**LOS ANGELES DODGERS**

**DAILY CLIPS**

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**DODGERS.COM**

**Roenicke comes aboard as third-base coach**

By Ken Gurnick

LOS ANGELES -- The Dodgers have hired former Milwaukee Brewers manager Ron Roenicke for the remainder of the season as third-base coach to replace Lorenzo Bundy, who will remain on staff in charge of outfield defense.

Roenicke, who played for the Dodgers from 1981-83 and was on their big league coaching staff in 1992-93, was dismissed as manager of the Brewers earlier this season. He also managed five seasons in the Dodgers' Minor League system.

Roenicke had managed the Brewers since 2011 and had his '16 option exercised by the Brewers this spring, but he was dismissed after they started the season 7-18. In his first season in Milwaukee, he finished second to another former Dodger, Kirk Gibson, for the National League Manager of the Year Award.

Roenicke, 59, spent six years as third-base coach of the Angels under manager Mike Scioscia, his former Dodgers teammate, and became Scioscia's bench coach when Joe Madden left to manage Tampa Bay for current Dodgers president Andrew Friedman.

Roenicke has maintained his California residence throughout his career.

Bundy, 56, is in his second season as the Dodgers' third-base coach and eighth in the organization. In addition to third-base coach, his duties have included positioning outfielders.

**Hernandez seeks everyday role for Dodgers**

By Lyle Spencer

LOS ANGELES -- All-purpose, multidimensional athletes are pure gold to Major League managers. The Dodgers' Kiké Hernandez appreciates his value as a man for all positions, but his clearly stated mission is to shed that label for a more appealing fit: everyday player.

"I don't like it," Hernandez said when asked about his utility-man persona. "I'm only 23, and I believe I have a really long career ahead of me. I believe I can play every day. But being a utility guy is what got me to the big leagues."

Los Angeles is Hernandez's third organization. Houston drafted and signed him out of high school in 2009. Hernandez made his MLB debut last season and was hitting .284 in 24 games when the Astros sent him to the Marlins. Miami shipped him to the Dodgers in a seven-player blockbuster last December.

Hernandez has found a home in Southern California, making a name for himself -- his first name is Enrique, but he goes by his nickname, which is pronounced Key-KAY -- as a driving force in the heat of a pennant race.

Appearing in 60 of his team's 118 games, Hernandez has posted a .300/.352/.513 slash line, with six homers, 18 RBIs and 22 runs scored in 150 at-bats. He's hitting .360 with runners in scoring position.

By his own description, Hernandez was a "late bloomer." Growing up in Puerto Rico, Hernandez took a while to, well, grow up.

"When I was 16, I was 5-foot-5 or 5-foot-6," Hernandez said. "My senior year of high school, I grew five inches and weighed 160 [pounds]. Now I'm 210."

It's all muscle, and Hernandez has been throwing it around in very positive ways for the Dodgers all season. Filling in all over the field before settling in at second base with Howie Kendrick nursing a hamstring strain, Hernandez is taking advantage of his first real opportunity to show he's worthy of a regular job.

A shortstop as a kid, Hernandez believes his best position now is second base. With Kendrick's looming free agency, Hernandez is making a strong argument as an option there if the former Angels star departs.

Los Angeles views Jose Peraza, acquired from Atlanta, as another potential alternative at second.

"They traded for me because they thought I was a good player," Hernandez said. "The fact that I'm getting consistent at-bats is making it easier to produce.

"If, when Howie comes back, they want to still give me playing time, that's great. But I've been doing this for two weeks; Howie has been doing it a long time. Obviously, when Howie comes back, he's going to be playing every day."

Dodgers manager Don Mattingly has become a Hernandez fan.

"You talk about all the different things [Hernandez] can do, and you automatically throw him into that utility-guy role," Mattingly said. "That's maybe a little unfair. These guys in those roles played every day in the Minors coming up. Kiké looks like a guy right now that you could play every day."

Hernandez has made 12 starts this season at second base, 11 at shortstop, five in left field, eight in center and one in right. He was given training in moving around long before he realized its value by his father, who also coached him in his Puerto Rico youth.

"I would be playing shortstop," Hernandez said, "and he would move me to center field when a really good hitter came up. He liked to move me around. I got used to playing different positions."

No matter where he played, Hernandez said, "I always hit the ball really hard for my size."

Popular with teammates and fans, Hernandez brings a vibrant personality to the clubhouse. With the timely aid of a nutritious piece of fruit, he gave the Dodgers their answer to the Angels' Rally Monkey.

In the midst of a team scoring drought in May, Hernandez grabbed a banana in the dugout and waved it around. Los Angeles promptly scored a run, snapping out of its doldrums.

"I'm on the bench. I've got to help my team somehow; we've got to come up with something,"

Hernandez said after the game. "So I look around and the first thing I see is a banana. I said, 'This banana is going to be a rally banana.'"

Taking their cue in the afterglow of a walk-off victory, Dodgers players bombarded Hernandez with bananas in a departure from the familiar ice-bucket routine.

"He's a different cat," starter Brett Anderson said.

Cats scratch and claw. There's a lot of that in Hernandez's game.

**Source: Dodgers part with several from int'l scouting corps**

By Jesse Sanchez and Ken Gurnick

The Dodgers parted ways with a significant portion of their international scouting department on Monday, including vice president Bob Engle.

Also no longer with the club are Patrick Guerrero, the Dodgers' scouting coordinator in Latin America; Franklin Taveras, the club's scouting coordinator in the Dominican Republic; Joseph Reaves, the director of international and Minor League relations; Rafael Colon, special advisor for international player performance; Hidenori Sueyoshi, senior manager of international scouting; and Bruce Hurst, Latin America field coordinator, a source told MLB.com. The club did not confirm the front-office changes.

"The only explanation I got was that they wanted to go in a different direction and nothing else," Guerrero said from the Dominican Republic. "I understand. That's baseball."

Under Guerrero, the Dodgers were aggressive when the international signing period began on July 2, signing several top prospects, including 19-year-old right-hander Yadier Alvarez, ranked No. 2 on MLB.com's Top 30 International Prospects list; outfielder Starling Heredia, ranked No. 6, for $2.6 million; infielder Ronny Brito, ranked No. 21, for $2 million; outfielder Christopher Arias for $500,000 and shortstop Oneal Cruz for $950,000.

The Dodgers also signed right-handed pitcher Ramon Rosso, outfielder Carlos Rincon and shortstop Damaso Marte Jr. from the Dominican Republic, Venezuelan shortstop Luis Rodriguez and second baseman Aldo Espinoza from Nicaragua. Marte, the son of former Major League pitcher Damaso Marte, signed for a $300,000 bonus.

Because of the spending spree, the Dodgers have spent more than their allotted amount and will face the maximum penalty, under which they will be unable to sign an international prospect for more than $300,000 during the next two international signing periods.

**LA TIMES**

**Dodgers Dugout: Was Ron Roenicke hired to make Don Mattingly nervous?**

By Houston Mitchell

Hi, welcome to another edition of Dodgers Dugout. My name is Houston Mitchell, and I’m wondering if the Dodgers should consider putting Zack Greinke at second base and batting him third on his non-pitching days.

Manager in waiting?

The Dodgers announced Monday afternoon that they had hired Ron Roenicke to be their new third base coach, removing Lorenzo Bundy from that job and making assistant bench coach, which sounds like a giant demotion to me. However, this brings up an intriguing possibility. Roenicke is a former Dodger who managed the Milwaukee Brewers from 2011 to May of this season. And it is very unusual for a team to bring in an outsider to the coaching staff this late in the season. So, as a Dodgers fan, I have to ask: Is Roenicke here as a message to Don Mattingly, telling him he better up his game or there is a replacement waiting?

It's no secret that Mattingly is overmatched as a game manager. He often makes baffling decisions during a game and at other times seems too paralyzed to make a decision. Perhaps Roenicke is here to shake him from his lethargy and get him to start paying attention during games. Roenicke also fills two requirements that fans are quick to point out Mattingly is lacking: 1. He is a former Dodgers player and 2. He has managerial experience. Mattingly is a former Yankee who had no managerial experience.

Or maybe the Dodgers have decided to make Bundy the scapegoat for the worst baserunning team in baseball. But if that were the case, you could just move Tim Wallach out to third base, or promote someone else from within. Why bring in someone like Roenicke?

It looks to me, and to most other Dodgers fans who have emailed me, that this is a direct message to Mattingly. The next six weeks of the season just got a lot more interesting.

Overlooked Jansen

In all the talk about the miserable Dodgers bullpen this season, I haven’t said much about the big bright spot: Kenley Jansen. He doesn’t get much national notice, but Jansen has been one of the best closers in baseball over the last four seasons. Since 2012, Jansen’s first season as Dodgers closer, here are the MLB leaders in saves:

Craig Kimbrel, 172

Fernando Rodney, 149

Aroldis Chapman, 136

Greg Holland, 135

Jonathan Papelbon, 125

Huston Street, 124

Kenley Jansen, 121

Glen Perkins, 117

Rafael Soriano, 117

Joe Nathan, 112

In that span, Jansen has pitched 239 2/3 innings, giving up 155 hits while striking out 370 and compiling a 2.33 ERA. This season, he has blown only one save. But I’m pretty sure all that pales in comparison for Jansen to one thing: His girlfriend, Candace Cotton, gave birth to a baby boy, Kaden Isaiah Jansen, on Sunday morning. Jansen then raced to the ballpark in time to save Sunday’s 2-1 victory over Cincinnati.

More on Jansen

So what’s it like to go from watching your son being born to saving a game?

“A little exhausted right now, but I feel great," Jansen told The Times’ Dylan Hernandez.

Jansen said he woke up at 4 a.m. He and Cotton decided to have labor induced Sunday morning because the Dodgers are starting a road trip on Tuesday.

"Do it this way so I don't have to go on the road and fly back and miss some games," Jansen said. "I know these are important games for us."

Now that’s commitment to the team. Especially by Cotton.

Moving up the list

Sunday’s save was Jansen’s 130th, putting him in second place on the all-time Dodgers list. Eric Gagne leads the way with 161.

And Jansen had the right thing to say when this was brought up to him:

"You're going to be recognized by winning championships. That's my goal. That's what I'm focused on — winning, not my stats.”

Going the extra mile

The Dodgers ball boy who was stationed down the left-field line on Sunday made a play worthy of a major leaguer on a foul ball. Take a look.

Ask Ross

Some of you have emailed me to ask whatever happened to longtime Dodgers announcer Ross Porter. Well, I am pleased to say that he is a subscriber to Dodgers Dugout and has agreed to answer questions submitted by Dodgers fans. So if you have a question you would like to ask Ross, who broadcasted Dodgers games from 1976-2004, please email it to me, and I will pass it on to him. Selected questions will be answered by Ross in future newsletters. You can read more about him here.

Heating up

In the month of August, Carl Crawford is hitting .478 and slugging .696 and Jimmy Rollins is hitting .306. If those two guys start hitting like they are capable, the Dodgers will definitely have the best offense in the NL.

This week in Dodgers history

Aug. 20, 1978: Steve Garvey and Don Sutton get into a clubhouse fight over a newspaper article quoting Sutton being critical of Garvey.

Aug. 22, 1965: The infamous Juan Marichal-John Roseboro brawl takes place after Marichal thinks Roseboro throws too close to his head returning the ball to Sandy Koufax and hits the Dodgers catcher over the head with his bat.

Aug. 22, 2000: Eric Karros becomes the first Dodger to hit two home runs in one inning when he does that in the sixth inning against the Montreal Expos at Dodger Stadium.

Aug. 23, 1958: Gil Hodges sets a National League record with his 14th career grand slam.

**Dodgers hire former Brewers manager Ron Roenicke as third base coach**

By Dylan Hernandez

With only 44 games remaining in the regular season, the Dodgers have hired former Milwaukee Brewers manager Ron Roenicke to replace Lorenzo Bundy as their third base coach.

The change was made leading up to a critical three-city, eight-game trip that starts Tuesday with a visit to the Oakland Athletics.

While Bundy appears to be taking the blame for the Dodgers' shortcomings on the basepaths, he will remain on Manager Don Mattingly's coaching staff. Bundy is expected to assist bench coach Tim Wallach with in-game decisions and continue to oversee the outfield defense.

With Bundy moving to the bench, assistant hitting coach John Valentin will no longer be in uniform for games.

Roenicke, 58, is the first major league coach hired by Andrew Friedman, the Dodgers' first-year president of baseball operations.

Roenicke is under contract only for the remainder the season. Regardless, his presence could raise questions about Mattingly's future, particularly if the Dodgers fail to reach the playoffs or make another early-round exit.

The Dodgers did not play Monday and Friedman could not be reached for comment.

Roenicke was fired by the Brewers on May 3 after a 7-18 start. He became the manager of the Brewers in 2011 and led them to the playoffs that season. He compiled a 342-331 record as their manager.

Roenicke was the third base coach for the Angels when they won the World Series in 2002. He later became their bench coach.

Roenicke's coaching career started with the Dodgers, as he was on their major league staff in 1992 and 1993. He was also a manager in the Dodgers farm system.

A Southern California native, Roenicke played at UCLA and was selected by the Dodgers in the first round of the 1977 draft. Roenicke was a major league outfielder for eight seasons, including three with the Dodgers.

In his latest role, Roenicke will be called on to improve the Dodgers' baserunning, which ranks near the bottom of the league in some advanced metrics.

The Dodgers have a three-game lead over the second-place San Francisco Giants in the National League West. If the Dodgers are unable to hold that lead, they could be hard-pressed to earn a playoff wild-card berth. The Pittsburgh Pirates and Chicago Cubs, the second- and third-place teams in the NL Central, both have better records than the Dodgers.

The Dodgers will open a three-game home series against the Giants on Aug. 31.

The Dodgers have two more scheduled days off between now and then, which will provide them with opportunities to line up Clayton Kershaw to Zack Greinke to pitch in that series. The Dodgers are 29-17 in games started by Kershaw or Greinke and 38-34 in games started by anyone else.

Kershaw is scheduled to start Tuesday in Oakland.

After the two-game set at O.co Coliseum, the Dodgers will play three-game series in Houston and Cincinnati, which will both be preceded by a day off.

The Dodgers will host the Cubs when they return to Dodger Stadium.

The coming weeks could be considerably tougher for the Giants, who are currently visiting the St. Louis Cardinals, who have the best record in baseball.

The Giants will next visit Pittsburgh, and then they will host the Cubs and Cardinals.

Dodgers first baseman Adrian Gonzalez admitted he frequently looks at the out-of-town scoreboard during games, but said he does that to pass time between pitches, not necessarily to see how the Giants are doing.

"We win games, we're in the playoffs," he said. "We put ourselves in that position. It's about us."

Gonzalez figures that if the Dodgers can average six wins over every 10-game stretch, they should reach the postseason.

"Really easy to do with the talent we have," he said.

Up next

Clayton Kershaw (10-6, 2.39 ERA) will face Felix Doubront (1-1, 4.59) and the Oakland Athletics on Tuesday at 7 p.m. at O.co Coliseum. TV: SportsNet LA; Radio: 570, 1020.

**Vin Scully is undecided on returning to Dodgers for a 67th season next year**

By Bill Shaikin

Vin Scully had a cold last week.

That made news, because Scully decided to rest his voice a bit. Not by taking a sick day, mind you, but by asking that his television broadcast not be simulcast on radio, as it usually is for the first three innings. Since radio listeners do not have television pictures, Scully feels obliged to be more descriptive with his words.

Scully is 87. This is the time of year when the Hall of Fame broadcaster traditionally announces whether he will return for the following season, and his cold prompted a flurry of inquiries from concerned readers, wondering what Scully has decided about next season.

He told us he has not made a decision about returning for what would be his 67th season with the Dodgers. He said he does not want to commit too soon.

He previously has said he has three priorities in making his annual decision. His health is foremost -- and, last week's cold aside, he said his health is fine.

He does not want to extend his career to the point where he is no longer an effective broadcaster. To us, he remains the best in the business, as evidenced by weaving the mother of Washington Nationals manager Matt Williams into a story about Charles Manson last week.

He also likes to sit down and see what his wife, Sandra, and the Dodgers -- in that order -- might have to say. The decision might be his, but he cannot imagine making it without the support of his family and employers.

Los Angeles keeps its fingers crossed.

**OC REGISTER**

**Dodgers hire Roenicke as third-base coach to help sort out off-base running game**

By Pedro Moura

LOS ANGELES – No team in the National League is worse at running the bases than the Dodgers, according to one metric, and Monday they took what they hope is a step toward improving in that area, replacing derided third-base coach Lorenzo Bundy with former Milwaukee Brewers manager Ron Roenicke.

Bundy will retain his duties as the Dodgers’ outfield coordinator and work out of the dugout. His performance directing the team’s outfield positioning has been praised by players and coaches. As the third-base coach, it has been less so.

According to Fangraphs.com’s advanced metric that incorporates all elements of running the bases, the 2015 Dodgers are the worst baserunning team in the National League, and are 29th among the 30 teams in the major leagues.

At 16.4 runs below average, the Dodgers have cost themselves nearly three wins on the bases as compared to baseball’s best baserunning team, the Arizona Diamondbacks, who are 11.4 runs above average. Roughly 10 runs equates to a win.

The Dodgers (67-51) have hit into the most double plays in the majors. They also have the worst stolen-base percentage and the fewest stolen bases. Their stolen-base total is on pace to rival the worst full-season mark for any team in the past two decades.

It is, of course, unclear how much all of that can be attributed to Bundy. The roster as currently assembled is exceptionally slow, and the exceptions – Joc Pederson, Yasiel Puig – lack base-stealing instincts. Carl Crawford is the lone Dodger with both above-average speed and above-average instincts, and he has missed most of this season because of injury.

But, with seven weeks remaining in the season, the Dodgers thought the potential improvement important enough to endure a shakeup.

The organization last changed its coaches after the 2013 postseason, when bench coach Trey Hillman was fired and eventually replaced by third-base coach Tim Wallach.

Bundy was then elevated from his position as manager of the Dodgers’ Triple-A affiliate in Albuquerque.

President of baseball operations Andrew Friedman did not return messages seeking comment. A team spokesperson said Dodgers manager Don Mattingly will address the decision before the team begins a two-game series in Oakland on Tuesday.

This had been Bundy’s second season on the job, and he made questionable decisions to send runners home. He was widely credited with one positive move in June, when he told rookie utilityman Kiké Hernandez to fake like he was stealing home from third base, causing a rookie Texas Rangers pitcher to commit a balk and allow the winning run to score.

Bundy has been a longtime minor-league manager and major-league coach. He has also managed in the Mexican League, and he speaks Spanish, which the Dodgers’ new administration values highly. They employ at least one Spanish-speaking coach at every level of their organization.

At times, Cuban outfielder Puig has used Bundy as his translator.

Roenicke, the Brewers’ manager from November 2010 until May 2015, was fired after Milwaukee started the season 7-18. Overall, he had a winning record while in charge of the Brewers. He previously served as a minor-league manager, Dodgers coach and Angels bench coach under Mike Scioscia following an eight-year playing career (1981-88) that started with the Dodgers after he was their first-round draft pick in 1977.

Roenicke becomes the only member of Mattingly’s staff to possess managing experience, adding intrigue to Friedman and the Dodgers’ upcoming offseason decision to retain or fire Mattingly.

Mattingly is in his fifth season as the manager. He is under contract through the 2016 season.

SCULLY UNDECIDED

Longtime Dodgers broadcaster Vin Scully remains undecided as to whether he will return for next season, per a Los Angeles Times report.

Scully, 87, has announced his decision to continue one more year in August each of the last several years. In recent seasons, he has also scaled his scheduled broadcasts back, cutting most teams from his travel schedule.

Next season would be Scully’s 67th season as a Dodgers broadcaster.

Scully typically does the television broadcasts for SportsNet LA and simulcasts the first three innings on KLAC/570. Last week, he requested the simulcasts be interrupted for a few days while he battled a cold.

**On deck: Dodgers at A's, Tuesday, 7 p.m.**

By Pedro Moura

Where: O.co Coliseum

TV: SportsNet LA, 7 p.m.

Did you know: Kenley Jansen passed Jonathan Broxton over the weekend for the second-most strikeouts as a reliever in L.A. Dodger history. Jim Brewer has the most, with 604. Jansen has 507.

THE PITCHERS

LHP CLAYTON KERSHAW (10-6, 2.39)

Five of Kershaw’s past six starts have been scoreless, and he has allowed just one home run since June 22. He has recorded 205 strikeouts against 30 walks this season, giving him an outside shot at 300 strikeouts. The last major-league pitcher to do that was Randy Johnson in 2002, when he had 334.

Vs. A’s: 0-0, 0.66 (132/3 innings)

At O.co Coliseum: 0-0, 1.13 (7 innings)

Loves to face: Ike Davis, 1 for 6 (.167)

Hates to face: Danny Valencia, 2 for 3 (.667)

LHP FELIX DOUBRONT (1-1, 4.59)

This will be Doubront’s first start with Oakland. He's appeared in two games for the A’s over the past two weeks. Both were long relief appearances, totaling 102/3 innings. He allowed five runs in those outings, walking only one batter and striking out five.

At O.co Coliseum: 0-1, 7.02 ERA (16 2/3 innings)

Loves to face: Carl Crawford, 0 for 4

Hates to face: Adrian Gonzalez, 2 for 2, 2 HR, 5 RBI

UPCOMING MATCHUPS

Wednesday: Dodgers RHP Mat Latos (4-9, 4.81) at Oakland RHP Jesse Chavez (6-12, 3.84), 12:30 p.m., SNLA

**Dodgers hire Ron Roenicke as third base coach**

By Bill Plunkett

LOS ANGELES – In an unusual shakeup for this time of year, the Dodgers have added former Milwaukee Brewers manager Ron Roenicke to their coaching staff.

Roenicke will take over as the Dodgers’ third base coach. Lorenzo Bundy will remain with the coaching staff but move off the bases and into the dugout where he will continue to coordinate the Dodgers’ outfield defense. Assistant hitting coach John Valentin will no longer be in uniform in the dugout during games.

Roenicke spent parts of five seasons as the Brewers manager, compiling a 342-331 record and leading them to the National League Championship Series in 2011 where they lost to the St. Louis Cardinals in six games. Roenicke was fired by the Brewers after a 7-18 start this season.

Prior to that, Roenicke, 58, spent 11 seasons on Mike Scioscia’s coaching staff with the Angels, serving as third base coach from 2000 to 2005 (including their 2002 World Series championship season) then moving to bench coach when Joe Maddon left (2006-10).

Roenicke spent the first three of his eight big-league seasons as a player with the Dodgers, appearing in 212 games in 1981-83.

**LA DAILY NEWS**

**Dodgers bullpen is nothing if not well-rested**

By JP Hoornstra

Don Mattingly didn’t manage his bullpen ideally last Monday, and he knew it.

The Dodgers were losing 7-0 in the fifth inning to the Washington Nationals when the manager decided to remove starting pitcher Brett Anderson.

The first pitcher out of the bullpen was right-hander Pedro Baez. If there’s an ideal relief pitcher for that game situation — low odds of winning with four innings to play — Baez is the opposite: A young, effective, hard thrower more suited to the late innings of a close game.

Baez pitched the sixth and seventh innings. J.P. Howell, another mainstay of high-leverage situations, pitched the eighth inning. Closer Kenley Jansen pitched the ninth in a non-save situation.

“You don’t really want to use Pedro, you don’t really want to use J.P. and you don’t really want to use Kenley in a game like that,” Mattingly said the next day. “But that’s who you have.”

He had a point: Three Dodgers relievers had thrown 84 pitches the day before in Pittsburgh, and 67 the day before that. Having Baez, Howell and Jansen mop up a lopsided loss isn’t ideal, but Monday turned out to be a case of an exception proving the rule.

The Dodgers have 99 problems, but an overused bullpen isn’t one.

Rank every major league pitcher by appearances, and you won’t find a single Dodger in the top 70. Howell leads the team with 46 and is on pace to make 63 appearances this season. Yimi Garcia is the only other Dodgers pitcher on pace for 60.

To put that in perspective, the last time a Dodgers pitcher led the team with fewer than 63 appearances in a season was 1998, when staff workhorse Scott Radinsky appeared in a mere 62 games.

For those who consider pitches thrown the more accurate measure of workload, Juan Nicasio leads the Dodgers in that department with 795. He ranks 47th in baseball.

Howell, who appeared in 68 and 67 games the past two seasons, appreciates the new approach.

“The pace has been nice,” he said. “When they ask you here if you’re OK, it’s a genuine question, which is nice. When you’re asked and it’s not really genuine, it puts you in a tough spot.”

The two pitchers who might benefit the most from the approach are Jim Johnson and Luis Avilan. Acquired from the Atlanta Braves on July 30, the two relievers had appeared in 49 and 50 games, respectively, at the time of the trade.

At the time, Howell led the Dodgers with 40 appearances.

“I was really surprised,” Avilan said. “Jim Johnson and me were talking about that. When we got here, we asked who had the most appearances. We were like ... I don’t know, man. I don’t know what to say. Different philosophy.”

Avilan said he’s even been told to warm up in the bullpen less often since the trade.

In Atlanta, he said, “sometimes we got up two times, then go pitch. The next day, two times, you go to pitch. People just think ‘It’s fine, you threw one inning.’ People don’t realize how hard it is.”

Maybe all of this should come as little surprise. Back in spring training, Dodgers general manager Farhan Zaidi said his staff would collect data on pitches thrown beginning with simulated games on the back fields of Camelback Ranch. It only makes sense that the Dodgers would keep track of a pitcher’s warm-up throws in the bullpen during the regular season.

Avilan said the Braves did that, too. The difference is what the Dodgers do with their pitch-count data.

“It’s just a different philosophy,” Avilan said.

The philosophy doesn’t have an answer for the Dodgers’ 5.87 bullpen ERA since the All-Star break, the highest in the major leagues. If anything, it begs more questions. Are the Dodgers being too strict with their relievers’ usage? Are they simply using the wrong relievers?

Mattingly said he receives a daily package of charts showing each reliever’s pace for the full season and over the previous two weeks. That data helps him monitor rest and recovery times, though Mattingly said he’s never stayed away from using a pitcher specifically because his two-week pace was too high.

“It’s more of how many days he’s had off — ‘we’re not going to go three (games) in a row with this guy’ or ‘we’re not going four,’ or ‘he’s thrown 40 pitches, he threw two innings, threw another inning, probably got to give him another day,’” Mattingly said. “You probably go according to them (the charts) a little bit, but there’s certain times before the game even starts, before they throw in warmups, we know we’re not going to use them that day.”

The value of the charts, then, might only be revealed in the long term.

Last year, Howell brought a 1.17 ERA into his 65th game of the year, an afternoon contest against the Chicago Cubs. It was his first appearance after eight days of rest; he went on to allow three hits and two runs in a blowout victory.

The next day, Howell pitched the seventh inning and faced six Cubs batters. Four of them scored, and the Dodgers lost a game they had been leading 6-1.

Howell’s sudden meltdown carried over into the playoffs. He appeared in the first three National League Division Series games and couldn’t throw a single clean inning against the St. Louis Cardinals. In Game 2, he allowed a two-run home run after Zack Greinke had pitched the Dodgers to a 2-0 lead.

“Last year, their goal was to keep everyone around 60” games, Howell said. “Things happened, whatever. Injuries happened. When you start touching 70, get into the 70s, you feel that.”

Looking beyond this season, the Dodgers’ conservative approach might even save someone’s career. Paul Quantrill was the Dodgers’ bullpen workhorse in 2002 and 2003, appearing in 86 games his first year and 89 the next. He then stumbled through the 2004 season with the New York Yankees and was out of baseball within two years.

The 2003 Dodgers used 13 relief pitchers all season. Now, that seems like a different era. Already this season the Dodgers have used 20 relievers, spreading the workload around enough that Howell, Baez, and Jansen should be much more rested come October.

How much can that help a team win a World Series? Check back in two months.

**Dodgers hire ex-Brewers manager Ron Roenicke as 3B coach**

By JP Hoornstra

The Dodgers hired Ron Roenicke as their third base coach Monday to replace Lorenzo Bundy, who will remain on the bench with the title of “outfield coordinator.”

That gives the Dodgers seven uniformed coaches on the bench in addition to manager Don Mattingly, one above the major league maximum. To accommodate Roenicke, assistant hitting coach John Valentin will not be on the bench during games.

Roenicke managed the Brewers to a 342-331 record from 2011-15 before he was fired in May. He played parts of three seasons with the Dodgers (1981-83) over an eight-year career.

Before he was named the Brewers’ skipper prior to the 2011 season, Roenicke served as the Angels’ third base (2000-05) and bench coach (2006-10).

Roenicke, 58, attended Edgewood High School in West Covina, Mt. San Antonio College and UCLA. He was the 17th pick in the June 1977 secondary draft by the Dodgers.

The Dodgers have made 15 outs at home plate this season, tied for ninth in MLB, and 12 outs at third base, which is tied for fifth.

**TRUEBLUELA.COM**

**Alex Verdugo has fourth straight multi-hit game, Quakes win 8-1**

By Craig Minami

Player Of The Day

2014 2nd Round pick outfielder Alex Verdugo had his fourth straight multi-hit game as a Quake; Verdugo is 9-for-19 with three doubles and a triple.

Triple-A Oklahoma City

The Dodgers and Rainiers (Mariners) had a pitchers' duel on Monday night and it took a walk-off single by Darnell Sweeney to beat the Rainers 2-1. Juan Gonzalez, who gave up the tying run in the ninth, was the winning pitcher.

Jose Tabata led off the ninth with a single and O'Koyea Dickson sacrificed Tabata to second. After Shawn Zarraga struck out, Darnell Sweeney singled to score Eliot Johnson (who had been put in to run for Tabata) with the winning run.

Eric Surkamp was the star of the game, pitching seven scoreless innings, allowing just a hit and a walk while striking out five. Adam Liberatore pitched a scoreless eighth inning.

The Dodgers manufactured the first run in the eighth, Jose Peraza singled and stole second. A ground out by Corey Seager moved Peraza to third. Andy Wilkins then singled home Peraza.

Seager went 3-for-4, Andy Wilkins and Tabata each had two hits.

Class-A Rancho Cucamonga

The Quakes defeated the Mavericks (Rangers) 8-1 on Monday night behind a 12 hit attack and strong pitching. Scott Barlow pitched seven innings and got the win, Barlow allowed no runs, four hits, one walk and five strikeouts.

Five Quakes had two hits, Delvis Morales, Alex Verdugo, Kyle Garlick, Paul Hoenecke, and Tyler Ogle. Verdugo had a double and a triple; Garlick hit his second home run and Ogle hit his 19th home run of the season.

Cody Bellinger, who was hit on the right wrist on Saturday night, was not in the lineup for the second game in a row. No word on his condition at this time.

Rookie - Ogden

Falling behind 2-0, the Raptors were able to come back and beat the Brewers 7-2. The Raptors pounded 11 hits, including four doubles and a triple.

Chris Powell started for the Raptors and pitched three innings and gave up two runs. Hector Rodriguez, who got the win, then pitched three scoreless innings.

Relievers MJ Villegas and Wes Helsabeck finished up the game.

Gage Green, Matt Jones, Jake Henson and Jimy Perez each had two hits.

Rookie - Arizona Dodgers

The Dodgers lost to the Angels 7-3 on Monday night. Gregor Mora pitched well, in six innings, Mora gave up five runs but only two were earned. Mora also gave up seven hits and struck out eight.

Ibandel Isabel and Brendon Davis each had two hits.

Rookie - Dominican Summer League Dodgers

The Red Sox scored two runs in the tenth inning to comeback and beat the Dodgers 4-3. Leonardo Crawford started and pitched 3⅔ innings, Crawford allowed an unearned run, four hits and struck out three.

Crawford, an 18-year old left-hander, is pitching his first professional season and has pitched 60⅔ innings this season, allowing 52 hits, 10 walks and has struck out 67.

Daniel Padilla and Luis Asencio each had three hits; Romer Cuadrado and Cristian Santana had two hits apiece.

Transactions

Class-A: Activated outfielder Devan Ahart from the 7-day disabled list and placed outfielder Johan Mieses on the 7-day disabled list.

Monday box scores.

Oklahoma City 2, Tacoma 1

Rancho Cucamonga 8, High Desert 1

Ogden 7, Helena 2

Arizona Angels 7, Arizona Dodgers 3

DSL Red Sox 4, DSL Dodgers 3

Tuesday schedule

4:00 p.m. PT: Great Lakes (TBD) at West Michigan (Tigers) (Ross Seaton)

5:05 p.m.: Oklahoma City (Zach Lee) vs. Tacoma (TBD)

5:05 pm.: Tulsa (Jose De Leon) vs. Frisco (Rangers) (Phil Irwin)

6:00 p.m.: Ogden (Ivan Vietez) vs. Helena (Nate Griep)

7:00 p.m.: Arizona Dodgers vs. Arizona Rangers

7:05 p.m.: Rancho Cucamonga (Pablo Fernandez) vs. High Desert (Richelson Pena)

**Dodgers vs. A's series snapshot: Oakland edition**

By Eric Stephen

OAKLAND -- The Dodgers and Athletics conclude their four-game, three-week, two-city home-and-home interleague battle with two games at O.co Coliseum on Tuesday and Wednesday. Here is a look at the two teams heading into the series.

Teams: Dodgers (67-51) at Athletics (51-69)

Split records: Dodgers on road (25-31), Athletics at home (27-34)

Run differential: Dodgers (+61, ninth in MLB), Athletics (+3, 14th in MLB)

Runs scored: Dodgers 4.20 per game (14th), Athletics 4.03 (17th)

OPS+: Dodgers 110 (second), Athletics 92 (23rd)

Runs allowed: Dodgers 3.67 (fifth), Athletics 4.00 (12th)

ERA+: Dodgers 106 (10th), Athletics 109 (ninth)

Last 10 games: Dodgers 5-5, Athletics 3-7

2015 head-to-head record: 1-1

Last meeting: June 19-21, 2012 in Oakland (A's three-game sweep)

A's SB Nation site: Athletics Nation

Series Schedule

Tuesday, 7:05 p.m.: Clayton Kershaw vs. LHP Felix Doubront (SportsNet LA)

Wednesday, 12:35 p.m.: Mat Latos vs. Jesse Chavez (SportsNet LA)

**Bob Engle, Patrick Guerrero among reported Dodgers international scouting casualties**

By Eric Stephen

The Dodgers it seemed cleaned a little house on Monday. First there was the coaching change with former Brewers manager Ron Roenicke taking over as third base coach on the major league team with 44 games remaining in the regular season. Now, the international scouting staff has reportedly been trimmed as well, per Jesse Sanchez and Ken Gurnick of MLB.com.

Vice president of international scouting Bob Engle was chief among those let go, but by no means was alone, per Sanchez and Gurnick:

Also no longer with the club are Patrick Guerrero, the Dodgers' scouting coordinator in Latin America; Franklin Taveras, the club's scouting coordinator in the Dominican Republic; Joseph Reaves, the director of international and Minor League relations; Rafael Colon, special advisor for international player performance; Hidenori Sueyoshi, senior manager of international scouting; and Bruce Hurst, Latin America field coordinator, a source told MLB.com. The club did not confirm the front-office changes.

Of this group, all but Reaves were brought in under Guggenheim Partners ownership of the team, though none by current president of baseball operations Andrew Friedman, who was hired in November 2014.

This could be the case of the new front office using the last 10 months or so to evaluate before making any major personnel changes.

One of the new hires under Friedman was former Red Sox executive David Finley, whose title with the Dodgers is vice president of amateur and international scouting. With nothing official yet from the team, it's hard to know exactly if Finley will take on a more active role in international scouting now.

The timing of these moves is a little odd, if only because the Dodgers were the most active team during the current international signing period, which began July 2, spending over $22 million in bonuses, an amount that will be doubled as the team blew past its bonus pool.

Of the nine first-day international signees, seven players had one or two of Engle, Guerrero or Taveras as the signing scout, including Yadier Alvarez, Starling Heredia, Ronny Brito, Oneil Cruz, Christopher Arias, Ramon Rosso and Carlos Rincon.

Sanchez also lists Damaso Marte Jr., a Dominican shortstop and son of the former major league pitcher, as having signed with the Dodgers for a $300,000 bonus.

During the next two international signing periods, from July 2, 2016 to June 15, 2018, the Dodgers will be prohibited from signing any player to a bonus larger than $300,000.

**Dodgers vs. Athletics schedule, probable pitchers in Oakland**

By Eric Stephen

OAKLAND -- The Dodgers and Athletics just met for a brief two-game series three weeks ago in Los Angeles, and will do so again in an even quicker day-night duo in Oakland, this time without Sonny Gray, who shutout the Dodgers on July 28 at Dodger Stadium but is pitching on Monday night in Baltimore so he'll miss the Dodgers this time around.

Here is a look at the pitching probables for the two-game set in Oakland, which includes a day game on getaway day Wednesday.

Tuesday, 7:05 p.m. PT (SportsNet LA)

Clayton Kershaw takes the mound in the opener, making just his second start in an American League park since the start of 2013. Kershaw in his career is 3-2 with a 2.89 ERA in seven starts in AL parks, including allowing one run in eight innings in Oakland on June 21, 2012.

Fellow southpaw Felix Doubront starts for Oakland on Tuesday night, making his third appearance for the A's since getting acquired for cash from Toronto on July 31. Doubront's first two outings with the A's have been in relief but they totaled 10⅔ innings. His 6⅓-inning relief outing on Aug. 12 was the second-longest relief appearance in the majors this season, trailing only the 6⅔ innings by Vidal Nuno of Arizona on May 11.

Wednesday, 12:35 p.m. (SportsNet LA)

Mat Latos struck out seven in his last start, an improvement over one strikeout in his first two starts as a Dodger combined, but just about everything else went wrong. In three starts with Los Angeles, Latos has allowed 12 runs and 18 hits in 14⅔ innings. In 21 interleague starts in his career, Latos is 9-4 with a 3.93 ERA, with 116 strikeouts and 41 walks in 130⅔ innings.

The one common starting pitching thread of this season's Dodgers-Athletics tilts is Jesse Chavez, who allowed three runs in five innings in a no-decision at Dodger Stadium on July 29. Chavez at home this season is 4-5 with a 2.92 ERA at home, compared to 2-7 with a 4.73 ERA on the road, but his peripherals are fairly similar, giving him a 3.59 FIP and 3.75 xFIP in Oakland compared to a 3.54 FIP and 3.87 xFIP everywhere else.

The Dodgers are 19-12 in day games this season.

**Dodgers hire Ron Roenicke as third base coach in staff shuffle**

By Eric Stephen

LOS ANGELES -- With just seven weeks remaining in the regular season, the Dodgers made a change to their major league coaching staff on Monday, hiring former Brewers manager Ron Roenicke as their new third base coach.

Lorenzo Bundy, who was coaching third, will move into the dugout and continue to be in charge of outfield defense, with assistant hitting coach John Valentin no longer in uniform during games.

Roenicke managed the Brewers since the start of the 2011 season, winning the National League Central in his first season. He was 342-331 (.508) during his managerial tenure in Milwaukee, but after a 7-18 start this season he was fired on May 3.

Before he managed the Brewers, Roenicke was a coach on the Angels' major league staff for 11 years, including as third base coach from 2000-2005. Roenicke coached with the Dodgers in 1992-1993, positioning outfielders as the "eye in the sky."

Roenicke, who turns 59 on Wednesday, was drafted by the Dodgers as a player in the first round in 1977, and played parts of three seasons with the Dodgers, from 1981-1983. The switch-hitting outfielder hit .239/.324/.301 in 212 games with the Dodgers.

Bundy has been the Dodgers third base coach since the start of the 2014 season, after managing Triple-A Albuquerque in the system from 2011-2013.

Valentin is in his eighth year coaching in the Dodgers organization, and in his third on the major league coaching staff.

**ESPN LA**

**Former Brewers manager Ron Roenicke joins Dodgers**

By Mark Saxon

LOS ANGELES -- The Dodgers hired former Milwaukee Brewers manager Ron Roenicke as their third-base coach Monday.

Roenicke, who was fired in May, managed the Brewers to a 342-331 record in four-plus seasons.

He played outfield for the Dodgers from 1981 to 1983 and was a bench coach under former Dodgers teammate Mike Scioscia in Anaheim before being hired in Milwaukee.

By several measures, the Dodgers have been the worst baserunning team in the National League this season. Los Angeles has the worst baserunning WAR in the league, per FanGraphs. The team is also last in the NL in stolen-base percentage and has hit into the most double plays.

Lorenzo Bundy, who was coaching third base, will remain with the team as an outfield coordinator.

**Schedule offers Dodgers a chance to pad their lead**

By Mark Saxon

OAKLAND – The Los Angeles Dodgers’ biggest series of the season, so far, starts Aug. 31 at Dodger Stadium. They play the San Francisco Giants, the team that has been chasing them all season but has dominated them head-to-head.

The Giants have won nine out of 12 head-to-head games, but still trail in the NL West by 2 1/2 games.

The Dodgers would love to change that, of course, in that end-of-the-month series, but their best bet might be to build a little distance first. The Giants are embarking on a rough stretch of games, 13 straight against the top three teams in the National League Central, this year’s powerhouse division. It starts tonight with the first of three games in St. Louis.

The Giants haven’t played the Cardinals yet, but they are 0-3 against the Pittsburgh Pirates and 0-4 against the Chicago Cubs. The Cardinals are 33 games over .500 and haven’t been swept in a series all year.

The Dodgers, meanwhile, start an eight-game road trip Tuesday in Oakland. They play just one winning team, the Houston Astros, on the trip, and they have three off days in which to line Clayton Kershaw and Zack Greinke up to pitch in that San Francisco series. You can bet those guys both will work against the Giants.

The problem is the Dodgers haven’t been a great road team this season, going 25-31 away from Dodger Stadium and 42-20 at home, the best home winning percentage since moving to Los Angeles in 1958. If they can change the story and finally have a decent road trip, they’ve got an opportunity to make a move and pad their lead before that pivotal -- or not -- series.

The real excitement, of course, will be in September. The Dodgers and Giants meet for the final time, at AT&T Park, Sept. 28-30. The next two weeks give the Dodgers a golden opportunity to make September a bit more dull, but a lot more comfortable.

**DODGER INSIDER**

**Reading between the baselines**

By Erin Edwards

Those who attended the August 11 game against the Nationals not only got to see Zack Greinke’s six scoreless innings and Yasiel Puig’s five RBI, they could also witness another one of the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation’s Giving Moments.

Sasha Murillo, a sixth-grade student from Hollenbeck Middle School, was recognized for her success in the “Take Me Out to the Book Game” reading challenge. Sasha read 82 books and is now reading at an 11th-grade level.

Murillo’s success was due in part to LADF grantee City Year LA, which deployed 28 AmeriCorps members to Clinton and Hollenbeck middle schools to help raise reading levels. The AmeriCorps members met with students during and after school, and were able to add 40 minutes of reading per week for each student that attended.

“City Year is a great place to learn,” Murillo said. “It gives you confidence, and it’s inspiring.”

Murillo, who wants to be a lawyer when she grows up, said the best book she read was “Freak the Mighty.”

More than 350 City Year Corps members and staff attended the game to cheer on Murillo and the Dodgers. Visit dodgers.com/ladf to learn more about LADF.

**Remembering ’65: Summer of spitballs?**

By Jon Weisman

Along with everything else in a hot pennant race 50 years ago, a spitball controversy revved up between the Dodgers and Milwaukee Braves.

“Drysdale may call ’em sinkers, but I got three wet ones in a row when he fanned me in the third,” Hank Aaron told Frank Finch of the Times after a 4-3 victory Milwaukee victory August 4.

Aaron’s comments might have been calculated at least in part to take the spotlight off Braves manager Bobby Bragan, who was in the midst of a spitball controversy of his own.

“How long is NL president Warren Giles going to allow Bobby Bragan to flout authority by publicizing the fact that he has his pitchers under orders to throw spitters?” Finch had asked in print two days earlier. “To be sure, every club has spitball pitchers, but they don’t advertise.”

For his part, Bragan remained sanguine about the whole thing.

“If a pitcher can control the spitters, he’s crazy not to throw it,” Bragan told Finch. “Sure, we’ve got a couple of guys who throw it real good. Dan Osinski told a writer that he’s been using one for seven years.”

If you want to call it praise, Bragan added that Drysdale “throws the best spitter in the game,” according to Finch.

Whatever the case, it didn’t help Drysdale in Milwaukee that August 4. Allowing homers to both Aaron and Gene Oliver, Drysdale pitched an eight-inning complete game but took the loss.

Here’s what else was happening with the Dodgers, who were 1 1/2 games ahead in the National League on August 1 and 1 1/2 games ahead in the National League on August 15.

In the 10th inning of a 4-4 tie August 6 at Cincinnati, Drysdale pinch-hit for a slumping Willie Davis, who was in the midst of an 8-for-55 slump with one walk and no extra-base hits. “Before his removal, Davis had failed to knock the ball out of the infield 18 times in a row,” wrote Finch. Drysdale struck out, and Ron Perranoski, in his fifth inning of relief, gave up the winning run in the bottom of the 11th.

Two days later, the eventual World Champions suffered the worst loss by a Dodger team in the 20th century: 18-0 at Cincinnati on August 8. “Custer’s last stand was but a tea party compared to the massacre perpetrated Sunday in Crosley Field,” wrote Finch. Drysdale lasted two innings, allowing six runs (three earned), and things hardly improved after he left.

The following day, Reds manager Dick Sisler declared the Dodgers dead in the NL pennant race: “I don’t know who will win, but of the contenders, the Dodgers are the one club I’m convinced won’t make it,” Sisler told The Associated Press. “I’m convinced the Dodgers will be the first to fall back because I don’t believe Sandy Koufax and Don Drysdale can continue to carry the club alone. … At the finish, it will be a fight among the Giants, Braves and us with the Phillies.”

Sandy Koufax struck out 14 Mets in a 4-3 victory August 10 for his 20th victory of the season. Leading 4-0 after seven innings, Koufax gave up two runs on three hits in the eighth and Ron Swoboda’s solo homer to start the ninth — but stayed in to retire the final three batters of the game.

On three days’ rest, Koufax then went 10 innings for a 1-0, five-hit shutout of the Pirates on August 14. Koufax fanned 12 and walked none — and, less than a month after his game-winning walkoff single to beat the Astros, batted for himself in the bottom of the 10th, walked and scored the winning run.

Dodger general manager Buzzie Bavasi told the Times that Koufax would become baseball’s first $100,000-a-year pitcher in 1966. “He’s worth it and he’ll get it,” Bavasi said. “Sandy puts an extra 5,000 people in the ballpark every time he pitches.” Little did Bavasi reckon how protracted those contract negotiations would become.

**Dodgers hire Ron Roenicke as third-base coach, Lorenzo Bundy remains outfield coordinator**

By Jon Weisman

One-time Dodger outfielder and former Brewers manager Ron Roenicke has joined the Dodgers as their third-base coach, with Lorenzo Bundy remaining in the dugout as outfield coordinator.

It’s a homecoming for Roenicke, who was the Dodgers’ first-round draft pick (17th overall) in 1977. Roenicke played in 212 games for the Dodgers at the outset of a 527-game MLB career. He would later manage in the minors for the Dodgers in the 1990s, including a Texas League title with Double-A San Antonio in 1997.

As manager of the Brewers, Roenicke was 342-331 from 2011 through May 2015, winning the 2011 National League Central title.

Bundy is in his second year as a Dodger coach and eighth year in the organization, including three years as manager of Triple-A Albuquerque from 2011-13.

**FOX SPORTS**

**Legendary Dodgers announcer Vin Scully undecided on returning for 2016**

By FOX Sports

Every year around this time, Vin Scully announces whether or not he'll lend his iconic voice to Dodgers broadcasts for another season, but this year, the legendary announcer is holding off on declaring his intentions for next season.

Scully has told the Los Angeles Times he has not yet made a decision on returning to the Dodgers for a potential 67th season.

"He said he does not want to commit too soon," the Times writes.

The Hall of Fame broadcaster, who is known for his storytelling and poetic tongue, says that he is in good condition health-wise as he gears up to turn 88 this off-season.

Scully, who joined the Dodgers in 1950 when the team was still in Brooklyn, relocated with the team when they moved to Los Angeles in 1958 and has been a cultural fixture in the city for decades.

Other than his health, Scully also usually factors in his efficacy as a broadcaster and the opinions of his family and friends into his decision on whether to keep announcing Dodgers games or hang up his mic for good.

Whatever the factors might be that influence Scully's decision, Dodger fans and baseball fans around the world alike hope that Dodger games will continue to open with Scully's signature line.

"It's time for Dodger baseball!"

**Dodgers closer Jansen welcomes baby boy, notches save on same day**

By FOX Sports

On Sunday morning, Kenley Jansen had a special delivery. On Sunday afternoon, he delivered for the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Sunday morning, Jansen and his girlfriend welcomed a baby boy, whom they named Kaden, into the world, just hours before the first pitch in the Dodgers' 2-1 win over the Cincinnati Reds.

Jansen picked up his 24th save of the season in the victory, striking out two batters in his first four-out save of the season.

"It was a very exciting day for me today," Jansen told reporters after the game. "Even without having much sleep, I still went out there and fed off the excitement."

The arrival of Jansen's child didn't take him by surprise. He and his girlfriend planned for labor to be induced so that he'd be able to be with the team when they embark on their upcoming road trip to Oakland to face the A's.

"We did it this way so I don't have to fly and go on the road and fly back and miss some games," he said. "I know these are very important games for us. I just want to come back here and help the team."

Jansen has had another solid season out of the bullpen for the Dodgers. He has converted 24 of 25 save opportunities and holds a 2.48 ERA with 59 strikeouts in 32 2/3 innings.

**Kike Hernandez dislikes utility man label, believes he's an everyday player**

By FOX Sports

Kiké Hernandez has been a key contributor to the Los Angeles Dodgers this season, performing at a high level while filling in for banged-up or fatigued players, but he'd like to be esteemed as more than just a utility man.

Hernandez, who has played every outfield position, the two middle-infield positions, and pinch-hit and pinch-run for the Dodgers this year, has periodically given the team a big boost at important moments.

In 60 games this season, the 23-year-old is hitting .300/.352/.513 with six home runs and 18 RBI.

"I don't like it," Hernandez said of being labeled as a utility man. "I'm only 23 and I believe I have a really long career ahead of me and I really believe I can play every day."

Manager Don Mattingly agrees that Hernandez might be overlooked because of his versatility as a utility player.

"You talk so much about all the things he can do, you automatically throw him into that utility guy role," Mattingly said. "Maybe that's a little unfair."

Hernandez, who was sent to Los Angeles from the Miami Marlins in an offseason trade, has had his most significant major-league experience with the Dodgers. He made his debut in 2014 with the Houston Astros.

While he's eager to claim an everyday role with a team in the majors, the 5-foot-11, 200-pound righty is grateful for what his versatility on the diamond has done for his career.

"Being a utility guy is what got to me to the big leagues," Hernandez said. "That's why I'm here."

**WASHINGTONPOST.COM**

**The trials of baseball’s first openly gay player, Glenn Burke, four decades ago**

By Sarah Kaplan

The Dodgers knew that Glenn Burke was good. The young outfielder, star of their minor league system, had the strength and speed of Willie Mays and an irrepressible energy all his own.

But they also knew that Burke was gay, and they were uncomfortable with it. At one point, according to Burke, the team’s vice president offered to pay for his honeymoon if he would only get married (“to a woman,” it went without saying). Eventually, the bright young ballplayer was traded to another team. The Dodgers management, many of Burke’s teammates later claimed, didn’t want a gay man in the clubhouse.

That was in 1978.

Nearly four decades later, another young man has let it be known to his teammates that he is gay. And he’s told the rest of the world as well. In a feature published in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel this weekend, 20-year-old David Denson described his decision to come out first to his fellow Helena Brewers players (the team is a minor league affiliate of the Milwaukee Brewers).

“I wasn’t doing it to be brave. I just couldn’t hide it anymore,” he told the Journal Sentinel. But the Brewers said they would support him.

“For them to be so accepting and want the best for me, it showed they are looking at me for my ability, not my sexuality,” Denson added. “… It was a huge relief.”

Denson’s announcement has been lauded by the news media, his teammates and Major League Baseball’s ambassador for inclusion, Billy Bean. It’s heralded as the first of its kind from a player with an MLB affiliate.

Still, Denson is not the first person to be openly gay while playing professional baseball. Glenn Burke may never have sat down for a talk with his fellow players, and his magazine profile announcement (in a 1982 issue of Inside Sports) didn’t come until after he had left the sport.

But for a period of about two years, between 1978 and 1980, Burke lashed out line drives on the field, then left after the game for the gay bars in San Francisco’s Castro neighborhood. And, according to his teammates, everyone knew.

The difference was that in the late ’70s, the press, the Dodgers and the MLB weren’t willing to recognize it.

“They knew the way parents know their 16-year-old is drinking beer but don’t say anything until the bottles are rolling across the floor of the family car,” explained the 1982 Inside Sports profile. “As long as Burke’s homosexuality was not official, no one felt compelled to react.”

 Burke, a native of Oakland, Calif., signed with the Dodgers in 1972. By the end of his five-year stint in the minors, he knew that he was gay. But he had also resolved to keep quiet about it, to get so good at the game that they couldn’t do anything but accept him. “I kept saying, ‘As long as I bat .300, and do what I have to do, they can’t say nothing,'” he told The Washington Post in 1994.

He was called up to Los Angeles at the end of the 1977 season, joining what the New York Times called “the big, blue wrecking crew” as it hurtled toward the World Series (which they later lost to the New York Yankees). Though Burke was just a rookie, he quickly became the soul of the Dodgers dugout, always cracking jokes and breaking into dances from the bench.

On the last day of the regular season, with 46,000 fans roaring their approval, Burke’s teammate Dusty Baker slammed a home run high over the left field fence — his 30th of the year. The Dodgers had just become the first team in baseball history to have four players hit 30 home runs apiece.

As Baker rounded the bases, Burke dashed out of the on-deck circle in his warm up jacket, right arm raised high. In photos, Baker leans backward, his own right arm crooked awkwardly up, as if he isn’t sure what’s coming. Then the two slapped their hands together.

It was the first (documented) high five in history, according to ESPN. When Burke stepped into the batter’s box and launched his own home run — his first in the major leagues — minutes later, Baker was waiting at home plate to greet him with a high five of his own.

“All I did was respond to Glenn. That’s all I did,” Baker recalled to ESPN in 2014.

Burke was well-liked in the Dodgers clubhouse, which was what made it unusual that he so rarely went out with his teammates after games. By the following year, many on the team had figured it out: Burke was going out to gay bars instead.

Before the start of the 1978 season, Burke often said, Dodgers Vice President Al Campanis offered Burke $75,000 to get married.

“I guess you mean to a woman,” Burke responded rebelliously, according to ESPN. (Campanis later explained that the offer was intended as a “helpful gesture” for Burke’s honeymoon.)

Burke’s relationship with management was further strained by his friendship with the son of the Dodger’s manager Tommy Lasorda, according to the New York Times. Tommy Lasorda Jr. was reportedly a fixture of L.A.’s gay social scene, but his father had always denied his sexuality. When the younger man died at age 33 from complications due to AIDS, his obituary said that the cause was pneumonia and severe dehydration.

In May 1978, just two months into the season, it was announced that Burke was being traded to the Oakland Athletics for the much older Billy North.

Burke and his teammates were shocked.

“I was talking with our trainer, Bill Buhler. I said, ‘Bill, why’d they trade Glenn? He was one of our top prospects,'” Baker recalled to Inside Sports. “He said, ‘They don’t want any gays on the team.’ I said, ‘The organization knows?’ He said, ‘Everybody knows.'”

Burke started regularly for the Athletics in 1978, but the following season a pinched nerve in his neck kept him off the field. In 1980 he returned to Oakland, where a man named Billy Martin was now manager.

In the 2010 documentary “Out: The Glenn Burke story,” Athletics teammate Claudell Washington recalled how Martin introduce the new teammates that year: “Then he got to Glenn and said, ‘Oh, by the way, this is Glenn Burke and he’s a f—-t.'”

Martin wasn’t the only person throwing slurs around. Burke told Inside Sports that, while playing center field at Chicago’s Comiskey Park, a fan yelled out the same word.

He thought, “Damn, if they know, everybody else must know,” he told the magazine.

His teammates were uncomfortable around him. Some of them avoided the showers while he was in the clubhouse.

“I liked Glenn, but if I’d seen him walking around making it obvious, I wouldn’t have had anything to do with him. I don’t want to be labeled and have my career damaged,” A’s outfielder Mitchell Page told Inside Sports in 1982. Then, he warned the magazine, “You make sure you point out that I’m not gay, okay?”

Eventually his sense of isolation, compounded by a knee injury and demotion to the minors, drove Burke to leave baseball altogether. He came out publicly two years later, the first former player to do so in baseball history. (Until this week, only one other person had done so since — Billy Bean, who now serves as the MLB’s ambassador for inclusion.)

“I had finally gotten to the point,” he told Inside Sports, “where it was more important to be myself than a baseball player.”

Burke went on to star in gay baseball and softball leagues and won medals in the Gay Olympics, according to the New York Times. But his life was derailed by injury, addiction and the still-painful loss of his beloved sport.

In 1995, just before his death from AIDS complications, Burke published a memoir on his experiences as an openly gay baseball player. During the press tour, he lamented that his coming out never made the waves he had hoped for. The sports world seemed unwilling to acknowledge what he had tried to make so obvious.

“I think everyone just pretended not to hear me. It just wasn’t a story they were ready to hear,” he told People Magazine that year.

For the next 15 years things more or less remained that way. But as other gay professional athletes have begun to break their silence on their sexuality — the NBA’s Jason Collins, the NFL’s Michael Sam — baseball and those who write about it have proven more receptive to hearing Burke’s story. He was the subject of an ESPN 30 for 30 documentary. Jamie Lee Curtis reportedly bought the rights to adapt Burke’s memoir into a movie. His name gets a brief mention every time another athlete comes out.

In 2014 the MLB invited Burke’s family to the All-Star Game in Minneapolis, the same time it announced the creation of Bean’s position of “ambassador for inclusion.” It was in that position that Bean counseled young David Denson on his own decision to come out to his team.

“It’s time,” Burke’s sister, Lutha, told the New York Times last year. “… Make sure that other little boys get a chance to live out their dream. Glenn would be very proud. Something good has come out of it in the end.”