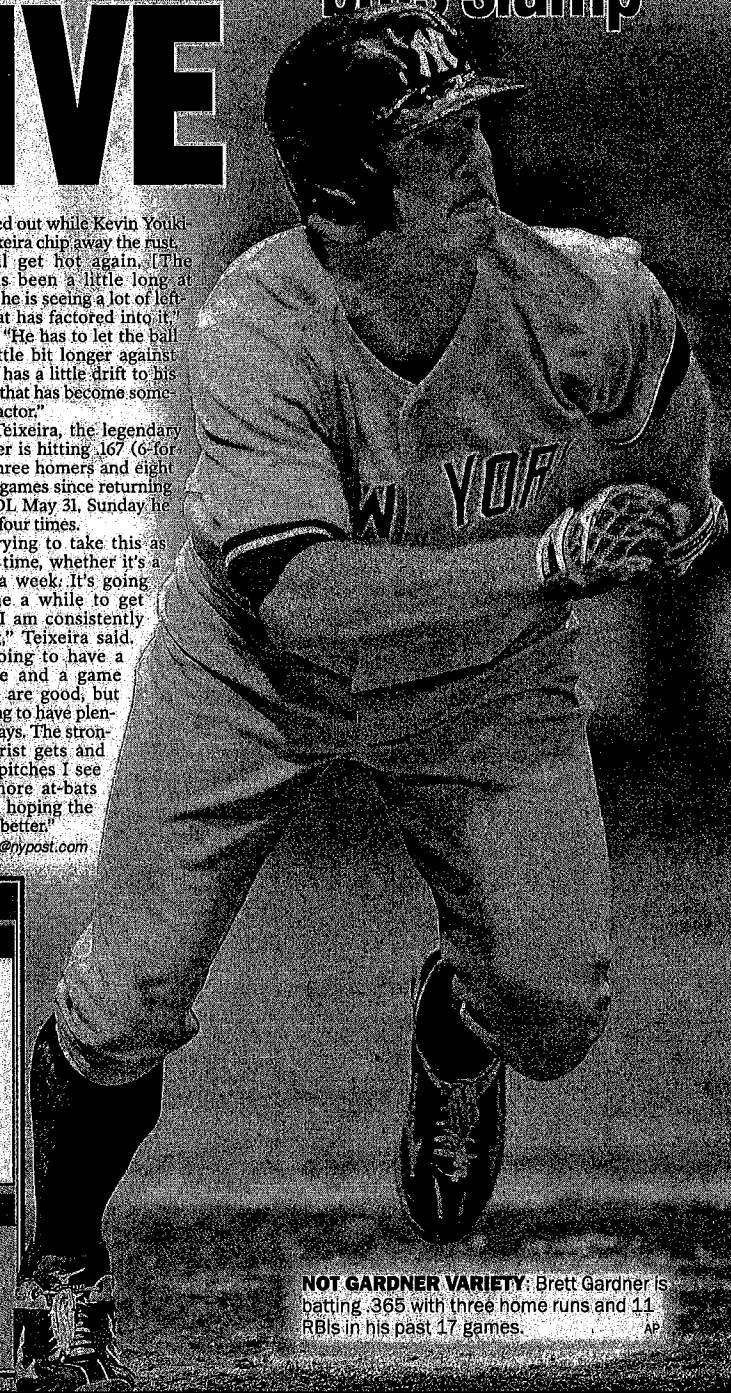
"He will get hot again. [The swing] has been a little long at times, and he is seeing a lot of lefties and that has factored into it," Long said. "He has to let the ball travel a little bit longer against lefties. He has a little drift to his swing and that has become somewhat of a factor."

As for Teixeira, the legendary slow starter is hitting .167 (6-for-36) with three homers and eight RBIs in 10 games since returning from the DL May 31. Sunday he struck out four times.

"I am trying to take this as chunks of time, whether it's a series or a week. It's going to take me a while to get to where I am consistently producing," Teixeira said.

"You're going to have a game here and a game there that are good, but you're going to have plenty of bad days. The stronger my wrist gets and the more pitches I see and the more at-bats I get, I am hoping the results are better."

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**NOT GARDNER VARIETY:** Brett Gardner is batting .365 with three home runs and 11 RBIs in his past 17 games.

AP

### AT ATHLETICS

**TONIGHT — 10:05**

LHP CC Sabathia (6-4, 3.74) vs. RHP Bartolo Colon (7-2, 3.14)

**TOMORROW — 10:05**

RHP Phil Hughes (3-4, 4.80) vs. RHP Dan Straily (3-2, 4.67)

**THURSDAY — 3:35**

RHP Hiroki Kuroda (6-5, 2.84) vs. RHP Jarrod Parker (5-6, 4.68)

All games on YES, WCBS (630 AM)

### ON DECK

#### INSIDE THE MATCHUPS

**YANKEES:** Sabathia truly is the Yankees' work horse. In 12 of his 13 starts this season, the lefty has exceeded 100 pitches. His only start short of that mark came against the Rockies on May 9, when a fifth-inning rain delay prevented Sabathia from returning to the mound.

**ATHLETICS:** The well-traveled Colon has been unhittable in his past four starts. The former Yankee's fastball isn't what it once was, but in his past 30 innings pitched, he's allowed just three earned runs (0.90 ERA). He's 4-0 in that span.

#### STAT SO?

**YANKEES:** Reliever Preston Claiborne is the first Yankee pitcher since 1916 not to issue a walk over his first 18 major league outings.

**ATHLETICS:** A's pinch hitters are a measly 6-for-62 (.097). Only Baltimore's pinch hitters (2-for-21, .095) had a lower average through the weekend.



6/10/2013 3:50 P.M. ET

## **Yankees' Gardner garners AL weekly honors**

**Outfielder hit .520 with six RBIs, beats out teammates Sabathia, Rivera**

By Zack Meisel / MLB.com

Slowly but surely, the Yankees' slew of injured sluggers are making their way back into the lineup. One hitter who has avoided the injury bug continues to rake.

Outfielder Brett Gardner, who has played in each of New York's 63 games, earned American League Player of the Week honors Monday for the offensive blitz he put on the Indians and Mariners last week. In seven contests, Gardner batted .520 (13-for-25) with a .556 on-base percentage, five doubles, one home run, six RBIs and five runs scored.

Gardner notched a two-run single to break a 4-4 tie in the sixth inning of the Yankees' 7-4 win against Cleveland last Monday. On Wednesday, he socked a three-run homer in the Bronx Bombers' 6-4 triumph.

Gardner tallied seven hits over his last two games of the week. He clubbed a pair of doubles and a single in the Yankees' 3-1 win in Seattle on Saturday. A day later, he tied a season high with four hits. The 29-year-old has recorded at least one hit in each of his last seven games and in 15 of his last 17 contests.

For the season, Gardner is hitting .284 with six homers, 27 RBIs and 10 stolen bases. His performance warranted him the award ahead of teammates CC Sabathia and Mariano Rivera, who recorded a complete game and four saves, respectively; Red Sox catcher Jarrod Saltalamacchia, who hit .412 with three homers, and designated hitter David Ortiz, who collected five extra-base hits and 12 RBIs; and A's outfielder Yoenis Cespedes, who swatted four homers.

YESNetwork.com

## Gardner named AL Player of the Week

**Five doubles and a homer highlight a big week for the Yankees outfielder**

06/10/2013 3:36 PM ET

By MLB Media Relations

New York Yankees center fielder Brett Gardner has been named the American League Player of the Week for the period ending June 9th. The announcement was made earlier today on the MLB Network.

Gardner batted .520 (13-for-25) with five doubles, one home run, six RBI and five runs scored in seven games to lead the Yankees to a 6-1 record and lay claim to his first career weekly honor. Among Major League leaders for the period, Brett was tied for first in doubles, was second in batting average and was third in on-base percentage (.556). In the Junior Circuit, he was tied for first in base hits, was second in total bases (21) and was tied for sixth in RBI.

On Monday against the Cleveland Indians, the 29-year-old broke a 4-4 tie with a two-run single in the sixth inning to help lead the Yanks to a series-opening 7-4 victory over the Tribe at Yankee Stadium.

Gardner's effort backed starting pitcher CC Sabathia, who struck out nine against his former club in his first complete game of the season. Two days later, the North Carolina native launched a three-run homer, his sixth blast of the season, with a sacrifice fly as the Bronx Bombers defeated the Indians, 6-4, to finish off a threegame sweep. Gardner's three RBI were a season high for the speedster, and it marked the second time this season (and in his career) that he homered and had a sacrifice fly in the same game. Brett is the only Major Leaguer with more than one such game in 2013.

On June 8th in Seattle, the College of Charleston product went 3-for-5 with a pair of doubles and a run scored in a 3-1 win over the Seattle Mariners at Safeco Field. Gardner combined with Jason Nix (2-for-4, 2 RBI) to provide the Yankees with a much-needed insurance run in the seventh inning as the Yankees' third-round pick in the 2005 Draft roped a one-out double before coming around to score on a Nix single to give New York its third and final run of the game. In the series finale with the Mariners on Sunday, the sixth-year veteran tied a season best with four hits, including a double, a run-scoring single and a stolen base as the Yankees edged Seattle, 2-1.

Gardner is in the midst of a seven-game hitting streak, and has hit safely in 15 of his past 17 games since May 24th, batting .365 (23-for-63) with six doubles, a triple, three homers, 11 RBI, 11 runs scored and five walks during the span.

Other noteworthy performances included Gardner's Yankee teammates Sabathia (1-0, 1 CG, 9 SO) and Mariano Rivera (4 G, 4 SV, 6 SO); Mike Carp (.500, 3 HR, 6 RBI, 1.125 SLG), Jarrod Saltalamacchia (.412, 3 HR, 7 RBI, 1.059 SLG) and David Ortiz (5 extra-base hits, 12 RBI) of the Boston Red Sox; and Yoenis Cespedes (.345, 4 HR, 6 RBI) of the Oakland Athletics.

In recognition of his American League Player of the Week Award, Brett Gardner will be awarded a watch courtesy of Game Time, the leader in licensed sports watches, available at [MLB.com](http://MLB.com)

# Jeter inching toward return

By GEORGE A. KING III

OAKLAND — Derek Jeter took another small step forward yesterday and could be moving closer to resuming significant baseball activities this week.

The Yankees captain fielded grounders directly hit at him at the Yankees minor league complex in Tampa and is slated to visit Dr. Robert Anderson in Charlotte on Thursday to have his left ankle re-examined. If Anderson, who operated on Jeter after he fractured the ankle against the Tigers in the ALCS last October, says a second fracture that didn't require surgery has healed, Jeter will begin more strenuous workouts.

Jeter would not immediately jump into full baseball activities but would likely start with fielding ground balls, hitting off a tee and then advancing to batting practice.

Last week Jeter, who will turn 39 this month, surfaced at Yankee Stadium but was limited to playing catch while his teammates took batting practice.

➤ Jeter's replacement **Eduardo Nunez**, who is out with a strained muscle on his left side, fielded grounders in the outfield and **Curtis Granderson**, who is rehabbing a broken hand, ran in the out-

field and threw, but did not catch.

➤ Yankees director of amateur scouting **Damon Oppenheimer** is confident lefty pitcher **Ian Clarkin**, one of the Yankees first-round draft picks, will sign with the club instead of pitching for the University of San Diego.

"We feel very strongly that we will get it done," Oppenheimer said. "We need to clean up a couple of things and for him to pass a physical."

Oppenheimer said he took **Josh Pettitte** in the 37th round just to make sure another club didn't take him even though Andy's son's plans to attend Baylor.

"If he had a change of heart and something happens to the coaching staff at Baylor, you never know what could happen," Oppenheimer said.

➤ **Jason Nix** was available to all 30 teams this winter and took a minor league contract and an invite to spring training from the Yankees. Thanks to injuries, he has played in 54 games and started 46.

"To say we expected him to (sign elsewhere), that would be no but we were hoping he didn't," GM **Brian Cashman** said of Nix, who is batting .256.

## YANKEES NOTES

47

New York Post, Tuesday, June 11, 2013

nypost.com

6/10/2013 5:35 P.M. ET

## **Jeter takes first swings since ankle setback**

### **Yankees shortstop also fields grounders, yet to be cleared to run**

By Bryan Hoch / MLB.com

Yankees captain Derek Jeter is increasing his on-field activity at the club's training complex in Tampa, Fla., fielding ground balls hit directly at him as well as swinging a bat.

Jeter resumed playing catch on the field at Yankee Stadium during the team's last homestand, the first time he has been able to do so since a new fracture was diagnosed in his left ankle back in April.

Jeter is scheduled to be seen this week in Charlotte, N.C., by Dr. Robert Anderson, who performed the initial surgery after his ankle was broken in last year's American League Championship Series. Anderson is expected to examine a new CT scan of Jeter's ankle as part of the visit.

The 13-time All-Star will turn 39 later this month, and the Yankees have only provided a vague timeline for his return, saying that it is projected to come after the All-Star break.

Jeter, who suffered the new injury while aiming to be in the Yankees' Opening Day lineup, has said that this season has been his most frustrating in the big leagues and declined to discuss when he believes he will be ready to return to active duty.

"As soon as possible. That's it," Jeter said recently. "I'm not going to put a date on it. The last time I put a date on it, it didn't work. As soon as I can play, I'll play."

While Monday's progress is a good sign for Jeter, he has not yet been cleared to run, and manager Joe Girardi said during the club's series in Seattle that rehabbing infielder Alex Rodriguez is ahead of Jeter in terms of moving closer to a projected return date.

Jeter said last week that he did not believe swinging a bat would be a problem, and he is hopeful this week's visit to Dr. Anderson will permit him to begin running, as well as continuing to ramp up his workouts.

"It's day to day, really," Jeter said. "I've got to stay away from impact. I can't jump, I can't run until I get final clearance."

Also on Monday, injured shortstop Eduardo Nunez (oblique) took ground balls on the outfield grass and outfielder Curtis Granderson (broken left hand) threw and ran in the outfield, according to The Associated Press.

**ESPN.com**

Monday, June 10, 2013

## Derek Jeter returns to work on field

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By Andrew Marchand  
ESPNNewYork.com

NEW YORK -- **Derek Jeter** is back on the field, taking grounders and swinging again for the first time since he reinjured his ankle, **New York Yankees** general manager Brian Cashman said Monday.

Jeter took 25 dry swings and fielded 20 grounders hit right at him in Tampa on Monday. He also played long toss from 180 feet.

Jeter, who hasn't played yet this season, will continue to gain further clearance with the consultation from the Charlotte-based Dr. Robert Anderson, who performed the procedure last October.

The timetable for Jeter's return is still after the All-Star break and Cashman declined to put a more specific date on it. Cashman wasn't positive if Monday was the first time that Jeter had returned to the field since the Yankees announced he reinjured the ankle in the middle of April.

The Yankees have made their minor league facility largely inaccessible to the media, so this is the first time that anyone has known that Jeter was back on the field doing "baseball activities."

Jeter, who turns 39 on June 26, originally fractured the ankle during Game 1 of the Yankees ALCS loss to the **Detroit Tigers**. After the surgery, the Yankees and Jeter hoped he would return by Opening Day.

Instead Jeter suffered the small crack in the repaired ankle, causing him to miss at least the first half of the season.

In his place, the Yankees started with **Eduardo Nunez** as their shortstop, but Nunez has been on the DL now for a month with an oblique injury. **Jayson Nix** and **Reid Brignac** are currently the Yankees shortstops. Nunez also took grounders on the outfield grass Monday at the Yankees' minor league complex.

"We are running guys out there who are doing everything they can to help," Cashman said. "It is not the left side of the infield you typically would construct, but these guys are major league players. They are competitors and they are allowing us to hold the fort."

Outfielder **Curtis Granderson**, sidelined by a broken left hand, threw, but did not catch. He also ran in the outfield.

**FOXSports.com**

## **Jeter ups baseball activities**

UPDATED JUN 10, 2013 3:14 PM ET

### **TAMPA, FLA. (AP)**

**New York Yankees** shortstop **Derek Jeter** has slightly increased his baseball activities by fielding grounders hit directly at him.

Jeter and injured teammate **Eduardo Nunez** took grounders on the outfield grass Monday at the Yankees' minor league complex. Jeter also continued playing catch.

The 13-time All-Star hasn't played this season after breaking his left ankle in the playoffs last year and having surgery. Jeter sustained another fracture during his rehabilitation, and isn't expected back until after the All-Star break in mid-July.

Nunez, who had been filling in at shortstop for the injured Jeter, is out with a strained muscle on his left side.

Outfielder **Curtis Granderson**, sidelined by a broken left hand, threw, but did not catch. He also ran in the outfield.

# **Derek Jeter increases baseball activities**

By Matt Snyder | Baseball Writer  
June 10, 2013 6:37 pm ET

Legendary Yankees shortstop **Derek Jeter** is inching closer to a return to the diamond, as he has increased baseball activity, including fielding ground balls, the Associated Press is reporting.

It's worth noting that the grounders are being hit directly to him, instead of making him move laterally (insert joke here about his normal lack of range from the Jeter Hater crowd). Additionally, Jeter continued to play catch.

He took the grounders on the outfield grass Monday in Tampa at the Yankees minor-league complex.

Jeter has been on the shelf since breaking his left ankle in the playoffs last October. He needed surgery to repair the injury and then suffered a setback during his rehab when he experienced another fracture. The timetable for a return continues to be mid-July, around the All-Star break.

Jeter, 38, is a 13-time All-Star and boasts a career line of .313/.382/.448 with 3,304 career hits. He's the active major-league leader in games, at-bats and hits. Last season, Jeter hit .316/.362/.429 with 32 doubles, 15 homers, 99 runs and an MLB-best 216 hits.



**ESPN.com**

Monday, June 10, 2013

## Notes: Jeter, Pineda, Betances

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By Andrew Marchand

The **big news of the day** is that **Derek Jeter** is back on the field, which is a first step toward him returning to Yankee Stadium again.

A couple of more notes from my conversation with Brian Cashman:

- After **Michael Pineda's** impressive outing his first rehab start on Sunday, Cashman said the team will decide later Monday on where he will next go. It will likely be on Friday either in Tampa for an extended spring training or at Single-A Charleston. Pineda threw 4 1/3 innings and gave up one unearned run. He hit 94 on the gun and threw strikes in 42 of his 68 pitches.

Pineda will probably move up to around 75 pitches next time out. The Yankees have been increasing Pineda's pitch counts seven to eight pitches each time instead of the customary 15.

- Besides a recent hiccup, the 6-foot-8 **Dellin Betances** has pitched well out of the bullpen at Triple-A Scranton. Betances, who is out of options after this season, could be a possible 2014 replacement for someone like free agent-to-be **Joba Chamberlain**.

"He had 13 innings of really good relief outings for us," Cashman said.

- **Curtis Granderson** (broken hand) is back in Tampa. He threw at 90-feet on Monday.

- Cashman said he had nothing new on **Alex Rodriguez's** rehab. **Eduardo Nunez** (oblique) took 25 dry swings and threw up to 90-feet. He took ground balls right at him on the grass.

6/10/2013 4:32 P.M. ET

## **Pineda's return to the mound a success**

### **Recovering from elbow surgery, Yanks righty solid in Class A rehab start**

By Chris Girandola / Special to MLB.com

LAKELAND, Fla. -- After waiting through a game postponed due to a rainout on Saturday night, Michael Pineda took the mound on Sunday in Lakeland and demonstrated a full array of pitches as he continues his journey to don Major League pinstripes.

Pineda began his rehab assignment with Class A Advanced Tampa against Detroit's Minor League affiliate by tossing 4 1/3 effective innings, allowing a run, two hits -- a bunt single and a flare to right -- while striking out four and walking one. According to Yankees senior pitching instructor Greg Pavlick, the 6-foot-7 right-hander consistently hit 94 mph on the radar gun with his fastball during the 68-pitch outing.

"The fastball is feeling normal, feeling good," said Pineda, who is recovering from a torn labrum in his right shoulder. "I'm excited. My shoulder is feeling good. The mechanics are a little better. Good control on the fastballs. Not bad for my first time."

Pineda was acquired along with right-hander Jose Campos from Seattle for catcher Jesus Montero and pitcher Hector Noesi last January. This was the first time in nearly a year and a half that Pineda has pitched in an official game in the Yankees organization.

Because of the Florida State League All-Star Game, the Tampa Yankees are off the next time Pineda could start, so Pavlick said he would most likely make an appearance for another Yankees Minor League affiliate.

Facing the Flying Tigers at Joker Marchant Stadium in 87-degree heat, Pineda worked quickly through the first inning relying strictly on offspeed material. Pineda recorded a lineout to short, a strikeout and a flyout to center field, tossing 11 total pitches.

Pineda needed to test his shoulder most in the second frame, when he tossed 25 pitches, mostly using his fastball. According to Pavlick, if the pitch count had reached "somewhere close to 30 or 35," then Pineda would have been replaced and finished his outing in the bullpen.

"We don't want to leave him out there too long, especially with him coming off the surgery," Pavlick said.

While his velocity was down from the 98-mph range he hovered around in 2011 with the Mariners, Pavlick said the plan is to increase steadily through the 30-day window of the rehabilitation stint. To do so, Pineda tossed 49 fastballs throughout Sunday's outing.

"He probably won't use that in the big leagues, but here we need to build up his arm strength," Pavlick said. "I look at more if he maintains [the velocity] in the late innings and he was hitting 93, 94 [mph] in the third and fourth innings. That's what we look at."

Yankees general manager Brian Cashman has said repeatedly that Pineda's performance against hitters in an official setting throughout this 30-day window will determine whether Pineda gets called up to the Yankees or is optioned to the Minors following the rehab stint.

Pineda looked sharp throughout the outing, albeit against Class A players, allowing just one hard-hit ball, a lineout to short. But Pavlick said it is a good first step.

"In the second inning, he struggled a little bit and he threw a lot of pitches," Pavlick said. "He kind of came out of his delivery a little in the second inning, but then he stayed on line a little better starting in the third. He had better angle on his pitches, better slider, better changeup. I think he pitched well."

Pineda said he was able to fix his mistakes in the second and third by focusing on keeping his left arm in tight on the rotation towards the mound.

"That's the biggest thing for me," said Pineda, who relied primarily on the fastball, changeup and slider. "I don't want to have my left arm open up. My pitches go off, I correct it. I fix it. Then, everything's good."

According to Tampa Yankees manager Luis Sojo, Pineda is on the way to being "a special player."

"He can be special," said Sojo, who had two stints in the Yankees organization during his 13-year career. "He mixed his pitches very good. For a long time not to pitch, he was very good. I'm very impressed. He looked strong. There are special things ahead for him."

**ESPN.com**

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

## First Pitch: Pineda, a season changer?

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By Andrew Marchand

In nearly half of his starts, the rookie had seven or more strikeouts. In 22 of his 28 starts, he pitched six or more innings. One May day in 2011, in the first game he ever took a major league at-bat, he dominated so thoroughly over seven scoreless innings in San Diego that he nearly reached base as many times as the entire Padres' lineup (he reached on an error at the plate and only allowed two hits and a walk on the hill).

If *that* [Michael Pineda](#) is showing up the Bronx soon, it could be a season-changer. That was the Seattle Mariner Pineda, who was an All-Star in 2011 and that is the one Yankees GM Brian Cashman still dreams of being a "right-handed version of CC."

In 2013, the Yankees are doing well without Pineda. They head into Tuesday's series in Oakland tied with the A's for the wild card and just behind the Red Sox in the AL East. Their starting staff is strong, one-through-five, as [David Phelps](#) solidifies the backend of the rotation. [Ivan Nova](#) is revving his stuff back up at Triple-A, while [Vidal Nuno](#), injured at the moment, has been more than solid.

But Pineda is the wild card and a potential co-ace.

In his first rehab start since his shoulder surgery, he had his precision, throwing strikes on 42 of 68 pitches and his fastball, reaching as high as 94 on Sunday in Tampa. With shoulders, the feel for pitches is usually the last thing to return. It is just one rehab start, but it could be a very good sign.

The most pressing issue facing the Yankees is not pitching. It is hitting. But the 24-year-old Pineda may be able to help the bats, too.

Pineda's presence could give Cashman some strong cards to play with as trade talks become stronger. They are not trading Pineda, of course, but their starting depth may allow them to add an outfielder or a more suitable shortstop if [Derek Jeter](#) can't comeback or is limited when he does return.

Before deciding on Pineda's immediate major league future, the Yankees plan on Pineda making five or six starts with his next one coming Friday in either Tampa or Charleston.

"He has had a good rehab," Cashman said. "What that ultimately means. How he will be defined moving forward, I have no idea. Will he just be a healthy guy that is in the mix. Will he emerge as a high-end important starter going forward for us in the future, whether it is the near future or the future future, I have no idea. It is hard to predict. Right now, the most important thing is that he appears to be free and easy and healthy."

Just like spring training, Cashman said the Yankees are letting Pineda use his first three starts to build, while four-through-six will be scrutinized closer to see if the Yankees should put him in the rotation now or keep seasoning him so when he does return he feels like he did in the first half of 2011.

**UP NOW:** [Derek Jeter is on the field.](#)

**ON DECK:** Katie Sharp will have her feature "One Mo Time," looking at [Mariano Rivera](#) against the A's. That will be up at 11 a.m.

**IN THE HOLE:** At 10:10 p.m. ET, it will be [CC Sabathia](#) (6-4, 3.72) vs. [Bartolo Colon](#) (7-2, 3.14) on Tuesday night. Wednesday, it is [Phil Hughes](#) (3-4, 4.80) vs. [Dan Straily](#) (3-2, 4.67). On Thursday afternoon, it is Hirioki Kuroda (6-2, 2.84) vs. [Jarrod Parker](#) (5-6, 4.84). Wallace Matthews will have you covered.

**QUESTION:** What can you reasonably expect from Pineda in 2013?

CBSNewYork.com

## Yankees' Youkilis Says Back Stiffness 'Nothing Like It Was Before'

**Feet-First Slide Leads To Back Pain For Infielder**

June 10, 2013 9:54 AM

**NEW YORK (CBSNewYork)** – Kevin Youkilis was kept out of the Yankees lineup Sunday with lower back stiffness, but says it's "nothing like" the injury that put him on the disabled list in April.

"It's nothing like it was before," Youkilis said. "Just needs a little rest."

The infielder tweaked his back sliding into first base on a defensive play Saturday against the Seattle Mariners. Youkilis, who missed a month due to pain related to a bulging disc, was activated from the DL on May 31.

Youkilis said he'd avoid the feet-first defensive slide in the future to avoid compression on the disc.

"I think now I'll just maybe dive head-first more," he said. "That was talked about, just dive head-first and make it look extra special. That play probably doesn't happen that much anyway."

Youkilis is 5-for-28 with three doubles and an RBI since his return.

Yankees manager Joe Girardi said Youkilis had "normal stiffness," and was hopeful he'd be in the lineup Tuesday when New York starts a three-game set at Oakland.

"My hope is after playing five days in a row, the next time he'll be able to play six," Girardi said. "We've got a couple of six-day stretches that hopefully we can run him out there every day."

And for the record, Girardi would prefer Youkilis simply "run straight through the bag" on defense.

# Pettitte's Uncertain Case for the Hall

By BENJAMIN HOFFMAN

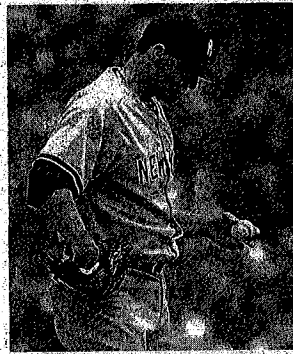
For Andy Pettitte, the near constant in an ever-changing Yankees starting rotation, his chances of one day making the Hall of Fame will most likely come down to how much the voters value victories, and how much they continue to punish players for connections, however limited, to performance-enhancing drugs.

On Saturday, Pettitte beat the Seattle Mariners, becoming the 47th pitcher to win 250 games. He has 49 more victories than Tim Hudson and Roy Halladay, the pitchers who follow him on the active list, and his five World Series rings certainly build an intriguing résumé for enshrinement in Cooperstown.

Many will say that victories do not matter as much anymore in assessing a pitcher's worth, that he is better judged by statistics like earned-run average and strikeout and walk rates. While that is largely true, victories, for Hall of Fame voters, have traditionally mattered quite a bit. While 250 does not have the ring of 300, it has often been enough to earn a Hall of Fame plaque.

Of the 46 pitchers who had previously won 250 or more games, only eight have reached eligibility for induction and not been elected to the Hall. Four of those were 19th-century hurlers whom the voters rightly excluded for having artificially inflated numbers based on the era in which they played. One, Roger Clemens, failed to gain election in his first time on ballot this past year because many voters have concluded that he used performance-enhancing drugs to bolster his career. That leaves three — Tommy John, Jim Kaat and Jack Morris — who won at least 250 and did not make the Hall of Fame.

Pettitte is statistically similar to John and Kaat, which would suggest that his chances of getting into the Hall are uncertain, even if you put aside the issue of performance en-



TED S. WARREN/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Andy Pettitte, during his 250th win Saturday, is statistically similar to Tommy John and Jim Kaat.

hancers.

In terms of E.R.A., John (3.34) and Kaat (3.45) actually hold large advantages over Pettitte (3.85). While Pettitte has pitched in a higher-scoring era, he does not gain all that much even when the numbers are adjusted for eras and home ballparks.

Over all, Pettitte has been 17 percent better than the league average in adjusted E.R.A. in his 18 seasons. John was 11 percent better in his 26 seasons, and Kaat was 8 percent better in 25.

Pettitte holds advantages in strikeout rate and strikeout-to-walk ratio, but that can be largely attributed to strikeouts having been on the rise throughout his career. When wins above replacement is used as a measurement, Pettitte falls between John and Kaat.

But what may be ultimately more troublesome for Pettitte in gaining Hall of Fame induction is his admitted connection to performance enhancers. Unlike Clemens, Pettitte has not disputed that he used them. He publicly acknowledged that he used human growth hormone in several instances,

saying he did so to help heal from injuries.

Pettitte also had to testify at Clemens's 2012 perjury trial, and on the witness stand he seemed to retreat somewhat from a 2008 deposition he gave in which he stated that Clemens had told him of using H.G.H. Whether that apparent hedging, in court, might hurt him in the eyes of at least a few voters remains to be seen.

Time will factor into all of this. Even if he were to retire after this season, Pettitte would wait five years before he appeared on the ballot, leaving time for a shifting, and softening, of opinions on the steroid era on the part of the voters. Pettitte's transgressions may ultimately be viewed as fairly minor.

A more intriguing Cooperstown candidacy might be that of Mike Mussina, a former Yankees teammate of Pettitte's who will be on the ballot for the first time this year.

Mussina, who retired on top as a 20-game winner in 2008, is tied for 33rd on the career wins list with 270. More important, he was a better pitcher than Pettitte throughout much of his career, and he was never connected to performance-enhancing drugs. The lone knock on Mussina is his lack of a World Series ring.

In his first two years of Hall of Fame eligibility, Mussina may be overlooked. This year's ballot, after all, features Greg Maddux and Tom Glavine, two unsullied 300-game winners, and next year's features the 300-game winner Randy Johnson. But after that, Mussina should be an interesting test case of a pitcher who was unquestionably one of the best of his era but did not win a championship or reach the mythical benchmark of 300 wins.

For Yankees fans, the thought that Mussina could be a Hall of Famer while Pettitte is not probably would feel a little incongruous. But because performance enhancers remain an unpredictable issue, it could end up being a reality.

## **Is Andy Pettitte a Hall of Famer?**

June 10, 2013

By: Jonathon Bernhardt

On Saturday afternoon, Yankees lefthander and franchise fixture Andy Pettitte allowed only one run in seven and a third innings against the Seattle Mariners. That wasn't anything new for him; Pettitte has been pitching deep into games and shutting down opposing hitters for almost twenty years now -- he made his major league debut for the Yankees back on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 1995, and except for a pit stop in Houston during the early part of the last decade he's been with New York ever since.

What made Saturday important was that with the Yankees' three runs scored backing him and the New York pen, headlined by legendary closer Mariano Rivera, shutting the door behind him, Pettitte earned his 250<sup>th</sup> career win, giving him the 47<sup>th</sup> most wins all time, just one behind old St. Louis great Bob Gibson. By the end of the season, in fact, it's entirely possible he'll have leapfrogged not only Gibson, but Al Spalding, Carl Hubbell, Red Faber and a guy named Jack Morris. At 260 wins, Ted Lyons (currently 42<sup>nd</sup> on the career wins leaderboard) is probably out of Pettitte's reach unless he comes back for another season. His contract expires at the end of the season, but the pitcher himself hasn't said anything one way or another -- and even if he had, Pettitte's been wrong about being ready to walk away from the game before.

Regarding that, it does feel like just yesterday we were laughing about Pettitte's return, looking at the season WAR totals for pitchers coming back to baseball after a year off in their early 40's and finding nothing much promising for Pettitte's chances. He put the lie to that pretty quickly, throwing 58.2 innings of 3.22 ERA ball before a Casey Kotchman comebacker sent him to the disabled list for much of last season, though he did return in September for three more starts to get that ERA down to 2.87 on the year. Pettitte's 2012 remains one of the more impressive seasons by a 40-year-old starting pitcher, period, even with the missed time. Never mind that the three guys who put up better ERAs -- Nolan Ryan in 1987, Sal Maglie in 1957, and Randy Johnson in 2004 -- had the benefit of playing at age 39.

Two of those three guys are or will be Hall of Famers, and it's fair at this point in Pettitte's long and storied career to start thinking about how he'll be remembered, even though he's still playing (the third guy, Sal Maglie, didn't really get his shot to be a major league regular until age 33 with the then-New York Giants, and still put together 1723 career innings of 3.15 ERA ball, which is impressive in and of itself).

It's especially interesting to put him up next to one of the pitchers he just passed on the career wins leaderboard, Jack Morris, a current Hall of Fame cause célèbre. Pettitte has pitched six hundred fewer innings of baseball than Morris did in his 18 years in the majors (3192 IP to 3824 IP, though obviously Pettitte is still able to narrow that gap), and his career ERA is only a tick lower at 3.85 to Morris's 3.90. It's important to remember, however, the times that both men



pitched in: while Morris's career 3.90 ERA is only good for a 105 ERA+ (meaning that, adjusted for park and era, Morris had an ERA 5 percent better than an average pitcher), Pettitte's 3.85 ERA is a 117 ERA+. Why? It's simple: Morris pitched in the eighties, and Pettitte pitched in the nineties, and offenses were a lot better at scoring runs in the nineties. Neither man ever won a Cy Young Award.

The majority of the weight behind Morris's Hall of Fame case is due to his postseason record or, more honestly, his 10-inning complete game shutout of the Atlanta Braves in Game 7 the 1991 World Series. The thing is, though, that if you're going to build a Hall of Fame case around postseason success, you don't do it with for Jack Morris. You do it for Andy Pettitte.

Sure, Pettitte doesn't have that complete game shutout (but for a baserunning error by Lonnie Smith, neither would Morris), but so far in his career he's pitched three times as many postseason innings to the same postseason ERA (3.81 to Morris's 3.80) in a much more difficult era to succeed as a pitcher, and has the hardware to back it up.

Morris's fate with the writers will be decided this year -- either he's in, or he's off the ballot and has to get in through the Veterans' Committee -- but whichever way it goes, it's doubtful any writers will flock to Pettitte's banner in the same manner once his career is over. Pettitte not only has the stigma of playing on the early 2000s Houston Astros attached to his name and record -- see how well that's working out for Jeff Bagwell so far? -- but has been more substantially connected to steroids and performance-enhancing drugs by sharing a strength and training coach with his friend Roger Clemens, and was supposedly named in a 2006 affidavit by relief pitcher Jason Grimsley as a player who received PEDs from the same people from whom Grimsley received his. When the names in the affidavit were revealed, neither Pettitte nor Clemens appeared among them, but by 2008 Pettitte had **admitted** to using human growth hormone in 2002 and 2004 to come back more quickly from injury, and apologized to Astros and Yankees fans in a press conference.

As Mark McGwire's already discovered, no matter how many nails are already in the coffin of a player's Hall of Fame case -- and for Pettitte, he's got his lack of Cy Young Awards and relatively high ERA already working against him -- admitting to using performance-enhancing drugs is the final one. It doesn't particularly matter that Pettitte insisted he was using them to come back from injury as opposed to improving his performance on the mound. An admission is an admission, and guys have seen their shots at the Hall stall out for far less grave sins.

So as nice as Saturday was for the Pettitte family (not only did Andy get his 250<sup>th</sup> win, but his son Josh was selected by the Yankees in the lower rounds of the draft as a tribute to all that Pettitte and his family have done for the team, on and off the field), it's unlikely that it substantially improves his chance at enshrinement in Cooperstown. With the way things have been going lately with the Hall, though, that's a lot less of a shame than it used to be, and he won't be alone on the outside looking in. And in all honesty, as long as Andy Pettitte keeps showing up in the postseason like he has in years past, New York Yankees fans will let all that other stuff sort itself out.

# CC's adapting, and fast

BY MARK FEINSAND  
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

OAKLAND — For two months we've heard Joe Girardi reassure everybody that CC Sabathia's velocity would come back as the spring turns to summer.

Sabathia isn't waiting any longer.

"I think this is probably what it's going to be — and I'm fine with that," Sabathia said Monday. "I can pitch with this. I just have to make sure I'm hitting my spots."

Sabathia wasn't surprised when the subject came up, but it was clear based on his reaction

that it's not something he's spent much time thinking about.

"It was never an issue for me; I guess it was an issue for everybody else," Sabathia said. "It is what it is, that's all I've said since the beginning. There's not much else I can say or do about it."

"This is just one of those deals where I have to try to adapt, figure out how to get guys out without the velocity that I had. Once I really sat down and thought about it, I've been pitching like this the whole time. It's all about hitting my spots and it always has been. I don't really have to change too much."

Based on his past two starts, Sabathia seems to be adapting quite well.

He was 0-2 with a 4.85 ERA in five May outings before ending the month with a stellar 7.1-inning, one-run victory over the Red Sox. On Wednesday, Sabathia threw a complete game in a win over the Indians.

The biggest thing for Sabathia is that his surgically repaired left elbow feels as good as it has all season. "That's why I wasn't freaking out about the velocity," he said. "If I was hurt or if I felt something, I would have probably been worried. But I feel fine."

**V**ALLEJO, Calif. — Demetrius Davis bullied everyone on the basketball court and no one off of it.

"He bullied me," his younger cousin CC Sabathia, laughing, told a crowd of about 200 people yesterday.

On Dec. 15, Davis played morning basketball near his Sacramento home. Just hours later, he died of a heart attack at age 45. So it fit that, to honor the man's memory, his inner circle named a basketball court, located within walking distance from the house where he grew up, after him.

And it surprised no one that the man who is physically here the least of anyone, but whose presence is always felt, made this touching day possible.

"This is home. This is my community," Sabathia said. "I just want to see it doing well. Whatever I can do to help it out ... I thought this would be more like a barbecue. That's what my cousin would have wanted."

The timing worked out perfectly: Sabathia flew from Seattle to San Francisco with his Yankees teammates on Sunday night and slept in his house in nearby Fairfield, Calif. Tonight he'll kick off the three-game series against the A's at O.co Coliseum, his 14th career appearance in the ballpark closest to where he grew up.

With a rare in-season off day in Northern California, Sabathia utilized it to honor his cousin and touch base with the people he has known the longest. His PitCCh In Foundation paid for the court to be repaved, and CC and his wife, Amber, emceed the dedication

# Family valued

## Sabathia honors cousin with basketball court

ceremony. CC's mother, Margie, also attended.

Davis played tight end for the University of Nevada and was the very last selection of the 1990 NFL draft (by the Los Angeles Raiders), earning the annual "Mr. Irrelevant" title. He never played in the NFL, instead going to the Barcelona Dragons of the World League of American Football.

"Big brother, little brother," Sabathia said of his relationship with Davis. "He's definitely the reason why I started playing sports. I'd just follow him around. When he was at Reno, we would always



Ken Davidoff

drive up. He would take me in the locker room, take me on his shoulders. Even when he was in the (WLAF), he would always bring me in, bring me around."

Gloria Rufus, Davis' mother and Sabathia's aunt, recalled a conversation between Sabathia and Davis. As Sabathia saw Davis excel in football, Rufus said, the left-hander announced: "That's what I want to do. I want to become a famous ballplayer."

That worked out well enough that Sabathia expects between 150 and 200 family members at tonight's game. The choir from the Solano Middle School, Sabathia's alma mater, will sing the

national anthem, and PitCCh In paid for the choir's transportation to the ballpark plus concession-stand vouchers.

"When I'm warming up in the outfield, it always feels like a high school game," Sabathia said.

With so much love and support here, it made you wonder what it would be like for Sabathia to work in the area. Sabathia, contemplating, smiled and said: "No. It would've been crazy. But it always feels good to come back.

"But I think it might've been too much, trying to play here in Oakland or San Francisco. Maybe when I'm a little older. But it just feels good to be able to come here or come back and not have the pressure of getting tickets and that stuff every day."

(To be clear, he laughed at his "little older" line. He has made it clear he wants to retire as a Yankee.)

The Sabathias were here, as part of their Christmas visit, when Davis died. "It was shocking, just because he was in good shape," CC said. "I miss him a lot."

To celebrate Davis' life, the Sabathias planned for yesterday to be a basketball tournament and barbecue in addition to the dedication. CC took the ceremonial first shot. From behind the three-point key, his effort hit the front rim, leapt to the backboard and then banked through the net. Sabathia raised his arms in triumph as the people on site roared.

"There's no way I would have imagined this day," Rufus said. "It was beautiful of CC and Amber to do this."

"It feels good to be able to come home," Sabathia said. "I'm just a kid from Vallejo trying to do right."

Tonight, doing right means trying to beat the hometown A's. Good luck finding someone from Vallejo who'll be rooting against the Yankees.

[kdavidoff@nypost.com](mailto:kdavidoff@nypost.com)



**GETTING THE BALL ROLLING:** CC Sabathia and his wife, Amber, watch as Gloria Rufus, CC's aunt and the mother of the recently deceased Demetrius Davis, cuts the ribbon for a new basketball court in honor of Davis. Sabathia's PitCCh In Foundation donated the funds for the court in Vallejo, Calif. —Shomari Smith

Jeter takes grounders / P. 47

SPORTS

# CC dedicates court to cousin

BY ERIC BOLAND  
erik.boland@newsday.com

VALLEJO, Calif. — A West Coast trip never passes without CC Sabathia visiting some part of his hometown of Vallejo where the seeds for a major-league career were sown.

The big lefthander meets with friends from his neighborhood, former coaches and, of course, relatives.

It is almost always an occasion for joy and yesterday was, as well, but there was an underlying melancholy.

With a day off before Sabathia takes the mound tonight, the lefthander was in Vallejo, along with his wife, Amber, as part of their PitCCh In Foundation, to dedicate the Demetrius C Davis Basketball Court.

Demetrius was Sabathia's older cousin, who passed away suddenly of a heart attack last December at age 43.

"Big brother, little brother," Sabathia said in characterizing the relationship. "He was definitely the reason I started playing sports. I just followed him around."

Demetrius was a star athlete, primarily in football, which allowed him to earn a scholarship as a tight end for

**Tonight**  
**Yankees**  
**at Oakland**

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

the University of Nevada. He was good enough to get drafted by his hometown Raiders, with pick No. 331 in 1990.

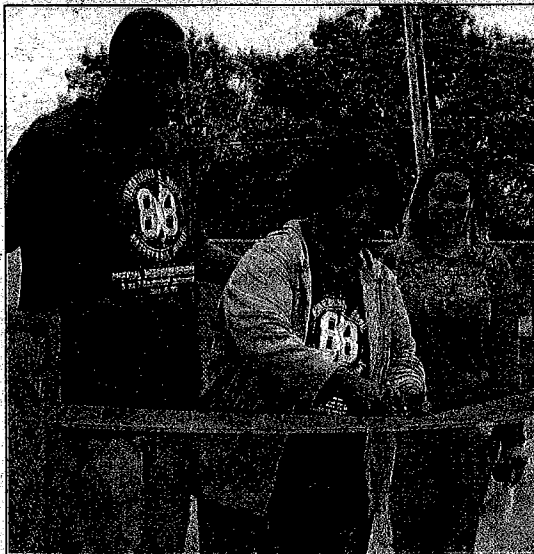
"I got a lot of those jerseys and helmets," Sabathia, a big Raiders fan, said with a smile. "I remember getting some pretty cool stuff after he got drafted."

The basketball court is located at North Vallejo Park, which is walking distance from Dienering, the street Sabathia grew up on. Sabathia, an only child, spent plenty of time there as a child with Demetrius, who suffered the heart attack while playing pickup basketball (though not at the park).

"It was shocking just because he was in good shape as an athlete," Sabathia said. "I miss him a lot. But it feels good to be able to come out here and do this for him."

Gloria Rufus, Demetrius' mother, teared up as she remembered her son but also because of the day's ceremony.

"No way I would have imag-



CC Sabathia and wife Amber watch as his aunt Gloria Rufus cuts the ribbon at Demetrius C Davis Basketball Court in Vallejo, Calif.

ined this day," she said. "I thought that was just beautiful of CC and Amber to do this. To do this is just precious."

Larry Harper, founder of the Good Tidings Foundation, which oversaw the renovation

project, said his organization works with "a lot" of professional athletes.

"No one's like CC," he said.

Talk to people around Vallejo and the word "local hero" gets tossed around. It is a de-

scription Sabathia, who took the ceremonial "first" shot on the court — a top-of-the-arc three-pointer he bounced in — isn't comfortable with.

"It feels good to be able to come home and do whatever you can in the community," Sabathia said. "I don't know if I'm a hero. I'm just a kid from Vallejo just trying to do right."

**Notes & quotes:** The Yankees concluded their draft over the weekend, in the end selecting 42 players. The breakdown: 21 pitchers (14 RHP, seven LHP), 10 infielders, 10 outfielders and one catcher. Of the picks, 27 were from the collegiate level and 15 from the high school ranks. "At this point, we feel good with the haul of players," director of scouting Damon Oppenheimer said yesterday afternoon on a conference call. "Of course, this time, you always feel good about it. Four years from now, you will know for sure."

... Derek Jeter, who will visit with his surgeon later in the week hoping to receive the go-ahead to resume full baseball activities, did limited work on the field in Tampa yesterday, fielding grounders hit directly at him. Eduardo Nuñez (oblique) returned to the field after more than a week's absence, also fielding grounders.

## Alex Rodriguez and the Big Ugh

By JASON GAY June 10, 2013

Whoo-hoo! Aren't you excited for A-Rod's 2013?

At this point who gets riled up about Alex Rodriguez? Haven't we done this before? Haven't we reached a limit? Rodriguez is not playing baseball. He has not played baseball this season. He has not played baseball since last season's playoffs, though in fairness that may not have been baseball. He had a difficult time in those playoffs. You may have forgotten this. I understand. It's hard to keep up with all of your Alex Rodriguez dilemmas.

Rodriguez is out rehabilitating from an injury, a procedure on his hip, which has bothered him for a while and may have contributed to his poor postseason. This is not a crime. Athletes get hurt, and Rodriguez is not the only Yankee to miss a ton of games. Derek Jeter—known as "Philip" at your area Starbucks—has also been out all season long. Mark Teixeira (wrist) missed a lot of action. Curtis Granderson got a busted arm, and then a busted pinkie. The healthy Yankees are playing better than expected—second place in the division—despite the fact they are missing some boldfaced parts. Of course maybe it's because they are missing the boldfaced parts that they are playing better. Baseball is changing. Stars aren't the thing.

Because Alex Rodriguez is Alex Rodriguez, and something is almost always askew, his injury delay has been complicated by another, more ominous matter. Major League Baseball has been investigating an alleged South Florida performance-enhancing drug ring. Recently ESPN reported that MLB secured the cooperation of Anthony Bosch, who operated the now-closed antiaging clinic at the heart of the investigation, and that Bosch was prepared to give information about PEDs and MLB players. Rodriguez allegedly was a client of his, according to a Miami New Times report in January.

Rodriguez has denied having a relationship with Bosch and Biogenesis. In a statement last week he noted that he and other players "are being mentioned in a media report before the process is even concluded." He said he hoped baseball would follow the terms of its basic agreement. He said he would comment when appropriate. He emphasized that he was continuing his recovery from injury and "working out every day to get back on the field and help the Yankees win a championship."

Whoo-hoo! Aren't you excited for A-Rod's 2013?

The whole saga is less of a shock than it is a big sigh of ugh. Rodriguez, who has admitted to brief PED use earlier in his career with the Texas Rangers, is entitled to defend himself against this latest investigation, and the Biogenesis case is certain to have a long and complicated road, especially when baseball's players union gets moving. It is certainly possible the controversy could fade without discipline, and that Rodriguez could return to baseball and become a valuable asset. If he does this, he might be excused, at least partially. Rodriguez has done this before. That PED admission happened before the 2009 season, with great outrage and embarrassment, and then the Yankees went on to win a title, with Rodriguez celebrated as a

liberated contributor—Bad Alex, unburdened of his pristine image, happy at last. Winning has a way of fueling the cognitive dissonance.

At the moment, that optimism feels like a ridiculous reach. Rodriguez will be 38 in July, with a body that has shown every sign of breaking down. And yet he is not a short-term inconvenience. His 10-year, \$275 million contract lasts through 2017. There's still more than \$100 million on it. The deal has long been considered so bad that no one even talks anymore about how bad it is. It just sits like a giant, confusing lawn sculpture in front of Yankee Stadium, a reckless purchase its owners cannot unload and regret they ever made.

In New York it's hard to detect outrage or even interest over the latest A-Rod news. Rodriguez has been so thoroughly deconstructed there is nothing left to deconstruct. What remains is a gloomy question—how can the Yankees possibly untangle themselves from the remaining years of A-Rod? Can they make a trade? Cut him loose? It is comical to think that Rodriguez's decadelong deal was premised on the idea that its sunset years would be golden and thrilling, propelled by a record-setting, highly legit home-run chase. That proposition seems utterly hilarious now. Even if Rodriguez did close in on history—would anyone care?

It is its own kind of suspension: forgotten in real time. Whether the Biogenesis case heats up or slips away, there's no exuberance about Alex Rodriguez returning to the Yankees, no anticipation, not even a mild curiosity. There are many more years of Alex Rodriguez to go, and the Bronx has already moved on. This is not a crisis. It is not the end of the innocence. It is just a big ugh.

## Far East intrigue for A-Rod

If Alex Rodriguez's hip hadn't required surgery, might he have been wowing baseball fans on the other side of the world this season?

According to a report in The New York Times, that was what the Fukuoka SoftBank Hawks were hoping. The Japanese team reached out to the Yankees through an intermediary, two baseball officials told the Times, to express interest in obtaining the controversial three-time AL MVP. Knowing full well that A-Rod would not agree to play in Japan and that the third baseman was likely going to require

hip surgery, the Yankees opted not to have any discussions with the Hawks. GM Brian Cashman had no comment.

### IN THE SWING

Derek Jeter worked out at the Yankees' complex in Tampa on Monday, taking 25 swings of tee-and-toss work and throwing and fielding 20 ground balls hit directly at him. He will visit Dr. Robert Anderson in Charlotte on Thursday to determine when he can begin running. Brett Gardner was named AL Player of the Week.

— Feinsand

## Japanese team was interested in A-Rod

By GEORGE A. KING III

late next month.

OAKLAND — There is very little doubt the Yankees would love to delete Alex Rodriguez' budget-choking contract, but they never followed up on an inquiry made last year through a third party representative by the Fukuoka Soft Bank Hawks, who were interested in bringing the troubled slugger to Japan.

According to a person with knowledge of the situation, after Rodriguez failed and was benched in the postseason and before news of him needing hip surgery got out, the Hawks sent word to the Yankees they were interested in talking about a transfer for Rodriguez, who will be 38

"An unofficial inquiry was made," the person said, confirming a story first reported by The New York Times. "There was no direct contact between the clubs and there was no engagement by the Yankees because he was an injured player."

Hurt or not, the person said Rodriguez would never have agreed to such a move which would have been required to make the move, work. At the beginning of this year, Rodriguez was owed \$114 million through the 2017 season.

Rodriguez, who is linked to the Biogenesis scandal in Miami, hasn't played this season while recovering from Jan. 16 hip surgery.

**ESPN.com**

**Monday, June 10, 2013**

## **Report: Japanese team wanted A-Rod**

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By Andrew Marchand

Well, this makes for a fun item, even though it had a zero chance of happening. It turns out that there was a team that had a little interest in acquiring **Alex Rodriguez** after last October's awful postseason.

Not a major league team, but a Japanese club. This is from the **New York Times**:

*Last November, the Fukuoka SoftBank Hawks reached out to the Yankees through an intermediary and expressed interest in obtaining Rodriguez, according to two baseball officials who were told of the informal inquiry.*

*The Yankees never engaged the Hawks in discussions because they knew it could not work for two obvious reasons. At the time, the Yankees knew that Rodriguez needed extensive hip surgery that would sideline him at least half the season. They would have been obliged to inform the Hawks, and at that point, their interest would almost certainly have crumbled.*

Plus, it seems extremely doubtful that A-Rod would have agreed to go to Japan.



CBSNewYork.com

## Report: Japanese Team Expressed Interest In A-Rod During Offseason

Yanks Reportedly Passed On Overture From Fukuoka SoftBank Hawks

June 10, 2013 11:07 AM

**NEW YORK (CBSNewYork)** – Apparently there was a team interested in acquiring Alex Rodriguez during the offseason, prior to the Yankees disclosing his hip injury and long before the Biogenesis scandal.

Japan's Fukuoka SoftBank Hawks contacted the Yankees "through an intermediary" in November to express an "interest in obtaining" A-Rod, according to the New York Times.

New York chose not to return serve due to Rodriguez's injury, which likely would have ended talks right then and there, the Times reported. The Yankees [announced on Dec. 3 that A-Rod required surgery to repair a torn labrum in his hip and would miss at least half of the 2013 season.](#)

The team also "knew there was no chance" A-Rod would go along with a move to Japan, the Times reported.

In January, the Miami New Times reported that A-Rod's name appeared multiple times in the reported records of Biogenesis, [the now-closed clinic in Florida at the center of Major League Baseball's investigation into performance-enhancing drugs.](#)

The 37-year-old has denied any link to the clinic or its operator, Anthony Bosch. He admitted in 2009 to using steroids while with the Texas Rangers.

Yankees fans were calling for A-Rod's exit even before the Biogenesis mess. Many declared themselves done with the high-priced third baseman [after his nightmarish 2012 postseason](#), which included a massive slump and a headline-grabbing incident in the Bronx involving two female fans – dubbed "Flirtgate" – during Game 1 of the ALCS.

Rodriguez is slated to earn \$114 million over the final five years of his 10-year, \$275 million deal.

He's been rehabbing at the team's facility in Tampa, Fla.

# Yanks' 'O' getting by

## Timely hits hide lineup's weak stats

By Chad Jennings  
cjennings@ohud.com

OAKLAND, Calif. — Late Sunday night, the Yankees made their triumphant trip south. They left behind a winning weekend in Seattle and settled into a day of rest in the San Francisco Bay Area. They'd won six of seven, and Monday's off-day felt like a well-deserved break.

But winning can both reveal strengths and mask problems.

Ten weeks into the season, the Yankees are a winning team without a single .300 hitter. Leadoff man Brett

## YANKEES: Not hitting like accustomed

Continued from Page 1C

Gardner, at .284, has the highest average of the bunch. Only three lineup regulars are hitting better than .259.

The Yankees have won, but they've not won comfortably, and pre-season concerns about a depleted offense seem justified.

"That's what we are," manager Joe Girardi said. "Maybe we're a little bit different club than we've been in the past, but we've pitched really well, and we've found ways to win. Sometimes it's not how many hits you get, it's when you get the hits. We've had some pretty decent, timely hitting."

The Yankees built their reputation on hitting, but this year's 37-26 record has been built on pitching. In the past 14 games, Yankees pitchers have allowed more than four runs only twice.

"We have high-caliber pitchers here from the ro-

tation to the bullpen," Mariano Rivera said. "We are capable to do that."

In those 14 games, though, the Yankees have gone 7-7, an indication there is still plenty of uncertainty hidden behind this past week of triumph.

In the last seven games, only three regulars hit better than .250, and those were Gardner, Jayson Nix and Chris Stewart — three table setters and role players.

The run producers in the middle of the order — Robinson Cano, Mark Teixeira, Travis Hafner, Kevin Youkilis and Vernon Wells — each hit .222 or worse, and none had an on-base percentage better than .300.

Hafner and Teixeira hit multiple home runs in the past week, but they were not steady contributors from at-bat to at-bat. Cano, the best all-around hitter on the team, has hit just .121 with one extra-base hit in his past 10 games.

"I'm not going to wor-

ry about Robbie," Girardi said. "He's the least of my worries."

Fair enough. Ten games do not define a player like Cano. But more than two months into the season, the Yankees are in the bottom half of the American League in team batting average, on-base percentage and slugging percentage.

The return of Teixeira and Youkilis from the disabled list was supposed to add some power and consistency, but both have gotten off to slow starts, while Wells has gone stone-cold since the end of April. Lyle Overbay, who had been a productive replacement at first base, has lost significant playing time.

"There's obviously a little bit of a different offensive approach because there are different guys in the lineup," Girardi said. "Those guys are a little different than what we've had in the past. We've pitched really well.

We've had some real (timely) hits. ... That's the important thing."

**Yankee clippings:** Shortstop Derek Jeter resumed baseball activities with 25 dry swings and 20 ground balls on Monday. Jeter is scheduled to be reevaluated by an ankle specialist later this week and remains several weeks from rejoining the Yankees. ... The Associated Press reported that Eduardo Nunez, sidelined with an oblique injury, took ground balls with Jeter. ... Gardner was named American League Player of the Week.



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6/10/2013 11:31 A.M. ET

## Yankees have depth, talent in Minors system

### Recent Draft picks add to stable of prospects moving through organization

By Bryan Hoch / MLB.com

The Yankees' work in their organizational war room is complete, as scouting director Damon Oppenheimer and his staff identified 42 choices to make up their newest installment of talent from the First-Year Player Draft.

Over the next few months, many of those choices will assimilate into the lower levels of the Yanks' farm system, beginning their respective journeys in the hopes that a path of long bus rides and fast food can eventually lead to Yankee Stadium.

"Every year, it's an important lifeblood thing," general manager Brian Cashman said. "We have the ability to use every tool in the toolbox because of our ability to spend on free agents and stuff. But the amateur Draft is vitally important for us to do well in."

In total, the Yankees made 42 selections: 21 pitchers, 10 infielders, 10 outfielders and one catcher. Of those picks, 27 were from the collegiate level and 15 from the high school ranks.

Many will join a chain that boasts the products from Drafts past, including a promising collection of talent that Oppenheimer said has the Yanks believing they are blessed with some depth in several areas.

"With your young outfielders, you think you have some outfield depth," Oppenheimer said. "We've got catching, so you think you have some catching. You can always use pitching. You can always use some starters; power starters. We can always use help in the middle infield."

MLB.com ranks 21-year-old outfielder Mason Williams as New York's **No. 2 overall prospect**. Williams is currently at Class A Tampa and has had a rough start to the 2013 campaign after suffering a season-ending shoulder injury last year.

The Yankees are still high on Williams, but they also project a future as a big league regular for outfielder Tyler Austin, who has been promoted to Double-A Trenton and is ranked third on MLB.com's organizational list.

Slade Heathcott, the Yanks' first-round selection in 2009, is also at Trenton and has a chance to be an impact player in the big leagues by next season if he is able to remain healthy. The 22-year-old is known in the organization for his all-out style of play, which tends to raise injury concerns but isn't something Heathcott apologizes for.

"We're all out in the outfield. Our pitchers are out there throwing," Heathcott said. "It's our job to put everything out there on the line to catch the ball for them."

The Yankees like outfielder Zoilo Almonte, who is at Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre and received some consideration this spring in big league camp. Robert Refsnyder, drafted last year in the fifth round, has been converted from an outfielder to a second baseman and is hitting well at Tampa.

Evaluators continue to see strength in the catching department, which elevated Austin Romine to the big leagues after an injury to Francisco Cervelli.

No. 1 prospect Gary Sanchez, an International signing, is currently at Tampa, while slugger J.R. Murphy is working on his game-calling at the Double-A level. Peter O'Brien, 22, a 2012 Draft pick, is also showcasing a loud bat at Class A Charleston.

The Yanks' top two ranked pitching prospects -- left-hander Manny Banuelos and right-hander Ty Hensley, the club's first-round pick in 2012 -- will miss all of this season due to injuries.

In fact, the Yankees' last top three picks have all had some issues; infielder Dante Bichette Jr. has struggled at Charleston after being selected in 2011, and infielder Cito Culver is also still in Charleston after being picked in 2010.

But there's an arm to be excited about on that Charleston staff, where 22-year-old Rafael DePaula has been topping out in the high 90s with his fastball while striking out more than one batter per inning.

Additionally, the Yanks still love right-hander Mark Montgomery's power slider, despite some struggles at Triple-A this year, and were wowed this spring by right-hander Jose Ramirez's changeup. Righty Jose Campos is also high on the club's prospect list.

The hope is that some of those names will soon follow the lead of Preston Claiborne, who was promoted to the big league squad this season and has strongly stated a case to slide in alongside other farm-system products like David Robertson and Joba Chamberlain.

"Guys who throw strikes, they get results and they move up," Claiborne said. "I was always a guy [that] they pounded that into my head, as they do all the guys in the organization and farm system. It's true testament, because if you walk guys, you won't have success."

## Winning again, Yankees still searching for offense

Posted By [Chad Jennings](#) On June 10, 2013 @ 8:59 am In [Misc](#) |

One week ago, the Yankees had lost seven of eight. They'd been swept by the Mets and lost two of three against the Red Sox. Their division lead had slipped away, and they'd fallen into a tie for third place. It was ugly.

Today, the Yankees have won six of seven. They've swept a dangerous Indians team and taken three of four from the Mariners, including a win in a game started by Felix Hernandez.

"Everybody was probably doubting us again," Brett Gardner said. "We've been playing pretty good. Our guys have been continuing to pitch well and different guys have been stepping up every day."

The different guys have been the hitters. The source of consistency has been the pitching. Yes, the Yankees are winning again, but they've also scored a total of six runs in their past three games. They're in the bottom half of the American League in batting average, on-base percentage and slugging percentage. They don't have a single hitter with a batting average above .284.

"That's what we are," Joe Girardi said. "Maybe we're a little bit different club than we've been in the past, but we've pitched really well and we've found ways to win. Sometimes it's not how many hits you get, it's when you get the hits. We've had some pretty decent timely hitting."

Overall, the Yankees numbers with runners in scoring position aren't much better. What's mattered most has been the pitching. If the lineup can scratch out a few runs each night, the team has a chance. In the past 14 games, the Yankees pitchers have allowed more than four runs only twice.

"That's no surprise, that's expected," Mariano Rivera said. "We have high-caliber pitchers here from the rotation to the bullpen. We are capable to do that."

Of course, in those past 14 games, the Yankees are 7-7. Sometimes the pitching is enough. Sometimes it's not. It seems fair to wonder whether a team can ever consistently win like this, or if the Yankees are in for a lot of the ups and downs we've seen lately.

"There's obviously a little bit of a different offensive approach because there are different guys in the lineup," Girardi said. "Those guys are a little different than what we've had in the past. We've pitched really well. We've had some real (timely) hits. You think about the couple we got (on Sunday); we didn't get a whole lot with runners in scoring position, but we got enough. That's the important thing."

**ESPN.com**

**Monday, June 10, 2013**

## **Yankees: We're going to get Clarkin signed**

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By Andrew Marchand

Ian Clarkin said a number of memorable things before and after the Yankees signed him. The fact he could not stand the Yankees when he was six was not the most important. But his words really stuck out when he stated he may not sign.

"It will just have to come down to life-changing money," Clarkin said. "We are going to have to talk about it over as a family, see what works best for me, see what works best for the family. Hopefully, we'll get the scholarship in the contract also, but it is going to come down to how the money changes our family's lives."

On Monday, Yankees draft guru Damon Oppenheimer said he is confident the 18-year-old Clarkin, a lefty with a plus curve and a 95-mph heater, will not end up in his hometown at the University of San Diego.

"We feel very strongly that we are going to get him signed," Oppenheimer said.

The Yankees cannot officially sign Clarkin until he finishes high school in the middle of this week. From there, the negotiations will rev up.

# David Palladino to go with Yanks instead of LSU

TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2013  
BY MARK J. CZERWINSKI

There's suddenly a 6-foot-9 hole in the Louisiana State University starting rotation.

Faced with what he called "a choice between two dreams come true," [Emerson's](#) David Palladino chose the Yankees, passing up a full scholarship to the Division I baseball power to begin a professional career with the team he grew up rooting for.

Palladino, a fifth-round selection (No. 164 overall) in last week's Major League Baseball draft, agreed to terms with the Yankees on Monday. He'll be given a physical exam today, and is expected to sign his first contract Wednesday.

Palladino declined to discuss the terms of the deal. The draft slot was valued at \$278,100 for the Yankees, but they reportedly had the flexibility to go above that.

"It was a difficult situation," said Palladino, The Record 2011 high school Pitcher of the Year. "It was a difficult decision."

The choice got a little more complex four days before the draft when LSU, anticipating Palladino being drafted, increased its scholarship offer to a full ride. Palladino said LSU's decision caught him by surprise, and he said that the call to the Tigers' staff declining the scholarship was going to be one of the hardest things he's ever done.

"LSU is certainly one of the greatest programs ever," said Palladino, 20. "I wanted to play there, but I've always wanted to be a professional baseball player."

Palladino said his whole family was involved in the decision-making process, making a list of the pros and cons for each potential path as they discussed his options. That's the same thing the family did in 2011 when the Los Angeles Dodgers picked him out of [Emerson High School](#) in the 13th round.

"I had no regrets with that decision," said Palladino, who is 255 pounds.

"That's why it's important to make these decisions as a family."

The hard-throwing right-hander is an intimidating presence on the mound. He pitched this season for junior-college power Howard in Texas, posting a 7-3 record with a 2.18 ERA and 99 strikeouts in 70<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings.

After spurning the Dodgers, Palladino attended the University of South Carolina Upstate. He tore the patella tendon in his right knee midway through his freshman year and had surgery before transferring to Howard.

Palladino said he doesn't know what role the Yankees have in mind for him, but he also said that it doesn't matter.

"I want to start," Palladino said. "But at this point, I'm going to do whatever they want, whatever they ask, so I can have a chance to put on that major-league pinstripe uniform as soon as possible."

Palladino said he's looking forward to the life of a professional ballplayer.

"I think the toughest adjustment for me is realizing that this is my life now," Palladino said.

"This is a job, my job, and I have to go out there every day and be the best that I can be.

"There's no room for screw-ups. But that's OK, because this is what I want. This is what I've always wanted, and it's what I want to do for the rest of my life."



## Yankees go heavy on college players in amateur draft

Posted By [Chad Jennings](#) On June 10, 2013 @ 6:31 pm In [Misc](#) |

The picture above is Yankees second-round pick Gosuke Katoh, one of 15 high schoolers drafted by the Yankees this year. The amateur draft ended this weekend, highlighted by — for strictly sentimental reasons — the Yankees selection of Andy Pettitte's son in the 37th round. All told, the Yankees drafted 42 players: 21 pitchers (14-RHP, 7-LHP), 10 infielders, 10 outfielders and one catcher. They selected 27 college players and 15 high school players.

Here are the basics on all 42 picks. All of this stuff pretty much speaks for itself: *Round, overall number, name, position, school, bats, throws, height, weight, birthday.*

**1 (#26) Eric Jagielo**

3B University of Notre Dame  
L/R - 6'3"/210 lbs. - 5/17/92

**1 (#32) Aaron Judge**

CF Fresno State  
R/R - 6'7"/255 lbs. - 4/26/92

**1 (#33) Ian Clarkin**

LHP James Madison HS (Calif.)  
L/L - 6'2"/205 lbs. - 2/14/95

**2 (#66) Gosuke Katoh**

2B Rancho Bernardo HS (Calif.)  
L/R - 6'2"/180 lbs. - 10/8/94

**3 (#103) Michael O'Neill**

CF University of Michigan  
R/R - 6'1"/195 lbs. - 6/12/92

**4 (#134) Tyler Wade**

SS Murrieta Valley HS (Calif.)  
L/R - 6'1"/180 - 11/23/94

**5 (#164) David Palladino**

RHP Howard College  
R/R - 6'9"/230 lbs. - 3/15/93

**6 (#194) John Murphy**

SS Sacred Heart University  
L/R - 5'11"/185 lbs. - 4/2/91

**7 (#224) Nick Rumbelow**

RHP Louisiana State University  
R/R - 6'0"/190 lbs. - 9/6/91

**8 (#254) Brandon Thomas**

CF Georgia Tech  
S/R - 6'3"/202 lbs. - 2/7/91

9 (#284) **Conner Kendrick**  
LHP Auburn University  
L/L — 6'0"/195 lbs. — 8/18/92

10 (#314) **Tyler Webb**  
LHP University of South Carolina  
L/L — 6'6"/225 lbs. — 7/20/90

11 (#344) **Kendall Coleman**  
RF Rockwall HS (Tex.)  
L/L — 6'4"/200 lbs. — 5/22/95

12 (#374) **Philip Walby**  
RHP San Diego State  
L/R — 6'3"/215 lbs. — 7/24/92

13 (#404) **Cale Coshow**  
RHP Oklahoma Christian University  
R/R — 6'5"/260 lbs. — 7/16/92

14 (#434) **Caleb Smith**  
LHP Sam Houston State  
R/L — 6'3"/200 lbs. — 7/28/91

15 (#464) **Jordan Barnes**  
OF Northwest Mississippi CC  
R/R — 5'10"/185 lbs. — 6/19/94

16 (#494) **Ryan Butler**  
RHP Central Piedmont CC  
R/R — 6'5"/230 lbs. — 2/23/92

17 (#524) **Hever Bueno**  
RHP Westwood HS (Ariz.)  
R/R — 6'1"/180 lbs. — 11/23/94

18 (#554) **Dustin Fowler**  
CF West Lauren HS (Ga.)  
L/L — 6'0"/185 lbs. — 12/29/94

19 (#584) **Andrew Beresford**  
RHP UNLV  
R/R — 6'6"/200 lbs. — 2/26/90

20 (#614) **Drew Bridges**  
3B Carthage HS (Miss.)  
L/R — 6'4"/230 lbs. — 2/3/95

21 (#644) **Ethan Carnes**  
LHP University of Oklahoma  
L/L — 6'4"/205 lbs. — 12/30/91

22 (#674) **Derek Toadvine**  
2B Kent State  
R/R — 5'10"/175 lbs. — 3/20/92

23 (#704) **Alex Polanco**  
RHP Western Oklahoma State  
R/R - 6'4"/230 lbs. - 5/8/94

24 (#734) **Sam Agnew-Wieland**  
RHP Appalachian State  
L/R - 6'1"/210 lbs. - 5/31/92

25 (#764) **Jordan Floyd**  
LHP Shawnee Heights HS (Kans.)  
L/L - 6'3"/245 lbs. - 2/23/95

26 (#794) **Cal Quantrill**  
RHP Trinity College School (Canada)  
L/R - 6'3"/175 - 2/10/95

27 (#824) **Dillon McNamara**  
RHP Adelphi University  
R/R - 6'5"/220 lbs. - 10/6/91

28 (#854) **Trent Garrison**  
C Fresno State  
L/R - 6'0"/190 lbs. - 5/24/90

29 (#884) **Charles White**  
CF University of Maryland  
L/L - 5'9"/175 lbs. - 11/13/91

30 (#914) **Cody Thomas**  
CF Heritage HS (Tex.)  
L/R - 6'5"/215 lbs. - 10/8/94

31 (#944) **Kevin Cornelius**  
SS Grayson County College  
R/R - 6'1"/178 lbs. - 8/28/92

32 (#974) **Chaunsey Sumner**  
3B Hawaii Pacific University  
R/R - 5'11"/205 lbs. - 6/16/91

33 (#1004) **Shane McCarley**  
RHP Manvel HS  
R/R - 6'1"/205 lbs. - 1/3/95

34 (#1034) **Hector Crespo**  
2B Appalachian State Univ.  
R/R - 5'10"/175 lbs. - 8/30/91

35 (#1064) **Nick Green**  
RHP Fountain-Ft. Carson HS (Colo.)  
R/R - 6'1"/165 lbs. - 3/25/95

36 (#1094) **Nestor Cortes**  
LHP Hialeah Senior HS (Fla.)  
R/L - 5'11"/190 lbs. - 12/10/94

37 (#1124) **Josh Pettitte**  
RHP Deer Park HS (Tex.)  
R/R — 6'1"/190 lbs. — 11/3/94

38 (#1054) **Andrew Schmidt**  
LF Regis Jesuit HS (Colo.)  
L/L — 6'0"/180 lbs. — 2/8/95

39 (#1184) **Ty Afenir**  
SS Washington State University  
R/R — 6'1"/185 lbs. — 8/26/91

40 (#1214) **Kyle Buchanan**  
CF Florida Gulf Coast University  
R/R — 5'10"/185 lbs. — 4/9/92

## Yankees to host youth summer camps

Posted By [Chad Jennings](#) On June 10, 2013 @ 9:13 pm In [Misc](#) |

*This seems like the kind of thing to pass along on a West Coast off day. Here are the basics from the Yankees...*

The New York Yankees announced that New York Yankees Summer Camps will take place in the New York tri-state area beginning the week of June 24, marking the second consecutive year they are being offered. Sessions will run on a weekly basis in various locations throughout the tri-state area through August 23. In New York, camps will take place in White Plains, Somers, the Bronx, Rye, Tarrytown, West Nyack and Old Brookville. In New Jersey, camps will be held in Verona, Paramus, Parsippany, Holmdel, Oradell, Princeton, Summit and Far Hills. In Connecticut, there will be a camp in Darien.

Yankees Summer Camps are available to boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 13, and each camper will receive a full Yankees uniform. In addition to on-field skill development and professional instruction, campers also get the opportunity to take a guided tour of Yankee Stadium.

Campers enrolled in sessions taking place while the Yankees are on the road will be given a tour of the Yankees clubhouse. Campers taking part in sessions when the team is at home will meet a current member of the 2013 New York Yankees.

Each session consists of five days of camp and costs \$549 per camper.

"We offer young ballplayers of all skill sets a first-class instructional experience based on leadership and character development," said Brendan Sullivan, Director of Yankees Summer Camps. "The combination of on-field skill work coupled with the exclusive access we offer to Yankee Stadium will make this a lasting memory for all the children who attend."

All sessions will feature an innovative curriculum and differentiated practice drills based on each player's grade and skill level. Additionally this year, Yankees Summer Camps will introduce video analysis for campers ages 9 and older to further enhance and personalize the instruction.

As part of the American Dairy Association and Dairy Council's "Refuel with Chocolate Milk" initiative, 85 children from families in the Bronx will receive full scholarships to attend Yankees Summer Camp at Heritage Field, which is located on the site of the original Yankee Stadium and administered by the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation.

For more information on Yankees Summer Camps, including enrollment forms, please visit [www.yankees.com/camps](http://www.yankees.com/camps).

### **NEW YORK**

Archbishop Stepinac H.S. (White Plains) — 6/24-28  
Kennedy Catholic H.S. (Somers) — 7/1-6 (no camp 7/4)  
Mount Saint Michaels Academy (the Bronx) — 7/8-12  
Rye Neck H.S. (Rye) — 7/15-19  
Hackley School (Tarrytown) — 7/22-26

Clarkstown South H.S. (West Nyack) — 7/29-8/2  
Green Vale School (Old Brookville, L.I.) — 8/5-9 (Sold Out)

**NEW JERSEY**

Verona H.S. — 6/24-28  
Bergen Community College (Paramus) — 7/8-12  
Parsippany Police Athletic League — 7/15-19  
Holmdel H.S. — 7/22-26  
River Dell H.S. (Oradell) — 7/29-8/2  
Princeton Day School — 8/5-9  
Kent Place School (Summit) — 8/12-16  
Far Hills Country Day School — 8/19-23

**CONNECTICUT**

Darien H.S. — 8/12-16

# Search for His Swing Takes Davis to the Desert

By ANDREW KEH

LAS VEGAS — Middy temperatures on Monday climbed to 100 degrees around Las Vegas, the faraway outpost for the Mets' organization, the place where first baseman Ike Davis will attempt to thaw his long and vexing cold spell.

It felt as if Davis was banished to a state of purgatory on Sunday when the Mets shipped him to the Las Vegas 51s, the team's new Class AAA affiliate. It was a move that seemed inevitable, even overdue, given Davis's .161 batting average, but his surroundings as he attempts to re-establish his identity as a major league power hitter will be daunting.

Cashman Field, the Las Vegas 51s' home stadium, is more than 2,000 miles from Citi Field. Somehow, it feels even farther than that. The Las Vegas climate can make afternoon batting practice sessions on the field or inside the park's batting cage feel like a Bikram yoga session. And the desert heat creates abnormal game conditions that create inflated hitting numbers, which then have to be interpreted and debated.

None of this can be particularly encouraging for Davis, a 26-year-old first baseman earning \$3.125 million this year, a player who has had a certain lofty status on the Mets since his major league debut in 2010. Davis is popular in the clubhouse, and with fans when he was hitting, and as the team was building toward its future, he seemed certain to be a cornerstone at first base.

Now, who knows? All that is certain is that starting Tuesday, he will become a restoration project for Wally Backman, the manager here, and George Greer, the team's hitting coach. The goal, as they see it, will be to have Davis swinging the way he was three years ago, when he joined the Mets as a No. 1 draft pick who had risen quickly through the minor leagues.

"He's coming here for us to fix him," said Backman, sweat dripping down his cheek as he sat inside the dugout Monday afternoon. "And we're going to try to fix him."

Davis's sabbatical into the desert will require some adjustment on his part. He will be put through intensive, focused work in an effort to restore his me-



ISAAC BREKKEN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Cashman Field, the home of the Las Vegas 51s, where Ike Davis will try to work his way back.

chanics and confidence. His swing will be broken down to its components. His pitch recognition will be resharpened.

The work could prove extensive. In his 186 at-bats this season, he had 66 strikeouts. His .258 slugging percentage after the Mets' loss Sunday was the worst among major league players who qualify for the batting title.

Davis, to those inside the Mets' organization and even to casual observers, has been plainly adrift at the plate. He has not had rhythm and balance. He has looked tentative at times and too aggressive at others. He has always been a player known for his many moving parts at the plate, and now, they appear fully out of sync.

Sandy Alderson, the Mets' general manager, suggested after Sunday's demotion that Davis was being subjected to too many voices offering help. In Las Vegas, Davis will have relative peace for the near future, but there will be new voices, too. And they will, for the most part, have his undivided attention.

Backman has come to know Davis over the past few spring trainings. Greer was Davis's hit-

ting instructor for part of the 2009 season, when both were at Class A, and during the Arizona Fall League that year. Backman and Greer seem confident about their ability to get through to Davis.

In fact, they began generating thoughts on how to help Davis when rumors first circulated several weeks ago that the Mets would send him down.

"We've watched hours and hours of tape on him back when he first went to the big leagues from the minor leagues," Backman said. "He's made so many changes. I think, personally, it's been too many changes."

Both Backman and Greer said they were looking forward to Tuesday, when Davis — along with outfielder Mike Baxter and left-hander Robert Carson — would report to the team for the first time.

The two have conferred already with Dave Hudgens, the Mets' major league hitting coach, and they will follow the organization's plans on how to help Davis. Still, they will be hands-on with him. And the key, they said, would be to listen to him. Both said they want to do this the right way, even if it takes some time.

For Greer, urgency is antithetical to self-improvement.

"He'll tell me how he feels, and I'll tell him what I see," Greer said. "And because we have worked together in the past, we'll come hopefully to a happy medium, where he can start feeling good about himself."

The Mets have spiraled downward into turmoil, having turned over a fifth of the major league roster this past weekend. They had a day off on Monday after losing two straight extra-inning games — spanning 30 total innings — to the Miami Marlins, who have the majors' worst record.

But it does not appear that Davis is destined to make a quick return to New York, retooled and equipped to quickly bolster the team.

"It's not going to be, 'Hey, if you get 15 hits this week, you're gone,'" Backman said. "It may be two weeks. It could be a month. I don't know. Let's see how he responds to some of the things we may be trying to change or modify or whatever."

Amid suffocating heat, Davis will attempt to get hot again.

# BASEBALL

## Losing, rebuilding eat at Mets' Alderson

**'It's impossible to leave it at the office every day'**

**Bob Nightengale**  
bnighten@usatoday.com  
USA TODAY Sports



New York Mets general manager Sandy Alderson hates losing. Despises it.

He is a former Marine who served in Vietnam and is the son of a decorated Air Force officer.

You don't succumb to mediocrity when you're an Alderson.

Sure, he knew this was supposed to be a rebuilding year, but he refuses to even use the word.

And when you are having the season the New York Mets are enduring (23-35, third-worst record in the majors), even losing to the woeful Miami Marlins, pardon Alderson if he feels like punching something.

"It's tough to sit through these losses," Alderson told USA TODAY Sports in a telephone interview from his office. "We'd all like to fall back on the long-range plan and not get too emotional from Day 1 to the next, but it's difficult."

And when you're sitting in New York, with the Yankees across town, it can be a whole lot more stressful than what the folks in Kansas City and Houston are enduring these days.

"It doesn't matter whether you're a big market or small market," said Alderson, who endured growing pains in San Diego. "It affects you equally in either environment."

Alderson and manager Terry Collins showed they mean business by demoting three players to Class AAA Las Vegas on Sunday and warned everyone they could be next.

First, baseman Ike Davis, pitcher Robert Carson and outfielder Mike Baxter were sent down.

Funny what a .161 batting average, 8.50 ERA and .212 batting average can do for you these days, especially when your team has lost five consecutive games to the 18-44 Marlins.

"I do believe there is an honor to play here," Collins told news reporters. "There is a privilege to play here. It's not just put the uniform on and be here. You've earned the right to be here, but you have to earn the right to stay here."

No one has crashed and burned like Davis, who is earning \$3 million and considered one of the cornerstones of the franchise. The Mets hated to embarrass him with the demotion but simply had no other choice.

"Hopefully Ike will only be in

Vegas a few weeks," Alderson said. "We hesitated because Ike did so well in the second half last year, but we felt we had to do this."

Still, as hopeless as it looks, Alderson still believes in the future. He got the prospects he wanted in the R.A. Dickey trade with the Toronto Blue Jays and caught a bad break when two-time American League Cy Young Award winner Johan Santana went down before they had a chance to trade him.

Now if contenders need veterans such as outfielder Marlon Byrd, starter Shaun Marcum or reliever LaTroy Hawkins, Alderson is all ears.

It's not as if anyone will confuse the Mets' farm system with the St. Louis Cardinals', but there is a glitter of hope through those storm clouds.

The Mets plan to feature rookie sensation Matt Harvey and prized prospect Zack Wheeler in a June 18 doubleheader and this offseason will have an extra \$40 million to spend with Santana and outfielder Jason Bay's contracts coming off the books.

Sure, it's painful, but if you stay true to your beliefs and don't panic, the reward can be great.

"It's not fun," Chicago Cubs President Theo Epstein told USA TODAY Sports at the start of the season. "You want to be able to tell the fans. The time is now. Get your tickets now or you'll be sorry in October. Get on board."



THE NEWARK STAR-LEDGER VIA USA TODAY SPORTS  
Shaun Marcum is 0-7 with a 4.96 ERA but can be had for the right price.

ter where you are, has to be in lock step to undergo any kind of rebuilding process. You have to have your whole organization united behind your vision."

Alderson, who has a contract through 2014, has the backing of ownership. Collins, who Alderson commended for his understanding and leadership, is on board.

Yes, even the face of the franchise, third baseman David Wright, understands.

"We knew it was going to be challenging," Wright told news reporters. "But I think, needless to say, we have underperformed. ... When changes are made, you can't blame anybody but ourselves. We put ourselves in this position."

Said Alderson: "This is not a manager problem or a staff problem, it's a player-performance problem. It's been tough."

Now, if only Alderson's competitive soul can take it.

"It's impossible to leave it at the office every day," he says. "It just doesn't happen. It's easy to intellectualize about expectations and what's reality, but you can't have an emotional detachment from the day-to-day results."

"I've tried. It's impossible."

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"There are no quick fixes if you want a healthy organization. But if you're transparent about it, stick to your plan, you can speed up the building and win as quick as possible. "Your whole organization, no mat-



# Davis' demotion a tough call

## Struggling Mets hope .161 hitter can find stroke

**Ron Shandler**

@RonShandler  
Special for USA TODAY Sports 6/11/13

Did the New York Mets pull the plug too soon on first baseman Ike Davis?

Yes, he was batting .161 with five home runs when he got a ticket to Class AAA Las Vegas on Sunday. But a year ago, on June 8, Davis was hitting .158 with five home runs.

From that point on, he batted .265 with 27 homers.

In our fantasy leagues, we roster players based on our expectations over six full months. But players typically do not post stats consistently during that time.

A 30-homer hitter doesn't go yard exactly five times each month. A .280-hitter might have a few months of batting .240 along with a few batting above .300.

Our challenge is to figure out when a certain aberrant performance might be for real. Is a .220 start going to be offset by a .300 stretch later on? Or is it a prelude to a disappointing .240 season?

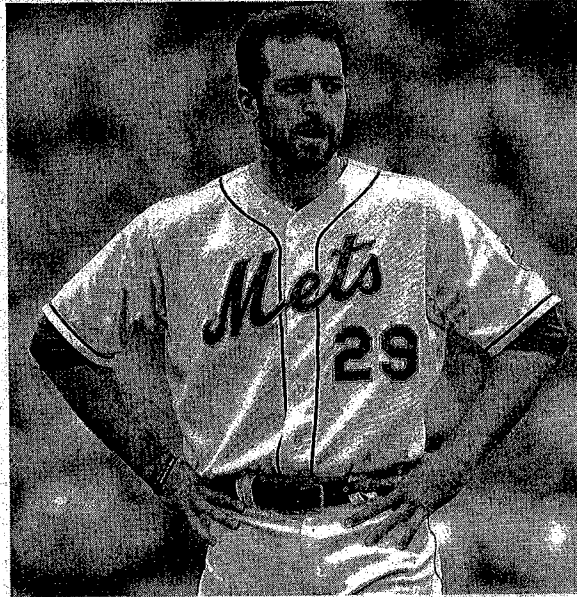
Here are key questions to ask when making this assessment:

► **Is the player hurt?** An injury — whether reported or not — could be affecting a player's performance.

There has been no indication Davis is battling injuries. He did admit Valley Fever sapped his strength last spring, but the second half of 2012 seems to rule out any residual effects.

► **Does the player have a consistent history of slow starts?** For the most part, there are very few players who show consistent trends over several seasons.

We can't draw this conclusion with Davis. Despite his consecutive bad starts, he did bat .337 with five homers in April 2011.



BRAD FENNER, USA TODAY SPORTS

The Mets sent Ike Davis, a staple at first base since April 2010, to Class AAA Las Vegas. He was batting .161 with five homers and 16 RBI.

► **Are there signs in his peripherals?** A slump might be at least partly due to some bad luck, such as hard-hit balls that are caught or long fly balls held up by the wind.

In Davis' case, his .185 expected batting average closely matches his current mark of .161. His 12% home run-to-fly ball rate is not far off from his history.

But his current 65% contact rate is a career low and a full 8% off of last year's mark. He is hitting 13% fewer hard-hit balls this year.

His .220 batting average on balls in play (BABIP) should normalize and boost his average somewhat. However, with power skills 40% below league average (after posting skills 50% above league average last

year), odds are against regression.

Oddly, in 20 at-bats in June, Davis was posting a 75% contact rate and .140 BABIP.

While these were very small signs that he might have turned it around this month, the Mets probably made the right move. For fantasy leaguers, the batting average hole Davis has already dug could not be risked any further.

However, watch him closely in Las Vegas. He owns significantly better skills, and it would not take much for him to right the ship and return to post big second-half numbers again.

## BASEBALL

# Puig Brings Vigor To Lifeless Dodgers

## A 22-Year-Old Cuban Fires Up A Team of High-Priced Stars

By BILLY WITZ

LOS ANGELES — One week into his major league career, this much has become clear about Yasiel Puig, the Cuban outfielder with the alluring name: The balls that rocket off his bat, the throws that prompt stop signs by opposing third-base coaches and the force and abandon with which he runs are more than singular acts that may help the Los Angeles Dodgers win a particular game.

They represent hope.

These days, with so much of their \$215 million payroll injured or playing poorly, the Dodgers are following the Angels and the Lakers in proving that being flush with rich local television contracts allows for buying stars, but does not guarantee success. The Dodgers are last in the National League West.

Puig, though, has changed the atmosphere. In his first seven days since being called up, he hit 4 home runs, drove in 10 runs, threw out 2 base runners, dived into first base to beat out an infield hit, drew an intentional walk and, perhaps most remarkable, rendered the broadcaster Vin Scully incredulous.

"I don't believe it," Scully said over the air Thursday when Puig boosted an otherwise feckless offense with an eighth-inning grand slam in a 5-0 victory over the Atlanta Braves.

Scully had seemingly witnessed everything in his 64 seasons of broadcasting Dodgers baseball, but apparently not.

"I've never seen a player who is a five-tool player show all five tools in three games," Scully said in an interview Sunday.

He noted the anticipation the previous night, when much of a rare capacity crowd at Dodger Stadium groaned as Mark Ellis struck out on an eye-high 3-2 pitch with a runner on second and Puig on deck, sealing a 2-1 loss to Atlanta.

"It's been dead," Scully said of the atmosphere this season. "This wonderful team they assembled disappeared."

But Saturday, he said, "was dif-

ferent."

"With each pitch to Ellis, I knew the crowd was saying, 'Great, we're just two pitches away from Puig.' That's amazing for a kid."

The intrigue in Puig (pronounced Pweeg) goes beyond his name, his frame (6 feet 3 inches, 245 pounds) and his game, which have prompted comparisons with Bo Jackson, Sammy Sosa and Mike Trout. Much of the curiosity surrounding Puig is how little is known about him, something he prefers to keep that way.

Third baseman Luis Cruz, whose locker is next to Puig's, said Puig, a 22-year-old Cuban defector had not shared any details of his life. When he left the clubhouse late Sunday afternoon, Puig greeted his parents, both engineers, and his younger sister on the way to his car but did not want them to answer questions from a reporter. A few minutes earlier, his interview session with reporters, done through a translator, revealed little.

In some ways, then, not much has changed in the last year.

When word got out last June that Puig, the latest in a wave of Cuban baseball players to defect, had turned up in Mexico, there was uncertainty about who his agent was, whether he would be working out in Cancun or Mexico City, and most important, just how good he was.

Once major league teams got their first, limited look at Puig, who had not played organized baseball in nearly a year — his punishment by Cuban authorities for previous failed attempts to defect — they had less than a week to get him under contract before new restrictions on signing international players took effect on July 2.

The usual process of scouting did not apply. There was no local scout who had taken the time to know Puig. No games in which they could watch him play.

Puig would run, throw and hit in only four workouts.

So when the Dodgers' scouting director, Logan White, "sum-



MARK J. TERRILL/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Since being called up, Yasiel Puig has amazed even the broadcaster Vin Scully, in his 64th season, who said he had never seen a five-tool player show "all five tools in three games."



ALEX GALLARDO/ASSOCIATED PRESS

moned the scout Paul Pryer to his hotel room at 2 a.m., after the final workout to tell him that he would offer \$42 million over seven years to sign a player they had watched for three days, there was understandable incredulity.

"When I said, 'Here's the number I think we need to hit to get this done,' Paul said, 'Are you out of your mind?'" White recalled.

Pryer was not alone. Through the Dodgers had just been sold for a record \$2.15 billion, and the

new owners had pledged to pour more money into the team, Puig was not coming cheap. And there were those who thought that Puig was less polished for sure than Yoenis Cespedes, the Cuban defector and outfielder who had a strong rookie season with Oakland in 2012 after signing a four-year, \$36 million deal.

"The exciting part was it came down to old-school scouting and having to make a call," said White, who was wary of losing Puig to the Chicago Cubs or the White Sox.

"If you were looking for data to support your evaluation, you were in trouble, White said. "There wasn't any. I know it sounds arrogant, but I've done this too long. Physically it was an easy call — he has the best tools of anybody I've ever scouted."

"I was ready after years of not having money," White added, referring to the penurious years under the debt-ridden former owner, Frank McCourt. "And I knew

that if I came back without a player with this kind of talent, I'd be finding a new line of work."

White went to dinner with Puig in Mexico City and liked that the player was able to help him get his computer linked up to the Internet. When Tim Bravo, who was hired to teach Puig English and serve as his chaperon, learned last year that his own son, Zechariah, now 7, had cancer on his eyelid, Puig offered to pay for the treatments.

"My wife and I cried," said Bravo. "He's got a good heart."

And yet the Dodgers were concerned by some of Puig's behavior in spring training, when he batted .517 but neglected to run out a ground ball or threw up his hands when coaches told him not to steal third. And then came other episodes at Class AA Chattanooga earlier this spring. Ultimately, the Dodgers dispatched Manny Mota, who has long served as a mentor for the Dodgers' young Latin American play-

ers, to meet with Puig.

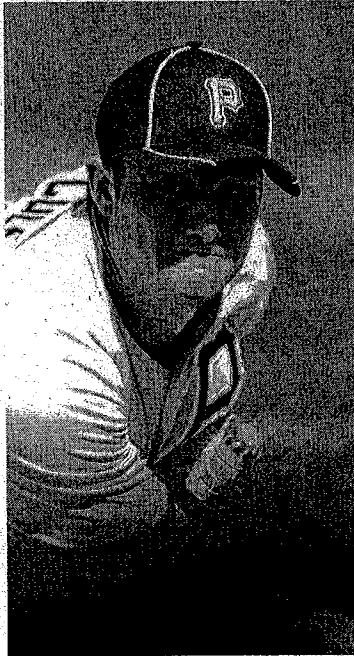
"We talked about everything we need for him to be in the major league level," Mota said. "Respect people, be nice to people, respect the fans, come every day and play hard and be on time."

When a young player makes mistakes, Dodgers Manager Don Mattingly said, it is important that he learn what he did wrong before reaching the majors.

"The mistakes, you want them to be made in an area that's not filled with 60,000 people and on 'SportsCenter' every night," Mattingly said.

So far, there have been few mistakes and a run of starting plays. So as the Dodgers began a series Monday night against division-leading Arizona, with Matt Kemp, Carl Crawford, Josh Beckett, Ted Lilly and Chris Capuano unavailable, at least Mattingly could pencil Puig into the lineup. And then do what Dodger fans are doing these days — hope for another night of magic from him.

# Pirates prove patient with Cole



## Highly touted pitcher set to face Giants in major league debut

Paul White

@PJWhite  
USA TODAY Sports 6/11/13

This isn't exactly how Gerrit Cole wanted it, but the 2011 No. 1 overall draft pick finally gets what he thought he deserved a couple of months ago — his first major league start today for the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Pittsburgh general manager Neal Huntington didn't quite want it this way either, but the Pirates have little choice and just might get a shot of energy in a playoff race they're very much a part of.

Cole will face the visiting San Francisco Giants, plugging a hole in what has been a solid Pirates rotation but has been hit by injuries to Wandy Rodriguez and Jeanmar Gomez.

"When they're ready, not because we need them," Huntington has said of promoting Cole and other prized pitchers in the farm system.

Cole might fit both scenarios. The Pirates certainly need him, and his recent performances indicate he's ready.

The right-hander hasn't allowed a run in his last two starts for Class AAA Indianapolis, giving up five hits in 14 innings. Just as important are his two walks and eight strike-

outs over that span.

Command issues were part of the reason the Pirates opted to have Cole start this season in the minors, a decision the 22-year-old wasn't thrilled about when he was demoted March 18.

"I tried to give them a lot of opportunities to not make this decision," a visibly upset Cole said then. "But in the end, it still happened."

His early performances in the minors backed Huntington's contention that Cole needed more seasoning. In fact, he still has 28 walks and 47 strikeouts in 68 innings, certainly not a dominant ratio.

The timing of Cole's debut probably saves the Pirates a year before he becomes eligible for arbitration.

Though the date for players attaining Super Two status (the 22% of players debuting this year who can go to arbitration after their second season) has yet to be determined, it is expected to end up being sometime in the first week or two of June.

That's why other marquee call-ups, including the imminent debut of New York Mets pitching prospect Zack Wheeler, should be coming soon.

Huntington denied in spring training and again during the season that Cole was in the minors for economic reasons. Had he started the year on the big-league roster, he would have been eligible for free agency in 2018 instead of 2019.

Cole's clock is running now, and the focus shifts to the 99-mph fastball coming out of his 6-4, 240-pound frame.

BRAD BARR, USA TODAY SPORTS

Pitcher Gerrit Cole, the top pick in the 2011 draft, could give the Pirates a shot in the arm.

ROUNDUP

## Cabrera Hits 18th Homer, But Royals Still Beat Tigers

By The Associated Press

Jeremy Guthrie pitched impressively into the seventh inning, Salvador Perez hit a two-run triple and the Kansas City Royals defeated the visiting Detroit Tigers, 3-2, on Monday. The Royals have won six in a row.

Guthrie (7-3) limited the Tigers to a two-run homer by Miguel Cabrera in six and a third innings in helping the Royals extend their longest winning streak since they won seven straight in September 2011. He gave up six hits and walked three.

Cabrera, who leads the American League with 90 hits and 69 runs batted in, hit his 18th home run in the second.

**ORIOLES 4, ANGELS 3** Adam Jones homered and drove in three runs, and Baltimore beat visiting Los Angeles in a game marred by rain.

The teams played with wet baseballs on a muddy field and endured a delay of more than two hours before the final out was recorded shortly before midnight.

Mike Trout and Josh Hamilton homered for the Angels, who have lost three in a row to fall 10 games under .500 (27-37).

After Baltimore scored twice in the sixth to take a 4-2 lead, the home plate umpire Joe West called for the tarp with two outs. By that time, the field was a sloppy mess and a steady rain had become a full-scale deluge.

Following a delay of 2 hours 14 minutes, play resumed at 11 p.m.

**RANGERS 6, INDIANS 3** Lance Berkman hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the seventh inning, and Texas beat visiting Cleveland to hand the Indians their eighth straight loss.

Berkman's homer was his first since May 24 and extended Cleveland's road losing streak to 12, its longest since a 16-game skid that carried over from 2009 into the second away game of 2010.

Robbie Ross (3-1) got the win after striking out the side following a leadoff walk in the seventh. Joe Nathan pitched a perfect ninth for his 20th save.

Scott Kazmir (3-4) ended up with the loss even though he was in the dugout when Berkman

homered off Nick Hagadone.

**REDS 6, CUBS 2** Brandon Phillips hit a grand slam and matched his career high with six R.B.I. as Cincinnati won at Wrigley Field.

Across town, the Chicago White Sox and the Toronto Blue Jays were delayed more than an hour because of a dense fog, but the Cubs and the Reds were never halted.

The Reds were coming off a weekend series loss to the St.



JAMES BORCHUCK/TAMPA BAY TIMES, VIA AP

The Rays' Matt Joyce shoved Boston's Jarrod Saltalamacchia after being hit by a pitch. Coverage at [nytimes.com](http://nytimes.com).

Louis Cardinals, who lead the National League Central, and had lost four of five over all.

**BREWERS 6, MARLINS 1** Yovani Gallardo pitched eight scoreless innings, Jonathan Lucroy had four hits and Milwaukee won at Miami.

Carlos Gomez had three hits and two R.B.I. for Milwaukee, while Lucroy also drove in two runs. Rickie Weeks homered among his three hits for the Brewers, who tied a season high with 16 hits despite playing without Ryan Braun, who aggravated a sore right thumb Sunday against Philadelphia.

The Marlins slugger Giancarlo Stanton went 1 for 4 in his first start since April 29. He missed 36 games with a right hamstring injury.

Ricky Nolasco (3-7) allowed a season-high 10 hits and four runs in five and a third innings.

**ESPN.com**

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

## How AL All-Star roster is shaping up

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By David Schoenfield

We did this [All-Star exercise for the National League](#) on Sunday night, so let's do the same thing for the American League: A month out from the All-Star Game, how does the roster potentially shape up?

In choosing the 34-man roster, I go with the fan balloting results for the position players and fill out the roster from there. In reality, the players vote for nine positional backups in the AL (including DH) and the first eight pitchers (five starters and three relievers) -- meaning the AL manager really has only eight spots to fill (and one of those is actually the final man vote on the Internet), from which he must fulfill the requirement of at least one All-Star per club. For the purpose of this review, I pretend the player vote doesn't exist. (All stats entering Monday's games.)

### Catcher

Fans: 1. [Joe Mauer](#); 2. [Matt Wieters](#); 3. [Carlos Santana](#).

Should start: Mauer.

Automatic: None.

Mauer is the clear choice here based on his .332/.414/.498 batting line. Or is he? He's started only 37 of his 56 games at catcher. Trouble is, who else gets the nod? Santana has the next-best hitting numbers, but he has started 21 games at first base or DH. Matt Wieters has an OBP about .300. The other candidate is [Jason Castro](#) of the Astros, and I have a feeling we may need the backup spot for him. We'll get the backup catcher later.

### First base

Fans: 1. [Chris Davis](#); 2. [Prince Fielder](#); 3. [Mike Napoli](#).

Should start: Davis.

Automatic: Fielder.

Davis' .333/.411/.684 line and league-leading 20 home runs should earn him the All-Star start even if he slows down between now and early July. Based on the WAR leaderboards, Fielder has plenty of competition for the backup job, but Fielder is a star and is once again putting up his usual strong numbers at the plate.

### Second base

Fans: 1. [Robinson Cano](#); 2. [Dustin Pedroia](#); 3. [Ian Kinsler](#).

Should start: Pedroia.

Automatic: Cano.

I can see the argument for Cano as the starter; he has been the superior player the past couple of years. But it's not really that close right now with Pedroia posting a .383 wOBA and Cano at .357. Heading into Monday night, Baseball-Reference rates Pedroia as the most valuable position player in the AL, while FanGraphs as him as sixth-best.

### Third base

Fans: 1. [Miguel Cabrera](#); 2. [Manny Machado](#); 3. [Adrian Beltre](#).

Should start: Cabrera.

Automatic: [Evan Longoria](#), Beltre, Machado.

Now we're going to run into some problems; there are too many *great* third basemen in the AL right now. Cabrera, Longoria and Machado rank 1-4-5 in FanGraphs WAR and 2-7-3 in Baseball-Reference WAR. Then there's [Josh Donaldson](#), who ranks seventh on FanGraphs and fourth on B-R. Beltre hasn't quite matched those guys, but he's a top-20 player on both lists and is an established star on one of the best teams in the league. For now, Donaldson gets squeezed out.

#### **Shortstop**

Fans: 1. [J.J. Hardy](#); 2. [Elvis Andrus](#); 3. [Jhonny Peralta](#).

Should start: Hardy.

Automatic: Peralta.

Not a good year for AL shortstops with Andrus not hitting, [Asdrubal Cabrera](#) not playing up to his usual standards and [Derek Jeter](#) injured. Hardy and Peralta are clearly the top guys -- flip them if you want -- with Hardy potentially on his way to winning another Gold Glove while leading AL shortstops with 13 home runs and 39 RBIs. Peralta is better than usually given credit for on defense and he's hitting .339, although that is fueled by an unsustainable .418 average on balls in play.

#### **Outfield**

Fans: 1. [Adam Jones](#); 2. [Mike Trout](#); 3. [Torii Hunter](#); 4. [Nick Markakis](#); 5. [Jose Bautista](#); 6. [Nelson Cruz](#).

Should start: Trout, Jones, ???.

Automatic: None.

Once you get past Trout and Jones it's difficult find an obvious third starter in an uninspiring group of AL outfielders. Hunter is hitting .300, but without much else to go with it. Heck, [Jason Bay](#) has matched him in WAR, so it's hard to argue Hunter's inclusion on the team at all. Hunter probably won't hang on to his top-three spot, but for now he's a starter. Backup candidates includes [Brett Gardner](#) and [Coco Crisp](#), both in the top-five in WAR on both sites thanks to their all-around games and improved production at the plate; Bautista; [Alex Gordon](#), a superb player and Gold Glove winner the past two years; [Alex Rios](#), the one White Sox player who is hitting; [Daniel Nava](#), who ranked fifth in the AL in on-base percentage and is tied for third among outfielders with 40 RBIs; and [Mark Trumbo](#). I'd throw in [Yoenis Cespedes](#) in the mix as well, despite his inconsistent start.

I'm going to add as my reserves Gardner, Crisp and Gordon (in part because I know I'll need a Royals rep and he's the best candidate). Not exactly a trio that screams "All-Star Game," is it?

#### **Designated hitter**

Fans: 1. [David Ortiz](#); 2. [Lance Berkman](#); 3. [Mark Reynolds](#).

Should start: Ortiz.

Automatic: None.

Now to the most ridiculous aspect of the All-Star Game: The AL is forced to include *two* designated hitters on its roster, even though most teams don't even employ a full-time DH anymore. Reynolds has ended up playing mostly in the field (only 13 games at DH) and while he has 13 home runs and 41 RBIs, he hasn't done much after a hot April. [Kendrys Morales](#) has hit pretty well for Seattle but the last thing we need is another Mariner on this All-Star team. Berkman is a nice sentimental choice but not quite All-Star worthy.

So let's go with [Edwin Encarnacion](#), who has 17 home runs and 51 RBIs. Though he has mostly played first base,

he is listed on the ballot as a DH. Plus, we need a Blue Jays rep.

#### Starting pitchers

Starter: [Felix Hernandez](#).

Automatics: [Clay Buchholz](#), [Yu Darvish](#), [Justin Verlander](#), [Chris Sale](#), [Hisashi Iwakuma](#), [Max Scherzer](#).

Yes, Buchholz is 9-0 with a 1.71 ERA, so why Felix as the starter? Let us list the reasons: Better strikeout rate, better walk rate, 13 more innings pitched, longer track record of dominance, succeeding even though Mike Morse and [Raul Ibanez](#) are playing regularly on "defense" in the outfield.

As for the other starters, Verlander's ERA is a little high at 3.71, but his peripherals are still excellent and he's still Justin Verlander. Iwakuma is 6-1 with a 1.81 ERA, has the lowest OBP allowed of any major league starter and has the best ERA among AL starters since he joined the Seattle rotation in July; in other words, he's legit. Scherzer is 8-0 with 100 Ks and just 20 walks in 83.1 innings; he should be making his first All-Star trip and deservedly so.

#### Relief pitchers

Automatics: [Mariano Rivera](#).

OK, the rules say the players will vote in three relievers. I see Rivera as the only automatic; I'll add [Joe Nathan](#) and [Grant Balfour](#), both with ERAs of less than 2.00 and just one blown save (by Nathan) between them. White Sox setup man [Jesse Crain](#) has been terrific with just two runs allowed in 29 innings, but it's hard to find room for a middle reliever with so many good starting pitchers these days.

\* \* \* \*

OK, we're at 29 players, so we have five spots to fill. We need a backup catcher plus reps from the Astros and Indians. For the Astros, I'm adding Castro over [Jose Altuve](#); that squeezes out Santana, so I'll add starter [Justin Masterson](#) to represent the Indians. We're still two pitches short of our minimum allotment of 13 and the first guy to add is [Anibal Sanchez](#), although he did miss his last start with a stiff shoulder. He's 6-5 but is fourth in the AL with a 2.65 ERA and has 98 strikeouts in 78 innings. [Derek Holland](#) has been terrific and so has [James Shields](#) despite his 2-6 record, and [Bartolo Colon](#) would be a fun choice. [Matt Moore](#) pitched himself out of a spot with his recent poor efforts, so I'll guy with an old standby: [CC Sabathia](#).

That leaves one spot left. Josh Donaldson, I just found room for you.

So here's how the 34-man AL roster looks in early June -- or, at least, *my* AL roster (\* starters, via fan balloting):

C Joe Mauer, Twins\*  
C Jason Castro, Astros  
1B Chris Davis, Orioles\*  
1B Prince Fielder, Tigers  
2B Robinson Cano, Yankees\*  
2B Dustin Pedroia, Red Sox  
3B Miguel Cabrera, Tigers\*  
3B Evan Longoria, Rays  
3B Manny Machado, Orioles  
3B Adrian Beltre, Rangers  
3B Josh Donaldson, A's  
SS J.J. Hardy, Orioles\*  
SS Jhonny Peralta, Tigers  
OF Mike Trout, Angels\*  
OF Adam Jones, Orioles\*  
OF Torii Hunter, Tigers\*

OF Brett Gardner, Yankees  
OF Coco Crisp, A's  
OF Alex Gordon, Royals  
DH David Ortiz, Red Sox\*  
DH Edwin Encarnacion, Blue Jays

SP Felix Hernandez, Mariners\*  
SP Clay Buchholz, Red Sox  
SP Yu Darvish, Rangers  
SP Justin Verlander, Tigers  
SP Max Scherzer, Tigers  
SP Hisashi Iwakuma, Mariners  
SP Chris Sale, White Sox  
SP Anibal Sanchez, Tigers  
SP Justin Masterson, Indians  
SP CC Sabathia, Yankees  
RP Mariano Rivera, Yankees  
RP Joe Nathan, Rangers  
RP Grant Balfour, A's

Now, there's no way five third basemen make it (although the AL did have five shortstops in 2002 with Jeter, Alex Rodriguez, Nomar Garciaparra, Miguel Tejada and Omar Vizquel), so you'll probably see a seventh outfielder or a third catcher (especially since Castro won't finish in the top two in the player voting). If I had to guess, that will probably be Wieters or maybe Santana, who tore it up in April and the player vote usually seems predicated on who had the best April. So if Castro makes it as a third catcher, that bumps one of the third basemen.

And who knows what they'll do in the outfield; Crisp and Gardner aren't going to win the fan vote and are unlikely to finish high enough in the player vote, so the reserves outfielders could be, say, Bautista, Cespedes and Rios.



**ESPN.com**

**Monday, June 10, 2013**

## **George Brett repaying the Royals**

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By Buster Olney

George Brett's Hall of Fame story was well-known to [Kansas City Royals](#) general manager Dayton Moore before he talked to Brett last month, again, about joining the Kansas City coaching staff.

Drafted by the Royals in the second round in 1971, Brett was something of a mess [early in his big league career](#), and he was sent back to the minors with a reputation as something of a know-it-all. He surrendered completely to the instruction of hitting coach Charlie Lau and became one of baseball's all-time great third basemen -- 3,154 hits, 317 homers, four top-3 finishes in the MVP voting, a day of honor at Cooperstown.

Brett has been joining the team in spring training for years, and there has been nothing ceremonial about his work there. He has arrived early, thrown batting practice and put in a full day -- and he came back to do it again and again. So Moore knew that if Brett became a coach, he would be all-in.

That said, what Brett has done since taking over as the Royals' interim hitting coach 12 days ago has stunned Moore.

"It's been amazing," said Moore. "His energy. His passion. He interacts with every single player on the team, and it doesn't matter whether it's a hitter or a pitcher. Incredible."

There are many miles to go before anybody can know whether Brett's work and presence will make a difference in the standings or reignite the ascension of the dormant [Eric Hosmer](#) and [Mike Moustakas](#) into young stars. But the early signs are good: Hosmer has been getting better in recent days, [writes Dick Kaegel](#), and is hitting .367 in June.

Brett asked to be named on an interim basis because he wants Moore to have an out if this experiment fails. But Moore loves what he sees: Brett showing up early, getting into the cages, getting to work, talking to players in his enthusiastic manner. The other day, Brett walked around the field with Moustakas, just talking, for 45 minutes.

He hasn't been talking about drastic changes with hitting mechanics. "Really, it's about a mindset and an approach," Moore said. "They've lost the swagger a little bit."

So Brett talks, and they listen and absorb. During Brett's career, the Royals were in the playoffs seven times, winning the World Series in 1985. "After being around George," said Moore, "I know why they won."

There are about 100 games left in the season, so it's still early. The Royals are 28-32, 6.5 games out of first place, which might seem like a lot more if not for recent examples of teams digging themselves out of April and May rubble. On this date a year ago, the Tigers had the exact same record as the Royals do today, and they played in the World Series. On June 10 of last season, Oakland was 26-35, and charged back to win the American League West.

The Royals might not get there. Hosmer and Moustakas may or may not continue to struggle. Brett's work could disappear as an almost forgotten footnote to a career that will be recounted time and again long after his life ends. But he will try.

On his way to 3,000 hits, Brett was once asked how he'd like to reach the milestone, and he said, tellingly, that he wanted to hit a ground ball on the right side of the infield and beat a throw to first.

When Moore talked to him over the phone about joining the staff, Brett explained his reason for accepting the job. "I owe everything to the Royals," he said: his livelihood, his family, his home. His life.

Of course he will try.

The Royals' winning streak has reached five games, after [their weekend sweep](#) of the [Houston Astros](#).

### **Around the league**

- The [Atlanta Braves](#) have a really tough decision on the horizon, a really great problem to have and yet still wrenching: With [Brandon Beachy](#) just about ready to come back, what do they do with their rotation, which already has five healthy, productive members?

David O'Brien addresses the [question in this piece](#).

*"I don't know -- that's my honest-to-God answer," Braves manager Fredi Gonzalez said Sunday. "I don't think there's a clear-cut answer right now. And I don't want to say, 'Let's see what happens,' because people think, 'Fredi's hoping somebody gets hurt.' And I don't want that. I want everybody to be pitching healthy and then we've got to come up with some kind of plan. But right now we don't have a plan."*

[Tim Hudson](#), the dean of the staff, is not going to pitch out of the bullpen. [Mike Minor](#) has been the team's best starter, and he isn't going to lose his spot.

That leaves [Kris Medlen](#), [Julio Teheran](#) and [Paul Maholm](#). So long as Maholm remains with the team, he'll continue to start, but because Maholm is a free agent at the end of the year, Atlanta always has the option of marketing the left-hander and probably getting good return. "If he was on the trade market," said one evaluator, "he might be the best guy out there [before the July 31 trade deadline]."

But history is littered with examples of teams that appeared to have too much starting pitching, only to lose it rapidly to injuries -- most recently, the [Los Angeles Dodgers](#), who had nine starters near the end of spring training but have been scrambling to fill their rotation all season. So the idea of trading Maholm, a healthy and productive pitcher, would be really tough for Atlanta, and the Braves might not get enough to offset the value of what he could mean to them the rest of this year and into the postseason.

I thought the Braves might go to a six-man rotation, to buy time for an injury to resolve their surplus and to give a little midseason rest to Teheran, Hudson and the others, but Gonzalez said the other day that he doesn't intend to do that.

So that means somebody will probably be moved to the bullpen. Will it be Teheran, who seems to be just beginning to flourish as a starter? Or Medlen, who has been much improved in recent starts and showed in the second half of last season just how great he can be? Or could it be Beachy?

And undoubtedly, the Braves could use an eighth-inning set-up man, with swing-and-miss stuff. Medlen is really good against lefties; Beachy can be dominant; and Teheran throws strikes.

There are almost 30 other teams that would kill for this problem. How good has Atlanta's rotation been?

**From Elias:** Minor's start on Sunday was the ninth straight game that Atlanta's starting pitchers allowed two or fewer earned runs, matching the Braves' longest such streak over the past 12 seasons; in 10 straight games from April 11-21, 2001, Atlanta starters were charged with no more than two earned runs ([Greg Maddux](#), [John Burkett](#), [Tom Glavine](#), [Kevin Millwood](#) and [Odalis Perez](#)).

David O'Brien has more on the Braves' [forthcoming decision here](#).

- [Yasiel Puig](#) might be moved into the cleanup spot.
- Washington GM Mike Rizzo doesn't think there's [anything to worry about](#) with Bryce Harper's knee. The Nationals had a great day, [sweeping a doubleheader](#).

### 'Sunday Night Baseball'

- In the end, the [St. Louis Cardinals](#) blew out the Reds on "Sunday Night Baseball," scoring seven runs in the 10th inning, punctuated by [Matt Holliday's](#) monstrous grand slam, [estimated at 464 feet](#).

The Cardinals had 16 at-bats with runners in scoring position and had six hits, which is just standard operating procedure for St. Louis this year. The Reds have a really good team, but at this juncture in the season, there appears to be a gap not only between the Cardinals and their division rivals but also between the Cards and the rest of the baseball.

The Cardinals have an incredibly deep and disciplined lineup devoted to tough at-bats and taking the ball to the middle and the opposite field; they've got the No. 1 starters' ERA, by far; and at the end of games they have [Trevor Rosenthal](#) and his fast-developing changeup in the eighth inning and [Edward Mujica](#) and his finished changeup in the ninth. That's the best team we've seen this year on "Sunday Night Baseball," and right now I don't think there's anybody close.

Now, the Cardinals have a young pitching staff, and so in time we'll know whether [Shelby Miller](#) can maintain his share of innings. Manager [Mike Matheny](#) made it clear that he's aware of this question and will adjust, as needed. The same question applies to [Michael Wacha](#), another impressive rookie starter. Their bullpen seems a little soft in the middle, like most bullpens. But St. Louis is building something great so far in 2013.

Miller and [Brandon Phillips](#) are guests [on today's podcast](#).

- [Bronson Arroyo](#) passed on [this video of himself at 8 years old](#), working out with his father, Gus -- doing some dead lifting, boxing a bag. Arroyo told me yesterday, "Good thing I've got the video, or nobody would believe it."
- Twice during the course of Sunday's game, Phillips ranged far out into the outfield to grab high flies. He actually practices this every day: At the end of his daily routine, Phillips asks a coach to hit a high pop into the outfield so he can work on reacting and getting out as far as he can to get the ball.
- After Sunday's game, [Carlos Beltran](#) chartered a plane to fly to Puerto Rico, where he was to [attend this morning's graduation of the Carlos Beltran Baseball Academy](#). From Derrick Goold's notebook:

*The academy has been called by friends as his passion project, and this year's class of 44 boys is the first to graduate from the high school Beltran founded. All have commitments to play college baseball.*

*"I've got to do it. I've got to be there. The kids are expecting me to be there," Beltran said. "And I want to see the looks on their faces, their parents' faces, the smiles."*

### **Moves, deals and decisions**

1. Uber-prospect Miguel Sano has been promoted to Double-A.
2. The Mets had **seen enough**, and demoted Ike Davis.
3. The writing is on the wall for instant replay to happen, **says Mike Matheny**.
4. A Japanese team **had interest** in Alex Rodriguez.
5. Zack Wheeler could **debut alongside Matt Harvey**.
6. Tyler Moore was optioned to Triple-A.

### **Dings and dents**

1. Sean Marshall has benefited from rest.
2. Ryan Braun came out of Sunday's game with a thumb injury.
3. Clay Buchholz could miss his next start, **writes Julian Benbow**.
4. Will Middlebrooks continues to make progress with his injury rehabilitation.
5. Matt Harvey says his **back is fine**.
6. Kevin Youkilis' back **tightened up**. It appears that he and the Yankees will be dealing with this issue all summer.
7. The Phillies are now without **their top two catchers**.
8. Hanley Ramirez had an MRI on his hamstring.
9. Jed Gyorko suffered a groin injury, as **old friend Bill Center writes**.
10. **Alexi Ogando** landed on the disabled list, again, and Evan Grant wonders if his **spot in the rotation is in jeopardy**.
11. **Logan Morrison** was activated.

### **Sunday's games**

1. Tigers rookie Jose Alvarez put on a show, **writes Drew Sharp**.
2. Hector Santiago was The Man for the White Sox.
3. Dexter Fowler gave the Rockies a wild win.

### **AL East**

- It wasn't Matt Moore's **best day**. After posting a 2.18 ERA through his first 11 starts, he has allowed 14 runs over seven innings in his last two outings.

The Rays' need their rotation to find its rhythm, **writes Martin Fennelly**.

- [David Ortiz](#) and the Red Sox [took down another series](#).
- Wil Myers looks ready for the big leagues, but has [nowhere to play in the Rays' lineup](#).
- [Jose Bautista](#) blew up, and the Blue Jays blew a lead. Here's [video of his ejection](#).
- Buck Showalter spoke with [Chris Tillman after Sunday's game](#).
- [Mariano Rivera](#) bid goodbye to a ballpark in which he had a lot of success.

### **AL Central**

- The Indians have fallen and they can't get up, as Paul Hoynes writes: [That's seven straight defeats, and counting](#). Their 11 consecutive road losses is tied for the third-longest road losing streak in franchise history.

Terry Francona isn't ready to [call a team meeting](#).

- [Bruce Rondon](#) has been throwing with more consistency in the minors, [writes Lynn Henning](#).
- The Twins were hit hard [by a former Twin](#).

### **AL West**

- And on the 18th day, [the Athletics rested](#). Going into Sunday's game, Oakland's record in its previous 162 regular-season games (dating back to June 14, 2012): 103-59.
- The Mariners might be [making more changes](#).
- Joe Blanton's [record is 1-10](#).
- Learn more about [the Astros' draft class here](#).

### **NL East**

- The Mets and Marlins played 20 innings on Saturday and followed that up with 10 innings on Sunday. According to Elias, it was just the fifth time in the last 80 years (and first since 1989) that two teams followed up a 20-inning game with another extra-inning game.

### **NL Central**

- [Edwin Jackson](#) is [relaxed](#).
- Gerrit Cole's Triple-A coaches believe [he's ready to help](#).
- Tony Sanchez has helped to [rebuild his prospect status](#).

### **NL West**

- [Daniel Hudson](#) wants to [pitch again](#).

- The Giants left Arizona with a much-needed dose of momentum, **as Tony Jackson writes**. A youngster had an immediate impact for the Giants, **as Alex Pavlovic writes**.

#### **Other stuff**

- The Rangers' **Michael Kirkman** is again fighting cancer.
- **Chipper Jones** apologized for **something he tweeted**.
- The Orioles have become a popular choice **among All-Star voters**.
- John Stearns is one of my favorite people I've met in baseball: **He's a bad dude**. When he was a coach in Baltimore, some of the Orioles players got ahold of a videotape of him playing football in college and had many laughs at his style of play: He didn't really adhere to a scheme, he just hit people, really hard.
- Vanderbilt did not hit with runners in scoring position, and the **Commodores' season is over sooner than they hoped**; congratulations to Louisville.

And today will be better than yesterday.

ESPN.com

Monday, June 10, 2013

## Chronicling a wild, wild week

By: Jayson Stark

OK, take a deep breath. And now let's try to digest the craziest week of the baseball season.

We begin with our ...

### Working Overtime Dept.

- The Blue Jays and Rangers played an 18-inning game Saturday. And it wasn't even the longest game of the day. No two teams have ever been able to make that statement. On any day in the history of baseball. Amazing.
- There has only been one AL game longer than 18 innings in the past seven seasons. And the Blue Jays have never played a longer game in the history of their franchise. But let's repeat this one more time: It wasn't even the longest game of the day.
- That, of course, is because the Mets and Marlins played a baseball game the same afternoon that practically turned into a tripleheader -- 20 innings worth of nuttiness that included 561 pitches, 155 batters marching up to home plate, 41 names showing up in the box score, 16 pitchers showing up on the mound and exactly *three* runs crossing home plate.
- The Mets, as you might have heard, got zero hits with runners in scoring position in this game. As in 0-for-19. Only two other teams in the past 40 years went 0-for-19 in a game with runners in scoring position: The 2004 Red Sox (April 24, in a 12-inning *win* against the Yankees) and the 1977 Pirates (June 11, in a *nine*-inning game against the Padres). Nobody has gone worse than 0-for-19 in that span, in case you were wondering.
- But how 'bout this: The Mets played a 20-inning game three years ago, and didn't get any hits with runners in scoring position in that game, either (0-for-7). So their last hit of any kind, with a man in scoring position, in a game of 20-plus innings, was by John Milner, in the *first* inning of their fabled 25-inning game with the Cardinals on Sept. 11, 1974. Since then, they're 0-for-42 with RISP in games of 20-plus innings. Hard to do!
- On the other hand, the Marlins never got a single extra-base hit in this game, in 20 innings -- and still *won*. Bet you didn't know only three other teams in the last 100 years have pulled off that crazy trick in a game of 20-plus innings -- the 1940 Dodgers, 1971 A's and those 2010 Mets.
- So which was crazier -- (A) the Mets listing 11 different names in the No. 9 spot in their batting order or (B) the sight of four pitchers throwing 90-plus pitches *in the same game* (Matt Harvey,

Jose Fernandez, Shaun Marcum, Kevin Slowey)? Let's go with (B) on that one -- because this was the first game in which four men launched at least 90 pitches each in the pitch-count era (which began in 1987).

- And while we're on the subject of Harvey and Fernandez, here's the Elias Sports Bureau tidbit of the century on those two: They've now faced each other twice this year. The first game lasted 15 innings. The second went 20. The last pair of starters to match up for two games of 15-plus innings in the same season? That would be Old Hoss Radbourn and Jim Devlin -- in 1884. Of course!

- **Rob Brantly** of the Marlins had kind of an eventful day. He caught all 20 innings. He also got four hits along the way. He was the first catcher to squat for that many innings and get that many hits in the same game, according to the Marlins, since the Twins' Brian Harper got four hits in a 22-inning game on Aug. 31, 1993.

- One more on the Mets and Marlins before we move along: After playing 20 innings Saturday, those teams enjoyed seeing each other so much, they played 10 more innings Sunday. So how often do you see that? Oh, just slightly more often than you see Halley's Comet. Only four other teams in the past 80 years, according to Elias, have followed a game of 20-plus innings with another extra-inning tussle the very next game -- the 1989 Astros-Dodgers (22, then 13), the 1982 Angels-Mariners (20 and 10), the 1972 Brewers-Twins (22, then 15) and the 1967 Red Sox-Yankees (20 and 11).

- In a related development, something else happened Saturday that hadn't been witnessed in almost 40 years: Three pitchers went at least 6 2/3 innings *in relief* on the same day -- Marcum (eight for the Mets), Kevin Slowey (seven for the Marlins) and **Ross Wolf** (6 2/3 for the Rangers). Loyal reader Trent McCotter reports that hadn't happened on the same day since May 12, 1976 -- when Reggie Cleveland went 8 1/3 for the Red Sox, Bill Laxton worked 7 1/3 for the Tigers and Doyle Alexander logged 7 1/3 for the Orioles out of the pen. How 'bout that trio?

- Meanwhile on "Sunday Night Baseball," Reds rookie **Curtis Partch** arrived on the scene in the 10th inning -- and served up a grand slam to the first batter he faced in his *career* (**Matt Holliday**). That has happened only four times in the history of the big league universe, according to the Sultan of Swat Stats, SABR home run historian David Vincent. The other three:

Clarence Mitchell (Tigers) to Doc Gessler (June 2, 1911)

Bill Macdonald (Pirates) to Bobby Thomson (May 6, 1950)

Brian Edmondson (Braves) to Jeromy Burnitz (April 2, 1998)

- And speaking of extra-inning slams, **John Mayberry Jr.** smoked one Tuesday against the Marlins -- for his second home run that night *just in extra innings*. That made him the sixth player in history to hit two extra-inning homers in the same game, the third to do it in a game he didn't even start (joining Mike Young and Art Shamsky) and the first to cap off the extra-inning fun with a walk-off slam.



- But here's the craziest part of all: That was as many homers as Mayberry has hit in his past 248 trips to the plate during the first nine innings of all the games he has played since Sept. 3, 2012.

- More extra-inning fun: How can we not list the line score of Wednesday's White Sox-Mariners game, because there has never been one like it:

CHI 000 000 000 000 050 2  
SEA 000 000 000 000 050 0

- First thing we'd never seen before: No game in history had ever produced a plot line that insane -- 26 consecutive scoreless half-innings, followed by 12 (count 'em, 12) runs over the next six half-innings.

- A second thing we'd never seen before: A team taking a five-run lead (or bigger) in *any* extra inning, then getting tied up in the bottom of that inning and having to keep playing.

- A third thing we'd never seen before, courtesy of our pal, Tim Kurkjian: Everyone's favorite .162 hitter, [Adam Dunn](#), was intentionally walked *three* times in that game. He's the first player in history to rack up three intentional walks in a game that he began hitting under .200 this deep into a season.

- And one more wacky development in that game, from loyal reader Evan Jones: White Sox closer [Addison Reed](#) blew that five-run lead, wound up pitching three innings and still got a win. He's the first reliever to go no more than three innings, allow at least five earned runs and get a win out of it since Jim Slaton did it on July 10, 1983.

All righty. Now that we've got all the extra-inning insanity out of the way, how 'bout all the goofy stuff that took place in regulation over the past week?

### **Let's Play Nine Dept.**

- On Tuesday, the Red Sox scored in every inning in which they batted against Texas -- except for the inning that was pitched by the Rangers' starting left fielder that night, [David Murphy](#).

- On Thursday, the Cardinals went all Name Game on us. They had three guys named Matt (Carpenter, Adams, Holliday) homer in the same game. Loyal reader Anceel Trivedi reports that's the first time three players with the same first name homered for the same team in the same game since three guys named Chris (Snyder, Young and Burke) did it for [the Diamondbacks on Aug. 15, 2008](#).

- Maybe the most fun Name Game trio ever to all homer in the same game: Three famed Willies (Mays, McCovey, Kirkland) [for the Giants on May 8, 1960](#).

- Only the Astros could have an inning in which eight men batted, no fielders other than the pitcher or catcher touched the ball, and they still scored four times. As Retrosheet founder Dave Smith reported, in the fourth inning Wednesday, they crammed three homers, three strikeouts

and two walks into the bottom of the fourth inning. It was only the ninth time in the past 63 seasons that that many hitters came to bat in one inning and only the pitcher and catcher touched the baseball. And it was all perfectly legal!

- On Thursday, **Ian Kennedy** joined **Hiram Burgos** as the only pitchers this year to allow at least 10 runs in a game -- with this wild line: 4 IP, 13 H, 10 R, 10 ER, 2 BB, 4 K. He was the first pitcher to give up that many hits and that many runs in the first four innings of any game, according to Elias, since **Runelvys Hernandez** also served up 13 hits and 10 runs to the Pirates on July 7, 2008.

- On Saturday, **Kris Medlen** became the third Braves pitcher to homer this year. That means Braves pitchers (three home runs) and Cubs pitchers (four homers) have more home runs this season than the *first basemen* for the Twins or Royals (two apiece).

- Just as we all expected, **Chad Gaudin** won back-to-back starts for the Giants in the past week. Naturally, he did it before **Tim Lincecum** or **Ryan Vogelsong** won back-to-back starts for the Giants this year.

- And we can't talk about this week without mentioning the legend of **Yasiel Puig**. In his first week in the big leagues he had five multihit games. That's as many as Adam Dunn has had *all season*.

- And of course, the first four home runs of Puig's career consisted of (what else?) the home run cycle -- solo, two-run homer, three-run bomb, grand slam. The only current big leaguers who could make that claim, according to the Sultan: **Mark Teixeira**, **Chase Utley**, **Will Middlebrooks** and (of course) **Lou Marson**.

- Meanwhile, the Dodgers have been playing in Los Angeles for 66 seasons now. In that time, they've called up **Mike Piazza**, Steve Garvey, Ron Cey, Pedro Guerrero, **Adrian Beltre**, **Eric Karros**, **Matt Kemp** and several other big boppers you might have heard of. The only other man besides Yasiel Puig who ever started his career with a home run cycle was Frank Howard. Except it took Howard three *years* to hit his (two-run HR in 1958, three-run HR in 1959, the slam and solo in 1960). It took Yasiel Puig *five games*. Unreal.

All that happened in just one week of baseball, ladies and gentlemen. We can't wait to see what the most beautiful sport ever invented gives us *this* week. How about you?

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# Phenoms paying off big for clubs

KEN ROSENTHAL

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Does anyone else find it odd that the big-money **Dodgers**, like the big-money **Angels** a year ago, required mouth-to-mouth resuscitation from a relative novice?

Compared to Yasiel Puig, Mike Trout actually was a grizzled veteran when he joined the Angels in April 2012; he had appeared in 40 games the previous season. Puig, a Cuban defector, played in just 63 games in the *minors* before making his debut with the Dodgers last week.

Still, the energy that both outfielders injected to their clubs was similar — and a damning statement on the way baseball teams spend their money.

This is the age of drug testing. The game keeps skewing younger. Yet, many teams continue to invest heaviest on free agents whose best years already are behind them.

At the same time, the recent labor agreement's restrictions on amateur spending, both domestically and internationally, make it difficult for teams to be as aggressive as they once were mining young talent.

Which is exactly the wrong idea at the wrong time.

The greater bang for the buck, more than ever, comes from young players who make an immediate impact. Puig, 22, is something of an exception — he signed a seven-year, \$42 million deal shortly before the new rules took effect. Nearly everyone in the industry viewed his deal as a massive risk, and it's still fair to categorize it that way.

Yes, Puig batted leadoff in his debut, hit four homers in his first five games to earn National League Player of the Week and moved to the cleanup spot Monday night. But remember how we all went gaga over the **Royals'** Eric Hosmer, the **Braves'** Jason Heyward and many others? Phenoms don't always progress in linear fashion.

Thing is, it's not just Puig.

It's Trout and the **Nationals'** Bryce Harper, the **Orioles'** Manny Machado and **Brewers'** Jean Segura, the **Mets'** Matt Harvey and **Rockies'** Nolan Arenado. And soon enough, maybe the Pirates' Gerritt Cole, who makes his major-league debut Tuesday night, and **Rays'** Wil Myers. Cole received the highest signing bonus of that group, \$8 million, followed by Harper at \$6.25 million.

Anyway, if I'm running a major-league team, I want one of *those* guys, a difference-maker whom I will control for most of his 20s. I don't want a \$200 million man such as **Albert Pujols**, **Alex Rodriguez** or even Joey Votto in his decline years.

Of course, it's not quite that simple.

Though monster contracts rarely provide the desired returns, not all are mistakes. Long-term extensions for players in their primes (see Miguel Cabrera) often are quite fulfilling. And, as much as everyone loves young, cheap talent, amateurs offer far less certainty than established veterans. A team operates in the draft almost like a venture-capital firm, spreading money around, knowing most players will fail, hoping one or two will hit it big enough to make up for the rest.

It's also important to remember that teams occasionally acquire players for reasons that go beyond baseball — the Angels wanted Pujols and **Josh Hamilton** to be stars of their new regional TV network, while the Dodgers wanted **Adrian Gonzalez** to be a 21st-century Fernando Valenzuela, providing crossover appeal to the Mexican-American community.

**Robinson Cano**, a potential free agent, could be the same kind of buy for the **Yankees**, the one holdover from the post-Jeter, post-Rivera era who offers star power. Still, the Yankees' attendance is down about 2,500 per game this season *with* Cano, making it reasonable for their executives to ask: How much is he truly worth?

Winning still is the best form of marketing — the underachieving 2011-12 **Red Sox**, with their "sexy" TV stars, alienated the team's fan base. The Yankees are drawing poorly in part because their fans expected the team to be less competitive, and only now are starting to warm to the club. Likewise, disappointing teams such as the Angels and Dodgers figure to draw smaller crowds if they fall out of contention this summer.

To better grasp the proper way to build a franchise in the testing era, consider the successful strategies of baseball's two current "it" franchises — the **Cardinals** and **Rangers**, who lost Pujols and Hamilton to the Angels, respectively, the past two offseasons.

The farm systems of both clubs are among the best in baseball. And for the Cardinals, the departure of Pujols on a 10-year, \$240 million contract is the gift that keeps on giving.

Start with outfielder **Carlos Beltran**, whom the Cardinals signed to replace Pujols on a two-year, \$26 million free-agent deal. Beltran has a higher OPS since the two changed teams, .848 to .824.

Now consider that the Cardinals used part of their savings to sign first baseman **Allen Craig**, catcher **Yadier Molina** and right-hander **Adam Wainwright** to extensions totaling 15 years, \$203.5 million.

And finally, remember that the Cardinals received the No. 19 pick in the 2012 draft as compensation for losing Pujols — and used it to select right-hander Michael Wacha, one of the game's top pitching prospects.

The Rangers, who lost **Mike Napoli** in addition to Hamilton last offseason, have reinvented themselves much like the Cardinals, signing lesser free agents such as designated hitter **Lance Berkman** and catcher **A.J. Pierzynski** to complement their homegrown core.

Right-hander Yu Darvish was the one high-priced exception, costing nearly \$108 million between his contract and posting fee. The Rangers, though, got Darvish at age 25, and other Japanese players will continue to be available in the same way. The new rules on spending do not apply to posted Asian players and other foreign professionals who are 23 or older.

The Dodgers are in on that action, too — they signed Korean left-hander Hyun-Jin Ryu, 26, as a posted player last offseason. But for all their recent spending, team president Stan Kasten continues to insist that it's a short-term fix, and that the team ultimately wants to build through player development.

That isn't just lip service; the motivation for even the wealthiest clubs to find impact young talent never has been more evident. The poster boy for it is wearing a Dodgers uniform, producing one jaw-dropping performance after another, appearing nightly in right field.

NY POST 6/11/13

## We hear . . . we hear . . .

THAT **Jay-Z** is celebrating the 10-year anniversary of his famed 40/40 Club on Monday with a star-studded affair attended by Yankees **Robinson Cano**, **CC Sabathia** and **Alex Rodriguez** along with **Beyoncé** (who has the night off from her world tour), **Victor Cruz** and **Ahmad Bradshaw**, among others. We're told Jay's shelling out close to \$250,000 for the party, where guests will be downing his Armand de Brignac (Ace of Spades) Champagne and D'Usse Cognac . . . THAT **Maurine Reidy**, former head of **Donald Trump's** Miss Universe organization, has united with **Pat Mitchell** as chief marketing officer for the Paley Center for Media.

By: Emily Smith

USA Today 6/11/13

## DEALS

### Baseball

#### ► American League

**Boston Red Sox:** Activated 3B Will Middlebrooks from the 15-day disabled list. Designated IF Pedro Ciriaco for assignment.

**Detroit Tigers:** Optioned P Jose Ortega to Toledo (International/AAA). Recalled P Evan Reed from Toledo.

**Houston Astros:** Optioned P Brad Peacock to Oklahoma City (Pacific Coast/AAA).

**Kansas City Royals:** Agreed to terms with SS Hunter Dozier on a minor league contract.

**Minnesota Twins:** Placed OF Aaron Hicks on the 15-day disabled list. Optioned OF Chris Colabello to Rochester (International/AAA). Sent 3B Trevor Plouffe to Rochester for a rehab assignment.

**Toronto Blue Jays:** Optioned P Brad Lincoln to Buffalo (International/AAA). Activated P Darren Oliver from the 15-day disabled list.

#### ► National League

**Arizona Diamondbacks:** Recalled P Joe Paterson and P Charles Brewer from Reno (Pacific Coast/AAA). Optioned P Tyler Skaggs to Reno. Placed P Matt Reynolds on the 15-day disabled list.

**Cincinnati Reds:** Agreed to terms with OF Phillip Ervin on a minor league contract.

**Los Angeles Dodgers:** Optioned P Matt Magill to Albuquerque (Pacific Coast/AAA). Recalled IF Justin Sellers from Albuquerque.

**Miami Marlins:** Optioned 1B Joe Moneo and 2B Donovan Solano to New Orleans (Pacific Coast/AAA).

**Milwaukee Brewers:** Sent P Hiram Burgos to Wisconsin (Midwest/A) for a rehab assignment.