



Clips

(June 20, 2015)

Today's Clips Contents

FROM THE LOS ANGELES TIMES (Page 3)

- **Albert Pujols drives in five runs to rally Angels past Athletics, 12-7**
- **Albert Pujols' grand slam highlights eight-run seventh for Angels**
- **Albert Pujols' grand slam for Angels wasn't a product of positive thinking**

FROM THE OC REGISTER (Page 6)

- **Getting steady playing time is the major benefit when players are returned to the minors**
- **Efren Navarro's shot with Angels brings him to leadoff**
- **Commissioner Rob Manfred addresses Angels' concerns about All-Stars, replay**
- **Final: Angels score eight runs in seventh inning for 12-7 comeback victory over A's**
- **Angels' offense awakens with eight-run inning in 12-7 win over A's, Sonny Gray**
- **Angels Kole Calhoun, Johnny Giavotella exchange words in dugout**
- **On deck: Angels at Athletics, Saturday, 1 p.m.**

FROM ANGELS.COM (Page 13)

- **Street passing on father's wisdom to his boys**
- **Navarro given chance to hit leadoff**
- **Slam continues Pujols' resurgence**
- **Pujols hits slam, plates 5 in Angels' comeback**
- **Weaver, Hahn meet up in Coliseum matinee**

FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS (Page 19)

- **Pujols drives in 5 runs to rally Angels past Athletics, 12-7**
- **Angels-Athletics Preview**

FROM THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

Albert Pujols drives in five runs to rally Angels past Athletics, 12-7

By MIKE DIGIOVANNA

Albert Pujols hit a grand slam to highlight an eight-run seventh inning and drove in five runs, and the Los Angeles Angels rallied from five runs down to beat the Oakland Athletics 12-7 on Friday night.

Pujols hit his 20th home run of the season and 12th this month on a 1-1 pitch from reliever Edward Mujica (2-2), who was activated from the disabled list before the game. It was the 540th career home run for the Angels' slugger and his 13th grand slam.

Johnny Giavotella drove in three runs for Los Angeles, which has won five of the last six games between the clubs.

Ben Zobrist and Stephen Vogt homered for the A's, who have lost two straight.

Fernando Salas (1-1) retired one batter for the win, the Angels' first in four games this season in which Oakland ace Sonny Gray has started.

Los Angeles trailed 7-2 before breaking out against Gray and three relievers in the seventh.

Gray walked the first two batters in the inning then gave up an RBI-single to Matt Joyce. Two batters after pinch-hitter Daniel Robertson drew a bases-loaded walk off reliever Drew Pomeranz, Mike Trout hit a sacrifice fly to left that deflected off Zobrist's glove, allowing Joyce to score without a throw.

Pujols followed with his 12th home run in the last 21 games. He had an RBI-double in the ninth.

Giavotella, who had an RBI double in the second and a sacrifice fly in the fourth, added an RBI single to make it 10-7.

The A's committed three of their four errors in the inning, raising their total this season to 69, the most in the majors.

Trevor Gott, Joe Smith and Cesar Ramos pitched one inning apiece to complete the win for Los Angeles.

Gray, who took a majors-low 1.60 ERA into the game, was in line for his ninth win until the Angels' outburst. He allowed six runs and five hits in six-plus innings while matching his career-low with two strikeouts. The Oakland ace also dodged a potential serious injury in the fourth when he speared Joyce's two-out line drive just as the ball neared his head.

Zobrist hit a three-run home run in the first inning off Angels starter Matt Shoemaker. Shoemaker allowed five runs and eight hits with two strikeouts in four-plus innings.

Albert Pujols' grand slam highlights eight-run seventh for Angels

By MIKE DIGIOVANNA

Albert Pujols went to high school in Independence, Mo., just outside of Kansas City, but he's been unable to curry favor with Royals fans who, as of last Monday, had positioned eight of their hometown players — some of whom actually deserve the honor — to start the July 14 All-Star game in Cincinnati.

Pujols is fifth among American League first basemen in fan voting with less than a fifth of Eric Hosmer's leading total, and he'll be competing with the likes of Miguel Cabrera, Prince Fielder and Mark Teixeira, who are all having superb seasons, for a backup spot, which is chosen by players, managers and coaches.

Kansas City Manager Ned Yost, who will lead the AL squad, could add Pujols, and there is always the final one fan vote, but if Pujols doesn't make his first All-Star team in four seasons with the Angels, it would be one of baseball's all-time snubs.

Pujols lined the 13th grand slam of his distinguished career, a laser that didn't seem to rise more than 20 feet off the ground, inside the left-field foul pole to highlight an eight-run seventh inning that gave the Angels a stunning 12-7 come-from-behind victory over the Oakland Athletics on Friday night.

It was the AL-leading 20th homer of the season and the 12th homer in the last 21 games for Pujols, a stretch in which the slugger has hit .354 (28 for 79) with 25 runs batted in to raise his average from .235 on May 27 to .273. He ranks 16th on baseball's all-time list with 540 career homers.

"He's one of the hottest hitters in the league," said center fielder Mike Trout, who is in line to start the All-Star game. "This last month, he's been unconscious. It's been fun to watch. He deserves to be there. He's getting big hits for us every day."

Few were as big as his grand slam Friday night. The Angels trailed, 7-2, after six innings but chased starter and All-Star candidate Sonny Gray with two walks and two singles, including Matt Joyce's RBI hit, to start the seventh.

Pinch-hitter Daniel Robertson drew a bases-loaded walk to make it 7-4. Kole Calhoun struck out, but A's left-fielder Ben Zobrist dropped Trout's fly ball over his right shoulder for an error that allowed a run to score.

Pujols then crushed a pitch from reliever Edward Mujica for a homer that gave the Angels a 9-7 lead. An RBI single by Johnny Giavotella capped the second-biggest inning of the season for the Angels, who scored nine in the fifth inning at Boston on May 22.

"Albert is an All-Star, whether he's selected or not — he's one of the top players in baseball," Angels Manager Mike Scioscia said. "I don't know how you leave him off the team, but we've seen that selection process be sketchy at best. Albert would have fun going to the game. He belongs there. But you never know."

Commissioner Rob Manfred, who met with the teams before the game, is open to changes in the selection process, but not this year.

"If, after the game, we decide fan voting needs an adjustment, we'll make it next year," Manfred said. "I'm not closed to the idea that there should be adjustments."

Manfred said there are "protections built into the system" that ensure the best players are in the game. Players, managers and coaches vote for eight pitchers and backups at each position, and the managers fill out the roster. And there is still time for fans in other cities to nudge out some Royals players.

"Fans," Manfred said, "have a way of correcting things by the end of the voting."

Albert Pujols' grand slam for Angels wasn't a product of positive thinking

By MIKE DIGIOVANNA

When Albert Pujols stepped to the plate in the seventh inning with the bases loaded, one out and the Angels trailing the Oakland Athletics by two runs Friday night, he set his expectations a little low.

"In that situation, man, you just want to stay away from the double play," Pujols said. "You don't want to be a rally killer."

A Tony Robbins, power-of-positive-thinking moment, it was not, but that had no bearing on what happened next.

Pujols tore into an Edward Mujica pitch and sent a low laser screaming over the wall just inside the left-field foul pole for his 13th career grand slam, the key hit in an eight-run rally that lifted the Angels to an improbable 12-7 come-from-behind win in the Oakland Coliseum.

"I got something up and put a good swing on it," said Pujols, whose homer turned a 7-5 deficit into a 9-7 lead. "I knew it had a good chance to go, especially down the line. I was just praying that it would stay fair."

Pujols has been one of baseball's hottest hitters since late May, hitting .354 (28 for 79) with 12 home runs and 25 runs batted in over his last 21 games to raise his average from .235 to .273.

He has an American League-leading 20 homers on the season, 44 RBIs, a .328 on-base percentage and a .554 slugging percentage. But when asked to describe how he's felt at the plate recently, he clammed up.

"I don't want to talk about that," Pujols said. "I'm just seeing the ball good and putting my best swing on it. It's the same thing I've been doing all year long, I'm just getting better breaks, I guess. I just thank God I'm able to help my club win."

"That's my main goal every time I put this uniform on, to do everything I can to help the team win. Sometimes it doesn't happen, sometimes you get frustrated, but I don't let those things bother me. I

know I can hit, I know what I can do. The main thing is staying healthy. If I can, I know I can go out there and perform."

FROM THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Getting steady playing time is the major benefit when players are returned to the minors

By BUBBA BROWN

SALT LAKE CITY — The ball exploded off Grant Green's bat into the black night, and the fans gasped in unison and strained their necks toward left field, urging the ball to stay fair.

It snuck inside the right field foul pole. The Salt Lake Bees celebrated at home plate. The Fresno Grizzlies shuffled off the field.

Minutes later, in the bowels of Smith's Ballpark, Green met with reporters. But rather than being caught up in the moment — it had been the first walk-off homer of this professional career — he spoke in a calm, quiet voice.

More than anything, he seemed relieved. Finally, he had put good wood on a ball. That had been an occurrence hard to come by for Green since returning to Salt Lake in early June from a stint with the Angels.

"The home run doesn't really matter to me, as long as I have a quality AB," he said. "I haven't had many of those since I've been back. And the ones I have had, (the balls) haven't been falling. The hits will come if I have quality ABs and that's what I need to get back to doing."

The challenges Green has experienced bouncing between Salt Lake and Anaheim are not uncommon. A handful of other players who have found themselves in similar positions this year have also had trouble staying in the groove after returning from the majors, where they often have seen their playing time cut.

Bees first baseman Marc Krauss is among them. He is having a successful season in Salt Lake (.308/.431/.462) but hit just .143 in 35 at-bats with the Angels in May. Finding your way in the bigs when you have limited at-bats is difficult, he said, and it often takes a hitter who is sent back down a few days to regain his rhythm.

"It's not ideal," he said. "It's tough to not know your role in the majors exactly or have that role not be as an everyday player. You don't really complain, because it's the major leagues and that's where you want to be, but at the same time, you wish better for yourself."

Bees manager Dave Anderson knows what his players face when transitioning back and forth between Salt Lake and the majors. But the only way he can ease them through is offering consistent playing time.

“The difficult part is they get a lot of at-bats down here, then they go up there and they sit a lot of times,” he said. “So when they come back down here, the important thing for me as a manager is to get them in the game, get them at-bats and get them going again.”

Making the reality of straddling Triple-A and the majors even more arduous is that the players truly believe they’d be successful in the bigs if only given an extended opportunity.

“I feel like when I get in a groove, I can consistently put together good at-bats and hit the ball hard in the majors,” Krauss said. “After that, it’s out of your control. Hopefully, that day comes that I can prove to a team that I’m valuable enough to be an everyday player.”

But despite the frustrations that come with the role, Green focuses on keeping a level head — and indeed he has hit .294 in four games since the walk-off homer, indicating he’s regained his stroke, or is at least well on his way.

“You have to play for the name on the front of the jersey,” he said. “You can’t really get into the whole, ‘I should be up there’ type of thing.”

Krauss agreed. Triple-A isn’t where anyone wants to be, especially once they’ve tasted the majors, but the only healthy way to move forward is to not lose track of the positives.

“You try not to worry about that stuff because there’s a lot of things out of your control,” he said. “To me, I’ve been lucky enough to have a chance and to get to that level. Unfortunately, I haven’t been able to perform up there so I haven’t stuck up there. But there’s a lot of good players who never even make their level and always wish they could have had at least a chance.”

Efren Navarro's shot with Angels brings him to leadoff

By JEFF FLETCHER

OAKLAND — Efren Navarro has waited years for this opportunity, so he’s not about to question the form it takes.

Navarro, a longtime Triple-A success who is just now getting the chance at some semblance of regular playing time in the majors, found himself batting leadoff when the Angels’ lineup was posted Friday.

“I come in prepared and if I’m hitting leadoff or ninth, it doesn’t matter,” Navarro said. “I just do my job.”

Navarro, 29, has hit .317 in 508 Triple-A games over parts of five seasons in the purgatory one step below the majors. He had played in just 98 major league games over four seasons.

Now, though, with the Angels struggling to get production in left field and at designated hitter, Manager Mike Scioscia seems intent on giving Navarro a shot. He was in the starting lineup Friday for the sixth time in nine games.

"I feel I'm ready," Navarro said. "This is what I always wanted, just the opportunity to play, and they're giving me a shot."

Navarro, a former 50th-round draft pick, said that has played "with a chip on my shoulder," about the lack of opportunity in the majors, but he tried not to let it get out of control.

"I would have friends tell me 'You belong in the big leagues. You are putting up numbers,' but I was never frustrated," he said. "I knew my time was going to come. I felt like at the time if I would have let all of that affect me, I don't think I'd be here. Just having the mindset to stay positive has kept me in the game and kept me in control."

The Angels have been searching for anyone to keep the line moving in their lineup, particularly from the left side.

Erick Aybar's slump as the leadoff hitter prompted Scioscia to try Navarro at the top of the lineup, even though he doesn't have much speed.

"Efren has been getting on base for us," Scioscia said. "We'll see if he can't at least pass the baton to Kole (Calhoun) a couple times and see if we can get out big guys up with some guys on base."

Scioscia has had reservations in the past about stacking two left-handed hitters at the top of the lineup, even against a right-handed starter, because of what could happen when a lefty reliever comes in. On Friday, that was not much of a concern for Scioscia because the A's were starting ace righty Sonny Gray, who typically doesn't come out early.

Against other right-handed starters, they could stick with Navarro and Calhoun at the top.

"We will consider it if it works, for sure," Scioscia said.

Commissioner Rob Manfred addresses Angels' concerns about All-Stars, replay

By JEFF FLETCHER

OAKLAND – Commissioner Rob Manfred's tour of major league clubhouses brought him to the Angels on Friday, and players and Manager Mike Scioscia questioned him on the American League All-Star voting and the state of instant replay

Players have wondered about fan balloting numbers, which show Kansas City Royals leading at eight of the nine positions, with Mike Trout as the only exception.

Manfred, who addressed reporters after his session in the clubhouse, said there are "protections" built into the system to get the best players into the game. He said they examine the online voting to look for irregularities. Also, the players and managers pick most of the rosters, beyond the starters.

Beyond that, there are still a couple weeks left in the fan voting.

“Fans have a way of correcting things by the end of the voting,” Manfred said. “We have seen already markets outside of Kansas City saying ‘Gee it ought to be my guy and not that guy from Kansas City’ and really significant increases in the number of votes and that’s the sort of engagement we want.”

Scioscia also voiced his concerns about the replay review process. Scioscia has been frustrated this season that several calls seem have been missed by the replay officials. He has been calling for a crew of officials that only works at the replay center in New York, instead of having umpires rotate through.

“Needless to say, Major League Baseball is paying a lot of attention to it because it’s such an important change in our game,” Scioscia said. “It will evolve. Everyone realizes that.”

Final: Angels score eight runs in seventh inning for 12-7 comeback victory over A's

By JEFF FLETCHER

OAKLAND – Of all the unexpected outcomes in this Angels season, Friday night’s 12-7 victory over the Oakland A’s ranks right at the top.

The Angels, whose offense had scuffled for most of the season, were facing A’s right-hander Sonny Gray, arguably the best pitcher in the American League this season.

It was a yawner up until the seventh inning. Although the Angels had rumblings of offense against Gray, they still trailed 7-2, thanks to a rough outing for starter Matt Shoemaker.

Then, the Angels erupted in unpredictable fashion.

The first four batters of the inning – the bottom four in the Angels’ order – reached base against Gray, two walks and hits by Matt Joyce and Chris Iannetta.

Gray was finished, with the Angels having pulled within 7-3. The bases were loaded with no outs.

Pinch-hitter Daniel Robertson drew a walk to push home a run. After Kole Calhoun struck out, Mike Trout hit a line drive to left fielder Ben Zobrist, who dropped the ball, allowing another run to score.

Albert Pujols then yanked a line drive just barely over the left-field fence, the 13th grand slam of his career, putting the Angels up 9-7. It was Pujols’ 20th homer of the season, the earliest he had reached that mark since 2009. Pujols has hit 12 homers in his last 21 games.

The Angels tacked on one more insurance run on a single by Johnny Giavotella, who had driven in their first two runs.

By the time it was over, the Angels had sent 12 men to the plate and scored eight runs on five hits, three walks and two errors. It was the Angels’ second most productive inning of the season, trailing only a nine-run inning in Boston on May 22.

The Angels added two more runs in the ninth, ending up with a comfortable lead in a game that seemed like a certain loss earlier.

Gray, who was charged with the first six Angels' runs, had allowed more than three runs only once all season, when he gave up four on April 17. He went into the game leading the majors with a 1.60 ERA.

The surprising late outburst spared Shoemaker a loss on a night when he had the latest rough outing in what has been a disappointment on the heels of his outstanding rookie year.

Shoemaker has a 5.20 ERA after 13 starts, including only six quality starts. He has not had two straight quality starts since his first two starts of the season.

Homers have been a problem for most of the season. Although he hadn't allowed any in his previous four starts, the two he gave up on Friday lifted his season total to 15. Last year he gave up 14.

In the first inning, A's speedster Billy Burns led off the game by reaching on an infield hit. Shoemaker then walked Stephen Vogt. He then fell behind Ben Zobrist 2-0 and threw a fastball over the middle at the knees, and Zobrist yanked a three-run homer over the right-field fence. In the fifth, Shoemaker hung a pitch that Vogt hit out to right field.

Angels' offense awakens with eight-run inning in 12-7 win over A's, Sonny Gray

By JEFF FLETCHER

OAKLAND – It's not that unusual to use two pitchers to mop up in a blowout game.

It's unusual to bring one in when trailing and another when ahead, though.

The Angels played their most surprising game of the season Friday night, when Fernando Salas took the ball with a five-run deficit in the sixth and Cesar Ramos worked the ninth with a five-run lead.

"It's a great come-from-behind win," Manager Mike Scioscia said after the Angels' 12-7 victory over the Oakland A's. "Those guys have some guys in their bullpen throwing the ball well. For us to come back is big. ... It's a great win."

It was the second time in Angels history they overcame a five-run deficit to win in Oakland. More remarkable, they did so in the seventh inning, with arguably the league's best pitcher on the mound.

Sonny Gray went into the game with a major-league best 1.60 ERA. He had already beaten the Angels twice this season, allowing a total of two earned runs. The Angels nicked him for a season-high six runs, five earned.

"He's been tough on us all year," Scioscia said. "He was throwing the ball well tonight. I thought we had much better at-bats tonight against him than we did in Southern California last week."

Although the Angels had been making Gray work, they still trailed 7-2 when Gray took the mound in the top of the seventh, to face the bottom of an Angels order that had been consistently unproductive for most of the season.

The first four batters of the inning reached base against Gray, two walks and hits by Matt Joyce and Chris Iannetta.

Gray was finished, with the Angels having pulled within 7-3. The bases were loaded with no outs.

Pinch-hitter Daniel Robertson drew a walk to push home a run. After Kole Calhoun struck out, Mike Trout hit a line drive to left fielder Ben Zobrist, who dropped the ball, allowing another run to score.

Albert Pujols then yanked a line drive just barely over the left-field fence, the 13th grand slam of his career, putting the Angels up 9-7. It was Pujols' 20th homer of the season, the earliest he has reached that mark since 2009. Pujols has hit 12 homers in his last 21 games, further bolstering his case for his first All-Star game since joining the Angels.

The Angels tacked on one more insurance run in the inning on a single by Johnny Giavotella, who had driven in their first two runs.

By the time it was over, the Angels had sent 12 men to the plate and scored eight runs on five hits, three walks and two errors. It was the Angels' second most productive inning of the season, trailing only a nine-run inning in Boston on May 22.

"It was a great team effort, everyone had great quality at-bats," Pujols said. "We knew we had nine outs left. We weren't going to give up."

The surprising late outburst spared Matt Shoemaker a loss on a night when he had the latest rough outing in what has been a disappointment on the heels of his outstanding rookie year.

Shoemaker has a 5.20 ERA after 13 starts, including only six quality starts. He has not had consecutive quality starts since his first two starts of the season. He gave up two homers, raising his season total to 15. Last year he gave up 14.

Angels Kole Calhoun, Johnny Giavotella exchange words in dugout

By JEFF FLETCHER

OAKLAND -- Kole Calhoun downplayed a heated discussion that cameras caught him and Johnny Giavotella having in the dugout during Friday night's 12-7 victory over the Oakland A's.

"Just talk between teammates," Calhoun said. "Nothing big. It was nothing."

Giavotella scored a run after a bases-loaded walk in the seventh inning, then excitedly slammed Calhoun on the helmet as he was stepping into the batter's box. After Calhoun struck out, the two had a heated exchange in the dugout.

After the game, the two sat together eating in the clubhouse.

On deck: Angels at Athletics, Saturday, 1 p.m.

By JEFF FLETCHER

Where: O.co Coliseum

TV: Fox Sports West, 1 p.m.

Did you know: Mike Trout's 10 homers in Oakland are the most by any visiting player since 2011, the year of his debut.

THE PITCHERS

RHP JERED WEAVER (4-7, 4.65)

Weaver had a 1.98 ERA over a five-start stretch in May, but he's struggling again. He has a 6.64 ERA over his last three starts, and opponents have hit .305 against him. Weaver has allowed 16 homers this season, which places him on pace to surpass his career high of 27.

Vs. A's: 13-10, 2.64

At O.co Coliseum: 6-6, 3.74

Loves to face: Billy Butler, 6 for 34 (.176)

Hates to face: Ben Zobrist, 7 for 21 (.333)

RHP JESSE HAHN (4-5, 3.62)

The A's acquired Hahn from the San Diego Padres in the deal that sent Derek Norris to San Diego. Hahn has a 3.35 ERA in 27 games over his first two seasons. Over his past five starts, he has a 2.51 ERA. Hahn has allowed just three homers in 77 innings this year, a league-leading 0.4 homers per nine innings. He has pitched just five innings against the Angels.

Vs. Angels: 0-0, 5.40

At O.co Coliseum: 1-2, 3.46

Loves to face: None

Hates to face: None

FROM ANGELS.COM

Street passing on father's wisdom to his boys

By ALDEN GONZALEZ

ANAHEIM -- The rule is they can come in the clubhouse only if the Angels win, which frequently means daddy recorded the final three outs. So there were Ripken and Ryder late Saturday night, dressed in full baseball attire and eagerly fielding a foam baseball thrown from their distinguished father, Angels closer Huston Street.

Street, wrapped in ice and noticeably worn from a full day's work, called them over to sit on his lap. He whispered in their ears, motioned around the room and then looked them in the eyes to make sure they understood.

This was a teaching moment. Street is in constant search of them, no matter time nor place. And it is in those moments when he is most like his late father, Texas Longhorns legend James Street.

"I still think about him every day," Huston said of James, who died of a heart attack two Septembers ago, at age 65. "Shoot, every day. He was one of my best friends, still is someone I talk to on a daily basis. You never let go. I don't think you ever should. You carry someone who's meaningful with you your whole life and you remember their words; you miss him. I'll always miss him."

James was a legend in Austin, Texas, while quarterbacking the Longhorns' national championship team in 1969. He shook hands with former president Lyndon B. Johnson, threw one of the most memorable passes in Texas football history -- a fourth-down, 44-yard strike that sent the Longhorns to the Cotton Bowl Classic -- and pitched in three College World Series. After his playing days were over, he founded one of the largest structured-settlement firms in the country.

But most prevalent in Huston's mind were the bevy of lessons James taught him, most of which came in the way of memorable catchphrases.

Huston's all-time favorite: You're either getting a little better or a little worse; you don't stay the same. The most timely one: Success is all about what you're willing to sacrifice.

"It's kind of the crossroads I'm dealing with now," Huston said. "You want to be great at baseball. You do. But when I was younger, the sacrifices were to stay in at night, or make sure you got your rest, or eat properly, or work out in the offseason. Well now, to work out in the offseason, I have to leave my kids for six hours. And during the season, if I want to come to the field and get my entire routine in, I don't get to leave home at 2 o'clock. I have to leave home at 12:30, so that's an hour and a half that I have to sacrifice from my family time.

"That's why you see every Hall of Famer stand up in front of the crowd at Cooperstown and say, 'Thank you to my family.' I understand that now more than ever."

Huston and his wife, Lacey, now have a 4-year-old (Ripken), a 2-year-old (Ryder) and a third boy (Rafe) set to arrive Aug. 10.

Huston considered having an athlete father "a privilege," but he is worried about his kids wanting too badly to follow in his footsteps as a baseball player. James never pushed Huston into sports. He told him things like, "winning is being the best you can be," and, "never take a lazy step," and "only you know if you're giving your best." But he also said, "I'm proud of you no matter what."

Now Huston wants to emulate that, all of it.

Huston wants he and his wife to always seem like a team, because that's what Huston's father and mother, Janie, were. He wants to maximize his time with his kids, he wants to teach them respect, he wants them to understand how lucky they are and he wants them to feel important, because Huston always did, even amid three bothers.

"He's learned from a pretty good dad," Janie said. "It's really amazing to me. I see a lot of similarities between the two."

Huston and James share the same birthday, Aug. 2, and Huston still wears James' old uniform number, 16. Every once in a while, Huston will catch his oldest roll his eyes when he repeats some of James' old sayings about getting something done.

"I can't!" Ripken will say, and Huston will remember how James used to respond in those situations. If you can't, you can't. But if you say, 'I think I can,' then you might be able to. I think I can, I think I can, I think I can.

"And he would say it like 38 times in a row," Street recalled, laughing.

"He was like that person you could always count on. You learn from that and you say, 'That's what I want to be -- I want to be that person they can count on.'"

Janie, whom Huston considers the family's bedrock, was married to James for 32 years. She has her favorite catchphrase, too. It's a simple one:

Be thankful.

"I actually think those kind of things have gotten us through not having James here," Janie said. "It's like he's in our head. He would not want us to be feeling sorry for ourselves, or having a pity party or anything like that. So now we have good memories of Daddy, and now we take this second chapter without Dad and we take all the things that we listened to, all the things that we learned. We had a fun life, and that's going to continue just because we're going to make it continue. It doesn't mean we're not sad that he's not here. A day doesn't go by that we're not missing Dad."

Navarro given chance to hit leadoff

By TREVOR HASS

OAKLAND -- Left fielder Efen Navarro became the third different Angel to bat leadoff in the team's last three games when he hit first against the A's on Friday.

Navarro, who entered the game with 12 hits in 42 at-bats (.286), is in his third stint with the Angels this season after spending time in the Minor Leagues.

"I come in prepared, and if I'm hitting leadoff or hitting ninth, it doesn't matter," Navarro said before going 1-for-3 with a third-inning double in the Angels' 12-7 comeback victory. "I have to do my job." While Angels fans aren't accustomed to seeing Navarro in this role, he does have a bit of experience batting leadoff. Last season, he hit first in the Angels' 3-0 win over the Phillies on May 14, going 1-for-5 with an RBI single.

Angels manager Mike Scioscia said he expected A's starter Sonny Gray to pitch deep into the game -- he worked six-plus -- and that having two consecutive lefties in Navarro and Kole Calhoun against a lefty reliever becomes less of an issue given Gray's track record.

Against right-handers, Scioscia said he could continue to use the Navarro and Calhoun combination going forward, if it works. If a lefty is on the mound, Scioscia indicated he'll likely put second baseman Johnny Giavotella in the top spot.

"Efen's been getting on base for us," Scioscia said. "We'll see if he can at least pass the baton to Kole a couple times and see if we can get our big guys up with some guys on base."

Worth noting

- Albert Pujols batted fourth for the fourth consecutive game Friday. Tuesday marked the first time Pujols batted fourth since April 4, 2003. Pujols entered Friday's action with 11 home runs in his last 19 games.
- Scioscia spoke with Major League Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred on Friday. They discussed topics such as All-Star voting, instant replay and the direction of baseball.

"Needless to say, Major League Baseball has paid a lot of attention to [replay] because it's such an important change in our game," Scioscia said. "It will evolve. I think everyone realizes that."

- The Angels signed 14th-round Draft pick Ryan Vega, an outfielder from El Paso Community College, on Friday. The club has signed 35 players from its 2015 Draft class, including Kyle Survance, Samuel Pastrone, Mitchell Esser, Trever Allen, Conor Lillis-White, Jordan Serena, Thomas Delph, Jacob McDavid, Jahmai Jones and Grayson Long.

Slam continues Pujols' resurgence

By TREVOR HASS

OAKLAND -- Albert Pujols' seventh-inning grand slam barely cleared the fence in left, but he got just enough on it to catapult his team in front. The home run, highlighting an eight-run frame, gave the Angels a lead they wouldn't relinquish in a 12-7 win over the A's at the Coliseum on Friday night.

"With that situation, one out, you just want to stay away from a double play and being a rally killer," Pujols said. "Just get something up, and that's what I did, and obviously I put the best swing of the night."

Pujols, who has 12 home runs in his last 20 games and an American League-leading 20 on the season, finished the night 2-for-5 with three runs scored and five RBIs. He leads the AL in home runs, RBIs, runs and slugging since May 28.

After a slow start to the season, Pujols has returned to the slugger baseball fans have grown accustomed to seeing.

"He's one of the best players in the game for a reason," Angels right fielder Kole Calhoun said. "Has been for a long time. Came up in a big spot, got the pitch he was looking for and put a good swing on it."

Pujols' line shot came off A's reliever Edward Mujica, and it scored Chris Iannetta, Daniel Robertson and Mike Trout. The Angels were in the middle of a rally and trailed, 7-5, when Pujols came to bat.

In one inning, a comfortable five-run A's lead turned into a three-run lead for the Angels. With one swing, Pujols turned a two-run deficit into a two-run lead.

"I knew it had a pretty good chance to go, especially down the line," Pujols said of his 13th career grand slam. "I was just praying it would stay fair."

Angels manager Mike Scioscia was hoping it would ricochet off the wall to score Trout from first, but it ended up clearing the fence.

"It was a rocket," Scioscia said.

Pujols added an RBI double in the ninth to give the Angels even more of a cushion. On a night when the A's held a sizable lead, they ended up committing three errors in the inning and four overall.

Pujols made them pay. Just like he's done to the opposition all June.

"It's the same thing I've been doing all year long," Pujols said. "I'm just getting better breaks. I know that I can hit, and I know what I can do."

Pujols hits slam, plates 5 in Angels' comeback

By TREVOR HASS

OAKLAND -- Albert Pujols' grand slam highlighted an eight-run seventh inning that allowed the Angels to overcome a five-run deficit in Friday's series-opening 12-7 victory over the A's at the Coliseum.

"We just kept playing baseball," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "These guys didn't quit. Good at-bats the whole night, and obviously got some big hits from Albert."

The Angels had mustered just two runs off ace Sonny Gray entering the inning, when the right-hander allowed an RBI single to Matt Joyce and loaded the bases for reliever Drew Pomeranz, who walked in a run. With one out, right-hander Edward Mujica -- fresh off the disabled list -- induced a fly ball off the bat of Mike Trout that Ben Zobrist dropped in left field. Pujols' grand slam came three pitches later, and the A's would commit two more errors, giving them a Major League-leading 69 on the season, that led to another run before the frame ended.

"They smelled blood, and they didn't stop," said Stephen Vogt, who homered and doubled for three RBIs. "We gotta take better care of the ball on the defensive side, and a team like that, when you give them more three outs in the inning, they're going to take advantage."

Zobrist hit a three-run home run in the first for the A's and also doubled. For Gray, who was charged with five earned runs in six innings, it marked his worst outing of the season.

MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

Seventh heaven: The Angels entered the seventh inning down, 7-2, but they scored eight runs in the frame to take a 10-7 lead. Aided by three errors from the A's, the Angels sent 12 men to the plate. Pujols' grand slam barely cleared the fence in left, but it was enough to put his team up, 9-7, as part of a disastrous 36-minute inning for the A's.

"We knew we had nine outs left," Pujols said. "We didn't want to give up, and it was huge."

Major meltdown: A five-run lead quickly slipped from the A's grasp in a frightful seventh inning that not only saw eight opposing runs score but three errors committed, as the A's dropped to 4-27 when their bullpen allows at least two runs. The three runs (one earned) given up by Mujica were his first allowed in an A's uniform.

"We brought [Mujica] in here for a reason, to pitch deep in games," A's manager Bob Melvin said. "The one to Trout, if we catch that, maybe it's a little different, but still, he hit a pretty good pitch that was down in the zone."

QUOTABLE

"We were in a pretty bad hole, a five-run deficit, and we come back and win," Angels starter Matt Shoemaker said. "That says a lot about the position players."

SOUND SMART WITH YOUR FRIENDS

With his grand slam, Pujols reached the 20-home run plateau faster than he has in any season since 2009.

WHAT'S NEXT

Angels: Jered Weaver takes the mound for the Angels against the A's on Saturday afternoon. Weaver is making his 15th start of the season and ninth on the road, and he has lost each of his last three starts. Athletics: Right-hander Jesse Hahn, who is 3-1 with a 2.51 ERA over his last five starts, gets the start for Saturday's 1:05 p.m. PT contest against the Angels at the Coliseum.

Weaver, Hahn meet up in Coliseum matinee

By TREVOR HASS

The Angels and A's square off Saturday afternoon in the second game of a three-game series at the Coliseum, with the visitors, who rallied for a 12-7 series-opening victory Friday night, looking to win their third straight.

Right-hander Jesse Hahn will start for the A's. Hahn is 4-5 with a 3.62 ERA, and is 3-1 with a 2.51 ERA over his last five starts. Opponents have reached base on an error a Major League-leading 12 times against Hahn, who had a no-decision in his only career appearance against the Angels earlier this season.

Jered Weaver (4-7, 4.65) gets the nod for the Angels. Weaver has lost each of his last three starts after winning four of his previous five. In 32 career starts against the A's, he holds a 13-10 record and a 2.64 ERA, but he is 0-1 with a 4.85 ERA in two starts against the A's this season.

Things to know about this game

- Weaver is three wins shy of 138, which would tie Nolan Ryan for second in Angels history. Chuck Finley is first with 165. Weaver is also 50 strikeouts shy of 1,500.
- A's center fielder Billy Burns has hit safely in each of his last 10 games and 22 of his last 23.
- Hahn is 0-3 with a 5.12 ERA in six starts against American League West competition, compared to 4-2 with a 2.59 ERA in seven starts against everyone else.

FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pujols drives in 5 runs to rally Angels past Athletics, 12-7

OAKLAND, Calif. -- Albert Pujols doesn't like talking much about his swing when he's struggling. The Angels' slugger is even more reticent to discuss it when things are going well.

Even after hitting his 12th home run this month -- a grand slam that highlighted an eight-run seventh inning -- Pujols was reluctant to talk about his most recent power surge.

"I don't want to talk about that, I'm just seeing the ball good and putting my best swing," Pujols said after driving in five runs to help the Angels come from behind for a 12-7 victory over the Oakland Athletics on Friday night. "Same thing I've been doing all year long. I'm just getting better breaks, I guess."

Pujols hit his 20th home run of the season on a 1-1 pitch from reliever Edward Mujica (2-2), who was activated from the disabled list before the game. It was the 540th career home run for the Angels' slugger and his 13th grand slam.

The Angels, who trailed by five runs heading into the seventh, scored 10 runs over the final three innings while taking advantage of Oakland's sloppy defense. The A's committed three of their four errors in the seventh when Los Angeles sent 12 men to the plate.

"It's a great come-from-behind win," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "These guys didn't quit. Good at-bats the whole night and obviously big hits from Albert. Hopefully a win like this gives some guys, especially some guys that are struggling, a little confidence moving forward."

Johnny Giavotella drove in three runs for Los Angeles, which has won five of the last six games between the clubs.

Ben Zobrist and Stephen Vogt homered for the A's, who have lost two straight.

Fernando Salas (1-1) retired one batter for the win, the Angels' first in four games this season in which Oakland ace Sonny Gray has started.

Los Angeles trailed 7-2 before breaking out against Gray and three relievers in the seventh.

Gray walked the first two batters in the inning then gave up an RBI-single to Matt Joyce. Two batters after pinch-hitter Daniel Robertson drew a bases-loaded walk off reliever Drew Pomeranz, Mike Trout hit a sacrifice fly to left that deflected off Zobrist's glove, allowing Joyce to score without a throw.

Pujols followed with his 12th home run in the last 21 games. He had an RBI-double in the ninth.

"I knew I had a pretty good chance to go (out), especially down the line," Pujols said. "I've hit a couple of balls here that way. I was just praying to stay fair."

Giavotella, who had an RBI double in the second and a sacrifice fly in the fourth, added an RBI single to make it 10-7.

The A's committed three of their four errors in the inning, raising their total this season to 69, the most in the majors.

"We weren't very good defensively today," Oakland manager Bob Melvin said. "We have been better recently, but you're not going to win many games when you're making four errors."

Trevor Gott, Joe Smith and Cesar Ramos pitched one inning apiece to complete the win for Los Angeles.

Gray, who took a majors-low 1.60 ERA into the game, was in line for his ninth win until the Angels' outburst. He allowed six runs and five hits in six-plus innings while matching his career-low with two strikeouts. The Oakland ace also dodged a potential serious injury in the fourth when he speared Joyce's two-out line drive just as the ball neared his head.

Zobrist hit a three-run home run in the first inning off Angels starter Matt Shoemaker who allowed five runs and eight hits with two strikeouts in four-plus innings.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Athletics: 1B Ike Davis was activated from the DL before the game. Davis started and batted sixth. He went 1 for 4. ... To make room on the roster, RHP Arnold Leon was optioned to Triple-A Nashville and INF Andy Parrino was designated for assignment.

UP NEXT

Angels: RHP Jared Weaver (4-7) pitches the middle game of the series Saturday looking to end a three-start losing streak. Weaver has 13 career wins against Oakland.

Athletics: RHP Jesse Hahn (4-5) is winless in six starts against teams from the AL West this season.

Angels-Athletics Preview

Jered Weaver strung together a five-start stretch in May that probably had the Los Angeles Angels thinking he'd overcome a terrible first month.

His previous three might be swinging them back toward wondering if the 32-year-old has lost a step, and Oakland doesn't seem like the ideal place right now for him to begin another reformation Saturday.

Weaver (4-7, 4.65 ERA) has lost his last three starts with a 6.64 ERA while surrendering six home runs. Two of those came in Monday's 7-3 loss to Arizona with the right-hander allowing five runs -- four earned -- and eight hits in seven innings.

His 16 homers allowed are tied for the second most in baseball, and his 1.58 per nine innings is 0.44 higher than his career high from last season.

"I have to figure out a way to keep the ball in the yard, man," Weaver told MLB's official website. "It's been my nemesis this year. I just have to keep working through it and try to get something going."

Weaver's three starts in Oakland since the beginning of last season have resulted in a 1-2 record with a 6.41 ERA and five home runs allowed. Josh Reddick and Brett Lawrie homered in the latest -- a 6-2 win for the Athletics on April 28 -- to give Lawrie two homers in 11 career at-bats against him.

There could be some wiggle room if the Angels keep scoring the way they have in the last two games and if the A's continue booting the ball.

Los Angeles (35-33) opened the three-game series with Friday's 12-7 victory after trailing 7-2 entering the seventh inning, giving it 14 wins in the last 19 meetings.

The Angels scored eight in that inning behind Oakland's fielding gaffes and a grand slam from Albert Pujols. The slugger entered play May 28 batting .235 but has since hit .354 with 12 home runs and 25 RBI in 21 games.

His 1.269 OPS in that time trails only Arizona's Paul Goldschmidt.

"I'm just seeing the ball good and putting my best swing," Pujols said. "Same thing I've been doing all year long. I'm just getting better breaks, I guess."

The A's (29-41) made four errors for the third time this season and have six in two games for the first time since Aug. 12-13, 2011. Their 69 for the year are the most in the majors and 13 more than next-worst Texas.

Ten errors in the last six games has helped to at least partly spoil a .309 clip at the plate with 7.8 runs per game.

Oakland got homers and three-RBI nights from Stephen Vogt and Ben Zobrist -- who have both gone deep against Weaver -- and Zobrist has finally taken off with a 10-for-20 mark in his last six games. Billy Burns is batting .386 on a 10-game hitting streak.

Jesse Hahn hasn't required that kind of support lately, though he's gone 0-3 with a 5.12 ERA in six starts within the AL West.

Hahn (4-5, 3.62) gave up a run and three hits in 6 2/3 innings of Monday's 9-1 win in San Diego. The A's have won all three times he's pitched this month with the right-hander going 2-0 with a 3.12 ERA in those outings.

"He's on a pretty good stretch right now," Vogt said.

Hahn's only start against the Angels came in a 6-3 loss April 29 in which he yielded three runs and four hits in five innings while avoiding the decision. Mike Trout was 1 for 2 with a home run off him.