



Clips

(September 5, 2016)

Today's Clips Contents

FROM THE LOS ANGELES TIMES (Page 3)

- **Angels defeat Mariners, 4-2, after Matt Shoemaker is hit in the head by a line drive and exits game**

FROM THE OC REGISTER (Page 5)

- **Final: Six Angels relievers combine for victory over Mariners after Matt Shoemaker's scary injury**
- **Angels pitcher Matt Shoemaker leaves game after line drive to his head**
- **Andrew Bailey's first save since 2013 means a lot to him**
- **Angels Notes: Elbow injury ends Nate Smith's hopes for reaching majors this season**
- **On deck: Angels at A's, Monday, 1 p.m.**

FROM ANGELS.COM (Page 10)

- **Shoemaker has small skull fracture, hematoma**
- **Pujols, Cron go deep as Angels top Mariners**
- **Prospect Smith sidelined with elbow soreness**
- **Weaver out to tame A's lineup in series opener**

FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS (Page 15)

- **Shoemaker hit in head by liner, Angels hold on for 4-2 win**

FROM ESPN (Page 18)

- **Angels' Shoemaker hit by liner, has skull fracture**

*FROM THE LOS ANGELES TIMES***Angels defeat Mariners, 4-2, after Matt Shoemaker is hit in the head by a line drive and exits game**

Pedro Moura

The crack of ball meeting skull was audible. The blood shooting from Matt Shoemaker's nose was soon visible.

In a frightening flash Sunday at Safeco Field, a 105-mph line drive hit by Kyle Seager drilled Shoemaker in the right side of the head and sent the Angels right-hander to a local hospital.

There, Shoemaker underwent a CT scan that showed a hematoma and a skull fracture the Angels characterized as small. While the team traveled to Oakland after its 4-2 victory over the Mariners, Shoemaker stayed in Seattle to see a neurologist and was to be examined overnight.

It was the eighth pitch of a fierce second-inning at-bat. On a 3-and-2 count, Shoemaker fired a 94-mph fastball and Seager connected. Defenseless, Shoemaker fell to his knees upon contact and then to his side, in a grisly scene. The ball caromed 40 feet away, nearly into the Mariners' dugout. The crowd hushed and both teams' trainers rushed to the mound.

The eight Angels in the field circled around, kneeling. For a minute, Seager stood, mouth agape, at first base. He paced nervously and then walked toward the mound, joining the opposition on the ground. Three hundred feet away in the Angels' bullpen, Jhoulys Chacin pantomimed the incident for J.C. Ramirez, who had been turned around.

"That was probably the scariest thing I've ever seen on a baseball field," Seager said. "That's a lot bigger than baseball. That was real. You see him sitting there on the ground and all the trainers and doctors out there and you really don't care that much about a stupid game at that point."

After five minutes, rookie catcher Jett Bandy, Manager Mike Scioscia and the trainers hoisted Shoemaker to his feet. He walked off the field with a towel draped over his head to cover the bleeding laceration. He underwent testing at the ballpark and demonstrated responsiveness, then was transported to the hospital. An Angels spokesperson said Shoemaker was speaking as of early Sunday evening.

"When you see it square someone up like that, it's scary," Bandy said. "The first thing that comes to mind is his health. He's a human being. He's a dad. He's a husband."

Said Scioscia: "You've got to catch your breath for a second. It just gives you that feeling, that pit in your stomach. We're relieved to hear that it looks like everything is under control."

Scioscia used six relievers behind Shoemaker, and they held the Mariners to seven hits and two runs over 7 2/3 innings in the Angels' 4-2 victory. Albert Pujols and C.J. Cron supplied back-to-back solo home runs in the first inning. The Angels scored twice more on RBI singles in the sixth and eighth, as they took two out of three games from the Mariners for their fourth straight series win.

Shoemaker's suffering dimmed the joy of victory. Turning 30 in three weeks after debuting later than most of his counterparts, he had established himself as the Angels' top starter this season. One of the American League's best pitchers for a six-week stretch in May and June, he stands to at least quintuple his near-minimum salary next season, in his first year of arbitration.

Several Angels described the difficulty in refocusing on their typical tasks after what they witnessed. But many noted they had, unfortunately, seen something similar in their pasts.

Four years ago Monday, a line drive hit by then-Angels shortstop Erick Aybar struck Oakland right-hander Brandon McCarthy in the head. McCarthy suffered a fractured skull and required surgery to relieve pressure on his brain caused by bleeding. Nine months later, he suffered a seizure.

McCarthy, now a Dodger, and others who've suffered head injuries continue to opt against using bulky protective headgear of the sort that Padres pitcher Alex Torres tried in 2015. Available models are too unwieldy for most pitchers to consider wearing them in games.

Short hops

Top Angels pitching prospect Nate Smith will be shut down for the season because of elbow tendinitis. The 25-year-old left-hander exited his final start of the triple-A season Saturday after two innings. MRI and ultrasound exams showed no evidence of an ulnar collateral ligament tear, General Manager Billy Eppler said. Smith had figured to join the major league club this week in Oakland. . . . Tim Lincecum made his first start in 10 days for triple-A Salt Lake on Sunday. He had been battling illness. The Angels have not committed to bringing him back up to the majors after Salt Lake's season ends Monday. . . . The Angels claimed their sixth player off waivers this season, and their second from Cincinnati. This time, it is 25-year-old right-hander Daniel Wright, who owns a 4.44 minor league earned-run average. Closer Huston Street (knee surgery) was moved to the 60-day disabled list to create a space on the 40-man roster.

FROM THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Final: Six Angels relievers combine for victory over Mariners after Matt Shoemaker's scary injury

By JEFF FLETCHER / STAFF WRITER

SEATTLE The Angels and Seattle Mariners on Sunday suffered through one of those moments when the uniform no longer matters.

When Matt Shoemaker crumpled to the ground, bleeding from a 105 mph line drive that had struck him squarely in the head, two dugouts of players and coaches and a ballpark full of fans suddenly were united.

The Angels' 4-2 victory would become almost trivial.

"First thing you forget about baseball and think about his health," catcher Jett Bandy said. "He's a human being. He's a dad. He's a husband. You don't ever want to see something like that happen."

By the end of the afternoon, the players on both sides could take some comfort in the fact that Shoemaker escaped with injuries that don't appear to be life- or career-threatening.

After being taken to a hospital, Shoemaker was diagnosed with a small skull fracture and a small hematoma, along with a laceration, the Angels announced. He was to see a neurologist later Sunday and remain hospitalized overnight, for observation.

Considering the spectacle of the line drive taking him down in the blink of an eye, it certainly could have been worse

"That's awful," Manager Mike Scioscia said. "You kind of have to catch your breath for a second. Obviously we're relieved to hear everything is under control with Matty. That just gives you a feeling in the pit of your stomach. It's tough."

Shoemaker is the latest victim in an Angels season in which the pitchers have seemed almost cursed. Four other starters have already had season-ending injuries, although none of those was quite as frightening as what happened in the second inning on Sunday.

Seattle's Kyle Seager hit a line drive that struck Shoemaker flush on the right side of his head. The ball ricocheted at least 100 feet in the air from impact, landing in foul territory.

Shoemaker dropped to his knees, as trainers from both dugouts raced to see him.

Seager was clearly distraught as soon as he saw the ball hit him.

“That was terrifying,” Seager said. “That was probably the scariest thing I’ve seen on a baseball field. Our thoughts and prayers go out to him. That’s a lot bigger than baseball. That was real.”

Seager is an ultra-competitive player who has had run-ins with opponents, including the Angels, but he said team affiliation goes out the window at a moment like this.

“It’s kind of like ‘(Forget about) baseball, who cares about the game?’” he said. “You are just worried about him. You see him sitting there on the ground and all the trainers and doctors out there and you really don’t care that much about a stupid game at that point.”

Shoemaker spent about five minutes on the ground, with teammates coming from all over the field to kneel around him as trainers worked on him. Scioscia said Shoemaker was bleeding, but conscious the entire time.

Eventually, Shoemaker walked off the field under his own power, holding a towel to the side of his head, as the Safeco Field crowd gave him a standing ovation.

Shoemaker then spent some time in the clubhouse, with doctors checking him and teammates coming up to get all the updates they could.

He was taken to the hospital for a CT scan, which revealed the extent of his injuries.

Meanwhile, the Angels, who had a 2-0 lead at the time of the incident, had to piece their way through 23 outs to secure the victory.

It took six relievers to finish it off, with injury-plagued former All-Star closer Andrew Bailey working the ninth to record his first save since 2013.

That made for a happier getaway day, as the Angels packed for Oakland, with their thoughts still on Shoemaker as he stayed behind in Seattle.

“It’s a tough day,” Tyler Skaggs said, “but we ended on a high note.”

Angels pitcher Matt Shoemaker leaves game after line drive to his head

By JEFF FLETCHER / STAFF WRITER

SEATTLE – Angels pitcher Matt Shoemaker was hit in the head by a 105 mph line drive in the second inning of Sunday’s game, dropping him to the ground and bringing Safeco Field to a standstill.

Shoemaker, who walked off the field under his own power after about five minutes, was initially diagnosed with a laceration on the side of his head. He was alert as he was taken to a local hospital for a CT scan.

With one out in the second, Kyle Seager hit the line drive that stuck Shoemaker flush on the right side of his head (video). Shoemaker dropped to his knees and trainers from both dugouts rushed to treat him. His teammates came from their positions to kneel around him, clearly distraught by the scene. Seager also appeared to be upset by the scene the moment the ball hit Shoemaker.

When Shoemaker finally got up, holding a towel to his head, he received a standing ovation from the Safeco Field fans.

The injury to Shoemaker is the latest, and most frightening, blow to a team that has been ravaged by injuries all season. Of the eight starters who opened spring training, six have now had some kind injury. Andrew Heaney and Nick Tropeano have already had Tommy John surgery. C.J. Wilson had season-ending shoulder surgery. Garrett Richards has a season-ending elbow injury, although he's trying to avoid surgery. Tyler Skaggs missed a month with a shoulder issue, which was on top of his rehab from Tommy John surgery.

The only two starters to avoid any type of injury are Jered Weaver and Hector Santiago, who was traded a month ago.

Shoemaker had been injury-free until Sunday, and also enjoying a strong season. He came into the game with a rotation-leading 3.91 ERA.

Andrew Bailey's first save since 2013 means a lot to him

By JEFF FLETCHER / STAFF WRITER

SEATTLE – Andrew Bailey had the baseball safely sitting in his locker, a memento of one of the most memorable days of his big league career.

A day that will mostly be remembered for Matt Shoemaker's frightening head injury ended with a feel-good moment, as Bailey picked up his first save since 2013.

"It's been a really long road," Bailey said after finishing Sunday's 4-2 victory over the Seattle Mariners. "Today was special for me. It's something that I'll never forget."

Bailey was the 2009 American League rookie of the year. He had three good seasons as the Oakland A's closer, then he was traded to the Boston Red Sox for what would be the first of five straight seasons full of injuries. He missed nearly two years after shoulder surgery.

"That moment made all the hard work pay off," Bailey said of Sunday's save. "It's one thing to get back to the big leagues, but it's another thing to have an opportunity to close. I'm happy (Mike Scioscia) and the organization felt I could handle that opportunity today."

When Shoemaker came out of the game in the second inning, he left 23 outs for the Angels bullpen. One by one, Angels relievers jogged from the bullpen, each leaving with the lead intact.

Bailey didn't know he'd be the one to handle the ninth until it came down to just him and Jose Valdez left in the bullpen, and the call came for him. He said he immediately got that familiar burst of adrenaline that came with working the ninth.

Bailey retired all three hitters he faced lock up the save.

"He's a guy who has some footprints in the ninth inning," Scioscia said of his decision to use Bailey. "We thought it would be good for him to get a shot."

Angels Notes: Elbow injury ends Nate Smith's hopes for reaching majors this season

By JEFF FLETCHER / STAFF WRITER

SEATTLE – Nate Smith's promising season won't end with a taste of the major leagues.

Smith, the Angels' top pitching prospect, was diagnosed with left elbow tendinitis on Sunday, which means he will not be a part of the September roster expansion.

The good news for Smith is that ultrasound and MRI exams showed no damage to his ulnar collateral ligament, so the injury should not affect him in the long run.

Smith came out of Saturday's Triple-A start after 27 pitches in two innings, with what the Angels described as elbow tightness.

It was going to be his last start of the season in the minors, likely a prelude to getting a call to the majors.

Smith, a 25-year-old lefty, has a 4.61 ERA this season at Salt Lake City. Over his last four starts, though, he has a 2.49 ERA, with 18 strikeouts and three walks in 21 2/3 innings.

The Angels had discussed using a six-man rotation in September, and Smith figured to be a part of that. The six-man rotation seems unlikely now, with the injuries to Smith and Matt Shoemaker.

ALSO

The Angels claimed right-hander Daniel Wright on waivers from the Cincinnati Reds. Wright, 25, had made his major league debut with 13 innings for the Reds this season. Wright has a 4.44 ERA in four minor league seasons, mostly as a starter...

Yunel Escobar was not in the Angels lineup on Sunday after getting hit in the left wrist by a pitch on Saturday. Manager Mike Scioscia said Escobar is day-to-day...

Shane Robinson came through Saturday night's rehab game at Triple-A well enough that the Angels are expecting to activate him sometime during this week's series in Oakland. Robinson is out with a hip flexor injury...

Cory Rasmus, who has been out most of the season with an abdominal issue, is scheduled for a simulated game in Arizona. He is likely to return to the Angels at some point this month.

On deck: Angels at A's, Monday, 1 p.m.

By JEFF FLETCHER / STAFF WRITER

Where: Oakland Coliseum

TV: Fox Sports West, 1 p.m.

Did you know? Raul Alcantara and Jharel Cotton, who starts for the A's on Wednesday, are both making their major league debuts.

THE PITCHERS

ANGELS RHP JERED WEAVER (10-11, 5.21)

Vs. A's: 14-11, 2.77

At Oakland Coliseum: 7-7, 3.59

Hates to face: Stephen Vogt, 10 for 31 (.323)

Loves to face: Jake Smolinski, 0 for 8 (.000)

A'S RHP RAUL ALCANTARA (9-6, 3.58 in minors)

Vs. Angels: First game

At Oakland Coliseum: First game

Hates to face: None

Loves to face: None

UPCOMING GAMES

Tuesday: Angels RHP Ricky Nolasco (5-12, 4.95) vs. A's LHP Ross Detweiler (1-3, 4.81), 7 p.m., Fox Sports West

Wednesday: Angels RHP Alex Meyer (0-1, 12.27) vs. A's Jharel Cotton (11-6, 4.31 in minors), 12:30 p.m., Fox Sports West

*FROM ANGELS.COM***Shoemaker has small skull fracture, hematoma**
Pitcher was hit in the head with ball on a line drive

By Doug Miller / MLB.com

SEATTLE -- The concerns of real life took over the competitive joy of a baseball game on Sunday afternoon, and every hit, run and strikeout tallied by the Angels in a **4-2 victory** over the Mariners became secondary to the health of **Matt Shoemaker**, the starting pitcher, teammate and friend.

Shoemaker left Sunday's game in the second inning after being hit square on the right side of the head by a 105 mph line drive, suffering a small skull fracture and small hematoma that will end his season. The right-hander was to see a neurologist and spend the night at a Seattle hospital for further observation.

The horrifying scene played out in the second inning as Mariners third baseman **Kyle Seager** lined the ball, Shoemaker took the impact and dropped to his knees while the Angels' medical personnel rushed to assist him, and several minutes elapsed before Shoemaker walked off the field with the help of two team trainers.

On the positive side of things in an extremely scary scenario, Shoemaker never lost consciousness, and, according to the Angels after the game, was "speaking, interacting and doing well considering the trauma."

Naturally, the event caused shock and distress that altered the remainder of the game, not just for Shoemaker's team. Angels manager Mike Scioscia, who ran to the mound with the team's trainers right after Shoemaker was hit, didn't know what to expect.

"He was conscious the whole time," Scioscia said. "Those guys did a great job just to assess and evaluate him. There was blood coming out of his nose. There were some things that they had to address. And that's the scary part. Hopefully we can understand exactly what's going on with him through the night. ... Hopefully we'll just keep getting good news about his recovery."

With Shoemaker out, the focus of the game for Scioscia and his coaching staff, other than having to get 7 2/3 innings out of his bullpen on the shortest of notice, was making sure the team was kept abreast of Shoemaker's situation. Throughout the game, players filtered into the locker room to offer Shoemaker support and let the medical staff attend to him. Scioscia said updates were given to the players in the dugout as soon as they had them.

"The fact that Matty was conscious and all his reactions were what they were supposed to be in the assessment, I think we could exhale a little bit," Scioscia said. "Just to get him up and

walking off the field let you feel a little bit better about what could have happened. And it's tough. It's tough."

It was tough for Seager, too. He threw an arm up in the air while skipping to first base, visibly frightened and sickened by what had transpired.

"It's kind of like, [to heck with] baseball, who cares about the game?" Seager said. "You're just worried about him. You see him sitting there on the ground and all the trainers and doctors up there. You really don't care too much about a stupid game at that point."

In baseball, however, the game does go on. The Angels' bullpen did its job and held the Mariners to two runs as the Angels were able to win the game and the series, two games to one.

"The bullpen came in and did a great job," Angels catcher **Jett Bandy** said. "They came out early and they got ahead of everyone and put guys away when they needed to. They did a great job for us."

But that point was only made after Bandy said he was wishing the best for Shoemaker. To a man, that was the only thing that mattered to the Angels as they prepared to head to Oakland.

"That was a tough situation," Scioscia said. "Something like that, it affects everybody, and these guys all went out there and took the ball and did a great job to help us win a game, but I know your thoughts are elsewhere at that point until you get an understanding of exactly what's happening with Matty."

Pujols, Cron go deep as Angels top Mariners

By Doug Miller and Maddie Lee / MLB.com

SEATTLE -- Albert Pujols and C.J. Cron homered in the first inning to give the Angels an early lead in their 4-2 win over the Mariners Sunday at Safeco Field, but Angels starting pitcher Matt Shoemaker's well-being was the main thing on everyone's minds after a line drive to the head took him out of the game.

Shoemaker suffered small skull fracture and small hematoma and was set to see a neurologist after the game and spend the night in a Seattle hospital for further observation. According to the Angels, Shoemaker was "speaking, interacting and doing well considering the trauma."

Shoemaker sustained the injury with one out in the second inning. Kyle Seager's line drive up the middle didn't give Shoemaker enough time to protect himself. Shoemaker fell to the ground, and trainers rushed to the mound. He was eventually able to walk off the field, with trainers on either side.

"It's awful, and you kind of, you've got to catch your breath for a second," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "And obviously we're relieved to hear that it looks like everything's under control with Matty as far as what's happening, and obviously he'll be observed tonight, but ... it just gives you that feeling of a pit in your stomach. It's tough."

"That was terrifying," Seager added. "That was probably the scariest thing I've ever seen on a baseball field. And our thoughts and prayer go out to him. That's well bigger than baseball. That was real."

Shoemaker retired the first four batters he faced, only allowing Seager to get on base. Deolis Guerra took over for Shoemaker and threw 1 2/3 scoreless inning to earn the win. Angels Relievers Cody Ege and JC Ramirez each gave up solo homers, to Robinson Cano and Nelson Cruz respectively, for the Mariners' only two runs of the game.

After Mariners starter Hisashi Iwakuma gave up two home runs in the first inning, he settled in to allow just one more run through the next six innings.

"The first inning home run has certainly bitten us against the Angels this year, no doubt," Servais said. "Made a couple mistakes, but he recovered nicely. I thought he threw the ball well. I thought his stuff was good for the most part and kept us there in the game."

While the Angels didn't seem to feel very victorious even though the result said otherwise, they did express gratitude that Shoemaker's situation didn't end up worse.

"The fact that Matty was conscious and all his reactions were what they were supposed to be in the assessment, I think we could exhale a little bit," Scioscia said. "Just to get him up and walking off the field let you feel a little bit better about what could have happened. And it's tough. It's tough."

MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

Back-to-back part deux: For the second day in a row, the Angels hit consecutive home runs in the first inning. On Sunday, it was Pujols connecting for a two-out solo shot off Iwakuma followed by Cron hitting another solo blast. On Saturday, the Angels hit three in a row in the opening frame off Taijuan Walker, with Kole Calhoun, Mike Trout and Pujols doing the damage. The Angels hit seven home runs in the first inning in the series.

Cano's defense: Cano demonstrated his range and backed Iwakuma with two highlight-reel-worthy plays at second base. In the top of the second, Cano fielded Rafael Ortega's groundball up the middle and started the inning-ending double play with a backhanded glove flip to shortstop Ketel Marte. The next inning, Cano made a leaping grab to rob Kaleb Cowart of a line drive base hit.

Pujols keeps rocking: Pujols came through again in the top of the sixth inning, singling through the left side on an elevated split-fingered fastball and hitting it just well enough to get Kaleb

Cowart home all the way from second despite a good throw from left fielder Seth Smith. It was Pujols' 108th RBI of the season, which has him tied for the American League lead in that category with Toronto's Edwin Encarnacion. He later added an RBI single.

Solo shots: Cano and Nelson Cruz scored the Mariners' only runs of the game on solo homers. Cano's 31st dinger of the season cleared the fence in right center field to put the Mariners on the board in the sixth inning. It traveled 391 feet with an exit velocity of 100 mph, according to Statcast™. Cruz's 8th inning homer was his third in as many days. It flew 383 feet to left field, according to Statcast™.

QUOTABLE

"Baseball's a strong fraternity. We've had guys get hit on both sides, and it's not a good feeling." -- *Scioscia*

WHAT'S NEXT

Angels: Veteran right-hander Jered Weaver (10-11, 5.21 ERA) takes the hill against the A's as the Angels begin a three-game series on Monday at 1:05 p.m. PT in Oakland. Weaver will be making his 37th career start against the A's and is 14-11 with a 2.77 ERA vs. Oakland overall.

Mariners: The Rangers come to Seattle Monday for a four-game series. Right-hander Felix Hernandez (9-4, 3.14) will take the mound for the Mariners in the series opener, scheduled for 1:10 p.m. PT. Rangers southpaw Cole Hamels (14-4, 2.91) will start opposite Hernandez.

Prospect Smith sidelined with elbow soreness

By Doug Miller / MLB.com

SEATTLE -- Another day in this Angels' season, another arm injury to deal with.

In what has become the defining, all-too-repetitive narrative of 2016, another starting pitcher has gone on the shelf, this one before he even got the chance to let it fly at the Major League level.

Nate Smith, a 25-year-old left-hander who has been the best starter at Triple-A Salt Lake of late, with a 2.49 ERA over his last four starts, and who was expected to soon make his Major League debut, was taken out of his start on Saturday night after two innings against Las Vegas because of elbow soreness.

As of Sunday morning, the club didn't have any concrete information regarding the severity of the injury, but it's just another piece of unpleasant news for a staff that has been devastated by health woes this year.

Smith is the fifth-best prospect in the system, according to MLB Pipeline.com.

Three of the club's five projected 2016 starters -- Garrett Richards (torn ulnar collateral ligament), Andrew Heaney (Tommy John surgery) and C.J. Wilson (left shoulder surgery) -- are out for the year, and a host of others, starters and relievers alike (Huston Street, Cam Bedrosian, Nick Tropeano), are also gone. Starter Tyler Skaggs didn't come back from his elbow woes until recently. Reliever Cory Rasmus (groin) had surgery in July and is slated to get back to simulated game work Monday in Arizona.

The team wanted to get a look at Smith and recent trade acquisition Alex Meyer in September as it prepares for the offseason and planning for 2017. Meyer will get the ball Wednesday in Oakland in his Angels bow, but Smith's big-league debut now appears to be on hold.

"I don't know if there's any silver lining to what has gone on," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "I think any Major League team, when you set your depth chart, there are definitely some things that you know you have to absorb.

"Sometimes when you're in a position like we are and you lose four guys [Richards, Wilson, Heaney, Tropeano] you were counting on to being part of your starting rotation that don't get there, and really a fifth guy [Skaggs] that we thought was going to be there at the end of April and he showed up mid-season, I don't think any organization is braced for that. You can't have that much depth in your Minor Leagues to bring up a whole new rotation. And that's kind of what we're battling with right now."

Escobar out of lineup: Third baseman and leadoff man Yunel Escobar was not in Sunday's lineup after taking a 94 mph Taijuan Walker fastball off the back of his left hand on the first pitch of the game Saturday night. X-rays were negative and Scioscia said Escobar was "a little sore" but remained day-to-day.

"We'll see how he feels tomorrow," Scioscia said.

Angels claim pitcher: The Angels claimed right-hander Daniel Wright on waivers from the Cincinnati Reds. Wright, who has been mostly a starter in the Minor Leagues, has made four big league appearances this year for the Reds, with two starts. He has a 7.62 ERA in the Majors and a 4.44 ERA in the Minors. The Angels have not yet announced a 40-man-roster move to make room for Wright.

Robinson back soon: Outfielder Shane Robinson, who's been on the disabled list with a hip flexor injury, came out of Saturday night's rehab game with Salt Lake in good order. Scioscia said he should be activated sometime in Oakland.

Weaver out to tame A's lineup in series opener

By Doug Miller / MLB.com

When the Angels open a three-game series against the A's in Oakland on Monday afternoon, it'll be yet another case of two very familiar divisional foes squaring off in September.

That could work for or against Angels starter Jered Weaver, who will be making his 37th career start vs. the A's and has faced some of Oakland's hitters quite a bit over the years. Two of the A's who statistically have good chances to succeed against the tall veteran righty are shortstop Marcus Semien, who's 6-for-17 (.353) against Weaver with two doubles, and catcher Stephen Vogt, who's 10-for-31 (.323) with two doubles, two home runs and four RBIs.

On the opposite end of the starting pitching spectrum is Oakland right-hander Raul Alcantara, who will be making his Major League debut on Monday. Alcantara, 23, has been in the Oakland farm system since 2012 and has shined recently at Triple-A Nashville, where he's gone 4-0 with a 1.18 ERA and 0.90 WHIP in eight starts this season.

Things to look for in this game

- In those 36 starts vs. Oakland, Weaver is 14-11 with a 2.77 ERA. This year, Weaver is 1-0 with a 3.20 ERA and pitched a shutout against Oakland on June 19.
- The Angels have used 13 starting pitchers this season and will use a 14th on Wednesday when Alex Meyer makes his Angels debut vs. the A's.
- Alcantara had not pitched above Double-A prior to this year and is the third A's pitcher to make his debut this year without any Triple-A experience entering the season (also Daniel Mengden and Dillon Overton).

FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shoemaker hit in head by liner, Angels hold on for 4-2 win

SEATTLE -- Matt Shoemaker turned his head just enough to avoid taking Kyle Seager's 105 mph line drive square in the face, then stumbled before falling to the infield grass.

"That was probably the scariest thing I've ever seen on a baseball field," Seager said.

Shoemaker was hospitalized with a small skull fracture and small hematoma from the line drive during the Los Angeles Angels' 4-2 win over the Seattle Mariners on Sunday.

Shoemaker was struck on the right side of his head with one out in the second inning, getting his face out of the way but failing to get his mitt up in time to stop the hard-hit ball.

After the game, the Angels announced that a CT scan revealed Shoemaker suffered the small fracture and hematoma. He was to be seen by a neurologist and remain in Seattle overnight for observation.

"It just gives you that feeling where you have a pit in your stomach," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said.

Shoemaker was down for several minutes and bleeding from the spot where he was hit. Teammates knelt around the mound and Seager anxiously watched while Shoemaker was tended to. Shoemaker never lost consciousness.

He was tended to in the Angels clubhouse for a short time before being taken to a local hospital.

"The fact of the matter is he was conscious and at least all his reactions were what they were supposed to be on the assessment. I think we could exhale a little bit," Scioscia said. "Just to get him up and walking off the field let you feel a little bit better about what could have been happening. It's tough."

Shoemaker is in his third full season with the Angels, emerging as a rookie in 2014 when he went 16-4 with a 3.04 ERA. He's struggled at times this year but went into Sunday's game having won his last three decisions.

"I had a good view of it and when you see it square someone up like that it's scary," Angels catcher Jett Bandy said. "First thing first, you forget about baseball and you think about his health."

Albert Pujols and C.J. Cron hit back-to-back home runs in the first inning and six relievers combined to shut down Seattle after Shoemaker was struck.

Pujols hit his 29th homer of the season off Seattle starter Hisashi Iwakuma (14-11) with two outs in the first and Cron followed with his 15th home run moments later. The Angels hit seven first-inning home runs in the three-game series.

Pujols added an RBI single in the sixth inning off Iwakuma, and Andrelton Simmons had an RBI single in the eighth inning off reliever Dan Altavilla. Iwakuma went seven innings, giving up eight hits and the three runs.

After Shoemaker walked off the field with trainers on both sides, the Angels leaned on their bullpen. Deolis Guerra (3-0) was the first of the relievers to enter, followed by Jose Alvarez, Mike Morin, Cody Ege and JC Ramirez. Robinson Cano hit his 31st homer off Ege in the sixth and Nelson Cruz hit his 35th in the eighth off Ramirez, both solo shots.

But that was all the Angels allowed, and Andrew Bailey pitched the ninth for his first save.

"Those guys all went out there and took the ball and did a great job," Scioscia said. "Your thoughts are elsewhere at that point until you can understand exactly what is happening with Matt."

PLAYOFF PICTURE

The Angels took two of three in the series, providing another damaging blow to Seattle's fleeting postseason hopes. The Mariners have dropped seven of eight with AL West-leading Texas coming in for a four-game series starting Monday, likely Seattle's last opportunity to get back into the wild-card race.

ROSTER SHUFFLE

Seattle added depth to its overused bullpen by activating RHP Drew Storen and recalling LHP David Rollins on Sunday. Storen had been sidelined by shoulder inflammation, and the pair gives manager Scott Servais a few more options for the later innings with Seattle's starters struggling to get deep into games of late.

UP NEXT

Angels: Jered Weaver (10-11) makes his 27th start as the Angels open a series in Oakland. Weaver got the win in his last start against Cincinnati.

Mariners: Felix Hernandez (9-5) looks to rebound from one of his worst outings of the season as Seattle opens a series against Texas. Hernandez allowed six earned runs in four innings in a loss to the Rangers last Wednesday.

FROM ESPN

Angels' Shoemaker hit by liner, has skull fracture

SEATTLE -- Los Angeles Angels pitcher Matt Shoemaker sustained a small skull fracture and hematoma when he was hit in the head by a line drive off the bat of Kyle Seager on Sunday, forcing Shoemaker off the field with trainers on either side.

"That was probably the scariest thing I've ever seen on a baseball field," Seager said.

The injury occurred in the second inning of the Angels' 4-2 win over the Mariners when Shoemaker was hit on the right side of his head. Seager's liner had an exit velocity of 105 mph, according to MLB Statcast. Shoemaker was to be seen by a neurologist, and he will remain in Seattle overnight for observation.

"It just gives you that feeling where you have a pit in your stomach," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said.

Shoemaker immediately went to the ground as trainers rushed to the field. He was down for several minutes and was bleeding from the spot where he was hit. Teammates knelt around the mound and Seager anxiously watched while Shoemaker was tended to. Shoemaker never lost consciousness.

He was tended to in the Angels clubhouse for a short time before being taken to a local hospital. He was replaced by Deolis Guerra.

"The fact of the matter is he was conscious, and at least all his reactions were what they were supposed to be on the assessment. I think we could exhale a little bit," Scioscia said. "Just to get him up and walking off the field let you feel a little bit better about what could have been happening. It's tough."

Shoemaker is in his third full season with the Angels, emerging as a rookie in 2014 when he went 16-4 with a 3.04 ERA. He has struggled at times this year but went into Sunday's game having won his last three decisions.

"I had a good view of it, and when you see it square someone up like that, it's scary," Angels catcher Jett Bandy said. "First things first, you forget about baseball and you think about his health."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.