



**New York Yankees Clips**  
**Friday, May 20, 2016**



# WIN RELIEVES JOE

## Girardi turns to Big Three despite super Nova effort

OAKLAND — Joe Girardi is fond of giving his players nicknames, but the manager hasn't had one of his own.

May we suggest Captain Quick Hook?

For the second straight night, Girardi pulled his starting pitcher after six innings despite a low pitch count, giving his big three relievers the final three innings.

The move paid off in the short term as the Yankees held on for a 4-1

win over the Athletics Thursday night, though the decision to lift Ivan Nova after only 62 pitches likely leaves the Yankees without Dellin Betances, Andrew Miller or Aroldis Chapman Friday night when CC Sabathia returns from the disabled list.

Nova was cruising along, allowing one run on four hits and striking out three without issuing a walk. His lone mistake was a fourth-inning solo shot by Josh Reddick, but the Athletics hadn't advanced another runner beyond first base.

"I had the Big Three again," Girardi said after. "(The A's) had four hits and the next four hitters had those four hits. I thought, 'I'm going to make a change.'"

Having used all three on Wednesday, one could argue that resting one of the relievers to keep somebody available for Friday might have made sense, especially given Nova's insanely low pitch count and the way he was breezing through Oakland's lineup.

Betances — who threw 31 pitches on Wednesday — found himself in trouble for a second straight night after Reddick led off with a single and stole second, putting the tying

run in scoring position.

Just as he did the night before, Betances got out of his own mess, getting two strikeouts and a pop up. Miller threw a scoreless eighth and Carlos Beltran hit a two-run homer in the ninth, giving Chapman a comfortable cushion for his fifth save.

The win also took Beltran, Chase Headley and Didi Gregorius off the hook as all three committed baserunning blunders at bad times.

YANKEES	4
ATHLETICS	1

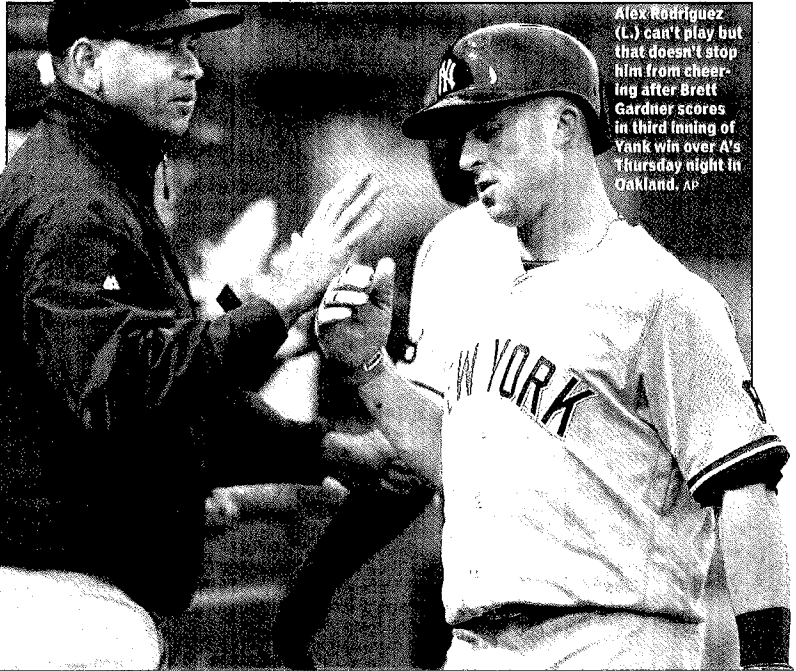
The Yankees are now 2-2 on the road trip after losing the first two. Friday, Sabathia will try to lead them to their first three-game winning streak of the season, though he'll have to do it without the safety net of the three big relievers behind him.

After going 0-for-3 with runners in scoring position in the first two innings, the Yankees finally cashed in against starter Kendall Graveman in the third as Beltran doubled in Brett Gardner for the game's first run.

The Yankees could have had another when Reddick missed an easy two-out fly ball by Brian McCann, but Beltran — who clearly thought there was only one out — held up between second and third, preventing him from scoring.

Danny Valencia ended the rally with a leaping catch of Starlin Castro's scorching liner, stranding Beltran at third base.

Reddick atoned for his error



Alex Rodriguez (L.) can't play but that doesn't stop him from cheering after Brett Gardner scores in third inning of Yank win over A's Thursday night in Oakland. AP

in the fourth, drilling a game-tying homer over the right-field wall against Nova, who had retired 10 of the 11 batters to open the game.

The Yankees wasted a big opportunity in the fifth, stranding the bases loaded as Castro couldn't come through with the big hit.

Bad baserunning cost the Yankees again in the sixth as Headley opened the frame with a single, only to get picked off at first base.

Dustin Ackley followed with a hit of his own, then Gregorius singled to right, advancing Ackley to third.

As Reddick's throw made its way to third base, Gregorius decided to make a dash for second. Valencia took the throw and fired to second base, nailing Gregorius for the second baserunning blunder of the inning.

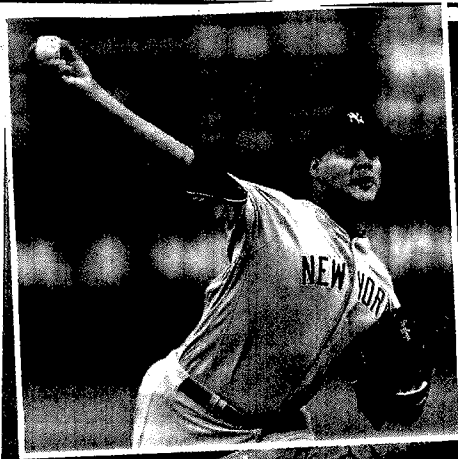
Aaron Hicks eased the pain a little with an RBI double, though

the Yankees would have had runners at second and third with one out had Gregorius remained at first. Instead, they took a 2-1 lead, turning the one-run advantage over to Nova, who sat Oakland down on eight pitches in the sixth, leaving his pitch count at 62.

That shutdown inning would be Nova's last as Girardi went to his security blanket, one he's now unlikely to have on Friday.

Daily News

5.20.16



# MAGIC FORMULA

## After 6 strong from Nova, Girardi

By GEORGE A. KING III

<b>YANKEES</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Boxscore</b> <b>Page 50</b>
<b>A'S</b>	<b>1</b>	

OAKLAND, Calif. — When the Yankees acquired Aroldis Chapman late last December, the master plan was for the starters to log six innings and turn a lead over to the Holy Trinity of Smoke in the ninth.

For the second straight night, Joe Girardi called for Dellin Betances to start the seventh inning even after getting a very solid six innings from the starter who left with a low pitch count.

Betances was the start of the river of gas-throwing relievers pouring out of the Yankees' bullpen Thursday night on the way to a 4-1 victory over the A's in front of a quaint gather-

ing of 17,456 at a chilly Oakland Coliseum.

Wednesday night in Phoenix, it was Nathan Eovaldi leaving despite giving up one hit, a run and retiring the final 18 batters. Thursday night, Ivan Nova allowed a run in six frames and vanished.

Entering with a 2-1 lead, Betances gave up a leadoff single to Josh Reddick, who stole second but never was advanced because Betances struck out the next two and ended the threat with a foul pop.

Following the script from Wednesday, Andrew Miller worked the eighth

and Chapman the ninth for his fifth save in as many chances.

"If I got them set up and they are rested I am going to go to them," Girardi said of Betances, Miller and Chapman, who have worked four games together since Chapman surfaced May 9 after serving a 30-game suspension for violating MLB's domestic violence policy.

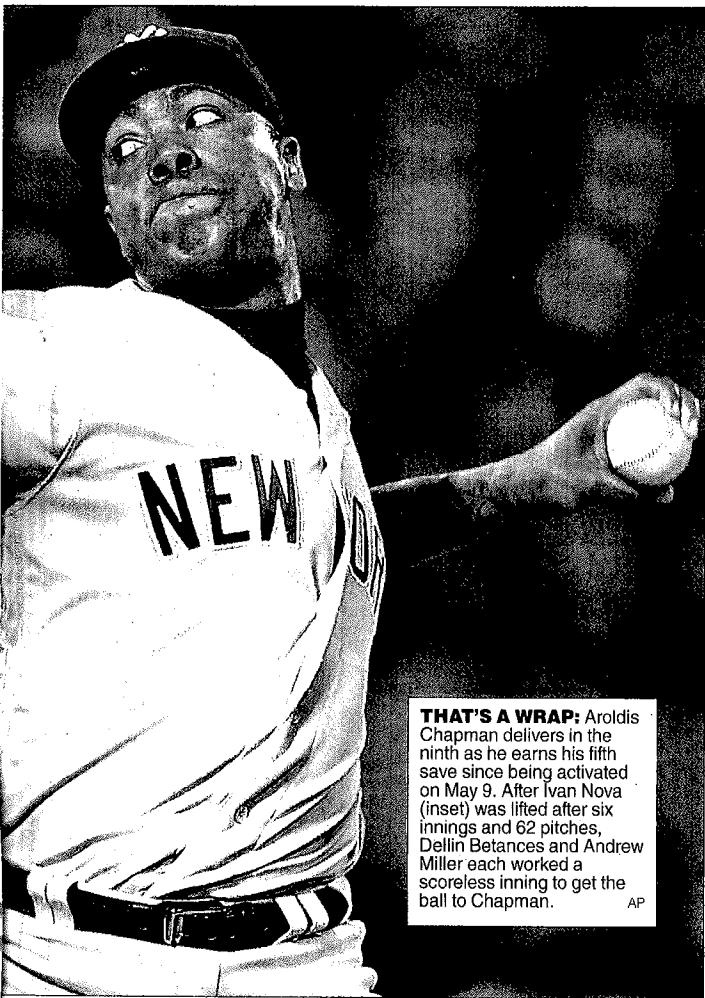
The Yankees are 4-0 when Betances, Miller and Chapman work the same game.

Carlos Beltran drove in a run in the third with a double and provided Chapman with a three-run bulge via a two-run homer in the ninth.

The Yankees' second

NY Post

5.20.16



**THAT'S A WRAP:** Aroldis Chapman delivers in the ninth as he earns his fifth save since being activated on May 9. After Ivan Nova (inset) was lifted after six innings and 62 pitches, Dellin Betances and Andrew Miller each worked a scoreless inning to get the ball to Chapman. AP

## turns to pen troika to finish it off

straight win went to Nova (3-1), who required just 62 pitches to get 18 outs. It was the lowest pitch count of his three starts.

"He has pitched well," Girardi said of Nova, who made his first start on May 1 after opening the season in the bullpen. "It would be nice to get the four-game [series] off on the right foot and get distance from him."

The Yankees made three base-running mistakes in six innings, with one of them definitely costing them a run and other two coming in the same frame.

Beltran seemingly forgot how many outs there were in the third inning and didn't score from second when Brian McCann's two-out

liner was misplayed in right field by Reddick. In the sixth, Chase Headley was picked off first by A's starter Kendall Graveman following a leadoff single. Dustin Ackley singled to right and Didi Gregorius did the same. Ackley got to third ahead of Reddick's throw to the bag, but Gregorius was an easy out attempting to sneak into second.

Aaron Hicks picked up Headley and Gregorius with a double to left that plated Ackley and put the Yankees ahead, 2-1.

The Yankees loaded the bases in the fifth with two outs, but Graveman got Starlin Castro to hit a grounder to short for the final out. Jacoby Ellsbury was hit by a pitch on the

right foot with one out, Brett Gardner followed with a bunt single and McCann walked with two outs.

The Yankees scored the game's first run in the third inning but Beltran cost them a second run when he apparently forgot there were two outs instead of one.

With two outs in the third, Gardner walked on a 3-1 pitch and scored from first when Beltran steered a pitch on the outside corner just inside the vacated third-base line. The ball rolled into the left-field corner and Gardner scored standing up. Beltran's brainlock, though, cost the Yankees another run.

[george.king@nypost.com](mailto:george.king@nypost.com)

**AP**

## **Beltran homers to back Nova in Yankees' 4-1 win over A's**

May 20, 2016

OAKLAND, Calif. -- Yankees manager Joe Girardi is still undecided whether or not to send Ivan Nova back to the bullpen once the rest of the starting rotation gets healthy.

The way Nova has pitched as a starter, it's going to be a tough call either way.

Nova pitched six innings for his second win since moving into the starting rotation, Carlos Beltran hit a two-run homer and the New York Yankees held on to beat the Oakland Athletics 4-1 on Thursday night.

"It is very different than being in the bullpen," said Nova, who is unbeaten in three starts this season. "When you're starting, if you don't have it in the first inning you can have it in the second inning. This is my natural position and I feel good about it."

Nova (3-1) allowed one run and four hits in his longest outing this season since replacing the injured CC Sabathia in the Yankees' rotation. The right-hander threw just 62 pitches, had three strikeouts and lowered his ERA to 1.65 in three starts.

"He's pitching great," Girardi said. "We'll worry about that when the time comes but I really like what he's doing."

Aaron Hicks added an RBI double while Brett Gardner had two hits and two walks to help the Yankees win the opener of the four-game series.

Oakland swept New York when the teams played in the Bronx but got little going against Nova and three relievers.

"That's the best we've seen (Nova) pitch," A's manager Bob Melvin said. "That was a true hard sinker, and the curve was just enough to keep us off balance. He had a really good sinker today."

Josh Reddick homered for Oakland before leaving after fracturing the thumb on his left hand stealing second base in the seventh.

Dellin Betances, Andrew Miller and Aroldis Chapman pitched the final three innings to complete the six-hitter for New York. Chapman worked the ninth for his fifth save.

The Yankees missed multiple opportunities to break the game open but took a 2-1 lead on RBI doubles by Beltran in the third and Hicks in the sixth.

Both runs came off Oakland starter Kendall Graveman (1-6).

Beltran hit his ninth home run of the season and the 401st of his career in the ninth.

Reddick homered off Nova in the fourth but the A's managed just three runners after that and hit into two double plays.

Gravemen, who beat the Yankees on April 20 for his only win this season, suffered his fifth consecutive loss. The right-hander gave up eight hits in 5 2/3 innings with three walks and four strikeouts.

#### CONFUSED CARLOS

Beltran drove in the game's first run in the third but apparently forgot how many outs there were. With two outs, Brian McCann reached on an error when right fielder Reddick appeared to lose the ball in the lights but Beltran -- who initially broke for third -- retreated toward second when the ball was in the air. He went to third after Reddick's error but was stranded when Starlin Castro lined out to end the inning. "That one you don't necessarily need to say anything because you know," Girardi said. "It's obvious. Sometimes everyone doesn't know the mistake you make but that one everybody knows."

#### TRAINER'S ROOM

Yankees: DH Alex Rodriguez could miss the entire series in Oakland due to his sore hamstring. Rodriguez did some light running around the bases before the game but Girardi said it's questionable if he'll be activated by the weekend. "He went a little bit faster today on the arcs but it's still not where he needs to be yet," Girardi said. ... RHP Luis Severino (right triceps strain) is scheduled to throw Friday for the first time since going on the DL.

Athletics: Reddick got his thumb caught in the cleat of Castro while stealing second base. He will see a hand specialist on Friday but told reporters he could be out 4 to 6 weeks. . RHP Henderson Alvarez continues to await word on his troublesome right shoulder. He had an MRI earlier in the week but the results were inconclusive and sent to Dr. James Andrews for further evaluation.

#### UP NEXT

Yankees: Sabathia (2-2) is scheduled to come off the DL to start Friday at the Coliseum. Sabathia is seeking his 100th career win.

Athletics: RHP Sonny Gray (3-3) pitches the second game of the series and is winless over his last four games. Gray has allowed three runs or more in each of his previous five starts.



## **Another terrific start, another quick hook, another Yankees win**

THE LOHUD YANKEES BLOG **Chad Jennings, [cjennings@lohud.com](mailto:cjennings@lohud.com)**

*12:51 a.m. EDT May 20, 2016*

Clearly Joe Girardi's found a formula he likes: Get six excellent innings out the Yankees' starting pitcher, then hand the game to the dominant back-end relievers, no matter how low the starter's pitch count might be.

That's the formula Girardi followed last night, and it's the formula he used tonight, sealing a 4-1 win that was the Yankees' second victory in a row.

Ivan Nova was terrific in his third start since stepping into the rotation. He allowed a solo home run, but that was the extent of the damage through six innings with four hits, no walks and three strikeouts. He induced 10 groundball outs.

The number that stands out, though, is Nova's pitch count. He'd thrown just 62 pitches when -- with a one-run lead -- Girardi called on Betances to pitch the seventh inning.

Betances, Miller and Chapman each pitched a scoreless frame to preserve the win, which was as small as possible until Carlos Beltran hit a two-out, two-run home run in the top of the ninth. In the moment, the aggressive move to the bullpen worked, but now all three go-to relievers have pitched back-to-back days and will probably be unavailable tomorrow.

CC Sabathia is coming off the disabled list to start tomorrow's game.

Had the Yankees better capitalized on their scoring chances, Girardi might not have gone to his bullpen at all. In the first eight innings, the Yankees had nine hits and put 13 runners on base, but they left nine stranded, went 1-for-9 with runners in scoring position, and made three costly baserunning mistakes.

Beltran forgot there were two outs in the third and failed to score from second on an error in right field, and four straight hits in the sixth led to only one run because Chase Headley was picked off first and Didi Gregorius was thrown out getting too aggressive on an attempt to reach second base on a single.

Because of the Yankees' pitching, two runs would have been enough, but Beltran's homer gave them some late breathing room. Brett Gardner reached base four times, Headley had two hits, Beltran drove in three runs, and Aaron Hicks had a go-ahead, two-out double in the sixth inning.



# The Record

## Yankees top A's, 4-1, in Oakland

BY PETE CALDERA

STAFF WRITER | THE RECORD 5.20.16

OAKLAND, Calif. – Carlos Beltran had made the first of a series of head-scratching Yankees baserunning blunders, costing his vulnerable team a run in a tight game at Oakland Coliseum.

Inside the visiting dugout, “I was praying for four innings,” Beltran said, “hoping we’d get the lead.”

Aaron Hicks’ tie-breaking, RBI double saved the Yanks from an infamously bad sixth inning on the bases and their electric bullpen trio was employed – for a second straight night – to hold a narrow lead.

Dellin Betances, Andrew Miller and Aroldis Chapman each tossed a scoreless inning and Beltran’s ninth-inning, two-run homer provided additional breathing room in the Yankees’ 4-1 win against the Athletics before 17,456 fans.

Afterward, Beltran apologized for his nervous laughter in a giddy Yankees clubhouse. He’d forgotten how many outs there were in the third inning, negating a run.

“That could be the difference between winning and losing the game,” Beltran said. “(And) we needed to win this one.”

Ivan Nova (3-1) needed only 62 pitches to navigate through six innings. But just as Joe Girardi did on Wednesday night at Arizona, lifting Nathan Eovaldi with a one-hitter after six innings, the manager took no further chances with a one-run edge.

“I had the Big Three (available) again,” Girardi said. “I’m going to use them when I feel the time is right, that’s my call.”

And as he did in the victory on Wednesday, Betances flirted with danger again – putting a runner at second with none out before getting out of the seventh with two strikeouts and a pop up.

Miller tossed a quick eighth and Chapman nailed down his fifth save.

It didn’t have to be such a nail-biter again, but it was – thanks to the collection of baserunning errors by Beltran, Chase Headley and Didi Gregorius.

After giving the Yanks (18-22) a 1-0 lead with a two-out, RBI double that scored Brett Gardner (2-for-3, two walks) from first base, Beltran retreated to second base when Brian McCann's fly ball was misplayed by right fielder Josh Reddick for an error.

"We can deal with aggressive (mistakes) but mental ones will be tough," Beltran said of his concentration lapse.

Reddick's fourth-inning homer tied the game, and it was still 1-1 in the sixth when the Yanks opened with three straight hits and threatened not to score.

Headley was picked off first base for the first out. Dustin Ackley followed with a single and Gregorius singled, pushing Ackley to third.

But Gregorius decided to advance to second base when the throw went to third. It was a costly gamble as third baseman Danny Valencia's relay to second base easily nailed Gregorius.

But before the inning went down as one of the worst team-wide baserunning moments in recent club history, Hicks delivered an RBI double to left for a 2-1 lead.

After the game, Girardi sympathized with Beltran, and betting he'd never make a similar mistake for the rest of his career. Girardi also felt that the right-handed Gravenman balked, tricking Headley into moving toward second base and leading to the pickoff.

And the manager saw Gregorius' latest baserunning gaffe as yet another "overaggressive" display by a player known for failures to think through such situations.

"It's fortunate it didn't hurt us," Girardi said. "In a way, maybe you don't need to use those three (late-inning) guys" without baserunning mistakes that cost the Yankees extra runs.

Making his third start of the season, Nova yielded just four hits and no walks, with three strikeouts – making a case that he should stay in the rotation when Luis Severino (triceps) eventually returns.

Nova also caught a break in the second inning when Gardner made a running catch at the warning track, preventing an RBI extra-base hit by Yonder Alonso.

"I wanted to keep going (past the sixth)," Nova said. "But I understand, with the (bullpen) guys we've got behind me."

## Beltran backs strong effort by Nova, relievers

By Jane Lee and Bryan Hoch / MLB.com | 5.20.16 1:42 AM ET

OAKLAND -- **Ivan Nova** strung together six efficient innings of one-run ball, and the Yankees' formidable bullpen finished off the A's in a 4-1 series-opening victory Thursday night at the Coliseum, snapping Oakland's four-game win streak.

**Carlos Beltran** hit a two-run homer off reliever **Fernando Rodriguez** and drove in three runs overall, while **Aaron Hicks** chipped in with an RBI double for the Yankees, who knocked A's starter **Kendall Graveman** out of the game after 5 2/3 innings.

"You want to go as deep as you can in the game," Nova said. "To be able to throw so good for the team and get the win, it feels good. This is what I want to do every time I go out there."

Graveman allowed two runs on eight hits, walked two and struck out four in the loss, falling to 1-6.

"That's the best we've seen him pitch," A's manager Bob Melvin said of Nova. "It was a true hard sinker today. We had a tough time left or right trying to get him in the air. His curveball was just enough to keep you off balance. He maybe threw a few changeups. It was mostly fastball-curveball. His fastball had really good sink today."

### MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

**Trouble on the basepaths:** Beltran drove home the Yankees' first run with a third-inning double, then forgot that there were two outs and hesitated as **Josh Reddick** dropped a **Brian McCann** liner, costing the Yankees a run. The baserunning issues continued in the sixth, as the Yanks stroked four straight hits but settled for one run as **Chase Headley** was picked off and **Didi Gregorius** was thrown out at second base.

"I felt like I got caught up with just praying for four innings, just hoping that we got the lead and we were able to win this one," Beltran said. "It was a mental mistake and in this game, mental mistakes could hurt the team. Being aggressive like Didi, being aggressive trying to take the extra base, we can deal with those. But the mental ones are tough."

**Reddick homers, later exits:** Though Reddick has been swinging a hot bat all month, his fourth-inning homer was his first in May. The right fielder finished with two hits, before departing after seven innings with a left thumb fracture sustained during a head-first slide into second base, and is 22-for-47 (.468) over his past 14 games. Reddick is expected to miss at least four weeks.

"He hits third for us every day. He's one of the better players in the league," Melvin said. "That's a pretty significant guy to lose." [More >](#)

**Here comes the hook:** Nova threw just 62 pitches as he cruised through six innings, allowing just Reddick's fourth-inning homer among four hits, but manager Joe Girardi couldn't resist

calling on the "Done BMC" relief trio for the second straight night. **Dellin Betances** struck out two in the seventh, **Andrew Miller** struck out one in the eighth and **Aroldis Chapman** worked the ninth for his fifth save. It marked the fourth time all three relievers have been deployed in the same game.

"You look where I took him out in the lineup, they had four hits and the next four hitters had the four hits," Girardi said. "Reddick had one, [Danny] Valencia had one and hit a couple balls hard, and [Stephen] Vogt had the other two. I just thought, 'I'm going to make a change.'" **More >**

#### **QUOTABLE**

"When you've got those three guys rested and ready to go, it's tough not to use those guys." --  
*McCann*

#### **REPLAY REVIEW**

The Yankees successfully challenged a call at first base in the first, as **Brett Gardner** was initially ruled out on what would have been a 6-4-3 double play. A review of 52 seconds showed that Gardner touched the base before the throw landed in first baseman **Yonder Alonso**'s glove.

#### **WHAT'S NEXT**

**Yankees:** **CC Sabathia** (2-2, 3.81 ERA) will be activated from the disabled list to make his sixth start Friday at 9:35 p.m. ET. Sabathia last pitched on May 4, working seven scoreless innings against the Orioles despite sustaining a left groin strain during the effort. Sabathia grew up in nearby Vallejo, Calif., and is 4-7 with a 5.44 ERA in 15 career starts at the Coliseum.

**A's:** **Sonny Gray** gets the start in Friday's 6:35 p.m. PT matchup with the Yankees at the Coliseum. The right-hander is 0-3 with a 10.31 ERA over his past four starts after going 3-1 with a 2.73 ERA in his first four starts. He's 1-1 with a 3.43 ERA in three career starts against New York.

## Yankees 'ran the bases like drunks,' but win anyway | Rapid reaction

By [Randy Miller](#) | [NJ Advance Media for NJ.com](#)

on May 20, 2016 at 12:47 AM, updated May 20, 2016 at 7:13 AM

**OAKLAND** — You couldn't blame Yankees manager Joe Girardi for thinking about getting his players out of their San Francisco hotel at the break of dawn Friday, bussing them 30 miles to Oakland and then having them work on running bases for a few hours.

Maybe treating players like undisciplined Little Leaguers finally would get through to them.

Poor Ivan Nova. The right-hander pitched great allowing one run on four hits over six innings Thursday night and the Yankees actually came away with a 4-1 win over the Oakland A's, but the worst baserunning you'll ever see in a Major League game was the biggest takeaway.

"The Yankees ran the bases like drunks," Yanks radio play-by-play man John Sterling said on air.

The worst offender was Yankees designated hitter Carlos Beltran, a seasoned pro who usually plays the game the right way.

Beltran had a big game offensively with an RBI double that preceded his bad mistake and a two-run, ninth-inning homer that perhaps made up for it. But wow did his gaffe look bad.

Beltran was on second base with two outs in the Yankees third and didn't score on a fly ball to right by Brian McCann that was dropped by Josh Reddick and kicked away.

McCann didn't exactly go all out either because he only ended up on first base, and the double blunder cost the Yankees a run because Starlin Castro followed with an inning-ending lineout to third.

Two innings later, the Yankees ran themselves out of a big inning, one in which they broke a 1-1 tie on a two-out RBI double by Aaron Hicks but settled for one run despite their first four batters getting hits.

First, Chase Headley was picked off first base after singling. Then after Dustin Ackley singled one pitch after Headley was erased, Didi Gregorius grounded a single to right and was thrown out trying to go to second after Headley took third.

These three dumbfounding mistakes followed a bunch more this season for a Yankees club that has won two in a row and nine of their last 14 but still is last in the American League East.

The night before, Headley let Arizona score a run after he fielded a ball and threw to first base for the second out even though he saw that Diamondbacks baserunner Jean Segura had stopped running between third and home.

The Yankees were lucky to win that series finale in Arizona and were luckier to get the first of four this weekend in Oakland.

On Thursday, the Yankees had to use their Big 3 bullpen to put away the A's whereas smart base running perhaps would have led to night off for Dellin Betances, Andrew Miller and Aroldis Chapman. All three now have worked two days in a row and perhaps won't be available Friday, if needed.

## **NOTABLE**

- Betances pitched a scoreless seventh after Oakland put a runner on second with nobody out.
- Girardi pulled a starting pitcher in the midst of a low-pitch, great outing for the second night in a row. Nova was removed after six with the Yankees up 2-1 and his pitch count at 62. The night before, Nathan Eovaldi was working on a one-hitter and had set down his last 18 hitters when he was pulled with a 3-1 lead and his pitch count at 85.
- The Yankees challenged a first-inning call in which Brett Gardner bounced into a 6-4-3 double play, and they won it as replays showed Gardner beat the throw to first.
- Reddick was shaken up stealing second base in the Oakland eighth when he was struck in the head by Castro's foot as the second baseman took a throw from the catcher. Roddick left the game after the inning.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

- Friday: Yankees at Oakland Athletics, 9:35 p.m., YES; LHP CC Sabathia (2-2, 3.81) vs. RHP Sonny Gray (3-4, 5.84).
- Saturday: Yankees at Oakland Athletics, 4:05 p.m., YES; Masahiro Tanaka (1-0, 3.51) vs. LHP Sean Manaea (1-1, 7.91).
- Sunday: Yankees at Oakland Athletics, 4:05 p.m., YES (RHP Michael Pineda (1-5, 6.60) vs. RHP Jesse Hahn (1-1, 3.30)

# CC's return means decisions for rotation

**O**AKLAND — The Yankees rotation will get a little healthier on Friday as CC Sabathia makes his return from the disabled list to start against the Athletics.

More importantly, Sabathia's return could give the Yankees some choices to make down the road.

With Masahiro Tanaka, Nathan Eovaldi and Sabathia locked into the rotation and Ivan Nova showing some promising signs since returning to the rotation, the Yankees could decide to send Luis Severino — or maybe even Michael Pineda — to the minors when Severino eventually comes back.

"Down the road, it doesn't make sense to do it right now," Joe Girardi

said when asked if he would consider making a permanent change in the rotation. "There are a lot of things that can happen between today, tomorrow and the next day."

Severino will throw on flat ground Friday for the first time since landing on the DL with a right triceps strain a week ago. The 22-year-old will likely make a rehab start at some point before being activated, but given his awful 0-6 record and 7.46 ERA this season, it wouldn't be a shock to see him remain in Scranton.

"We haven't talked about any changes," Girardi said. "Obviously the biggest thing is you got to get him healthy and see where he's at."

Sabathia threw seven scoreless innings in Baltimore on May 4



before being placed on the DL two days later. The lefty threw a simulated game a few days ago, leaving him optimistic.

"I was able to play catch every day during this DL stint and really work on things in the bullpen and my sim game," said Sabathia, who credited his changeup and breaking ball for the successful start. "Hopefully I can go out and keep building on what I had a couple of weeks ago."

Sabathia will have quite a cheering section on hand, as 75-125

friends and family members will be at the Coliseum, 25 miles from his hometown of Vallejo. This will be Sabathia's 16th career start here, so the novelty has worn off some.

"Now it's just another start," said Sabathia, who leaves the details to his mother. "She deals with the tickets and everything. I get ready. And I pay."

## COMEBACK TRAIL

Girardi called a Saturday return for Alex Rodriguez "a question mark," though A-Rod made strides toward a return on Friday. Rodriguez ran the bases for the first time, going home-to-first and first-to-third four times each, though not at full speed.

A-Rod said he's gotten 5-10 percent better each day, leaving him encouraged with his progress.

"When I'm ready to play, I'll play," Rodriguez said. "The key for me is to be patient and be smart when I come back."

## TEX GETS A REST

Mark Teixeira was not in the lineup Thursday as Girardi gave the struggling first baseman a night off. Teixeira is mired in a career-long 108-at-bat homerless streak and went 0-for-9 with six strikeouts in the past two games. ... Rob Refsnyder did some early infield work Thursday, taking balls at third base and getting used to the Yankees' infield shifts.

Daily News

5.20.16

# WHILE YOU WERE OUT

## Sabathia returning to a starting rotation in flux

By GEORGE A. KING III

### YANKEES NOTES

OAKLAND, Calif. — The rotation CC Sabathia rejoins Friday night against the A's at the Oakland Coliseum is a lot different from the one he left May 6 due to a left groin injury.

Luis Severino joined Sabathia on the shelf with a strained right triceps May 14. Masahiro Tanaka hasn't pitched well in his last two starts, which he made on four days' rest instead of the five he and the Yankees prefer. Chad Green was summoned from Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre to make his major league debut Monday against the Diamondbacks and got spanked. Ivan Nova, who started against the A's on Thursday night, took Sabathia's spot.

Nathan Eovaldi has won his last three starts and is 4-2, but Michael Pineda has been awful. He is 1-5 with a 6.60 ERA in eight starts, and if the Yankees had somebody to turn to — they don't — Pineda's spot in the rotation would be in trouble.

The Yankees have to hope Sabathia can approach what he did in his final outing before going on the DL. On May 4 at Baltimore, the veteran lefty beat the Orioles 7-0. In seven innings, he allowed six hits, walked two and fanned six. And he held the Birds' hitters to one hit in eight at-bats with runners in scoring position.

"I have felt good in the bullpen and the simulated game," Sabathia said Thursday afternoon. "I hope to throw the ball well [Friday]. I was able to play catch every day and work on things in the bullpen. I am hoping to keep building on what I had a few weeks ago. I am healthy and ready to go."

In the previous start against the Rangers in Texas, Sabathia wasn't as good, but he went six innings and gave up three runs and five hits in a 3-2 loss.

Sabathia is 2-2 with a 3.81 ERA in five outings, none of which can be described as terrible.

Because he is from nearby Vallejo, Sabathia's ticket demand is always great when he pitches at the Coliseum, where he is 4-7 with a 5.44 ERA in 15 starts and winless in his last three outings.

As a young pitcher, Sabathia may have tried too hard against the A's. That approach has changed over the years.

"Now it just costs me money to

play here," said Sabathia, whose mother takes care of the tickets, which the pitcher said are in the \$75-\$125 range.

► **Alex Rodriguez** ran the bases before Thursday's game but wouldn't commit to coming off the DL Saturday. He has been on the shelf since May 4 with a strained right hamstring.

"Saturday is still probably a question mark," **Joe Girardi** said. "My hope is we will see. He went a little bit faster today on the arcs but still not where he needs to be."

Rodriguez was encouraged by the progress but wasn't ready to predict when he would play again.

"Every day it gets 5 percent better. The key is to be patient and smart so that when I come back it's for good and I can help the team win," Rodriguez said. "Today was a huge step. I ran home to first four times and first to third four times. I haven't felt anything in a while."

As for playing Saturday, Rodriguez said he couldn't tell.

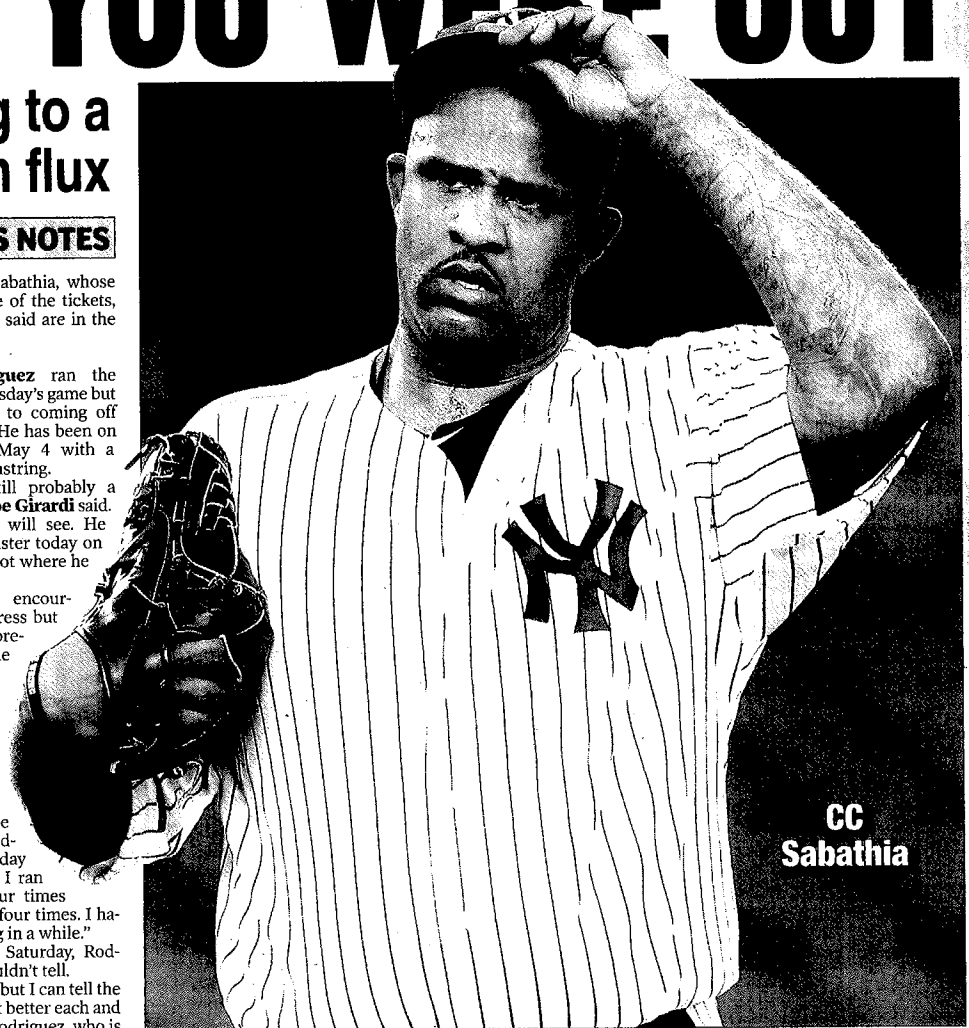
"I can't predict, but I can tell the last two days I felt better each and every day," said Rodriguez, who is hitting .194 (14-for-72) with five homers and 12 RBIs in 20 games.

► **Mark Teixeira's** struggles from the left side have been addressed for most of the season, but possibly the most alarming aspect of the lengthy slump is 32 strikeouts to 12 hits from the left side.

On Wednesday night, it appeared Teixeira was about to be rewarded with an extra-base hit when he sent a line drive to right, but **Brandon Drury** made a running catch on the warning track before crashing into the fence.

"He just hasn't been able to get going," Girardi said of Teixeira against right-handers. "I am going to bet on him to get going."

Teixeira was out of the starting lineup Thursday night against A's righty **Kendall Graveman**, but came on in the eighth for defense.



CC Sabathia

Paul J. Berenson

### Yankees ON DECK

#### AT A'S

**FRIDAY — 9:35**  
LHP CC Sabathia  
(2-2, 3.81)

vs. RHP Sonny Gray (3-4, 5.84)

**SATURDAY — 4:05**  
RHP Masahiro Tanaka  
(1-0, 3.51) vs.  
LHP Sean Manaea  
(1-1, 7.91)

**SUNDAY — 4:05**  
RHP Michael Pineda  
(1-5, 6.60) vs.  
RHP Jesse Hahn (1-1, 3.38)  
All games on YES, WFAN  
(660 AM, 101.9 FM)

#### INSIDE THE MATCHUPS

**YANKEES:** Sabathia is making his first start since May 4, a stellar outing against the Orioles in which he allowed no runs on six hits and struck out six in seven innings. That was his first win since his season debut April 9 in Detroit.

**A'S:** Gray is winless in his last four appearances, a stretch during which he has allowed 21 runs and failed to get to the fifth inning twice. In his last outing, he took a no-decision after giving up six runs (three earned) on three home runs in 5<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings.

#### STAT SO?

**YANKEES:** From May 5-13, Starlin Castro joined Robinson Cano as the only Yankees' second baseman since 2005 with a hitting streak of at least eight games.

**A'S:** The A's are the only team in the majors this year that has not had a starter pitch more than seven innings. Gray was the last Athletics starter to do so last Aug. 22.

NY Post

5.20.16



YANKEES NOTEBOOK

# A-Rod may not be ready tomorrow

BY ERIK BOLAND  
erik.boland@newsday.com

OAKLAND, Calif. — It's been a slow go for Alex Rodriguez, both on the base paths and in the healing of his right hamstring strain.

The 40-year-old DH was eligible to come off the disabled list last night, but two days earlier,

Joe Girardi said that wasn't going to happen, pointing instead to tomorrow.

That's still in play, but after watching A-Rod run the bases before last night's game, the manager didn't sound as sure.

"Saturday's probably still a question mark," Girardi said. "My hope is [yes], but we'll see how he feels tomorrow. It's still

not where he needs it to be yet."

The "it" is Rodriguez's ability to push himself while running. A-Rod said that although "every day I think I've gotten 5, 10 percent better," he hasn't felt comfortable going all-out.

"I just want to keep going every day and get to the point where I feel like I can just let it go and not think about it," said

A-Rod, who again took a full round of batting practice before the game.

Part of his hesitation is making a mild injury, which he hasn't felt in "a while," worse.

"Hamstrings are always tricky," he said. "The key for me is be patient, be smart. When I come back, I want to come back for good."

## ■ Sabathia set

Bay Area native CC Sabathia, who figures he'll have 75 to 125 assorted friends and family in the stands tonight when he comes off the disabled list to start against the A's, hopes to build on his last start. He threw seven shutout innings against the Orioles on May 4. "I'm healthy and ready to go," said Sabathia, who was sidelined by a left groin strain.

Sabathia added that pitching near where he grew up is just another start to him these days. He said with a smile, "It just costs me money to play here now."

Newsday

5.20.16



## Yankees Pitching Matchups In Oakland

The Yankees are about to open a four-game series in Oakland, and each game involves an interesting starting pitcher for the Yankees.

In the opener, it's Ivan Nova, the replacement starter who's pitched very well since stepping out of the bullpen and back into the rotation. He's technically the No. 6 starter, but he hasn't been the sixth-best starter.

In the second game, it's CC Sabathia, coming off the disabled list to make his first start since delivering an absolute gem in Baltimore two weeks ago. He'll be pitching where he grew up, but that hasn't always been good news for Sabathia. He has a 5.44 ERA in 15 Oakland starts.

In the Saturday game, it's Masahiro Tanaka, the Yankees top starter who's coming off back-to-back disappointing starts. He will have an extra day of rest before this start, and that might be a key difference for Tanaka, who's been very good most of the year.

In the Sunday finale, it's Michael Pineda, the guy who's supposed to be the No. 2 starter, but who's really pitching more like a mopup man who doesn't necessarily belong in the big league rotation. The Yankees know he can be very good, but they've too often seen him very, very bad.

Here's are the pitching matchups for the series:

---

### Tonight

- RHP Ivan Nova (2-1, 3.70)  
vs.

- RHP Kendall Graveman (1-5, 5.84)

*10:05 p.m., YES Network*

---

### **Friday**

- LHP CC Sabathia (2-2, 3.81)  
vs.
- RHP Sonny Gray (3-4, 5.84)

*9:35 p.m., YES Network*

---

### **Saturday**

- RHP Masahiro Tanaka (1-0, 3.51)  
vs.
- LHP Sean Manaea (1-1, 7.91)

*4:05 p.m., YES Network*

---

### **Sunday**

- RHP Michael Pineda (1-5, 6.60)  
vs.
- RHP Jesse Hahn (1-1, 3.38)

*4:05 p.m., YES Network*

## Yankees, Oakland Athletics lineup for Thursday; Mark Teixeira benched

By Randy Miller | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com

on May 19, 2016 at 7:45 PM, updated May 19, 2016 at 7:52 PM

**OAKLAND** — Yankees first baseman Mark Teixeira's first in-game response to being called out by owner Hal Steinbrenner for underachieving was a 0-for-5 collar with three strikeouts in Wednesday night's 4-2 win at Arizona.

His second may have to wait until Saturday because the slumping switch-hitter is being benched for the Yankees' series opener in Oakland on Thursday night.

Yanks have won eight of their last 13, but still have problems beyond what was brought up by their owner in New York on Wednesday.

Teixeira is hitting .203 with three homers and 11 RBIs in 37 games and currently is in the midst of a career-long, 108-at-bat homerless streak.

"I'm going to bet on him," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "I'm going to bet that he gets it going."

Teixeira has three hits in Arizona on Monday, but is 0-for-9 with six strikeouts in two games since.

"I think he's hit the ball more consistent right-handed," Girardi said. "He's hit the ball harder. Left-handed, he hasn't seemed to get going. He'll find it."

Dustin Ackley will play first instead of Teixeira on Thursday.

Here's the Yanks' lineup:

1. Jacoby Ellsbury, CF
  2. Brett Gardner, LF
  3. Carlos Beltran, DH
  4. Brian McCann, C
  5. Starlin Castro, 2B
  6. Chase Headley, 3B
  7. Dustin Ackley, 1B
  8. Didi Gregorius, SS
  9. Aaron Hicks, RF
- RHP Ivan Nova, RHP



## Mark Teixeira on Yankees' bench for Oakland series opener

### The Lohud Yankees Blog

Chad Jennings, [cjennings@lohud.com](mailto:cjennings@lohud.com) 12:05 a.m. EDT May 20, 2016

With his .203 batting average and no home runs since April 14, Mark Teixeira is on the Yankees' bench for tonight's series opener in Oakland.

Aside from his mild neck injury last week, Teixeira has remained an everyday player despite his disappointing numbers. On Wednesday afternoon, Yankees owner Hal Steinbrenner called out Teixeira by name.

"Clearly he's not playing to his potential with the bat," Steinbrenner said.

That night, Teixeira responded by going 0-for-5 with three strikeouts for the second game in a row. He's remained reasonably productive against left-handed pitchers with a .306/.404/.388 slash line and the same number of walks as strikeouts. All four of his doubles -- three of which came in his past six games -- have come against lefties. When batting left-handed, though, Teixeira has been a mess with a .143/.250/.250 slash line against right-handed starters.

The Yankees are facing a right-hander tonight and tomorrow and don't see another lefty until Saturday. It's worth wondering whether Joe Girardi might keep Teixeira on the bench the next two days to try to get things sorted out in the cage.

"At a certain point you go from being a good team that's playing bad to a bad team," Teixeira told reporters in Arizona yesterday. "I don't think we're there yet. I still think we're a good team. But we obviously have to win more games. We're just not getting the job done. I need to be a big part of turning it around."

Without Teixeira in the lineup, Dustin Ackley is starting at first base. Carlos Beltran is back at designated hitter and Aaron Hicks is back in right field.

1. Jacoby Ellsbury CF
2. Brett Gardner LF
3. Carlos Beltran DH
4. Brian McCann C
5. Starlin Castro 2B
6. Chase Headley 3B
7. Dustin Ackley 1B
8. Didi Gregorius SS
9. Aaron Hicks RF



## Game 40: Yankees at Athletics

### The Lohud Yankees Blog

Chad Jennings, [cjennings@lohud.com](mailto:cjennings@lohud.com) 12:03 a.m. EDT May 20, 2016

#### **YANKEES (17-22)**

1. Jacoby Ellsbury CF
2. Brett Gardner LF
3. Carlos Beltran DH
4. Brian McCann C
5. Starlin Castro 2B
6. Chase Headley 3B
7. Dustin Ackley 1B
8. Didi Gregorius SS
9. Aaron Hicks RF
- RHP Ivan Nova (2-1, 3.70)  
Nova vs. Athletics

#### **OAKLAND (19-22)**

1. Coco Crisp LF
2. Billy Burns CF
3. Josh Reddick RF



4. Danny Valencia 3B
5. Khris Davis DH
6. Stephen Vogt C
7. Yonder Alonso 1B
8. Marcus Semien SS
9. Chris Coghlan 2B
- RHP Kendall Graveman (1-5, 5.84)  
Graveman vs. Yankees

---

**FIRST PITCH:** 10:05 p.m. ET

**TV/RADIO:** YES Network and WFAN

**WEATHER:** Temperatures in the 60s without much chance of rain

**UMPIRES:** HP Todd Tichenor, 1B Bill Miller, 2B Pat Hoberg, 3B Brian Knight

---

**TEIXEIRA BENCHED:** Hitting just .143 against right-handers, Mark Teixeira is on the bench tonight. It's worth wondering if he might get two days off before starting again on Saturday against a left-handed A's starter.

**BULLPEN PLAN:** Last night's game showed Joe Girardi's plan for bullpen usage. If this game is close after six innings, with all three top relievers available, it's entirely possible if not likely Girardi will go Dellin Betances no matter how well Nova is pitching.

**NOVA'S NEXT TURN:** Ivan Nova is making his third start since moving into the rotation. He starts an interesting turn through the Yankees rotation with

CC Sabathia pitching tomorrow, Masahiro Tanaka pitching on extra rest Saturday, and struggling Michael Pineda trying to turn things around Sunday.

---

**UPDATE, 11:03 p.m.:** Yankees up 1-0 after three. Nova looks good. Should have scored two runs, not one, in the top of the third. Carlos Beltran doubled in a run, but then he clearly forgot how many outs there were -- there were two, not one -- and so he wasn't running on a botched fly ball in right field. Wound up going second to third, should have scored easily.

**UPDATE, 11:11 p.m.:** Solo homer and we have a tied ballgame after four.

**UPDATE, 11:26 p.m.:** Top of the fifth, both Jacoby Ellsbury and Brett Gardner reached base for the second time tonight -- hit by pitch for Ellsbury, bunt single for Gardner -- but the Yankees wound up leaving the bases loaded. The Yankees are 0-for-7 with runners in scoring position. I think I've seen this game before.

**UPDATE, 11:41 p.m.:** Four straight hits in the top of the sixth, but Headley was picked off and Gregorius was thrown out trying being too aggressive trying to get to second. Aaron Hicks did double in a run, and Dustin Ackley did a nice job going first to third, but base running really cost the Yankees that inning. They'll take the one run for a 2-1 lead, but they should have scored more.

**UPDATE, 12:01 a.m.:** Man, Nova's thrown just 62 pitches, but it's a one-run game in the seventh and so Betances is in the game. Basically no chance Dellin will be available tomorrow, and Girardi's usually hesitant to use a guy more than three out of four days, so it's likely Betances is only available for one other game this series. Might say the same for Andrew Miller and Aroldis Chapman by the time this is done.



## With righty starting, Mark Teixeira left out of Yankees lineup

May 19 9:31 PM ET

**Wallace Matthews ESPN Staff Writer**

OAKLAND -- Mark Teixeira is batting just .148 from the left side of the plate. He has just 12 hits in 81 at-bats batting lefty, and has struck out 32 times. (Paradoxically, all three of his home runs this season have come batting left-handed.) His OPS from the left side is an anemic .517.

Joe Girardi's theory is that the predominance of left-handed starters the Yankees have faced this season has caused Teixeira to have difficulty getting started as a left-handed hitter, even though he has had 29 more at-bats lefty than righty this season.

It would seem that Thursday night's opener of a four-game series against the Oakland Athletics, and their right-handed starter Kendall Graveman, would be a perfect opportunity for Teixeira to work on that left-handed swing.

But Teixeira is not in the Yankees lineup; Dustin Ackley will play first base and bat seventh against Graveman. Girardi said it is "just a day off" for Teixeira, but after having gone 0-for-9 with six strikeouts in the Yankees' last two games in Arizona, it might be more than that.

"I think he's hit the ball more consistent right-handed; I think he's hit the ball harder left-handed," Girardi said. "He just hasn't seemed to get going. It seemed like he was in a good spot when we left spring training. He was hitting the ball well, then all of a sudden we faced a bunch of left-handers and he kind of lost it. He'll find it. He'll get it going. I don't think he's real far off, either."

Teixeira is in the midst of the longest homerless streak of his career, 108 at-bats and counting, and on Wednesday, he was one of four Yankees criticized by name by owner Hal Steinbrenner. Teixeira explained that away as a cost of being the big dog in a lineup.

"I've been around long enough to know that you're going to get singled out when you're not producing, especially the type of career that I've had," he said. "I've always been someone that's been able to carry teams during tough streaks. We've been in a tough stretch the whole season. I'm the kind of player that can carry a team for a while. I just haven't done it yet."

Throughout his career, Teixeira has been bedeviled by slow starts, and particularly by bad Aprils. But he seemed as mystified as anyone that his early-season slump has now lasted seven weeks, and by his lack of power.

"I'm just not driving the ball left-handed," he said. "Too many ground balls. That's something I'm trying to work on. My natural swing puts the ball in the air and the home runs come. Hopefully they will start coming."

The Athletics will start two more right-handers this weekend -- Sonny Gray on Friday and Jesse Hahn on Sunday -- and Girardi said Teixeira will play in at least one and probably both of those games.

"Hopefully he gets it going," Girardi said.

Here's the Yankees' lineup for Thursday:

Jacoby Ellsbury, CF

Brett Gardner, LF

Carlos Beltran, DH

Brian McCann, C

Starlin Castro, 2B

Chase Headley, 3B

Dustin Ackley, 1B

Didi Gregorius, SS

Aaron Hicks, RF

Ivan Nova, RHP

# The Record

## Yankees need more from heart of the order

BY PETE CALDERA

STAFF WRITER | THE RECORD 5.20.16

OAKLAND, Calif. – Jacoby Ellsbury has been riding a May hot streak, and Brett Gardner was following closely behind, having reached base 23 times in his first 15 games this month.

"That's what we need to do at the top of the lineup," Gardner said Thursday of being the engine for the Yankees' lineup. "As long as he and I can get a little more consistent and get on base for these guys in the middle of the lineup, it'll make things a lot easier – not just on our offense, but on our pitching also."

Essentially, Gardner spelled out the formula for getting the Yankees into contention. But they could really use a boost from Mark Teixeira.

Manager Joe Girardi rested Teixeira from the starting lineup Thursday night, as the Yankees began a four-game series against the Athletics at the Coliseum.

"It seemed like he was in a good spot when we left spring training, he was hitting the ball well," Girardi said of Teixeira.

"And then all of a sudden, we faced a bunch of left-handers and he kind of lost it."

Girardi thought that Teixeira's first at-bat Wednesday night at Arizona might have started the ignition.

Batting left-handed, Teixeira slammed a long drive that Diamondbacks right fielder Brandon Drury turned into a sensational catch against the wall.

Teixeira wound up 0-for-5, with three strikeouts in a 4-2 win.

And in the ninth inning of that game, D-backs manager Chip Hale intentionally walked Brian McCann to get to Teixeira, who struck out with the bases loaded, batting left-handed.

"Right-handed, my swing feels a lot better. I feel like I've got that pretty locked in right now," Teixeira said before Wednesday's game, when he was one of a handful of players singled out by managing general partner Hal Steinbrenner for the club's poor start. "But left-handed, I've been pretty bad ... too many groundballs."

Over his first 37 games, Teixeira was hitting .148 (12-for-81) left-handed and .288 (15-for-52) right-handed.

And he'd gone 108 at-bats without a home run, the longest drought of his career.

"The thing that's a little frustrating is that in the cage, and in batting practice, everything is fine," Teixeira said. "I need to swing at better pitches and hopefully the home runs will come."

It probably hasn't helped Teixeira that Alex Rodriguez (strained hamstring) has been out of the lineup since May 4, even though A-Rod was hitting .194 when he went on the 15-day disabled list.

But the spate of lefties the Yanks have seen has limited Teixeira's left-handed at-bats. "[That] didn't help, but I'm not going to make any excuses," Teixeira said.

"I'm a streaky hitter, there's no doubt about that. I just need to get on a hot streak."

The table-setters have done their job, with Ellsbury hitting .400 (12-for-30) since May 1. He was on base all five times (3-for-3, two walks) Wednesday, and aboard when Gardner homered to give the Yanks a fast 2-0 lead.

"We haven't done that a lot this year, getting out to an early lead," Gardner said. "I felt like last year, early in the season, we did a really good job of that. And it's kind of been the other way around [now]."

Teixeira had a big bounce-back 2015 with 31 homers and 79 RBI in 111 games, until he fractured his shin on a foul ball.

"I don't think he's that far off," Girardi said. "I'm going to bet on him that he gets it going."

**SEVERINO TO THROW:** Luis Severino (right triceps strain) is scheduled to begin throwing on flat ground today. Girardi said it's premature to discuss whether the struggling right-hander (0-6, 7.46 ERA) might remain in the minors after a rehab stint.

"Our plan is for him to be one of our starters," Girardi said. "Let's just see where he's at."

**MOVING AROUND:** During pregame infield drills, Rob Refsnyder worked at third and second and at various defensive shifts.



## Despite win, Yankees are a fundamental mess

May 20 1:34 AM ET

Wallace Matthews ESPN Staff Writer

OAKLAND -- The New York Yankees ran themselves out of three runs and into two outs against the Oakland Athletics Thursday night. The manager pulled a starting pitcher who had allowed just one run and four hits over six innings and needed just 62 pitches to get there. The offense could manage just two runs off starter Kendall Graveman, who came in with an ERA of nearly six runs per game.

Somehow, they won, 4-1, because the Athletics are at least as bad as they are.

But once again, the Yankees made some alarming, even embarrassing, mistakes on the basepaths that against a better opponent almost certainly would have cost them the game. And in some instances, maybe even get the manager fired. All season long, the Yankees have displayed shoddy play in the field and knuckleheaded baserunning to go along with their often-anemic offense.

The first gaffe came in the third inning when Carlos Beltran, who had just knocked in the Yankees' first run with a two-out double, lost track of the outs and held up halfway between second and third on Brian McCann's liner to right. When Oakland right fielder Josh Reddick misplayed the ball off his shin for another double, Beltran had to stop at third, costing the Yankees a run they should have had. Beltran died at third when Starlin Castro grounded out.

Things got worse in the sixth, when the first four Yankees got hits, including a double by Aaron Hicks, and only one run scored. That's because the leadoff hitter, Chase Headley, got himself picked off soon after singling to left, and the third hitter, Didi Gregorius, got thrown out trying to stretch a single into a double. Instead of two runs in, the

Yankees had two out and a runner (Dustin Ackley) at third. He scored on Hicks' double, but instead of a comfortable 3-1 or 4-1 lead, the Yankees had to settle for 2-1.

To top things off, Joe Girardi -- as he had Wednesday night in Phoenix - - chose to pull a starter who was in command in favor of his three-headed bullpen monster of Dellin Betances, Andrew Miller and Aroldis Chapman, despite his oft-stated intention not to burn out the back end of his bullpen too early in the season.

On Wednesday, it was Nathan Eovaldi who had thrown an 85-pitch one-hitter for six innings. Thursday, it was Ivan Nova, who in his third start of the season held the A's to one run on Reddick's fourth-inning home run and had thrown just 62 pitches, barely more than he would throw in a bullpen session.

As was the case Wednesday night, things looked troubling early for Betances, who allowed a leadoff single. But as he had after walking the first two hitters he faced on Wednesday, Betances worked his way out of trouble with two strikeouts and a pop-up. Miller threw a 1-2-3 eighth.

When Beltran launched a two-run homer into the right-field seats in the top of the ninth to give the Yankees a three-run cushion, it wiped out his baserunning mistake, but Girardi still went to Chapman in the save situation.

Chapman allowed a leadoff single but nailed down the win. But under Girardi's self-imposed bullpen rules, none of his three back-enders should be available Friday night when CC Sabathia makes his first start after coming off the disabled list with a groin injury.

Nothing pretty or smooth about this one, which of course made it one of the more representative Yankee wins of a still relatively young season.





## Yankees' focus should be on getting better for 2017, not just winning now

May 19 11:56 AM ET

**Buster Olney** ESPN Senior Writer

Hal Steinbrenner seemingly hates the idea of being anything like his father as a boss, and for the son, pointing out the obvious is an eruption. This is what Hal did Wednesday, when he singled out individual players by name for poor performances: Chase Headley, Mark Teixeira, Michael Pineda.

George Steinbrenner's eruptions would often be followed by a quick trade or demotion, manifestations of tantrums. That will never be Hal's way, and his words probably don't carry those sorts of implications; rather, he seemed to be commiserating with frustrated Yankees fans.

But Hal's decision to say how he feels might eventually be remembered as the first substantive sign that this could be a different kind of summer with the Yankees, a season of accelerated change for an aging roster. Moving forward, each move and each decision made by Steinbrenner and his staff should be viewed through this prism: What's best for the 2017 Yankees?

This is not the same as a total rebuild, a complete teardown. These Yankees are good enough to contend for a playoff spot, and at least hang in the race into the last couple of weeks behind a dominant bullpen and good core of position players.

But if Hal Steinbrenner makes an honest, objective assessment of his product -- and he's very good at math -- he almost certainly realizes that as currently constructed, the Yankees aren't close to being a championship team. They might be a threat to survive into October, but not all the way through it.

The Yankees can win a share of games against better teams, as they did during the recent 10-game homestand, when they won seven from the Red Sox, Royals and White Sox. Their starting pitching appears short, however, and the Yankees' lineup is littered with potholes of inconsistency that may or may not be filled as the season progresses.

It's possible that Teixeira, a chronically slow starter in his career, gets back to being what he was last season, but now that he's 36 years old, it's also possible his

regression is irreversible. It's possible that Alex Rodriguez, closing in on his 41st birthday, is closer to a .200 hitter now than a .300 hitter. Headley has hit better in recent games, but it may be that Headley will never again be the player the Yankees thought he was when they signed him to a four-year deal.

So next season should carry as much weight as 2016 in the choices that Joe Girardi, GM Brian Cashman and Steinbrenner make over the last 18 weeks of this season.

For example:

The 26-year-old Aaron Hicks needs to play. He rotted on the Yankees' bench early this season, collecting only three hits in his first 33 at-bats and fighting a minor injury, and over the past couple of weeks, he has been in the lineup regularly and hit over .300. Starting Hicks might mean benching Rodriguez in a given game, or Carlos Beltran, but that's what Girardi should do, to provide Hicks an opportunity to develop.

Some day soon, the Yankees will need to make a similar decision with outfielder Aaron Judge, the young slugger who is going to be part of the team's lineup in future seasons. Judge turned 24 on April 26 and has a .790 OPS in Triple-A, and the Yankees should commit to playing him in the big leagues in August and September.

That probably would mean trading Brett Gardner, who is under contract for \$24 million for the 2017 and 2018 seasons. Jacoby Ellsbury is signed through 2020 at \$21.2 million annually for the next four seasons and would be difficult to move, but Gardner could be a fit for a team like the Cubs or White Sox or another contender. The Yankees could get a prospect or two in return for Gardner and have an outfield mix of Ellsbury, Hicks, Beltran and Judge down the stretch.

The Yankees should listen to offers for catcher Brian McCann, who has a full no-trade clause, because catcher Gary Sanchez appears ready to play every day in the big leagues. McCann continues to be a good player, at age 32, with a terrific reputation for leadership and pitch-framing and two years left on a five-year, \$85 million deal (and a vesting option for 2019). If the Rangers -- who have a team that could be championship-caliber right now -- wanted a solution at catcher for the rest of this season and in the next couple of years, maybe they would have interest. The Yankees could ask about the availability of young slugger Joey Gallo, a third baseman with left-handed power perfect for Yankee Stadium.

It figures that the Yankees will listen on offers for Andrew Miller, whose contract runs through 2018 and drew interest from the Dodgers and Astros in the offseason. If the Dodgers traded for Miller, he would give L.A. a late-inning setup man for this season and perhaps a closer for 2017 if Kenley Jansen departs as a free agent. Aroldis Chapman, with his domestic violence suspension now behind him, could be swapped to a contender before he reaches free agency in the fall.

The Yankees could trade one or two of these veterans without significantly cutting into efforts to win this season. But more important, they would be better for 2017 if Hicks, Judge and Sanchez play, and if they can get major league-ready players -- starting pitchers, particularly -- in a swap of their veterans.

Cashman has said in the past that the Yankees don't do full-blown rebuilds, because of the demands of their market. But they can continue to retool and add more young players to Starlin Castro, Didi Gregorius and first baseman Greg Bird, who is expected back for 2017 after having shoulder surgery in the winter.

Hal Steinbrenner's Yankees are a team in transition, from old to young, and they'll have an opportunity to turn that corner this summer, on the fly, as they try to chase down teams in the 2016 playoff race.

- The Yankees' bullpen held off the Diamondbacks. Teixeira said he doesn't blame Hal Steinbrenner for what he said.

Steinbrenner had strong words, writes Ken Davidoff.

- On Wednesday's podcast, David O'Brien of the Atlanta Journal Constitution explains the unusual way Fredi Gonzalez found out he would be fired, and why the Braves probably haven't hit rock bottom yet; USA Today's Bob Nightengale discusses the discipline handed down to the Jays and Rangers; and Tim Kurkjian about Khris Davis's power burst, Clayton Kershaw's brilliance and the best possible pitching matchup. Plus the last outs of Randy Johnson's perfect game.

Wednesday's Scoreboard podcast, with a great Vin Scully description.

- The Giants are the hottest team in baseball: Seven straight wins, and counting, after Johnny Cueto dominated the Padres. Madison Bumgarner has been outstanding, as John Shea writes.

We've got Bumgarner and the Giants against the Cubs and Kyle Hendricks on Sunday Night Baseball.

- Adam Wainwright dropped his arm angle and had his best outing of the season, as Derrick Goold writes.

- The White Sox have dropped four straight. GM Rick Hahn talked the other day about how he is ready to make a suitable deal right now if one becomes available. Depending on what Hahn and his staff determine is the most glaring need, some of the options that could be available to them:

If they decide they want an outfielder: Ender Inciarte, Gardner, Josh Reddick, Jay Bruce.

If they are concerned about shortstop Jimmy Rollins holding up for the whole season: Zack Cozart of the Reds.

If they want a starting pitcher, which might turn out to be their preference, given the problem filling the No. 5 spot in the rotation and the recent lag of Mat Latos: They could target Rich Hill or Sonny Gray of the Athletics, or Julio Teheran of the Braves -- but the price tag for Teheran would be extraordinary, given his success and his very team-friendly contract.

Teheran shut down the Pirates on Wednesday.

- Jose Reyes will report to the Rockies' spring training facility today, but his future with the team is unclear.

- The Cubs won a wild game against the Brewers, fending off Milwaukee in a bases-loaded, nobody-out situation before Travis Wood forced home the winning run with a bases-loaded walk in the 13th inning.

From the Elias Sports Bureau: Over the past 25 seasons, the only other pitcher to get a game-winning RBI on a bases-loaded walk in extra frames was Chan Ho Park, who did so for the Dodgers at Wrigley Field on June 19, 1996.

Wood was philosophical about how this game played out, as Jesse Rogers writes.

- Gio Gonzalez shut down the Mets.

Matt Harvey starts for the Mets today against Stephen Strasburg, at a time Harvey is not comfortable throwing the ball. The Mets need Harvey to answer the call today.

From ESPN Stats & Information: The Nationals have won each of Stephen Strasburg's past 12 starts, which is tied for the franchise record for most consecutive team wins in a pitcher's starts. A win against the Mets on Thursday would put Strasburg alone atop the franchise list:

## Most Consecutive Team Wins in Pitcher's Starts

Nationals/Expos franchise history

YEARS	PITCHER	STREAK
2015-16	Stephen Strasburg	12*
2014-15	Jordan Zimmermann	12
1996-97	Pedro Martínez	11

\*Active streak

This will be the third time that Strasburg and Harvey have faced off as opposing starters. Harvey outpitched Strasburg each of the previous two times, winning both meetings (April 19, 2013, and April 9, 2015):

### Stephen Strasburg vs. Matt Harvey

Head-to-head in MLB careers

	STRASBURG	HARVEY
W-L	0-2	2-0
ERA	3.97	0.69
WHIP	1.68	0.92
K-BB	11-5	16-4

David Wright went hitless in four at-bats and struck out three times, and over his past 34 at-bats, he has four hits, 10 walks and 17 strikeouts. Wright says he expects to be better, writes Adam Rubin.

• The Phillies are 24-17 and continue to play great defense and pitch well. Go ahead and try to explain the Phillies, writes Matt Gelb. From his story:

*"It's crazy, but why not?" Phillies manager Pete Mackanin said. "We're playing well. We're pitching well. We're playing good defense. We're getting just enough runs to win. I'll take it every time."*

*The Phillies have scored four or fewer runs in 20 of their last 22 games. Their record in that stretch is 15-7. They will rest Thursday before the sinking Atlanta Braves come to Citizens Bank Park this weekend.*

- The Indians pulled out a really nice comeback against the Reds, with Francisco Lindor getting the big hit.

## Video

1. Baseball Tonight's Alex Cora discusses his experience interviewing for managerial jobs in the MLB and if he feels it is a fair process.
2. Doug Glanville walks 90 feet with Neil Walker, who reflects on his favorite player growing up, explains what he would do to make baseball fun again and answers some trivia questions about himself.
3. Max Scherzer explains how he came to have not one but two dogs with different colored eyes.
4. Mets center fielder Juan Lagares races to the wall to make a Willie Mays-like catch, robbing Daniel Murphy of a hit in the seventh inning.
5. The White Sox turned a triple play.

## Dings and dents

1. Carson Smith continues to have forearm soreness. As spring training began, Eduardo Rodriguez and Smith were considered two crucial parts of the Boston pitching staff, and now the Red Sox really have no idea if either pitcher will help them this season.
2. Garrett Richards is not feeling pain, which makes his decision to not have surgery an easy one, for now.
3. The Brewers have gotten good news about their injured pitchers.
4. Mike Moustakas is making progress in his injury rehab.

## Moves, deals and decisions

1. Sam Dyson has taken over as the Rangers' closer, as Gerry Fraley writes.
2. Mike Bolsinger is stepping into the Dodgers' rotation, but don't expect them to stick with six starters, writes Bill Plunkett.

3. The Twins demoted Eddie Rosario to the minors, after he was yanked from the game.
4. Tyler Naquin was returned to the minors.

### **Wednesday's games**

1. David Price threw well again.
2. The Angels keep counterpunching, as they absorb a wave of injuries: Nick Tropeano had a career night, and Mike Trout dominated. Think about these numbers from Trout after the count is 0-2, as noted by Pedro Moura:

At-bats: 38

Hits: 14

Average: .368

Walks: 4

OPS: 1.034

3. Justin Verlander reached 2,000 strikeouts.
4. With rookies Colin Moran and Tony Kemp in the lineup, the Astros clinched a road series for the first time this season.
5. For the Jays, the losing continues: That's five straight and counting.
6. The Mariners were hurt again by the Erik Bedard trade, writes Bob Dutton.
7. A managerial decision backfired for the Diamondbacks, writes Scott Bordow.
8. The Rays are hammering the Jays this week, with authority.
9. The Rangers were swept.
10. Drew Pomeranz was a hard-luck loser, writes AJ Cassavell.
11. Former Rockie Matt Holliday put an end to the Colorado winning streak, writes Nick Groke.
12. Jarrod Dyson had a terrific game and the Royals split a doubleheader.

## NL East

- Jayson Werth and Dusty Baker talked about the lineup.
- Max Scherzer is still trying to figure out why he's giving up so many homers.
- The Marlins' road trip was a dud.

---

## NL Central

- David Ross could be a future manager.
- The Pirates have a thin rotation and bullpen, writes Paul Zeise.
- Command has eluded a crucial Pittsburgh reliever.

---

## NL West

- Brandon Drury has been working on his swing.

---

## AL East

- Xander Bogaerts needs to stop sliding into first base, writes Steve Buckley.
- Matt Wieters is getting more playing time, and playing better.
- The Jays aren't panicking.
- If Toronto keeps losing, John Gibbons may not be around for long, writes Richard Griffin. Folks within baseball believe that Eric Wedge would be the guy who would replace Gibbons if he is fired.
- From ESPN Stats & Information: Jackie Bradley Jr.'s hitting streak could be considered one of the more unlikely ones in history after he hit just .249 last season. From Elias: That's tied for the fourth-longest single-season hitting streak in the live ball era (since 1920) by a player who hit under .250 during the previous season (minimum 250 PA):

## Longest Single-Season Hit Streaks

Among players who hit below .250 in previous season



<b>YEAR</b>	<b>HITTER</b>	<b>STREAK</b>
2000	Gabe Kapler	28
1996	John Flaherty	27
1944	George Metkovich	25
2016	Jackie Bradley Jr.	24
1973	Dave May	24

In live ball era (since 1920)

Source: Elias Sports Bureau

---

### **AL Central**

- Phil Hughes needs to either lead or get out of the way, writes Brian Murphy.
- Brian Dozier fumed after the Twins' latest loss.

---

### **AL West**

- Trading Mike Trout is not something that would work out for any team, writes Bill Shaikin.
- Mark Simon writes about Rich Hill's success.
- Ken Giles is feeling more comfortable.

---

### **Lastly**

- Brad Ausmus served his suspension in Justin Verlander's suite.
- Buck Showalter spoke about Brooks Robinson's birthday.
- And today will be better than yesterday.



# What would George M. Steinbrenner III do about the 2016 Yankees?

May 19 5:49 PM ET

**Andrew Marchand ESPN Senior Writer**

In his day, George Steinbrenner had a vise grip on the New York tabloid sports world. In the prehistoric time before cell phones, beat reporters were hostages in their hotel rooms or homes, sparingly going for a bite to eat or a bathroom break out of fear of missing The Boss' return call and a back page story.

If the Boss were still around, hovering over the last-place New York Yankees, he would probably have his own Twitter account, blasting off 140-character missives at a frantic pace.

With or without The Boss, the Yankees' win-loss column probably wouldn't be any better as they approach the quarter mark of the season, despite Steinbrenner's legacy as a modern-day King Midas.

Nearly a quarter of the way through the season and in LAST PLACE?! The Yankees' old boss, George Steinbrenner, would be taking matters into his own hands. AP Photo/Ron Frehm

In the revisionist history of the Yankees' dear leader, everything he touched turned to championship gold, which glosses over the two banishments from baseball, the bullying, and the fact the Bronx was ecstatic when he was suspended in 1990.

It was during that suspension when the Yankees -- arguably the original MLB tankers -- decided to become frugal, which allowed for the seeds that later produced the Core Four and the bulk of The Boss' later legacy.

These days, with the much more sedate Hal Steinbrenner, The Boss' son, in charge, the Yankees are blander and more pragmatic, which doesn't provide much immediate emotional relief for their currently suffering and angry fans.

"What would The Boss do?" is something you can still hear on social media, sports talk radio and any other place where Yankees fans gather.

So let's dial up our imagination and ponder what George Steinbrenner would do about the current mess.

Here are 10 moves -- plus one bonus blockbuster -- The Boss might make if he were in charge of the sinking 2016 Yankees.

---

## 1. FIRE JOE GIRARDI

The '80s George Steinbrenner would have added Joe Girardi to the long list of managers he fired. Despite Girardi's World Series rings with the Yankees, both as a catcher and as a skipper, Steinbrenner would not go for Girardi's constant defending of players, especially when they don't deserve it.

## 2. HIRE BOBBY V

The Boss would want to light a fire under his highly paid players. The Yankees' clubhouse is filled with a lot of nice guys, but, as was the case in Boston, Bobby Valentine, a brilliant baseball mind, would probably rub some of them the wrong way. The Boss would like that.

### **3. HIRE SEAT-FILLERS**

The look of a half-empty Yankee Stadium would have infuriated The Boss. But rather than bring down prices and risk profit in the process, we think he'd throw more money at the problem. Corey Sipkin/Getty Images

The daily eyesore that are the seats behind home plate at Yankee Stadium would drive The Boss nuts. What would he do? He would borrow a page from the TV award shows and hire seat-fillers for the Legends seats.

Despite how sad it is that one of the world's greatest stadiums would have to resort to Hollywood shenanigans, it would look better and be a tangible response to what has become a source of mockery.

### **4. FIRE BOBBY V**

The Boss soon would get sick of Bobby V. When Steinbrenner was around, there was only one man who could be the center of attention. Valentine creates fires wherever he goes, so Steinbrenner would have to get rid of him.

### **5. HIRE WALLY BACKMAN**

One of the Boss' trademark moves was attempting to steal the glory from the Mets -- like adding Darryl Strawberry and Doc Gooden, the latter who pitched a no-hitter in Yankees pinstripes, to the Yankees' roster late in their careers. The Mets right now have all the ingredients -- mostly young stud pitching -- to own this town if they don't mess it up.

While swiping their ex-manager, Valentine, might annoy some Mets fans, many would be envious if Backman -- a beloved member of the 1986 Mets title team currently celebrating its 30th anniversary -- were put in charge in the Bronx. It would be classic George.

### **6. RIP JACOBY ELLSBURY IN THE MEDIA**

George Steinbrenner would have plenty to say publicly about Jacoby Ellsbury -- and not with a smile on his face. AP Photo, Getty Images

Ellsbury's \$153 million contract already looks like it could end up being one of the worst in franchise history. Though the fans and media have noticed, the manager and the front office have allowed for excuses.

If The Boss were around, Ellsbury would not have such a cushy experience cashing his \$21 million check each season.

### **7. FIRE WALLY BACKMAN**

Like it is with Girardi and would be with Valentine, it's the players. The Yankees are suffering through the hangover of the final years of long-term, big-money contracts. Still, Backman would take the fall.

### **8. MAKE A-ROD PLAYER-MANAGER**

The whole Alex Rodriguez-Biogenesis saga was one of the craziest stories in sports history. How much more fun would it have been if the Boss were around to go toe-to-toe with A-Rod and his enablers?

Well, with it all blown over and the Yankees struggling, the Boss would fire Backman and make A-Rod the manager. Rodriguez, 40, only DHs anyway, so he would have plenty of time to implement strategy.

With A-Rod as manager, the Yankees might not be any better, but they would again become one of the most interesting teams in the game.

## **9. PUT BRIAN CASHMAN ON NOTICE**

General manager Brian Cashman has said he doesn't decorate his Yankee Stadium office because The Boss told him to never feel comfortable. Steinbrenner, in good times, always had a connection with the fans, because he was as demanding as any Bleacher Creature.

Steinbrenner would be yelling about why the Yankees haven't been able to develop top-of-the-line starting pitching. "What's wrong with Severino?! Why is Pineda so inconsistent?!"

The list would go on and on and, though Cashman outlasted Steinbrenner, the GM did so because it was during a dynastic run. Cashman would have a hard time keeping his job if Steinbrenner were in his prime.

## **10. GO AFTER JOHN OLIVER**

While the Boss might have hired his own seat-fillers, he likely wouldn't have taken well to John Oliver filling seats with costumed "riffraff." (Although it would be in George's playbook to make light of the situation later in a television commercial.) AP Photo

Steinbrenner would have aggressively responded to HBO talk-show host John Oliver and his Yankee Stadium stunt, perhaps calling him some sort of reptile, as The Boss was known to do.

After the ugliness, the two could have a high-powered powwow and make up via a Visa commercial, as Boss George and Derek Jeter once did. (And as the Boss once did with on-again, off-again Yankees skipper Billy Martin.)

Of course, it would be better if the Yankees still had Jeter and the rest of the Core Four playing in their primes.

## **BONUS: TRADE OUTFIELD PROSPECT AARON JUDGE**

Ken Phelps, anyone?

---

So there you have it. If the Boss were still around, the Yankees would likely still be in last place, but they would be a much more fascinating, headline-grabbing sports soap opera.



## That's what he said: A closer look at Hal Steinbrenner's comments

Chad Jennings 5.19.16

Before Brett Gardner went deep, before Nathan Eovaldi delivered a gem, and before Joe Girardi went to his bullpen, the Yankees on Wednesday received what now counts as a stern talking to from their owner.

Hal Steinbrenner's words didn't have the fire of his father, but we know that's not Steinbrenner's style. He used the words "disappointing" and "frustrating," and that's about as fired up as this Steinbrenner seems to get, even when his team has a losing record and a two-game losing streak. Rather than blame his general manager (whose decisions Hal has to approve) or his manager (who makes decisions based on organizational philosophy and metrics), Steinbrenner blamed the Yankees' players for the team's bad start.

"They're the best baseball players in the world," Steinbrenner said. "And sooner or later it comes down to them, on the inside, to push through whatever it is they're going through and to persevere."

The Yankees pushed through last night. Made aware of Steinbrenner's evaluation, the Yankees got a great start out of Eovaldi, a two-run homer from Gardner, and a timely RBI single from Jacoby Ellsbury. It wasn't a big offensive explosion, but it was enough to avoid a series sweep and pick up a win heading into a four-game series against the Oakland.

As passed along by The Associated Press, here are a few of Steinbrenner's comments. Can't say he hasn't been paying attention.

- **"When you look at a guy like Mark Teixeira, clearly he's not playing to his potential with the bat."**

This is an understatement, isn't it? Teixeira ran into some tough luck last night when he smoked a ball to the wall in right field and had nothing to show for it, but he struck out in three of his next four at-bats last night, and most of his numbers don't seem to be the product of bad luck. Teixeira's batting average on balls in play isn't lower than usual, and his line drive percentage is pretty typical, but he's striking out a lot, hitting a lot of balls on the ground, and not hitting nearly enough balls into the air. Those that he is hitting in the air aren't going out of the park as often as usual. Teixeira's been alright from the right side, but he's been just brutal from the left side, and he's well aware that his lack of

offense has been a problem for this struggling team. If he didn't know it, the Diamondbacks intentionally loading the bases to face him last night was a pretty good indication. After what he did last season, it seemed fair to expect much more out of Teixeira in this final year of his contract.

- **"Chase Headley, same thing. Now you're starting to see him hit, see him more relaxed. He's making harder contact. That has to continue."**

Last night was another two-hit game for Headley, and one of those was a single that set up their third and final run. He was legitimately awful for a month, but Headley's been really good for two weeks now. That's been a nice boost for the bottom half of the order. The Yankees thought this lineup would be more complete than it was last season, and they'll need some of those bottom-third hitters to make that complete lineup a reality. One thing to mildly disagree with Steinbrenner about is his last statement about Headley: "That has to continue." Headley's not a particularly key piece of this lineup. He's not a make-or-break hitter, but it hurts when he's bad and it helps when he's good. When the Yankees were bad, he was part of the problem. As they've gotten better, he's been part of the solution. He's never been the single determining factor one way or another.

- **"Pineda is concerning — all these strikeouts and yet he's given up these runs. Clearly he's giving up runs early. Clearly there's been issues with his slider."**

How about that? For a guy who's sometimes dismissed as not really enjoying baseball or truly being invested in the team, Steinbrenner clearly has some sense of what's going on with Michael Pineda this year. Maybe he just happened to catch Tuesday's game on TV, but that's a pretty on-point analysis of Pineda's struggles. Lots of strikeouts. Lots of early runs. A lot of inconsistencies with his slider. The use of the word "concerning" seems spot-on as well. Headley is a secondary piece of the offensive puzzle, but Pineda is a key piece of the bullpen who seemed to be the No. 2 starter heading into this season. The Yankees most reliable piece of rotation depth is Ivan Nova, but things get thing very quickly beyond him. The Yankees need Pineda to get things sorted out. His best pitches have been excellent, but his bad pitches are easily overshadowing the good ones.

- **"I also think there was a confidence issue (with Severino) at some point. He is a rookie. This is his first downturn, if you will."**

This makes sense. For almost any 22-year-old kid, I have to think falling flat in the big leagues would create a serious blow to the ego and the confidence, but Severino has never carried himself like a guy who's lost his confidence this season. Maybe that's a misperception on my part -- I'm around Severino a decent amount, but not enough to really have a firm understanding of the way he's feeling from day to day -- but he just carries himself like a guy who knows he's really good. Not necessarily cocky, just seems confident and at ease. He seemed that way last season, seemed that way this spring, and he's seemed that way this season. If the Yankees thought his confidence had been fried,

he might have been sent down by now. I think he's just off mechanically, but maybe confidence is more of an issue that he's let on.

- **"I don't think it's a flaw in the way the team is put together. I think the team we have this year is better than the team we had last year."**

All offseason we seemed to hear this mantra. There were not bold proclamations of the Yankees being suddenly a favorite to win the World Series, but the Yankees didn't lose much from last year's roster, and what they did lose they seemed to replace and upgrade with a new second baseman, new closer, and new fourth outfielder. If the Yankees got performances like they did last season -- especially from Teixeira, Alex Rodriguez and the bullpen -- they seemed to be in good shape. But the rotation was filled with uncertainty, the middle of the order was aging, and depth took a few significant hits with early injuries. It's not so much that this team absolutely is better than last year. More like, it could be better than last year. Need a lot of things to start going right for that to happen. Don't forget, last year's team didn't look so good in the second half, so bringing back a bunch of the same guys wasn't a foolproof path to success.

- **"Season tickets are slightly up, which is the first time in four or five years that that's been the case. I don't know if it's making the playoffs one game or not. I don't know if it's some of the young players, Hicks, Castro, Chapman, some of the guys we brought on. I don't know. But the fans have been excited."**

Not sure we'd heard this before, though I think having ticket sales higher than last year -- when the team was without Derek Jeter and looked pretty bad late in the year -- isn't a particularly high hurdle to clear. Ultimately, I would find it surprising to learn the fan base has significantly embraced this roster. Granted, I spend too much time on Twitter, and that probably skews my opinion of what the average fan thinks -- I doubt the vocal contingent on Twitter speaks for the average fan -- but it just doesn't seem like this is the roster the fan base has been waiting for. It's slowly getting there as we see some young guys like Severino get opportunities, and a new guy like Starlin Castro play well, but I'm still not sure the fan base as a whole has fully embraced this group. If they start winning, that might start to change, but isn't that always the case?

## Why it sounds like Yankees' Brian Cashman's job is safe

By Brendan Kutny | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com

on May 19, 2016 at 10:48 AM, updated May 19, 2016 at 11:05 AM

**NEW YORK** — Yankees owner Hal Steinbrenner dropped the blame on his players for the rough start that's seen them in last place in the American League East since April 23.

Nathan Eovaldi gives Yankees hope  
The Yankees need an ace. Maybe Nathan Eovaldi can step up, Yankees beat writer Randy Miller says after a dominating outing Wednesday in Arizona. 5/18/16 (Randy Miller | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com)

He said the coaches weren't the problem, and that's from the top (manager Joe Girardi) to the bottom (bullpen coach Mike Harkey). But twice Steinbrenner went out of his way to praise the architect of the club, general manager Brian Cashman.

Speaking on Day 1 of the Owners Meetings at Major League Baseball headquarters in Manhattan on Wednesday, Steinbrenner was asked if he believed if roster construction was a problem for the Yankees.

Though the roster is reliant on many old bodies and there are plenty of question marks in the rotation, it's virtually the same roster that brought the club to the Wild Card game last year.

"I don't think there's a flaw in the way the team's put together," Steinbrenner said. "I think the team we put together is better than the team we had last year and the team we had last year was second in runs in the major leagues. We added (second baseman Starlin) Castro, we added (reserve outfielder Aaron) Hicks. I think, when you look at a guy like Mark Teixeira, clearly he's not playing to his potential with the bat. My opinion. I'm sure some might disagree. But I'm sure many would agree. I think we saw Chase Headley — same thing. Now you're seeing him start to hit, more relaxed. He's making harder contact. That has to continue. You guys have been around longer than I have, You know when good players get into these kinds of...you can only coach them so much, work on technique so much. The rest of it is up to them. They're professionals."

Yanks have won eight of their last 13, but still have problems beyond what was brought up by their owner in New York on Wednesday.

Later, he was asked how he'd assess the jobs of Girardi and Cashman. After saying he had no complaints about the coaches, Steinbrenner went to bat for Cashman, a 48-year-old who's been in his position since 1998.

"I think Cash made some good trades," Steinbrenner said. "I think Castro worked out great. I think Hicks has worked out great now that he's starting to play everyday, he's starting to hit. Look, again, this is, you go through these periods every year. Every team does. For us, unfortunately, it happened at the very beginning or maybe longer than it does as well."

Sure doesn't sound like Cashman needs to worry about his job any time soon.





## **Joe Girardi takes blame for Yankees woes, but Steinbrenner backs his manager**

### **Yankees owner Hal Steinbrenner doesn't blame Joe Girardi for the team's poor start to the season**

Given that the Yankees entered the season with the top player payroll in Major League Baseball (almost \$223 million, per usatoday.com's annual unveiling), were coming off a year in which they were the top AL Wild Card and now currently sit in last place in the AL East at 17-22, talk about the job security of manager Joe Girardi was bound to happen.

It's been happening for a few weeks, in fact.

For his part, the always-stand-up Girardi is totally accountable. Via ESPN New York:

"I always take full responsibility for what happens here -- good or bad. It's my job to get the best out of the players and right now, we're not performing to the level I think we're capable of."

"Everybody is frustrated," Girardi said. "If I was the owner, I'd be frustrated, too."

And, yes, owner Hal Steinbrenner is frustrated, but his ire is totally directed at the players (ESPN.com).

"The coaches are doing a good job," Steinbrenner said. "These are professional athletes. They're the best baseball players in the world,

and sooner or later it comes down to them, on the inside, to push through whatever it is they're going through and to persevere."

Steinbrenner ends up mentioning the following players, as being part of the problem, by name: Mark Teixeira, Michael Pineda, Luis Severino and Chase Headley. In turn, in the above mentioned ESPN.com report, but Teixeira and Pineda were accountable and said they agreed that they need to be better. Steinbrenner also went out of his way to praise Starlin Castro, Aaron Hicks and even general manager Brian Cashman, in the latter case noting that he believes the correct personnel is in place.

One might recall that earlier this season, Cashman took the blame for the personnel not being good enough in an attempt to absolve Girardi of any blame.

So, basically, this entire organization is in a race to take the blame and not blame anyone else. No in-fighting whatsoever.

This is the Yankees and a good part of the reason we featured Girardi on a list of managers who could be next to get the ax.

I'm lost.

Does anything even make sense anymore?



## **Girardi On WFAN: Yankees Players Will Brush Off Steinbrenner's Criticism**

*May 19, 2016 6:13 PM*

**NEW YORK (WFAN)** — Yankees manager Joe Girardi said Thursday he doesn't think owner Hal Steinbrenner's criticism of the players a day earlier will have a negative impact in the clubhouse.

Speaking to reporters Wednesday, Steinbrenner backed Girardi and general manager Brian Cashman but blamed the players for the team's poor start.

### **ADVERTISING**

"They're the best baseball players in the world, and sooner or later it comes down to them, on the inside, to push through whatever it is they're going through and to persevere," Steinbrenner said. " ... Clearly not living up to their potential."

In an interview with WFAN's Mike Francesa, Girardi said Steinbrenner didn't say anything the players haven't already thought themselves.

"I think the guys understand who's struggling and who's not and that we all can do more and that we're not where we want to be," Girardi said. "So I didn't really think it upset the clubhouse. I think they understand how to handle criticism, and if you play in this game long enough, it's going to happen, and you've got to go out and play better."

### **YANKING EOVALDI**

Girardi said his bullpen had everything to do with why he pulled starter

Nathan Eovaldi after six innings Wednesday night against Arizona despite that he had retired 18 consecutive batters. The Yankees won the game, 4-2.

“That’s why they’re (relievers Dellin Betances, Andrew Miller and Aroldis Chapman) there,” Girardi said. “That’s not a game that you can lose. E probably could have went out and gave us another inning. But if something does happen, you’re going to say, ‘Why didn’t you go to the big three?’ And that’s why I did it. ... And they’re rested.”

### **TEX’S STRUGGLES**

Mark Teixeira is batting just .162 since May 8.

“It’s been a real struggle for him, especially left-handed,” Girardi said. “And I had concerns when we played all those left-handers in a row what would happen to the switch hitters when they reversed to the other side. I thought when he hit the first ball (Wednesday) night, I thought, OK, he’s going to get going, and the young man makes a great catch. But he’ll get going. It’s just he’s really important to our lineup, and we need to get him going.”

### **A-ROD RETURNING SOON?**

A strained hamstring has kept Alex Rodriguez out of the lineup since May 3. A-Rod’s expected return — once believed to be late this week — has been delayed, but Girardi said the slugger is close.

“We’re hoping sometime this weekend. I’d be shocked if it wasn’t shortly after that,” the manager said. “He’s going to run again today, try to pick up the intensity, try to get on the bases a little bit, and we’ll see where he’s at.”

The Yankees open a four-game series at Oakland on Thursday night.

To listen to the full interview with Girardi, click on the audio player above.

**AP**

---

## **In close games, Girardi favors top relievers to effective starters**

*Bob Baum of The Associated Press: 5.19.16*

PHOENIX (AP) — Nathan Eovaldi doesn't consider himself an ace just yet. He sure pitched like one Wednesday night, though.

Eovaldi retired the 18 batters he faced after allowing a freak leadoff base hit and the New York Yankees salvaged the final game of a three-game series in Arizona by beating the Diamondbacks 4-2.

"I don't look at myself as an ace but I do want to try and do well when we're struggling and try to get us back on track," he said. "I do feel like if you have a good start from the starter, everybody else kind of builds off that."

Jean Segura's ground ball to start the first inning bounced off the bag at second and dribbled into the outfield for a double.

Yankees manager Joe Girardi thought it would have been a base hit even if it hadn't hit the bag "but it was one of the weirder doubles you're going to see."

After that, only two balls even reached the outfield off the Yankees right-hander, who hit 100 mph on the Chase Field radar gun while improving to 4-0 in his last five starts.

Eovaldi (4-2) gave up one run and struck out five with no walks.

"He attacked," Girardi said. "He did a heck of a job. We needed a win tonight after losing the first two the way we did and he pitched a great game."

Brett Gardner hit a two-run homer and Jacoby Ellsbury went 3 for 3 with an RBI single for New York. Aroldis Chapman threw a perfect ninth for his fourth save since being reinstated on May 9.

Shelby Miller (1-5) scattered 10 hits over 5 2/3 innings, allowing three runs.

Eovaldi threw just 85 pitches and admitted he was "a little bit disappointed" not to come out for the seventh.

But Girardi instead turned the ball over to the well-rested big three at the back end of the bullpen — Dellin Betances, Andrew Miller and Chapman.

"I'm going to take my chances probably 99 percent of the time with Betances, Miller and Chapman," Girardi said, "just because they're so good."

The only other Arizona hit for the night was Chris Owings' home run off Andrew Miller in the eighth.

Ellsbury opened the game with a walk and Gardner hit Shelby Miller's 1-2 pitch into the right field seats for his fifth home run of the season.

After his unorthodox double in the first, Segura took third on a ground out and scored when Paul Goldschmidt bounced out to third. Third baseman Chase Headley may have had a chance to throw the runner out at home, especially when Segura screeched to a stop about two-thirds of the way there, but chose to get the sure out instead.

New York added a run in the sixth.

With a runner at second and two outs, Arizona manager Chip Hale went to the mound but chose not to make a pitching change.

Ellsbury followed with an RBI single, making him 6 for 6 lifetime against Miller.

"I went to talk to him and make sure it was his last hitter," Hale explained. "I was going to bring in Chaf (Andrew Chafin) for Gardner. Ellsbury's numbers versus left-handers are really good. Granted, he hits Shelby pretty well, but we had a plan how to pitch him, but he (Miller) just got the ball up a little."

## TRAINER'S ROOM

Alex Rodriguez (strained right hamstring) is eligible to come off the DL on Thursday but Girardi says it will be a few days more before that happens. ... SS Didi Gregorius was hit in the ankle by a line drive off the bat of Headley in the second inning but stayed in the game.

## UP NEXT

Ivan Nova (2-1, 3.70 ERA) makes his third start of the season Thursday night when the Yankees open a four-game series in Oakland. He is 1-0 with a 1.74 ERA in his two starts after making his first five appearances of the season out of the bullpen.

# Gotta pull the switch

Tex knows he has to be a lefthanded complement again

BY ERIK BOLAND  
erik.boland@newsday.com

OAKLAND, Calif. — Mark Teixeira's description of his performance this season was far harsher than managing general partner Hal Steinbrenner's.

"I've been terrible the last month," Teixeira said Wednesday. "I just have to get it going, especially lefthanded."

Teixeira was one of four Yankees whom Steinbrenner mentioned Wednesday afternoon — "called out" would be a tad strong for what the owner actually said — as playing significant roles in his club's slow start.

"I don't blame him," Teixeira said. "Righthanded, my swing feels a lot better. I've been facing a lot of lefties and I feel like I've got that pretty locked in right now, but lefthanded, I've been pretty bad."

Teixeira was 0-for-5 with three strikeouts Wednesday night against Arizona and was not in last night's starting lineup against the A's. He entered the night with striking splits: a .306/.404/.388 slash line as a righthanded hitter (not including three at-bats in which he batted righthanded against a righthander) and a .148/.258/.259 slash line while batting lefthanded.

Teixeira, 36, has always been better as a righthanded hitter — a career .291/.385/.519 slash line from that side compared to .262/.353/.512 as a lefthanded hit-

**YANKS RESULT**  
Read about last night's late Yanks-A's game at [newsday.com/yankees](http://newsday.com/yankees)

Tonight



Yankees

at Oakland

TV: YES, 9:35 p.m.

Radio: WFAN (660, 101.9)

ter — but nothing like this.

He hit three homers, all while batting lefthanded, in his first 25 at-bats in 2016 but entered last night with a homerless streak of 108 at-bats in 30 games since hitting one against Toronto's Drew Storen on April 13. In that span, he had a .194/.298/.231 slash line.

Teixeira has never been a player who has tried to hit home runs, but he somewhat wearily joked, "Maybe I should start."

He added, "I've always been a guy that really just tries to square the ball up and my natural swing puts the ball in the air and the home runs come. Hopefully they will start coming . . . I'm just not driving the ball lefthanded. Just off enough. All it takes is to be off a little bit and too many ground balls. Something I'm trying to work on."

The first baseman, whose slump has not extended to the field, said part of what's been most vexing is how he's felt while putting the work in.

"That's the thing that's a little frustrating, is in the cage and in batting practice, everything's fine," Teixeira said. "But you face some tough pitchers and you ex-



Mark Teixeira has gone more than a month without a home run.

GETTY IMAGES/REUSA

pand the zone a little bit and I'm not taking my walks like I was earlier. I need to swing at better pitches and hopefully the home runs will come and I'll draw my walks when I need to and then hopefully get on a roll."

Teixeira has said that seeing so many lefthanded starters this season isn't an excuse for his troubles, but Joe Girardi isn't so sure. "It seemed like he was in a

good spot when we left spring training, he was hitting the ball well, and then all of a sudden, we faced a bunch of lefthanders and he kind of lost it," Girardi said. "He'll find it. I don't think he's that far off. I'm going to bet on him that he gets it going."

Teixeira said it did sting to be mentioned by the owner as one of the reasons the Yankees are not playing better.

"I've been around long enough to know that you're going to get singled out when you're not producing, especially with the type of career I've had," he said. "I've always been someone that's been able to carry teams during tough streaks, and we've been in a tough stretch the whole season, and I'm the kind of player that can carry a team for a while. I just haven't done it yet."

Newsday

5.20.16

## Nova not letting go of another chance to start

Yankees rightly excelling since rejoining rotation

By Bryan Hoch / MLB.com | [@BryanHoch](#) | 5.20.16 2:52 AM ET

OAKLAND -- **Ivan Nova** tried to play the role of good teammate through the first several weeks of the season, attempting to adjust to an unfamiliar long relief role while making it clear that his preference would be to return to the rotation.

Nova believed that an opportunity would come his way sooner or later, and now that it has arrived, the right-hander seems intent on making sure it never slips away. Nova was excellent again Thursday, allowing a run over six innings in the Yankees' **4-1 victory** over the Athletics.

"It's way different than being in the bullpen," Nova said. "To have my time to warm up and have my pitches that you want to work on -- in the bullpen, you don't have that chance. When you're starting, if you don't have it in the first inning, you can have it in the second inning."

Through three starts, Nova hasn't had to search much. Limiting Oakland to four hits over six innings, Nova was extremely economical (62 pitches, 44 strikes) as he improved to 2-0 with a 1.68 ERA as a starter this season.

"It's what he's used to doing," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "We asked him to start in the bullpen this year and I thought he did a pretty good job. He's been good for us as a starter; he's done a really nice job and thrown three good games. He's throwing the ball good."

Yankees catcher **Brian McCann** said that Nova's barreling sinker was key in coaxing ground balls from the A's; 12 of the 18 outs Nova recorded came in that fashion, including two double plays.

"When he's got that movement and he's pitching it to both sides of the plate, you're going to get some ground balls and quick outs, and he did that tonight," McCann said.

Nova's command also has improved in his second year back from Tommy John surgery. He logged a 5.07 ERA in 94 big league innings last season.

"I think he's locating down and away better, glove side," McCann said. "He's locating that pitch so much better this year than he did last year."

The lone blemish on Nova's night was **Josh Reddick's** fourth-inning homer, which played into Girardi's decision to hand the game over to **Dellin Betances** in the seventh, with Reddick due to lead off.

Nova said that he was surprised to get the hook with the pitch count so low, but given the names following him in the box score, he said that he understood. Given time to cool off, Nova could take satisfaction in another strong effort, proving that the Yankees have no reason to look elsewhere.

"I do it more for a personal thing than to show anybody else," Nova said. "I was struggling last year. I've got to put myself back and be better than I was last year. That's the only thing."



## 'Done BMC' thrives on back-to-back nights

Girardi says he'll use trio of Betances, Miller and Chapman when 'time is right'

By Bryan Hoch / MLB.com | [@BryanHoch](#) | 5.20.16 2:28 AM ET

OAKLAND -- Less than 24 hours after vowing that he would call upon his vaunted relief trio of Dellin Betances, Andrew Miller and Aroldis Chapman "99 percent of the time" if necessary, Joe Girardi again signaled to the bullpen, calling on "Done BMC" to finish off a Yankees victory.

This time, the manager did so after watching six strong, economical innings from starter Ivan Nova, who was surprised to learn he had been pulled after just 62 pitches. The strategy worked, as the bullpen fired three scoreless frames to help the Yankees celebrate a 4-1 victory over the Athletics.

"We haven't burned them out," Girardi said. "I'm going to use them when I feel the time is right. That's my call."

Girardi said that he wrestled somewhat with saving one of the three hurlers, after they were all used to preserve Nathan Eovaldi's winning effort Wednesday at Arizona.

But with the Yanks up by only a run after six, Girardi said that he sensed trouble if Nova were to face the heart of the Athletics lineup again. Betances' first assignment was to face Reddick, who had homered off Nova in the fourth.

"I didn't know how many pitches I threw in the game until I came out," Nova said. "I feel really good. I thought I would keep going, but he took me out. You have to understand that the guys we have behind, and Reddick hit a homer off me. They know that and they took me out."

Girardi explained that the hitters due up in the seventh accounted for all of the A's hits to that point; as Danny Valencia had singled in the fourth and Stephen Vogt had a pair of singles to his name.

Betances pitched around Reddick's leadoff single in the seventh, striking out two. Miller worked a perfect eighth with a strikeout and Chapman struck out two around a single in the ninth for his fifth save. It was the fourth time "Done BMC" has been deployed together.

"It's how good the back end is. It's hard not to use those guys," catcher Brian McCann said. "We've got to do a better job on offense to score more runs, but when you've got those three guys rested and ready to go, it's tough not to use those guys."

As a general rule, Girardi will not use relievers three straight games this early in the season, though he has already broken that once with Betances.

While he is adhering to his newfound mantra of "we'll worry about tomorrow, tomorrow," Girardi said that he certainly will not use Betances on Friday, having thrown 46 pitches over the past two nights.

"I don't second-guess myself. Maybe a lot of other people do," Girardi said. "There's a reason we put them together down there and it's for games like [Thursday] and [Wednesday]. We didn't put them together for games that are 6-1 or 7-1, but when you've got 3-1 and 2-1 and they're close games and you have guys that strike people out, it's much harder to score."



## Alex Rodriguez still lukewarm on weekend return

May 19 9:09 PM ET

Wallace Matthews ESPN Staff Writer

OAKLAND -- The New York Yankees had originally hoped that Alex Rodriguez, out since May 4 with a hamstring strain, would be ready to rejoin the team when his disabled list stint ended on May 19. Well, May 19 has come and he is still not quite ready to return to action, and from the way it sounded, he may not come back until the Yankees return home next week.

Rodriguez ran the "arcs" -- the wide circle along the edge of the outfield grass -- before Thursday night's game against the Oakland Athletics. According to Joe Girardi, he also ran "some light bases," which presumably means he jogged a few times from home to first and from first to third. When Rodriguez was asked if he thought he might be ready to play on Saturday -- Girardi's hopeful projection on Wednesday -- he said, "I can't predict that, but I can tell you that the last three days have gotten better each and every day and if that continues, we're in good shape."

Rodriguez said he is getting "five to ten percent better" each day. Girardi added, "Saturday is probably still a question mark, if he'll be ready by Saturday. My hope is, we'll see. We'll see how he feels tomorrow."

Rodriguez's season average is just .194, but he did have six hits, including three home runs, in his last 17 at-bats before injuring himself in the eighth inning of a game against the Baltimore Orioles on May 3. Asked if the injury was taking longer than he expected to heal, Rodriguez said, "Hamstrings are always tricky. The key for me is to be patient and be smart when I come back. When I come back, I want to come back for good and be ready to help the team win."



## When is Yankees' Alex Rodriguez coming off DL? Here's latest

By [Randy Miller](#) | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com  
on May 19, 2016 at 9:05 PM, updated May 19, 2016 at 11:25 PM

**OAKLAND** — Alex Rodriguez looked upbeat hanging out in the Yankees clubhouse before Thursday night's game in Oakland even though it's been 15 days since he went on the 15-day disabled list with a strained hamstring and he's not quite ready to play.

When will A-Rod be back?

He doesn't know. The Yankees are hoping for Saturday, it could be Sunday or perhaps not until the Yankees open a homestand next Tuesday.

Third baseman made a first-inning decision in field that led to Arizona's first run in a 4-2 Yankees win.

Regardless, this was as good day progress wise.

Sometime Thursday afternoon, A-Rod gave his right hammy another test, this one tougher than Wednesday's, which was tougher than Tuesday's.

This time, A-Rod jogged a little harder around the dirt area of the infield than he had in Phoenix earlier this week, then he tried running the bases for the first time since he was injured during a May 3 game in Baltimore.

He felt no discomfort. In fact, it's been "awhile" since he felt any.

"I feel good," A-Rod said. "Every day I think I've gotten 5-to-10 percent better, and I'm very encouraged by the last three days."

It was easy to tell A-Rod was in good mood afterward.

Before the Yankees took the field for batting practice at old and rundown Oakland Alameda Coliseum, A-Rod spent a few minutes standing and chirping in the clubhouse, first with reliever Dellin Betances, then later with Yanks radio analyst Suzyn Waldman.

Eventually, A-Rod carried a silver plate with a domed lid from a back room to a clubhouse table. He pulled the top off to reveal a baked chicken and veggies dinner, but before sitting down to eat, he approached a group of reporters to share his promising medical update.

"Today was a huge step because I ran the bases," A-Rod said. "I did home to first four times, then I did first to third four times. That's a huge leap."

He still has a ways to go though, which he says isn't surprising even though this had been the day that he was shooting for for a return until he realized Tuesday in Arizona that it wouldn't be possible.

"Hamstrings are always tricky," A-Rod said. "The key for me is to be patient, be smart. When I want to come back, I want to come back for good and be ready to help the team win."

Saturday still is a best-case return date, but manager Joe Girardi seemed less optimistic of that occurring than he did a day or two earlier.

"Saturday is probably still a question mark, if he'll be ready," Girardi said. "My hope is he is. We'll see."

A-Rod feels the same way.

"I just want to keep going and get to the point where I feel I can let it go and not think of it," A-Rod said. "I can't predict, but I can tell you that the last two days I've gotten better each and every day and if that continues we're in good shape."

# The Record

## A-Rod feeling better, but unsure of return to Yankees lineup

BY PETE CALDERA

STAFF WRITER | THE RECORD 5.20.16

OAKLAND, Calif. – Alex Rodriguez was encouraged by his progress after doing some more intensive baserunning drills on Thursday afternoon, testing his strained right hamstring.

But the Yankees' designated hitter is still unsure if he'll be ready to rejoin the lineup on Saturday against the Athletics.

"I feel good. Every day, I think I've gotten five or 10 percent better. I'm very encouraged by the last two days," A-Rod said after his pregame workout at the Coliseum, prior the Yanks-A's series opener. "When I'm ready to play, I'll play."

A-Rod graduated to running the bases on Thursday, calling it "a huge step" in his progress. He ran from first to home and from first to third, four times each, albeit lightly according to Joe Girardi.

"We'll see how he feels (Friday)," the manager said. "(It's) still a question mark whether he'll be ready by Saturday."

A-Rod went on the 15-day disabled list after sustaining the injury on May 3 at Baltimore.

"Hamstrings are always tricky," Rodriguez said. "The key for me is to be patient, be smart. When I come back, I want to come back for good and ready to help the team win."

## A-Rod runs bases, but no return date set

Yankees DH may be activated for Saturday's game

By Bryan Hoch / MLB.com | [@BryanHoch](#) | May 19th, 2016

OAKLAND -- Alex Rodriguez took what he called "a huge leap" Thursday as he recovers from a strained right hamstring, running the bases at the Oakland Coliseum, but the Yankees designated hitter still does not feel ready to commit to a return date.

Rodriguez has been on the 15-day disabled list since sustaining the strain May 3 at Baltimore. Thursday was the first day that Rodriguez could have been activated, and the Yankees are looking at Saturday as the earliest that he could be in the lineup.

"I just want to keep going every day and get to the point where I feel like I can let it go and not think of it," Rodriguez said. "It's a progression. Today was a huge step because we ran the bases. I did home to first four times and I did first to third four times. That's a huge leap."

Yankees manager Joe Girardi said that Rodriguez also ran arcs along the top of the infield.

"We'll see how he feels [Friday]," Girardi said. "Saturday is probably still a question mark, if he'll be ready by Saturday."

Rodriguez said that he has sensed improvement each time he has run, having worked out twice in the outfield at Chase Field this week, and that he has not felt discomfort in some time.

"Every day I think I've gotten five, 10 percent better," Rodriguez said. "I'm very encouraged by the last two days."

### Worth noting

Though Rob Refsnyder is the likeliest candidate to be sent back to Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre when Rodriguez is activated, the Yankees had the 25-year-old working on infield shifts at both second base and third base Thursday.

"Just to get used to maybe being in there with Toe [Ronald Torreyes] one day, those sort of things," Girardi said.



## Starlin Castro wields Babe Ruth's bat, reveals favorite thing about playing for Yankees

05/19/2016 2:38 PM ET

By A.J. Herrmann

Starlin Castro goes behind the scenes to visit employees of Yankee Stadium.(Screenshot)

Starlin Castro has quickly made himself a household name among Yankees fans thanks to his scorching start to 2016, with a team-high .283 batting average and five home runs through his first 38 games of the season.

Castro, 26, landed in The Bronx this winter from the Chicago Cubs in a trade for right-handed reliever Adam Warren and infielder Brendan Ryan, and has made a stellar first impression during his first season in pinstripes.

The young infielder recently got to go behind the scenes at Yankee Stadium to introduce himself to some of the stadium employees, and Yankees on Demand was on hand to capture the sights and sounds of his journey.

From utter disbelief ("You've got to be kidding me!"), to warm welcomes ("Welcome to the family, it's good to have you."), Castro received a wide range of reactions from the unsuspecting Yankees staffers he got to meet during his tour.

One of the most interesting and unique moments Castro experienced was holding the 94-year-old baseball bat of Yankees icon and MLB legend Babe Ruth, whose 45-ounce club felt quite a bit heftier than the bat Castro uses every day.

Check out the video below to hear Castro reveal his favorite thing about playing for the Bombers, and to recap the rest of his visit to each corner of Yankee Stadium.

## Severino's spot may not be waiting for him

Righty expected to play catch this weekend; Yanks haven't discussed any rotation changes

By Bryan Hoch / MLB.com | [@BryanHoch](#) | May 19th, 2016

OAKLAND -- Luis Severino is expected to resume playing catch this weekend as he recovers from a strained right triceps, though the Yankees have not yet determined if the right-hander's rotation spot will be reserved for him.

Severino was placed on the 15-day disabled list after being forced to leave a May 13 start against the White Sox, and the Yankees may have a rotation crunch on the horizon, with Ivan Nova having pitched well and CC Sabathia set to be activated Friday.

"Well, we haven't talked about any changes," manager Joe Girardi said. "Obviously the biggest thing is you've got to get [Severino] healthy and see where he's at. We haven't talked about, 'This is what we're going to do.'"

Severino is 0-6 with a 7.46 ERA in seven starts, a surprising turn of events after he impressed in his first 11 outings at the end of the 2015 campaign, going 5-3 with a 2.89 ERA.

"The big thing is, we've got to get him right," Girardi said. "Similar to Michael [Pineda], there's talent there."

Girardi said that he expects that Severino will need to make at least one Minor League rehabilitation start, so there should be extra time for the Yankees to ponder their decision.

In the meantime, Nova pitched well in his first two starts against the Royals and White Sox, prompting speculation that Severino (or perhaps Pineda, who is 1-5 with a 6.60 ERA as he works to correct his issues in the stretch position) could be the odd man out if and when a move is made.

"[We'll decide] down the road. It doesn't make sense to do it right now," Girardi said. "There are a lot of things that can happen between today, tomorrow and the next day. I've always told you, I cross the bridges when we get there. It doesn't make any sense."



# Family Awaits Sabathia's Return

By BILLY WITZ

OAKLAND, Calif. — C.C. Sabathia's return from the disabled list Friday has the potential to be a celebrated affair. A caravan of cars filled with dozens of friends and family members from up the road in his hometown, Vallejo, will arrive at the O.co Coliseum to watch Sabathia pitch, and the Yankees' beleaguered rotation needs a boost.

Sabathia, who lives in the New York area year-round, was unsentimental about pitching in the stadium where he watched the Athletics play when he was young.

"It just costs me money now," said Sabathia, who was expecting 75 to 125 friends and family members to attend. His mother, Margie, handles the ticket requests, and Sabathia foots the bill. While he was once excited about pitching here, "that was a long time ago," he said. "Now, it's just another start."

If Sabathia was taciturn about pitching in Oakland, perhaps it had less to do with the location than the results. Sabathia has a career 4-7 record here with a 5.44 E.R.A., and has not won in this city since 2012.

What Sabathia has in mind is replicating his last appearance — seven shutout innings at Baltimore, which came despite a sprained groin that landed him on the 15-day disabled list. It was a sign that after more than a year of searching, Sabathia could be making a successful transition from being a pitcher who relies on an upper-90-mile-per-hour fastball to one who can win with deception and location.

"Extremely encouraged," Manager Joe Girardi said of Sabathia's last outing. "I thought his change-up was consistent, his sinker was consistent, his breaking ball he used. He threw the ball where he wanted to. Hopefully, he just picks up where he left off."

When it comes to his starting pitchers, Girardi has often had to keep his fingers crossed this season. Masahiro Tanaka has looked strong on five days' rest, but muddling on four, and Nathan Eovaldi appears to be turning a corner with his recent performances, including six one-hit innings on Wednesday at Arizona. But Michael Pineda and Luis Severino have been so erratic that their places in the rotation — a formality when they reported to spring training — is now cast in doubt.

Ivan Nova, who began the season in the bullpen, has a chance to fortify his case for remaining in the rotation if, on Thursday, he was able to can build on his first two starts, in which he has allowed two runs in 10 $\frac{2}{3}$  innings.

Pineda began working with the pitching coach Larry Rothschild on Thursday, trying to work out kinks in his mechanics in the stretch, which Rothschild has identified as the main culprit in Pineda's loss of command. That, in turn, has led to his slider getting pounded.

Severino, on the disabled list after feeling a twinge in his elbow, is scheduled to begin playing catch on flat ground Friday, but Girardi said he will need at least one rehabilitation start because he has gone a week without throwing.

Asked if Severino's return to the rotation is automatic once he becomes healthy, Girardi said: "I mean, we haven't talked about any changes. Obviously, the biggest thing is you've got to get him healthy and see where he's at."

Girardi brushed off questions about whether Severino, who has not had a full season in the majors, might be sent to the minors to iron out his problems.

"That's way too far down the road," he said. "These are all question marks. The big thing is we've got to get him right, too, similar to Michael."

## INSIDE PITCH

ALEX RODRIGUEZ's return from the disabled list is moving at a leisurely pace, much like the speed with which he is running. Rodriguez ran from home to first four times and from first to third four times, along with running along the infield arc. There is a chance he could return Saturday, but Rodriguez and JOE GIRARDI said he had to be able run faster.

NY Times

5.20.16

## **With Yankees Staff in Distress, CC Rides to the Rescue**

On a pitching staff checkered with inconsistency and underperformance, 35-year-old CC Sabathia has emerged as a relative bright spot.

By **JARED DIAMOND**

May 19, 2016 8:05 p.m. ET

CC Sabathia entered this season clinging to his job by his fingernails. It took a protracted spring-training battle with Ivan Nova just to earn the fifth and final spot in the Yankees' starting rotation—a battle he won with an 0-3 Grapefruit League record.

But now, as he prepares to come off the disabled list Friday after missing more than two weeks with a groin strain, the Yankees need him more than ever.

On a pitching staff checkered with inconsistency and underperformance, the 35-year-old Sabathia has defied the odds and emerged as a relative bright spot.

Sabathia is slated to take the mound Friday night against the Oakland Athletics sporting a 3.81 ERA, trailing only ace Masahiro Tanaka among the team's five opening-day starters. In his final outing before hurting himself, Sabathia threw seven shutout innings for the first time since April 7, 2013, a sign that he has started to adjust to attacking batters with diminished velocity.

But beyond his individual impact on the team, Sabathia's return raises a more intriguing question for the Yankees moving forward: Who will he replace?

Right now, the Yankees can hold off on settling on an answer, with rookie Luis Severino still nursing a right triceps strain. Sometime soon, however, they will probably have a difficult decision to make—and it isn't as obvious as it might once have seemed.

When Sabathia went down, the Yankees simply expected to give Nova a handful of spot starts and then slide him back into the long-relief roll after. That no longer looks like the best option: Nova, who started in the Yankees' series-opener in Oakland on Thursday night, allowed two runs in 10 1/3 innings in his first two games in Sabathia's stead and appears to warrant a longer look.

It shouldn't be tough to give him one, considering the other, more pressing problems currently plaguing the Yankees' rotation.

Severino, the most heralded young arm in the Yankees' organization, has struggled mightily in his first full major-league season, going 0-6 with a ghastly 7.46 ERA in his first seven starts. Despite his dazzling 11-game cameo in 2015, Severino's issues have caused concern, and a stint in the minor leagues to work out the kinks remains a possibility.

Perhaps more troublesome is Michael Pineda, whose regression this year has mystified his pitching coach and even drawn the ire of Yankees owner Hal Steinbrenner. Pineda has surrendered 11 earned runs in 10 2/3 innings in his last two starts, inflating his ERA to 6.60.

This has happened in the face of some impressive underlying statistics. For one, Pineda is striking out 10.3 batters per nine innings and walking fewer than three.

"Pineda is concerning," Steinbrenner told reporters Wednesday afternoon at the quarterly owners meetings in New York. "All these strikeouts, and yet he's giving up runs."

After Pineda's most recent start Tuesday against the Arizona Diamondbacks, pitching coach Larry Rothschild made an appearance in the clubhouse to address the media, and the frustration was palpable in his voice. He talked about trying to fix Pineda's mechanics out of the stretch position and the importance of putting batters away once he gets to two strikes. But Rothschild's message was uncomplicated: Pineda has to pitch better.

"It would be easy to sit here and say things are going to turn and it's going to change, but it's too long," Rothschild said. "We're almost a quarter of the way through his starts, so we need that to straighten out."

With Sabathia back in the mix, there's more pressure on Pineda—and Severino, once he's healthy—than ever before. Though the Yankees say Pineda's job isn't in imminent danger, they can't afford to keep sending out starting pitchers to throw in-game batting practice if they have any intention of climbing back into playoff contention.

So for now, Sabathia rejoins a rotation sticking to the status quo. Severino's injury gives the Yankees no other choice.

But with Nova pitching well, Pineda floundering and Severino on the mend, things are about to get interesting.



## Yankees' CC Sabathia returns Friday: What to expect from lefty

Randy Miller | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com

May 20, 2016 at 7:00 AM, updated May 20, 2016 at 7:02 AM

**OAKLAND** — Veteran left-hander CC Sabathia gave the Yankees one of their best starts of the season his last time out, seven shutout innings in a 7-0 win at Baltimore on May 4.

Even more impressive, Sabathia shut down a division rival that has played good baseball while dealing with left groin discomfort.

Two days later, Sabathia was on the 15-day disabled list.

He's eligible to return Friday, and indeed he'll be activated and take the mound for the Yankees' 10:05 p.m. EST game against the Oakland Athletics.

Here's what we can expect:

**1.** Sabathia, who is 2-2 with a 3.81 ERA in five starts, will try to attack Oakland hitters the same way that he held Baltimore's lineup to six hits over seven scoreless innings.

"My changeup and my breaking ball was good," he said. "The fastball command was good. The offspeed pitches come off my fastball, so hopefully I pick it up and can have some good command and go out of that."

**2.** Sabathia thinks that he shouldn't be rusty because he played catch every day that he's been on the DL and he felt sharp throwing a simulated game last weekend.

"I'm healthy and ready to go," he said.

**3.** Sabathia threw 99 pitches in his last outing and he should be able to get close to that on Friday.

"If there's a (restricted pitch count), there's not much of one," manager Joe Girardi said.

**4.** A Bay Area native, Sabathia grew up 25 miles north of Oakland and always has a lot of family and friends in the stands when he pitches close to home. He estimates the count for Friday will be 75-to-125.

"It costs me a lot of money," Sabathia said with a smile. He says his mother deals with all the ticket requests, then adds. "I get ready (to pitch) ... and I pay."



## CC returns from DL stint, opposes Gray, A's

By Mark Chiarelli / MLB.com | 5.20.16 1:23 AM ET

Yankees lefty CC Sabathia returns from the disabled list Friday night to oppose A's ace Sonny Gray in the second game of a four-game series at the Coliseum in Oakland.

Sabathia rejoins New York's rotation after a stint on the 15-day disabled list with a strained left groin. The 35-year-old southpaw is 2-2 with a 3.81 ERA and shined in his most recent start, throwing seven scoreless innings and picking up the win over the Orioles on May 4.

"I felt good," Sabathia said. "Like I said, I was able to play catch every day during this DL stint and really work on things in the bullpen and my [simulated] game. Hopefully I can go out and keep building on what I had a couple of weeks ago."

Sabathia said he saw improvement in his changeup in that start, and hopes his offspeed pitches can complement his fastball.

"My breaking ball was good," he said. "Fastball command was good. That all comes with, the offspeed pitches come off my fastball. So hopefully I can pick it up, have some good command and go off of that."

Gray, meanwhile, continues to seek the form that made him an All-Star last season. The right-hander is 3-4 with a 5.84 ERA and hasn't won since April 22, when he tossed seven innings of three-run ball against the Blue Jays. Gray was confident following his most recent start -- he allowed three runs in 5 2/3 innings against the Rays -- that he'll begin to see improvement following corrections to his delivery.

"I can walk away from here with my head held high and really walk away confident and ready to go," Gray said following the start. "I've constantly been leaving the ball up, and you can tell. It was literally just a visual thing to get the ball back down, and you could tell there, when it's back down, it's got great life on it, and you start to see the swing and misses."

### Things to know about this game

- Sabathia will make his 30th career start against the A's. He's 9-11 all-time against Oakland with a 4.71 career ERA. The Bay Area native has struggled at the Coliseum, going 4-7 with a 5.44 ERA.
- Gray owns a 1-1 record and a 3.43 ERA in three career starts against New York.
- No A's batter has faced Sabathia more than Billy Butler, who sports a .268 average and one homer in 41 at-bats.
- With a victory, Sabathia would become the 17th pitcher in Yankees history to reach 100 wins.



## Beyond Eovaldi, Yankees minor league starters thrived on Wednesday

Chad Jennings 5.19.16

Nathan Eovaldi delivered a dominant start in Arizona last night, and it turns out, potent starting pitchers was a bit of a theme throughout the Yankees organization on Wednesday.

With doubleheaders in Triple-A and High-A, the Yankees' four full-season affiliates played a total of six games yesterday. That meant six different minor league starting pitchers, including two spot starters and one guy who only stepping out of extended spring training three weeks ago.

Together, those six starters combined for 33 innings, 19 hits, 6 walks, 26 strikeouts and only three earned runs.

Some are bigger names than others, but here are the six starters who the minor league system yesterday:

- **Brady Lail** -- 6 IP, 4 H, 2 R, 1 ER, 3 BB, 2 K

In the first game of a Triple-A doubleheader, Lail made his third Scranton/Wilkes-Barre start of the year. This was his second straight strong outing after a dud in his first outing after the promotion. He's walked exactly three batters in half of his eight starts this season, but overall he's been a bit better in Triple-A than he was in Double-A. Still trying to replicate the level of success he had in Trenton last season.

- **Tyler Olson** -- 4 IP, 1 H, 0 R, 0 ER, 1 BB, 5 K

Spot starting for the second game of the Triple-A doubleheader, Olson matched his longest outing of the year. He also set a season-high for strikeouts while allowing just a single and a walk. Lefties are hitting .238 against him, and that ability to matchup while also providing multiple innings when necessary is part of what keeps him on the short list for big league call-ups.

- **Cale Coshow** -- 7 IP, 5 H, 0 R, 0 ER, 1 BB, 2 K

Best start of the year for one of the better rotation prospects in the Yankees' system. Coshow is a 13th-round pick who generally lands somewhere in the top 20 to 30 prospects in the system. He worked as both a starter and a reliever last year, and while he's been strictly a starter this season, it's still hard to know which role fits best for his future. For now, now harm keeping him stretched out, and Wednesday was a good step in the right direction after failing to get through the sixth inning in his previous two starts.

- **Ian Clarkin** -- 7 IP, 6 H, 1 R, 1 ER, 1 BB, 3 K

Because this was a High-A doubleheader, the game lasted only seven innings and Clarkin technically finished off his first complete game of the year. It was his second consecutive start of seven innings. He didn't strike out 10 like he did last time, but he clearly pitched well, and that continued an encouraging return for a guy who missed all of last season with elbow inflammation (he did return in the Arizona Fall League, which set the stage for a healthy spring). Clarkin could still be considered one of the top five pitching prospects in the system, perhaps one of the top two.

- **James Reeves** -- 4 IP, 0 H, 0 R, 0 ER, 0 BB, 7 K

Reliever making his first spot start in the second game of that High-A doubleheader, Reeves handed a perfect game to Travis Hissong, who finished off the win with just one hit (it happened to be a home run). Reeves was a 10th-round pick out of The Citadel last year, and he's been terrific this season. He was promoted from Charleston to Tampa late last month, and he's allowed just seven hits with 38 strikeouts through 22 innings between the two levels.

- **Christian Morris** -- 5 IP, 3 H, 1 R, 1 ER, 0 BB, 7 K

Improving to 2-0 with Low-A Charleston, Morris is the perhaps the least familiar name of this bunch. He was a 33rd-round pick last season, and he opened this year in extended spring training before being added to the Charleston rotation at the end of April (after a bunch of guys were bumped up from Charleston to Tampa). Through four starts, he's 2-0 with a 1.47 ERA, 0.98 WHIP and 15 strikeouts with five walks. Wednesday was his biggest strikeout total of the year.



## Remembering The '96 Yankees: A Kid Named Jeter Made His Shot Count

Rookie Took Baseball By Storm And Played A Massive Role In Bombers Ending 18-Year Championship Drought *May 19, 2016 1:01 PM*

*By Steve Silverman*

There was always an aura about Derek Jeter, and it was no surprise when the [New York Yankees](#) used the No. 6 pick in the 1992 first-year player draft to select him.

Jeter was clearly one of the best players in the nation, and when the Yankees handed in a piece of paper with his name on it, a key part of the young man's dream was coming true.

Jeter may have played for Central High School in Kalamazoo, Michigan, but he had wanted to be a Yankee from the time he picked up his first baseball glove. He had never been shy about his ambitions, and he started publicly stating at the age of 9 that he was one day going to play shortstop for the famed Bronx Bombers.

Many of us had similar aspirations when we were that age, but most kids understand that by the age of 12 or 13 that a dream like that has next to no chance of coming true. Competition rears its head and sends an unrelenting and clear message that something like that simply is not going to happen.

Few others can have hope until they are 15 or 16. The end of high school ends the dream for 99.4 percent of all youngsters.

But Jeter's career progressed beautifully through the time he was drafted, and there was never a time that the Yankees thought that their first-round pick wasn't going to make it.

They weren't sure when it would happen, when his talent would fully bloom and he would be able to go from top prospect to a legitimate major league shortstop, and there was very little that happened in spring training of 1996 that indicated Jeter would take baseball by storm like he eventually did.

Jeter had an awful spring with the Yankees, and he did not look ready to become a key figure in their lineup. He had actually had his first shot with the Bombers when he was called up in 1995.



He had been hitting .317 at Triple-A Columbus when he was called up because starter Tony Fernandez was injured. Jeter did not dazzle during that stint, as he hit .234 in 13 games before being sent back down for more seasoning.

Jeter was thought to be ready in the spring of '96, but he did not show off his talent right away. There were those in the Yankees organization that were not overly impressed by the young shortstop, including executive Clyde King and his boss, one George Steinbrenner. A trade to acquire shortstop Felix Fermin from Seattle was even considered.

However, the one man who was consistently in Jeter's corner was new manager Joe Torre. He knew Jeter was going to be his opening day shortstop, and he made that point to anyone in the organization that questioned the decision.

Jeter may have struggled throughout that spring, but there were no struggles when the bell rang. He hit a home run in his first game at Jacobs Field in Cleveland and he made a back-to-home plate catch on a pop up while running into the outfield.

Of course, one game does not a rookie season make, and nobody knew that better than Jeter. He worked tirelessly with coach Willie Randolph, who had been one of the team's best middle infielders when he played second base in the 1970s. When it came to the nuances of defense, Randolph knew it all and he shared it with Jeter.

The kid proved to be a willing student, and Randolph picked up on how quickly Jeter learned the finer points of playing in the majors. In addition to the subtleties of the game, like footwork around second base, where to play particular hitters and how the count impacted positioning, Randolph also worked with Jeter on his throwing. Errors had been a problem at times in the minors and Randolph helped Jeter put those issues behind him.

Randolph always sensed that Jeter's confidence level was extremely high, and that point was hammered home as he worked with him.

"The thing that impressed me the most about Derek, early on, is that you could tell he belonged," Randolph would later say. "You have to have a certain confidence when you come to the big leagues. I could sense from Day 1 that he was a guy who believed he could play in the big leagues, and just needed the opportunity."

The Yankees would go on to enjoy a brilliant season in 1996, and Jeter was an anchor of a team that would win its first World Series since the Thurman Munson-Reggie Jackson-Catfish Hunter-Ron Guidry days of 1978. Jeter put up fine numbers, including a .314 batting average, 10 home runs, 78 RBI and a slash line of .370/.430/.800.

All of that added up to Jeter winning American League Rookie of the Year honors. He dominated a rookie field that included pitcher James Baldwin of the Chicago White Sox, Tony Clark of the Detroit Tigers and Darin Erstad of the then-California Angels.

As good as Jeter had been during the regular season, it was his performance in the postseason that would show all Yankees fans — and haters — just how special he was.

He hit .412 in the division series against the Texas Rangers, and then .417 against the Baltimore Orioles in the ALCS. The Atlanta Braves held him to .250 in the World Series, but Jeter found a way to get on base at a .400 clip, as he drew four walks New York's six-game triumph.

His performance against the Orioles featured one of the most controversial plays in postseason history. Jeter already had three hits when he stepped into the batter's box late in Game 1. He lifted a long fly ball deep to right field. As Tony Tarasco settled against the fence, he leaped in an effort to make the catch.

Instead, a young fan name Jeffrey Maier reached out from the stands with his glove and caught the ball. He quickly brought his glove back to the fans' side of the fence and umpire Rich Garcia called the play a home run.

Jeter circled the bases as the Orioles moaned. Tarasco explained what happened after the game.

"It was like a magic trick," Tarasco lamented. "I was getting ready to catch it and suddenly a glove appeared and the ball disappeared. When the kid reached over the wall, the kid's glove was very close to mine. We almost touched gloves."

Jeter was unapologetic after the game when he was asked about the play.

"We won the game. Why should I feel bad? Ask them that," he said.

But it was the kind of moment that would typify Jeter's career — minus the controversy. He would always find a way to make the most impactful plays at the biggest moments.

Jeter would go on to a brilliant career. He is clearly the best shortstop in the history of the Yankees, a team that has won 27 World Series titles. No other team has won more than 11.

When you are the best shortstop on the team that has won the most World Series by a wide margin, it's a huge statement.

It all started with a wonderful rookie season. The rest, as they say, is history.



## ESPN's '30 for 30' to chronicle ex-Mets stars Dwight Gooden and Darryl Strawberry

By [Joe Giglio](#) | [NJ Advance Media for NJ.com](#)

on May 19, 2016 at 10:30 AM, updated May 19, 2016 at 11:02 AM

It was just a matter of time before ESPN's '30 for 30' series featured a story on the Mets—especially the characters involved in the 80s team.

On Tuesday, the network announced that 'Doc and Darryl' will debut on July 14 and chronicle the intertwined stories of Dwight "Doc" Gooden and Darryl Strawberry—two ex-Mets stars that shined on the diamond and faced demons away from the field.

Per ESPN's description of the show:

*Reunited at a diner in Queens, the pitcher and the power hitter look back on the glory days of the mid-80s and the harrowing nights that turned the from surefire Hall of Famers into prisoners of their own addictions. Listening to Doc talk about missing the World Series parade down the Canyon of Heroes, or Darryl counseling others at his ministry, you can only wish that these two very different men had not followed the same destructive path.*

Gooden went 157-85 with a 3.10 ERA across 11 years with the Mets, highlighted by a 24-4, 1.53 ERA season in 1985 and World Series title in 1986. The pitcher known as 'Dr. K' moved across town to the Yankees in 1996 and won another World Series. He also played for the Indians and Astros, before returning to the Yankees for their 200 World Series title.

Strawberry hit 252 home runs and posted a 145 OPS+ across eight years with the Mets, highlighted by a second-place MVP finish in 1986 and World Series title. He too moved across town to the Yankees, winning three World Series titles in 1996, 1998 and 1999.

# Lampard could suit up for derby

BY JUSTIN TASCH  
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

IF PATRICK VIEIRA is to be believed, there might be a real live Frank Lampard sighting at Saturday's Hudson River derby.

The New York City FC head coach said Thursday that there's a "big chance" Lampard is a part of the 18-man roster for the team's game against the Red Bulls at Yankee Stadium. Lampard hasn't played in or dressed for any of NYCFC's first 12 matches this season because of a left calf strain.

"Frank is doing really well,"

Vieira said at an MLS Rivalry Week event at Twitter's West 17th Street office.



"There is a chance,

Frank Lampard

a big chance, that he will be part of the 18 for the game on Saturday. But his calf has been responding quite well, training in the last few days with the rest of the team. So he should get involved on Saturday."

It would be a welcome sight for fans frustrated over the \$6 million-a-year midfielder's lack of involvement with the club. He made just 10 appearances last year after his start was delayed because he had a longer-than-expected run with NYCFC's parent club Manchester City amid a misrepresentation of his contract, and he also dealt with calf and quad injuries last season.

The 37-year-old Designated Player finally returned to training with his teammates last week after a long spell of individual work. Lampard told the Daily News on March 10 his injury "shouldn't keep me out for more than another two weeks, maximum, hopefully." Vieira said Thursday Lampard didn't suffer a setback and was just "slow to heal."

"(Lampard's) gone through a lot, a number of injuries, and he's doing all that he can to get back on the field," Andrea Pirlo said through an interpreter. "He has still a great amount of passion. He wants to play."

Daily News

5.20.16



## Patrick Vieira's MLS story so far with New York City FC

By James Kilpatrick

Last Updated: 20/05/16 11:48am

Ahead of the New York derby - live on *Sky Sports* - we assess how Patrick Vieira has done so far in charge of New York City FC.

Vieira took the New York City FC job in January with the objective of leading the Major League Soccer franchise to their first ever play-offs after predecessor Jason Kreis had managed only an eighth-place finish in the club's inaugural campaign.

Ahead of Saturday's Rivalry Week clash with the New York Red Bulls, we take a look at how the former Arsenal midfielder has done so far...

### The off-season

The expectation levels at New York City FC are high; the club has financial backing from Manchester City's holding company, City Football Group, as well as Yankee Global Enterprises, who own the iconic baseball club the New York Yankees.

Vieira's brave decision to step into football management led him to New York City, and was selected by director of football Claudio Reyna. Like Vieira, Reyna spent playing time at Manchester City and he wanted to appoint the former elite development squad's coach to lead the MLS club.

Vieira was announced as the new head coach on November 9 last year and took charge on January 1.

Former Spain international and ex-Valencia, Barcelona and Atletico Madrid striker David Villa joined the club at the start of last season and was an immense success.

He scored 18 goals in 29 MLS appearances in his first season. However, Andrea Pirlo and Frank Lampard both joined in the summer last year, and had less than successful starts to their respective careers stateside.

Vieira's first job would be to successfully integrate the new stars into a workable system while also building a strong supporting cast around them.

His first signing was Englishman Jack Harrison as the first pick in the 2016 MLS Superdraft. Unfortunately for the 19-year-old from Bolton, injury has meant he is yet to make a first-team appearance for the club.

In total, Vieira had helped to clear out 11 players from their squad and brought in 10 new players. With a predominantly new-look line-up, it would come down to how Vieira would fit the pieces together and whether he could engineer a team that would pick up results.

### **The results**

As it stands, New York City are currently top of the Eastern Conference standings on 17 points after 12 matches. City have won four, drawn five and lost three games under Vieira as they currently lead the way in the Eastern standings.

Their season kicked off in a frantic fashion as they won 4-3 against Chicago Fire, another team currently undergoing transition. However, City went on a winless run of seven matches without a win, drawing four and losing three matches.

The last draw of the seven-game run, a 1-1 result against Montreal Impact, seemed to mark a turning point as they went on to win three games in a row with victories over Vancouver Whitecaps, D.C. United and Portland Timbers before earning a hard-fought away point against Toronto FC on Wednesday.

Results overall, then, have been positive, and intriguingly they've been successful without one of their designated players in Lampard, who has been out with a calf injury.

He reportedly could be set for a return on Saturday night but where he fits into the team tactically is up for debate. The midfield three now looks settled with

Pirlo acting as the sole holding player, though Vieira showed his strength of leadership by deciding to drop the Italian playmaker for his poor performance on April 23.

### **What they say about him**

Lampard, talking to *Sky Sports* before the beginning of the season, praised Vieira for mucking in.

"Fair play to him because people who have been great players don't always want to go and do the dirty work," he said.

"He's worked with the kids on cold Manchester mornings at the back of the training ground. I've seen them do it and he's certainly earned his stripes there. For us, I hope he ups our level. The players will respect him and when he speaks they will listen because of what he's done in the game."

NYCFC captain Villa backed Vieira after their seven game winless run. "It's mentality, it's on us," Villa said. "The coach says all the right things. We played very well and how the coach wants."

### **What he says**

At the start of the season, Viera declared: "I'm happy here, I have a great team and a great staff. Now all I have to do is win."

And after their winless streak was extended to seven games after the 1-1 draw v Montreal Impact, he backed his players to recover: "We are in a period where everything is going against us, but we will stick together, we will fight together and we will turn it around. We showed that by the way we played tonight.

On dropping Pirlo for the Philadelphia Union game on April 23, he said: "It's my decision. I'm just trying to choose the best team to win football matches, regarding the team we're going to play against - on how we can hurt them and how we can defend their strengths."

## SPORTS

MLB REPORT

# Sale goes 9 for 9-0 start

Chris Sale pitched a four-hitter and became the first major-league pitcher since 2008 to win his first nine starts as the White Sox edged the Houston Astros, 2-1, last night in Chicago to snap their four-game losing streak.

The Arizona Diamondbacks' Brandon Webb had been the last to post a 9-0 record in his first nine starts. The last White Sox pitcher to accomplish the feat was Eddie Cicotte in 1919, when he won 12 in a row.

Sale walked none and struck out a season-high nine en route to his second straight complete game. No other pitcher has more than seven victories in the big leagues this season.

Sale lowered his ERA to 1.58, second to teammate Jose Quintana (1.54) in the American League.

Houston broke the shutout bid in the eighth when Evan Gattis clubbed Sale's first pitch for a home run.

**Mariners 7, Orioles 2:** Adam

Lind broke open a close game with a three-run homer in the sixth for visiting Seattle, which took two of three from Baltimore to improve to an AL-best 15-7 in away games.

**Brewers 5, Cubs 3:** Junior Guerra struck out a career-high 11 and Kirk Nieuwenhuis and Chris Carter homered for host Milwaukee.

Chicago, a major league-best 28-11, has lost three times in a four-game span for the first time this season. The Cubs scored seven runs in the three-game series.

It was the first time the Cubs had faced Guerra and his splitter.

"Their guy today, Guerra, pitched really, really well," Cubs manager Joe Maddon said. "They had a bunch of punchouts. We hadn't been swinging and missing like that in a bit. So you got to give them credit. He had a really good splitter going on."

**Pirates 8, Braves 2:** Gregory

Polanco homered and tripled and John Jaso collected three hits for host Pittsburgh. Polanco hit a two-run shot to left-center in the second and is hitting .462 (12-for-26) in his last seven games.

Before the game, the Braves removed infielder Erick Aybar from the starting lineup after he got a chicken bone stuck in his throat.

Manager Brian Snitker said Aybar arrived at PNC Park yesterday afternoon in discomfort and was taken to the hospital to have the bone removed. Aybar initially was scheduled to start at shortstop and was replaced by Daniel Castro. The 32-year-old Aybar is hitting .174 in 38 games this season.

**Indians 7, Reds 2:** Carlos Santana hit two two-run homers and Josh Tomlin (6-0) allowed five hits while pitching into the eighth to give visiting Cleveland its first sweep of their annual intrastate series.

— AP

Newsday

5.20.16



**B**ASEBALL fans, not to mention the games' participants themselves, could get a reprieve from a prescribed upgrade's side effect:

Replay delay.

Do you appreciate the intent of instant replay but get annoyed when a replay review seemingly takes longer to resolve than a Kardashian divorce? You have an ally in commissioner Rob Manfred, who said Thursday he would be open to limiting the time of said challenges.

"If we do reach the conclusion that we have a time problem, I am open to that idea," Manfred said, after Major League Baseball completed its quarterly owners' meetings at its Manhattan headquarters. "It's a cost-benefit [analysis]. At some point, everyone focuses on the four-minute replay, or whatever the heck it is. At some point, I recognize the fact that that one additional call correct comes at the cost of a four-minute delay. You've got to ask yourself whether it's worth it or not."

Through the games of May 15, according to MLB, the average length of a replay in 2016 was 1 minute and 49 seconds. Replay reviews lasted an average of 1:51 last year and 1:46 in 2014. The longest replay review ever took 6:25 last Aug. 29, a Blue Jays-Red Sox game at Fenway Park.

It generally is at the 1-minute mark, anecdotally speaking, when folks start to lose patience, so a

# MLB commish willing to consider replay time limit



cap on the time that officials in MLB's replay center — how about two minutes? — can examine a replay would help improve the pace of game dramatically.

On the subject of pace of play, Manfred said his office had been in touch with players who had not been honoring the 2015 commitment to such time-saving initiatives as hitters staying in the batter's box and pitchers beginning the action immediately upon the conclusion of commercial breaks.

The average game time through Wednesday, a total of 549 nine-inning games, was 2:59:54. Through 549 nine-inning games last year, the average time was 2:53:19. The time actually has dropped this week, noted Man-

fred, who should have credited Mets ace Noah Syndergaard and his Nationals counterpart Max Scherzer for their 2:32 gem Tuesday night at Citi Field.

In a 20-minute conference, Manfred also touched on:

➤ MLB and the MLB Players Association have met 12 times to discuss a new collective bargaining agreement, Manfred revealed. The current CBA expires on Dec. 1.

Manfred, who headed MLB's side in the three prior CBA negotiations — as commissioner, he has bequeathed that responsibility to chief legal officer Dan Halem — said, "Twelve meetings at this point in the calendar is a really, really good schedule," and he expressed optimism a deal would get done on time.

If the two sides can announce a new agreement by the end of the World Series, that could impact the upcoming free-agent market, as changes to the qualifying offer system surely are coming. If the talks dragged into the offseason,

however, the old system would remain intact for one last winter.

➤ Regarding a recent ESPN report that a number of positive tests for illegal performance-enhancing drug tests still were in the system, Manfred said, "There's not some big, additional group of positives sitting out there. I can tell you that. We're still running at a positive rate on the tests on less than one half of 1 percent."

➤ Manfred expressed satisfaction with the resolution of baseball's first two tests, both involving high-profile players, of its domestic violence program. The Yankees' Aroldis Chapman accepted a 30-game suspension, and former Met Jose Reyes of the Rockies accepted a 51-game suspension. However, Chapman, penalized for firing a gun into a garage during a fight with his girlfriend, has continued to insist he did nothing wrong.

While declining to address Chapman's comments specifically, Manfred said of the Yankees' closer, "He has an ongoing obligation with respect to counseling, and I know he'll commit [to] that. And I know we have the best counselors in the world, and I'm confident that they'll make a positive impact on that situation."

➤ "I remain optimistic" the YES Network and Comcast will resolve their dispute, Manfred said.

[kdavidoff@nypost.com](mailto:kdavidoff@nypost.com)

NY Post

5.20.16

**AP**

## **MLB's Rob Manfred: Science may be behind increased drug positives**

May 19 7:32 PM ET

NEW YORK -- Improved science could be a reason behind baseball's increase in positive drug tests.

There have been eight suspensions announced this year under the major league program for positive tests for performance-enhancing drugs, one more than in all of 2015, and reigning National League batting champion Dee Gordon of the Miami Marlins was among those penalized. There were just two in 2014 and none in 2013.

"The windows of detection on certain substances have been lengthened," baseball commissioner Rob Manfred said Thursday after a quarterly owners meeting. "That may be one on explanation for what we're seeing."

Manfred also said speculation that NL Cy Young Award winner Jake Arrieta of the Chicago Cubs may have used PEDs was "distasteful," "inappropriate" and "unfair." Arrieta said last month his teammates had heard rumors and called it "flattering."

"There's one way to know: Did he test positive or did he not?" Manfred said.

On another much-discussed topic, Manfred said the decrease in minority managers to two was "the nature of the game." There were as many as 10 in 2002 and 2009, and the firing of Fredi Gonzalez this week left no Latino managers remaining in the majors. Washington's Dusty Baker and the Los Angeles Dodgers' Dave Roberts are the only African-American managers.

"You're going to have periods of time where these numbers ebb and flow," Manfred said. "To the extent that our fans, the people with whom we do business, are focusing on a particular area and perceive a lack of diversity, that's an issue that we work very hard to avoid."

On other topics:

## **COLLECTIVE BARGAINING**

Manfred said management and the players' union have met 12 times in the early stages of bargaining for a labor contract to replace the deal that expires Dec. 1. Manfred hopes to reach an agreement this autumn.

"You've got to get everything out there before you can figure out how you can put the pieces together," he said.

## **PACE OF PLAY**

The average time of a nine-inning game was 2 hours, 59 minutes, 54 seconds through Wednesday, up from 2:53:19 for a similar period at the start of last season, when pace-of-play initiatives such as clocks to time between-innings breaks were introduced. Manfred said players were receiving letters and phone calls and communications from their teams.

"Pace of game is an issue that requires constant vigilance and focus," he said. "We're not happy with the returns."

## **VIDEO REVIEW**

Manfred said it is possible "we'll make adjustments to the system in order to make sure that we're getting the calls that matter right and that we're not overdoing it in terms of the amount of replay we're subjecting the fans to. ... I recognize the fact that one additional call correct comes at the cost of a four-minute delay. You've got to ask yourself whether it's worth it or not."

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Yankees reliever Aroldis Chapman, who returned this month from a 29-game suspension under baseball's new domestic violence policy, has maintained he didn't do anything wrong. Manfred would not directly address Chapman's contention but said the pitcher must undergo counseling.

"We have the best counselors in the world, and I'm confident they'll make a positive impact on that situation," Manfred said.

## **BAM TECH**

The Walt Disney Co., other businesses, hedge funds and private equity have expressed interest in a transaction involving BAM Tech, according to a

person at the meeting, who spoke on condition of anonymity because no statements were authorized. BAM Tech was split off last year from Major League Baseball Advanced Media, and the NHL acquired equity in a deal last summer.

## **MASN**

Baltimore and Washington are still fighting in court over what the Nationals should receive for their 2012-16 television rights from the Mid-Atlantic Sports Network, which is controlled by the Orioles. At the request of the Orioles and MASN, a New York state judge last year threw out a decision by MLB's Revenue Sharing Definitions Committee that said the Orioles should receive \$298 million from MASN for that five-season span. The Nationals want the matter returned to the RSDC.

"The Orioles agreed that the RSDC would set the rights fees for MASN and the Orioles every five years," Manfred said. "The Orioles have engaged in a pattern of conduct designed to avoid that agreement being effectuated."

## **WORLD BASEBALL CLASSIC**

Manfred said clubs expressed they would encourage their players to participate in the fourth edition of the World Baseball Classic, scheduled for next year.

## **DAILY FANTASY SPORTS**

MLB and DraftKings announced an exclusive partnership in April 2015, but marketing efforts have minimized as state regulators have limited daily fantasy sports companies.

"There's not a lot of buzz among the group internally," Manfred said. "I think we're waiting to see how the daily fantasy issue works out from a regulatory perspective before we make any moves."



## MLB Facing Questions On Diversity With No Current Managers Of Hispanic Descent

Published May 19, 2016

The Braves fired manager Fredi Gonzalez on Tuesday, and there are now "no individuals of Hispanic descent managing in the major leagues," which is a "peculiar and jarring fact considering Latino players made up 28.5% of the league" on Opening Day, according to Daniel Popper of the N.Y. DAILY NEWS. There are now "only two minority managers in all of baseball -- the Nationals' Dusty Baker and the Dodgers' Dave Roberts, two African-Americans who were hired before this season." But it "should be noted that many Hispanics are part of MLB staffs as coaches" (*N.Y. DAILY NEWS, 5/19*). ESPN.com's Marly Rivera noted the "shortage of managers of color in MLB has been a growing concern in recent years." Gonzalez, Baker and Roberts were the only minority managers on Opening Day this year, seven "fewer than the high point of 10 minority managers" in '02 and '09. Gonzalez "always said there were many Latino candidates who should get an opportunity to manage." That "goes beyond having a single interview to comply with the 'Selig Rule,' equivalent to the NFL's 'Rooney Rule.'" Indians 1B coach Sandy Alomar Jr. "is one Hispanic coach who many around the majors believe should have already received an opportunity to manage." He said, "You can't be disappointed about things that you have no control over. All we can do is keep getting ready, keep knocking on doors" (*ESPN.com, 5/18*).

**TIME TO REASSESS?** In DC, Kevin Blackistone wonders how MLB can "look itself in the mirror in 2016 with Gonzalez having been the lone Latin

manager in a game where more than a quarter of the players are of Spanish-speaking origin?" How "preposterous are such optics in a game where the biggest story this week, and just about any week, includes Latino stars?" Blackistone notes 16 Latin-born players made the All-Star Game last season, which is "six more Latinos than have become managers in the 100-plus-year history of the major leagues" (*WASHINGTON POST, 5/19*). ESPN's Adnan Virk: "It's insane when 30% of the players are Latin and there are zero managers. Clearly that has to change at some point." He acknowledged there often are "whispers about, 'Well the intelligence level, we don't know about the educational level.'" Virk: "There are plenty of managers in baseball who never went to anything beyond high school and have been very successful so that doesn't hold a lot of water with the Latin players" ("*Baseball Tonight,*" *ESPN2, 5/19*).

**POINT TO PONDER:** ESPN's Alex Cora, who has been identified as a potential future managerial candidate, brought up the Selig Rule and said MLB needs to "throw it away." Cora: "Don't make organizations interview minorities because you have to. They are going to make a decision. If you're capable to manage a big league club or to run an organization, they will interview you because you're capable and not because you're Latino. ... It doesn't matter if you're white, African-American or Latino -- if you can manage, you can manage. They're going to give you a shot. But with the Selig Rule, I don't think it's fair for anybody in this business to get an interview because of this" ("*Baseball Tonight,*" *ESPN2, 5/19*).

## Reddick fractures left thumb on headfirst slide

Initially told he'd miss 4-6 weeks, A's right fielder will see hand specialist

By Jane Lee / MLB.com | [@JaneMLB](#) | 2:00 AM ET

OAKLAND -- The A's will soon add another player to the disabled list, and a significant one at that: **Josh Reddick** will become the 12th member of the team to hit the DL after fracturing his left thumb in Thursday night's **4-1 loss** to the Yankees.

The A's will have a better idea of Reddick's expected return date after he sees a hand specialist Friday, but the right fielder said he was initially told he'll be out four to six weeks.

"Frustrating, beyond," said Reddick, who sustained the injury while stealing second base.

"He hits third for us every day. He's one of the better players in the league," A's manager Bob Melvin said. "That's a pretty significant guy to lose."

The outfielder exited with a .322 average after finishing 2-for-3 with a home run, his fifth of the season. He was 22-for-47 (.468) over his past 14 games, riding a hot bat in his final season ahead of free agency.

"I feel like I was having a great year and cemented myself as the three-hole hitter of this team," Reddick said. "It's more frustrating when I do it on something that I don't do a whole lot, on stealing a bag as opposed to diving or doing something outrageous. Something so simple can be so damaging. You can understand the frustrations involved in this."

Upon reaching base on a single in the seventh, Reddick successfully stole second, but in doing so his left thumb clipped second baseman **Starlin Castro**'s cleat. Reddick remained in the game following a visit from a team trainer but exited in favor of **Tyler Ladendorf** at the start of the eighth.

"It actually felt initially better after they came out to look at it, but then I tried to put my glove on and squeeze it and it didn't happen," Reddick said. "I came out and went right into X-rays, and sure enough, a slight fracture."

The A's, who have already lost outfielders **Mark Canha** (scheduled for hip surgery) and **Sam Fuld** (shoulder surgery) for the season, are likely to rotate several players in and out of right field during Reddick's absence. Along with Ladendorf, **Chris Coghlan** can also play the position.

Down on the farm, Jake Smolinski and Andrew Lambo are potential options to take Reddick's roster spot, since they're already on the 40-man.

"Red is a big part of our lineup and a great outfielder," starter **Kendall Graveman** said. "He brings a lot of energy every day. It's just one of those misfortunes that he slides in there and the ball is thrown a little offline. It's just a collision right there with his thumb. Quick recovery on him, we need him back in this lineup."



## Here's the reason why Major League Baseball decided not to suspend Matt Bush

By [Ken Rosenthal @ken\\_rosenthal](#) May 20, 2016 at 1:32a ET

On Thursday, [I wrote about why baseball fined Texas Rangers right-hander Matt Bush](#) rather than suspend him for "intentionally" throwing at the Blue Jays' Jose Bautista.

The decision warrants a more detailed explanation.

My initial report stemmed from a source with knowledge of baseball's disciplinary process telling me that there was little precedent for suspending a pitcher who had not been ejected.

ESPN's Buster Olney countered on Twitter by citing four examples of pitchers who were suspended without being ejected — Kyle Farnsworth in 2008, Cole Hamels in '12, Ryan Dempster in '13 and Marcus Stroman in '14.

I then asked the source for further clarification, and was told that baseball's decision to fine and not suspend Bush was based on rulings in 18 similar incidents from May 2000 to April 2015.

The most recent of those incidents involved the Royals' Yordano Ventura, who was fined and not suspended for intentionally throwing a pitch at the Athletics' Brett Lawrie under the same circumstances that Bush hit Bautista — with no warnings in place.

How, then, does baseball explain the suspensions of the four pitchers cited by Olney?

Hamels and Dempster essentially admitted that they hit a batter — Bryce Harper in Hamels' case, Alex Rodriguez in Dempster's — costing them the benefit of the doubt, the source said.

Stroman threw a pitch near the head of Caleb Joseph, Farnsworth threw one behind the head of Manny Ramirez — and pitches thrown near the head almost always result in a suspension.

Bush hit Bautista in the ribcage. At that point, the umpires issued warnings to both teams. The Blue Jays' Jesse Chavez was automatically ejected — and received a three-game suspension — for hitting the Rangers' Prince Fielder in the bottom half of the inning.





## Rangers' Rougned Odor offered free BBQ food for life

6:35 PM ET ESPN.com

What would you do to earn free barbecue food for the rest of your life?

Apparently all it takes is punching Jose Bautista, according to the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Yes, Heim Barbecue in Fort Worth has offered Texas Rangers second baseman Rougned Odor free food for life after Odor slugged the Toronto Blue Jays slugger this past Sunday. The restaurant is also selling a T-shirt that reads "Rougned eats free."

Odor received an eight-game suspension for the incident. Which means he should be free for dinner a few nights coming up.



## **New Rangers ballpark reportedly has momentum**

By T.R. Sullivan / MLB.com | [@Sullivan\\_Ranger](#) | May 19th, 2016

ARLINGTON -- Industry sources have confirmed published reports the city of Arlington has scheduled a news conference on Friday for an "important economic development" that could involve a new ballpark for the Rangers.

The facility would have a retractable roof, and the ballpark would cost \$900 million and be split equally between the city and the club, according to the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Voters would have to approve any tax dollars used to pay for the facility.

The city and the club have not confirmed the deal. Rangers officials declined comment.

"For more than four decades, Arlington and the Texas Rangers have had a strong relationship," city spokeswoman Susan Schrock told the Star-Telegram. "That relationship was further strengthened last year with the announcement of the public-private partnership between the city and the Rangers for the proposed Texas Live! development in our entertainment district. We look forward to continuing that relationship for many years to come. The city has no other comment at this time."

Globe Life Park opened as the Ballpark in Arlington in 1994, with the 30-year lease set to expire in 2024. It is the 11th-oldest facility in the Major Leagues. The city of Arlington has been concerned that other cities might try to lure the Rangers away when the lease expires.

According to the Star-Telegram, Arlington Mayor Jeff Williams told the Fort Worth Rotary Club, "We need to show love for the Rangers right now, y'all. The Rangers don't want to leave, but there are other cities, and we know one that starts with a 'D' that wants to take it. ... Right now is a key time for us."

The Rangers and the city of Arlington have already announced a joint agreement to build a Texas Live! project on property between Globe Life Park and AT&T Park. The project will include restaurants, retail space and a hotel.

# Struggling Harvey Sputters Into Sinking Depths

John Smoltz prepares for broadcasts with the same care he once took for his starts. He pulled a notebook from his bag on Wednesday to show a visitor

**TYLER  
KEPNER**

**ON  
BASEBALL**

"I wish I was better at technology and looking them up faster; it took a long time," said Smoltz, the Hall of Fame pitcher who was at Citi Field for MLB Network. "But some of the numbers that came out of this were staggering to me."

In the columns of Smoltz's pages were lists of young pitchers who had worked through the World Series, with their performances the next year: Livan Hernandez, Tony Saunders, John Lackey, Jarrod Washburn, Josh Beckett, Dontrelle Willis, Brad Penny, and more. Almost always, Smoltz found, the pitchers' effectiveness declined in the follow-up season.

So it should be no surprise, he said, that the Mets' young starters — with the very loud exception of Noah Syndergaard — have not been quite as overpowering this season as they were last fall. Matt Harvey has been the most persistent riddle.

"I've said this: Be careful what you wish for last year," Smoltz said. "All the fans, the excitement of going to the World Series — they emptied the tank."

Shortly after Smoltz spoke, Harvey allowed a career-high nine runs to the Washington

Nationals on Thursday, in a career-low two and two-thirds innings. His defense betrayed him in the third inning — three of the runs were unearned — but the Nationals battered him for eight hits in the 9-1 loss, and Daniel Murphy blasted a hanging curveball for a two-run homer in the first.

Harvey's E.R.A. swelled to 5.77, and he has not worked past six innings this season. The team and Harvey are eager for a turnaround.

"One of the things I told Matt the other day: 'How were you doing a year ago?'" Manager Terry Collins said in his pregame news conference. "And his answer was, 'I was doing good.' And I said, 'No you weren't.' I had to sit in this room, and you guys would say: 'How come his fastball's not there? Where's the bite on his slider?'"

Collins was imprecise in his memory; on this date last season, Harvey had a 1.98 E.R.A. But it did rise to 3.62 in mid-June before dropping by almost a run by the end of the regular season.

"In midseason it got better, and at end of the season he pitched the biggest game this organization's had in years, and he was lights out, because it came back," Collins said. "And I said: 'Now, your body doesn't have the amount of rest it normally does, so it's still recuperating. It will recuperate, and you will get it going again.'"

Collins was referring to the final game of the World Series, in which Harvey carried a shutout into the ninth inning against the



NOAH K. MURRAY/USA TODAY SPORTS, VIA REUTERS

The Nationals' Stephen Strasburg had no trouble humbling the Mets during his fourth double-digit strikeout game of the year.

Kansas City Royals. The Mets lost, of course, but Harvey emphatically proved his point: Not only did he pitch in the postseason in his comeback from Tommy John surgery; he thrived.

Stephen Strasburg, who humbled the Mets on Thursday with his fourth double-digit strikeout game of the season, had his surgery in August 2010 and returned to the mound in late 2011. He pitched until early September, in 2012, when the Nationals shut him down. They lost in the first round of the playoffs and still have not advanced in October.

Scott Boras, the agent for Strasburg and Harvey, said the circumstances had been much different for each pitcher. Strasburg's recovery took 12 months,

and Harvey's took 17. The Nationals followed the precedent of Jordan Zimmermann, then a top starter for them, and applied it to Strasburg.

Last week, Strasburg cited the Nationals' concern for his health as a reason to forgo free agency and to sign a new contract. To be sure, the terms of the deal mattered most — seven years and \$175 million, with two opt-out clauses — but there was a charming element of loyalty to Strasburg's decision.

It makes you wonder whether Harvey, similarly pleased with the resolution of his innings puzzle last season, will factor that into future contract talks. He can become a free agent after the 2018 season.

"If the Mets are a championship-worthy club, I'm sure a

lot of players will be attracted to that," Boras said Thursday. "If the team's not championship-worthy, that's something players look at, too. But as far as Matt Harvey and the Mets, we're fine. We have no problems with the Mets, none whatsoever. The team and the doctors developed a plan, and it was executed well."

As the plan was developed, Boras said, he cautioned the Mets that 2016 would be unknown territory for Harvey, because he had thrown so many total innings (216) in his first year back from the operation. But Harvey's early inconsistency was not alarming, Boras said, because his strikeout rates and velocity were still strong.

Harvey entered Thursday's start averaging 8.1 strikeouts per nine innings, compared with 8.9 last season. His average fastball, according to Fangraphs, was 94.1 miles per hour; last season, it was 95.9.

Harvey has also, perhaps, been unlucky: Opponents hit .277 on balls in play last season, but this year's figure was .379 before Thursday. That seems bound to come down as Harvey regains the snap on his slider and command of his fastball.

The Mets, with Harvey, have tasted the postseason success that has eluded the Nationals and Strasburg. A Strasburg-size payday is out there, too, if Harvey summons the ace within.

"The end result for me is Matt Harvey's going to end up being Matt Harvey," Smoltz said. But the Mets are still waiting.

NY Times  
5.20.16

# A new year for Nats

Murphy & Co. show Mets who is team to beat

BY ANTHONY RIEBER  
 anthony.riever@newsday.com

The return of Daniel Murphy to Citi Field got the headlines this week. But for the Nationals, the three-game series against the Mets that concluded last night with a 9-1 Washington victory was about more than one former Met.

The Nationals were looking to set a much different tone than in 2015, when the Mets blew past them and left their division rivals in a shambles on the way to the World Series. Consider the tone-setting mission accomplished under new manager Dusty Baker.

First-place Washington delivered a solid thrashing to Matt Harvey to take two of three in the teams' first meeting this season. Murphy hit a two-run homer in the first inning and the Nationals knocked out Harvey with a stunning seven-run third.

It was Murphy's sixth home run of the season and the first he's hit at Citi Field in which the Home Run Apple did not rise.

Even Bryce Harper, who had been 0-for-21 against Harvey, singled against the struggling righthander during Washington's barrage of hits in the third.

And Stephen Strasburg allowed one run in six innings and struck out 10 to improve to 7-0 with a 2.80 ERA.

Last season, the Mets went 11-8 against the Nationals, including the three-game sweep in Washington in September that pretty much sealed the NL East crown. The teams will meet again at Nationals Park on Monday for the first of a three-game rematch.

Murphy, who went 2-for-4 with a walk last night and was 4-for-11 with four RBIs in the series, was booed as he came to the plate in the first. He launched a hanging 0-and-2 curve over the wall in right-center to give his new team a 2-0 lead.

In the third, the Nationals used six hits, a walk and an error by Asdrubal Cabrera to score seven runs and take a 9-1 lead against Harvey.

Ben Revere singled and



Daniel Murphy trots toward dugout after hitting two-run homer off Matt Harvey in first inning.

moved to third one out later on Harper's first hit off Harvey. Harper stole second, which led the Mets to intentionally walk Murphy to load the bases.

Ryan Zimmerman followed with a grounder to the short-stop hole that Cabrera bobbled for a run-scoring error. Anthony Rendon hit a two-run double off the glove of a leaping Michael Conforto in left to give Washington a 5-1 lead.

There was more. Wilson

Ramos singled in two more runs to make it 7-1. Revere hit a two-run triple that eluded Yoenis Cespedes' lunging try in center.

That was the end of the Dark Knight's night. Harvey didn't even wait for Terry Collins to reach the mound before handing him the ball and heading to the dugout.

The Nationals, who lead the third-place Mets by 2½ games, made their early statement, both in the game and in the season.

## POWER SURGE

Games Daniel Murphy has needed to hit his sixth home run of a season:

2012	138
2013	81
2014	74
2015	75
2016	40

Source: ESPN StatsInfo

Newsday  
 5.20.16

BASEBALL

## Reyes prepares for return from suspension

JOHN MARSHALL  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. - Jose Reyes took the last of his dozen-or-so swings, stepped out of the batting cage and did a little dance to the beat of the music playing from a small radio in the grass near his feet.

Contrite but happy to be back on a baseball field, Colorado's All-Star shortstop worked out at the Rockies' spring training facility on Thursday, his first step in returning from a 59-day suspension for violating Major League Baseball's new domestic violence policy.

"It's good to be on the field and put that stuff behind me," Reyes said. "I'm sorry. I made a mistake and will stand here like a man. I just have to try to be a better man, a better husband."

Reyes did not participate in spring training and was suspended through May 31 after being charged with domestic violence for an altercation with his wife in Hawaii last October. Prosecutors dropped the



The Colorado Rockies' Jose Reyes, right, laughs with players as they run drills during an extended spring training on Thursday at the Rockies' facility in Scottsdale, Arizona.

charge ahead of a scheduled April 4 trial, saying Reyes' wife was not cooperating.

Reyes became the second player to be suspended under baseball's new domestic violence policy — with New York Yankees closer Aroldis Chapman — and will lose about \$6.25 million of his \$22 million salary while sitting out.

"I put myself in this situation and I'm sorry about it," Reyes said. "I need to put this in the past and continue with my life

and my career. Human beings make mistakes. Like I said, I'm sorry to put Rockies fans in this kind of situation."

Reyes stood out at Colorado's extended spring training, not just with his purple workout shirt among the gray-shirted youngsters, but with his slick fielding and quick bat.

The four-time All-Star spent about two hours on the Rockies' back fields, working with some of the younger players while fielding grounders for

about 20 minutes. The young players seemed to enjoy being around a player of his stature, laughing as he joked around on the field, some of them sneaking peeks at him around the backstop.

Reyes spent some time in the batting cage then waited for the others to go through situational hitting drills before taking swings from both sides of the plate.

"Being here on the field again, I feel like I'm 18 again, working out with those young kids, great talents moving around, that made me feel good," Reyes said.

Reyes can return on June 1, but it's unclear what the 32-year-old's role will be when he gets back.

Rookie Trevor Story has excelled in his place, hitting .277 with 11 homers and 28 RBIs through Colorado's first 38 games and the Rockies appear to have no intention of taking him out of the starting lineup.

Reyes is due \$41 million in guaranteed salary over the next two seasons.

Journal News

5.20.16

# Hill exceeds expectations in return to starting role

## Veteran assumes ace duties for A's

Jorge L. Ortiz  
@jorgeortiz  
USA TODAY Sports

**OAKLAND** The Oakland Athletics did not sign Rich Hill to be a staff ace and only wound up handing the veteran left-hander his first opening-day start last month because Sonny Gray came down with a stomach virus.

At a relatively economical \$6 million for one season, Hill was mostly added to eat up innings and lend stability to a rotation full of question marks behind Gray, who finished third in last year's American League Cy Young Award voting.

But while Gray has faltered badly — and along with him most of Oakland's rotation — Hill has become a model of consistency, the one starter the A's can count on to give them a solid chance to win each time out.

That was the case again Wednesday, when Hill delivered his sixth quality start (three earned runs or fewer, at least six innings) in eight outings, guiding Oakland to an 8-1 win against the suddenly shaky Texas Rangers to complete the A's first home sweep of at least three games since the

middle of the 2014 season.

With Khris Davis contributing his latest tape-measure home run — he had gone deep four times in two games and nine times in May entering Thursday — Oakland stretched its modest winning streak to four games.

As opposed to the previous night, when Davis' first career grand slam capped the A's come-from-behind, walk-off win, they didn't need late heroics Wednesday because Hill muffled the Rangers offense over six innings, allowing three hits before departing with a 4-1 lead.

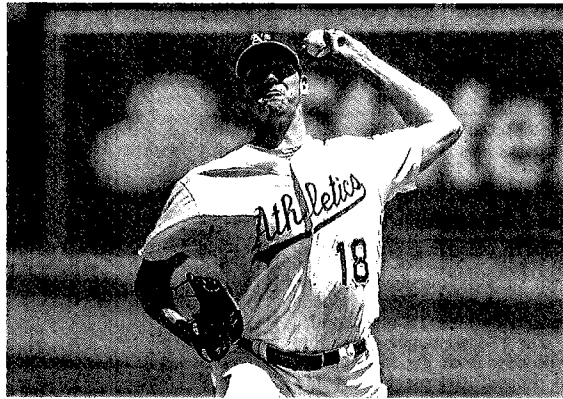
That improved his record to 6-3 with a 2.54 ERA, seventh best in the AL, along with the league's fifth-highest strikeout total of 59.

That's a pretty good return on investment for the A's.

"We're not going to go out and sign the highest-priced free agents," manager Bob Melvin said. "We're always looking for those guys who can give us the most value for the buck, and he was that guy."

Much like Scott Kazmir, who continued his career renaissance with the A's before joining the Los Angeles Dodgers on a \$48 million free agent deal in the offseason, Hill has bounced back from the depths of independent league ball to thrive in the majors.

In Hill's case, he traveled that route in an effort to return to a



KENNY KARST, USA TODAY SPORTS

**Rich Hill, who spent part of 2015 pitching in an independent league, is 6-3 with a 2.54 ERA in nine starts for the Athletics.**

starting role after pitching in relief for all of his 119 games with four teams from 2010 to 2014.

He spent most of 2015 in the minors and was willing to join the Long Island (NY) Ducks of the independent Atlantic League for the opportunity to show he could help somebody's rotation, after starting in 70 of his 78 major league appearances from 2005 to 2009.

Shoulder and Tommy John elbow surgeries rendered him a reliever, but all along Hill believed he had the stuff to be a starter,

the role he performed early in his career with the Chicago Cubs.

"It's what I wanted to do," said Hill, 36. "I bet on myself, and I knew it was going to come to fruition as long as I stayed consistent in my approach."

The payoff came with four eye-catching starts late last season for the Boston Red Sox. He fashioned a 1.55 ERA and struck out 36 in 29 innings, earning a fair amount of interest as a free agent.

His hometown Red Sox wanted him back as a hybrid long reliever-starter, so Hill opted to join

Oakland in what figured to be a fourth- or fifth-starter role. Instead, he has been their ace, allowing four hits or fewer in each of his last six starts, posting a 5-1 record with a 1.96 ERA in that spell.

In the last 24 starts, A's starters not named Rich Hill have gone 2-13 with an 8.64 ERA.

"He's really taken it upon himself to be that guy that gets you real deep into games and takes pressure off the bullpen," Melvin said. "After a couple of rocky games to start, he's pitching exactly how we saw later on in the year last year."

Part of that was the result of moving to the third-base side of the rubber, which along with increased strength has improved Hill's command. After years of side-arming as a lefty specialist out of the bullpen, Hill went back in mid-July to his over-the-top motion.

"My shoulder felt good, and it just felt right," Hill said. "I was able to repeat and be more consistent over the top. I felt like my breaking ball had more depth, and I was able to incorporate a changeup, which I didn't use that much last time. With the two breaking balls I throw, along with the fastball, it creates great deception from over the top."

And outstanding results from an unlikely source.

USA Today

5.20.16

# Story has earned right to keep his job

**Bob Nightengale**  
bnighten@usatoday.com  
USA TODAY Sports



**ST. LOUIS** Colorado Rockies shortstop Trevor Story keeps trying to ignore the noise. But everywhere he turns, it's there.

Here he is, trying to maintain his splendid play six weeks into his first major league season, but there's that elephant in the room, getting larger by the day.

While Story was at Busch Stadium on Thursday preparing to play the St. Louis Cardinals, 1,400 miles away in Scottsdale, Ariz., there was that noise.

Jose Reyes was at the Rockies spring training complex, working out and speaking publicly for the first time in eight months, apologizing for his domestic violence incident that resulted in a 51-game suspension from Major League Baseball.

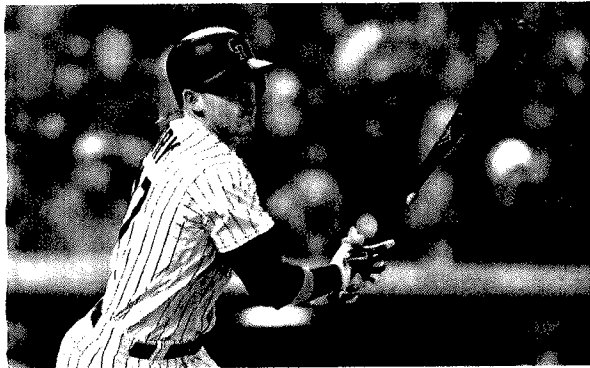
"I'm sorry," Reyes said. "I put myself in this situation. Now I need to put this in the past and continue with my life and my career. Right now, for me, it's time to get ready and help the Rockies win."

In 12 days, his suspension ends. The four-time All-Star shortstop will be free to rejoin the Rockies any time they want him back, with Reyes expected to first begin a minor league rehab assignment June 1.

Reyes said Thursday that he expected to be called up by the Rockies as soon as he's ready, but the trouble is there is no job. The Rockies have a starting shortstop. With the way Story has performed, it would be unfair to strip him of it.

You don't bench a kid who has hit 11 home runs with 28 RBI, tied for the major league lead with four triples, boasting a 127 OPS-plus and playing solid defense.

"That decision I don't have," Reyes said. "The only decision I can control right now is being



RON CHENOV, USA TODAY SPORTS

**Rockies shortstop Trevor Story went 5-for-11 with three RBI during a weekend sweep of the Mets.**

here and, you know, working out every day and trying to get back in baseball shape."

Considering the Rockies owe Reyes \$41 million through the 2017 season, would they dare release him and eat that much money?

Or do they bring him back, perhaps even having him play different positions, to make him marketable?

"It's a little weird for sure," Rockies All-Star third baseman Nolan Arenado told USA TODAY Sports. "Hopefully he does what he needs to get back here. And hopefully if he comes back with us, we can use him in some way to help us win."

"But we got our shortstop." Story, 23, has earned this job. Sure, his opportunity arose awkwardly.

Reyes was arrested Oct. 30 at a Maui resort after a domestic dispute with his wife, leaving the Rockies with a wide-open vacancy at shortstop while Reyes was placed on administrative leave.

Story grabbed the job in spring training, hitting .340 with six homers and 13 RBI. He then made sure no one would take it away with the greatest power-hitting start in baseball history. He became the first player to homer in his first four major league games and the only one to homer six

times in his team's first four games.

"You know what was so impressive is that it didn't faze him at all," Rockies first-base coach Eric Young said. "He had all of this attention, with all of the press clippings, and I don't think he even bothered to know what people were saying about him."

"He just kept to himself, kept working hard, and has been a class act. Really, he's just a cool cat."

Story, who 12 months ago was playing at Class AA New Britain (Conn.), no longer is hitting a home run a day, but his numbers remain remarkable. He finished April with 10 home runs, the most by a National League rookie in history, and his 11 are tied for fifth in the major leagues.

Most impressive has been his steady defense, with Rockies manager Walt Weiss saying, "There were a couple of times I'd look up, and say, 'That's Tulo right there.' He has just the right mixture of humility and confidence."

The July trade of Troy Tulowitzki brought Reyes to Denver. No one in the organization figured Story would be next man up so soon.

"He's had a lot thrown at him, and he's been in such a tough spot for a rookie," Weiss said, "but you couldn't draw it up any better than the way he's handled every-



ANDREW JOSEPH, USA TODAY SPORTS

**Jose Reyes is getting close to returning from a suspension.**

thing. He's had the Reyes stuff thrown at him. ... He hasn't wavered. Really, he's been unflappable."

No one knows exactly what will transpire when Reyes' suspension ends, and Weiss says he hasn't spoken with Reyes, but he made sure to let Story know there will be no shortstop controversy.

"There had to be some reassurance," Weiss said. "That's only fair to Trevor. You know as a player, and especially as a young player, a lot of crazy thoughts can go through your mind, especially in your alone time."

Rockies players, even those who befriended Reyes after he was traded to Colorado, also have let Story know they stand behind him. They want the best for Reyes and his family, but it doesn't mean he should be given a starting job, with Story helping lead their surprising 20-19 start.

"Jose Reyes had a tough moment in life; we forgive him," Arenado said. "You've got to forgive people. The good thing is that he and his wife are better, which is nice, because marriage is a big thing. I'm happy for him that it's going OK."

"But when things are going good like they are for us, you don't change it."

Said outfielder Carlos Gonzalez: "(Story) is a potential All-Star, and

the way he's playing, you don't have to worry about anything. But they're going to have to make a spot for either him or Jose. Two good players, so it's a tough decision.

"But this kid is handling it the right way. He's just focusing on his game, knowing that's all he can control."

Although no Rockies official wants to say it, Story is a better shortstop than Reyes, whose defensive skills have eroded. He turns 33 in three weeks.

Story, who has never met Reyes, says he's indebted to Tulowitzki for tutoring him through the years. He believed all along he could do this, but until the strange circumstances, there was never an opening.

"I've always been confident and had the belief that I can perform at this level," Story said. "It's still baseball to me, just everything is on a bigger stage."

The biggest struggle, just like for any rookie, has been the never-ending battle of adjustments. Story, hitting .277 with a .337 on-base percentage and .597 slugging percentage, found out scouting reports make their way around big-league clubhouses quickly.

Those inside fastballs he was launching for homers stopped being thrown. Pitchers instead fed him a steady diet of off-speed pitches, getting him to chase pitches off the plate.

It has resulted in a league-high 57 strikeouts.

Still, Story is adjusting. He hit 455 last weekend in the Rockies' three-game sweep of the New York Mets and .321 with eight extra-base hits in his last 12 games.

"I'm having the time of my life," Story said. "The rest of the stuff, it doesn't make me uncomfortable. I just worry about what I can control and help my team win. ...

"Whoever gets the job done, that's who they'll go with. It's the way it should be, right?"

**FOLLOW MLB COLUMNIST BOB NIGHTENGALE**  
@BNightengale for commentary and insight from the diamond.

USA Today

5.20.16



## Source: Angels' deal with Lincecum finalized

By Andrew Simon / MLB.com | 2:46 AM ET

The Angels have completed their deal with right-hander **Tim Lincecum** and will pay him a base salary of about \$2 million for the rest of the season, a source tells MLB.com's Jesse Sanchez. MLB Network's Jon Heyman reported the news Thursday. The club has not confirmed the agreement, which also would reportedly include up to \$1.7 million in incentives.

The Angels, in desperate need of pitching depth due to injuries, reportedly had been close to a deal with Lincecum since early this week. Another source said the deal could be announced on Friday, and that Lincecum would first go to the Minor Leagues before being added to the Angels' roster.

Lincecum, 31, is coming off hip surgery and held a showcase for interested teams in Scottsdale, Ariz., on May 6. The four-time All-Star won back-to-back National League Cy Young Awards for the Giants from 2008-09, but has posted a 4.68 ERA in more than 600 innings since '12, while dealing with declining velocity and physical issues.

Still, the Angels' rotation could use reinforcements. Starters **Garrett Richards** and **Andrew Heaney** are out with torn elbow ligaments, Tyler Skaggs hit a snag in his comeback from Tommy John surgery, and **C.J. Wilson** is likely out until mid-June with a shoulder problem.





## Donald Trump could've been the Twins owner

By Craig Calcaterra May 19, 2016, 2:19 PM EDT

America would be better off if Donald Trump wasn't close enough to the presidency that he'll soon be getting national security briefings. The Twins, well, they probably couldn't be worse off no matter what. All of which makes the 1984 sale of the Twins to Carl Pohlad a grand missed opportunity.

Why? Because, it seems, Donald Trump wanted to buy the Twins from then-owner Calvin Griffith and significantly outbid Pohlad for the right to do so. Except no one has a "right" to buy a baseball team and it doesn't have to go to the highest bidder so Griffith sold to Pohlad instead. **That much of the story is recounted in the Star Tribune today**, with the larger story coming from Jon Kerr's 1990 biography about former Griffith, **"Calvin: Baseball's Last Dinosaur,"**

I've not read the book and the news story doesn't go into great detail, but I'm sure Trump's failure to purchase the Twins was a function of Major League Baseball wanting no part of him in their ownership club whatsoever. At the time of the bidding Trump was the primary mover behind the upstart USFL and, for that reason alone, MLB was likely sour on him given that baseball has never liked upstarts all that much. Or businessmen who declare bankruptcy on multiple occasions. They're good with blowhards, though, so as far as that goes he would've probably been OK, even if the other stuff sunk him.

Alas.



# Phil Mushnick

phil.mushnick@nypost.com

EQUAL TIME

Replay shows Keith is a bad caller

"IT DEPENDS," Bill Walton answered.

He was working a college game when a flagrant foul was called on a player who slammed an airborne opponent to the floor.

The play-by-play man asked if perhaps the defender was just playing good, hard basketball.

"It depends," said Walton, "on whether the kid who was fouled is your kid."

Many solutions to what ails us can be reached through kids.

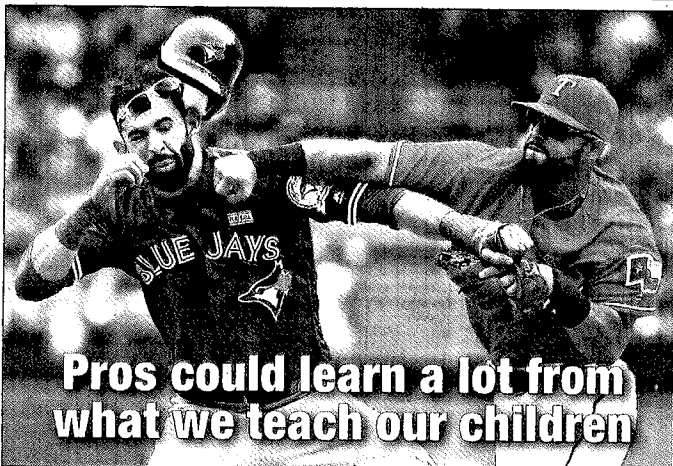
This spring training, Goose Gossage, working with the Yankees, was simplistically dismissed and even condemned as "an angry old white man" for his indelicate, i.e., vulgar, spew about how baseball indulges what he regards as insufferable:

Home run-posing, including flamboyant, ain't-I-great bat-flipping — specifically as demonstrated by Toronto's Jose Bautista — indifferent base running, especially to first, and all other acts of immodesty and less-than winning baseball.

To that, Brian Cashman and Joe Girardi called Gossage on the carpet to tell him "the game has changed." Yet, those who rationalize and excuse the steady move toward minimalist, immodest play among professionals never complete the claim. Has it changed for the better?

From Miami, where he hosts TV and radio shows, ESPN's Dan Le Batard, a Cuban-American, mocked and smeared Gossage, even suggesting that he's a racist as his advocacy to play "the right way" should be interpreted

# NO KIDDING



Pros could learn a lot from what we teach our children

GLASS JOSE: Rougned Odor's roundhouse punch to Jose Bautista's face likely stemmed from Bautista's showoff style, Phil Mushnick writes. AP

as playing "the white way."

So then, what should we make of Rougned Odor's roundhouse to Bautista's head Sunday during a Rangers-Blue Jays game? After all, both are Latinos.

The Rangers obviously had neither forgotten nor forgiven Bautista's excessively self-smitten bat-fling in last year's ALDS, thus it seemed clear Bautista's hard slide into second base provided an opportunity for payback.

Apparently, Odor was among those Rangers who

would have preferred that Bautista played "the right way" or what Le Batard ridiculed as "the white way." By Le Batard's assessment, Odor, a 22-year-old Venezuelan, behaved like an angry old white man and probable racist.

So maybe, as seen Sunday in Texas, in one quick, violent episode, the game hadn't changed. A showboating slugger was slugged.

Back to kids. Would Le Batard encourage or blithely indulge the kids in his life if — perhaps from watching too much ESPN — they dis-

played conspicuous immodesty within the games they played, especially team sports?

Would he instruct or allow his kid to preen and showboat every time he got a hit, caught a pass, made a basket, scored a goal?

I doubt it. Why? Because he knows it would be wrong. And to teach or excuse wrong as right — and even good — is the work of those with social disorders. So why sell bad as good on TV and radio?

Gossage's sin, beyond

cussing, was that he didn't choose to do what most do — pander. He was unaware or wasn't frightened that in such practical truth-telling one risks being labeled "Angry old white man," the accent on racist.

Le Batard, similar to Michael Kay Show panelist Peter Rosenberg, also mocked those who were disturbed by Dwyane Wade's indefensible disrespect in continuing to shoot baskets as the Canadian national anthem played before a playoff game against the Raptors.

Back to kids. Would Le Batard and Rosenberg encourage or allow the kids in their lives, the kids they brought to a game, to do as they pleased while the national anthem played?

Again, I doubt that. Why? Again, because they would know it's wrong.

So why pander? Why defend the indefensible, why ridicule those who would advocate common decency and right over wrong?

When did immodesty and disrespect for all except one's own self become sports virtues? Where did I go wrong? Here I raised my kids as I was raised.

There was a wonderful character, Gilbert, on "Leave It To Beaver" who would exclaim, "Gee, Beav, if I did that my dad would clobber me!" Same here, Gilbert.

WHAT'S the difference between Tarot cards and baseball cards?

Tuesday on SNY, Washington's Ben Revere was called out trying to steal second. As attempted steals often result in close calls, we next awaited the results of the replay challenge.

Waiting for the call to be upheld, Gary Cohen, Ron Darling and Keith Hernandez passed on another opportunity to identify this application of the replay rule and the overwhelming majority of its applications, as having nothing to do with its intent: to reverse egregiously incorrect calls.

So now, with the bases empty Jayson Werth singled, prompting Hernandez to another of his fantastic, eerie predestinations: "So that's a base hit and an RBI, right there, if that call at second was overturned."

Good grief. Is he unaware that everything — everything — changes, starting, in Tuesday's case, with Noah Syndergaard pitching from the windup instead of the stretch?

Hernandez has been making such hallucinatory claims for years. Nurse! One for each of us! And given that the result is predetermined, who won the Preakness Stakes? Come on Keith, baby needs new shoes; out with it!

► WOR's Mets radio is only slightly better than WFAN's Yankees radio in that some national anthems are heard before we're told who performed and who sponsored them. But in most cases, it's the same as Yankees radio: The sponsorships are solid, the performers are identified, the anthem is unheard. That's as money-ugly as it gets.

The common decency solution: If you sell/exploit the anthem, make sure it's heard. Otherwise, stop selling/exploiting it.

## This Rose stayed sweet for 20 great years

HOWIE Rose, 20 years the Islanders' TV voice, is packing it in before he ever allows exhaustion to short, even once, this town's hockey and baseball fans or his own expectations. He's a pro. And you can put that in the book!

► With Monday's Red Sox-Royals game postponed, ESPN picked up FOX South's Braves-Pirates,

which included all kinds of FOX promos, including one for the show hosted by self-removed ESPN regular Colin Cowherd.

► En route to NBCSN commercials midway through a frenzied, riveting first period in Wednesday's Penguins-Lightning game, Doc Emrick simply said, "Not bad, is it?"

► By the Book: Mets reliever Addison Reed worked Tuesday's eighth inning. Eight pitches: groundout, strikeout, strikeout. But he's not the closer, so out he went!

► President Obama should have advised Rutgers grads to consider careers in weight training. Rutgers' position as weightlifting instructor — just for the football

team — starts at \$260,000.

► Reader Keith Ueltzen asks if NBCSN, during Game 1 of Sharks-Blues, showed so many shots of San Jose coach Peter DeBoer because a large-breasted woman wearing a low-cut, highly inadequate shirt was seated in the front row to DeBoer's right. Coach? I didn't see any coach.

NY Post  
5.20.16