



***Clips***  
***(July 25, 2013)***

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*FROM THE LOS ANGELES TIMES*

### **Angels' Jered Weaver baffles Twins for eight innings in 1-0 victory**

**Right-hander gives up only two hits and strikes out nine to become the first Angels pitcher with three consecutive scoreless home starts since Nolan Ryan in 1976-77. Albert Pujols drives in run with a single.**

By Bill Shaikin

July 24, 2013, 9:23 p.m.

In these long and unexpected summer days when the Angels are looking up at so many teams in the standings, they take their joy where they can find it.

On Wednesday, they found it in eight innings of brilliance and one inning of insanity.

Jered Weaver delivered the brilliance and sweated out the insanity. The Angels left the ballpark amused and relieved, heading out on the trip that could save their season after a 1-0 victory over the Minnesota Twins.

"It doesn't matter how we win games right now," Weaver said.

Albert Pujols singled home a run in the first inning, Weaver scattered two hits over eight innings, and then the ninth inning turned completely wacky.

Closer Ernesto Frieri got the save. His ninth inning went like this: walk, hit batter, double play, walk, strikeout. Just another Halo victory.

That was crazy enough. The double play was entirely loony.

The Twins had runners on first base and second base and none out when Justin Morneau looped a ball between the plate and the pitcher's mound, too low to properly call the ball a pop fly.

Frieri appeared a bit unsure of what to do at first, then let the ball drop. He picked up the ball and threw out Morneau at first base. The runners had not wandered far from their bases, so first baseman Mark Trumbo threw to second base, starting a rundown in which Trumbo tagged out the runner going from first to second.

Two putouts for Trumbo, two outs for the Angels, all on a heads-up play by Frieri.

"The baseball IQ to make that play, in that kind of situation, was off the charts," Angels Manager Mike Scioscia said.

Except that Frieri said he didn't think about making that play until shortstop Erick Aybar and third baseman Alberto Callaspo hollered that he should let the ball drop.

"Aybar is the loudest guy we have," Frieri said. "Callaspo was screaming too, but I couldn't hear him."

The Twins were not impressed. Manager Ron Gardenhire thought the play should have been called an infield fly, meaning Morneau would have been out automatically and the runners could have hustled safely back to their bases.

Ted Barrett, the crew chief, said the ball was high enough to be called an infield fly.

"That one definitely had enough arc, but the fielder has to get comfortably underneath the ball to catch it," Barrett said. "That's the criteria that wasn't met."

Said Gardenhire: "They said the pitcher wasn't camped underneath it. Well, there's a reason why he didn't camp underneath it, because he was going to let it fall."

Frieri finished off the Twins, but he had let three batters reach base in one inning. Weaver let three batters reach base in eight innings, retiring 19 consecutive batters at one point.

Weaver (5-5) struck out a season-high nine batters and walked only one. Both hits against him were singles.

His earned-run average fell to 2.98. He has not yet pitched enough innings to qualify among league leaders, but he would rank seventh in the league, just behind former teammate John Lackey.

Weaver became the first Angels pitcher with three consecutive scoreless home starts since Nolan Ryan (1976-77).

The Angels remained 11 games behind the Oakland Athletics in the American League West.

They start a four-game series Thursday in Oakland, followed by three games in Texas against the second-place Rangers.

### **Angels replace Joe Blanton in rotation with Garrett Richards**

**Joe Blanton, who is 2-13 with a 5.66 earned-run average, is sent to the bullpen. Garrett Richards is taking over the spot and starting Saturday at Oakland.**

By Bill Shaikin

*July 24, 2013, 6:33 p.m.*

The Angels have removed Joe Blanton from their starting rotation, moving the pitcher who leads the major leagues in losses into their bullpen.

Garrett Richards will replace Blanton in the rotation, starting with Saturday's game against the first-place Oakland Athletics. Richards has started four games this season, the last one a 10-6 loss to Oakland on April 30, and has been in the Angels' bullpen since then.

Blanton, 32, is 2-13 with a 5.66 earned-run average. No major league pitcher has given up more hits, runs or home runs.

He is under contract for \$6.5 million this season and \$7.5 million next season, with a \$1-million buyout guaranteed for the 2015 season.

Manager Mike Scioscia met with General Manager Jerry Dipoto and pitching coach Mike Butcher on Wednesday morning to discuss the team's pitching situation, after which Blanton was informed of the decision to remove him from the rotation.

Scioscia said there is no timetable for Blanton to return as a starter and said the Angels want him to work on improvements without the pressure inherent in a rotation spot.

"We just want to get Joe out of the grind of starting," Scioscia said, "and give him a chance to make some adjustments."

### **Bullpen help**

The Angels claimed right-handed reliever J.C. Gutierrez on waivers from the Kansas City Royals and plan to add him to their major league roster Thursday. The Angels did not say whose roster spot Gutierrez would take.

"He's got a power arm," Scioscia said. "We'll see where he fits in our bullpen."

Gutierrez, 30, had a 3.38 ERA in 25 appearances in Kansas City. The Royals designated him for assignment last week.

Gutierrez underwent elbow ligament-replacement surgery in 2011. This is his first full season since the surgery.

Gutierrez has a 4.58 ERA in 175 appearances, most of them for the Arizona Diamondbacks from 2009 to 2011. Dipoto was a Diamondbacks executive then, including a short stint in 2010 as interim general manager.

### **Tim Salmon speaks up**

Tim Salmon, whose career coincided with the height of the steroid era, said he is delighted that the current generation of players has risen up and spoken up against the use of performance-enhancing drugs.

"What I'm really proud of in our game right now," Salmon said, "is the groundswell of players taking a stand and saying they're frustrated with the situation."

Salmon, the Angels' franchise leader in home runs, spent his entire career (1992-2006) in Anaheim.

If individual suspensions do not stop players from using drugs — Ryan Braun of the Milwaukee Brewers was suspended 65 games this week, with suspensions expected for Alex Rodriguez of the New York Yankees and others — Salmon said the league ought to consider penalizing the player and his team. Bartolo Colon of the Athletics was hit with a 50-game suspension last season; he won 10 games.

"Take away that player's wins, and the A's don't win the division by one game," Salmon said.

Salmon said players who pledge support to cheating teammates would no longer do so if the team — and not just the player — suffered the penalties.

"If that guy gets busted and all of a sudden you go from first place to fourth place," Salmon said, "do you think those guys are going to be supportive of him?"

### ***FROM THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER***

#### **Weaver at top of his game against Twins**

**By JEFF FLETCHER / ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER**

ANAHEIM — If you're looking to define what makes Jered Weaver an "ace," look no further than Wednesday afternoon's game.

The Angels had lost three in a row. The bullpen was on fumes from a heavy workload in those three days. The offense had been quiet.

No problem.

Weaver gave up two hits in eight innings in a 1-0 victory over the Minnesota Twins, sending the Angels off to a series against the first-place Oakland A's in much better spirits than they might have been.

"That was tremendous," Mark Trumbo said. "It was an awesome performance. It was very reminiscent of the no-hitter."

In fact, it was the Twins who Weaver faced when he pitched his no-hitter in May 2012. This Twins lineup included just three of the same players, but Weaver was nearly as dominant. He gave up a single in the first, then retired 19 in a row.

Because the Angels offense – which has scored just 19 runs in the last nine games – provided him with only Albert Pujols' RBI single in the first, Weaver had so little room for error that an innocent two-out single and stolen base in the eighth turned into a defining moment.

Weaver, who had just admitted to pitching coach Mike Butcher that he was getting tired, painted the corner with a perfect pitch to get Pedro Florimon called out on strikes. After his season-high ninth strikeout, Weaver let out a scream and walked off the mound, his day's work done.

"I was pumped up," Weaver said. "After they got that guy at second, I wanted to make some pitches to end the inning, so it was pretty exciting."

It got even more exciting in the ninth, when the Twins put runners at first and second with no outs against closer Ernesto Frieri, who escaped in controversial fashion. He let a popup drop to turn a double play, then got a strikeout.

Frieri locked up the victory for Weaver, who is 4-1 with a 1.32 ERA in his past six starts. Weaver has clearly regained his ace form after seven weeks on the disabled list tarnished his first half.

"He was great," catcher Chris Iannetta said. "Normal Jered, to be honest with you. When he's his normal self, this is what you come to expect."

### **Heads-up play helps Angels hold on in 9th**

Reliever Frieri lets a shallow popup drop and turns it into a double play as the umpires do not invoke the infield fly rule.

**By JEFF FLETCHER / ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER**

ANAHEIM – Ernesto Frieri will probably never again earn so many accolades for failing to catch a ball.

The Angels closer Wednesday converted what will certainly go down as one of the most interesting saves of his career, keyed by his decision to allow a popup to drop, which set up a double play and sent Minnesota Twins manager Ron Gardenhire to argue the umpires had blown it.

"It was a phenomenal play," Mark Trumbo said after the Angels' 1-0 victory. "It really swung the momentum back in our favor after it looked like it was going the other way. It's not something you see every day. That's why as a defender you have to be on your toes. Things happen unexpectedly. You can't be a robot. Outside the box thinking turned out to be pretty clutch in getting us a win."

Frieri got the ball with a 1-0 lead in the ninth inning, just a day after he had given up five runs in his worst outing in an Angels uniform. He was thrilled to get a chance to atone for that performance, but he immediately dug himself another hole. He walked Clete Thomas and then hit Doug Bernier.

Frieri then got Justin Morneau to hit a broken-bat bloop between the mound and first. Shortstop Erick Aybar screamed for Frieri to let the ball drop, which he did. Frieri then threw to first to get Morneau, and Trumbo threw to second to get Bernier in a rundown for the second out.

"As far as the reaction and the baseball IQ to make that play on that little popup, that's off the charts," Manager Mike Scioscia said. "That's the way you talk about it. That's the way you practice it, but in such a key situation to execute it, sometimes it comes off different. Those guys were cool as a cucumber, good job by Trumbo knowing what to do and Erick and a clean rundown, got a double-play ball and gave us some light at the end of the tunnel right there."

The Twins didn't see it that way.

The infield fly rule is intended to prevent exactly that situation, when a player can intentionally drop a popup to get a double play. However, this particular popup was not as high as a typical infield fly, so it was left to the umpire's discretion of what constitutes an infield fly.

The rulebook says only that the ball must not be a line drive, it must be able to be caught "with ordinary effort."

However, crew chief Ted Barrett said umpires have further guidelines.

"For an infield fly, we look for if the ball has arc and if the fielder can catch it with ordinary effort and if the fielder gets comfortably underneath," Barrett said. "That one definitely had enough arc, but the fielder has to get comfortably underneath the ball to catch it. That's the criteria that wasn't met."

Gardenhire's response: "There's a reason why he didn't camp underneath it, because he was going to let it fall."

After Frieri let the ball drop, he should have thrown to third, as his teammates told him later. In any case, they still managed to get two outs on the play, and a third on a strikeout, stranding the tying run at third.

"He took an interesting route to get it done," starter Jered Weaver said, "but it was a great play."

### **Richards replaces Blanton in Angels' rotation**

**By JEFF FLETCHER / ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER**

ANAHEIM – Joe Blanton's struggles in the Angels rotation are over, at least for now.

Blanton, who is 2-13 with a 5.66 ERA in the first year of a two-year, \$15 million deal, was pulled from the starting rotation Wednesday, with Garrett Richards selected to take his place Saturday in Oakland.

"Joe has had a rough year, and a very rough three weeks," General Manager Jerry Dipoto said. "This is an opportunity to give the team a change, and hopefully move forward."

Blanton, who has an 8.83 ERA in his last four starts, will be available out of the bullpen.

Richards will be making his fifth start of the season, his first since April 30. Richards posted a 5.54 ERA in his first four starts. Since then, he has a 4.34 ERA in 26 games out of the bullpen. While the Angels had been using him briefly in late-inning situations, for the past two months he has mostly been pitching in long relief or in lopsided games.

Richards, 25, represents hope for the Angels because he has the best raw stuff – velocity and movement – of any of the 10 pitchers who have started this season for them. His problem has been an inability to parlay that stuff into consistent results. He has a 4.78 ERA and a WHIP of 1.461 in 152 2/3 major league innings.

Richards has thrown as many as 66 pitches in relief over the past two months. His longest relief outing was July 12, when he threw 60 pitches in 32/3 innings.

Dipoto said Richards will go as far as he can Saturday and then the bullpen pick up the rest.

#### **NEW RELIEVER**

The Angels will add right-hander J.C. Gutierrez, who was claimed on waivers from the Kansas City Royals, to their bullpen Thursday in Oakland.

Gutierrez is out of options, so the Angels can't send him to the minors without exposing him to waivers.

The Angels will have to make another roster move to clear a spot for Gutierrez.

"He's got a power arm," Manager Mike Scioscia said. "We'll see where he fits in our bullpen."

Gutierrez, 30, had a 3.38 ERA in 29 1/3 innings with the Royals this season, including 2.13 over his past 11 games, dating to June 8. The Royals designated him for assignment last week.

He has pitched 196 2/3 innings in parts of five seasons in the majors, with the Houston Astros, Arizona Diamondbacks and Royals.

Gutierrez briefly served as the closer for the Diamondbacks in 2010, when Angels GM Jerry Dipoto was the Arizona interim GM.

#### **NOTES**

Josh Hamilton, who missed the past three games because of a sore right ankle, is expected to return to the Angels lineup Thursday....

Mark Trumbo, who moved back into the cleanup spot after hitting sixth for most of the month, had his third consecutive two-hit game. Trumbo said he's made some minor adjustments to his swing after hitting .194 over a 47-game stretch. ...

Mike Trout's hitting streak ended at 15 games, the longest of his young career. ...

Jered Weaver has had three games in which he's pitched at least eight innings and allowed two hits or fewer, and all have been against the Twins. He pitched a no-hitter against the Twins in May 2012.



## **Angels' Cowgill making most of opportunities**

**By MARK COOPER / ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER**

ANAHEIM – Two nights in a row, Collin Cowgill put up a heck of a fight at the plate late in the game.

On Monday, as the Angels tried to come back from a two-run deficit, Cowgill pinch-hit for Brad Hawpe in the eighth inning. With a runner in scoring position and two outs, he worked himself into a favorable count against Minnesota Twins closer Glen Perkins and stroked an RBI single to left.

The next night, Cowgill held up on a 2-2 slider from Perkins and then took ball four to keep the line moving in the bottom of the ninth. The Angels eventually tied the score before losing in extra innings.

"Really, really, just good at-bats," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said.

Cowgill did it again Wednesday in his second consecutive start in right field. He went 2 for 3 with two singles in the Angels' 1-0 win, reaching third base in the seventh inning with one out, only to be stranded by J.B. Shuck and Mike Trout. Cowgill is one of three Angels – Shuck and first baseman Mark Trumbo being the others – to get a hit in each game of the series against Minnesota.

Cowgill did it in the fewest at-bats, though, going 4 for 7.

It is a minuscule sample size, but Cowgill's numbers stand out since he joined the Angels on July 2. He is 6 for 12 with a triple in 12 games, including three starts.

Cowgill, originally a member of the Arizona Diamondbacks' organization, was the New York Mets' opening day starter in center field, batting leadoff and hitting a grand slam. But he scuffled from there, hitting .180 (11 for 61) with two home runs in 23 games before the Mets demoted him to Triple-A on May 3 and designated him for assignment June 19.

The 5-foot-9, 185-pound outfielder will still return to the bench soon, though, as Scioscia said he expects Josh Hamilton, who missed the Minnesota series because of an injured ankle, to be ready to play Thursday.

But Cowgill has been a bright spot for the Angels' lineup this week at a time when they are struggling to score at all. The Angels have scored 13 runs in six games since the All-Star break.

"We're a team that has to do more than just hitting home runs and driving the ball," Scioscia said. "We need the situational hitting. We need to start to get back into pressuring other teams and getting on base and being able to get those guys in with runners in scoring position."

**On deck: Angels at A's, Thursday, 7 p.m.**

**By JEFF FLETCHER / ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER**

**Where:** O.co Coliseum

**TV:** Fox Sports West

**Last time they met:** The Angels took 2 of 3 from the A's last weekend at Angel Stadium, led by the scoreless work of starters Jered Weaver and C.J. Wilson in the first two games. The Angels had lost five of the first six meetings between the teams. The Angels still have seven games left in Oakland, where they lost 2 of 3 in April.

**A's report:** The A's have been in first place for the better part of the past month, and their current three-game lead equals their biggest of the season. As has been their tradition when they've been contenders over the past 15 years, pitching is the key. They lead the league in ERA and have a deep bullpen with two All-Star closers, Grant Balfour and Ryan Cook.

**Did you know:** Angels relievers gave up nine earned runs Tuesday night, which was more than they had allowed in their previous 382/3 innings.

**Numbers game:** .111 – Angels' batting average with runners in scoring position over the past nine games.

#### THE PITCHERS

##### C.J. WILSON (10-6, 3.15)

Wilson has made a concerted effort to throw more strikes. His overall strike rate of 64 percent and first-pitch strike rate of 62 percent are both career-highs. Over Wilson's last seven starts, he's 6-1 with a 1.69 ERA. Opponents have hit .195 against him.

- **vs. Oakland:** 9-7, 3.41
- **at O.co Coliseum:** 4-3, 2.98
- **Loves to face:** Derek Norris, 1 for 14 (.071)
- **Hates to face:** Yoenis Cepedes, 4 for 11 (.364)

##### DAN STRAILY (6-3, 4.14)

Don't be fooled by Straily's mediocre numbers. He's still working off the results of a bad start. Since May 21, Straily has a 2.80 ERA in 10 starts, and the A's have won seven of them. A former 24th-round pick, Straily is one of the A's many draft successes.

- **vs. Angels:** 1-1, 6.26
- **at O.co Coliseum:** 3-2, 4.47
- **Loves to face:** Chris Iannetta, 1 for 6 (.167)
- **Hates to face:** Mike Trout, 6 for 13 (.462)

#### OTHER MATCHUPS

**Friday** – Jerome Williams (5-6, 4.73) vs. Bartolo Colon (13-3, 2.52), 7 p.m., Fox Sports West

**Saturday** – Garrett Richards (2-4, 4.66) vs. Tommy Milone (8-8, 4.18), noon, Fox/11

**Sunday** –Tommy Hanson (4-2, 4.75) vs. Jarrod Parker (6-6, 3.79), 1 p.m., Fox Sports West

### **Angels Almanac: Kid campers boost attendance**

**By MARK COOPER / ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER**

ANAHEIM – The Angel Stadium seats filled with swatches of bright colors on Wednesday afternoon as the team welcomed in various summer camps into the stadium on Camp Halo Day.

Swarms of children separated themselves by the color of their T-shirts, packing the stadium in groups all across the infield and outfield sections.

Section 233 in right field, for example, was taken up mostly by children wearing lime green shirts from Club La Palma Day Camp in La Palma. They drew eyes not only for their neon shirts but for the various signs they held up over the railing in front of their seats, including one with a bull's-eye target for hitters.

Because of the various summer-camp participants, the attendance of 38,209 was higher than normal for a weekday matinee game.

Over the past three seasons, the Angels have played only 14 weekday afternoon games at home – perhaps because attendance figures normally drop for these games. Of those, Wednesday's attendance was the third-highest. The average attendance in those games is 34,685.

That pales in comparison to the Angels' average attendance overall the last three years. The Angels have averaged 38,143 fans in 217 home games from 2011-13. That means weekday day games resulted in a 9.1 percent drop.

But Wednesday's crowd exceeded the average attendance this season. The Angels are averaging 37,254 per game through 55 games at Angel Stadium, the lowest number since 2002.

On Wednesday, Camp Halo Day was recognized on the field before the game with a ceremonial first pitch. Natalia Hugo, representing Saddleback Valley Unified Summer Camp in Mission Viejo, threw out the pitch.

***FROM ANGELS.COM***

### **Weaver twirls gem, dominates Twins once again**

#### **Eight scoreless innings of two-hit ball helps Pujols' RBI single stand up**

By William Boor / MLB.com | 7/24/2013 8:35 PM ET

ANAHEIM -- Once again, Jered Weaver showed why he is the ace of the Angels' rotation. Entering Wednesday's series finale, the Angels needed both a win and a lengthy outing to rest a tired bullpen.

And Weaver gave them both in a 1-0 victory over the Twins at Angel Stadium.

The right-hander threw eight scoreless innings as he helped the Angels put a halt to their three-game losing streak and finish a six-game homestand on a positive note.

"You go about every game the same way regardless of if you've lost seven in a row or won seven in a row," Weaver said. "You go out there and battle and try to win games; that's your job as a starting pitcher, to try to extend it as much as possible and limit runs."

That's precisely what Weaver did as he limited the Twins to two hits, set a new season high with nine strikeouts and retired 19 straight at one point.

Despite throwing 22 pitches in the first inning, Weaver navigated his way through eight innings, limiting the work for the bullpen -- which had pitched 14 innings in the last three games.

"If we had another short game this afternoon, we are not set up at all for tomorrow," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "We're in better shape tomorrow with Jered throwing eight today."

Weaver has now thrown 14 2/3 scoreless innings in two starts since the All-Star break and is the first Angels pitcher with three straight scoreless starts at Angel Stadium since Nolan Ryan 1976-77.

"Fastball command was good, was able to mix in the changeup later and defense took care of the rest," Weaver said.

Weaver was dominant and has now limited the Twins to two hits or less in eight or more innings three times in his career, but he was not the only effective pitcher on the afternoon.

Twins starter Mike Pelfrey, facing an offense that has now scored just 19 runs in the last nine games, limited the Angels to one run on five hits in six innings of work.

"My fastball was really good and the velocity was there and the movement was there," Pelfrey said. "I was locating on both sides of the plate. If you go in to righties, then it opens it up to go away."

The Angels' lone run came in the first inning after J.B. Shuck singled, stole second and scored on Albert Pujols' RBI single.

The Angels had a chance to add some insurance runs in the eighth when Collin Cowgill and Erick Aybar singled consecutively. The hits put runners on first and third with just one out, but Shuck lined out to short and Mike Trout, who was unable to extend his hitting streak to a 16th game, flew out to right.

One night after allowing five runs in a decisive 10th inning, Ernesto Frieri pitched a scoreless, although adventurous, ninth and recorded his 25th save of the season.

Clinging to a 1-0 lead, Frieri opened the final frame by walking Clete Thomas and hitting Doug Bernier with a pitch.

Justin Morneau followed with a blooper to Frieri that did not invoke the infield fly rule. Frieri let the ball drop and the Angels proceeded to turn a double play.

"For an infield fly, we look for if the ball has arc and if the fielder can catch it with ordinary effort, and if the fielder gets comfortably underneath," crew chief Ted Barrett said. "That one definitely had enough arc, but the fielder has to get comfortable underneath the ball to catch it. That's the criteria that wasn't met."

Twins manager Ron Gardenhire wasn't pleased with the explanation.

"It was a judgment call with the infield fly," Gardenhire said. "They said the pitcher wasn't camped underneath it. But there's a reason he didn't camp underneath, and it's because he was going to let it fall. They also said it had to be 20 feet in the air, and I didn't have my tape measure out, but I'm guessing it went 20 feet. So it could've been called, but it wasn't obvious and it caused mass chaos on the basepaths."

Following the double play, Ryan Doumit drew a walk and Frieri struck out Chris Herrmann -- who hit a grand slam off of him Tuesday -- to end the game.

### **Richards to replace Blanton for Saturday's start**

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By William Boor / MLB.com | 7/24/2013 9:25 P.M. ET

ANAHEIM -- Following Wednesday's 1-0 victory over the Twins, the Angels announced that Garrett Richards, not Joe Blanton, would start Saturday's game against Oakland.

Richards has not started a game since April 30 so it is a bit of a mystery as to how much stamina he has, but Blanton has struggled this season and it was only a matter of time before a change was made.

Richards has made four starts for the Angels this season and posted a 5.54 ERA.

Blanton is 2-13 with a 5.66 ERA on the season, but the month of July has been especially troublesome for the right-hander.

Blanton has given up 18 runs in 18 1/3 innings in July including four runs on nine hits in 3 2/3 innings in Monday's loss to Minnesota.

### **Angels trio visits Children's Hospital of Orange County**

ANAHEIM -- The life of a professional athlete is immensely time consuming, but prior to Monday's game against the Twins, a trio of Angels took the time to visit the Children's Hospital of Orange County.

Ernesto Frieri visited the hospital by himself in 2012, but he was joined by Kevin Jepsen and Mike Trout this time around.

"For me, it's really important to help those kids with anything," Frieri said. "They really love the team. When you're sick, all you want is a smile, all you want is to see somebody you really like, and that's why I went this year again."

The trio went to every room and spent time talking with the children. They also took photos with the kids and presented them with autographed hats and balls.

While Frieri enjoys brightening the kids' days, he admitted that the trip is not completely filled with smiles.

"It's tough," Frieri said. "You see a lot of tough things over there. Kids one or two years old already have cancer; that's really sad."

Although it is not always easy to see kids who are struggling, Frieri enjoyed the visit and plans to go again.

"Any time that they ask me to go to the hospital and do stuff like that, I'd love to do it," Frieri said. "I love to make people feel special. I wanted to go and let them know that they have our support and we are going to pray for them."

### **Trumbo returns to cleanup spot in lineup**

ANAHEIM -- When Angels manager Mike Scioscia wrote out Wednesday's lineup card, he decided to bump Mark Trumbo back up to the cleanup spot.

"Mark, no doubt, he's feeling a little more comfortable at the plate," Scioscia said.

Although Trumbo has spent the majority of the season hitting fourth in the Angels lineup, he was recently dropped to sixth in the order and went through a stretch where he had just four hits in 26 at-bats.

However, Trumbo went 2-for-4 on both Monday and Tuesday, marking the first time he has registered back-to-back multihit games since May 22-23.

Aside from hitting his 22nd home run of the season -- an opposite-field shot in the fourth inning of Tuesday's loss to the Twins -- Trumbo has presented a number of signs that gave Scioscia reason to make the move.

"That, and the fact that he shortened his swing and hit a line drive to left-center," Scioscia said. "There are a couple of things we are seeing that are good."

### **Burnett, Vargas toss light bullpen sessions**

ANAHEIM -- Left-handers Jason Vargas and Sean Burnett still have hurdles to clear before they rejoin the Angels pitching staff, but they both felt strong after throwing bullpen sessions on Tuesday.

"They feel good," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "I think with Jason, it was a little more intense. He feels good with it, but there's going to be normal stiffness that he's going to feel. With Sean, it was really just touch and feel to get off the mound."

Although Burnett's session was light, the 30-year-old was encouraged.

"Felt pretty good," Burnett said. "It was just 20 pitches, but it was progress since I couldn't throw five or six the last time."

Burnett, who is on the the disabled list for the second time this season, will take a few days off before he throws another bullpen and then determine the best course of action to rejoin his teammates as soon as possible.

"I was just trying to get off the mound yesterday, not knowing if it was going to hurt or not," Burnett said. "Yesterday was a big step. Hopefully it feels like that every time out."

### **Worth noting**

- Scioscia remained non-committal about Joe Blanton's status in the rotation.
- With a first-inning single in Tuesday's loss to the Twins, Mike Trout extended his hitting streak to a career-long 15 games. In that span, Trout is hitting .400 and has raised his average from .311 to .324.
- Prior to Wednesday's game, the Angels claimed right-handed reliever J.C. Gutierrez off waivers from the Royals and added him to the 40-man roster.

Gutierrez posted a 3.38 ERA in 29 1/3 innings this season.

### **Angels, A's to tango in clash of AL West rivals**

#### **Southpaw Wilson, right-hander Straily to square off in opener**

By Cash Kruth / MLB.com | 7/24/2013 6:47 PM ET

Forget about any exciting shootouts reminiscent of the wild, wild West this weekend in Oakland.

At this point, the A's and Angels would just settle for more than four runs.

The American League West rivals open a four-game series on Thursday at O.co Coliseum in a battle of two anemic offenses and featuring two of the game's stingiest pitchers of late -- so any chance of an offensive breakout likely will have to wait until Friday.

On Thursday, however, Angels left-hander C.J. Wilson and A's righty Dan Straily rekindle a duel from last Saturday in which Wilson came out on top in a 2-0 victory.

Wilson's gem that day -- 8 1/3 scoreless innings of three-hit ball -- certainly didn't come out of nowhere. The lefty has not allowed a run in three of his last six starts and is 6-1 with a 1.69 ERA in his last eight trips to the hill.

"His past couple starts have been really good," Angels catcher Hank Conger said afterward. "He's throwing a lot of strikes, he's getting ahead of counts, and [Saturday] he was able to just get a lot of swing and missed on his slider and curveball."

Straily, 24, has been just as good -- including in his last start against the Angels. The right-hander has allowed three runs over his last 20 1/3 innings and is 5-1 with a 2.80 ERA and .208 average against in his last 10 starts.

Straily allowed two runs on eight hits and no walks in seven innings against the Angels on Saturday but received no support -- something with which both A's and Angels pitchers are familiar.

The A's are hitting .203 and averaging 2.6 runs in their last 12 games. The Angels, meanwhile, come to Oakland having been held to four runs or fewer in a season-high nine straight games, during which they're averaging only 2.1 runs per contest.

#### **Angels: Downs one shy of franchise mark**

Left-handed reliever Scott Downs hasn't allowed a run in 29 consecutive games, one shy of trying Francisco Rodriguez's franchise record. Downs' streak also is one shy of tying White Sox righty Jesse Crain for the AL's longest streak this season.

- Closer Ernesto Frieri is 48-for-53 in save situations in his career, with his 91 percent save conversation rate the highest in Angels history among relievers with at least 45 saves.

#### **A's: Hot and cold**

While Yoenis Cespedes (.417) and Coco Crisp (.294) each have four-game hitting streaks, fellow outfielder Seth Smith is struggling mightily. Smith is hitless in his last 22 at-bats, one shy of the longest barren streak of his career.

- Left-hander Brett Anderson, rehabbing a stress fracture in his right foot, tossed 40 pitches in a bullpen session on Wednesday. If there are no setbacks, Anderson's return likely will come in mid-August at the earliest.
- Wednesday's victory over the Astros improved Oakland to 59-42, its best start since a 60-41 mark in 1992.

#### **Worth noting**

- The Angels have won three of the last four against the A's, but they've lost 11 of the last 15 matchups in Oakland.
- The Angels have dropped seven of their last 11.
- After starting 13-3 against the AL West, Oakland is 13-15 against the division since May 10.

*FROM YAHOO! SPORTS*

#### **Angels Team Report**

The Angels have scored just nine runs in their past 19 games after Wednesday's 1-0 win over the Minnesota Twins. "We've created some situations but we're not cashing in," Manager Mike Scioscia said after Tuesday's 8-3 loss to the Twins. "Tonight was not a good night for us with runners in scoring position (0-for-9) and we can't sit back there and



just live and die with the home run, we have to have more. We've got to combine good baserunning with situational hitting and the power we have in our lineup and we just didn't execute with guys in scoring position tonight."

The Angels had a chance in the late innings recently to drive in critical runs with outs, but Monday night they wasted a runner at third with no outs and Tuesday night they couldn't push home the winning run in the ninth when the bases were loaded with one out.

J.B. Shuck, who struck out in Monday's night situation, hit into a double play to end the ninth Tuesday. He said the recent hitting struggles are probably because the team is feeling the pressure of their spot in the standings.

"Maybe pressing a little too much," Shuck said. "We know we need to win games. We are just putting pressure on ourselves to have perfect at-bats every time."

*Record:*

47-52

*Streak:*

Won one

*Past 10 Games:*

4-6

NEXT: Angels (C.J. Wilson, 10-6, 3.15) at Athletics (Dan Straily (6-3, 4.14)

*Player Notes:*

- DH Albert Pujols has hit 17 home runs, putting him on pace for 28 this season. He has never hit fewer than 30 in 12 previous seasons. His 492 career homers rank 28th on the all-time list. His next homer will put him in a three-way tied for 26th with Lou Gehrig and Fred McGriff.
- RHP J.C. Gutierrez was claimed off waivers from the Royals and placed on the 40-man roster. Gutierrez was 0-1 with a 3.38 ERA in 25 relief appearances this season for the Royals.
- OF Mike Trout went 0-for-3 and was hit by a pitch Wednesday against the Twins, his career-best hitting streak snapped at 15 games. The last hitting streak by an Angel longer than 15 games was a 16-game streak by Torii Hunter in August of 2011.
- RHP Jered Weaver gave up two hits in eight shutout innings to lead the Angels over the Twins 1-0 on Wednesday. Weaver hasn't allowed a run in his last two starts, covering 14 2/3 innings. "The game plan going into every game is to keep those guys off balance," said Weaver (5-5), who lowered his ERA to 2.98. "My fastball command was good, mixed in the changeup later and the defense helped me through the game."
- LHP C.J. Wilson will start Thursday's game against Oakland. He is 9-7 with a 3.41 ERA in 44 career games (15 starts) vs. the A's, including 2-0 in three starts against them this year.

*Quote To Note:*

"The game plan going into every game is to keep those guys off balance. My fastball command was good, mixed in the changeup later and the defense helped me through the game."

—RHP Jered Weaver, who lowered his ERA to 2.98 after a shutout win over Minnesota on Wednesday.

*Medical Watch:*

- RF Josh Hamilton (sore right ankle) missed the July 22-24 games. He had X-rays July 23, which came back negative. An MRI exam showed inflammation but no significant injury. He could be ready to rejoin the lineup July 25 or July 26.

- LHP Jason Vargas (blood clot in left armpit) was placed on the 15-day disabled list retroactive to June 18. He had surgery June 26. He resumed his throwing program July 9. He threw a bullpen session July 23, his first time on the mound since the operation. He could return to the big-league rotation in mid-August.
- LHP Sean Burnett (left elbow impingement) went on the 15-day disabled list retroactive to May 27. Burnett came off the disabled list May 21 after sitting out 22 games with left forearm irritation. He started playing catch June 2, but his elbow was not responding, so he went to see Dr. James Andrews, who recommended he shut it down until mid-July. He began playing catch again July 9 after taking a month off from throwing. He threw a bullpen session July 23, his first time on the mound in six weeks. Burnett is still at least two weeks away from rejoining the Angels bullpen.
- RHP Ryan Madson (Tommy John surgery in April 2012) went on the 15-day disabled list retroactive to March 22, and he was transferred to the 60-day DL on June 25. He threw a simulated game April 19. He had scar tissue removed from his elbow in late April. He threw a bullpen session May 4, and he pitched in an intrasquad game at extended spring training May 9. He began a rehab assignment with Class A Inland Empire on May 13, but he hasn't pitched since that day. He experienced soreness in his elbow May 22, scrapping plans for him to begin a rehab assignment with Triple-A Salt Lake. He resumed throwing in late June. He threw a bullpen session July 4. He has made progress throwing off a mound in Arizona. He could be getting close to pitching in a rehab assignment in the minors, manager Mike Scioscia said.
- CF Peter Bourjos (broken right wrist) went on the 15-day disabled list retroactive to June 30. He has been running in Arizona. He hopes to be cleared to begin swinging a bat July 27.
- RHP Robert Coello (right shoulder inflammation) went on the 15-day disabled list June 11.
- LHP Andrew Taylor (torn left labrum) went on the 15-day disabled list retroactive to March 22, and he was transferred to the 60-day DL on April 9.

#### **Athletics Team Report**

Yoenis Cespedes is finally back for the A's after missing five games with a sore left wrist.

Cespedes, who won the Home Run Derby one week earlier, took batting practice on the field for the first time in the second half and displayed his usual power with no evidence of discomfort.

He then was used as a pinch hitter for Seth Smith in the seventh inning of the A's 5-4 loss at Houston on Tuesday, and he hit into a double play. His second time up, Cespedes got a double when two Astros outfielders collided while running for his sinking flyball. He went 1-for-4 on Wednesday in his first game back in the starting lineup, a 4-3 win over Houston.

Manager Bob Melvin said that the team does not believe Cespedes' wrist problem to be related to the Home Run Derby; he has had hand and wrist injuries before and they always happen on one swing. Cespedes first felt it in the third round of batting practice last Friday.

The A's are now 50-30 with Cespedes in the starting lineup and 9-12 without him. In his two seasons with Oakland, the team is 132-76 with him and 21-34 without him.

*Record:*

59-42

*Streak:*

Won one

*Past 10 Games:*

5-5

NEXT: Angels (C.J. Wilson, 10-6, 3.15) at Athletics (Dan Straily, 6-3, 4.14)

*Player Notes:*

- C John Jaso was removed Wednesday after taking a foul ball off the mask and subsequently experiencing a headache. Derek Norris replaced Jaso in the eighth inning. Jaso finished 2-for-3 with a home run and a double before departing and has reached base safely in each of his last 27 starts behind the plate, one game shy of Gene Tenace (June 12-Sept. 25, 1973) for the longest such streak in franchise history.
- RHP Dan Straily will make his 16th start of the season and his second since being recalled from Triple-A Sacramento in the Athletics' series opener against the Los Angeles Angels on Thursday. The Angels snapped his career-high five-game winning streak last Saturday with a 2-0 victory in Anaheim. Straily is 5-1 with a 2.80 ERA over his last 10 starts and is 1-1 with a 6.26 ERA in four career starts against the Angels, including 0-1 with a 6.17 ERA in two starts this season.
- RHP A.J. Griffin tied a season high with eight strikeouts. He also allowed two home runs, increasing his season total to 23 (18 have come on the road). Griffin allowed three runs on six hits over 6 1/3 innings and improved to 4-1 with a 3.65 ERA over his last seven starts.
- CF Coco Crisp hit a two-run home run, his 10th, in the seventh inning to give the Athletics the lead for good. Crisp joined RF Josh Reddick and 1B Brandon Moss in clubbing late-inning home runs that gave Oakland the lead this series. Crisp is batting .386 (17-for-44) with 13 runs scored, four home runs and 10 RBIs in 11 games against Houston this season.
- INF Adam Rosales was recalled from Triple-A Sacramento and joined the Athletics for the second time this season. He began the year on the disabled list with a strained left intercostal and was reinstated on April 25. He hit .200 with four home runs and eight RBIs in 48 games before being designated for assignment on July 8. He cleared waivers and was outrighted to Sacramento on July 12, where he hit .240 in six games.
- 3B Vinnie Catricala was designated for assignment by the A's to clear a spot on the 40-man roster for INF Adam Rosales. Catricala, 24, hit .238/.307/.327 with four homers and 39 RBIs in 81 Double-A games this season. He was acquired from the Seattle organization in June.

*Quote To Note:*

"What it does is it gives us the confidence that we can come back. And then we know that when we get a guy on base we're one hit away from being in a better position than we were. In other times we have relied on the home run. We haven't hit as many this year as we did last year, but that's certainly a club in our bag. I expect it to come out more so here in the second half."

—Manager Bob Melvin after a 4-3 win over Houston on Wednesday.

*Medical Watch:*

- C John Jaso (headache) was removed from a July 24 game after taking a foul ball off the mask.
- LHP Brett Anderson (sprained right ankle, stress fracture in right foot) went on the 15-day disabled list retroactive to April 30, and he was transferred to the 60-day DL on June 14. He was cleared to begin weight-bearing activities in early July. He threw at a distance of 120 feet in mid-July. He threw a 35-pitch bullpen session July 22 and came out of it well. He threw a 45-50 pitch session July 24 and could go on a rehab session soon.

- 2B Scott Sizemore (torn left anterior cruciate ligament) went on the 15-day disabled list April 10, and he was transferred to the 60-day DL on April 22. He had season-ending surgery April 16.
- RHP Fernando Rodriguez (torn ulnar collateral ligament in right elbow) went on the 60-day disabled list March 23. He had season-ending Tommy John surgery March 25.
- RHP Andrew Carignan (Tommy John surgery in July 2012) began a throwing program in the fall. The non-roster reliever could be pitching again by midseason if his recovery continues to go well.

### **Rangers Team Report**

Good news for the Rangers: They acquired a guy with experience pitching Game 7 when they traded for Chicago Cubs right-hander Matt Garza on Monday.

According to former Chicago Cubs teammate Jeff Baker, every game is Game 7, to Garza.

Garza, 29, was acquired from the Cubs on July 22 for a package of third baseman Mike Olt, right-hander Justin Grimm, right-hander C.J. Edwards and a player or players to be named later. The Cubs can either take minor league righty Neil Ramirez to complete the deal or a package of two lower-profile minor leaguers if they are not content with Ramirez's physical.

Garza, meanwhile, started his first game for the Rangers on Wednesday, scattering five hits over 7 1/3 innings, allowing just one unearned run while striking out five in a 3-1 win over the New York Yankees.

In Garza, the Rangers get not only a guy with ace-quality stuff, but also a true power pitcher and, perhaps the most intense pitcher they've had in some time.

"Pounded the zone with a vengeance," Rangers manager Ron Washington said of Garza after Wednesday's game, "but he's always been a strike thrower. He keeps the ball in play and is able to get strikeouts when he needs to.

"He's a big-time pitcher and had a big-time performance for us tonight."

"He's pitched in a lot of big games and he's won a lot of big games," said C.A.J. Pierzynski, considered one of the most intense competitors in the clubhouse. "It's pretty cool to get that kind of guy. He can change a lot for us in just 10 or 12 starts. It was always fun to face him because he was yelling at me and I was yelling at him. But the bottom line is he's a competitive guy and a winner."

"I'm very excited that he's here," said C. Geovany Soto, who was behind the plate for 37 Garza starts with the Cubs.

"He would upgrade any staff in the major leagues."

*Record:*

56-45

*Streak:*

Won one

*Past 10 Games:*

3-7

NEXT: Rangers (Derek Holland, 8-5, 3.10) vs. Yankees (Hiroki Kuroda, 9-6, 2.65 ERA)

*Player Notes:*

- LHP Matt Harrison threw batting practice for the first time Wednesday since having back surgery in April. Harrison has been cleared to throw at full speed, and he's aiming for a late-August return.

- LHP Derek Holland is making his team-leading 21st start Thursday. He is working on extended five-days rest after getting pushed back a day with RHP Matt Garza starting Wednesday. Holland won his first game against the Yankees and pitched Texas' lone complete-game shutout this year, a two-hitter June 27 in New York.
- C Geovany Soto caught Matt Garza on Wednesday. Soto did the same when they were teammates with the Chicago Cubs. Garza was 11-13 with a 3.69 ERA when they were battery mates in Chicago.
- DH Lance Berkman (hip) said it feels better to hit from the left side than the right as he continues to work his way back. He went on the DL July 7 with left hip inflammation and is eligible to return to the active roster.
- RHP Matt Garza sounded as if he wouldn't mind making Texas his permanent home. The 29-year-old noted he's already been traded three times, and doesn't mind the Texas heat. But, for now, he has to "stay focused on every five days."

*Quote To Note:*

"We are in a playoff hunt, aren't we? We're trying to make it to October. Every game is a big game."

—RHP Matt Garza after his Rangers' debut, a 3-1 win over the New York Yankees on Wednesday.

*Medical Watch:*

- DH Lance Berkman (inflamed left hip) went on the 15-day disabled list July 7. He took batting practice July 22. Berkman doesn't have a timetable but hopes to return soon.
- RHP Colby Lewis (right flexor tendon surgery in July 2012) went on the 15-day disabled list retroactive to March 22, and he was transferred to the 60-day DL on June 6. He began throwing live batting practice April 8, and he pitched in extended spring training May 4. He began a rehab assignment with Triple-A Round Rock on May 9, but his rehab was then shut down due to triceps soreness. Lewis began a new rehab assignment with Double-A Frisco on May 20, and he started for Round Rock on May 25. On May 28 the team shut him down due to muscular soreness in the back of his right elbow. He was given a platelet-rich-plasma injection. He threw a bullpen session June 17. He did some long-tossing June 25 in Arlington, then threw bullpen sessions in late June and early July. He threw live batting practice July 9. He started a rehab assignment on July 17. He made a rehab start July 22 for Double-A Frisco.
- LHP Matt Harrison (lower-back soreness) went on the 15-day disabled list retroactive to April 7, and he was transferred to the 60-day DL on May 25. He had surgery April 23 to repair a herniated disk. He underwent a second operation May 1. He was playing catch from flat ground as of mid-June and as of July 9 has started to play catch off a mound. He threw live batting practice July 24 and could begin a rehab assignment before the end of July. He's shooting for an August return.
- RHP Nick Tepesch (inflamed right elbow) went on the 15-day disabled list retroactive to July 6.
- LHP Michael Kirkman (recurrence of cutaneous lymphoma on right triceps) went on the 15-day disabled list retroactive to June 7, and he was transferred to the 60-day DL on June 12. The cancer, which will be treated with radiation sessions, was found during a routine screening in May by Rangers doctors. He was first diagnosed with skin cancer in the same area in January 2012.
- RHP Neftali Feliz (Tommy John surgery in August 2012) went on the 60-day disabled list March 24. He has started throwing off a mound in Arizona. Feliz threw his third bullpen session June 26 but will only throw fastballs. He was throwing bullpen sessions but not facing live hitters as of July 18.

### Blue Jays Team Report

The bullpen could not keep it up.

Particularly when they had a start like the one they got from Josh Johnson in Monday's 14-5 loss to the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Johnson allowed five runs in two-plus innings and left it up to the bullpen to pick up the other seven innings. He described his outing as "pitiful" and that can pretty well sum up his 1-6 season so far.

It was bound to catch up to the bullpen and it did Tuesday when they could not hold an 8-3 lead that the Blue Jays built over six innings.

Brett Cecil, the Blue Jays' All-Star reliever, allowed three runs in two-thirds of an inning.

Then Darren Oliver allowed four runs in the eighth, on a three-run homer by Adrian Gonzalez and a solo shot by Andre Ethier.

The Blue Jays scored one in the ninth but fell short, losing 10-9, their sixth straight loss.

They made it seven straight Wednesday when the Dodgers rallied against closer Casey Janssen in the ninth and scored five runs in the 10th against Juan Perez.

"I thought we were rock bottom last night, but I guess not," manager John Gibbons said. "They're swinging over there. Top to bottom that's one of the better offenses that we've seen, to be honest with you."

Unless the starters get their act together, this could become a familiar story for the rest of the season.

The Blue Jays have gone long stretches this season with eight relievers and are down to seven now that left fielder Melky Cabrera is back from the disabled list.

Gibbons was asked Tuesday whether the bullpen might be suffering from fatigue.

"That might be a factor, but (the Dodgers) have a pretty good hitting team over there," he said. "They've been used a lot but coming out of the All-Star break and you look at the actual number of games they've been in and compare it to other teams in baseball, a lot of those extra innings were eaten by guys that are down in Triple-A on that shuttle too. They were on a nice little roll for so long."

*Record:*

45-55

*Streak:*

Lost seven

*Past 10 Games:*

1-9

NEXT: Astros (Erik Bedard, 3-7, 4.41) at Blue Jays (Mark Buehrle, 5-7, 4.83)

*Player Notes:*

- LHP Juan Perez had gone 22 innings without allowing an earned run, a club record for a pitcher at the beginning of his Blue Jays career. But in Wednesday's 8-3 loss to the Los Angeles Dodgers, the 34-year-old allowed five runs to take the loss. He allowed two home runs, including the tiebreaker by 2B Mark Ellis. "They're swinging over there. Top to bottom that's one of the better offenses that we've seen, to be honest with you," manager John Gibbons said. "(Perez) had had a tremendous run there and sooner or later he was going to give up some runs. He made a mistake in the middle of the plate and it went a long way." Before the game when Perez's name came up, general manager Alex Anthopoulos said, "He's not going anywhere."

- LHP Mark Buehrle will open a four-game series against the Houston Astros on Thursday as the Blue Jays try to snap a seven-game losing streak. Buehrle has lost his past two starts, giving up 11 earned runs since pitching seven innings against the Minnesota Twins in a 4-0 win on July 5. He beat the Astros in his only game against them, allowing six hits and one run over eight innings in 2007.
- RHP Brandon Morrow (forearm) is still not feeling right and general manager Alex Anthopoulos said he will be re-examined. "He's had MRIs done before," Anthopoulos said. "But he just doesn't feel 100 percent. We're still not sure with him in terms of when he's coming back. We'll give him some rest and maybe get him examined again. It might be one of those things; it just might be rest. He's a lot better than he was, but he still doesn't feel like he's 100 percent. We've taken MRIs and done all those type of things, but we haven't been able to pinpoint anything other than it was inflammation." Morrow has been on the disabled list since May 29.
- LHP Luis Perez (Tommy John surgery) is scheduled to begin a minor league rehabilitation assignment at the beginning of August. GM Alex Anthopoulos said he could rejoin the Blue Jays in September. "He certainly could be up sooner," Anthopoulos said. The reliever has not pitched since July 8, 2012. He had a setback earlier this year but appears ready to proceed.
- RHP Sergio Santos (triceps, elbow) allowed two hits and a run in one inning Wednesday as he continued his minor league rehab assignment at Triple-A Buffalo. It was the first time he has pitched on consecutive days. He also pitched a scoreless inning Tuesday. There is no indication yet when he might rejoin Toronto.
- RHP Esmil Rogers allowed 10 hits and one walk and hit a batter in seven innings Wednesday in an 8-3, 10-inning loss to the Los Angeles Dodgers. "That was some kind of performance because he had his back against the wall all night long," manager John Gibbons said. "Runners on early with no out situations. I mean he was Houdini tonight. They were all tough innings and he hung in there and pitched late into the game. He gave us a chance to win." Rogers left 10 runners stranded. "Maybe my next start I'm going to start from the stretch and not use my windup," he said.

*Quote To Note:*

"I thought we were rock bottom last night, but I guess not. They're swinging over there. Top to bottom, that's one of the better offenses that we've seen, to be honest with you."

—Manager John Gibbons, after the Dodgers followed a ninth-inning win Tuesday with a winning rally in the 10th inning Wednesday.

*Medical Watch:*

- RHP Sergio Santos (triceps strain, bone chips in elbow) went on the 15-day disabled list April 15, and he was transferred to the 60-day disabled list May 19. He had surgery May 16 to remove bone chips and shave bone spurs. He began a rehab assignment July 3 in the rookie-level Gulf Coast League, then moved to Class A Dunedin on July 12 and to Triple-A Buffalo on July 18. He pitched again July 23 and 24. There is no date set for his return to Toronto.
- RHP Drew Hutchison (Tommy John surgery in August 2012) went on the 60-day disabled list March 22. He began a rehab assignment with Class A Dunedin on July 14, then pitched for the same team July 20.
- LHP J.A. Happ (sprained right knee, skull fracture, lacerated left ear) went on the 15-day disabled list May 8, and he was transferred to the 60-day DL on May 24. Tests indicated he did not sustain a concussion after taking a line drive to the head May 7. He began a rehab assignment July 13 in the rookie-level Gulf Coast League, then pitched July 18 for Class A Dunedin. He moved his rehab to Triple-A Buffalo on July 23.

- RHP Brandon Morrow (right forearm strain) went on the 15-day disabled list retroactive to May 29. An MRI showed no structural damage. He made a rehab appearance for Class A Dunedin on June 17 but was shut down after experiencing renewed forearm discomfort. He resumed throwing on flat ground in late June and had a 25-pitch bullpen session at the Blue Jays' complex in Dunedin, Fla., on July 9. He threw another bullpen session July 12. No date has been set for him to begin a new rehab assignment, and general manager Alex Anthopoulos said he will be re-examined.
- LHP Luis Perez (Tommy John surgery in July 2012) went on the 60-day disabled list Feb. 23. He probably won't be available until late in the season. He began a rehab assignment with Class A Dunedin on June 10. He suffered what has been termed a minor setback on his rehabilitation assignment and was shut down June 18. He is scheduled to begin a minor league rehabilitation assignment at the beginning of August and could rejoin the Blue Jays in September.
- RHP Ramon Ortiz (strained right elbow) went on the 15-day disabled list June 4, and he was transferred to the 60-day DL on June 26. An MRI on June 4 showed no tear or injury to the ligament.