



WRIGLEY FIELD CHICAGO CUBS MEDIA RELATIONS

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### Chicago Sun-Times

Scott Feldman trade is how the Cubs' sell-off begins

By Gordon Wittenmyer

OAKLAND, Calif. — If there was any doubt that they would be the most aggressive sellers heading into July, the Cubs eliminated it when they sent the first swing of the wrecking ball crashing through their roster Tuesday.

Four wins in five games and three consecutive series victories weren't about to slow a process that was inevitable as soon as the Cubs got off to a slow start in April.

Before the Cubs reached the halfway mark of their season Tuesday, they completed three trades, including one that sent pitcher Scott Feldman and catcher/infielder Steve Clevenger to the Baltimore Orioles for hard-throwing, young right-handers Jake Arrieta and Pedro Strop.

"It's tough to see it," veteran Alfonso Soriano said of the start of another roster demolition, which eventually might involve him if he keeps hitting like he did last weekend. "But if we played good enough and didn't give too many games away, we could be [buying instead of selling]."

The only thing certain at this point is that more productive veterans will be shipped out by the end of the month — starting with valued commodities Matt Garza and Kevin Gregg at the top of the list — regardless of how well the Cubs play this month or the message it might send.

"Our job is to build a great organization. Their job is to play hard every single night and look for wins," general manager Jed Hoyer said. "As far as the message, unfortunately, we're 10 games under .500 and have three teams in our division with the three best records in the National League or close to it. I think, realistically, our chance of playing in October is very small, and we need to add a lot of talent to get better in the future."

In addition to the Feldman trade, the Cubs also finalized the Carlos Marmol deal, sending the embattled reliever to the Los Angeles Dodgers for reliever Matt Guerrier and salary relief.

In relation to the 2013 and '14 payrolls, a source said the Cubs will have received about \$550,000 in relief from the \$4.9 million left on Marmol's contract by the time the deal plays out.

The Cubs also traded minor-league infielder Ronald Torreyes to the Houston Astros for two international free-agent "slots" and the MLB-assigned bonus-cap space that comes with it.

The key to the trade for the Cubs is 97-mph-throwing Arrieta, 27, one of the Orioles' top prospects as he rose toward the majors — despite a 20-25 record and 5.46 ERA. The Cubs are optimistic pitching coach Chris Bosio can redirect an attitude that has been criticized at times in Baltimore and iron out the right-hander's uneven performances.

Arrieta is expected to spend much of the second half of the season in the rotation.

Asked about Hoyer's explanation for starting the sell-off now, clubhouse leader and core starter Jeff Samardzija said: "Of course, it's tough to hear. But he was right in saying our job in here is to win.

"That's really all it comes down to. . . . It doesn't make it any easier when you lose a guy like Scott Feldman. It's the same thing I said last year when we traded [Ryan] Dempster. The team doesn't get better by losing guys like that."

Certainly not right away.

Asked about the message the front office might be sending to players, manager Dale Sveum said: "I'm not concerned about that. We're still viable in being able to fill those roles [of departed players] right now. Obviously, if you start getting any thinner, it could change a little that way.

"But I'm not worried about it. They're professional players."

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### **Chicago Sun-Times**

Tuesday's results: Athletics 8, Cubs 7

By Gordon Wittenmyer

OAKLAND, Calif. – A lot of things changed Tuesday for the Cubs.

But some things, it seems, never change.

Taking a lead into the eighth inning yet again, the Cubs blew it yet again in an 8-7 loss to the Oakland Athletics in the opener of a three-game series at the Oakland Coliseum.

This time it was lefty James Russell giving up a three-run homer to Derek Norris with two out in the eighth for the bullpen's 17th blown save against just 18 saves this season.

"It's almost comical to see this happen every single night we have a lead," manager Dale Sveum said, "to get beat by guys that sometimes hardly even hit any home runs."

Russell, the Cubs' primary setup man, has six blown saves (no saves), but he's one of just eight Cubs to blow one this year.

The Cubs' 51-percent save rate is the worst in the majors.

The finish wasted a five-run fourth inning for the Cubs that included a three-run homer by Alfonso Soriano – his third homer in four games – and a go-ahead, two-run double by Wellington Castillo in the sixth.

Soriano is 8-for-18 with three homers, three doubles and eight RBIs in his last four games.

The loss came a few hours after the Cubs traded away Tuesday's scheduled starter, Scott Feldman, to Baltimore in a flurry of trades.

One byproduct of Tuesday's move is the promise of another new look for the bullpen Wednesday, when Matt Guerrier (from Dodgers) and Pedro Strop (Orioles) are expected to report.

If it means the departure of struggling Shawn Camp (7.04 ERA), it would leave only two members of the Cubs' Opening Day bullpen: Russell and Rule 5 kid Hector Rondon.

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## Chicago Sun-Times

Alfonso Soriano not concerned about the future  
By Gordon Wittenmyer

OAKLAND, Calif. — Now that the Cubs have started the sell-off — and even managed to find a little return value for Carlos Marmol — Alfonso Soriano said he's trying not to think about what the club's plans with him might be for the trading season.

He just doesn't want to get caught off-guard.

"I hope if they're going to do something, they let me know first," said Soriano, whose three-run home run on Tuesday gives him eight hits, three homers and eight RBI in his last four games.

But the homer wasn't enough as James Russell gave up a three-run homer in the eighth to Derek Norris and the Cubs lost 8-7.

Soriano has \$27 million left on a contract that runs through next season and full no-trade rights, which means he could be a trade possibility well beyond the July 31 non-waiver deadline.

"I saw what happened," he said of the flurry of trades Tuesday, "but I don't pay attention anymore [to personal possibilities]. I got a lot of things to do [instead of] spend time on things I don't control."

Villanueva back

Cubs manager Dale Sveum said swingman Carlos Villanueva will be stretched out to rejoin the rotation in the spot vacated by Scott Feldman, probably until around the All-Star break.

Villanueva opened the season in the rotation and went 1-3 with a 3.93 ERA in eight starts before moving to the bullpen when Matt Garza returned from the disabled list.

Meanwhile, left-hander Chris Rusin was recalled from Class AAA Iowa to fill Feldman's slot Tuesday and could get one or two more starts until Villanueva is ready.

Rusin worked 31/3 innings on short rest, giving up a two-run homer to former Cubs farmhand Josh Donaldson in the first inning and a leadoff shot to Chris Young in the second.

Moves coming

The Cubs need to clear two spots from the beleaguered bullpen Wednesday when newly acquired right-handers Matt Guerrier and Pedro Strop are due to report to the team.

Struggling right-hander Shawn Camp, a workhorse last season who was troubled earlier this season by a sprained big toe, might be on the bubble.

He had one of his worst outings of the year Sunday in Seattle and has allowed four runs in 61/3 innings since his return from the DL, with only one strikeout, three walks and three home runs allowed.

He has given up seven home runs in just 23 innings this season.

Sappelt back

Outfielder Dave Sappelt also was recalled from Iowa, replacing injured outfielder Ryan Sweeney (ribs), who went on the 60-day DL to create a 40-man roster spot needed after the trades.

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## **Chicago Sun-Times**

Carlos Marmol, Scott Feldman trades clear space for international signings

By Gordon Wittenmyer

OAKLAND, Calif. — The most significant part of the Cubs' flurry of moves Tuesday might be the extra signing power they acquired to aggressively pursue some of this year's top international free agents.

General manager Jed Hoyer confirmed the Cubs acquired a net of \$963,000 in additional space under their MLB-mandated cap on the first day international players are allowed to sign with clubs.

Between the four-player deal with Baltimore and the Carlos Marmol deal with the Dodgers, the Cubs got about \$5.5 million in budget flexibility — though much of the \$2.5 million created by the Marmol trade will count against the 2014 budget by the time the multilayered transaction plays out.

Some of the \$5.5 million recouped on this year's budget already is earmarked for previous commitments, but the bottom line was that enough payroll freedom was created to use all the extra international cap room gained.

"We really like some of the impact talent in this year's international class," Hoyer said. "The addition of dollars can help us be aggressive in this market."

It's the second year MLB has imposed strict limits on international signing pools and the first year it has allowed teams to trade "slots" and their assigned spending values.

The Cubs increased their pool from just less than \$4.6 million to just more than \$5.5 million and, according to reports, already had used much of that to sign top-rated Venezuelan shortstop Gleyber Torres (\$1.7 million) and Dominican right-hander Jefferson Mejia (\$850,000).

The Cubs also are said to be heavily involved in 16-year-old outfielder Eloy Jimenez, considered the top prospect in the Dominican this year.

The Cubs acquired two of Houston's international slots in a trade for minor-leaguer Ronald Torreyes (acquired from Cincinnati in the Sean Marshall deal 19 months ago) and two more slots from Baltimore in the Scott Feldman trade.

They also sent one of their own slots to the Dodgers in the Marmol deal.

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## **Daily Herald**

Cubs trade Feldman, Clevenger, Marmol

By Bruce Miles

The Cubs looked to the future.

They also looked far and wide.

Those were the double realities of Tuesday's triple-trade day, as Cubs management embarked on its second straight July of clearing out veterans. The Cubs also acquired monies for the signing of international free agents in a crop they seem to like a lot.

"We had a flurry of activity today," understated general manager Jed Hoyer. "It's not very often you consummate three deals on the same day, really within an hour or so."

Here is how it all shook out:

- The Cubs traded starting pitcher Scott Feldman and minor-league catcher-infielder Steve Clevenger to the Baltimore Orioles for pitchers Jake Arrieta and Pedro Strop. The Cubs also received two international signing-bonus slots, worth about \$388,000.

Feldman, who had been a pleasant surprise, was supposed to start Tuesday night's series opener at Oakland. The Cubs recalled lefty Chris Rusin to start.

Hoyer said Rusin would be "start by start" and that the Cubs likely would "stretch out" reliever Carlos Villanueva to start, as he did to open the season.

- In the second deal, the Cubs traded embattled former closer Carlos Marmol and international signing-bonus slot No. 4 to the Los Angeles Dodgers in exchange for reliever Matt Guerrier.

The Cubs figure to save \$500,000 of what's left of Marmol's \$9.8 million salary for this year. Guerrier, a middle reliever who had past success with the Minnesota Twins, has about \$1.8 million left on a three-year, \$12 million deal. Both Marmol and Guerrier recently were designated for assignment.

- The Cubs traded minor-league infielder Ronald Torreyes to Houston for international signing-bonus slots 2 and 3.

The nonwaiver trading deadline is July 31, but the Cubs didn't waste any time, and more deals may be coming, what with starting pitcher Matt Garza and closer Kevin Gregg, among others, still on the roster.

The Cubs clearly aren't going to win this year, but what the players in the clubhouse want to avoid is another 100-plus loss season, as happened last year after a trade-deadline purge and injuries depleted the starting rotation.

"The way I look at it, 25 guys on our team should never like deals where you give up a guy in your rotation to get young players," Hoyer said. "You want players on the field who always want to be adding and are buyers. That's the nature of it.

"Our job is to try to build a great organization. The players on the field, their job is to play hard every single night and look to win."

The Cubs will add Strop and Guerrier to the bullpen as early as Wednesday, which could spell the end for relievers Shawn Camp and Henry Rodriguez.

Arrieta, who has struggled in the big leagues, will go to Class AAA Iowa. The 27-year-old Arrieta is 20-25 with a 5.46 ERA in 69 major-league appearances, all but 6 as a starter, in all or part of the last four seasons with Baltimore.

He was a member of Baltimore's 2013 opening-day roster and has had three stints with the big-league club this season, going 1-2 with a 7.23 ERA in 5 starts.

Strop, 28, last season served as one of Baltimore's primary setup men, going 5-2 with 3 saves, 24 holds and a 2.44 ERA in 70 relief appearances, all single-season career bests.

"The focus for us was adding two more power arms that are controllable for a long time," Hoyer said. "That was our focus in that deal. (Arrieta) pitched really well the other night in Triple-A (Norfolk) for the Orioles. Get him there, get him acclimated. We'll start him off (at Iowa), get him comfortable and have him pitch in the same environment he was pitching in Baltimore."

The other interesting aspect to Tuesday's trades was the focus on international talent. Hoyer said the Cubs netted \$963,000 in international money from the trades, bringing their total to \$5,520,300.

"Looking at the international class, our scouts really like it," Hoyer said. "We feel like it's very deep. We really like some of the impact talent in this year's international class. We feel there's more depth and premier guys, and we're hopeful we can add a number of those guys."

The Cubs reportedly have signed 16-year-old shortstop Gleyber Torres out of Venezuela for \$1.7 million and right-handed pitcher Jefferson Mejia out of the Dominican Republic for \$850,000.

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#### **Cubs.com**

Cubs, top Venezuelan Torres agree to deal  
Shortstop ranked No. 3 by MLB.com among international prospects  
By Adam Berry

With the Majors' second-largest bonus pool, the Cubs were expected to be among the most active teams on the international market. They made their first big splash Tuesday afternoon, agreeing to terms with Venezuelan shortstop Gleyber Torres.

Torres, 16, is ranked No. 3 on MLB.com's list of top international prospects. He agreed to a \$1.7 million deal with the Cubs, a baseball source told MLB.com's Jesse Sanchez.

The Cubs have not confirmed the signing.

Torres is considered the top player from Venezuela in this year's class and has the potential to flash all five tools. He has a compact swing with power to all fields, plays solid defense and throws with a strong, accurate arm. At 6-foot and 170 pounds, Torres isn't the biggest prospect on the market, but he has an athletic build and is strong for his size.

The Cubs have just over \$4.55 million to spend on the international market -- the \$700,000 allotted to every team plus a bonus pool of more than \$3.85 million -- and have also been mentioned as a front-runner for Dominican outfielder Eloy Jimenez, the top overall prospect in this year's international class.

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#### **Cubs.com**

Oakland series a homecoming for Sveum  
By Carrie Muskat

OAKLAND -- The Cubs' first trip to Oakland is also a homecoming of sorts for manager Dale Sveum, who was raised in Richmond, Calif., located north of Berkeley in Contra Costa County.

"It's not quite like it was when I first came here playing," said Sveum about returning to the Bay Area. "I don't have that much family here. My brother lives here, so it'll be good to see him and his family."

Sveum is a diehard Oakland Raiders fan, but didn't go to many games.

"I didn't have the money to pay for football games," he said. "I'd much rather sit home and watch football on TV anyway."

He did take the BART to some Athletics games, and used to sit in the bleachers. The carpeting has been replaced in the visiting manager's office since the septic system backed up last month, and the clubhouse has been thoroughly cleaned. Does Sveum think the Athletics need a new ballpark?

"Yeah," he said, without hesitating.

#### **Gregg excited about Cubs' new arms**

OAKLAND -- Cubs closer Kevin Gregg was a teammate of Jake Arrieta and Pedro Strop last year with the Orioles, and was with Matt Guerrier on the Dodgers during Spring Training. When he heard that the Cubs had acquired Arrieta and Strop on Tuesday, he was surprised.

"I couldn't believe when I heard it, that we got both Arrieta and Pedro," Gregg said. "That's two big pickoffs. Stuff-wise, you're looking at two good arms."

The Cubs sent Scott Feldman to the Orioles for Arrieta and Strop, and dealt Carlos Marmol to the Dodgers for Guerrier. Strop and Guerrier were expected to join the team and be in the bullpen on Wednesday, while Arrieta will go to Triple-A Iowa.

"Strop had a great year last year, and was part of the best bullpen in baseball," Cubs manager Dale Sveum said. "This year has not been going so good. I guess he was on the [disabled list] with back problems. We're getting a power arm. Guerrier will be a guy you can use in multiple roles, like [Carlos] Villanueva is for us now."

Gregg said both Arrieta and Strop have good arms and a good mix of pitches.

"Pedro is a great bullpen guy," Gregg said. "He had an outstanding year last year and just got in a funk this year. I think it'll be good to get him here and get him pitching. He needs to pitch more to be successful."

In 2012, Strop compiled a 2.44 ERA in a career-high 70 games, striking out 58 over 66 1/3 innings. He had a 7.25 ERA in 29 games this season with the Orioles.

Maybe the right-hander needs a change of scenery?

"It could be good for him," Gregg said of Strop. "He left Texas and came to Baltimore and did outstanding, and then got in a funk again. When he came to Baltimore, we weren't winning, and he got in a groove and ran with it. He had a couple rough outings and got pushed to the side a little. I'm excited. It's a great pickup for the Cubs."

Gregg also talked to Guerrier this spring about his role. The newest Cubs pitcher had a 4.80 ERA in 34 appearances with the Dodgers.

"He's a solid reliever who has been there, done that," Gregg said of the right-hander. "The change of scenery could help him, too. We talked a little in Spring Training because he was under the microscope in spring with the situation the way it was there."

Arrieta, who will likely start at Triple-A Iowa, is athletic, has a 97-mph fastball and a 91-mph slider, Sveum said.

"Those are the kind of things you're trying to get in the organization," Sveum said.

### **Extra bases**

- With Scott Feldman gone via trade to Baltimore, Cubs manager Dale Sveum said Carlos Villanueva will be stretched out to move back in the rotation.

Feldman was scheduled to start on Tuesday, but lefty Chris Rusin was called up from Triple-A Iowa to take his spot. Villanueva began the season in the rotation and made eight starts before he was moved to the bullpen to make room for Matt Garza. Villanueva was 1-3 with a 3.93 ERA in eight starts, and has a 2.40 ERA in 15 relief appearances.

Villanueva will need time to get stretched out, and most likely won't be ready to start until mid-July, Sveum said.

Feldman will make his first start for the Orioles on Wednesday against the White Sox.

- Starlin Castro batted .167 in June, the worst month of his young career. The shortstop has gotten into some bad habits, Sveum said.

"He's just got to slow things down and get in a better position to hit like he did when he first got here," Sveum said.

- Rusin was named to the Pacific Coast League All-Star team on Tuesday. The game will be played July 17 in Reno. The lefty compiled a 7-7 record and 3.27 ERA in 17 games (16 starts), and leads the PCL in innings pitched.

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### **Cubs.com**

Garza, Colon faceoff in matchup of hot righties

By Quinn Roberts

Over his last eight starts, A's right-hander Bartolo Colon has been in the zone.

The 40-year-old is on a career-high eight-game winning streak, during which he's posted a 1.37 ERA. Colon last took a loss on May 9 against the Indians.

He'll look to keep that streak going on Wednesday as the Cubs and A's face off in Oakland.

Colon allowed just one run on six hits in eight innings of work on Friday against the Cardinals, improving to 11-2 on the season with a 2.79 ERA. The win made him just the second A's pitcher since 1991 to record 11 wins before the end of June.

While Colon relied on his fastball throughout the night, he added more curveballs and changeups than he had in past outings.

"I don't expect anything less now," teammate Josh Donaldson said. "He's just one of those guys who goes out there and gives us a chance to win. He's been dominant. It hasn't even been a question."

Colon will be up against Cubs right-hander Matt Garza, who's been in quite a groove himself as of late, winning his last two starts.

Against the Brewers on Thursday, Garza allowed just one run on eight hits in seven innings of work for his third win this season. He also struck out a season-high 10 batters.

Going at least seven innings in his last three starts, Garza has allowed just two runs in 22 innings. He's also struck out 23 and walked just five.

"My job is to get ready for every five days, and get out there and perform and do what I have to do and be at my best every five days," Garza said.

### **Cubs: Feldman goes to O's**

Chicago dealt pitcher Scott Feldman and catcher Steve Clevenger to the Orioles for right-handed pitchers Jake Arrieta and Pedro Strop, plus two international signing bonus slots on Tuesday.

They also acquired the Astros' Nos. 2 and 3 international signing bonus slots for Minor League infielder Ronald Torreyes, and dealt Carlos Marmol to the Dodgers for reliever Matt Guerrier.

With the three moves, the Cubs added \$963,000 in international slot money, and upped their total pool to \$5,520,300.

"This is an international class that our scouts really like, and we felt it was very deep," Cubs general manager Jed Hoyer said. "The addition of dollars can help us be aggressive in this international market."

### **A's: Parker still not a go for Thursday**

Oakland still isn't sure if right-hander Jarrod Parker will get the nod for Thursday's game against the Cubs.

Parker, who left Saturday's start early due to right hamstring tightness, experienced some soreness while throwing a bullpen session on Tuesday, but not enough to worry the A's, who are still hopeful he can stay on track.



"He was able to throw his bullpen without any complications," manager Bob Melvin said, "though there were times when he felt it just a little bit. Going after it in a bullpen with the intensity he did, we'll wait until tomorrow to see how he feels before we make a decision on whether or not he starts on Thursday."

#### **Worth noting**

- A's catcher John Jaso, who hasn't started a game since June 20 due to a left palm abrasion, has "a good chance" of getting the nod behind the plate for Wednesday's game against the Cubs, according to Melvin.
- In five career games against the A's, Garza is 1-3 with a 3.09 ERA.

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#### **Cubs.com**

Schierholtz and Co. need All-Star ballot votes

By Carrie Muskat

CHICAGO -- Nate Schierholtz had never reached double digits in home runs in the big leagues until this season. He also has never played in an All-Star Game. Could this be the year?

The Cubs outfielder leads the team in batting with runners in scoring position, which is one of the reasons he was moved into the No. 3 spot in the lineup.

Of all the Cubs' position players, Schierholtz, who was batting .286 with a career-high 11 home runs and 34 RBIs entering Tuesday's action, may be the best bet to represent the team in the July 16 All-Star Game.

"He's exceeded our expectations with the overall quality at-bats," said Cubs president of baseball operations Theo Epstein. "To hit him in the three-hole, he does a nice job. He can handle different kinds of pitching, give you a tough at-bat. He's a threat to go deep if they make a mistake, runs the bases well, he's been really reliable defensively. He's done a nice job."

There's still time to vote for Schierholtz, but he'll need a surge of support. No Cubs players were in the top five at any position in the latest balloting results, released Tuesday.

The Cubs may be represented at the July 16 game by pitcher Travis Wood, who has posted quality starts in 15 of his 16 outings. Fans do not vote for the pitchers.

"It's really remarkable when you think about where his command is now compared to 15 months ago -- it's night and day," Epstein said of the lefty. "He deserves a ton of credit."

Other Cubs on the NL All-Star ballot include two-time All-Star Starlin Castro, first baseman Anthony Rizzo, second baseman Darwin Barney, third baseman Luis Valbuena, catcher Welington Castillo, and outfielders Alfonso Soriano and David DeJesus. Soriano, 37, is a seven-time All-Star, while this is the first time Rizzo, Valbuena, Castillo and Schierholtz are on the ballot.

Fans can cast their votes for starters at MLB.com and all 30 club sites -- online or via a mobile device -- using the 2013 All-Star Game MLB.com Ballot until Thursday at 10:59 p.m. CT.

Fans may submit 25 online ballots during the voting period but can also earn a one-time bonus of 10 additional online ballots. To access these additional online ballots, fans must be logged into an MLB.com account when submitting any online ballot. To obtain an MLB.com account, visit [www.mlb.com](http://www.mlb.com) and register in accordance with the enrollment instructions for a free MLB.com account.

Fans can also once again participate in the Home Run Derby Fan Poll. Fans will have the opportunity to select three players in each league whom they would most like to see participate in the Home Run Derby. The 2013 Home Run Derby -- part of Gatorade All-Star Workout Day -- will be broadcast live on ESPN, ESPN HD, ESPN Deportes and ESPN Radio in the United States beginning at 7 p.m. CT on Monday, July 15.

Though originally scheduled for Sunday, the 2013 rosters will now be unveiled Saturday at 5:30 p.m. CT on the 2013 MLB All-Star Game Selection Show presented by Taco Bell. The show will be televised nationally on FOX.

From Saturday to Thursday, July 11, be sure to return to MLB.com and cast your 2013 All-Star Game Final Vote Sponsored by freecreditscore.com for the final player for each League's All-Star roster.

And the voting doesn't end there. The final phase of All-Star Game voting will again have fans participating in the official voting for the Ted Williams All-Star Game Most Valuable Player Award presented by Chevrolet. During the Midsummer Classic, fans will vote exclusively online at MLB.com via the 2013 All-Star Game MLB.com MVP Vote, and their voice will represent 20 percent of the official vote determining the recipient of the Arch Ward Trophy.

The 2013 All-Star Game will be played at Citi Field on Tuesday, July 16. Come to MLB.com for extensive online coverage of the All-Star Week festivities.

The 84th All-Star Game will be televised nationally by FOX Sports, in Canada by Rogers Sportsnet and RDS, and worldwide by partners in more than 200 countries via MLB International's independent feed. ESPN Radio and ESPN Radio Deportes will provide national radio coverage of the All-Star Game. MLB Network and SiriusXM also will also provide comprehensive All-Star Week coverage. For more information, please visit [allstargame.com](http://allstargame.com).

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#### **Cubs.com**

Cubs get Guerrier from Dodgers for Marmol  
By Carrie Muskat

OAKLAND -- The Cubs found Carlos Marmol a new home.

The Cubs traded the embattled closer to the Dodgers for Matt Guerrier in a deal that also includes a swap of Draft picks and financial considerations.

Cubs general manager Jed Hoyer said the club is hoping a change of scenery will help Guerrier, who will join the team later this week. The Dodgers acquired international signing bonus slot No. 4 from the Cubs as part of the deal.

"The significant part of that deal was it netted us cash savings once we had designated Carlos for assignment," Hoyer said Tuesday.

The Dodgers will pay roughly \$500,000 of the remaining \$5 million on Marmol's contract. Guerrier has about \$1.8 million remaining on the final year of a three-year, \$12 million contract. Guerrier was designated for assignment on Sunday.

Marmol, who was designated for assignment June 25, will not become the Dodgers' closer, but he will provide a veteran arm in their revamped bullpen.

After the Cubs designated Marmol, a few teams had expressed an interest in the right-hander, who was 2-4 with a 5.86 ERA in 31 games. He did strike out 32, but also walked 21 and served up 26 hits over 27 2/3 innings.

Marmol, 30, began the season as the Cubs' closer, but he lost the job after the first week to Kyuji Fujikawa. However, the Japanese pitcher had elbow problems and eventually required Tommy John surgery. Kevin Gregg has taken over as closer, replacing Marmol, who had replaced Gregg in that role in 2009. It's also ironic that Gregg was with the Dodgers in Spring Training, but they released him.

Marmol ranks third on the Cubs' franchise leaderboard with 117 saves, but he was inconsistent with his slider and fastball command this season and struggled in late innings. On June 16, he blew a three-run lead in the ninth against the Mets, which resulted in a 4-3 loss. In Marmol's last outing, on June 20 against the Cardinals, he had his command back and threw nine strikes in his 11 pitches.

"He did provide value for us pitching in the middle of the game," Hoyer said last Tuesday. "He had struggles that frustrated people at the end of the game.

"The decision [to designate him] really came down to it that he had become a distraction. It became hard to pitch as well as he could, because every time he threw two balls, he'd get booed, and I don't think that's easy for anybody."

Hoyer said every time Marmol pitched, it was a "sideshow."

The Dodgers' bullpen has been in disarray most of the season as Brandon League, signed to a \$22.5 million contract in the offseason to be the closer, lost his job to Kenley Jansen, and Ronald Belisario has been inconsistent as a setup man.

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#### **Cubs.com**

Feldman goes to O's for Arrieta, Strop

By Carrie Muskat

OAKLAND -- The Cubs kicked off the trading season on Tuesday, dealing pitcher Scott Feldman and catcher Steve Clevenger to the Orioles for right-handed pitchers Jake Arrieta and Pedro Strop plus two international signing bonus slots.

It was one of three deals the Cubs completed in a few minutes. They also acquired the Astros' No. 2 and 3 international signing bonus slots for Minor League infielder Ronald Torreyes, and dealt Carlos Marmol to the Dodgers.

With the three moves, the Cubs added \$963,000 in international slot money, and upped their total pool to \$5,520,300. The Cubs were believed to be the front-runner for No. 1 international prospect Eloy Jimenez.

"This is an international class that our scouts really like, and we felt it was very deep," Cubs general manager Jed Hoyer said. "The addition of dollars can help us be aggressive in this international market."

Feldman (7-6, 3.46 ERA), who has been one of the Cubs' most consistent starters, was scheduled to start Tuesday against the Athletics, but lefty Chris Rusin will get the assignment instead.

When the Cubs signed Feldman, the right-hander was focused on getting a spot in the rotation.

"I give him credit," Hoyer said of Feldman, who had bounced from the rotation and the bullpen while with the Rangers. "He made a big bet on himself. He wanted a one-year deal, and I give him a lot of credit. He believed in himself and it shows. The fact that he had a contender in the American League actively seeking him shows he made the right bet."

Feldman most likely won't be the only starter to be dealt before the July 31 Trade Deadline. There also has been interest in right-hander Matt Garza, scheduled to start Wednesday.

Clevenger made the Cubs' Opening Day roster but has struggled with a strained left oblique, and he was with Triple-A Iowa. A Baltimore native, the catcher was thrilled at the news, according to his agent, Joshua Kusnick, who tweeted: "Clevenger is an oriole done deal home coming!"

The Cubs will get \$388,100 from the O's in international slot money, which may help them sign Jimenez.

Arrieta will be assigned to Iowa, while Strop was expected to report to the Cubs later this week.

Arrieta, 27, was 20-25 with a 5.46 ERA in 69 Major League appearances, all but six as a starting pitcher, in all or part of the last four seasons with the Orioles. He was a member of Baltimore's 2013 Opening Day roster and has had three stints with the big league club this season, going 1-2 with a 7.23 ERA in five starts.

"It was frustrating knowing you can do better than what you are doing," Arrieta said. "Lately, I was feeling better with my rhythm and everything, I was starting to put some things together, even if the results don't always show it. But I was feeling pretty good. I just got to keep going."

Orioles executive vice president Dan Duquette said Arrieta may benefit from a change in scenery.

"I can tell you, from a team perspective, we were looking to bolster our rotation, and Feldman has pitched in the playoffs and is having a good year this year," Duquette said.

Strop, 28, last season served as one of Baltimore's primary setup men, going 5-2 with three saves, 24 holds and a 2.44 ERA in 70 relief appearances, all single-season career bests.

A native of the Dominican Republic, Strop made his major league debut with the Rangers in 2009 and split three seasons between the Majors and Minors before being traded to Baltimore near the end of the 2011 campaign.

Hoyer said the two additions are both power arms who may simply need a change of scenery. Arrieta was the O's Opening Day starter in 2012.

It was difficult to part with Feldman.

"We really liked what we saw in him when we signed him as a free agent," Hoyer said of Feldman. "We felt getting him out of the American League and getting him to the National League Central and giving him a full-time role would be important to him.

"It's never easy to give up a guy who has performed well for you, but to have two power arms is important."

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### **Cubs.com**

Cubs drop opener in Oakland on Norris' late homer

By Carrie Muskat

OAKLAND -- The Cubs may never want to come back to Oakland.

Derek Norris, a .195 hitter, belted a three-run homer with two outs in the eighth off James Russell to lift the A's to an 8-7 Interleague victory Tuesday over the Cubs.

Chicago led 7-5 after 7 1/2 innings, and Russell got ahead, 0-2, in the count, but Norris belted his fourth home run for the game-winner. Russell is now 0-for-6 in save situations.

"He can't get really anything down in the strike zone," Cubs manager Dale Sveum said. "His changeup is either short or hung, and can't spot a fastball down and away. It's basically just no location. The confidence probably isn't too good right now."

It's the Cubs' 17th blown save, most in the Major Leagues.

"I didn't make a good pitch when I needed to and paid for it," Russell said. "I just have to get the ball down, it's that simple. It's not that difficult. It's that one thing, get the ball down and that won't happen."

It obviously isn't the first time the Cubs have blown a lead this season. They now have lost 25 games in which they've led at some point.

"It's almost comical to see this happen every single night," Sveum said. "We have the lead and get beat by guys who sometimes hardly even hit home runs. [Norris] had one at-bat off a left-hander in 15 days and beats us with a three-run homer."

Norris thought he'd be facing a right-hander.

"I was a little in awe when they didn't make the change, because obviously my splits are a little bit favored to the left-handed pitchers so far this year, and when they didn't I just told myself don't miss it if you get it, and fortunately I got a good pitch to hit -- at least I thought it was," he said. "These guys were saying it wasn't, but I made the most of what he gave me."

Alfonso Soriano hit a three-run homer and Welington Castillo hit an RBI single and a tiebreaking two-run double for the Cubs, who were making their first regular-season trip to O.co Coliseum. They're now 10-5 in Interleague Play.

"We played good, but we didn't play good enough to win this game," Soriano said. "I hope tomorrow we have a better chance to win the game."

Chris Rusin started in place of Scott Feldman, who was dealt to the Orioles earlier in the day for pitchers Pedro Strop and Jake Arrieta in a flurry of roster moves. It's the reality of being 11 games under .500.

"We have three teams in our division with the three best records in the National League, or close to it," Cubs general manager Jed Hoyer said. "I think, realistically, our chances of playing in October are small. We need to add a lot of talent to get better for the future."

"Players should be trying to win every single game, that's the nature of their job," Hoyer said. "I would expect the players to look at it that way."

Was Sveum worried about any kind of letdown following the deals?

"I'm not concerned about that," Sveum said. "We're still viable and able to fill those roles now. If you start getting more thin, then things change. I'm not worried. They're professional players and they have to go out and perform."

Soriano saw the changes last July. His reaction to Tuesday's deal?

"It's part of the game," Soriano said. "The front office, they know what they're doing. I just try to do my job. I let the front office take care of business and I try to take care of my business in the field. The front office, they know what they're doing and they're doing what's best for the organization."

The A's weren't very hospitable. Josh Donaldson hit a two-run homer in the first, and Chris Young added a leadoff homer in the second for a 3-0 lead.

Soriano delivered in the fourth against A.J. Griffin. Starlin Castro and Nate Schierholtz both singled to set up Soriano's 10th long ball of the season and No. 382 of his career. He's now tied with Frank Howard and Jim Rice for 61st on the all-time home runs list. In his last six games, Soriano has four doubles, one triple, three home runs and eight RBIs.

"I'm feeling good now," the 37-year-old outfielder said. "It's never too late, and I feel I found my swing, and now I feel comfortable at home plate."

Darwin Barney hit a sacrifice fly and Castillo added an RBI single in the fourth to go ahead, 5-3.

Rusin, starting on three days' rest, was lifted after getting Josh Reddick to ground out to start the fourth. Carlos Villanueva walked Norris, and pinch-hitter Eric Sogard was safe on an error by Castro, who nearly collided with Soriano in shallow left chasing a popup. Both runners scored on Coco Crisp's single to tie the game.

"The [play in the fourth], 'Sori' lost in the twilight and called it real late, and it obviously cost us two runs," Sveum said. "It's unfortunate it ended up being two runs because of that."

The Cubs had two on and one out in the sixth, and both scored on Castillo's double to center. Castillo was thrown out trying to stretch his hit into a triple.

Luis Valbuena led off the ninth with a walk, but was thrown out at second as Castro struck out.

"You're trying to stay out of a double play and make something happen, and once again, we didn't perform and swung right through a fastball," Sveum said.

The Cubs are at the halfway point of the season, and can expect more roster moves as the Trade Deadline approaches. They've had plenty to deal with on the field.

"You go to sleep and start a new day," Russell said. "The sun will rise and that's the thing about baseball -- you get your butt kicked one night and you get to wake up and do the same thing all over again. You've got to put it behind you and keep going."

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## **ESPNChicago.com**

Breaking down the Feldman trade

By Keith Law

The Baltimore Orioles and Chicago Cubs kicked off the July trading season Tuesday with the Cubs sending right-hander Scott Feldman and catcher Steve Clevenger to the Orioles for righties Jake Arrieta and Pedro Strop, as well as some money from their international spending pool.

The Orioles add a much-needed starting pitcher in Feldman, who has remade himself this year into a ground ball pitcher who rarely walks anyone, alleviating the problem of his modest strikeout rate. Playing in front of a strong defense in Baltimore, especially on the left side of the infield, should help him; his BABIP in Chicago of .255 was unsustainably low, but the regression shouldn't be so severe with J.J. Hardy and Manny Machado behind him.

Feldman gets good sink on his 89-91 mph fastball but also throws a ton of cutters at almost the same velocity, helping keep hitters from identifying either pitch too soon. His curveball is a clear third option, with most of his success coming on the fastball and cutter, and if there's a concern beyond the BABIP question, it's that he's a little vulnerable against right-handed power hitters, lacking a strong changeup to keep them off the fastball. The O's also get Clevenger, a capable backup catcher who probably ends up taking Taylor Teagarden's roster spot.

Arrieta has long underperformed his stuff thanks to below-average command and control, both of which deteriorated even further in his brief big league time this year. He'll sit 92-96 even as a starter, with a four-pitch mix featuring above-average breaking stuff but nothing that has ever played as a true out pitch for him, and there's some reason to think he might be better off in a late-game role where he can simplify the repertoire and just air out the fastball.

I expect the Cubs to try to work with him as a starter, to see if they can get similar improvements to the ones they've gotten from Jeff Samardzija and Travis Wood over the past two years after small mechanical adjustments.

Strop is just a hard-throwing reliever from the Carlos Marmol school of relief pitching -- let it go and don't worry about where it ends up -- who could end up a trade chip for the Cubs in the next two months if he starts throwing strikes again. The Cubs also receive two international bonus slots from the Orioles, potentially helping them boost their farm system while also highlighting how incredibly ridiculous it is that MLB teams can't trade draft picks.

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### **ESPNChicago.com**

Hope looms, but Cubs' pen causes pain now

By Joe Stiglich

OAKLAND, Calif. -- There is no doubt that the Chicago Cubs' focus is on the future, but it doesn't make the heartbreak of the present any easier to stomach.

Manager Dale Sveum didn't hold back Tuesday night after watching his bullpen blow yet another lead in an 8-7 loss to the Oakland Athletics to begin a three-game series at O.co Coliseum.

Armed with a 7-5 lead in the bottom of the eighth, lefty James Russell served up a three-run homer to A's catcher Derek Norris to sink the Cubs (35-46). Earlier in the day, the Cubs traded starting pitcher Scott Feldman, and they are likely to ship out more veterans before the July 31 trade deadline.

Russell (1-2) now has six blown saves this season, and Chicago's bullpen has converted just 18 of 35 save opportunities overall on the season.

"He can't get really nothing down in the strike zone," Sveum said of Russell. "His changeup's either short or hung, and he can't spot a fastball down and away. Basically, it's just no location. The confidence probably isn't too good right now.

"It's almost comical to see this happen every single night. We have a lead, and we're getting beat by guys that sometimes hardly [hit] home runs."

### **More On The Cubs**

Norris' batting average stood at .199 as he dug in against Russell, and the A's second-year catcher has struggled so much offensively that he has lost playing time recently. But hitters have a way of getting healthy against the Cubs' relief corps.

"I've just gotta get the ball down, it's that simple," Russell said. "It's not that difficult. Just that one thing, get the ball down, and that won't happen."

- Alfonso Soriano has found his offensive groove on this nine-game road trip, so much so that you wonder if trade interest starts to accelerate regarding the 37-year-old slugger.

Soriano, who has been a DH some on this trip but played left field Tuesday, is 10-for-27 with three homers, four doubles and eight RBIs over his past six games.

Soriano is still owed approximately \$27 million on a \$136 million contract that expires after next season, so finding a trade partner won't be easy unless Chicago is willing to eat a significant portion of his salary. But Soriano is heating up at the right time.

He says he continues to try to focus only on his play.

"It's part of the game, you know," Soriano said. "The front office, they know what they're doing, so I just try to do my job. Let the front office take care of the business, and I'll try to take care of the business on the field. They'll do the best for the organization."

Soriano is hitting .257 with just 10 homers and 38 RBI in 76 games.

- Lefty Chris Rusin gave up three runs in just 3½ innings in his first big league start of the season, but that was partly because he was pitching on three days' rest. Rusin allowed a two-run homer to Josh Donaldson and a solo shot to Chris Young on pitches that he left up in the strike zone.

"He did OK," Sveum said. "Short rest. A couple of home runs, but other than that, OK."

With the trade of Feldman, the Cubs have a hole in their rotation. His turn comes up two more times before the All-Star break, at which point Sveum hopes that reliever Carlos Villanueva might be ready to join the rotation. Until then, it figures that Rusin might get another start or two to show what he has.

- This series marks a homecoming for right fielder Nate Schierholtz, who grew up in nearby Danville, Calif.

Schierholtz's friend, John Rodrigues, owns two A's season tickets right behind home plate. Schierholtz sat in the seats last season for one of Oakland's American League Divisional Series games against the Detroit Tigers.

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### **ESPNChicago.com**

Rapid Reaction: A's 8, Cubs 7

By Joe Stiglich

OAKLAND -- Here's a quick glance at the Chicago Cubs' 8-7 loss to the Oakland Athletics on Tuesday night in the opener of a three-game series.

How it happened: The Cubs were a team in need of a pick-me-up victory Tuesday, and they sure seemed primed for one. They held a two-run lead in the bottom of the eighth before lefty reliever James Russell served up a three-run homer to Derek Norris that put the A's ahead to stay in front of 17,273 fans at O.co Coliseum, a decent portion of whom were wearing Cubbies blue. Considering the Cubs traded starting pitcher Scott Feldman earlier in the day – signaling that other top players will also be sent packing before the trade deadline -- it would have been a morale booster to at least take the opener against the defending A.L. West champs. The Cubs banded out 13 hits and hung seven runs on Oakland starter A.J. Griffin over 5 2/3 innings, impressive considering Griffin threw a shutout against the Reds in his previous outing. But Chicago let two leads slip away. They also led 5-3 after their five-run rally in the fourth, when they batted around and got a three-run homer from Alfonso Soriano. Adding insult to injury, the Cubs put the leadoff man on base in the ninth, but Luis Valbuena was thrown out at second as part of a strike 'em out/throw 'em out double play. Chicago starter Chris Rusin, a last-minute replacement for Feldman, gave up three runs in just 3 1/3 innings. But Rusin was pitching on three days' rest, so he was on a strict pitch count. He allowed homers to Josh Donaldson and Chris Young.

What it means: The Cubs have won four of their last five series, but their bullpen could not slam the door Tuesday night. Not that wins and losses will mean a whole lot the rest of the way. It's about the future, and the Cubs must decide if Rusin, who made his first major league start of the season, is the man to fill the shoes of the departed Feldman (at least until Carlos Villanueva builds his pitch count enough to join the rotation). Soriano continues swinging a hot bat on this road trip, fueling more speculation on whether he might be traded.

Outside the box: Designated hitter Dioner Navarro went 3 for 4, and Chicago DH's are now 12 for 27 this season. ... The Cubs fell to 6-39 when they allow four or more runs.

Up next: Assuming he's still Cubs property by Wednesday night, right-hander Matt Garza will oppose Oakland's Bartolo Colon in a 7:05 p.m. game. Garza (3-1, 3.82) declined comment Tuesday on his name being heavily involved in trade rumors. Colon (11-2, 2.79) has won eight straight starts, one off the Oakland record for consecutive starts with a victory.

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**ESPNChicago.com**

Cubs busy in international market

By Joe Stiglich

OAKLAND, Calif. -- A busy Tuesday continues for the Chicago Cubs, and not all of it has to do with the major league club.

They reportedly have deals in place to sign the top two international free agents available, though the team has yet to confirm any signings and likely won't for a couple of days.

It was reported earlier Tuesday that Chicago had agreed to terms with Venezuelan shortstop Gleyber Torres, a 16-year-old ranked as the No. 2 international prospect by Baseball America. MLB.com reported Tuesday evening that the Cubs will also sign consensus No. 1 prospect Eloy Jimenez, a 16-year-old outfielder from the Dominican Republic.

Terms of Jimenez's deal aren't known, and it often takes several days before the paperwork is finalized for international player signings.

Major league teams have increasingly tapped into the international amateur free agent market in recent years, and July 2 is the annual start date of the international signing period. The Cubs acquired approximately \$963,000 of additional international bonus money space through trades made Tuesday and obviously view the idea of adding top young international players as critical in their rebuilding efforts.

Torres reportedly will be given a \$1.7 million bonus.

Here's part of Torres' scouting report from Baseball America's Ben Badler:

"Torres is a savvy player with present skills and the potential for five average or better tools. He has a clean, compact stroke ... and shows good power projection, although he mostly works the gaps right now. ... Some scouts believe Torres is a true shortstop, while others think he's not athletic enough. He could end up being a guy who splits time between shortstop, third base and second base, with a skill set that draws comparisons to Freddy Sanchez."

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**ESPNChicago.com**

Trades no surprise as Cubs look to future

By Joe Stiglich

OAKLAND, Calif. -- The Chicago Cubs got the ball rolling Tuesday with a flurry of trades aimed at the future, and surely they'll be dealing away more veteran pieces as the July 31 trade deadline approaches.

Before Tuesday's series opener against the Oakland Athletics, manager Dale Sveum tried focusing on the potential upside of the players Chicago received in multiple deals that essentially kicked off Major League Baseball's trading season.

In their biggest move of the day, the Cubs shipped right-handed starter Scott Feldman and catcher Steve Clevenger to the Baltimore Orioles in exchange for right-hander Jake Arrieta, reliever Pedro Strop and \$388,100 in international bonus pool money.

They also sent reliever Carlos Marmol and a sizable chunk of international bonus money to the Los Angeles Dodgers for reliever Matt Guerrier and dealt minor league second baseman Ronald Torreyes to the Houston Astros in exchange for \$784,700 in bonus money.

It's expected that Matt Garza, another rotation cornerstone, and closer Kevin Gregg could also be traded away soon.

Sveum was asked if it was demoralizing to see his team officially go into "sell mode."

"I wouldn't say it's tough, because you know it's got a chance of happening," Sveum said. "To get an arm like Arrieta, that kind of athleticism and body ... the ability to get a ball to 97 miles per hour but have a 91 mile per hour slider, it's [the kind of guy you're] trying to get in the organization."

Arrieta will report to Triple-A Iowa, but Strop and Guerrier will both join the big league bullpen Wednesday.

Lefty Chris Rusin was recalled from Iowa to start in Feldman's place Tuesday, but the Cubs need to find a permanent replacement for Feldman. Sveum indicated that Carlos Villanueva will be stretched out to join the rotation. The right-hander has made eight starts this season but has primarily pitched in relief, posting a 2-4 record and 3.59 ERA.

Sveum doesn't expect Villanueva to be ready for a start until sometime around the All-Star break.

Strop, 28, was a key piece to Baltimore's standout bullpen last season, but he's struggling to find the strike zone this season, posting a 7.25 ERA and issuing 15 walks in 22⅓ innings.

Arrieta, 27, was once a highly regarded prospect, but he's failed to fulfill expectations. He was 1-2 with a 7.23 ERA in five starts this season before being sent to the minors.

Multiple analysts across the country slapped the "change of scenery" label on Arrieta and Strop, hinting that switching organizations might be the key to unlocking their potential.

"We all know it happens," Sveum said. "You can go to another organization and start [flourishing], whether it's in a different role or the same role but you just get out of a place. It's a fact. It happens, and, hopefully, it happens with these guys because they have power arms."

With the new spending limits Major League Baseball has placed on clubs when it comes to paying international free agents, acquiring bonus money from other teams as part of a trade is a new strategy the Cubs pursued aggressively Tuesday.

They reportedly acquired \$963,000 in bonus money and went right to work on the first day international free agents could be signed. Their highest-profile signing was 16-year-old Venezuelan shortstop Gleyber Torres, who received \$1.7 million. Baseball America ranked Torres as the No. 2 international prospect available.

The Cubs also signed Dominican right-hander Jefferson Mejia for \$850,000 and 16-year-old Colombian right-hander Erling Moreno for \$800,000.

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#### **ESPNChicago.com**

Dodgers acquire Carlos Marmol  
By Staff

DENVER -- With a few minor adjustments to his mechanics, the Los Angeles Dodgers believe they can resurrect the career of reliever Carlos Marmol.

The Dodgers acquired the struggling closer from the Chicago Cubs on Tuesday for right-hander Matt Guerrier.

"He's still got a lot of youth to him," Dodgers general manager Ned Colletti said in a conference call before a game in Denver. "He's not on the downside of his career. He needs, perhaps, a change of scenery and an adjustment with his delivery."

Colletti said the team detected flaws in Marmol's mechanics, something they feel confident can be worked out. Marmol is currently in the Dominican Republic, but should report to the team soon.

"Anytime you can add somebody who's had success pitching the ninth, you can always use them in roles that don't include the ninth," Colletti said. "If you need the ninth, you've got somebody that's at least experienced. We're looking to add to the pen. Whatever that role becomes, it will become."

The Cubs designated Marmol for assignment June 25, giving the Cubs a 10-day period to trade him or give him his unconditional release. He had a limited no-trade clause with six teams he could block. He was 2-4 with two saves and a 5.86 ERA in 31 appearances this season, striking out 32 while walking 21 batters.

Marmol, who can become a free agent after this season, is ending a three-year, \$21 million contract with the Cubs, who are the only team he's played for in the majors.

The Dodgers also acquired international signing bonus slot No. 4 from the Cubs as part of the deal. The Cubs acquired two international signing bonus slots as part of another trade on Tuesday, when they sent starting pitcher Scott Feldman and catcher Steve Clevenger to the Baltimore Orioles for pitchers Jake Arrieta and Pedro Strop. Chicago then sent one of the bonus slots to L.A.

ESPN's Jayson Stark reports that in addition to Guerrier, the Dodgers will receive \$2 million, which will cover close to half of the \$4.8 million owed to Marmol, and \$209,700 in international signing considerations. A source tells Stark that if Marmol doesn't work out in L.A. and the Dodgers release him, the Cubs would owe the Dodgers additional money only if another team signs Marmol.

An All-Star as a setup man in 2008, Marmol's best year as a closer was 2010, when he had 38 saves in 43 chances along with 138 strikeouts and 52 walks.

"His stuff is power stuff," manager Don Mattingly said. "At the end of the day, he helps us. We know he's a guy that has good stuff and has a potential to be nasty."

Los Angeles has experience fixing scuffling relievers. The team acquired Brandon League from Seattle last season, only to see him rediscover his form and save six games for the Dodgers. League has struggled at times this season - - converting 14 of 18 save chances -- and recently lost his job as the closer to Kenley Jansen.

The Dodgers are hoping they can transform Marmol.

"We've got good pitching coaches in this organization that can really dissect deliveries," Colletti said. "We think that we have found a couple of points in his delivery that with an adjustment could bring him back. Talking to him today, he's excited to start anew, to see if he can get better, and if he can return to the form he was in not too long ago."

Guerrier, 34, is 2-3 with a 4.80 ERA and a 1.47 WHIP in 34 relief appearances with the Dodgers this season. He spent seven seasons with the Minnesota Twins, with his best season coming in 2007 when he posted a 2.35 ERA in 73 appearances. Guerrier is expected to report to the Cubs on Wednesday.

More From [ESPNLosAngeles.com](http://ESPNLosAngeles.com)

For more news, notes and analysis of the Dodgers, check out ESPN LA's Dodgers Report. [Blog](#)

"Matt Guerrier had a very good run with the Twins for a long time as a middle reliever, and he's a guy that I think with a change of scenery and getting out of Los Angeles, maybe a fresh start will get him back to where he was pitching before," Cubs general manager Jed Hoyer said. "Hopefully, he will come and be a good addition to our bullpen."

"But the significant part of the deal is that it netted us cash savings when we designated Carlos for assignment."

Colletti said the international signing bonus slot was just as important to the deal as Marmol.

"An opportunity to get somebody with his ninth-inning history, coupled with being able to find a home for Matt Guerrier before we were going to need to release him, coupled with the opportunity to add the slot money on the international side, we thought there were a lot of good pieces to this," Colletti said. "We thought it was worth our while."

Also on Tuesday, the Cubs traded minor league infielder Ronald Torreyes to the Houston Astros for two international signing bonus slots (Nos. 2 and 3).

The \$209,700 should allow the Dodgers to make at least one more international signing without going over their signing pool, which will now total slightly more than \$2.32 million

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### **ESPNChicago.com**

Scott Feldman traded to Orioles

By Staff

The Baltimore Orioles bolstered their starting rotation Tuesday, acquiring Scott Feldman in a trade with the Chicago Cubs.

The Orioles got some needed depth in their rotation with the addition of Scott Feldman and the Cubs added some nice upside out of Tuesday's trade, writes Keith Law. [Blog](#)

Baltimore also acquired backup catcher Steve Clevenger in the deal, which sent reliever Pedro Strop, starter Jake Arrieta and international bonus slots Nos. 3 and 4 to the Cubs.

The Cubs later dealt reliever Carlos Marmol and international signing bonus slot No. 4 to the Los Angeles Dodgers for reliever Matt Guerrier. Chicago also dealt minor league infielder Ronald Torreyes to the Houston Astros for their second and third international signing bonus slots.

Despite inconsistent starting pitching this season, the Orioles entered Tuesday with a 47-36 record. Baltimore's starting pitchers have posted a 4.79 ERA this season, the third-highest mark in the American League.

Feldman, 30, is 7-6 with a 3.46 ERA in 15 starts this season with the Cubs. Prior to signing with the Cubs this past offseason, the right-hander spent the previous eight years with the Texas Rangers and was a 17-game winner in 2009.

"It's never easy to give up a guy that's performed for you but I think the chance to add two power arms was very important to us and we're excited to have both guys," Cubs general manager Jed Hoyer said.

Feldman was scheduled to start for the Cubs against the Oakland Athletics on Tuesday night. Left-hander Chris Rusin will make the start instead. Hoyer said Carlos Villanueva, who started the season in the rotation, will be stretched out and might eventually end up taking Feldman's spot.

Strop, 28, has struggled this season, going 0-3 with a 7.25 ERA in 29 relief appearances. The hard-throwing right-hander was Baltimore's primary setup man last season, when he posted a 2.44 ERA in 70 games.

Once considered a top prospect, the 27-year-old Arrieta went 1-2 with a 7.23 ERA in five starts this season. The right-hander owns a 5.46 ERA in 69 games -- 63 starts -- over parts of four seasons with Baltimore.

"We're very excited about the players we got in return," Hoyer said. "Both guys have good arms. When you look at Arrieta, he's a guy who struggled recently in the big leagues but we see a lot of potential in him. We've had some luck with guys like Travis Wood coming off a down year, Feldman was coming off [a down year with the Rangers]."

"We think Arrieta, getting him out of the American League East and getting him into our environment, we're hopeful he can turn the corner. This is a guy who was an Opening Day starter for the Orioles in 2012 and we hope to get him back to that level of performance."

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### **CSNChicago.com**

New economy: Cubs trade in Feldman for Arrieta, chase international money

By Patrick Mooney

OAKLAND, Calif. – This is the new economy for the Cubs.

Scott Feldman understood the possibility of getting traded when he signed here: If the season went south, the front office would flip short-term assets.

The Cubs are dealing now, with Feldman and catcher Steve Clevenger shipped to the Baltimore Orioles on Tuesday for right-handers Jake Arrieta and Pedro Strop and two international signing bonus slots (No. 3 and No. 4).

The Cubs maneuvered to add \$963,000 to their pool space. They gave up one slot in the Carlos Marmol trade with the Los Angeles Dodgers, but also traded Double-A Tennessee infielder Ronald Torreyes (who was a piece in the Sean Marshall deal) to the Houston Astros for their No. 2 and No. 3 international signing bonus slots.

"We really like some of the impact talent in this year's (class)," general manager Jed Hoyer said, "and the addition of dollars can help us be aggressive in this international market."

"We feel like there's both depth and premium guys and we're hopeful that we can add a number of those guys."

The Cubs had been assigned \$4.6 million, which was the second-biggest total in baseball, for a signing period that began on Tuesday. They've already been linked to Venezuelan shortstop Gleyber Torres (\$1.7 million), Dominican right-hander Jefferson Mejia (\$850,000) and Colombian right-hander Erling Moreno (\$800,000), according to Baseball America.

The financials worked with Feldman (7-6, 3.46 ERA), who lived up to his end of a one-year, \$6 million contract that contained \$1 million in incentives and the unspoken understanding he could be a three-month rental.

Hoyer said the Cubs discussed multi-year deals or a one-year contract with an option last November, but Feldman wanted the platform to prove that he can still be a legitimate big-league starter after bouncing in and out of the rotation with the Texas Rangers.

"We were willing to promise him a spot in the rotation," Hoyer said. "He was really focused on a one-year deal, because he felt like if he got to the right place, he would really take off."

"He made a big bet on himself (and) I give him a lot of credit. He believed in himself. (The) fact he had a contender in the American League actively seeking him showed he made the right bet."

The Cubs continue collecting second-chance pitchers, hoping they can succeed in a new environment, the way Feldman rebooted his career and Travis Wood blossomed into a potential All-Star.

Arrieta, 27, will be assigned to Triple-A Iowa and could be a replacement whenever Matt Garza gets traded this month. The Orioles once had high hopes for Arrieta, drafting him out of Texas Christian University in the fifth round of the 2007 draft and watching him develop into one of the organization's top prospects.

But Arrieta couldn't put it all together, going 20-25 with a 5.46 ERA in 69 games in the majors while working almost exclusively as a starter. He was 5-3 with a 4.41 ERA at Triple-A Norfolk this season.

"We see a lot of potential in him," Hoyer said. "We've had some luck with a guy like Travis Wood, who was coming off a little bit of a down year. Feldman, frankly, was coming off a little bit of a down year. (By) getting (Arrieta) out of the American League East and getting him into our environment, we're hopeful we'll help him turn the corner.

"This (guy was) an Opening Day starter for the Orioles in 2012 and we hope to get him back to that level of performance."

The Cubs are again banking on the change-of-scenery idea.

"I think that is really the best way to look at it," Arrieta told The Baltimore Sun. "This is something that is going to do me a lot of good, to go to the Cubs and just start over really. I have lots of experiences and have pitched through different situations and have been part of a lot of different Orioles teams.

"I know what it takes to pitch at a high level now and what it takes to win in a highly competitive division. I look forward to starting over, but also bringing my past experiences of everything I've done and the ways I have grown as a player and a person. And I plan on bringing that to Chicago in a positive way."

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### **CSNChicago.com**

Marmol's gone, but Sveum still finds Cubs bullpen to be 'almost comical'

By Patrick Mooney

OAKLAND, Calif. – Maybe if the bullpen had been more reliable, the Cubs wouldn't be selling off pieces before the Fourth of July.

Carlos Marmol took all the heat, but seven other relievers have blown saves this season. The Cubs have converted 51 percent of their save opportunities (18-for-35), while their Pythagorean run differential suggests they should be much closer to a .500 team.

James Russell was responsible for the latest meltdown on Tuesday night at O.co Coliseum, giving up a two-out, three-run homer to Derek Norris in the eighth inning of an 8-7 loss to the Oakland A's.

This makes it six blown saves for Russell (3.06 ERA), who had been one of the team's more reliable relievers. Norris began the day hitting only .195.

"He can't get (anything) down in the strike zone," manager Dale Sveum said of Russell. "His changeup's either short or hung and he can't spot a fastball down and away. It's basically just no location. Obviously, the confidence probably isn't too good right now. It's almost comical to see this happen every single night.

"We have a lead and get beat sometimes by guys that are hardly even hitting home runs. (Norris) has had one at-bat off a left-hander in 15 days and he beats us with a three-run homer."

This followed the Cubs finalizing Marmol's trade to the Los Angeles Dodgers, part of a flurry of deals that reshaped the bullpen. They received another reliever who had been designated for assignment, Matt Guerrier, and gave up a No. 4 international signing bonus slot.

Guerrier had been a reliable bullpen piece for the Minnesota Twins, leading the American League in relief appearances in 2008 and 2009. But the 34-year-old right-hander didn't live up to his expiring three-year, \$12 million contract, bottoming out with a 4.80 ERA this season.

But the bottom line is sources confirmed the Cubs will wind up saving about \$500,000 in this transaction. Marmol is still owed almost \$5 million, or roughly half of his \$9.8 million salary.

"The way we budget, we were able to get some pretty significant financial savings," general manager Jed Hoyer said. "Matt Guerrier had a very good run with the Twins for a long time as a middle reliever.

“With a change of scenery and getting out of Los Angeles, maybe (this) fresh start will get him back to where he was pitching before. Hopefully, he’ll come and be a good addition to our bullpen. The significant part of that deal was it netted us cash savings.”

The Cubs also acquired right-hander Pedro Strop from the Baltimore Orioles in the Scott Feldman trade. Strop, 28, emerged as a good setup guy on Baltimore’s surprise playoff team last season, going 5-2 with a 2.44 ERA in 70 games.

Strop also went 3-0 with a 0.00 ERA in six games for the Dominican Republic in the World Baseball Classic, helping his country win the championship.

But it didn’t carryover to the regular season, with Strop spending time on the disabled list with a lower back strain, posting a 7.25 ERA and getting booed loudly by the home crowd at Camden Yards (which sounds like a Marmol situation).

Strop and Guerrier are expected to join the team on Wednesday in the Bay Area. Shawn Camp (7.04 ERA) looks like a reliever who could be designated for assignment next. The Cubs now have 25 losses after leading.

“You go to sleep and you start a new day,” Russell said. “The sun will rise and that’s the thing about baseball. You get your butt kicked one night and you get to do the same thing over again. You got to put it behind you and keep going.”

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#### **CSNChicago.com**

Going into sell mode, Cubs kick off trade season

By Patrick Mooney

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“He can’t get (anything) down in the strike zone,” manager Dale Sveum said of Russell. “His changeup’s either short or hung and he can’t spot a fastball down and away. It’s basically just no location. Obviously, the confidence probably isn’t too good right now. It’s almost comical to see this happen every single night.

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This followed the Cubs finalizing Marmol’s trade to the Los Angeles Dodgers, part of a flurry of deals that reshaped the bullpen. They received another reliever who had been dOAKLAND, Calif. – Everyone else gets to take the long view, the front office signing teenagers in Latin America, the fans obsessing over Class-A prospects and the reporters writing big-picture stories about the process.

But the 25 players in the room and the coaching staff are trying to win that night. Organizational rankings, draft positions, Jumbotron drawings and talking about the future won’t do anything for them now.

It's only going to get harder, with Scott Feldman being traded to the Baltimore Orioles before Tuesday's 8-7 loss to the Oakland A's in front of 17,273 fans at O.co Coliseum.

"It's part of the game," said Alfonso Soriano, who blasted a three-run homer and looks like he's heating up for trade season. "I just try to do my job. Just let the front office take care of the business and I'll try to take care of the business on the field. They know what they're doing."

This sends a clear message to the clubhouse, which could soon lose frontline starter Matt Garza, closer Kevin Gregg and whatever pieces the front office can package together to acquire more prospects.

"The 25 guys on the team should never like deals where you give up a guy in the rotation to get young players," general manager Jed Hoyer said. "For the guys on the field, you always want to be adding and become buyers. That's the nature of it. Our job is to try to build a great organization. But for the players on the field, their job is to play hard every single night and look to win."

"Unfortunately, we're 10 games under .500 at this stage of the season. We have three teams in our division that have (close to) the three best records in the National League. Realistically, our chance of playing in October is very small and we need to add a lot of talent to get better for the future. That's the reality of the situation."

Garza declined to be interviewed, citing his policy of not talking with reporters the day before he pitches, and the scouts will be watching him closely on Wednesday night at O.co Coliseum. He can be a difference-maker in a pennant race.

Chris Rusin took Feldman's scheduled start on Tuesday night and gave up three runs in 3.1 innings while pitching on three days' rest. The 26-year-old left-hander was 7-7 with a 3.27 ERA at Triple-A Iowa and will work on a start-to-start basis.

Carlos Villanueva (two unearned runs in 2.2 innings) began the process of getting stretched back out again against the A's (49-35). There's also the possibility of Scott Baker finishing his Tommy John rehab later this summer and the potential the Cubs (35-46) see in Jake Arrieta, a key piece in the Feldman trade.

So it shouldn't be the Triple-A product the Cubs rolled out last August and September after trading away 40 percent of their rotation (Ryan Dempster and Paul Maholm) and shutting down Garza and Jeff Samardzija. But that won't necessarily make it easy to watch.

"I wouldn't say it's tough. You just know it's got a chance of happening," manager Dale Sveum said. "To get an arm like Arrieta with that kind of athleticism and body, the ability to get a ball to 97 miles an hour but also have a 91 (mph) slider, those are the kind of things you're trying to get in the organization."

One of Sveum's strengths as a manager is his sense of calm. It will be a challenge to maintain the same good clubhouse environment if another fire sale triggers another 100-loss season.

"I'm not concerned about that," Sveum said. "We're still viable in being able to fill those roles right now. Obviously, if you start getting more thinner..."

"But I'm not worried. They're professional players. They got to go out and perform individually anyway."

Maybe Arrieta figures it out and joins Samardzija and Travis Wood at the front of the rotation for a contending team in 2015. But until then, the Cubs can only dream about adding a Feldman and giving their clubhouse a big in-season lift.

"I hope we're adding players like him someday," Hoyer said.esignated for assignment, Matt Guerrier, and gave up a No. 4 international signing bonus slot.



Guerrier had been a reliable bullpen piece for the Minnesota Twins, leading the American League in relief appearances in 2008 and 2009. But the 34-year-old right-hander didn't live up to his expiring three-year, \$12 million contract, bottoming out with a 4.80 ERA this season.

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#### **Chicago Tribune**

Report: Cubs land Jimenez

By Phil Rogers

The Cubs reportedly are getting the man they wanted the most from Latin America: 16-year-old outfielder Eloy Jimenez from the Dominican Republic.

MLB.com's Jesse Sanchez tweeted Tuesday night that Jimenez has elected to sign with the Cubs even though an unnamed team offered him more. Theo Epstein & Co. were clearly sweating out the Jimenez situation Tuesday, when they agreed to sign Venezuelan shortstop Gleyber Torres for \$1.7 million and pitchers Jefferson Mejia and Erling Moreno for a combined \$1.65 million.

That would have made it impossible to also land Jimenez without losing picks in future seasons had they not found a way to add almost \$1 million in additional cap space, with most coming in a deal that sent Double-A second baseman Ronald Torreyes to Houston.

Even with the extra space, the Cubs had only a little more than \$2 million left after their first three signings, and Jimenez reportedly was seeking upwards of \$2.6 million. It's unclear how much the Cubs have offered Jimenez, and Sanchez's report said only that the deal would be announced in the next few days.

Torreyes, 20, is an advanced prospect compared to players from the international signing period, most of whom are 16. He has held his own despite being one of the youngest players in the Southern League, hitting .260 with two homers and 25 RBIs.

Torreyes was acquired from the Reds along with Travis Wood and Dave Sappelt in the Sean Marshall trade. The Cubs love how his approach and hand-eye coordination allow him to get the barrel of the bat on good pitches but aren't sure if he will gain the strength needed to have a long big-league career. He's listed at 5-9, 140 pounds and efforts to help him add weight and muscle have not yielded the desired benefits.

Jimenez is 6-4, 200 pounds and is very athletic. He competed nationally in karate while also playing basketball before committing to baseball. He has a sound approach as a hitter and above average speed.

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### **Chicago Tribune**

Samardzija called Feldman trade 'a shame'

By Paul Sullivan

OAKLAND, Calif. — The Cubs' trades of Scott Feldman and Steve Clevenger to the Orioles and Carlos Marmol to the Dodgers on Tuesday were mere preludes to the main event: the Matt Garza sweepstakes.

The Cubs were happy to get struggling pitchers Jake Arrieta and Pedro Strop from the Orioles, along with international signing bonus slots three and four, and 34-year-old reliever Matt Guerrier and some salary relief from Marmol's contract from the Dodgers.

But before Tuesday's game against the Athletics, pitcher Jeff Samardzija said he wasn't thrilled with the moves.

"I don't think this team improves by trading Scott Feldman," Samardzija said. "He was one of our better pitchers. He's thrown a lot of innings, a solid dude, a solid guy in the clubhouse.

"It's a shame to see him go, and the same with Clevenger. A great dude to have around, a great teammate who played the game hard and played the right way. It's unfortunate. Just hope the guys they get in return are comparable and bring the same attitude to the field every day that those guys brought."

Garza, who declined to talk the day before his start, is as good as gone. A bidding war is underway, and the Cubs hope to get some top prospects for the playoff-proven veteran.

Will that affect Samardzija's future? He's considered part of the core, but he turned down a five-year deal over the winter.

"Well, I definitely don't want to see all my boys traded, that's for sure," he replied. "That wouldn't be the coolest thing in the world, especially when we feel we're not too far away from being a pretty darn good team. We'll see how this all turns out by July 31 and then go from there."

With the addition of two more international signing bonus slots from the Astros for minor leaguer Ronald Torreyes, minus an international slot sent to the Dodgers, general manager Jed Hoyer said the team netted \$963,000 in bonus pool money to spend on players in what he called a "deep" pool of international talent.

Whether a 16-year-old will pan out won't be known for years. But the reverberations from Tuesday's deals will be felt for a while.

Chris Rusin was brought up from Triple-A Iowa to start against the A's on Tuesday. Carlos Villanueva will be stretched out and might rejoin the rotation around the All-Star break.

Arrieta was sent to Iowa with no timetable for a call-up. Strop and Guerrier will join the bullpen Wednesday, which could spell the end for Shawn Camp and Henry Rodriguez.

While manager Dale Sveum and Hoyer lauded the addition of "power arms," was it the right message to send to the players?

"We're still viable in being able to fill those roles right now," Sveum said. "Obviously you start getting more thin when things change that way. But I'm not worried. They're professional players. They've got to go out and perform individually themselves anyways."

Life goes on, but Samardzija said "losing guys like (Feldman and Clevenger) who've got your back" is painful for the clubhouse.

"To not get another chance to play with those guys sucks," he said. "You deal with it. It's business. Our job is to win the game today with whatever 25 guys we have in this locker room."

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### **Chicago Tribune**

Cubs think globally with Feldman, Marmol trades

By Phil Rogers

Buck Showalter is happy to have Scott Feldman in his rotation but wants it known the Orioles didn't steal him.

"I know the Cubs made a good deal," he said. "This could work out real well for them. It was tough to say goodbye to Pete. Good man, good heart. Things have a way of coming around. The Cubs are getting two good arms that have real good upside."

Pete would be Pedro Strop, a 28-year-old reliever with an eye-popping fastball/slider combination when it's on, which hasn't been often in 2013. He and 27-year-old right-hander Jake Arrieta, who had regressed while making 63 career starts for the Orioles, weren't helping their upwardly mobile team, so they were sent packing to the north side of Seller City.

Like 34-year-old right-hander Matt Guerrier, acquired from the Dodgers for Carlos Marmol, Arrieta and Strop don't fit the mold of guys the Cubs are targeting in their rebuilding project. But Theo Epstein and Jed Hoyer basically turned nothing into something when they dealt Feldman seven months after signing him to a one-year contract.

The two new guys from Baltimore could settle in and have significant runs at Wrigley Field, with Strop becoming an important piece in building a bullpen. But you have to look way beyond the familiar names to find the most intriguing part of Tuesday's transactions.

The names that matter the most are Eloy Jimenez and Gleyber Torres. Some experts consider them the two best players available in the Latin American signing period that just opened, and the Cubs were working furiously to sign both without exceeding the signing limit.

Because the Cubs had the second-worst record in 2012, they had the second-highest pool to sign international teenagers — \$4,557,200. Teams are allowed to add to that total through trades, and the Cubs increased their working total to \$5,520,300 while moving slot space in a series of trades, including one that sent Double-A second baseman Ronald Torreyes to the Astros.

Torres, a Venezuelan shortstop, agreed to a deal for \$1.7 million with the Cubs. They also signed pitchers Jefferson Mejia and Erling Moreno for \$850,000 and \$800,000, respectively. That leaves a little over \$2 million for Jimenez, a Dominican outfielder who draws comparisons to Jermaine Dye, and the Cubs might have to get more from somewhere else to get his name on the line.

And of course, since these are kids who would be high school juniors or sophomores, it will be years before we'll know if they — like outfielder Micker Adolfo Zapata, signed by the White Sox for \$1.6 million — were worth any of the trouble.

A best-case scenario would be the development path Twins third baseman Miguel Sano is on. He was signed for \$3.15 million in 2009 and should reach Target Field late this season. That pace would put Torres (and Jimenez, if he's signed) at Wrigley in 2017, although 2019 is probably a more realistic target.

Or, if the Cubs succeed in becoming trade-deadline buyers by then, guys like Torres and Jimenez could be the chips to get a deal done. It's all about inventory.

Feldman was a nice signing last winter, and his pitching (and hitting) made the first three months of 2013 better than they have been otherwise. But 30-year-old pitchers need to be on competitive teams. Locking him up to a long-term contract would have been a mistake.

Showalter will start Feldman on Wednesday against the Sox, the first day he'll put on a Baltimore uniform. He figures to be the No. 4 starter in a rotation built around Jason Hammel, Chris Tillman and Miguel Gonzalez.

More trades are coming in the next few weeks on both sides of Chicago.

Like the late Al Davis never said, sell, baby, sell.

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### **Chicago Tribune**

Cubs bullpen blows another one

By Paul Sullivan

OAKLAND -- James Russell had two outs and two strikes on A's catcher Derek Norris on Tuesday night in Oakland, trying to end the eighth inning with a two-run lead.

Stop us if you've heard this one before.

Norris promptly cranked a three-run home run to left center, leading the A's to an 8-7 comeback win in the first-ever matchup in Oakland between the two teams.

Déjà vu all over again?

"You go to sleep and start a new day," Russell said. "That's the thing about baseball. You get your butt kicked one night and you get to wake up and do the same thing all over again."

But the Cubs have been watching the same thing happen all over again all season long, and it doesn't seem to matter which middle reliever is on the mound anymore.

"It's almost comical to see this happen every single night," manager Dale Sveum said. "We have a lead and get beat by a guy that's hardly even hit any home runs. The guy has had one at-bat off a left-hander in 15 days and he beats us with a three-run homer."

Russell said it was just a matter of keeping the ball down.

"It's not that difficult," he said. "Just that one thing -- get the ball down and that won't happen."

It was Russell's sixth blown save, and the 17th by the Cubs bullpen in 35 opportunities.

"He can't get really nothing down in the strike zone," Sveum said. "I mean his changeup is either short or hung, and can't spot a fastball down and away."

Sveum had Hector Rondon warming up, but the A's would've brought in a pinch-hitter for Norris.

"It all depends on what medicine you wanted," Sveum said. "Do you want Seth Smith or (Brandon) Moss against Rondon there? It's not like Norris kills left-handers or anything like that. We make a pitch and get him to two strikes. We couldn't make that pitch again. We just can't seem to put anybody away."

Chris Rusin got his first major league start of 2013, replacing Scott Feldman, who was traded to the Orioles. Rusin struggled early, giving up a two-run home run to Josh Donaldson in the first and a solo shot to Chris Young in the second. Throwing on three days rest, he was removed after 3 1/3 innings and replaced by Carlos Villanueva.

Trailing 3-0 early, the Cubs tied it in the fourth on Alfonso Soriano's three-run home run off A.J. Griffin. The home run tied Soriano with Frank Howard and Jim Rice at 61st on the career list (382), and with Andre Dawson at 12th on the all-time Cubs list (174).

Darwin Barney added a sacrifice fly in the inning to put the Cubs ahead, and Welington Castillo's RBI single made it 5-3. But the A's tied it in the bottom of the fourth on Coco Crisp's two-run single off Villanueva, after Starlin Castro committed an error trying to catch a fly ball in left that Soriano was coming in to catch.

Castillo's two-run double in the sixth made it 7-5, forcing Griffin to the showers.

The Cubs put the tying run on in the ninth off Grant Balfour, but Starlin Castro struck out and Luis Valbuena was thrown out trying to steal second. Sveum said it wasn't a hit-and-run.

"It's 3-2 and you're trying to stay out of a double play," he said. "Make something happen. Once again we didn't perform. (Castro) swung right through a fastball."

Nate Schierholtz grounded to second to end it. The Cubs ended their first half with a 35-46 record, and 17 blown saves.

"Nothing we can do about it," Soriano said. "We lost the first one in Milwaukee and Seattle and won the last two. I hope we come back (Wednesday) and on Thursday win the series. That's all we can do. We played good, but not good enough to win this game.

Before the game, Sveum was asked if it's tough to deal with the loss of Feldman, who got off to a slow start but was one of the more consistent pitchers on the staff this year.

"I wouldn't say it's tough, but you know it's got a chance of happening," Sveum said. "To get an arm like (Jake) Arrieta with that kind of athleticism and body and the ability to get a ball to 97 (mph) and have a 91 mph slider, those are the kind of things you're trying to get in the organization."

Soriano said he understands the move.

"The front office, they know what they're doing and they do the best for the organization," he said.

Sveum said he was "not concerned" about the players getting the wrong message by the start of the sell-off.

"We're still viable in being able to fill those roles right now," he said. "Obviously you start getting more thin when things change that way. But I'm not worried. They're professional players. They've got to go out and perform individually themselves anyways."

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### **Chicago Tribune**

Sveum excited about power arms joining Cubs' bullpen  
By Paul Sullivan

OAKLAND -- Newly acquired relievers Pedro Strop and Matt Guerrier will join the Chicago Cubs bullpen on Wednesday, which could spell the end for Shawn Camp and Henry Rodriguez.

Manager Dale Sveum said the trade of Scott Feldman to Baltimore will lead to the return of Carlos Villanueva to the rotation.

“We’ll try to build Villanueva up to get him back to that role somehow,” Sveum said, adding he hopes to get him in the rotation around the All-Star break.

Late inning relief has been a recurring nightmare for the Cubs, even since Dodgers-bound Carlos Marmol was designated for assignment a week ago. Sveum expects the two new relievers will stop the bleeding.

“We’ve got Strop that had a great year last year (in) the best bullpen in baseball last year,” Sveum said. “This year has not been going so good. I guess he was on the (disabled list) with back problems. It’s just getting power arms. Guerrier will just be a guy you can use in multiple roles, kind of like Villanueva has been for us now, with the two breaking balls and obviously a guy that’s been around and in a lot of situations.”

Jake Arrieta, also acquired from Baltimore in the Scott Feldman deal, will go to Triple-A Iowa to continue starting.

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### **Chicago Tribune**

Cubs, Sox hard to watch, but here are 9 reasons why it’s worth it

By David Haugh

Remember the summer of 1986?

Gas cost 89 cents a gallon. The blockbuster "Top Gun" made teenage boys want to be as cool as Tom Cruise. A Bears Super Bowl celebration that has lasted 27 years began in earnest.

Collectively, Chicago baseball seldom was more forgettable.

The White Sox went 72-90 in '86. The Cubs went 70-90. That was the last time both teams lost 90 games in the same year.

Midway through 2013, they are on pace to do it again — the Cubs on track for 91 losses and the Sox 96 heading into Tuesday.

Baseball commentary in this town should come with a Surgeon General's warning that paying attention could make you drowsy. But at your own risk, here are nine reasons to watch the second half of the Sox and Cubs seasons anyway:

1. To find out what kind of GM Rick Hahn will be.

Maintaining is out, rebuilding is in. Articulate a plan that is currently too vague and then begin to execute it. The Sox fan base will accept dealing veterans — I would start by aggressively shopping Alexei Ramirez and Alex Rios — to replenish the minor league system as long as it feels like part of a process. Create a bidding war for Jake Peavy. Gauge the market for John Danks. Adam Dunn, anyone? Be as transparent as possible about short-term pain in the name of long-term gain; that approach works for the Cubs. Be smart, but most of all, be bold to close the gap in the improving AL Central.

2. To monitor the progression of Starlin Castro and Anthony Rizzo.

Both must stop any regression. The Cubs regime can't be wrong about the career arcs of Castro and Rizzo without casting doubt on every assertion Theo Epstein and Jed Hoyer have made.

For the Cubs' grand plan to proceed, Castro needs to hit better than .233 and Rizzo must avoid the slumps to which he has been susceptible. It also would be nice if Castro finally improved his fielding and awareness at shortstop to squash reasonable speculation he will be playing a different position by the time the Cubs contend.

3. To see which manager cracks first?

I wonder more how the losing affects Robin Ventura than Dale Sveum, who strikes me as a baseball lifer bound for a dugout no matter what happens with the Cubs. The same seems harder to say about Ventura, whose life in California might look more appealing than ever after a 90-loss season. If the Sox commit to rebuilding as they should, the manager's job description at 35th and Shields will change drastically from when Ventura took over in 2012 with fewer flecks of gray.

4. To say goodbye to Paul Konerko?

Interesting that reports identified Konerko, along with ace Chris Sale, as untouchable in Sox trade talks. Protecting Sale makes sense. But Konerko? Until he gets healthy enough to consider being moved to a contender, it's a moot point. But it wouldn't be surprising to see Konerko the competitor agree to waive his no-trade rights if a deal put him in the thick of a pennant race and helped the Sox rebuild. Konerko deserves another playoff appearance, wherever, and the Sox owe it to themselves to remove sentiment from the equation if he affords them that opportunity.

5. To appreciate Travis Wood.

He's young (26), consistent and cheap — the best \$527,500 the Cubs will spend in 2013. If Wood had played college football somewhere famous, Chicago would be salivating over his future like one of his fellow starting pitchers. Wood isn't likely to bring as much in return as Matt Garza would, so keeping Wood for the long term makes as much sense as trading Garza for prospects.

6. To watch Tom Tunney flip and flop.

The myopic 44th-ward alderman has replaced Reds slugger Joey Votto as the most consistent Cubs killer — doing to progress promised by Wrigley Field renovation what Votto does to fastballs. The longer Tunney continues to vacillate on support for the proposed \$500 million investment into the ballpark — and his neighborhood — the more the franchise hangs in limbo as suitors from Rosemont and DuPage County wait patiently. Tunney really wants to require the Cubs to get City Council approval to reschedule rainouts? Hello, Mayor Emanuel? Your thumb is needed.

7. To discover Gordon Beckham's true calling, finally.

After trading Ramirez for prospects, move Beckham to shortstop and hope the switch back to his natural position unlocks the potential at the plate Chicago has been waiting for since his rookie year. Injuries slowed Beckham's development this season, but he is in his fifth major league season and we shouldn't still be asking what kind of player he will be. Perhaps a change back to short will bring the Sox closer to a long-term answer.

8. To track how the Cubs spread their money around ... the world.

In spring training, I remember Theo Epstein stressing during a conversation how, more than ever, everything in baseball comes down to talent acquisition. It seemed an abstract concept until Tuesday, when part of a shrewd trade with the Orioles included getting two international bonus-signing slots. According to Baseball America, that increased the Cubs' bonus pool for international prospects to \$4.945 million — the highest of any team. This gives the Cubs an edge in signing elite international prospects such as 16-year-old Venezuelan shortstop Gleyber Torres, who just signed for \$1.7 million. Following the money this summer should entertain Cubs fans more than watching the scoreboard.

9. To follow the most intriguing Cubs outfielder in Chicagoland.

That would be Albert Almora, who roams center field for Class A Kane County. The 19-year-old phenom has cooled off after a torrid start but is hitting .346 through his first 136 at-bats. Besides Almora, prospects Dan Vogelbach and Rock Shoulders — a DH with an ideal linebacker's name — make a trip to Geneva tempting to escape baseball problems in Chicago that aren't disappearing anytime soon.

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## Chicago Tribune

International intrigue spices Feldman trade

By Phil Rogers

Knee-jerk reaction on the Chicago Cubs' trades Tuesday will center on whether Orioles discards Jake Arrieta and Pedro Strop are enough value for Scott Feldman, who has pitched well enough to be in the All-Star discussion. But those are not the names you should keep in mind.

The ones that matter the most in this deal are Eloy Jimenez and Gleyber Torres.

Those are the top two players on the international signing market, which opened Tuesday. The Cubs had the second largest pool available when the day began, thanks to finishing 2012 with the second-worst record, and by late afternoon had increased it by almost another \$1 million, to about \$5.5 million.

They acquired some signing flexibility from Baltimore in the Feldman/Steve Clevenger trade and even more by dealing Double-A second baseman Ronald Torreyes to the Astros. Torres, a Venezuelan shortstop, has agreed to a deal for \$1.7 million and the Cubs are believed to be closing in on a deal for Jimenez, a power-hitting Dominican outfielder.

Both Jimenez and Torres are 16, which means that even if they do sign them it will be years before we know what kind of return they got from Feldman (plus we'll have to bring in Nate Silver to do the math on all the moves going on Tuesday).

This we can say: Feldman was a great signing. He picked the Cubs over some other suitors last winter because Theo Epstein and Jed Hoyer guaranteed him he would be a starting pitcher, and he responded well to the job security.

Feldman was 7-6 with a 3.46 earned run average in his 15 starts with the Cubs. The Orioles hit a home run by getting him while giving up the 27-year-old Arrieta and 28-year-old Strop rather than any of their under-25 prospects in the minors. This means they still have a full inventory if they decide to pursue Matt Garza or another starter closer to the July 31 deadline for non-waiver trades.

Strop, who was a force for the Dominican Republic in the World Baseball Classic, and Arrieta have upside. But it will be up to Chris Bosio and Dale Sveum to figure how to get them straightened out.

In Strop's case, a relatively easy, pressure-free finish to the 2013 season might set him up for a big '14. He has seemed on fumes since Tony Pena pitched him six times in the WBC, when Strop was a big part of the bullpen that carried the Dominican Republic to the title.

Arrieta (20-25 with a 5.46 ERA in 358 career innings) could benefit from a move to the National League as well as a chance to slide into the rotation and get another long look, without having to look over his shoulder.

As it looks now, the Orioles are getting the edge in this trade. But it could look a lot different if Jimenez and Torres are playing together at Wrigley Field in 2018 or '19.

As for Carlos Marmol and some signing space to the Dodgers for Matt Guerrier, at least the Cubs got something for Marmol, who was dropped from the roster a week ago on the addition-by-subtraction theory. Guerrier could bounce back to pitch well for the Cubs. If he does, maybe he'll be on the move again in a few weeks. If he doesn't, he won't be around long either.

The Cubs were so happy not to eat all of Marmol's contract that they tipped the Dodgers for taking Marmol, giving them about \$210,000 of their newly gained signing flexibility. That's how you know Epstein and Hoyer are happy.

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## Chicago Tribune

Cubs send Feldman to Orioles, finalize Marmol deal

By Paul Sullivan

OAKLAND -- The Cubs began their sell-off Tuesday, sending Scott Feldman and minor league catcher Steve Clevenger to Baltimore for a pair of pitchers and international bonus money.

They also finalized the Carlos Marmol deal with the Los Angeles Dodgers, trading the reliever and the No. 4 international signing bonus slot and getting back 34-year-old reliever Matt Guerrier.

The Cubs received Jake Arrieta and Pedro Strop from the Orioles. Arrieta will report to Triple-A Iowa.

"We feel like getting him acclimated, we'll start him off there, and from that point I'm not sure (of) a time frame or what happens," general manager Jed Hoyer said of Arrieta. "Kind of get him comfortable and have him pitching in the same environment that he was pitching in Baltimore."

Strop and Guerrier will report to the Cubs on Wednesday, when two more roster moves will be announced. Overall, the Cubs will net \$963,000 in international bonus pool money to spend on signings, which Hoyer said was one of the keys to the deals.

"This is an international class our scouts really like," Hoyer said. "We felt like it was very deep, we really like some of the impact talent in this year's class and the additional dollars can help us be aggressive in the international market."

The Cubs have signed 16-year-old Venezuelan shortstop Gleyber Torres, considered one of the top prospects from that country, for \$1.7 million.

"We're hopeful we can add a number of those guys," Hoyer said.

Feldman was scheduled to start Tuesday's game against the A's in Oakland. He's 7-6 with a 3.46 earned-run average. Clevenger was rehabbing from a lat injury incurred early in April, and was optioned to Triple-A Iowa last week.

Arrieta, 27, was 1-2 with a 7.23 ERA in five starts this season, and 20-25 lifetime with a 5.46 ERA. Strop, a reliever, was 0-3 with a 7.25 ERA in 29 games, and 7-6 over his career with Texas and Baltimore with a 4.14 ERA.

Guerrier, who was designated for assignment in the final year of a three-year, \$12 million deal, is 25-33 with a 3.54 ERA over his career with the Dodgers and Twins. He was 2-3 with a 4.80 ERA this season. The Cubs will use him to try and plug their hole in middle relief.

Hoyer said the Cubs made a "significant" savings on the remaining \$4.9 million on Marmol's contract, but a source said it's not close to the \$2 million that was reported. Guerrier has around \$1.8 million left on his deal.

Chris Rusin was called up from Iowa and will start in place of Feldman on Tuesday night. Hoyer said Carlos Villanueva will be stretched out in hopes of joining the rotation.

Meanwhile, outfielder Dave Sappelt will replace Ryan Sweeney on the roster. Sweeney was placed on the 60-day disabled list.

The Cubs also sent minor leaguer Ronald Torreyes to Houston for the Astros' Nos. 2 and 3 international signing bonus slots. Torreyes was acquired from Cincinnati along with Travis Wood and Dave Sappelt in the Sean Marshall deal.

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