



*Clips*

**(September 1, 2015)**

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*FROM THE LOS ANGELES TIMES*

## **Angels' horrible month ends with an 11-5 loss to Athletics**

BY KEVIN BAXTER

No team in baseball will be happier to see the calendar flip from August to September than the Angels.

With Monday's 11-5 loss to the Oakland Athletics, the Angels finished the month with an American League-worst 19 losses and a major league-low 86 runs scored. It was the team's worst month since August of 1999 — and the worst month in the Mike Scioscia era.

But if that's the bad news, here's the good: there's another month left in the season. And if the Angels can turn the page quickly, they still have a chance to salvage a spot in the postseason.

Because while that 1999 team finished 24 games back in the wild-card standings, this year's team enters September with a losing record yet trailing the Texas Rangers by just 3 1/2 games in the race the final playoff berth. And the Angels play the Rangers seven times in the next 4 1/2 weeks.

That won't mean anything if the Angels don't play a lot better than they did Monday, when Hector Santiago lost all sense of the strike zone while extending his personal winless streak to eight starts.

As a team the Angels have lost four straight, nine of their last 11 and 17 of 20 on the road, dropping below .500 (65-66) for the first time since June 10 and falling a season-high 7 1/2 games behind the Houston Astros in the AL West.

Thirty-six days ago the Angels led the division.

With Erick Aybar driving in two runs with a single and a sacrifice fly and C.J. Cron adding another by swiping home as part of a double steal, Santiago took the mound in the bottom of the third with a 3-0 lead. But he promptly gave that back — and then some — missing the strike zone on 15 of his last 19 pitches.

Danny Valencia and Jake Smolinski hit two of the ones that found the plate for bases-loaded doubles, giving the Athletics a 5-3 lead and chasing Santiago after just 2 2/3 innings, his shortest outing of the season.

Santiago, who was an All-Star a month ago, went 0-4 with a 6.21 earned-run average in six starts during the Angels' August slide. Along the way he set career highs for both starts (26) and innings pitched (152 1/3), something Scioscia admitted concerned him even before the game.

"There's all kinds of things you have to be concerned with, especially with young pitchers, getting from that 140- to 150-inning season," he said.

"We're in uncharted waters with some guys. And we're really not going to know until the season's done whether it's just a couple of outings or did he hit a wall."

After Santiago left, Valencia doubled home another run off reliever Fernando Salas in the fifth before Mark Canha put the game away with a three-run homer off Jose Alvarez in the sixth. Oakland added two more runs in the eighth, marking the seventh time in 11 games Angels pitchers have given up at least eight runs, sending the staff's August ERA soaring to 5.15.

Angels hitters scored that many runs in a game just twice in August.

Up next

Right-hander Matt Shoemaker (6-9, 4.48 ERA) will oppose Oakland right-hander Cody Martin (2-3, 5.40 for Atlanta) at O.co Coliseum on Tuesday at 7 p.m. TV: FS West Radio: 830, 1330.

## **Crews struggle to make Oakland field playable**

BY KEVIN BAXTER

After Oakland Athletics Manager Bob Melvin made the short walk from the Athletics clubhouse to the field Monday afternoon, the first person he sought out was Clay Wood, the team's head groundskeeper.

Wood had less than 22 hours to reconfigure the turf at O.co Coliseum for baseball after Sunday night's NFL exhibition.

And that wasn't nearly enough time.

The Angels and Athletics had to cancel batting practice and most other on-field activities before the game, which ended in an 11-5 Oakland victory, to allow Wood's team to paint over the football stripes and repair the grass. But when the game started, the hash marks and yard markers were still clearly visible, especially behind the mound.

Center field, where temporary bleachers were erected for the Raiders game, was even worse. The grass, already cut short, was trampled further by the grandstand and its plywood foundation and in other places the grass was worn away completely. So the grounds crew covered wide swaths of the outfield with green paint.

"Center field is the place that is probably the roughest," Melvin said. "It's pretty quick out there."

It turned out left-center field wasn't much better, with part of the padded wall coming unhinged after Angels outfielder Shane Victorino crashed into it chasing Danny Valencia's fifth-inning double. Both teams left the field and the game was delayed 10 minutes so the wall panel could be repaired.

Wood had four days to make the field conversion after the Raiders' first exhibition this year. And although the Raiders play two regular-season home games before the end of the baseball season, the shortest turnaround for those will be two days, more than twice what the grounds crew had Monday.

The O.co Coliseum is the only stadium that houses a Major League Baseball team and an NFL team, although Yankee Stadium is also home to Major League Soccer's New York City FC.

### Thawing out Freese

Angels third baseman David Freese, who sat out five weeks because of a fractured right index finger, was traveling to Oakland after a minor league rehab assignment and is expected to be activated when big-league rosters expand Tuesday.

Manager Mike Scioscia said that as many as three other rehabbing players could be activated Tuesday. Infielder Taylor Featherston has been sidelined because of an upper-back issue, and outfielders Matt Joyce (concussion) and Collin Cowgill (right wrist) are also on the disabled list.

Second baseman Johnny Giavotella, out because of an disclosed medical issue, won't join the team until it returns to Anaheim.

### Help wanted

The Angels have interviewed assistant general managers Matt Klentak and Scott Servais for the general manager position. The team has not interviewed any outside candidates.

### *FROM THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER*

## **Jett Bandy's 2015 season puts him on the cusp on making it in the majors**

BY BUBBA BROWN

SALT LAKE CITY — Jett Bandy did not start the season with a full-time role for the Salt Lake Bees.

Instead he inherited the starting catching job from Carlos Perez when Perez was promoted to Anaheim early in the season.

Five months later, he is putting the finishing touches on perhaps the best season of his career. In 306 at-bats with the Bees, he has hit .291/.345/.464 with 11 homers and opened some eyes about what the future might hold for him in the major leagues.

Bees manager Dave Anderson said Bandy has improved throughout the year defensively and in particular has focused on honing his ability to call games. But his bat has also gotten better. He has been one of the Bees' most consistent hitters throughout the season.

"Offensively, he's been pretty good," Anderson said. "He's done the things he needed to do. One of the areas he's really worked on — and something he's got to do — is hit left-handed pitching."

Bandy credits much of his growth to discovering how to mentally separate his offensive game from his defensive game and from learning how to channel self-criticism, something that has not always come easy in the past.

"It's a lot of mental relaxation," he said. "I don't want too much of a roller coaster ride. I just want a straight ride. Got to make sure those downs aren't too low and the highs don't get too high. I've really tried to concentrate on that.

"You have to focus on the positives. Even if it's a foul ball or how you're feeling at the plate. It isn't as much about the results sometimes as it is the process. The bottom line is the results are what go on the back of the baseball card and everyone sees, but you have to concentrate on the simple things."

Bandy may well have done enough this season to earn himself a call-up to Anaheim when major league rosters are expanded Tuesday. And he has certainly put himself on the radar of Angels' brass. But Anderson, when pressed for how Bandy fits into the Angels' future plans, said it will be the catcher's bat that dictates what his role will be.

"He can catch and throw, and that automatically makes him a backup catcher in the big leagues," Anderson said. "But it depends on how he hits. If he hits and does everything he needs to do, then he's going to be an everyday catcher."

Bandy has maintained throughout the season's final weeks that he's not focused on a potential call-up or on what future seasons might bring. He said he's focused on finishing the minor league season strong. But he acknowledges that his play this season has brought his career goals closer than ever.

"I mean, I just want to get to the big leagues," he said. "but I definitely see myself being an everyday catcher one day. But I have to take one step at a time."

## **Angels seek quick resolution for GM opening**

BY JEFF FLETCHER

OAKLAND – The Angels have already conducted multiple interviews for their general manager opening, including internal and external candidates, and are planning on hiring someone shortly after the end of the season, if not before, according to a source.

It's unclear who the Angels have interviewed, but it's likely that assistant general managers Matt Klentak and Scott Servais are both on the short list.

Of the external candidates who have been interviewed so far, none has been a major league general manager before, the source said. The Angels are planning to speak to at least some candidates with experience in that position, according to a source.

The Angels will not keep interim general manager Bill Stoneman in that position beyond this season.

General Manager Jerry Dipoto abruptly resigned July 1, citing differences that he felt made it best for him to step aside. It has been widely assumed that at least a part of the issue was a struggle against Manager Mike Scioscia.

Since Dipoto resigned, there have been GM openings with four other teams: Boston, Milwaukee, Philadelphia and Seattle. That certainly increases the competition for the candidates.

## **Angels Notes: Kaleb Cowart's opportunity coming to an end with return of David Freese**

BY JEFF FLETCHER

OAKLAND – David Freese will return to the Angels lineup Tuesday, which will likely mean the end of Kaleb Cowart's audition.

Freese, who will be activated from the disabled list after missing a month with a broken finger, will return to being the Angels everyday third baseman. Because rosters expand Tuesday, that leaves room for the Angels to keep Cowart, who could get action as a late-inning defensive replacement.

Cowart, who was in the lineup for his 13th game at third base Monday night, made quite an impression with his defense in his two-week opportunity.

"From a defensive perspective you couldn't ask for much more from a major league third baseman," Manager Mike Scioscia said. "He's made every play. He's made a lot of tough plays look easy."

Offensively, though, Cowart struggled. He was hitting .167 heading into Monday's game. Scioscia said it's been tough to draw conclusions from this small sample how good of a hitter he could be with an extended opportunity.

"There hasn't been a young player that has come up to the major leagues who hasn't at some point made adjustments and you won't know what they are till you face the beast, which is major league pitching," Scioscia said. "He has the potential to be a really good player."

Cowart, 23, figures to have a shot at the Angels' third base job next season. He was originally projected to be their everyday third baseman, but after he slumped the past two years, the Angels acquired Kyle Kubitza.

Now, Kubitza and Cowart are candidates for the job next year. The Angels also could bring in another third baseman, or even re-sign Freese, who will be a free agent.

Cowart said he was aware that the opportunity he's just had was not only to help the team this year, but to get a foot in the door for 2016.

"You are always playing for the future," he said. "That's how this game works. Every night you want to come out and prove you are worthy and can help the team in any way possible."

ALSO

The Angels were not expected to make a trade before Monday night's deadline for postseason eligibility. All players on the Angels' 40-man roster or disabled list are eligible for the postseason, and any other player in the organization can be added to replace an injured player. ...

The Angels will call up their first wave of September additions Tuesday. Matt Joyce, Taylor Featherston and Collin Cowgill, who are all on the disabled list, are expected to be in that group. The Angels will need to take someone else off the 40-man roster to add Cowgill, because he was moved to the 60-day disabled list. ...

Cory Rasmus on Monday threw his second full bullpen session since going on the disabled list with forearm tightness. The Angels will evaluate him Tuesday and determine if he needs to pitch a game in the minors before being activated.

## **Angels sink below .500 with 11-5 loss in Oakland**

BY JEFF FLETCHER

OAKLAND – The Angels continue to sink, as their pitching has now gone the way of their offense.

The Angels lost 11-5 to the Oakland A's – a team that had been playing just as badly as them for the past few weeks – on Monday night, dropping below .500 for the first time since June 10.

The Angels (65-66) were 14 games over .500 on July 22, before starting an 11-26 stretch.

Poor offense has been the recurring theme for most of the slump, but lately they've also mixed in some trouble on the mound. Over the past 11 games, the Angels have a 7.66 ERA. In five of those games, including Monday's, the Angels' starter has failed to get through the fifth inning.

Hector Santiago was the culprit this time, allowing five runs in 2 2/3 innings, after the Angels had staked him to a three-run lead.

"It's just a bad outing for Hector," Manager Mike Scioscia said. "He lost the release point and was never able to get it back."

Monday's game was a little like his season. It started off well. He gave up a single but retired the next six hitters, four on strikeouts. With a 3-0 lead in the third, there were two outs and a runner at second when the wheels fell off. He issued two straight walks, then a Danny Valencia two-run double down the third base line. Then another walk, a Jake Smolinski three-run double off the glove of diving third baseman Kaleb Cowart.

Then his night was over, the latest disturbing outing for a pitcher who less than two months ago was an All-Star. Since then, though, he has struggled. He had one good start after the break, and in the nine starts since he has a 6.75 ERA.



"I don't know if concerned is the right word, but he needs to pitch better," Scioscia said. "He struggled with that. Hopefully he'll be able to get in sync and finish strong. I think he's got enough in his tank. Velocity was good. He just lost it and wasn't able to get it back."

Santiago said he's had trouble all month his control, falling behind in the count and then "aiming" to get back in.

"That's when the mechanics go, when you start aiming," Santiago said.

Santiago said he's been working in his between-starts bullpen sessions to try to get back to where he was in the first half, but he may now have worked on too much and gotten too far away from where he was.

"It's one of those times in the season where things go wrong and they pile up on each other," he said. "You try to make adjustments and overthink some situations and overwork your bullpen days, and try to change things you don't need to change. ... I feel like I'm fighting myself mechanically."

One possible factor is that Santiago is already past his career high in innings. In 2013, he threw 149 innings, and he's now at 152 1/3 innings this year, with a month to go. Scioscia, who said Santiago's velocity was good enough to indicate he's not fatigued, said he doesn't think that's an issue. Santiago also said this was "the best I felt in the last couple weeks."

After Santiago was done on Monday, the A's scored four more runs with the help of some shaky defense by Cowart.

Cowart booted a ball in the fifth, allowing Brett Lawrie to reach base and eventually score. In the sixth, with the bases loaded and no outs, Cowart fielded a ground ball by the bag. He stepped on the bag for one out, but then made a bad throw to first. The Angels still got the second out because Billy Butler, who was running at third, had broken back, so he was thrown out going for home. If Cowart had made a good throw to first, the Angels probably would have had a triple play.

The next hitter, Mark Canha, blasted a three-run homer off Jose Alvarez to put the game away.

For all the defensive and pitching miscues by the Angels, they had an encouraging night at the plate. Besides their 10 hits, they drew five walks and made several loud outs.

Chris Iannetta and Kole Calhoun hit balls that were caught at the fence. Mike Trout and C.J. Cron also hit line drives that were caught in the outfield.

That kind of luck was no surprise. Before the game even started, Calhoun said that's how things have been going for the Angels: "Every time we hit a ball hard, it's caught. Every time we miss over the middle, it's hit. It's baseball. Sometimes it's not fun."

All the losing has certainly prompted many to wonder about what's going on in the Angels clubhouse. Has the team collectively lost confidence, or lost faith in each other?

Scioscia denied that any of those clubhouse chemistry issues are issues at all.

“These guys are all good in here,” he said, motioning toward the clubhouse. “The issue is production on the field.”

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

BY JEFF FLETCHER

Where: O.co Coliseum

TV: Fox Sports West, 7 p.m.

Did you know: Mike Trout became the fifth player in major league history with 60 extra base hits and 10 stolen bases in each of his first four seasons.

### THE PITCHERS

RHP MATT SHOEMAKER (6-9, 4.48)

Shoemaker's past month has been a roller coaster. He had three straight scoreless outings, and then he gave up 13 combined runs in two outings, and then he went to Triple-A for one start, and then he came back and tossed 7 1/3 scoreless innings, on one hit. Shoemaker has faced the A's four times this season, and he has not finished the sixth inning in any of the starts.

Vs. A's: 1-2, 5.61

At O.Co Coliseum: 0-0, 7.45

Loves to face: Josh Reddick, 1 for 10 (.100)

Hates to face: Billy Butler, 4 for 10 (.400)

RHP CODY MARTIN (2-3, 5.40)

The A's scratched Chris Bassitt from his scheduled start because of shoulder stiffness, instead giving the ball to Martin for his first appearance with the team. The A's acquired Martin from the Atlanta Braves at the trading deadline. Martin, 25, appeared in 21 games in relief with Atlanta. This will be his first major league start. Martin had a 4.08 ERA in 88 1/3 innings in Triple-A this year.

Vs. Angels: First game

At O.co Coliseum: First game

*FROM ANGELS.COM*

## **Pujols, Kershaw team up for Wiffle ball game**

BY ALYSON FOOTER / MLB.COM

Their teams are crosstown rivals on the field, but away from the ballpark, Albert Pujols and Clayton Kershaw have more in common beyond their obvious baseball ability.

They are two of the most charitable players in the Major Leagues, and soon, they'll band together to raise funds for their respective foundations through a fan-friendly, interactive event.

Pujols and Kershaw are squaring off in a Wiffle ball game in September, and they are currently in the process of "recruiting" fans to round out their roster. With the assistance of Omaze.com, contest winners will join Pujols and Kershaw at Angel Stadium to play Wiffle ball, with proceeds benefiting the Pujols Family Foundation and Kershaw's Challenge.

The contest will work like a raffle. Anyone can log on to [Omaze.com/wiffleball](http://Omaze.com/wiffleball) and enter to win for as little as a \$10 donation to the foundations. The more money donated, the greater the chances there are to win.

For example, \$10 gives the bidder 100 chances to play in the game, \$25 equals 250 chances, \$50 equals 500 chances, and so on.

Incentive prizes also will be issued to bidders. The prizes range from digital thank you cards and videos from the two players, to autographed items (T-shirts, baseballs and jerseys), to bigger-ticket items such as a batting practice viewing session and four home game Diamond Club seats at the players' respective ballparks.

But the grand prize is, of course, the actual Wiffle ball game, where the winner and guests will match up against Pujols and Kershaw and then meet both for lunch after. Following the lunch, the winners will take in the Freeway Series game between the Dodgers and Angels, in premium seating.

The event will take place either Sept. 8 or 9, depending on the players' schedules.

"I thought Albert approached me with a really cool idea that would benefit both foundations," Kershaw said. "All it takes is a nominal donation. And what better foundation to be associated with than Albert's, which does such great work?"

The Pujols Family Foundation aims to promote awareness, provide hope and meet needs for individuals and families who live with Down syndrome. They work to improve the standard of living and quality of life for impoverished people in the Dominican Republic through education, medical relief and tangible goods and provide extraordinary experiences for children with disabilities and/or life-threatening illnesses.

Kershaw's Challenge is committed to transforming the lives of children in America, Africa and the Dominican Republic by empowering others to give back in unique ways. They partner with similarly oriented organizations who serve the needs of at-risk and vulnerable youth.

With kids the common theme between the two charities, a Wiffle ball game to benefit both seems fitting.

"As you know, Kershaw is also doing a lot of work in the Dominican Republic, so it worked out perfect," Pujols said. "It's going to be pretty exciting. I don't know much about it, but I know everybody's pretty excited."

## **Santiago's second half remains a mystery**

BY ALDEN GONZALEZ / MLB.COM

OAKLAND -- Hector Santiago, like most of his Angels teammates, found it far more advantageous to immediately look ahead late Monday night.

"August was a rough month," the Angels' congenial starting pitcher concluded after an 11-5 loss to the A's at the Coliseum. "September, here we go."

A new month is the only kind of hope the Angels can cling to these days, after 26 losses in a 37-game span have dropped them below .500 for the first time in nearly 12 weeks.

The struggles that plagued the Angels in August, a month that is now finally over, were widespread. Nobody was immune. Not Mike Trout, not Albert Pujols, not Kole Calhoun, not Joe Smith, not Jered Weaver, not Garrett Richards, not Andrew Heaney, and certainly not Santiago, who quickly went from one of the Angels' best stories of the season to one of their biggest headaches.

"He needs to pitch better," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "And he's struggled with that."

In the series opener against the division-rival A's, the 27-year-old left-hander was spotted a 3-0 lead after 2 1/2 innings and then couldn't escape the bottom of the third. He gave up a leadoff double to Josh Reddick, issued back-to-back two-out walks to Mark Canha and Brett Lawrie, served up a two-run double to Danny Valencia, walked Josh Phegley and gave up a bases-clearing double to Jake Smolinski. Then, he exited.

Santiago hasn't pitched five full innings in either of his last three starts, a span that has seen him walk 10 batters in 10 2/3 innings. After making his first All-Star team with a 2.33 ERA, Santiago has a second-half ERA of 5.93.

"It's one of those times in the season when things go wrong and things kind of pile up on top of each other," Santiago said. "You try to make adjustments, and you overthink some situations and overwork throughout your bullpen days, and try to change things that you don't need to change. It's like a hitter. They go 0-for-25, and then they go 25-for-50. It's just one of those rough times, and I kind of let it pile

up on top of each other, tried to fix some things and change some things I don't need to. Now I feel like I'm fighting myself mechanically."

This is the first time Santiago has been in a Major League rotation all season, and naturally his workload has gone up. He has already thrown 152 1/3 innings, 3 1/3 more than the previous career high he set in 2014, with all of September remaining.

Scioscia pointed to Santiago's unaffected velocity in saying he's "got enough left in his tank."

Through the first half, though, Santiago got by with an unsustainable strand rate of 88.9 percent, second only to Dodgers co-ace Zack Greinke and well above the Major League average of 73.1. Now, though, a lot of those runners are scoring.

Like the rest of his Angels team, everything is going wrong.

"It's weird," Santiago said. "But I feel fine. My arm feels great. All around, I think it's just a bump in the road."

## Angels begin GM search

BY ALDEN GONZALEZ / MLB.COM

OAKLAND -- The Angels have begun their search for a general manager, a source told MLB.com on Monday night, though it's hard to narrow down their list of candidates at this point.

The Angels have some internal candidates in assistant GMs Matt Klentak and Scott Servais, and potentially director of pro scouting Hal Morris, but owner Arte Moreno and president John Carpino will be interviewing outside candidates as well.

The list of experienced candidates includes Ben Cherington (formerly of the Red Sox), Doug Melvin (Brewers), Frank Wren (Braves) and Kevin Towers (formerly of the D-backs, now a special assistant with the Reds). But potential first-year GMs like Billy Eppler (assistant GM with the Yankees), J.J. Picollo (Royals), Thad Levine (Rangers) and Mike Chernoff (Indians) could also be on the Angels' radar.

Midway through his fourth season on the job, Jerry Dipoto stepped down as the Angels' GM on July 1, prompting Bill Stoneman to take over in the interim. Stoneman is not expected to fill the role beyond this season. The Mariners, Brewers, Phillies and Red Sox also have GM openings now, providing the Angels with plenty of competition for candidates.

## Angels' road struggles continue in opener vs. A's

BY ALDEN GONZALEZ AND JANE LEE / MLB.COM

OAKLAND -- Danny Valencia and Jake Smolinski contributed to a five-run third inning and Mark Canha provided the dagger in the sixth, launching a three-run homer to help the A's beat the American League West-rival Angels, 11-5, at the Coliseum on Monday night.

The free-falling Angels (65-66) have dropped 26 of their last 37 games and are below .500 for the first time since June 10. They finished August with 19 losses, their highest total that month since 1999, but remained 3 1/2 games back of the Rangers for the second AL Wild Card spot.

"These guys are all good in here," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said when asked about clubhouse morale. "The issue is production on the field."

The Angels got on the board with an RBI single by Erick Aybar in the first and took a 3-0 lead off A's lefty Felix Doubront in the third, on a sac fly by Aybar and a steal of home by C.J. Cron. But Hector Santiago couldn't get out of the bottom of the third, giving up a two-out, two-run double to Valencia and a three-run double to Smolinski two batters later.

"To be down again in the fashion that we were and get it all back plus two in one inning and then be able to add on along the way, we've got a lot of guys swinging the bat really well," A's manager Bob Melvin said.

The A's, now 58-74 after their third straight win, made it nine unanswered runs on Canha's homer, which made the Angels' rallies in the seventh and eighth innings easier to absorb.

### MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

Doing the splits: Josh Reddick, limited in action against left-handers this year, got a rare start against one and responded with a sharp double to right field that kick-started the A's five-run third inning. Reddick improved to 18-for-54 (.333) with seven extra-base hits off left-handed pitching since June 10, after hitting .120 off southpaws to begin the season.

"They've been a lot better at-bats, getting deeper in counts, not feeling like he has to swing early in the count at the first fastball," Melvin said. "He really got us going there. And you look at the numbers here recently, he's gotten quality at-bats against them and driven some balls, seeing the ball and laying off some sliders, breaking balls away. It's been impressive."

Out of sync: Santiago was the Angels' best starting pitcher of the first half, posting a 2.33 ERA while making his first All-Star team. But the 27-year-old left-hander hasn't been the same since. Santiago has a 5.93 ERA since the All-Star break and hasn't completed five innings in any of his last three starts. He cruised through the first two frames on Monday, then gave up three doubles and three walks and was pulled with two outs in the third inning, putting his ERA at 3.37 on the year.

"It's one of those times in the season when things go wrong and things kind of pile up on top of each other," Santiago said. "You try to make adjustments, and you overthink some situations and overwork

throughout your bullpen days, and try to change things that you don't need to change. It's like a hitter. They go 0-for-25, and then they go 25-for-50."

Yes he Canha: Canha culminated a breakout month with his 11th homer of the season. His three-run shot essentially put the game out of reach in the sixth, but he added a sac fly in the eighth for good measure, giving him 54 RBIs for the season -- most among AL rookies -- spanning 325 at-bats. He finished August 29-for-94 (.305) with 21 RBIs in 25 games.

"I got in a good hitter's count, so I just tried to get a fastball and I timed it up perfectly," Canha said of his home run, his first this season against a left-hander. "When you do that, good things will happen."

Weight room: The Angels entered Monday ranked last in the Majors in basically every offensive statistic in August, but they racked up 10 hits and came a couple of feet from some potential game-changing extra-base hits. Chris Iannetta, 6-for-43 in the month entering the game, drove a Doubront offering to deep center field, but Billy Burns made a leaping catch up against the fence to end the sixth. Kole Calhoun skied a Fernando Abad pitch to deep right, but Reddick caught it at the edge of the warning track to end the eighth and strand two runners.

"Chris hit it to center, and it just didn't go," Scioscia said. "Kole got under it a little bit to right-center. We swung the bats better, and that's encouraging. The fact we've played too many games where we're playing catchup and also relying on guys in our bullpen a lot, we're paying a price for that, and you can see it tonight."

#### QUOTABLE

"That was a crazy night. Did we set a record for longest nine-inning game? I think we might have." -- Canha, talking about the 3 hour and 34 minute nine-inning game that also included the 10-minute delay

#### MADE YOU LOOK

As soon as A's catcher Josh Phegley threw to second to try to get Shane Victorino on a stolen-base attempt in the third inning, Cron broke home, scoring without a throw to give the Angels a 3-0 lead. It was only Cron's second stolen base in 162 career Major League games.

#### DELAY IN GAME

A 10-minute "broken fence delay" unfolded in the fifth inning, when Victorino crashed into the left-field wall while attempting to get a glove on Valencia's RBI double, causing a section of the fence to fall down. All players cleared the field while the grounds crew attended to the matter.

#### WHAT'S NEXT

Angels: Matt Shoemaker (6-9, 4.48 ERA) starts the second game of this three-game series on Tuesday, with first pitch slated for 7:07 p.m. PT. Shoemaker gave up 13 runs over a two-start stretch from Aug. 10-15, prompting a brief demotion to Triple-A. But the 28-year-old right-hander redeemed himself when called up to pitch against the Tigers on Thursday, giving up just one hit and one walk in 7 1/3 scoreless innings.

A's: The A's are expected to recall right-hander Cody Martin from Triple-A Nashville for his first big league start Tuesday at the Coliseum. The A's acquired Martin from the Braves for an international bonus slot on July 2, and he's since posted a 5.33 ERA in 10 starts over 54 innings for the Sounds.

## **A's-Angels tilt pauses for 'broken fence delay'**

BY TREVOR HASS / MLB.COM

OAKLAND -- Evan Scribner and his bullpen mates set an over/under. Danny Valencia considered it another shenanigan in his short stint with the A's. Manager Bob Melvin joked that the grounds crew used double-sided tape to fix it.

They were all referring to the left-field wall at the Coliseum, a sizable chunk of which fell down and caused a 10-minute delay in the fifth inning of the A's 11-5 win over the Angels on Monday night. "You take it in stride," Melvin said. "We know there's going to be some issues here. It's actually sometimes a little bit of fun."

The fence fell forward after Angels outfielder Shane Victorino slammed into it in an attempt to catch Valencia's deep drive that ultimately ricocheted off the wall and scored Brett Lawrie from first. Valencia's second double of the game gave the A's a 6-3 lead.

During the delay, members of both teams returned to their respective dugouts. After 10 minutes, the game resumed and Trevor Gott replaced Fernando Salas on the mound for the Angels.

The Coliseum was used the night before for a Raiders preseason game, so the crew had a rapid turnaround from football to baseball venue.

Scribner said no one was surprised when the fence fell. The over/under was seven minutes, and Sean Doolittle was the official timer.

"I took the under," Scribner said, laughing. "Didn't work out."

Scribner joked that he thought members of the grounds crew were going to run out there with tape, and he said maybe he and his teammates will have to do so tomorrow.

Valencia hadn't heard too many stories about the craziness at the Coliseum -- which included a 38-minute delay for a lighting malfunction last season -- before he arrived in Oakland, but said he's seen his fair share of incidents already.

"We had a malfunction out there," Valencia said. "I guess a combination of the ball being hit as hard as it was and Victorino running into it as hard as he did brought the wall down."



## A's give Martin first test vs. Angels' Shoemaker

BY TREVOR HASS / MLB.COM

The A's will call on newcomer Cody Martin when they face Matt Shoemaker and the Angels in the second of a three-game set at the Coliseum on Tuesday night.

Martin has been with Triple-A Nashville since he was traded from the Braves to the A's on July 2, but will now make his first Major League start.

"This is what I wanted," Martin said. "Once I got traded, I was really looking forward to a new opportunity."

Martin (2-3, 5.40 ERA) will be up against Shoemaker (6-9, 4.48), who is 0-2 with a 7.85 ERA in four starts against the A's this season. Shoemaker only has one win in six games against Oakland throughout his career.

Things to know about this game

- Shoemaker tossed 7 1/3 scoreless innings in his last start, an Angels win over the Tigers on Thursday. He allowed one hit and one walk and struck out five.
- Billy Burns, Billy Butler, Mark Canha, Brett Lawrie and Marcus Semien are all batting .400 or better against Shoemaker this season.
- Martin struck out 24 batters in 21 2/3 innings of relief for the Braves this season.

*FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS*

## Mark Canha hits 3-run HR as Athletics beat Angels 11-5

OAKLAND, Calif. -- In less than a month with Oakland, Danny Valencia has learned plenty about his ballpark's quirks. From sewage problems to a rally opossum, and now an outfield wall coming down at the decrepit Coliseum.

Valencia hit a two-run double in the third inning and another RBI-double in the fifth to back Felix Doubront in his first win for Oakland, and the Athletics beat the Los Angeles Angels 11-5 on Monday night.

The game was delayed for a fix of the wall after Shane Victorino ran into it on Valencia's second double.

"We had a malfunction out there," said Valencia, who joined the A's on Aug. 3 from Toronto. "I guess the combination of the ball being hit as hard as it was and Victorino running into it as hard as he did, brought the wall down. You never see that. I bet you it was because they played a football game last

night and the fence probably wasn't intact like it probably normally is. As I've been here I've seen it, a lot of shenanigans out there."

The game was delayed 10 minutes as players briefly returned to their dugouts. The piece that fell was a middle red panel of an advertising sign. Angels manager Mike Scioscia switched pitchers after the delay.

Only hours earlier, the stadium was rapidly transformed back to a baseball diamond after the Oakland Raiders hosted the Arizona Cardinals in an NFL preseason game Sunday night. The A's didn't work out on the field beforehand during that process.

"You take it in stride," A's manager Bob Melvin said. "We know there are going to be some issues here. It's actually sometimes a little bit fun."

Mark Canha hit a three-run homer and Jake Smolinski's three-run double highlighted a decisive third inning for the A's.

Erick Aybar hit an RBI-single and a sacrifice fly in his first two plate appearances for the Angels, while Albert Pujols singled in a run.

Oakland chased Angels starter Hector Santiago (7-9) after 2 2/3 innings as the A's earned their first three-game winning streak since Aug. 7-9, against Houston.

Doubront (2-1) allowed four runs and seven hits in six-plus innings, striking out five and walking four in his first win since July 7, at the White Sox. It was the lefty's fifth appearance and third start with the A's since being traded by Toronto on July 31.

The Angels lost for the ninth time in 11 games and the 17th time in 20 road contests after being swept at Cleveland during a weekend series.

Santiago lost his third straight start, fifth consecutive decision and saw his winless stretch reach eight outings since a win against the Red Sox on July 20 gave him three straight victories.

The left-hander was tagged for five runs and four hits, struck out four and walked three in his shortest start this year and the shortest since working one inning last Sept. 19, at Texas.

He had been 2-0 with a 1.29 ERA against the A's since the beginning of last season.

"I had a rough August, September here we go," he said.

#### TRAINER'S ROOM

Angels: 3B David Freese, sidelined since July 23 with a fractured right index finger, was en route to Oakland and set to be activated from the DL and play Tuesday night. ... LHP Tyler Skaggs threw 40 pitches -- all fastballs -- in a bullpen session as he works back from elbow surgery that will keep him out all year.

Athletics: Reliever Evan Scribner was removed in the ninth with tightness behind his shoulder, further slowing the already slow game. He will have an MRI on Tuesday. ... LHP Sean Doolittle, who has made

three appearances since returning from a shoulder injury Aug. 22, won't pitch three straight days as the A's remain cautious with him. "We have a plan for how much we're going to use him," Melvin said. ... RHP Chris Bassitt had been scheduled to pitch Tuesday night but is out with shoulder soreness. He was scheduled to be examined by team doctors.

#### UP NEXT

Angels: RHP Matt Shoemaker (6-9) seeks his first victory against the A's in five starts this season after going 0-2 with a 7.85 ERA vs. Oakland. He looks to improve to 2-0 in as many outings since returning from Triple-A Salt Lake.

Athletics: RHP Cody Martin will be recalled from Triple-A Nashville to start in place of Bassitt, who is already in Oakland. He expects between 10-20 family and friends as he makes his first career start a couple of hours from his home in Dos Palos. Traded by the Braves on July 2, Martin thought he would pitch in San Francisco for Atlanta in late May but was sent down.

## Angels-Athletics Preview

Struggling in nearly every facet -- especially on the road -- the Los Angeles Angels are starting to fade in the postseason chase.

A series with the AL-worst Oakland Athletics was supposed to solve their issues. Instead, the Angels attempt to avoid a five-game skid Tuesday night.

Los Angeles (65-66) has dropped nine of 11, a stretch that transformed the team from the leader of the race for the AL's second wild-card spot to 3 1/2 games back of Texas for that position

The Angels were also a factor in the AL West but a 2 1/2-game deficit to first-place Houston has bloated to 7 1/2.

"We're in this," manager Mike Scioscia said. "We need to do things just a little bit better."

Little is going right, as Los Angeles is hitting .235 and averaging 3.0 runs while the staff has a 7.66 ERA -- 8.13 from the starters -- over the past 11 games.

The Angels' struggles have been apparent over the last 20 road contests, dropping 17 while batting .213 with 2.8 runs per game with the rotation posting a 5.97 ERA.

While the Angels had 10 hits Monday, starter Hector Santiago was hammered for five runs in 2 2/3 innings of an 11-5 loss at Oakland (58-74).

Los Angeles' latest win came with Matt Shoemaker (6-9, 4.48) on the mound. The right-hander allowed one hit in 7 1/3 innings of Thursday's 2-0 victory at Detroit.

He had given up 13 runs and 16 hits -- four homers -- in 7 1/3 over his two previous starts, earning him a demotion to Triple-A Salt Lake for nearly two weeks.

"That's as good as it gets from Matt," Scioscia told MLB's official website. "You can't say enough about the adjustments he made. You saw great fastball command, great glove-side fastball command, good slider. He used his split when he needed it. He really wasn't in too many bad counts."

Shoemaker is 0-2 with a 7.85 ERA in four starts against the A's this year. He allowed five runs and eight hits -- two homers -- in four-plus innings of a 12-7 win at Oakland on June 19.

Mike Trout is looking to put an ugly August behind him. The center fielder hit .218 with one homer and seven RBI in 29 games after going 0 for 4 on Monday. He had a .462 average over his previous eight meetings with the A's.

Albert Pujols had two hits and an RBI in the opener of this three-game set after batting .172 over his previous 16 games. He owns a .409 average with three homers and 10 RBI in his last six meetings with Oakland.

The A's are aiming for a fourth straight win and are giving Cody Martin his first career start in place of Chris Bassitt, who has a shoulder injury.

Martin went 2/3 with a 5.40 ERA in 21 relief appearances for Atlanta before being acquired July 2.

The rookie right-hander has been at Triple-A Nashville since, going 3-4 with a 5.33 ERA in 10 starts.

"Got a mix of pitches, throws upwards of five different pitches," manager Bob Melvin said. "Got him from Atlanta, and not sure what to expect until (Tuesday)."

Martin is from Dos Palos, California, roughly 2 hours, 30 minutes from Oakland.

Mark Canha is batting .345 with 16 RBI in his last 13 games. The rookie had a three-run homer and a sacrifice fly Monday.

*FROM ESPN*

## **Shelby Miller tops list of unluckiest players of 2015**

BY DAVID SCHOENFIELD

*Albert Pujols, Los Angeles Angels*

Pujols has belted 34 home runs but he's hitting a career-low .247, thanks in part to a .220 batting average on balls in play -- the second-lowest in the majors among qualified hitters, ahead of only Luis Valbuena's .219 mark. How much of this is bad luck? The more fly balls you hit -- and therefore the fewer line drives and ground balls -- the lower your batting average on balls in play (BABIP) dips, especially when you're hitting a lot of home runs. As it turns out, Pujols' hit-type profile isn't much different than what it's been since 2009, according to data from ESPN Stats & Information:

2009-2014: 41.4% ground balls, 40.2% fly ball, 17.6% line drive

2015: 40.5% ground ball, 39.5% fly ball, 18.6% line drive

This doesn't mean it's all bad luck: Maybe his grounders and line drives aren't being hit quite as hard as in the past, and shifts cost him some hits as well, plus his BABIPs have always been lower with the Angels than with the Cardinals. But it does appear as if he's hit into some bad luck this season.