

# Daily Clips



August 19, 2015

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2015**

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**LOS ANGELES DODGERS CLIPS  
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**OC REGISTER**

**Dodgers fall to A's as bullpen squanders another lead; MRI likely for Puig**

By Bill Plunkett

OAKLAND – For all the analytics and acquisitions, the Dodgers' bullpen is still handling leads like a wet bar of soap.

With multiple fights breaking out among the mixed blues and greens of a sellout crowd at O.co Coliseum, the Dodgers took another punch to the gut, blowing a three-run lead in the eighth inning and losing, 5-4, in 10 innings to the Oakland A's on Tuesday night.

After Clayton Kershaw held the A's to one run on five hits in seven innings, four Dodgers relievers gave up four runs on seven hits in two-plus innings.

"It was good for a few days at home there," Dodgers manager Don Mattingly said. "I thought we were starting to get things kind of in order. Then tonight happens.

"Obviously we're going to have to find ways to get the ball from our starters to Kenley (Jansen). We've got guys that can do that. I trust that we're going to do that."

That trust has been justified only sporadically over the past two months when the Dodgers' bullpen has been among the least reliable in the National League despite their attempts to fix it.

For Dodger faithful who followed their playoff exits the past two years, the sinking feeling in the pit of their stomachs must be familiar.

"We need guys to step up. We gotta build that bridge between our starts and Kenley," Dodgers catcher A.J. Ellis said. "It's a situation where there's enough capable guys down there. It just didn't work out tonight.

"As these games get bigger and bigger, the blood pressure is going to rise and rise. It's going to come down to who can calm down and execute."

If the bullpen failure is a familiar pain for the Dodgers, so was the tightness in Yasiel Puig's right hamstring. He left the game after beating out an infield single in the eighth inning and will likely have an MRI on Wednesday. He missed 38 games with a strained left hamstring earlier this season.

"We'll see where it is," Mattingly said. "We'd just be guessing at this point."

Guessing seems to be Mattingly's only strategy in handling the bullpen at this point. The Dodgers' front office expended its bullets at the trade deadline to acquire Jim Johnson and Luis Avilan (along with Mat Latos and Alex Wood). Neither was guilty in Tuesday's latest late-inning disappointment. Instead, it was Pedro Baez and J.P. Howell who gave up five hits and the lead in the eighth inning.

"These are our guys," Mattingly said. "We're going to find a way to do it with this. And keep going."

The Dodgers' first four hits Tuesday were a soft pop up that dropped in front of the left fielder and three infield singles. Then Ellis landed a haymaker, a three-run shot that gave the Dodgers a 4-1 lead in the eighth.

But Kershaw had throw 116 pitches to get through seven innings – a total that didn't even include an odd outburst in the third inning. When he was unable to field Danny Valencia's chopper on the infield grass to the left of the mound, Kershaw picked up the ball and threw it straight into the ground in frustration. Then he grabbed the ball and fired it into his own dugout on two long bounces – an outburst most likely caused by the strike three call he didn't get before Valencia's infield hit.

"Weird night," Kershaw said. "I don't really know why. I was a little more on edge than normal."

Good thing Kershaw didn't have a ball in his hand as the Dodgers' bullpen bungled through the bottom of the eighth.

Baez gave up three consecutive hits – a single by Valencia, a double by Josh Phegley and a two-run double Mark Canha. After a ground out, Howell replaced Baez and two batters later gave up the fifth hit of the inning, a tying RBI single to Marcus Semien.

Two innings later, it was Yimi Garcia's turn to disappoint. He gave up a leadoff double to Canha in the bottom of the 10th and the game-winning RBI single to Billy Butler on back-to-back pitches.

"Obviously a disappointing one," Mattingly said. "A big home run for A.J. and for us and then we immediately kind of give it right back.

"It's tough to swallow."

### **Dodgers GM Farhan Zaidi says frustration with poor baserunning led to hiring of Ron Roenicke**

By Bill Plunkett

OAKLAND – Discontent with the Dodgers' poor baserunning – not Manager Don Mattingly – prompted the hiring of former Brewers manager Ron Roenicke this week, General Manager Farhan Zaidi insisted Tuesday.

"I can say with all sincerity ... this move is about this year and it's about him in this role helping us to go as far as we can in 2015," Zaidi said of the move to replace Lorenzo Bundy as third-base coach with Roenicke.

Mattingly brushed off any concerns that Roenicke will be perceived as his replacement-in-waiting.

"I'm not concerned about that. All I care about is winning," Mattingly said. "This is a pretty good job to have. I'm sure a lot of guys would like to have it. That's always the case.

"Those things are so far down the road, you just worry about winning games. We're in a pennant race."

Mattingly and Zaidi were less adept at defining what prompted the team to shake up the coaching staff of a first-place team with 44 games to go in the regular season. Mattingly refused "to get into that" but did say Dodgers president of baseball operations Andrew Friedman "had a list of guys to talk about" to add to the coaching staff. Roenicke said the first contact he had with the Dodgers was a phone call from Mattingly on Saturday.

"It's hard to pinpoint," Zaidi when asked where the idea to make a change originated. "It's an ongoing dialogue we've had between the staff and the front office and the coaching staff. That's the best way to describe it."

Mattingly called the Dodgers' baserunning this season "not very good at all" – an assessment every measure supports. It's questionable how much of the blame for that goes on Bundy – and how much of a difference Roenicke can make given the team's personnel.

"The baserunning has been a major issue with our team all season," Zaidi said. "Some of that has to do with us not having a lot of team speed. That's just not an area of strength for us as a roster. Some of it has to do with guys running the bases and picking up their coaches. So I think the responsibility for the baserunning falls on all of us really. But again, the chance to bring in somebody who has this as part of his pedigree and a real strength – it was more about that."

Roenicke was the third-base coach on Mike Scioscia's coaching staff for several years when the Angels were "the standard for running the bases aggressively and smartly," as Zaidi put it. Roenicke acknowledged that it won't be easy to instill that kind of approach in a Dodgers' team with little speed and little or no practice time to implement it.

"You really need to do these things in spring training to change the culture and what you can do with guys. It's very difficult in the season," Roenicke said. "It's about paying attention on every pitch. If you do that and you put a lot of effort into it, you're going to make less mistakes."

"You help them where you can."

#### FOUR-MAN ROTATION

With two sub-par starts behind him and three off days ahead of them, the Dodgers will move Mat Latos to the bullpen and go with a four-man rotation over the next two weeks. Alex Wood will start on regular rest Wednesday in Oakland with Latos moving to the bullpen.

The Dodgers have additional off days Thursday and Monday. Dropping Latos allows them to line up Clayton Kershaw and Zack Greinke to pitch seven times in a 14-game stretch beginning Tuesday. That includes sending both of their aces to the mound during the Aug. 31-Sept. 2 series against the San Francisco Giants at Dodger Stadium.

"It allows us to maximize the off days, basically making sure Zack and Clayton are getting as many turns around as we can," Mattingly said. "Part of this is to give Mat a chance to continue to work on things. But again, if I'm being 100 percent honest, it's about getting Zack and Clayton lined up and, with these off days, not having to wait seven days to pitch."

After pitching well in his first start for the Dodgers, Latos failed to complete five innings in either of his next two starts, allowing 11 runs and 14 hits in 8<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> total innings.

The Dodgers will need a fifth starter again (presumably Latos) on Aug. 29 against the Chicago Cubs.

"Mat's a pro. He understands that we'll try to line up our rotation the best way possible and he acknowledged that he hasn't pitched his best," Mattingly said. "It gives him a chance to continue to work and just be ready to go when we get there. Obviously, we're still going to need him."

**On deck: Dodger at A's, Wednesday, 12:30 p.m.**

By Bill Plunkett

Where: O.co Coliseum

TV: SportsNet LA

Did you know: Joc Pederson's 23 home runs tie him with Frank Howard (1960) for the second-most by an L.A. Dodgers rookie. He is fourth in franchise history behind Johnny Frederick (24 for the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1929), Del Bissonette (25 in 1928) and Mike Piazza (35 in 1993).

## THE PITCHERS

LHP ALEX WOOD (8-7, 3.74)

With three off days in an eight-day stretch, the Dodgers will go with a four-man rotation for the next two times around, relegating Mat Latos to the bullpen. Wood will pitch on regular rest in Latos' place Wednesday. The young left-hander got his first win as a Dodger in his most recent start but has given them uneven results since he was acquired from the Atlanta Braves. Wood has a 5.09 ERA and 1.47 WHIP as a Dodger.

Vs. A's: 1-0, 3.00 ERA

At O.co Coliseum: Has never pitched here before.

Hates to face: Danny Valencia, 3 for 3, 2 doubles

Loves to face: Coco Crisp, 0 for 3

RHP JESSE CHAVEZ (6-12, 3.84)

The 31-year-old Chavez bounced around with four teams (the Pirates, Braves, Royals and Blue Jays) before landing with the A's in August 2012 and sticking for awhile now. But he has been roughed up over his past five starts for 18 runs and 34 hits (including five home runs) in 242/3 innings. Over the full season, left-handed hitters have had their way against Chavez, batting .290 with an .804 OPS and 10 home runs. He has been a better pitcher at home, where he has a 2.92 ERA.

Vs. Dodgers: 0-1, 3.38 ERA

At O.co Coliseum: 13-10, 3.24 ERA

Hates to face: Andre Ethier, 2 for 4 (.500), 1 double

Loves to face: Yasmani Grandal, 0 for 3, 1 strikeout

### **Final: Dodgers bullpen blows another lead in 10-inning loss to A's**

By Bill Plunkett

OAKLAND – For all the analytics and acquisitions, the Dodgers' bullpen is still handling leads like a wet bar of soap.

With multiple fights breaking out among the mixed blues and greens of a sellout crowd at O.co Coliseum, A.J. Ellis landed a more meaningful blow – a three-run home run that gave the Dodgers a three-run lead over the Oakland A's in the eighth inning Tuesday night.

The Dodgers' bullpen gave it right back, allowing three runs in the bottom of the eighth and then losing the game, 5-4, in the 10th inning.

Ellis' shot landed like an unexpected haymaker. To that point, the Dodgers had four hits – a soft pop up that dropped in front of the left fielder and three infield singles.

One of those infield singles could prove costly.

With the score tied, 1-1, and the first two batters in the top of the eighth inning already retired, Yasiel Puig raced to beat out a ground ball to the shortstop, stretching for the base to beat the throw.

Puig pulled up after crossing first base and bent over in discomfort. He left the game with tightness in his right hamstring. It was a left hamstring strain that sent Puig to the DL for 38 games earlier this season.

That hit was followed by another infield single, second baseman Eric Sogard smothering Andre Ethier's ground ball on the outfield grass but failing to come up in time to throw Ethier out.

With much of the crowd following the action in the stands where security was struggling to break up one of a series of brawls, Ellis jumped on the first pitch from reliever Fernando Rodriguez and drove it over the wall in left-center field.

That put the Dodgers up, 4-1.

But Dodgers starter Clayton Kershaw had throw 116 pitches to get through seven innings – a total that didn't even include an odd outburst in the third inning. When he was unable to field Danny Valencia's chopper on the infield grass to the left of the mound. Kershaw picked up the ball and threw it straight into the ground in frustration. Then he grabbed the ball and fired it into his own dugout on two long bounces – an outburst most likely caused by the strike three call he didn't get before Valencia's infield hit.

Good thing Kershaw didn't have a ball in his hand as the Dodgers' bullpen bungled through the bottom of the eighth.

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Two innings later, Yimi Garcia gave up a leadoff double to Canha and the game-winning walkoff single to Billy Butler.

## **Tuesday lineups: Dodgers send Mat Latos to bullpen for now**

By Bill Plunkett

OAKLAND -- With two sub-par starts behind him and three off days ahead of them, the Dodgers will move Mat Latos to the bullpen and go with a four-man rotation over the next two weeks.

Alex Wood will start on regular rest Wednesday in Oakland with Latos moving to the bullpen.

The Dodgers have another off day Thursday and Monday. Dropping Latos allows them to line up Clayton Kershaw and Zack Greinke to pitch seven times in a 14-game stretch beginning tonight. that includes sending both of their twin aces to the mound in the series against the San Francisco Giants at Dodger Stadium August 31-Sept. 2

"It allows us to maximize the off days, basically making sure Zack and Clayton are getting as many turns around as we can," Dodgers manager Don Mattingly said. "Part of this is to give Mat a chance to continue to work on things. But again, if I'm being 100 percent honest, it's about getting Zack and Clayton lined up and, with these off days, not having to wait seven days to pitch."



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The Dodgers will need a fifth starter again (presumably Latos) on August 29 against the Chicago Cubs.

"Mat's a pro. He understands that we'll try to line up our rotation the best way possible and he acknowledged that he hasn't pitched his best," Mattingly said. "It gives him a chance to continue to work and just be ready to go when we get there. Obviously, we're still going to need him."

Tonight's lineups:

**DODGERS (67-51)**

**SS Jimmy Rollins**

**2B Kike' Hernandez**

**3B Justin Turner**

**1B Adrian Gonzalez**

**LF Scott Van Slyke**

**RF Yasiel Puig**

**DH Alex Guerrero**

**C A.J. Ellis**

**CF Joc Pederson**

**LHP Clayton Kershaw (10-6, 2.39 ERA)**

**A'S (51-69)**

**CF Billy Burns**

**LF Sam Fuld**

**3B Danny Valencia**

**C Josh Phegley**

**1B Mark Canha**

**DH Billy Butler**

**RF Josh Reddick**

**SS Marcus Semien**

**2B Eric Sogard**

**LHP Felix Doubront (1-1, 4.75 ERA)**

**DODGERS.COM**

**Ellis' homer not enough in opener vs. Oakland**

By Ken Gurnick and Trevor Haas

OAKLAND -- Billy Butler delivered a walk-off RBI double in the 10th, scoring Mark Canha and propelling the A's to a 5-4 win over the Dodgers on Tuesday in the first game of a two-game set at the Coliseum.

A.J. Ellis crushed a three-run blast in the eighth to give the Dodgers a 4-1 lead, but the A's stormed back with three of their own in the bottom of the frame, stringing together hits in five of six at-bats. Neither team scored a run in the ninth, but the A's improved to 5-9 in extra innings after Butler's timely hit.

"To have that spirited a comeback and get big hit after big hit was awfully fulfilling," A's manager Bob Melvin said.

Clayton Kershaw tossed seven innings of one-run ball for the Dodgers, throwing 116 pitches and striking out seven. A's starter Felix Doubront went six frames in his first start for Oakland, striking out eight and limiting Los Angeles to one unearned run, despite walking six batters.

"It was tough stringing hits together against a guy wild like that," said Kershaw. "A.J.'s homer was huge, it was a swing in momentum, but it was definitely tough to give it back like that."

The A's won their first game in more than a week after they had lost seven straight on a road trip to Toronto and Baltimore. The loss snapped a three-game winning streak for the Dodgers, who had also won five of six.

"It was definitely stacked against us today, but that's why you show up and you play the game," Butler said. "It doesn't matter how it looks on paper, you've still got to go out there and play. That's the game of baseball."

## MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

Yes, he Can-ha: Canha had his first career four-hit game, doubling in the 10th to set up Butler's walk off. Canha singled twice and doubled twice, scored three runs and drove in two.

"It's definitely the most memorable game we've played, for me," Canha said. "It's just been like kind of an emotional roller coaster ride this year so to get a win like that in front of a big crowd made it really cool."

Magic glove: Kershaw likely saved a run with two outs and a runner on third, gloving Eric Sogard's bouncer behind his back and throwing him out to end the second inning. It was Kershaw's second behind-the-back play this season.

Bullpen woes continue: Fernando Rodriguez gave up three earned runs in 1/3 of an inning. He entered with the bases empty in the eighth and yielded back-to-back hits to Yasiel Puig and Andre Ethier before Ellis' shot. Rodriguez has allowed nine earned runs in his last 12 games after surrendering just two in his previous 16 games. The A's have allowed at least one home run in 13 consecutive games (21 total), which is tied for the longest streak by an A's team over the last 27 years.

Wounded warrior: Puig experienced tightness in his right hamstring and had to leave the game after legging out an infield single with two out in the eighth inning. The hit set in motion the tie-breaking rally after the Dodgers had stranded eight base runners over the first seven innings. "It looks like he'll have an MRI in the morning," said manager Don Mattingly.

## QUOTABLE

"Whenever something like that happens, it's brutal. It feels like a punch to the gut. But you have no choice but to go up there and battle, and that's what we did, and that's really good to see given the circumstances." -- Canha on the A's rally after falling behind 4-1

"The games will get bigger and bigger, the blood pressure will rise and rise. It comes down to who can calm down and execute, not only on the mound but at the plate as well." -- Ellis on pennant-race pressure

## SOUND SMART WITH YOUR FRIENDS

Over the past three seasons, A's pitchers have walked nine batters in a single game on five different occasions. The A's have won all five of those games.

## WHAT'S NEXT

Dodgers: With Mat Latos sent to the bullpen, Alex Wood moves up a game and starts against the A's. He allowed three runs in 6 1/3 innings while beating the Reds in his last start.

A's: Jesse Chavez will pitch for Oakland, looking to bounce back from his last start, in which he yielded four earned runs in six innings in a loss to the Blue Jays on Thursday. The right-hander is 2-6 with a 5.48 ERA and .303 opponents' batting average over his last nine starts.

## **Bullpen remains a concern for Dodgers**

By Ken Gurnick

OAKLAND -- A trillion roster moves since last year, and it's still about the bullpen for the Dodgers.

Another Cy Young-quality start from Clayton Kershaw was wasted Tuesday night in a 5-4 walk-off loss to the A's. Pedro Baez allowed three runs in the eighth inning to blow a three-run lead before Yimi Garcia gave up a pair of doubles in the bottom of the 10th.

"Obviously, it's a disappointing one," manager Don Mattingly said at the end of a day that started with him explaining why the coaching staff for a first-place team was shuffled with the hiring of Ron Roenicke to coach third base.

"We not only just got back in the game but got a big home run for A.J. [Ellis] and for us. And to just kind of give it right back was a little tough to swallow."

Ellis -- who also walked four times -- slugged a three-run homer in the eighth to put Kershaw in position to win. But the first three batters to face Baez in the eighth reached base and scored, an inning compounded when third baseman Justin Turner gloved a one-hop smash off J.P. Howell by Josh Reddick, only for the ball to drop out of his webbing.

"We need guys to step up, to be the bridge to get the ball to Kenley [Jansen]," said Ellis. "Tonight wasn't their night. The same situation tomorrow, we'll trust the guys, they've shown they can do it."

Kershaw was charged with one run in seven innings, making 116 pitches. But he blamed himself for not getting through eight innings, even though he lowered his ERA to 2.34. It was the sixth time this year he allowed two runs or fewer without getting a win.

"It was a struggle," he said. "I don't know how many pitches I had, but too many for seven innings. I need to minimize and make it through eight."

Of course, that was the issue last year. And when the Dodgers got into the playoffs, Mattingly left games in Kershaw's hands and, well, we know what happened.

Mattingly defended his bullpen the best he could after this loss.

"It was good for a few days at home there," he said about the relief work during a 5-2 homestand that ended Sunday. "I thought we were starting to get where things were kind of in order, then tonight happens. Obviously we have to find ways to get the ball from our starters to Kenley. We've got guys that can do that, and I trust we're going to do that."

"Petey [Baez] did a good job back in L.A. Tonight he didn't get his outs. Jim [Johnson, who had a key strikeout] has had three positive outings in a row, Yimi's really been throwing the ball good. These are our guys, and we're going to find a way to do it with this. I feel like we're in a good spot, we've got guys capable, and I feel like we're going to get the job done."

### **Puig will have MRI on tight right hamstring**

By Ken Gurnick

OAKLAND -- Dodgers outfielder Yasiel Puig will have an MRI Wednesday after he left Tuesday night's game against the A's with right hamstring tightness.

Puig was injured legging out an infield single in the top of the eighth inning.

"It sounds like an MRI in the morning," manager Don Mattingly said. "We'll see where it is. I'd just be guessing at this point."

Puig reached on a grounder to shortstop Marcus Semien, reached for the bag, then pulled up a few steps later. After a brief discussion with vice president of medical services Stan Conte, Puig left and was replaced by pinch-runner Carl Crawford.

Puig missed the better part of two months earlier this year with a strained left hamstring.

## **No-look play highlights Kershaw's eventful start**

By Ken Gurnick

OAKLAND -- Clayton Kershaw flashed his Gold Glove at the A's Tuesday night, then flashed his temper.

In a 5-4 loss to Oakland, Kershaw made his second behind-the-back play of the season, gloving Eric Sogard's comebacker while spinning around and recording the out with a flip to first base to end the bottom of the second inning.

But in the third inning, after he didn't get a called third-strike call from plate umpire Todd Tichenor on a pitch to Danny Valencia, Kershaw mishandled Valencia's tapper that went for an infield single.

When the play ended, Kershaw fired the ball into the ground, picked it up, then threw it fairly hard into the Dodgers dugout on a couple hops. Kershaw then struck out Josh Phegley to end the inning.

"I don't know, just fired up for some reason," said Kershaw, who allowed one run on five hits in seven innings. "Just a weird night, it felt different out there. I don't know. I don't really know why. A little more on edge tonight than normal, don't really have a reason for it."

Later in the game, Kershaw exchanged words with Tichenor after the umpire granted a late timeout to Mark Canha. Catcher A.J. Ellis stepped into the argument to protect Kershaw.

"I'm not sure, I think he was just wound up pretty tight," said Don Mattingly. "He puts a lot into every start, like a Sunday in the NFL when he pitches. When he's out there it's full bore, he has a lot invested. He's pitching to win."

as soon as Mark Canha steps in the box, but home-plate umpire Todd Tichenor calls time  
As for the defensive gem, on May 5 in Milwaukee, Kershaw stole a hit from former teammate Elian Herrera with a behind-the-back play. He also took a hit from Tim Hudson with a behind-the-back grab last year.

Kershaw won a Gold Glove Award in 2011.

## **Moved up in the rotation, Wood starts vs. Oakland**

By Ken Gurnick

Jesse Chavez tries to pull out of a tailspin when he starts for the A's on Wednesday against the Dodgers. Chavez has 12 losses, tied for the most in the American League and the most by an A's pitcher over the last four years.

But Chavez is actually 4-5 with a 2.92 ERA at home and 0-1 with a 3.38 ERA in nine career appearances against the Dodgers, including a no-decision in a start July 29 this year in Los Angeles.

The Dodgers counter with Alex Wood, moved up a day in the rotation as Mat Latos, originally scheduled to start this game, was sent to the bullpen temporarily.

Things to know about this game

- After starting right-handed hitters Scott Van Slyke, Alex Guerrero and A.J. Ellis Tuesday night against lefty Felix Doubront, the Dodgers will likely return Andre Ethier, Carl Crawford and Yasmani Grandal to the lineup for this game against the right-handed Chavez.

- The Dodgers are 8-5 this year in Interleague play. Oakland is 7-6.
- Wood won his lone career start against Oakland while with Atlanta.

### **Mattingly comfortable with Roenicke coaching third**

By Ken Gurnick

OAKLAND -- Ron Roenicke said he accepted the Dodgers' third-base coaching position only after he was assured by manager Don Mattingly that he was comfortable with the hire.

"The biggest thing was: Does Donnie want me to do it?" Roenicke said. "Whoever's decision it was -- and I don't know -- but Donnie said, 'Absolutely,' and that made the difference, that and the fact he had had the conversation with Lorenzo."

Roenicke, dismissed as Milwaukee manager in May, on Monday replaced Lorenzo Bundy, who will focus on outfield defense.

Mattingly would not say who decided to make the change or provide the reason for it coming on a first-place team this late in the season.

"We felt like this was the right time," he said. "I'm not going to get into the details of why. It makes a good staff better. It's a comfortable fit for me."

General manager Farhan Zaidi said baserunning has been "a major issue all season," partly because of a lack of team speed, but he added that "the responsibility for our running trouble is on all of us, really. Bringing in Ron with his resume and pedigree, it was more about that."

Mattingly said club president Andrew Friedman gave him a list of available coaching candidates and Mattingly said he felt Roenicke was the best choice.

Roenicke hasn't coached third base since 2005 with the Angels for Mike Scioscia on a staff that included Joe Maddon, who was later hired by Friedman as manager in Tampa Bay. The Angels developed a reputation for aggressive baserunning while Roenicke coached third.

Mattingly said his familiarity with Roenicke has expanded in recent years because of regular Spring Training dinners that also included Scioscia, Joe Torre and Dodgers legend Sandy Koufax, among others.

Mattingly deflected a question implying that Roenicke could be viewed as his potential replacement as manager.

"All I'm worried about is winning," Mattingly said. "This is a pretty good job to have, I'm sure a lot of guys would like it. That's always the case. Those are things to me [that are] so far down the road. Just worry about winning games."

Roenicke said he "never thought about" the perception of his hiring leading to Mattingly's firing. "Donnie wouldn't have asked me or wanted me to be here if that was a concern," he said. "My coming here was strictly to help out."

Roenicke said he had been contacted by other clubs for off-the-field jobs since his dismissal, but his first contact with the Dodgers was Saturday when Mattingly called. Zaidi said there is no agreement beyond this season.

"I can say with all sincerity, this move is about this year in this role, helping us go as far as we can in 2015," Zaidi said.

Roenicke said he missed being on the field and wants to manage again.

"It's hard to be home when you're not supposed to be home," he said. "If I don't manage, I'd love to coach. Whichever way it goes. I enjoy the most the challenge of it, of getting to guys maybe other guys don't get to."

### **Dodgers to skip Latos' turn in rotation**

By Ken Gurnick

OAKLAND -- To get the most starts possible out of Clayton Kershaw and Zack Greinke, the Dodgers have taken Mat Latos out of the rotation temporarily and put him in the bullpen.

Manager Don Mattingly said the decision will allow for "maximizing" the number of starts for Kershaw and Greinke, while giving Latos a chance to "continue working on things."

Mattingly said Latos, who had been scheduled to start Wednesday's game against the A's, understood the decision.

"Mat's a pro, and he understands you're going to try to line up the rotation as best as possible," Mattingly said. "He sort of acknowledged he hasn't pitched his best to this point. This gives him a chance to work on what he's doing and be ready to go when we get there. Obviously, we're going to need him."

Latos was acquired with Michael Morse and cash from the Marlins July 30 for three Minor League pitchers. (Morse was immediately designated for assignment and traded to Pittsburgh for Minor League outfielder Jose Tabata.) Latos is 0-2 with a 6.75 ERA in three starts since the trade.

Mattingly said the club's schedule -- with a day off Monday, another on Thursday and another next Monday -- prompted the decision because he didn't want Kershaw or Greinke to go as many as seven days between starts.

Alex Wood will start Wednesday, followed by Brett Anderson, Greinke and Kershaw in Houston Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Latos would start again Aug. 29.

### **McGwire: 'Great to be back' at Coliseum**

By Trevor Haas

OAKLAND -- In 1987, Mark McGwire crushed 49 homers in his rookie season, running away with American League Rookie of the Year honors and jumpstarting his historic career.

The A's honored that 1987 season by giving out McGwire bobbleheads Tuesday before their tilt against the Dodgers.

Now the Dodgers' hitting coach, McGwire stepped onto the field at the Coliseum on Tuesday for the first time since 2001 and said it's great to be back.

"We had the first three out of four years to go to the World Series, unfortunately only winning one here," McGwire said. "We had great teams. The great players that I've played with, the Hall of Fame players I've played with, Hall of Fame manager -- it's some great memories."

Though McGwire looks back fondly on his time in Oakland, he said he believes it's not the defining stop of his career.

"I was here for almost 12 years, and I was with the Cardinals for four-plus, but people remember me more with the Cardinals than they do with Oakland," he said.

McGwire said he's enjoyed working as the Dodgers hitting coach and relishes the opportunity to mold the games of up-and-comers like Yasiel Puig and Joc Pederson, among others.

He said he didn't really learn how to hit until 1992. McGwire finished the 1991 season batting .201 with 22 home runs, and the next year he hit .268 with 42 blasts.

Though he loves his current gig overall, he said it can be very time consuming and frustrating. Sometimes, he said, he goes home after a tough day and doesn't sleep well.

"I treat it like when I was a player," McGwire said. "I'm trying to pass on knowledge of what these pitchers are trying to do, and sometimes when you don't execute, those are restless nights -- same thing as when I was a player."

McGwire said he would never rule out taking a job as a manager if were offered one. It would depend on the location and other factors, but he'd consider it.

For now, though, he's simply happy to be back at the place where his Major League career got started.

"A lot of memories," he said. "The foul grounds, the wind, the scoreboard, I see spots I used to wear out over the fence, so great memories."

### **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

### **Yasiel Puig hurts hamstring in Dodgers' 5-4 loss to Oakland in 10 innings**

By LA Times Sports

Yasiel Puig silently stared into his mobile phone Tuesday night in the aftermath of the Dodgers' 5-4, 10-inning defeat by the Oakland Athletics.

His right leg was wrapped.

"Now that I've started to get my timing, this happens," he said. "That's life."

On a night when the Dodgers' bullpen wasted a seven-inning start by Clayton Kershaw and a three-run home run by A.J. Ellis, Puig's nightmare of a season continued.

Puig, who was removed in the eighth inning with what the Dodgers described as tightness in his hamstring, is scheduled to undergo an MRI exam Wednesday.

If there was any consolation for him, it was that the injury felt significantly less severe than the strained left hamstring that sidelined him for five weeks earlier this season.

"This one didn't hurt like the other one," Puig said.

Puig's effort on this night counted for something, at least.

On the play he was injured, Puig beat a throw by shortstop Marcus Semien for an infield single.

The right fielder's single was followed by another hit, this one by pinch-hitter Andre Ethier. The next batter, Ellis, blasted the ball over the center-field wall to break a 1-1 stalemate.

The 4-1 lead was short-lived, as Pedro Baez and J.P. Howell allowed the A's to tie the game in the bottom of the eighth. Yimi Garcia lost the game in the 10th, when he served up a run-scoring single to Billy Butler

The bullpen's meltdown prevented Kershaw from claiming his sixth consecutive decision.

Kershaw, who hasn't lost a decision since June 27, limited the Athletics to a run and five hits. He struck out seven and walked two.

If the end of the game was frustrating for Kershaw, so was the start. He began the second inning by giving up a single to Mark Canha and walking Billy Butler. Canha and Butler advanced on a sacrifice bunt by Josh Reddick, with Canha later scoring on a Semien groundout to move the Athletics in front, 1-0.

Kershaw became visibly upset in the third inning, when he thought he struck out Danny Valencia on a 1-2 pitch at the outside edge of the plate. But it was called a ball by home plate umpire Todd Tichenor.

Kershaw punched the glove and shouted.

What followed made Kershaw even more enraged.

Valencia hit a soft chopper to the third base side of the mound that Kershaw failed to field cleanly.

When Valencia reached base, Kershaw spiked the baseball into the ground. He picked it up, then sailed it into the Dodgers dugout.

Later, Kershaw couldn't explain his reaction.

"I think I was just fired up, for some reason," Kershaw said.

Kershaw regained his composure, striking out Josh Phegley to end the inning and holding the Athletics to one hit and one walk over the next four innings.

Kershaw lowered his earned-run average to 2.34.

The Dodgers broke through in the fifth, when Ellis and Pederson drew back-to-back walks. Ellis reached third on a passed ball by Doubront and scored on a groundout by Jimmy Rollins to tie the game, 1-1.

### **Mat Latos bumped to bullpen**

By Dylan Hernandez

One of the two starting pitchers acquired by the Dodgers at the nonwaiver trade deadline is already out of their rotation.

The Dodgers will temporarily use a four-man rotation and skip Mat Latos' next two turns, allowing them to start Zack Greinke and Clayton Kershaw in a three-game series against the San Francisco Giants that starts Aug. 31.

Greinke would start against the Giants on Sept. 1 and Kershaw on Sept. 2.

Rather than make his previously scheduled start Wednesday, Latos will move into the bullpen. Alex Wood will pitch in his place.

Acquired from the Miami Marlins as part of a three-team trade, Latos is 0-2 with a 6.75 earned-run average in his three starts with the Dodgers. His last two starts were particularly disconcerting, as he was charged with a combined 11 runs in 82/3 innings.

Even with Latos out of the rotation, the remaining four starters will be able to pitch on regular four days' rest because the Dodgers have days off on Thursday and Monday.

Manager Don Mattingly said the decision was made with Greinke and Kershaw in mind. "Making sure they are getting as many turns around as they can," Mattingly said.

Latos is expected to make his next start on Aug.29 against the Chicago Cubs.

No issues

General Manager Farhan Zaidi did what he could to temper the unfounded but nonetheless mounting speculation on social media that new third base coach Ron Roenicke was hired to eventually replace Mattingly.

"I can say this with all sincerity ... this move is about this year and it's about him in this role, helping us go as far as we can in 2015," Zaidi said.

Mattingly said he isn't bothered by the presence of another former major league manager on his staff. Roenicke, who was in uniform Tuesday for the series opener against the Oakland Athletics, was fired as manager of the Milwaukee Brewers on May 3.

"I'm not concerned about that," Mattingly said. "All I care about is winning. This is a pretty good job to have. I'm sure a lot of guys would like it. That's always the case. Those things are so far down the road, you just worry about winning games. We're in a pennant race."

Roenicke said he wouldn't have taken the job if Mattingly didn't say he wanted him to be part of the staff.

Roenicke said his first contact with the Dodgers came Saturday, when Mattingly called him to inquire whether he would be interested in the job. "I asked Donnie about whether he wanted me there, he said, 'Absolutely,'" Roenicke said. "It made a difference for me."

Once the Dodgers decided to replace Lorenzo Bundy as the third base coach — Zaidi and Mattingly wouldn't say who made the call — Mattingly said he was presented with a list of potential candidates by Andrew Friedman, the team's first-year president of baseball operations.

"His name, to me, was at the top of the list," Mattingly said of Roenicke.

Bundy remained on staff, and in uniform, as the outfield coordinator. Assistant hitting coach John Valentin will no longer be on the bench for games.

Zaidi and Mattingly wouldn't say why the Dodgers made the changes with 44 games remaining in the regular season.

The Dodgers rank near the bottom of the league in baserunning, according to some advanced metrics. Zaidi called that part of their game "a major issue."

Some of that has to do with us not having a lot of team speed," Zaidi said.

Roenicke was the third base coach for the Angels when they won the World Series in 2002.

Roenicke said he was approached by other teams over the summer, but that the Dodgers were the only team to offer him an on-field job in the major leagues. "I miss being on the field," he said. "It's been a long summer for me."

### **Somehow Dodgers bullpen melts yet again in 5-4 loss to A's**

By Steve Dilbeck

Odd game. Odd in the beginning, and certainly in the end. But ultimately, familiar.

Clayton Kershaw pitching well but fighting a temper. The Dodgers doing nothing offensively and then A.J. Ellis belting a three-run homer in the eighth. Neither team being able to do much with runners in scoring position.

The game finally turned into a battle of bullpens, which would normally mean trouble for the Dodgers but statistically the Athletics actually have an even worse group of relievers.

But not Tuesday night, the A's rallying to tie the score in the bottom of the eighth and then winning it in the 10th against Yimi Garcia, 5-4, at the Oakland Coliseum to hand the Dodgers one of their most distasteful defeats of the year.

The Dodgers also may have lost Yasiel Puig for an unknown stretch. He came out with a tight hamstring in the eighth inning. He previously missed six weeks with a left hamstring strain.

The A's had lost seven consecutive games until rallying against Garcia in the 10th. He started his second inning by giving up back-to-back doubles to Mark Canha and Billy Butler. Very suddenly, it was over.

The game was tied 1-1 in the eighth, and the Dodgers to that point had managed exactly one hit. Then with two outs, they had three.

Puig started by legging out an infield single. But Puig came up limping and Carl Crawford came on as a pinch-runner. Pinch-hitter Andre Ethier collected an infield single, Crawford holding at second. And then came the unexpected blow. Ellis drilled a three-run homer. For Ellis, who also walked four times, it was just his third home run of the season.

It briefly appeared the Dodgers were on their way to a 4-1 victory, with Kershaw in line to get the victory.

But in the bottom of the eighth, the A's came roaring back against reliever Pedro Baez. Somehow with the Dodgers, it's always about the bullpen.

Baez actually has been one of the Dodgers' better relievers. But his first three batters went single, double, double. Then the Dodgers went to J.P. Howell, who gave up two more hits and the score was tied.

Then with runners at second and third and two outs, Manager Don Mattingly went to right-hander Jim Johnson, he of the 20.25 ERA as a Dodger. Johnson looked like he's tired of that number. He threw five consecutive strikes to Billy Burns, who fouled off two before striking out.

The A's started the scoring with a run in the second inning. Canha opened with a single and Kershaw walked Billy Butler. A sacrifice bunt and a run-scoring groundout and Oakland had a 1-0 lead.

In the third inning, Kershaw uncharacteristically lost his cool. Upset with the calls of home plate umpire Todd Techenor, he barked at him. On the next pitch, Danny Valencia hit a tapper to the side of the mound that Kershaw dropped.

By the time he picked the ball up, Valencia was safe with an infield single. Kershaw took the ball and slammed into the turf. Then he picked it up and fired into the far side of the Dodgers dugout. Techenor appeared to have his head down and did not see Kershaw throw the ball away, or he could have ejected the left-hander. Kershaw also shared some words with Techenor the next inning. Odd stuff.

Meanwhile, the Dodgers could not do a thing with A's starter Felix Doubront, despite his best efforts at assisting their cause. Doubront went six innings and allowed only one hit. He also walked six batters.

Walks finally cost him in the fifth. He opened the inning with walks to Ellis and Joc Pederson. A passed ball by catcher Josh Phegley advanced the runners and a Jimmy Rollins' groundout scored Ellis to tie the game at 1-1.

### **Dodgers worker Javier Herrera takes a fall, and fans raise him up**

By Bill Plaschke

He was trying to make the play. He was trying to do something, anything, to help the Dodgers.

For the last 11 years of his life, that's who Javier Herrera has been, a Dodgers batboy-clubhouse assistant who is still dragging lumber and washing jocks at age 29 for one simple reason.

"My biggest thing is, I want to be there when the Dodgers win a World Series," he says. "I want to experience that."

He is the oldest and most veteran of the four Dodgers batboys. He knows what you are thinking — how can you call somebody his age a "boy"? — but he shrugs it off because he knows he is doing a job for men. He works until 2 a.m. after night games, he shows up at 3 a.m. to meet the equipment truck after road games, and he does it all for about \$9 an hour while also holding down a day job at an optometrist office.

He loved baseball so much, shortly after joining the Dodgers' clubhouse staff as an 18-year-old, he put a tattoo of the major league logo on his inner left arm. He loves the Dodgers so much, he has vowed to get a Dodgers world championship tattoo when they finally win it.

"Even if that tattoo is the size of a quarter, I'm getting it," he says. "I do what I do because the Dodgers are my team."

And so Sunday afternoon, 10 minutes before the first pitch of the Dodgers' game with the Cincinnati Reds in the steamiest heat of Chavez Ravine, Herrera shrugged when he was informed that he would have to take one for the team.

One of the two ball girls who sit on overturned buckets along the foul lines didn't show up. He was asked to replace her. It would be only his third time working as a ball boy all season, because this year the Dodgers' marketing folks decided the job should be done strictly by women, but he had done it often in previous years. It was nearly 100 degrees, and he hadn't planned on it, but he was ready.

"No big deal," he says. "There's padding on the bucket, the fans are real nice, you just get your glove and get out there."

As with everything in baseball, it was no big deal until it was a huge deal. On this day, with the Reds batting in the fifth inning, it became a huge deal.

Tucker Barnhart, the Reds' catcher, lofted a slicing foul ball that soared over third base and headed for the stands behind Herrera. In that position, one of Herrera's main jobs is to protect those stands.

"It's pretty brutal over there, the sun can be bad, the ball is moving, we just want the ball knocked down so nobody gets hurt," says Mitch Poole, Dodgers clubhouse manager and Herrera's boss.

As the ball gently sailed toward the seats, one could spot fans in the first row eating, drinking, looking down at their phones. Maybe the little white dot would crash into them. Maybe it wouldn't. Herrera couldn't take a chance, so he stuck his glove high into the air and leaned back, back,

back....

And then he tumbled backward over the blue railing, over a white tabletop in the stands, and down onto a concrete floor where he landed on his back.

While the ball bounced out of his grasp and up into the stands.

It was such a dramatic tumble, Vin Scully interrupted his play-by-play to say, "Oh my goodness.... Is he OK?"

Sort of. Not really.

"I made my final stretch, I thought the ball was going to land in my glove, and then the wall just took my legs," Herrera recalls. "I saw the ball ... then I saw the sky."

The moment he landed on the ground, the pain of humiliation was far worse than the eventual ache in his back.

"I lay there thinking, 'Oh my gosh, what did I just do? I just embarrassed myself on national TV!'" he recalls.

National TV? It was on national everything. Social media lit up with comment, the blogs filled up with the video, and by Monday afternoon the scene was the rage of sports talk shows everywhere.

But Javier Herrera won't remember any of that. What he will remember was the noise made by Dodgers fans after he had quickly leaped to his feet, climbed back over the fence, and sat back down on the padded bucket with his helmeted head in his hands and sunglasses thankfully covering his dazed eyes.

He will remember how his career's most embarrassing moment was overcome with its most unusual sound.

He will remember the standing ovation.

"I thought I might get heckled," he says. "I did not think I would get cheered."

But that's what happened, hugely, grandly, thousands of fans reacting to the replay by roaring their appreciation of his effort. It was as if they knew how much he cared, because that's how much they cared. Here's a guy with his first name on the back of his jersey tumbling into the stands after a meaningless ball as if it was the final out of the World Series. Here's a guy missing, falling, then getting back up.

The hopes of lots of Dodgers fans in this town have spent the last 27 years missing, falling, then getting back up.

"I think the fans kind of feel like he was them," says Poole.

It was as if they knew Herrera literally cried in frustration last season when the Dodgers lost in St. Louis in October. Or that, nearly three years ago, he and wife Vanessa set up a Dodger Stadium backdrop for photos at their wedding. Or that he loves their Highland Park home mostly because it is seven minutes from Chavez Ravine and, from a back porch, one can see the Friday night fireworks.

Herrera is so superstitiously devoted to the Dodgers, before every game he'll grab the bats belonging to guys in the starting lineup and bang them together to "wake them up." When he brings rubbed-up balls to the umpires when the Dodgers are at the plate, he'll hand them the lighter-colored balls first so maybe the Dodgers will see them better.

"None of that stuff makes a difference, I know," he says.

"But it's just something I feel I have to do."

To Dodgers fans, all that stuff makes all the difference. To Dodgers fans, as they proved Sunday night, guys like Javier Herrera make a difference.

Neither hit nor error, it should be scored as simply a nice reminder.

### **Dodgers to skip Mat Latos' next two turns**

By Steve Dilbeck

In their ideal world, the Dodgers' deadline deals to add Alex Wood and Mat Latos would have set the rotation for the rest of the season. It would be five strong and take on all-comers.

But that's not the world the Dodgers found themselves, and Tuesday in Oakland they set to tweaking it by announcing they would skip Latos for his next two turns and move him temporarily to the bullpen.

The Dodgers were not only off Monday, but are also off Thursday and next Monday, giving them plenty of flexibility with their rotation. Zack Greinke, Clayton Kershaw, Brett Anderson and Wood will take their turns on the normal five days' rest between starts.

Wood will start on Wednesday at Oakland. The move also sets up Kershaw and Greinke to start against the San Francisco Giants in a three-game series that starts Aug. 31 at Dodger Stadium.

Latos is 0-2 with a 6.75 earned-run average and a 1.43 WHIP in three starts with the Dodgers. He complained after his last outing Thursday against the Cincinnati Reds (five runs, four earned on seven hits in 4 2/3 innings) that he had gotten away from his fastball and was relying too much on his off-speed stuff.

Coming out of the bullpen should give him an opportunity to focus on his fastball. And maybe build his confidence back up.

### **Kenley Jansen back to dominating for Dodgers**

By Steve Dilbeck

There was a moment there when Kenley Jansen might have made you a tad nervous. He has been so remarkably consistent that any small misstep on his season tends to raise eyebrows.

Yet there they were, six games stretched from July 18-31 when Jansen looked less than his typically dominating self. In those six games, he allowed five runs in five innings, three coming via the home run.

And then, as if to reassure all those who seem to get nervous about Jansen at some point every season, came his last six games -- six innings, five saves, no runs, 12 strikeouts and zero walks.

Jansen battled the flu during his poor six-game stretch, but otherwise is putting together what may prove to be his finest season. And one where he missed the first five weeks of the season following spring foot surgery.

On the season, Jansen has saved 24 games in 25 opportunities. He has a career-best 0.70 WHIP, and perhaps surprisingly to those that remember his breakout 2011 season, his strikeouts per nine innings is at 16.3 -- which would break the record of 16.1 he set four years ago.

He's doing all this without walking people. He has walked four batters in his 32 2/3 innings. That gives him a stunning 14.75 strikeouts-to-walk ratio -- more than double his career best.

When his cutter is breaking, it almost defies being hit. Some have expressed concern his velocity has dropped, but he was still hitting 94 mph on the radar gun Sunday when he saved the Dodgers' 2-1 win over the Reds.

That save was the 130th of his career, moving him past Jeff Shaw into second on the Los Angeles Dodgers' all-time list. And remember, this is really only his second season as the Dodgers undisputed full-time closer.

Still, he has shown himself to be one of the game's best closers for four seasons. For his career, he's been placed in 148 save situations and made good on 130. Opponents are batting just .173 against him.

In a bullpen of unpredictable and constantly changing parts, he has been a rock. The one piece the Dodgers can count on.

## LA DAILY NEWS

### **Dodgers lose in 11 innings to Oakland A's, 5-4**

By JP Hoonstra

OAKLAND >> The Dodgers' bullpen did it again.

Charged with protecting a 4-1 lead in the eighth inning, Dodgers pitchers allowed four runs with Clayton Kershaw out of the game in a 5-4 loss to the Oakland A's on Tuesday.

Mark Canha led off the 11th inning with a double to left field off Yimi Garcia (3-3), and Billy Butler followed with an RBI single to right field. Canha scored easily when Scott Van Slyke threw wildly up the third-base line.

Van Slyke was playing in place of Yasiel Puig, who left the game with tightness in his right hamstring. Puig said after the game that he isn't worried about the injury and considered it less severe than the left hamstring injury that cost him 38 games earlier this season.



The more lasting concern for the Dodgers: A bullpen that's lost 46 games this season, tied for the 10th-most in the major leagues.

"(The bullpen) was good for a few days at home," manager Don Mattingly said. "I thought we were starting to get things kind of in order, then tonight happens. We're going to have to find guys to get the ball from your starter to Kenley (Jansen). We've got guys who can do that."

Catcher A.J. Ellis, whose three-run home run gave the Dodgers a short-lived 4-1 lead, was more blunt.

"We need guys to step up," he said. "In the same situation (Wednesday) we trust those guys to go back out. ... We talked about these games getting more and more important, bigger and bigger, the blood pressure's going to rise and rise. It's going to come down to the person who can calm himself down and execute — not just on the mound but at the plate as well."

The loss narrowed the Dodgers' lead in the National League West to two games over the San Francisco Giants.

The Dodgers play the A's again this afternoon to conclude the two-game interleague series.

The eighth inning alone contained more action than most nine-inning games.

Three fights broke out among a combustible mixture of 35,067 A's and Dodgers fans. Puig's hamstring tightened up after he beat out an infield single. The Dodgers took a 4-1 lead on Ellis' third home run of the season, then gave it right back when Pedro Baez and J.P. Howell allowed five hits and three runs while recording just two outs.

"Those A's hitters didn't roll over," Ellis said. "They kept fighting. They found the mistake pitches. They didn't foul 'em off or take 'em. They were ready to hit 'em and they drove 'em."

Kershaw threw seven innings and allowed only one run. Canha led off the second inning with a single and Butler followed with a walk. Canha went to third on a sacrifice bunt and scored on an RBI groundout, giving Oakland a 1-0 lead.

The Dodgers got the run back in the fifth inning when Ellis and Joc Pederson drew back-to-back walks off Felix Doubront. Ellis went to third base on a passed ball and scored on a groundout to second base by Jimmy Rollins, who was batting right-handed.

Kershaw's ERA fell to 2.34, the lowest it's been all season. However, his performance won't be remembered for any of his seven strikeouts, or dodging a first-and-second, one-out jam in his final inning.

In the third inning, Kershaw couldn't quite get his glove around a ground ball between third base and the pitcher's mound. He stabbed at the baseball, picked up and turned toward first base too late to throw out Danny Valencia.

Instead of holding the baseball, Kershaw threw it straight into the O.co infield. The ball bounced straight back into his hand, and Kershaw chucked it toward his own dugout, violently but harmlessly into the ground.

"I think I was just fired up for some reason," Kershaw said after the game. "It was a weird night. I don't really know why ... just a little more on edge tonight than normal."

**Scioscia, Mattingly discuss David Denson coming out as gay**

By Robert Morales

Former West Covina South Hills High baseball player David Denson this past weekend made history by becoming the first active player affiliated with a Major League Baseball organization to come out and tell the world he is gay.

Denson, 20, graduated from South Hills in 2013. A first baseman, he plays for the Milwaukee Brewers' rookie-league team in Helena, Mont.

Although the subject of coming out remains taboo for many, there appears to be some progression.

"I didn't hear about it, but it seems like it's getting easier and easier for guys," Dodgers manager Don Mattingly said Sunday.

Bill Stoneman, interim general manager for the Angels, respectfully declined to talk, saying he is unfamiliar with the story and would not feel comfortable commenting on it.

Angels second baseman Johnny Giavotella said he had heard about it, but that he had not really given it much thought. His manager, Mike Scioscia, had plenty to offer, however.

To Scioscia, an individual's sexual orientation should not figure into anything that happens with a baseball team.

"I think from a baseball perspective, it's neither here nor there," Scioscia said Monday. "I mean, he's a baseball player. From a social perspective, obviously, if it's a person's preference to come out publicly, great. It's his decision and I think he's going to be looked at as a baseball player, and that's it."

Scioscia was asked to give a hypothetical spin on how a situation like this might play out in his clubhouse. Scioscia did not hesitate in his response.

"He's a ballplayer, he's a teammate and that's the way it should be," Scioscia said. "A person who puts on our uniform, I think any uniform, we look at them as Angels because they're Angel ballplayers. They come from all different backgrounds, they have all different political views, they have all different religious views, there's all different views on every topic you want to talk about.

"But there is one common view and that's how to go out here and compete and win a ballgame. That's what a team's about and that's what our perspective will always be."

Denson told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel he told his teammates before going public, and that helped.

"They said, 'You're still our teammate. You're still our brother. We kind of had an idea, but your sexuality has nothing to do with your ability. You're still a ballplayer at the end of the day. We don't treat you any different. We've got your back,'" said Denson, who is batting .244 with four home runs and 18 RBIs for the Helena Brewers.

## ESPN LA

### **Guest columnist A.J. Ellis: Bench role tough to adapt to, but it's still important**

By Buster Olney

At 1:30 p.m. prior to each night game, Los Angeles Dodgers bench coach Tim Wallach posts the starting lineup on the wall next to the clubhouse entrance. As we file in, our heads instinctively turn to the right to see if we are playing that day and where we are hitting in the batting order.

Most players have a good idea in advance whether or not they'll be in the lineup based on a conversation with manager Don Mattingly the day before, or in some cases depending on if a right-handed or left-handed pitcher is starting for the opposing team. As professional athletes, we should be held accountable to be prepared to start each day. But knowing our playing schedule ahead of time does benefit us as individuals and as a team.

From 2012 to 2014 I was the Dodgers' starting catcher. Including our playoff games from the past two seasons, I started 340 games behind the plate. I became accustomed to the routine of playing each day and doing all the necessary things to prepare to catch a major league baseball game. For a 7 p.m. game, I would usually arrive by 1:15. Scouting reports, early batting practice and work in both the training and weight rooms all became a part of my daily routine to stay healthy and on the field. It was a grind to get myself mentally and physically ready each day, and I loved every second of it.

During the 2014 MLB winter meetings, the Dodgers made a flurry of moves that dramatically overhauled our club. Dependable and durable veteran Dan Haren and up-and-coming All-Star second baseman Dee Gordon were traded to the Miami Marlins in return for a package of players that included do-it-all utility man Kike Hernandez and relief pitcher Chris Hatcher. Also coming to the Dodgers was a top pitching prospect named Andrew Heaney, whose stint with the Dodgers was brief, but memorable. He was flipped down the I-5 freeway to the Los Angeles Angels for Howie Kendrick a few hours later.

Former MVP and World Series-winning shortstop Jimmy Rollins was also acquired to replace Hanley Ramirez and solidify our middle infield, and the facelift was completed with a move that sent longtime Dodgers outfielder Matt Kemp to the division-rival Padres. In return, we saved some money and received a young catcher in Yasmani Grandal.

The arrival of Yasmani also meant a transition for me as the starting catcher for the only organization I had ever known. Yas proved early and often that he not only possessed the impact switch-hitting bat we needed, but also the newly measured defensive skill of stealing strikes with his receiving behind the plate.

When Yas took over my spot as the Dodgers' starting catcher, I knew it was time for me to figure out how to prepare to play in a limited role, and also how I could help impact our win/loss record in games I didn't play. Fortunately, I've learned from teammates who transitioned brilliantly into similar roles.

One of my all-time favorite teammates was an everyday starting infielder for the first 12 years of his career. He began his last season in a platoon, and as the season progressed he found even fewer starts than that. When I saw him that season, he told me how hard it was to transition from being an everyday player to playing off the bench, and how much more respect he gained for the ballplayers who have made a career of it. Players like Skip Schumaker, Nick Punto, and Jerry Hairston Jr. provided good examples of what it takes to be on alert to play anywhere on a ball field at any time -- while sometimes going days between appearances. While they might not have been starters, what those three men did behind the scenes helped to take us two wins from the World Series in 2013, the closest the franchise had been in 25 years.

Their constant presence, preparation and commitment to winning, regardless of individual achievement, inspired all of us. Skip reminded us to play for each other and not ourselves. We all drew inspiration from watching Punto tape himself together before each game without whispering a word of the toll injuries had taken on his body over the years. On bus rides and flights, J-Hair would grab the mic and keep us laughing and loose. Critically, he always made sure to end every conversation encouraging guys to look forward and not back. I don't know if these guys learned how to lead based on their experience playing for world championship teams or if their teams won championships because of their leadership, but I don't think it's a coincidence that three of the best teammates I've ever had all have rings.

Sometimes it's hard to be in a good mood when you're not getting at-bats. It's not that anyone wants to be a bad teammate; it's just that we all love the game so much, and we're all really competitive and want to play. The frustration of sitting on the bench can turn good people into bad teammates. But not those three guys. They never pouted. They stayed focused on the games and encouraged those who were playing ahead of them, rather than making snide comments behind their backs. Playing off the bench requires the humility to become essentially a cheerleader. Even when their roles were reduced to cheerleading, they took it seriously and hollered from the top step of the dugout, checking their egos at the door. They would know exactly what you were working on with your swing and what to watch during your at-bats. Skip was a master at looking for ways an opposing starter was tipping his pitches, and he helped all of us with that intel. All three would be right there to meet you as you re-entered the dugout after a positive plate appearance, or follow you down the tunnel and save you from redecorating the locker room during an 0-for-20 skid.

This stuff may sound small, but it has measurable impact on the standings. It's hard for teams to advance deep into October when they don't communicate. Last season we saw two teams in the World Series that excelled at communication -- and selflessness. It seems like the teams that succeed are the ones who have players with the humility to strike out and walk into the dugout and pass along information about a guy's slider or where the umpire is expanding the strike zone as opposed to going into a "woe is me" shell. When Punto would enter the game as part of a double-switch, he would beeline to me to ask questions like, "What are the signs with a runner on second base?" Or "are you pitching Posey inside? Do I need to play him to pull?" That's what pros do.

That's also what leaders do. From experience, I know how mentally and physically stressful it can be to play every day. The baseball season is long, and there are some days when your energy is down and your body just isn't moving the way it can. I would lean on the energy of my teammates in those moments. When I felt myself dragging, I would look at the edge guys like Skip and Nick would provide off the bench for inspiration. That provided me the fuel I needed to push through.

They provided the blueprint for the kind of teammate I want to be now, the guy who holds teammates accountable, but also encourages, supports and tries to figure out ways to help make them better. I want to help Yas the same way my backup Matt Treanor helped me in 2012. Matt had the ability to always make me feel like he had my back and was genuinely invested in my success as a catcher. Because we are all intense competitors, sometimes we can find ourselves competing unhealthily against our own teammates instead of pulling together and pushing forward toward team goals. I want Yas to do well, because if he does well, it puts us in a better position to win.

I'm also finding new ways to help the pitching staff as best as I can. Limited playing time can also mean maximized interaction. Now that I'm the backup, I can spend more time digging into scouting reports and trying to look for the small, hidden tendencies that can produce tangible advantages. I also have the time to catch our starters' bullpen sessions between starts. It's much easier to communicate some of the stuff I've noticed in these low-stress settings.

But even though my role has shifted to bench player, I know I still must be prepared to play. Baseball is a game that will expose the unprepared, and I know the minute I slack off in my hitting or defensive work, a moment will arrive when I'm needed to perform.

The old cliché is "baseball is a game of adjustments." It's also a game of transitions. All of us as players have an expiration date. But if I can follow the example set by a couple little fellas like Schu and Nick and Jerry, I can help a group of men earn the same undeniable title they have: world champion.

### **The monotony of the Dodgers' unreliable bullpen**

By Mark Saxon

OAKLAND -- Clayton Kershaw called it a "weird night, just felt kind of different out there."

It certainly looked a little different. Oakland A's fans, typically quite different in demeanor from the Raiders fans who fill the same stadium on fall Sundays, were involved in a couple of wild brawls in the stands.

Kershaw, perhaps picking up on the hostile energy, became so infuriated at plate umpire Todd Tichenor after what he thought was a missed call early, he slammed the ball into the turf after a batter reached on an infield single. Still not rid of his anger, he picked the ball up and fired it on a one-hop into the Dodgers' dugout, sending people scrambling off the rail for safety.

"I think he was just wound up pretty tight tonight," Dodgers manager Don Mattingly said. "He puts a lot into every start. It's almost like Sunday in the NFL when he pitches."

The one aspect of Tuesday night that was far from weird was another blown save from the Los Angeles Dodgers' bullpen that led to a 5-4 loss to the exhausted and slumping A's. Bullpen foibles have become numbingly familiar to this team -- not only in 2015, but when it mattered the previous season, too.

That's perhaps why even Kershaw, typically as supportive of his teammates as anybody in a Dodgers uniform, seemed a bit weary of it all. Kershaw went seven strong innings but left with the game tied 1-1 before A.J. Ellis' three-run homer in the eighth looked like it would get the Dodgers a win. But Pedro Baez gave all three runs back in the bottom half of the inning.

"A.J. with that huge homer right there kind of swings the momentum. It's definitely tough to give it back like that, but that's why we play tomorrow," Kershaw said.

It's hard to know what to expect of this bullpen, which is perhaps a slight upgrade over the state of things at this point last year, when most people expected disaster almost nightly. The bullpen was strong in April and May, has generally been awful in July and August, but was actually pretty solid last week.

"It was good for a few days at home there. I thought we were starting to get things kind of in order," Mattingly said. "Then, tonight happens, so obviously we're going to have to find ways to get the ball from our starters to Kenley [Jansen]. We've got guys who can do that and I trust that we're going to do that."

Mattingly might be stretching the truth just a bit in support of his pitchers, or maybe he believes it -- who knows? This group is not particularly overworked, so there's a chance it could get itself together before the playoffs get here, if they get here at all. Velocity doesn't seem to be an issue, as several of the Dodgers' relievers are touching 95 mph and up daily.

Finding an eighth-inning guy who can get a few outs would be a start. Lefty J.P. Howell has plenty of savvy and no apparent fear, but he's lucky to touch 87 mph and has been far from automatic lately. Baez and Yimi Garcia have shown signs of dominating at times, but they have proved wildly inconsistent, particularly once the team begins to rely on them in high-leverage situations. Jim Johnson has been better lately, but his first few starts since the trade from Atlanta couldn't have been much worse. Oakland fans certainly aren't big believers. He started last season as the A's closer before they had to release him, and when Johnson came in to clean up the eighth inning, fans booed him loudly.

It's hard to be a popular reliever, but lately the Dodgers would settle for one you hardly even notice.

**A's edge Dodgers 5-4 in 10**

By Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. -- Clayton Kershaw wasn't as sharp as he had been for the better part of the past two months. The Los Angeles Dodgers' ace even lost his temper early on when he angrily threw a ball into his own dugout.

That was nothing compared to the meltdown by the Dodgers' bullpen.

Pedro Baez blew a three-run lead in the eighth inning after Kershaw left, and Yimi Garcia gave up consecutive doubles in the 10th, allowing the Oakland Athletics to rally for a 5-4 victory that ended Los Angeles' three-game winning streak.

It was the first time in four games that the Dodgers were scored on after their starter was pulled.

"They were good at home the last few games," Los Angeles manager Don Mattingly said. "We have to find a way to get the ball from the starters to (closer Kenley Jansen). These are our guys. I feel like we're in a good spot and it feels like we're going to get the job done."

That didn't happen on the opener of the Dodgers' eight-game trip.

Mark Canha opened the 10th with a double off Garcia, his fourth hit of the game. Billy Butler then lined the next pitch to right, and the throw from Scott Van Slyke sailed well wide of home plate, allowing Canha to score easily and end the A's season-high seven-game losing streak.

"It's definitely the most memorable game we've played," Canha said. "It's just been kind of an emotional roller coaster ride this year. To get a win like that, it was really cool."

Beating the Dodgers on a night when Kershaw pitched made it even sweeter.

Kershaw gave up one run over seven innings. He walked two, struck out seven and left with a 4-1 lead.

The reigning NL MVP, who had allowed only one run in two previous career starts against the A's, also made a sparkling defensive play after Josh Reddick's RBI groundout in the second.

Eric Sogard hit a sharp bouncing ball up the middle but Kershaw spun and made a backward barehanded, no-look catch then threw Sogard out.

The three-time NL Cy Young Award winner lost his composure in the third.

Upset over not getting a called third strike, Kershaw bobbled Danny Valenica's grounder on the next pitch, allowing Valenica to reach on an infield single. Kershaw angrily slammed the ball into the turf and caught it on the bounce, took a few steps then fired it into the Dodgers' dugout.

"I was fired up for some reason," Kershaw said. "It was a weird night. I was on edge a little more than usual, and I don't really know why. I don't have a reason."

Canha had a two-run double when Oakland scored three runs in the eighth off Baez. Marcus Semien added a tying RBI single.

A.J. Ellis hit a three-run home run for Los Angeles.

The interleague matchup attracted a rare sellout crowd to the Oakland Coliseum, a large majority clad in Dodger blue. Several fights broke out and at least three people were ejected.

Oakland starter Felix Doubront -- making his first start since being acquired from Toronto on July 31 after the Blue Jays had designated him for assignment -- pitched well despite six walks. Doubront allowed one hit over six innings, gave up an unearned run in the fifth and had a season-high eight strikeouts.

#### TRAINER'S ROOM

Dodgers: RF Yasiel Puig was pulled from the game with tightness in his right hamstring after reaching on an infield single in the eighth. ... RHP Mat Latos was scheduled to start Wednesday but will pitch out of the bullpen during the eight-game trip instead. With two days off coming up, Mattingly made the switch in order to keep Kershaw and Zack Greinke on turn in the rotation. ... Ron Roenicke made his first appearance as the team's new third base coach.

Athletics: OF Coco Crisp, who has spent two stints on the DL this season with neck and elbow injuries, was rested. ... 3B Brett Lawrie (strained lat) was held out of the starting lineup.

#### UP NEXT

Dodgers: LHP Alex Wood (8-7) has pitched into the seventh inning in two of his three starts since being acquired from the Atlanta Braves at the trade deadline. On the flip side, Wood has a 5.09 ERA over that same stretch.

Athletics: RHP Jesse Chavez (6-12) starts for Oakland and is tied for the American League lead in losses.

#### **Rapid Reaction: A's 5, Dodgers 4 (10)**

By Mark Saxon

OAKLAND -- For seven innings, Clayton Kershaw wasn't getting any help from anyone, not his teammates and certainly not the plate umpire, with whom he bickered throughout the early innings.

But eventually, somebody came to his aid and, fittingly, it was one of his best friends, A.J. Ellis, who pummeled a three-run home run in the eighth inning. That storyline didn't hold, though, because the Los Angeles Dodgers' bullpen again buckled, with Pedro Baez allowing three runs in the bottom half of the inning. The meltdown was completed in the 10th inning when Billy Butler singled home the winning run off Yimi Garcia to give Oakland the 5-4 win.

This one could prove worse than just one loss: Yasiel Puig left the game after apparently injuring his right hamstring legging out an infield single two batters before Ellis' home run.

How it happened: It was a grinding night of work for Kershaw, who needed 116 pitches to get through seven innings. He struck out seven batters (to retake the major league lead from Chris Sale) and gave up five hits and two walks. A Justin Turner error in the seventh inning made Kershaw work a bit harder. With a runner at first, Eric Sogard hit a three-hopper that Turner dropped. He still had time to throw out Sogard, but he bobbled the ball, then threw wildly to first. Adrian Gonzalez made a nice play just to keep the ball from shooting past him and probably scoring a run.

The Dodgers had a bizarre, generally unproductive, night at the plate. They walked six times off Oakland starter Felix Doubront, but could barely make contact off him. Doubront had eight strikeouts and allowed just one hit, Gonzalez's bloop single that left fielder Sam Fuld misplayed in the second inning. Ellis and Joc Pederson each walked twice against Doubront to set up two-on, nobody-out scenarios, but the top of the order left them stranded both times.

What it means: The Dodgers needed this game to keep pace with the San Francisco Giants, who beat the St. Louis Cardinals 2-0 earlier in the night. The Dodgers now lead the National League West by two games with 43 left.

Notable: In addition to the home run, Ellis walked four times. ... Kershaw generally lets his emotions show, but he is rarely as animated as he was at times bickering with plate umpire Todd Tichenor Tuesday night. After not getting a call in the third inning and seeing Danny Valencia reach on an infield hit (that Kershaw dropped), Kershaw slammed the ball into the turf. Then, he picked it up and fired it, on one hop, into the Dodgers dugout. An inning later, catcher Ellis had to step between Kershaw and Tichenor after the umpire called timeout and both men were yelling at each other. ... Kershaw made a behind-the-back stop on Sogard's comebacker in the second inning. ... Turner had a rough night in general. He went 0-for-5 with a strikeout and grounded into a double play. ... The Dodgers got their first look at Oakland's switch pitcher, Pat Venditte. He tossed 1 $\frac{2}{3}$  scoreless innings against them, pitching left-handed to three batters and right-handed to four. Only Enrique Hernandez had a hit off Venditte.

Up next: The series continues Wednesday at 12:35 p.m. PT, with Alex Wood (8-7, 3.74 ERA) opposing Jesse Chavez (6-12, 3.84 ERA).

### **Yasiel Puig hurts right hamstring on infield hit and will have MRI**

By Mark Saxon

OAKLAND, Calif. -- Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder Yasiel Puig left Tuesday night's walk-off 5-4 loss to the Oakland Athletics with tightness in his right hamstring after injuring himself legging out an infield hit in the eighth inning.

Puig is scheduled to undergo an MRI Wednesday morning. His right leg was wrapped in ice after the game, and his mood seemed a bit sullen, though he doesn't think this injury is as severe as the last one.

"It's different," Puig said. "This one is a little bit better than the last one."

Puig missed 38 games earlier this season with a strained left hamstring. In the eighth inning Tuesday, he clutched the area behind his right knee after beating out a throw from shortstop Marcus Semien and left the field with Dodgers trainer Stan Conte and manager Don Mattingly.

The Dodgers replaced Puig with pinch runner Carl Crawford.

The Dodgers managed to go 20-18 the first time Puig was injured, and they have plenty of outfielders to plug in. Crawford probably would return to the everyday lineup if Puig goes on the 15-day disabled list, with Andre Ethier moving from left field to right field. Scott Van Slyke would continue to start against left-handed pitchers.

"We'll see where it is," Mattingly said. "We'd just be guessing at this point."

Puig is batting .250 with 10 home runs and 35 RBIs.

### **Don Mattingly says he's not looking over his shoulder after Ron Roenicke hire**

By Mark Saxon

OAKLAND, Calif. -- The minute the Los Angeles Dodgers changed third base coaches on Monday by adding former Milwaukee Brewers manager Ron Roenicke to their staff, conspiracy theorists and Don Mattingly detractors wondered if they had found their ready-made replacement if the new front office decides to fire Mattingly.



It may even have crossed Mattingly's mind, but he said he's not reading it as a bad omen. In fact, it was Mattingly who called Roenicke last Saturday to see if he was interested in the job.

"All I care about is winning. This is a pretty good job to have. I'm sure a lot of guys who would like it," Mattingly said. "That's always the case. Those things are so far down the road, you just worry about winning games. We're in a pennant race."

Don Mattingly said he wanted Ron Roenicke to coach third base because of his experience with the job. AP Photo/Keith Srakocic

It's a sensitive situation, of course, for a couple of reasons. The former third base coach, Lorenzo Bundy, remains on the staff as an outfield coordinator.

The impetus for the change clearly came from above Mattingly's head. The front office run by Andrew Friedman has been frustrated with the Dodgers' baserunning all season. Mattingly said Friedman presented him a list of available names to replace Bundy at third base. Mattingly said he chose Roenicke in part because he was aware of how well the Los Angeles Angels ran the bases when Roenicke was doing that job under Mike Scioscia.

One of the first things Roenicke said he asked Mattingly was whether he really wanted him.

"Is this coming from someone else or is it Donnie wanting me to do it?" Roenicke said. "I know from managing and coaching how important it is to have people that you want there. Whoever's decision it was and I don't know, because I'm obviously not in the conversation, but when I asked Donnie about whether he wanted me, he said, 'Absolutely.'"

According to the Fangraphs baserunning metric, the Dodgers have been the worst baserunning team in baseball this season. Dodgers general manager Farhan Zaidi said the move was all about making the Dodgers better this season and not about giving the front office a safety net if it changes managers.

"The baserunning has been a major issue with our team all season," Zaidi said. "Some of that has to do with us not having a lot of team speed. That's just not an area of strength for us as a roster. Some of it has to do with guys running the bases and picking up their coaches."

"So, I think the responsibility for the baserunning falls on all of us, really. But again, the chance to bring in somebody that has this as part of his pedigree and a real strength, it was more about that."

### **Dodgers use off days to set temporary 4-man rotation, send Mat Latos to pen**

By Mark Saxon

OAKLAND -- The Los Angeles Dodgers are going with a four-man rotation for the next 10 days to maximize the usage of their two dominant starting pitchers, Clayton Kershaw and Zack Greinke, manager Don Mattingly said Tuesday.

Mat Latos, who has gone 0-2 with a 6.75 ERA in three starts for the Dodgers since they acquired him from the Miami Marlins, will be sent to the bullpen temporarily.

The Dodgers are able to make the change because they are in a stretch of games in which they have three off days in eight days. They can use Kershaw and Greinke to pitch seven of their next 14 games without sending either pitcher to the mound on short rest.

Mat Latos, who has struggled in three starts since joining the Dodgers, will pitch out of the bullpen while the Dodgers use a four-man rotation. Charles LeClaire/USA TODAY Sports  
Greinke leads the majors with a 1.58 ERA, and Kershaw leads the National League with 205 strikeouts. Both pitchers are in the top five in the majors in WHIP and opponents' batting average.

The change also allows the Dodgers to use Greinke and Kershaw in their next series with the second-place San Francisco Giants, starting Aug. 31. After that, the Dodgers have just four remaining games with San Francisco, which trails them by three games going into Tuesday's games.

"To be 100 percent honest, it's all about getting Zack and Clayton lined up and maximizing these off days and not making them wait six days to pitch and things like that," Mattingly said.

Latos will probably slot back into the Dodgers rotation on Aug. 29 against the Chicago Cubs, the next date they'll need a fifth starter. The team remains hopeful Latos can use the time to iron out whatever issues caused him to have rough outings against the Pittsburgh Pirates and Cincinnati Reds his past two times on the mound.

"Mat's a pro and understands you're going to try to line up your rotation the best way possible and kind of acknowledged he hasn't pitched his best to this point, but I think this gives him a chance to work on what he's doing and be ready to go when we get there," Mattingly said.

### **Guest columnist Rob Manfred: Lots of good things happening behind the scenes**

By Rob Manfred

It has been nearly seven months since I became the Commissioner of Baseball, and the job is what anyone who loves baseball would expect it to be. I believe it's the best position in the world, and every day I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve this great game. Since Jan. 25, my primary focus has revolved around improving the ways that Major League Baseball reaches kids, inspires their interest and compels them to play and follow our game -- during a time when other entertainment options are proliferating and fewer kids are taking part in physical activity.

One prominent example of our efforts occurred during our recent All-Star festivities in Cincinnati. On Monday, July 13, I attended a news conference along with Tony Clark, executive director of the Major League Baseball Players Association. Together we announced that the 30 clubs and the major league players had jointly committed \$30 million to youth baseball development. The sum will go toward improving the availability and the effectiveness of elite youth baseball programs in the United States and Canada. In the years ahead, we want to develop coaches, offset some of the costs associated with elite youth baseball and launch more academies, particularly in areas that can impact minorities and kids from underserved areas.

As we made this announcement at The Westin Cincinnati, I took note that the first row of the packed ballroom included some of our game's finest players. Chris Archer, Lorenzo Cain, Andrew McCutchen, Anthony Rizzo, Max Scherzer and Mark Teixeira all sat attentively, as did Vanderbilt products Sonny Gray and David Price. (In a Buster Olney column, I have to mention Vanderbilt, right?) All of the All-Stars had arrived in Cincinnati the previous night, with many not making it to the hotel until the wee hours following their travels from around the country. Yet they all made it a priority to attend a significant announcement about baseball's future. Their collective presence illustrated to me that our game's gifted athletes take pride in their chosen sport and care about its course in the years ahead.

The 2015 All-Star Game featured a total of 20 All-Stars who were 25 or younger, setting a new all-time record. Our time in Cincinnati -- from Todd Frazier's electrifying performance in the new and improved Home Run Derby to Mike Trout's history-making selection as the first back-to-back All-Star Game MVP -- made clear that our sport has countless young players who are worthy of

celebration. We have just the right group of dynamic players and personalities to convey the day-to-day joys and excitement of Major League Baseball. A major goal of ours is to shine a brighter light on the many players -- such as Trout, McCutchen, Bryce Harper, Buster Posey, Clayton Kershaw, Felix Hernandez and countless others -- who will appeal to kids because of their passion, athleticism and the fun they have on the diamond. Anyone who has ever met young players such as Archer and Frazier know how well-suited they are to serve as outstanding spokesmen for our sport.

Our greatest challenge going forward is to strengthen the foundation of youth baseball and softball. In recent weeks, I have visited Little League Baseball in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, Ripken Baseball in Maryland and the inaugural MLB-MLBPA Elite Development Invitational at Dodgertown in Vero Beach, Florida. I have also seen firsthand the great work that our Urban Youth Academy programs are doing in Cincinnati, Compton (California), and Washington, D.C. Those trips have left lasting impressions and have given us a roadmap to follow. We are also working hard to become more closely aligned with all the great youth programs across the country. In March, we hired Tony Reagins, the former general manager of the Angels, to represent Major League Baseball in the youth space. Tony will be our voice to college, high school and amateur programs, linking our resources with local leagues.

Our signature new youth-participation platform, unveiled in June, is called "PLAY BALL," a joint effort with USA Baseball that encourages not only traditional styles of play, but also the casual formats that do not require teams or fields -- such as playing catch, home run derby and running bases -- that have long been a key to our game. In partnership with the U.S. Conference of Mayors, August is national "PLAY BALL Month." More than 125 mayors in cities across the country are hosting baseball-related activities in their communities this month. Our clubs will also be running special programs for kids who attend their games. Minor league baseball has pledged its full support of PLAY BALL, which is an important example of all the organizations in the sport working together to benefit the game we all love.

Our research has shown that playing the game as a kid is the biggest determinant toward becoming a lifelong fan. The second factor is the age at which a child attends his or her first game. The younger the age, the stronger the connection becomes. Centrally, the Commissioner's Community Initiative will continue to get low-cost tickets to young people. Along with our clubs, we will be thoughtful in our efforts to get kids to the ballpark early and often. Keeping our game affordable and accessible is a significant part of that. I believe we have the best ballpark experiences for fans largely because our ballparks are so kid-friendly. The "Calling All Kids" program of the Red Sox and the Reds' Fan Zone outside of Great American Ball Park -- complete with a miniature field, batting cages and other activities -- embody how we can appeal to children. At the All-Star Game, we ran a series of youth-centered events throughout Cincinnati, such as the "Largest Game of Catch" and the All-Star Hitting Challenge. Topics such as pace of play and the continued integration of technology through industry leader MLB.com also figure prominently into the broader conversation about how to pique and maintain the attention -- and perhaps just as importantly, the imaginations -- of our kids.

In the future, we will strive to be respectful of the game's traditions and responsive to the wishes of our fans, while also being open-minded to the need for change. It is an exciting time for the game, and I am looking forward to the road ahead.

When Adrian Beltre went down with a thumb injury early in the season, the Texas Rangers' front office thought about going outside the organization and finding a stopgap to fill in at third base. Instead, they decided to summon rising prospect Joey Gallo, partly because of Gallo's talent.

Another part of their reasoning, however, is that they loved the culture that seemed to be growing within their clubhouse since the start of spring training, and they wanted to look for solutions from that same group, rather than risk complicating that dynamic with an outsider who would require playing time as Beltre returned.

After scoring 4.2 runs per game in the first half (14th in MLB), Texas hitters have been raking since the All-Star break.

continues: Following their victory Monday night, the Rangers have now won 11 of their past 12 home games.

They won Monday long before Beltre's walk-off hit, writes Evan Grant.

Josh Hamilton was out for the second straight game Monday. Derek Holland will return to the Texas rotation this week.

So there is a great internal stability that has developed within the Rangers ...

And then there are the Dodgers, who continue to go through change after change after change. Third base coach Lorenzo Bundy has been shifted out of his job, with Ron Roenicke hired in his place, and John Valentin is being taken out of uniform during games.

If you spend time around the Dodgers, it's like being in an office full of temps, with so many of the folks in uniform unsure about who's staying and who's going, other than Clayton Kershaw and a few others.

The Dodgers are loaded with veteran outfielders, but reportedly, they are discussing the addition of another one, Alejandro De Aza. Dodgers manager Don Mattingly is already juggling Carl Crawford, Scott Van Slyke, Kike Hernandez, Joc Pederson, Yasiel Puig and Andre Ethier.

It's a race of opposites in the NL West: The backbone of the rival San Francisco Giants is their stability, the equilibrium built in with a longstanding group of players and staffers who have shared success.

#### Notables

- Carlos Correa's tackling skills were not a hit in the Astros' organization.

Somebody should show a tape of Kendrys Morales' injury to Correa: In celebrating a walk-off homer, Morales suffered a dislocated ankle and basically lost two years of his career.

- The Orioles completed a sweep of Oakland, despite the fact that Chris Davis was robbed of a homer again, this time by Billy Burns.

From ESPN Stats & Information: On Monday night, Davis was robbed of a home run for the fourth time this year, all since July 4. The only other player in the league to be robbed more than once this season is Wilmer Flores (twice). Thirty-three players have been robbed once.

- James Wagner addresses this question: What's happened to the Nationals? Max Scherzer talked about what has gone wrong for him lately.

Joel Sherman wonders who will take the fall for what has gone wrong with the Nationals.

- It's time for Chase Utley to go elsewhere, writes Bob Brookover. As mentioned in the notes' portion of yesterday's column, there is a sense among teams that the Phillies want to turn the page with Utley and move on, but that Utley is the bottleneck in the ongoing trade situation.

- Yankees starter Bryan Mitchell said this out loud after he was hit in the face by a line drive: "I'm all right. I just need to get off the field." Meanwhile, Yankees slugger Brian McCann's masterpiece Monday showed that he's more than just grit.

The Baseball Tonight spotlight: Yankees starting pitcher Bryan Mitchell leaves the game after being hit in the face. The Yankees walk off in the 10th inning on Chase Headley's grounder to shortstop.

The crew also asks this question: What can be done to protect pitchers?

- ESPN baseball analyst Doug Glanville breaks down the Angels' sluggish offense: The key reason the Halos went 1-6 during a seven-game road trip.

Glanville also talks about whether Jackie Bradley Jr. has a place in the crowded Red Sox outfield.

- C.J. Cron gave the Angels a lift.

- The Cardinals placed outfielder Randal Grichuk on the disabled list and lost Jason Heyward, but they still edged the Giants, as Rick Hummel writes.

From Elias Sports Bureau: The Cards are now 44-37 (.543 win percentage) this season when scoring four or fewer runs. That's on pace to be the highest win percentage in a single season in the expansion era (since 1961). The current leader is the 1969 Mets (.505), followed by the 1979 Astros (.504), 1970 Orioles (.494) and 1965 Dodgers (.487).

Also, on Monday, the Cardinals allowed one run or fewer for the 39th time this season, giving them seven more such games than the next-closest team in the majors. This is the second-most such games allowing one run or fewer in a season by the franchise in the last 30 years (they had 40 in 2013).

- A misplay cost the Giants, as Scott Ostler writes.

From ESPN Stats & Info: The Giants have been rolling since the All-Star break -- except when facing NL Central teams. They have more losses in 8 games against NL Central teams than they have in 21 games against all other teams. They're a combined 0-5 against the Cubs and Cardinals.

- Walt Weiss plans to return as the Rockies' manager in 2016.

Moves, deals and decisions

1. The Nationals should mess up the Mets by hiring Wally Backman, writes John Harper.

2. Rockies starter Jon Gray remains on a strict pitch count.

3. The Rays made a move for bullpen help.

Dings and dents

1. Tigers catcher Bryan Holaday suffered a season-ending injury.

2. Angels starter C.J. Wilson's surgery date is set.

3. Rangers pitcher Yu Darvish threw the baseball Monday.

Monday's games

1. The Mariners suffered another disappointing loss.

2. Pirates starter Gerrit Cole remains winless in August.

3. Twins reliever Glen Perkins was ambushed. Eduardo Nunez was unable to make a key play.
4. The first time through the lineup, Matt Barnes was electric against the Indians, writes Tim Britton. But an error by Hanley Ramirez was a turning point for the Red Sox.
5. The Diamondbacks walked a tightrope.
6. The Padres supported a rookie.
7. Astros starter Scott Kazmir had a tough first inning.
8. The Rays snapped their slide by beating Kazmir, as Marc Topkin writes.
9. Sonny Gray couldn't stop the losing for Oakland, writes Susan Slusser, and Sam Fuld and Bob Melvin were ejected.
10. The Brewers were roughed up.
11. Carlos Rodon threw well, but the White Sox lost.
12. The Indians blasted the Red Sox.

#### AL West

- On Monday, Adrian Beltre posted his 200th career game with three or more hits. He joins Alex Rodriguez (241) and Albert Pujols (206) as the only active players with 200 three-hit games. Miguel Cabrera has 185 such games.

#### AL Central

- A Cincinnati connection helped Royals first baseman Eric Hosmer.
- John Niyo advocates for a change at manager for the Tigers.
- White Sox reliever David Robertson didn't have any more to say about Angels manager Mike Scioscia.

#### NL West

- Andrew Susac's return will give Giants starting catcher Buster Posey a break.
- The banged-up Giants are a team to be feared.

#### NL Central

- Cubs starter Jake Arrieta is making a case for the Cy Young Award, writes Gordon Wittenmyer.
- Some Reds are making trades look good, as C. Trent Rosecrans writes.

#### NL East

- When healthy, Braves outfielder Cameron Maybin can do a lot, writes David O'Brien.
- J.P. Crawford is the Phillies' future shortstop.

- The Marlins are back where Giancarlo Stanton was hurt a year ago.

Lastly

- Blue Jays starter David Price loves cheesesteak.
- CC Sabathia was contrite after a scuffle.
- With a change in perspective, Frank White returns to Kauffman Stadium.
- For Indians manager Terry Francona, friendship comes first. He will be there when John Farrell begins his chemo treatment Friday. Francona will be a friend, as Michael Silverman writes.

And today will be better than yesterday.

## TRUEBLUELA.COM

### **Dodgers keep the faith in faltering bullpen**

By Eric Stephen

OAKLAND -- Before we move on to Wednesday's day game, here's one last rehash of Tuesday night's Dodgers 5-4 loss to the Athletics in 10 innings, the latest in a growing series of bullpen failures by the Dodgers.

With a three-run lead in the eighth inning, Pedro Baez allowed a single and two doubles and two runs, then a third run got charged to his ledger when J.P. Howell allowed the tying single.

Then in the 10th, Yimi Garcia allowed a pair of doubles to give Oakland the win, after he pitched a scoreless ninth.

"It was good for a few days at home there, and I thought we were getting things in order. Then tonight happens," manager Don Mattingly said after the game. "Obviously we're going to have to find ways to get the ball from our starters to Kenley [Jansen]. We have guys who can do that, and I trust them to do that."

The bullpen was good last week, putting up a 2.70 ERA in 20 innings, with 22 strikeouts and just two walks. The Dodgers went 5-2.

Tuesday night was the Dodgers fifth blown lead in the seventh inning or later in 29 games since the All-Star break. Two of those leads were in the same game (Aug. 2 against the Angels), and the Dodgers would end up winning two of the four games in question.

But the numbers aren't pretty.

Before the All-Star break, Dodgers relievers had a 3.56 ERA and 3.06 FIP, allowing 21 home runs in 1,067 plate appearances, with opposing hitters batting .233/.300/.355.

Since the break, the ERA is a whopping 6.18, with a 4.67 FIP, and 16 home runs allowed in 355 plate appearances, and opposing batters hitting .297/.358/.502.

To put that in rough perspective, the Dodgers bullpen before the All-Star break made hitters look like 2015 Billy Butler, but after the break opposing batters have hit like 2012 Butler. But on Tuesday night, even 2015 Butler took advantage, hitting the game-winning walk-off double in the 10th.

"We need guys to step up. We have to have that bridge to be able to get the ball to Kenley. We have more than enough capable guys down there, but tonight wasn't their night," catcher A.J. Ellis said. "In the same situation tomorrow, we trust those guys to go back out. They're the ones capable of doing it."

If you want some form of solace, the xFIP in the first half was 3.47 with a 3.00 SIERA, and after the All-Star break has been 3.55 and 3.04, respectively.

If those numbers are more predictive than ERA, that could bode well since the Dodgers aren't likely to make any huge changes to the bullpen anytime soon. The seven pitchers — eight for the road trip, counting Mat Latos — are pretty much the seven most likely pitching important innings down the stretch.

"I feel like we're in a good spot. We have guys that are capable," Mattingly said. "These are our guys. We're going to find a way to do it with this. And keep going."

### **Jose De Leon strikes out 7 in 4 innings for Tulsa**

By Eric Stephen

OAKLAND -- All seven Dodgers affiliates lost on Tuesday, but few performances stood out.

#### Player of the day

Jose De Leon started for Double-A Tulsa and struck out seven in his four innings, allowing only a single and a walk. Since returning from the disabled list on Aug. 6, De Leon has pitched nine innings, allowing one run on four hits, with one walk and 14 strikeouts.

On the season between Class-A Rancho Cucamonga and Double-A Tulsa, the right-hander has 146 strikeouts and 34 walks in 103 innings.

#### Triple-A Oklahoma City

Oklahoma City fell 3-2 to the Tacoma Rainiers (Mariners) on Tuesday, with Zach Lee taking the loss in his quality start, allowing three runs in six innings with five strikeouts and a walk.

Austin Barnes went 3-for-4 with a double, Jose Peraza went 1-for-4 with two steals and a run scored, and Corey Seager went 0-for-4 with three strikeouts.

#### Double-A Tulsa

The Drillers got superb pitching, matching a season high with 19 strikeouts, but lost 5-3 in 14 innings to the Frisco RoughRiders (Rangers). Jharel Cotton followed De Leon with seven strikeouts of his own, allowing two runs on five hits in six innings, with a walk.

Ronald Torreyes went 3-for-5 with a RBI in defeat. Designated pinch runner Robbie Garvey was caught stealing, and is down to just a 60-percent success rate in stealing bases (nine steals, six times caught) with Tulsa.

#### Class-A Rancho Cucamonga

Pablo Fernandez allowed four runs and nine hits in five innings, taking the loss as the Quakes fell 4-0 to the High Desert Mavericks (Rangers). Fernandez struck out two and walked one in defeat.

Dodgers fourth-round pick Willie Calhoun was promoted to Rancho Cucamonga and the second baseman collected two hits, including a double, and a walk in his first game in the Cal League.



## Low Class-A Great Lakes

The Loons were held to just three hits in a 7-1 loss to the West Michigan Whitecaps (Tigers). Southpaw starter Michael Boyle, drafted by the Dodgers in the 13th round this year, allowed four runs in 4⅔ innings in his Great Lakes debut to take the loss, with three strikeouts and two walks.

## Rookie-level Ogden

The Raptors allowed 17 hits and had five walks in a 13-7 loss to the Helena Brewers. In defeat, outfielder Gage Green was 2-for-4 with a double, as was designated hitter Scott De Jong.

## Transactions

Double-A: The Drillers activated third baseman Daniel Mayora and pitcher Ryan Dennick from the disabled list. Eric Stults was placed on the temporarily inactive list, and infielder Nate Samson was sent down to Rancho Cucamonga.

Class-A: Calhoun was promoted from Great Lakes to Rancho Cucamonga; the Quakes placed infielders Tim Locastro and Dillon Moyer on the seven-day disabled list. Jordan Tarsovich, drafted by the Dodgers this year in the 22nd round, was promoted from rookie-level Ogden to Great Lakes.

## Injury update

Dodgers third-round pick Phil Pfeifer hasn't pitched since his professional debut on July 24, out with elbow soreness. But general manager Farhan Zaidi said there haven't been any tests run on Pfeifer, who will likely resume throwing soon.

"There hasn't been any diagnosis. He's just been shut down," Zaidi said. "He's going to start a throwing program, but he'll probably run out of time [in the minor league regular season]."

## Tuesday box scores

Tacoma 3, Oklahoma City 2

Frisco 5, Tulsa 3 (14)

High Desert 4, Rancho Cucamonga 0

West Michigan 7, Great Lakes 1

Helena 13, Ogden 7

AZL Rangers 7, AZL Dodgers 6

DSL Red Sox 4, DSL Dodgers 2

## Wednesday schedule

4 p.m.: Great Lakes (Tommy Bergjans) at West Michigan (Artie Lewicki)

5:05 p.m.: Reno (Diamondbacks) (Jhoulys Chacin) at Oklahoma City (Brandon Beachy)

5:05 p.m.: Frisco (Edwar Cabrera) at Tulsa (Julio Urias)

6 p.m.: Helena (JB Kole) at Ogden (Kevin Brown)

7:05 p.m.: High Desert (Reed Garrett) at Rancho Cucamonga (Chase DeJong)

## **Yasiel Puig has right hamstring tightness, will have MRI Wednesday**

By Eric Stephen

OAKLAND -- Dodgers outfielder Yasiel Puig left Tuesday night's game against the Athletics with tightness in his right hamstring, and will undergo an MRI exam on Wednesday.

Puig beat out an infield single to the hole at shortstop in the eighth inning, but as he reached first base he immediately pulled up and began limping. After conferring with team trainer Stan Conte, Puig left the game in favor of pinch runner Carl Crawford.

"We'll see where it is," manager Don Mattingly said. "We'd be just guessing at this point."

Puig helped keep alive a rally in the eighth that ultimately produced three runs, thanks to an A.J. Ellis home run. But that 4-1 Dodgers lead was short lived, as the A's tied the game in the eighth inning then scored in the 10th to take the series opener.

Earlier in the season Puig missed 39 games on the disabled list with a left hamstring strain. Now the other leg is bothering him.

Puig extended his hitting streak to five games on Tuesday night, and in his last nine games is hitting .310/.355/.586.

Up next

The Dodgers are back at it early on Wednesday, with Alex Wood on the mound in the 12:35 p.m. PT getaway day start. Jesse Chavez starts the series finale for the A's.

### **Dodgers bullpen can't hold it, A's win in 10**

By Eric Stephen

OAKLAND -- Back-to-back doubles by Mark Canha and Biily Butler in the 10th inning gave the Athletics a 5-4 win over the Dodgers on Tuesday night in Oakland, two innings after the A's mounted a furious comeback to tie.

Oakland scored three runs in the eighth inning to tie the score, a mere minutes after the Dodgers took a three-run lead. Pedro Baez took his turn in the barrel on Tuesday, allowing a single and two doubles, and all three runners scored.

Patience a virtue

A.J. Ellis saw 17 total pitches in his first three times up, all walks on Tuesday night. But in his fourth time up, with two runners on and two outs in the eighth inning, Ellis hit the first pitch from Fernando Rodriguez over the wall in left center field for a three-run home run and a brief 4-1 Dodgers advantage that didn't last through the next half inning.

Ellis also walked in the 10th on eight pitches, his fourth walk of the game. It tied a career high for Ellis, who walked four times in a game twice in 2012.

Angry but effective

Clayton Kershaw was angry early, and in an unusually outward manner. After allowing a run in the second inning in a rally that included a sacrifice bunt and a ground out, Kershaw in the third inning thought he had strike three on Danny Valencia with two outs.

But home plate umpire Todd Tichenor disagreed, and when Kershaw then failed to cleanly field Valencia's ground ball down the third base line, Kershaw after time was called slammed the ball into the grass, then picked it up and fired it on a bounce toward the Dodgers first-base dugout, almost Roger Clemens-style.

"I was fired up for some reason. It was just a weird night," Kershaw said. "Nothing really out of the ordinary, I was just fired up."

Then to open the fourth inning Mark Canha with an 0-2 count was granted time out by Tichenor just as Kershaw was going into his motion toward the plate.

"[Canha] was in the box, and that's why I threw it," Kershaw said. "I said, 'He was in the box,' and [Tichenor] said, 'He had time.'"

The tension was so thick that Ellis had to step in and play the dual roles of peacemaker and arguer by proxy.

"It was just the normal back and forth between an umpire, a pitcher and a catcher. As the middle man it's my job to be peacekeeper. If he's going to yell at anybody, he's not going to yell at my pitcher, ever," Ellis said. "Donnie came out and diffused the situation."

But anger aside, Kershaw had a very effective night, allowing just the one run on five hits and two walks in his seven innings. He also struck out seven, giving Kershaw 212 on the season, enough to reclaim the major league lead in strikeouts, by four over White Sox ace Chris Sale.

The wild side

A's starter Felix Doubront walked six batters, matching Rockies left-hander Jorge De La Rosa (May 10) for the most walks against the Dodgers this season, but Los Angeles was only able to push across one unearned run in six innings against him, and that was helped by a passed ball.

That was thanks to Doubront striking out eight and allowing only one hit, a single by Adrian Gonzalez in the second inning. The Dodgers with runners on base against Doubront were 0-for-13 with two walks and six strikeouts.

Tuesday particulars

Home run: A.J. Ellis (3)

WP - Fernando Abad (2-2): 2/3 IP, 1 hit, 1 walk, 1 strikeout

LP - Yimi Garcia (3-3): 1+ IP, 2 hits, 1 run, 1 strikeout

### **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)

#### **DODGERS VS. A'S 2015**

Day	Date	Location	Time (PT)
Tue	Jul 28	Los Angeles	2-0, Oak
Wed	Jul 29	Los Angeles	10-7, LA
Tue	Aug 18	Oakland	7:05pm
Wed	Aug 19	Oakland	12:35pm

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)

### **Dodgers insist Ron Roenicke is here to coach, not manage**

By Eric Stephen

OAKLAND -- Before Saturday, Ron Roenicke figured his next chance to wear a big league uniform would materialize in the offseason. Then, Dodgers manager Don Mattingly called and three days later Roenicke is coaching third base for the Dodgers.

"It's hard to just sit home when you're not supposed to be home," Roenicke said.

Roenicke was fired as Brewers manager on May 3 after a 7-18 start in his fifth season at the helm in Milwaukee, a tenure that included a division title and a trip to the NLCS. Before that he was on Mike Scioscia's staff in Anaheim for 11 years.

"It's not the kind of thing where you go after a guy right away. As we evaluated our strengths and weakness internally, it seemed like an area where we might benefit from addressing," general manager Farhan Zaidi said. "But I think having somebody with his resume and pedigree in particular was as big a part of the move as anything."

The Dodgers have been one of the worst base running teams in baseball all season, not that all or even most of that blame falls on the head of Lorenzo Bundy, who will now serve as outfield coordinator and remain in the dugout during games.

"Our base running has not been very good at all," Mattingly said. "That's really on all of us as a staff."

"The baserunning has been a major issue with our team all season. Some of that has to do with us not having a lot of team speed. That's just not an area of strength for us as a roster," Zaidi said. "Some of it has to do with guys running the bases and picking up their coaches. So I think the responsibility for the baserunning falls on all of us really. But again, the chance to bring in somebody that has this as part of his pedigree and a real strength – it was more about that."

The Dodgers wanted to make a change to shake up the coaching staff, whether Roenicke or someone else was the one coming on board.

"I think the best way to describe it is it was partly a function of feeling like creating a new dynamic there might help but also making sure it was the right guy," Zaidi said. "It's hard to say it was one or the other. I think it had to be the right situation all along."

John Valentin was also affected by the move, unable to be in uniform during games because there are a maximum number of coaches allowed in uniform for each game.

"But half the time anyway [Valentin] was down in the cages trying to get guys ready," Mattingly said. "It doesn't really change that much."

Bundy and Valentin were told of the plans to change before Roenicke was even approached.

"It wasn't any fun, that's for sure," Mattingly said of those conversations.

Mattingly had a list of candidates from president of baseball operations Andrew Friedman.

"As soon as I saw Ron, his name to me was at the top of the list, as far as quality. I saw him from afar with the Angels, his teams in Milwaukee," Mattingly said. "I had a chance the last couple of years with a dinner with Sandy Koufax, and Ron's always at that. He's just a comfortable fit."

But before Roenicke would take the job offer, he had a question for Mattingly.

"I guess the biggest thing for me was does Donnie want me to do it? Is this coming from somebody else or does Donnie want me to do it? Because I know managing and coaching, I know how important it is to have people you want there," Roenicke explained. "When I asked Donnie about whether he wanted me there, he said, 'Absolutely.' It made a difference for me and the fact that he had already talked to Lo about it."

Mattingly when asked if the coaching changes were his idea said only, "I'm not going to get into that."

"It's an ongoing dialogue we've had between the staff and the front office and the coaching staff," Zaidi said. "I think that's the best way to describe it."

The timing of the move was certainly odd, with 44 games left in the season. Most coaching changes don't happen in season, especially for a club in first place.

"This doesn't happen very often, so it was something that I was surprised," Roenicke said.

"I think as an organization we're always looking for ways to improve. If we went out there and made a waiver-wire trade I don't think anybody would view it as an unusual time to do that," Zaidi said. "The roster is an evolution. The organization is an evolution. When we get a chance to do something that we think is additive, we're going to make every effort to do it."

Roenicke said he wants to manage again, but dismissed the idea that he is a manager in waiting, someone in-house ready to replace Mattingly should he get the axe.

"I never thought that way. Donnie wouldn't have asked if and wouldn't have wanted me to be here if that was a concern. That's great. Because that's the way it should be," Roenicke said. "So me coming here is strictly because I wanted to help out when he asked me to do it."

"This move is about this year and it's about him in this role helping us to go as far as we can in 2015," Zaidi added.

Mattingly dismissed the idea as well.

"I'm not concerned about that. All I care about is winning. This is a pretty good job to have. I'm sure a lot of guys who would like it. That's always the case," Mattingly said. "Those things are so far down the road, you just worry about winning games. We're in a pennant race."

### **Mat Latos moved to bullpen for remainder of road trip**

By Eric Stephen

OAKLAND -- The Dodgers are in the midst of three off days in an eight-day span, so we knew some starting pitcher was getting bumped as a way to maximize the frequency of starts by Zack Greinke and Clayton Kershaw down the stretch. Manager Don Mattingly said on Tuesday that pitcher would be Mat Latos.

Latos, originally penciled in as Wednesday afternoon's starter against the Athletics, will instead pitch out of the bullpen for the remainder of the road trip, which runs through next Thursday, Aug. 27 in Cincinnati.

"Mat's a pro. He understands that we'll try to line up our rotation the best way possible, and he acknowledged that he hasn't pitched his best," manager Don Mattingly said on Tuesday. "It gives him a chance to continue to work, and just be ready to go when we get there. Obviously we're still going to need him."

Latos, acquired from the Marlins on July 30, is 0-2 with a 6.75 ERA in three starts, allowed 12 runs (11 earned) on 18 hits in 14<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings, with eight strikeouts and three walks. After pitching six innings in his Dodgers debut, Latos has failed to complete five innings in each of his last two times out.

"It allows us to maximize the off days, basically Zack and Clayton, making sure they are getting as many turns around as we can," Mattingly said. "[Latos] gives us a little length out of the pen, so we'll use our guys just a little bit differently."

Alex Wood now gets the start on Wednesday in Oakland, with Brett Anderson, Greinke and Kershaw, in that order, over the weekend in Houston. That foursome will remain in order after Monday's off day, with Latos slotting back into the rotation after that, and will allow Greinke and Kershaw to pitch the final two games against the Giants on Sept. 1-2 in Los Angeles.

"It's about getting Zack and Clayton lined up, and with these off days not having to wait seven days to pitch," Mattingly said.

### **Alex Guerrero starts at DH against LHP Felix Doubront**

By Eric Stephen

OAKLAND -- The Dodgers battle the Athletics on Tuesday night at O.co Coliseum in Oakland, the first of five straight games this week with a designated hitter. First up in the DH role for the Dodgers on Tuesday is Alex Guerrero.

It's the fourth start for Guerrero in the last 15 games.

Since the All-Star break, Guerrero is 6-for-28 (.214) with a home run, with nine strikeouts and no walks.

Oakland is starting a left-hander in Felix Doubront, which means Scott Van Slyke gets the call in left field, batting fifth. Van Slyke is hitting .264/.420/.434 against southpaws this season.

A.J. Ellis gets the start at catcher, which is the usual with both a lefty on the mound and with a day game on Wednesday following the night game.

Joc Pederson bats ninth for the Dodgers, his seventh different spot in the batting order this season, making good on Jon Weisman's prediction for Dodger Insider on March 25 that Pederson would start at seven different spots in the batting order this year.

The only spots Pederson hasn't started are third and fourth.

Clayton Kershaw starts on the mound for Los Angeles.

### **Clayton Kershaw, Dodgers open series with A's in Oakland**

By Eric Stephen

OAKLAND -- The Dodgers try for a fourth straight win on Tuesday night, taking on the Athletics at O.co Coliseum in Oakland.

The Dodgers have had just one losing streak longer than three games in the last two seasons — a four-game skid from Aug. 7-10. They have had five winning streaks extend beyond three games — a seven-game streak, a five-game streak, and three four-gamers.

Clayton Kershaw is on the mound for the series opener, on a heck of a good run of his own. The left-hander has allowed 18 runs in his last 14 starts, with a 1.30 ERA, 132 strikeouts and just 14 walks during that span.

Kershaw in five of his last six starts has pitched at least eight innings and allowed no runs, per the Elias Sports Bureau one of only five pitchers in the live ball era (since 1920) to do so in a single season. The other pitchers with such a streak are Ray Herbert (1963), Bob Gibson (1968), Don Drysdale (1968) and Orel Hershisier (1988).

Going deeper into games recently, Kershaw is back up to averaging 7.04 innings per start, one of six starters in baseball this season to average at least seven innings per starts, joining Dallas Keuchel, Corey Kluber, Johnny Cueto, Sonny Gray and David Price.

Kershaw has averaged 7.10 innings per start since the beginning of 2011, and has averaged at least seven innings per start in three of the previous four seasons.

Left-hander Felix Doubront gets the start for the A's. He's 1-1 with a 4.59 ERA in seven games between Toronto and Oakland this year, with 18 strikeouts and six walks in 33⅓ innings.

The Dodgers are hitting .266/.340/.420 with a .331 wOBA against left-handed pitching this season, tops in the National League in wOBA and wRC+ (114), and tied with Miami for best OPS (.760) and OPS+ (114).

After a slow start this year, the Dodgers are now 13-12 in games against southpaw starters this season, including nine wins in their last 13 games against lefties.

### **Interleague play brings Dodgers back to American League parks this week**

By Eric Stephen

OAKLAND -- The Dodgers resume interleague play this week with two games against the Athletics in Oakland followed by three weekend games against the Astros in Houston. The Dodgers have fared better recently in interleague play, though especially with the set in Oakland some bad memories arise from American League parks.

The Dodgers actually haven't beaten the A's in Oakland since 2001, when a pair of bases-loaded walks in the 15th inning — by Chad Kreuter and Paul Lo Duca — lifted the Dodgers to a 5-3 win.

Part of the long wait for a road win against the A's is a scheduling quirk — the Dodgers have only played a pair of three-game series in Oakland since then, swept both in 2006 and 2012.

But for years, the Dodgers interleague road struggle was very real.

Beginning in 2004 the Dodgers had a losing record in American League parks for five straight years, including losing 15 straight interleague road games in 2005-2006. The Dodgers had a losing interleague road mark in eight out of nine years before going 5-5 in 2013 (winning their last four games in AL parks to do so) and 7-3 in 2014.

From 2004-2012 the Dodgers were 22-55 (.286) in American League parks.

Since 1997, the first year of interleague play, the Dodgers' .395 winning percentage in AL parks is fifth-worst among National League teams, ahead of only the Nationals/Expos (.393), Reds (.377), Pirates (.343) and Rockies (.308).

So far this season, the Dodgers are 0-2 in AL parks, losing twice in Texas. After the five games this week, the Dodgers will play the Angels in Anaheim from Sept. 7-9.

They are 8-2 in interleague play at home this season.

Now we get to see if that translates into wins in AL parks. The Dodgers will have to turn around their poor interleague history in Oakland, having won just two of 14 games at what is now called O.co Coliseum.

The other win for the Dodgers in Oakland came on June 13, 1997, when Eric Karros hit a two-run home run to tie the game in the eighth, the Mike Piazza hit an RBI double in the ninth, followed by a bases-loaded walk from Karros in the Dodgers' 6-4 win over the A's.

## **DODGER INSIDER**

### **Dodgers go from aggravated to elated to defeated**

By Jon Weisman

Some notes to pass along after a tough 5-4, 10-inning Dodger loss to the A's tonight ...

- Clayton Kershaw lowered his ERA again, to 2.34, after allowing one run in seven innings and 116 pitches. It was a fiery night from Kershaw, who fired a baseball into the Dodger dugout (low enough not to harm anyone) after failing to make a play on an infield chopper to his right.
- A.J. Ellis had a tiebreaking three-run home run in the eighth inning and four walks tonight, becoming the first Major Leaguer to do so since Jose Canseco in 1996 (noted by Bob Timmermann). Ellis also had his angry moment, jawing with home-plate umpire Tim Tichenor over a late timeout call.
- Pedro Baez surrendered three runs and the lead in the bottom of the eighth. In the past month, opponents had a 0.68 ERA and 0.68 WHIP against Baez with a .200 on-base percentage.
- Yimi Garcia pitched a perfect ninth inning, but allowed back-to-back doubles with none out in the 10th to end the game. Garcia had thrown 6 1/3 shutout innings this month, stranding two inherited runners, before those doubles.



- Yasiel Puig left tonight's game in the eighth inning with right hamstring tightness after beating out an infield single. As Ken Gurnick of MLB.com notes, it was a strained left hamstring that sidelined Puig earlier this season.
- The Dodgers walked nine times in a loss for the first time since an April 7, 2010 defeat against the Pirates.
- Ron Roenicke, Don Mattingly and Farhan Zaidi discussed Roenicke's hiring as Dodger third-base coach, Gurnick reports.

### **Mat Latos to be skipped in Dodger rotation**

By Jon Weisman

Don Mattingly told reporters today that Mat Latos would pitch out of the bullpen during this roadtrip, with Alex Wood moving up to start Wednesday at Oakland.

Latos has allowed 21 baserunners while striking out eight in 14 2/3 innings since being acquired by the Dodgers. He pitched six innings of one-run ball in his Dodger debut August 2, but allowed 10 earned runs in 8 2/3 innings over his next two starts.

The move also could help ensure Zack Greinke and Clayton Kershaw both pitch in the series against the Giants at Dodger Stadium from August 31-September 2, though obviously that is still a couple weeks off.

### **Joc Pederson fulfills the prophecy**

By Jon Weisman

It took a bit less than five months for my Spring Training prediction to come true.

With the Dodgers using the designated hitter tonight at Oakland, Joc Pederson is batting ninth — the seventh different batting slot he has started at in 2015.

Chronologically, here's when he's made his first appearance at each ...

- 1 – April 29
- 2 – June 19
- 3 –
- 4 –
- 5 – July 12
- 6 – July 8
- 7 – April 6
- 8 – April 7
- 9 – August 18

The chances of Pederson batting third or fourth this year seem pretty slim as long as Adrian Gonzalez is playing, because Gonzalez bats nowhere but third and fourth, and Don Mattingly isn't likely to bat lefties Pederson and Gonzalez back-to-back, even once Pederson regains his form from earlier this year. However, it's certainly possible, especially if the Dodgers were to clinch a division title before the end of the season.

### **'Let's see him do it in the postseason'**

By Jon Weisman

Now that Clayton Kershaw is pitching the way everyone expects him to — which is to say, completely out of this world — the slings and arrows have been reduced to one lone sling.

The postseason.

It's a credit to Kershaw that his latest accomplishments are so par for his course that some people don't care about any of it because of the calendar. And Kershaw would be the first to take responsibility for not having finished more postseason starts with victory in hand.

But I'll say this. It kills me to see fans near or far toss aside eight or nine shutout innings by Kershaw as irrelevant because it's summer and not fall.

For one thing, Kershaw's doesn't deserve a reputation as a playoff goat. Let's go through this again ...

October 8, 2009: In his first career postseason start, at age 21 in 2009, Kershaw held the Cardinals to two runs over 6 2/3 innings of Game 2 of the National League Division Series. George Sherrill, who threw 10 pitches in the game, got the win (the Matt Holliday game). Nevertheless, no one would have suggested then that Kershaw wasn't up to the playoff challenge.

October 15, 2009: Playoff start No. 2 (Game 1 of the 2009 National League Championship Series) began with four shutout innings but did not end well. Taking a 1-0 into the fifth inning, Kershaw got Carlos Ruiz with a three-run home run, then later surrendered a two-run double to Ryan Howard.

This was the only one of his first five playoff starts that wasn't a quality start.

October 3, 2013: In his first postseason start of 2013 — the first after Clayton Kershaw had really become Clayton Kershaw — the lefty won Game 1 of the NLDS going away, allowing one run in seven innings while striking out 12, the most by a Dodger playoff pitcher in 50 years. Again, no one in their right mind would suggest Kershaw couldn't succeed or hadn't succeeded in the playoffs.

October 7, 2013: In his next two playoff starts of 2013, Kershaw had a 0-1 record — with a 0.00 ERA.

Now really focus on this. The first thing people will say about Kershaw in the postseason is that he has only one career victory, ignoring how Adrian Gonzalez's fourth-inning error derailed his six innings of shutout ball in Game 4 of the NLDS (on three days' rest, no less) ...

October 12, 2013: ... or how Kershaw left Game 2 of the NLCS trailing by a 1-0 score after a double, passed ball and sacrifice fly.

By this time, anyone calling Kershaw a postseason flop is guilty of convenient memory loss. In five playoff starts to this point, he had a 2.37 ERA. Acknowledge his one legitimate loss, and his ERA in the four other starts was 1.05.

October 18, 2013: Game 6 of the 2013 National League Championship Series — seven runs in four-plus innings — was a dud, it's fair to say. What's unfair is the way it overshadowed all his success before that night.

October 3-7, 2014: His two starts in the 2014 National League Division Series are classic Rorschach tests. Defenders would remind you that in the first six innings of the two starts, Kershaw had a 1.00 ERA. The alternate view: By surrendering leads in the seventh inning, Kershaw did nothing less than fail.

Either way, Kershaw is a victim of his own success, in that nearly any other pitcher who got into Kershaw's kind of trouble of the seventh inning of Game 1 of the 2014 NLCS would have been

pulled from that game with the lead. Hardly any other pitcher who delivered six shutout innings in Game 4 of the NLCS on three days' rest, and still left with a quality start, would have been trashed the way many trashed Kershaw.

Bottom line: Kershaw has not been as successful in the playoffs as he has been in the regular season. But to say that he hasn't been successful at all is objectively wrong.

He has made eight postseason starts. In half of them, he has allowed two runs or less. In two others, he has allowed two runs or less heading into the seventh inning. His postseason record as a starting pitcher should, at worst, be 4-4.

This compulsion to characterize Kershaw as a playoff failure is perverse. No one is suggesting that Kershaw has had a postseason to match Madison Bumgarner's in 2014. However, the absence of perfection is not failure.

Is it really so impossible, such a juggling act of the mind, to comprehend Kershaw's postseason successes and shortcomings in the same train of thought?

And you know what? That's not even the thought I want to leave you with today.

Just because Kershaw has disappointed (to whatever extent) against St. Louis in October is no reason to diminish what he is doing right now. We are seeing a pitcher that comes once a generation, if that.

Even if our ultimate goal — like Kershaw's — is to win the World Series, don't take what he's doing right now for granted.

Clayton Kershaw is capable of many things, but he can't force October to come before September. Until he gets another chance at postseason glory, savor him. Appreciate that all the experience he is amassing can only help him come the fall.

And then, when the time comes, don't fall into the trap of ignorance. Don't assume the worst.

## USA TODAY

### **Dodgers hire former Milwaukee manager Ron Roenicke as third base coach**

By Jorge L. Ortiz

OAKLAND – Los Angeles Dodgers manager Don Mattingly was eager to talk about the rotation shuffle that will send key trade-deadline acquisition Mat Latos to the bullpen for at least 10 days.

That was less uncomfortable than explaining why, with six weeks left in the season, the Dodgers had decided to bring in a new third-base coach – one who happens to have deep Dodgers roots and four-plus years of major league managing experience.

The hiring of former Milwaukee Brewers manager Ron Roenicke to take over third-base coaching duties for Lorenzo Bundy – who will now focus on coaching outfielders – raised eyebrows in baseball circles, and only partly because of its timing.

First-place teams don't typically mess with their coaching staffs. And considering the frequent second-guessing Mattingly has endured during his five seasons at the helm, the last two ending with the free-spending Dodgers bounced out of the playoffs short of the World Series after winning their division, it was easy to look at Roenicke as his successor in waiting.

All involved said that was not the plan.

"I can say with all sincerity that this move is about this year," general manager Farhan Zaidi said. "It's about him in this role helping us go as far as we can in 2015."

Roenicke, fired in early May as the Brewers manager, spent six seasons as the Los Angeles Angels' third-base coach, most recently in 2005, before becoming their bench coach. He broke into the majors as a player with the Dodgers in 1981 and later coached for them and managed in their farm system.

He said he missed the game and would like to manage again, but has no designs on replacing Mattingly.

"I never thought about it," Roenicke said. "Donnie wouldn't have asked me, wouldn't have wanted me to be here, if that was the case. And that's the way it should be. Me coming here is strictly because I wanted to help out when he asked me to do it."

The Dodgers lead the National League in home runs but rank last in the majors with 30 stolen bases and have been caught stealing 27 times. They haven't been particularly adept at taking the extra base, though those issues likely have more to do with their personnel than with coaching.

During Roenicke's time with the Angels, the club was known for its aggressive baserunning and knack for forcing the action.

"Baserunning has been a major issue with our team all season," Zaidi said. "Some of that has to do with the fact we don't have a lot of team speed. That's just not an area of strength for us as a roster. Some of it has to do with guys running bases, picking up their coaches. So the responsibility for the baserunning falls on all of us."

Mattingly acknowledged it was difficult to break the news to Bundy, who was in his second season as third-base coach. Mattingly wouldn't address whether the move was his idea – likely not – but said he was not looking over his shoulder.

"I'm just worried about winning," he said. "This is a pretty good job to have. I'm sure there's a lot of guys who would like it. That's always the case, but those are things that to me are so far down the road. You just worry about winning games."

## FOX SPORTS

### **Lasorda uses A's series to evoke memories of Dodgers' last championship**

By Robert Pace

As the Dodgers opened a two-game series with the A's in Oakland on Tuesday, former manager Tommy Lasorda recalled a very special trip the Dodgers took to Oakland 27 years ago.

In 1988, the Dodgers and A's met up in the World Series. After Kirk Gibson's heroics won Game 1 for the Dodgers, the Boys in Blue pulled away with Game 2 and held a two-game lead heading up to Oakland.

The A's swiped Game 3, but the Dodgers bounced back for wins in Games 4 and 5, notching their second World Series title in seven years.

The always outspoken Lasorda will be the first to remind you of it, too, posting a throwback photo of him celebrating the Game 5 win in Oakland to his Twitter page on Tuesday.

While the Dodgers won a championship against the A's that year, they haven't had much success against them since, posting a 10-18 record against Oakland in regular-season matchups.

The Dodgers have made the postseason eight times since '88, but have yet to return to, or win, a World Series.

And we can only imagine that the 87-year-old Lasorda would post plenty more celebratory photos if the Dodgers bring a World Series back to Los Angeles this year.