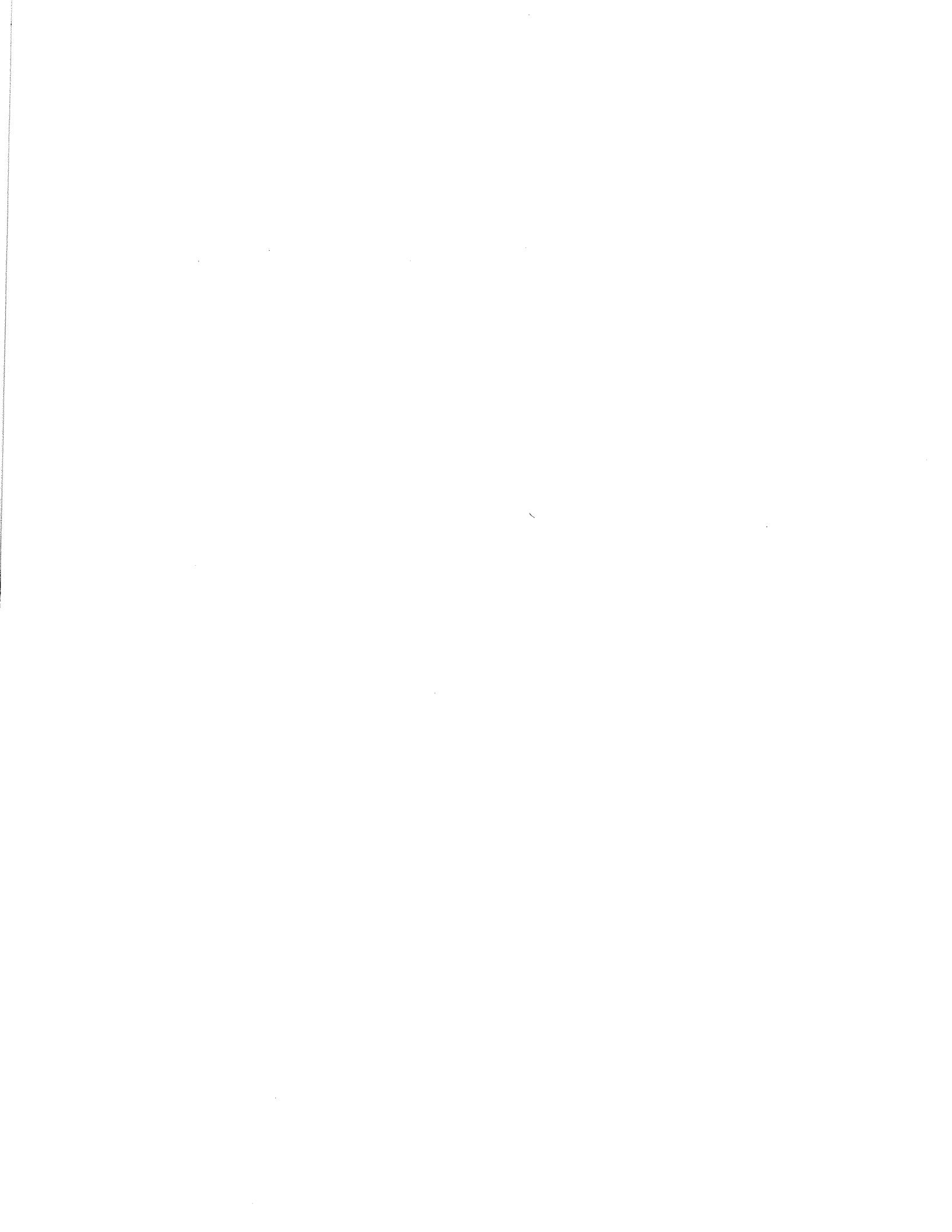




New York Yankees Clips
Thursday, June 15, 2017



Lose game and CC

Strained hammy puts him on DL, out 4 to 8 weeks

BY ERIK BOLAND
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ANAHEIM, Calif. — A bullpen Joe Girardi described as "pretty fried" before the game got burned by its newest edition.

Righthander Ronald Herrera, called up from Double-A Trenton earlier in the day and making his big-league debut, handled the first two batters he faced, needing two pitches to do so.

Up came Albert Pujols and Yunel Escobar, and down just as quickly then went.

But a five-pitch walk to Luis Valbuena followed and then a hanging curveball to Andrelton Simmons, which the star short-stop didn't miss.

He sent it deep into the warm California night for a back-breaking two-run homer that sent the Yankees to a 7-5 loss last night in front of a sellout crowd of 43,851 at Angels Stadium.

It was a disappointing series loss for the Yankees (38-25), who before the game received word CC Sabathia, their hottest pitcher of late, had suffered a Grade 2 left hamstring strain and therefore would likely be lost for a minimum of four weeks and probably longer.

The game had a crazy ending as it appeared Kole Calhoun finished things with a catch against the wall in right on an Aaron Hicks drive. But replay showed the ball hit the wall

Tonight



Yankees at Oakland
TV: YES, 10:05 p.m.
Radio: WFAN (660, 101.9)

first and the Angels congratulatory hand-shaking line was ushered off the field as play continued. Aaron Judge grounded to second to officially end it, allowing David Hernandez to record his first save.

The Bombers have lost two straight since reaching their high-water mark of 15 games over .500 on Monday.

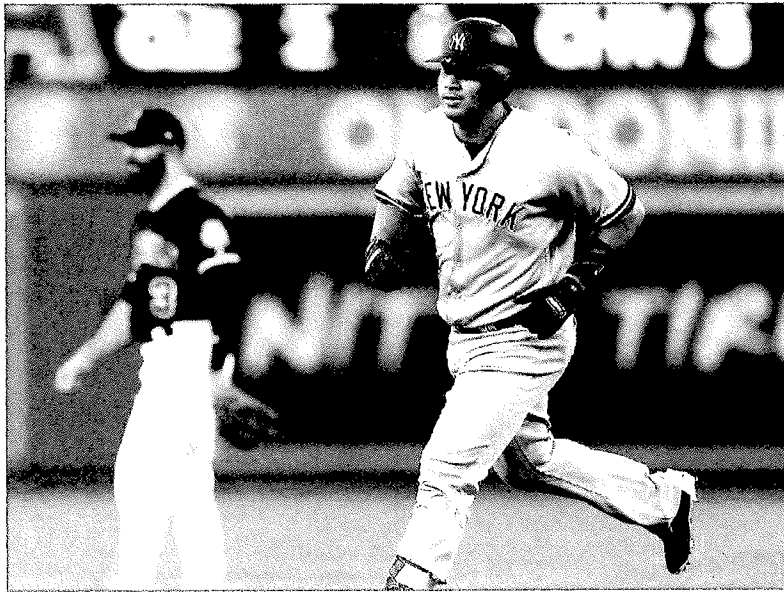
Now, in no way could the defeat be hung solely on the 22-year-old Herrera.

After Gary Sanchez's three-run homer in the first inning gave the Yankees, who got hits from their starting nine in accumulating 13 hits, a 4-0 lead, Michael Pineda could not hold it.

He allowed one in the bottom of the first — and it could have been more as Hicks reached over the centerfield wall and brought back what would have been a grand slam by Luis Valbuena — two in the second and two in the third to surrender the lead.

Chase Headley's RBI single in the sixth did tie it at 5 but it was an otherwise quiet night at the plate for the Yankees, who stranded six and had a runner thrown out at the plate on an ill-advised send by third base coach Joe Espada, after the first.

Pineda did do well in at lasting six innings and saving the



Gary Sanchez rounds second after hitting three-run homer to leftfield in first inning at Angel Stadium.

bullpen to some degree. The righthander, 7-3 with a 3.39 ERA coming in, allowed five runs, 10 hits, matching his season-high, and one walk. With an inconsistent fastball and without his wipeout slider, Pineda struck out just two.

The offense could not capitalize on Angels starter Matt Shoemaker lasting just three innings, departing with two on and none out in the fourth after hurting himself covering first on an infield single by Didi Gregorius.

Righthander Parker Bridwell, a 25-year-old brought up from Triple-A Salt Lake Wednesday afternoon, got out of that jam and a couple of others. He allowed one run and seven hits over 3 2/3 innings.

Righty Blake Parker struck out two over 1 1/3 scoreless innings. The night had started so well for the Yankees.

Brett Gardner led off with a single. After Hicks struck out, Judge, the night's DH, lined a full-count splitter to left,

putting runners at the corners for Matt Holliday. As Holliday swung and missed at a 1-and-2 pitch, Judge stole second. Holliday, starting at first base Wednesday, lifted a sacrifice fly to the track in center, 1-0. Sanchez then launched a 1-and-0 slider an estimated 441 feet to left-center, making it 4-0.

It gave Sanchez his five homers and 16 RBIs in his last seven games and his seven homers in June are the most in baseball.

Newsday
6.15.17

40 Thursday, June 15, 2017

DAILY NEWS NYDailyNews.com

Hammy may sideline CC 4-6 weeks

ANAHEIM — The Yankees did not get the news they were hoping for on CC Sabathia. Despite telling the team he felt better than expected, Sabathia has a Grade 2 strain of his left hamstring, and will likely be heading to the disabled list.

No official announcement on a DL stint has been made as of yet, but Grade 2 strains have typically required around 4-6 weeks of recovery.

Sabathia had an MRI on Wednesday. The 36-year-old lefty was shut down for the end of the 2013 season after suffering the same injury in late September that year.

He hurt himself on the second-to-last pitch of the fourth in Tuesday night's loss to the Angels, and left the game following the end of the inning.

Joe Girardi said on Tuesday that he anticipated Sabathia would need to go on the disabled list.

"We'll see what Dr. Christopher Ahmad says," Girardi said before Wednesday's game.

Sabathia has pitched to a 0.99 ERA in his previous six starts. His next turn would've been on Sunday in Oakland.



"We're going to make sure he's healthy before he takes the mound," Girardi said.

rardi said.

Girardi said if the Yankees did DL Sabathia, Chad Green would be a candidate to take his place in the rotation. Green started last Sunday against Baltimore. In the immediate future, the Yankees could move Green to Saturday and move Masahiro Tanaka back a day again to Sunday, Girardi said.

The Yankees promoted Ronald Herrera from Double-A Trenton and sent Ben Heller down to Triple-A Scranton to add a fresh arm capable of potentially giving them distance if needed.

The Yankees are going to need someone to step up in Sabathia's expected absence. Is it Green? Domingo German? Chance Adams? Someone else? This is nothing new for the Bronx Bombers, who have already had to overcome several injuries this season.

CHAPMAN UPDATE

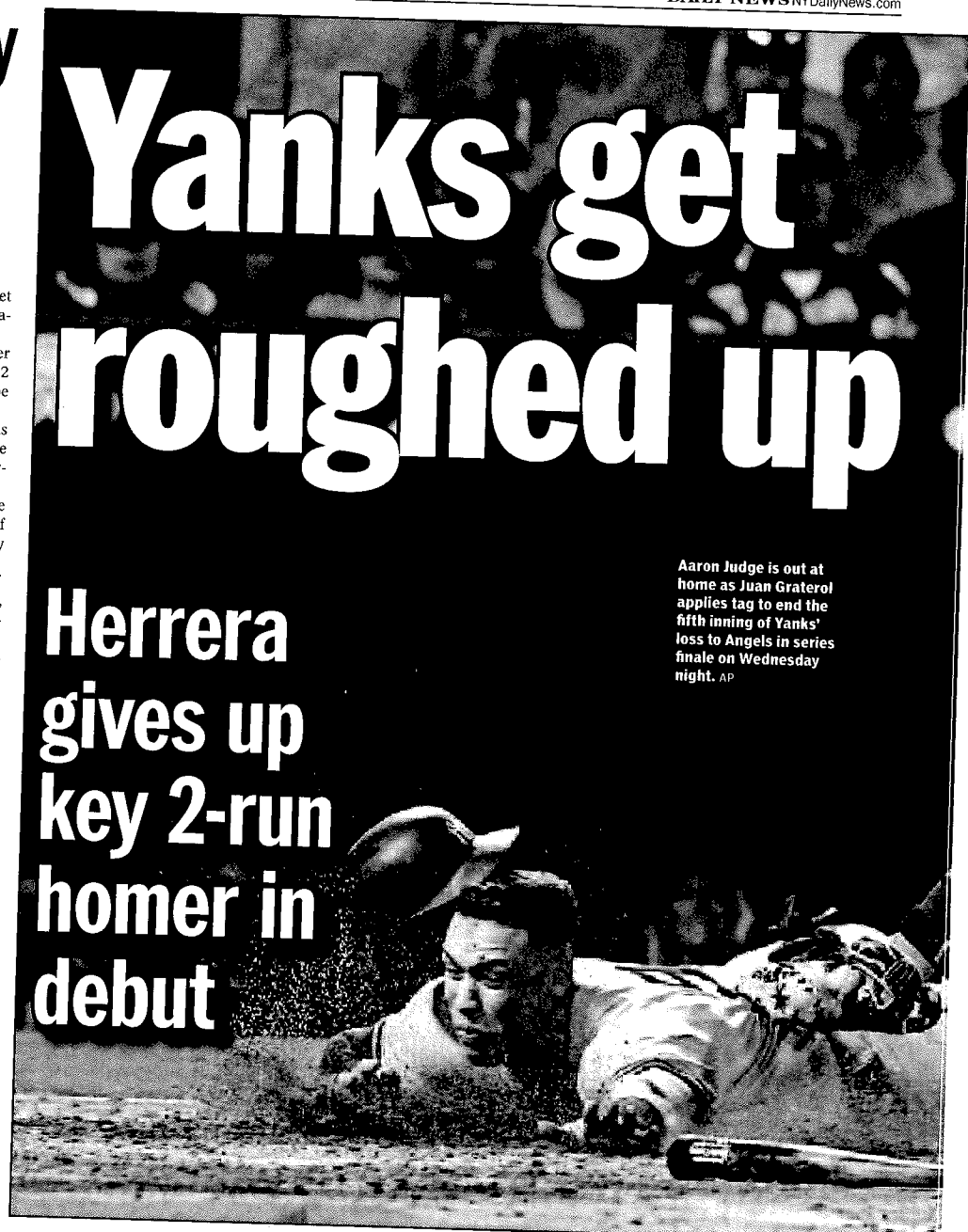
Aroldis Chapman (rotator cuff) threw a 23-pitch simulated game on Wednesday. He was supposed to pitch for Class A Tampa, but threw the simulated game instead due to inclement weather. Chapman remains on track to pitch for Double-A Trenton on Friday before being activated Sunday in Oakland.

LINEUP

On Wednesday, Aaron Judge was the DH, Matt Holliday was at first and Rob Refsnyder got the start in right field. Joe Girardi wanted to give Judge a half-day but still keep his explosive bat in the lineup.

Yanks get roughed up

Herrera gives up key 2-run homer in debut



Aaron Judge is out at home as Juan Graterol applies tag to end the fifth inning of Yanks' loss to Angels in series finale on Wednesday night. AP

Bird may have to fight his

ANAHEIM — Greg Bird, the best player in baseball during the spring, is going to have to earn his way back onto the first-place Yankees' roster. Joe Girardi's honest assessment of the struggling Bird at this point in his minor-league rehab stint from an ankle injury revealed as much on Wednesday.

"The results, they haven't been great is the bottom line, so we're trying to get him going is what we're trying to do," Girardi said. "I'm not there, so I'm not necessarily

watching his whole at-bats and how he's reacting to pitches, but when you look at the numbers, they're not what you expect from Greg Bird."

On Wednesday, Bird went 0-for-3 with two strikeouts and a walk in Triple-A Scranton's 6-5 victory over Rochester in Moosic, Pa. His Triple-A batting average sits at .143 (3-for-21). The Yankees could ultimately



MIKE MAZZEO

decide to option Bird and keep him in the minors if this lack of production at the plate continues.

According to people in the know, he simply isn't driving the ball like he did during the spring, when he hit a staggering .451 with eight homers.

Bird, who hit 11 homers and posted an .872 OPS during a 46-game stint with the Yankees in 2015, missed the entire 2016

NY Daily News 6.15.17 (42)



BY MIKE MAZZEO
YANKSGAMEDAY

GAME 63: June 14, 2017

Where: Anaheim

Yankees (38-25)

R	H	E
5	14	1

ANGELS (35-34)

7	12	2
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Big Mike did his best Gronk spike. Frustrated with the way he'd been pitching, Michael Pineda spiked the ball into the ground after catching it at first for the final out of the fifth inning. The Angels lit up Pineda like the tree outside of Angels Stadium for the team's Christmas in June celebration, scoring five runs on 10 hits. The 28-year-old righty did manage to somehow get through six innings.

The Angels ultimately beat the Yankees, 7-5, in the rubber game of their three-game series Wednesday night. Andrelton Simmons delivered a go-ahead two-run homer with two outs in the seventh inning off Ronald Herrera, who was making his MLB debut.

The Yankees showed some life in the ninth when Aaron Hicks hit a ball to the wall in right that appeared to be caught by Kole Calhoun. But after review the call was overturned when umpires said the ball hit the wall first, and Hicks was sent to second base. Aaron Judge came to the plate next as the tying run and grounded out to third on the first pitch to end the game.

PLAY OF THE GAME

Aaron Hicks made an incredible leaping catch in center to take a grand slam away from Luis Valbuena with one out in the first inning. It saved three runs.

TURNING POINT

The Yankees' first two hitters reached in the seventh inning. Judge followed with a lined shot to left, but series Yankee killer Eric Young Jr. dove to make the catch. Matt Holliday then popped up and Starlin Castro struck out to end the threat.

STAR OF THE GAME

Red-hot Gary Sanchez notched three hits, including a 441-foot, three-run homer with two outs in the first inning. Sanchez now has seven homers in his last 11 games.

EXTRAS

STAT OF THE DAY

1-2 Pineda is 6-1 with a 1.96 ERA at home and 1-2 with a 6.25 ERA on the road. Didi Gregorius extended his hitting streak to 16 with an infield single in the fourth inning.

UNsung HERO

Chase Headley collected two hits and made a couple of outstanding defensive plays. Headley has seven hits in his last four games.

M.I.A.

Usually reliable third-base coach Joe Espada had a rough evening. Espada sent Judge home on Starlin Castro's two-out single in the fifth inning. But Judge wasn't even at third yet and Eric Young Jr. already had the ball in left. Judge was out by a mile.

NEXT GAME

YANKEES AT ATHLETICS

Tonight, 10:05, Jordan Montgomery (4-4, 3.55) vs. Sonny Gray (2-2, 4.37), TV: YES



way out of slump in minors

campaign due to a shoulder injury.

"You want to see him swinging the bat and making hard contact," Girardi said. "I mean, that's the biggest thing, that he feels good at the plate."

Bird's fall is just as stunning as Aaron Judge's rise. On Opening Day, Bird hit third for the Yankees and Judge hit eighth. Now, Judge, the favorite to capture AL MVP honors, is hitting third and Bird, who hasn't been able to find his sweet swing from the spring, is hitting third for the Rail-Riders.

Bird fouled a ball off his ankle in the team's final Grapefruit League game, and simply hasn't been the same since. He tried to play through the injury but went 6-for-60 and was placed on the 10-day disabled list with a bone bruise in his right ankle on May 2.

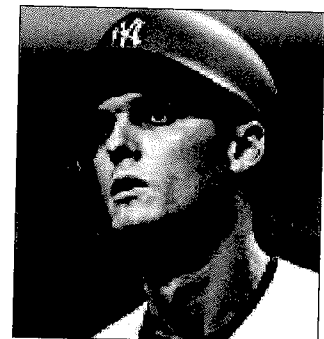
The Yankees were hopeful he'd be back shortly. That hasn't been the case.

Chris Carter continues to drive fans mad, leading them to ask on a daily basis when he'll be designated for assignment. Carter has a .669 OPS and minus-0.2

WAR, according to ESPN. On Tuesday night, he lost an accurate throw from Didi Gregorius in the lights and couldn't catch it at first base. His error led to an unearned run.

There's no doubt the Yankees miss Bird, or rather, the Bird they saw in the spring. But they've easily been able to overcome his absence because of the ascension of Judge and Gary Sanchez rediscovering his dominant hitting form from last season.

It doesn't appear Bird is going to be back anytime soon. He's simply going to have to earn his return.



Greg Bird may face extended stay in minors until he fights way out of slump. GETTY

(2/2)



Sanchez's big game not enough as Halos rally

By Barry M. Bloom and Kaelen Jones

June 15, 2017

ANAHEIM -- Andrelton Simmons smashed a go-ahead, two-run homer in the bottom of the seventh inning to gift the Angels a 7-5 win and capture a series victory over the Yankees in front of a sellout crowd at Angel Stadium on Wednesday night.

"I'm happy for me and my team that we came back from that early deficit," Simmons said. "The bullpen kept us in the game, and we put up good at-bats. I'm just glad I got to get the team a go-ahead home run."

The Yankees jumped ahead, 4-0, when Gary Sanchez crushed a three-run homer during the top of the first inning before the Angels chipped away at the deficit.

Angels first baseman Luis Valbuena nearly lifted a game-tying grand slam in the bottom of the first inning, but New York center fielder Aaron Hicks kept the ball in the park with a leaping grab to render the hit a one-run sacrifice fly.

Danny Espinosa drilled a two-run homer in the second inning, and in the third inning Albert Pujols scored on a wild pitch and Eric Young Jr. lined a go-ahead RBI single to give the Angels a 5-4 lead.

"We did a good job on the offensive end," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said.

Despite squandering a first-inning four-spot, New York starting pitcher Michael Pineda was able to draw a no-decision thanks to Chase Headley's one-run single in the top of the sixth. Pineda tossed six innings, relinquishing five runs on 10 hits and one walk, while striking out two.

"I thought his location was off. He wasn't down in the zone tonight for whatever reasons," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said about Pineda. "I thought he battled good. It looked like he was going to get knocked out in about the third inning and he ended up giving us six innings."

Angels starting pitcher Matt Shoemaker pitched three-plus innings before leaving with tightness in his forearm, however he said he's not worried about the injury.

"I'm just really annoyed and frustrated by it, because like anyone else, I want to go out there and pitch, help our team win," Shoemaker said. "I know we're going to see the next couple of days how it feels, how it reacts, which hopefully should be fine."

MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

Aaron, to the rescue!: Valbuena nearly tied the game when he lifted a ball deep into center field in the bottom of the first. But Hicks leapt into the air to rob him of a potential grand slam, relegating it to a one-run sac fly, and preserving the Yankees' lead at 4-1.

The night is Young's: Young got the better of Judge not once, but twice on Wednesday. Young threw out Judge at the plate to end the top of the fifth when the veteran fielded Castro's single in left, then roped a throw home well ahead of Judge, maintaining the Halos' 5-4 lead. Young also robbed Judge with a diving catch in left field during the top of the seventh. The play prevented runners on first and second base from advancing in the process, keeping the score tied at 5-5.

QUOTABLE

"I don't remember. Maybe softball, but not baseball. ... The videos from [Texas third baseman Adrian] Beltre probably helped." -- *Simmons, on whether he's ever hit a home run from his knees as he did when he launched Wednesday's go-ahead blast*

"The real story tonight is what **Parker Bridwell** did, what **Blake Parker** did and what **David Hernandez** did. That's a packed lineup over there." -- *Scioscia, on the Angels' bullpen holding the Yankees' lineup to one run after Shoemaker's early exit*

SOUND SMART WITH YOUR FRIENDS

According to **Statcast™**, Sanchez's projected 441-foot, three-run dinger in the first inning was his third longest of the season. In fact, each of Sanchez's 11 homers this year have been at least 409 feet, and his 431-foot average home run distance is the highest in the Major Leagues this year (min. 10 home runs).

REPLAY REVIEW

The Yankees challenged what was initially considered the final out of the game, when **Kole Calhoun** jumped against the right-field wall and caught Hicks' fly ball during the top of the ninth. Replay officials overturned the out, determining the ball made contact with the outfield wall prior to Calhoun securing possession. Hicks was subsequently placed on second base. Angels reliever David Hernandez then earned his first save on a game-ending groundout from Judge.

WHAT'S NEXT

Yankees: The Yankees move up the coast Thursday to Oakland, where they open a four-game series against the A's in a 10:05 p.m. ET start at the Oakland Coliseum. The Yanks are throwing rookie left-hander **Jordan Montgomery** against A's ace right-hander **Sonny Gray**.

Angels: The Halos open a four-game home set against Kansas City on Thursday night. Right-hander **Ricky Nolasco** (2-7, 4.81 ERA) will take the ball in the series opener, searching for his first win since April 27. First pitch is scheduled for 7:07 p.m. PT.

The New York Times

Sabathia Looks Headed to D.L. as Struggling Yankees Lose to Angels

By Billy Witz

June 14, 2017

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Sluggers like Aaron Judge and Gary Sanchez — and thus far, just about anybody else in the lineup — have been the scene stealers for the Yankees over the initial two and half months of the season, as they have bludgeoned their way to the top of the American League East.

But the bedrock of their ascent has been a surprisingly rock-solid starting rotation, which has kept the bullpen fresh and the big bats seemingly always in striking distance.

In recent days, though, the rotation has shown fissures — the latest coming Wednesday when C. C. Sabathia was found to have a Grade 2 hamstring strain, which is likely to sideline him for at least several weeks, and Michael Pineda offering up a disappointing performance in a 7-5 loss to the Los Angeles Angels.

Pineda was not around to be tagged with the defeat; that went to Ronald Herrera, who was called up from Class AA Trenton and had his debut ruined by a two-run home run by Andrelton Simmons.

And Eric Young Jr., who the Yankees brought in last September as a pinch-runner and little else, tormented them for the second consecutive night — gunning down Judge at home plate and later robbing him of the go-ahead hit with a diving catch of a blistering line drive.

But the tone setter for this defeat was Pineda, who was staked to a four-run lead before he threw a pitch and was fortunate not to have given it back five hitters into the game.

An audacious catch by Aaron Hicks, who leapt at the wall to rob Luis Valbuena of a grand slam, spared Pineda that ignominy but it could not inspire him to pitch better.

He allowed 10 hits and five runs — both equaling season highs he posted two starts ago at Toronto — and did not strike out a batter until the sixth inning. Pineda expressed

his frustration when he spiked the baseball after covering first base for the final out in the fourth, his first scoreless inning.

“Today is a really tough night for me,” Pineda said. “I tried to give the opportunity to my team.”

Manager Joe Girardi bristled at the suggestion that with Masahiro Tanaka’s inconsistency, Sabathia’s injury and a second poor performance by Pineda in his last three starts, the starting rotation might be showing cracks.

“You want to make a judgment, make a judgment, but I’m not ready to make a judgment,” Girardi said. He later added: “Our rotation has been pretty good. You’re taking a snapshot. It’s a couple of games.”

While Girardi acknowledged the loss of Sabathia could be a significant one — he is 7-2 with a 3.46 earned run average and had been dominant in his six starts before the injury — Girardi was vague on how long Sabathia, a 36-year-old left-hander, would be out.

“He’ll be back when he’s back,” said Girardi, who acknowledged that the injury would prevent Sabathia from keeping his arm in throwing shape. “That’s all I can tell you. You’ve got to see how he reacts to treatment.”

A Grade 2 strain typically sidelines players for at least four weeks, and this is the second time Sabathia has had a hamstring injury that was categorized as Grade 2. But Sabathia said this did not seem as severe as the one he suffered at the end of the 2013 season, which prevented him from making his final start of the season.

“Just going off how I feel in these early stages makes me think it won’t be that long,” he said.

Girardi appeared to be considering starting Chad Green in place of Sabathia, but moving him up to Saturday so that Tanaka could be given an additional day of rest and pitch Sunday, which would have been Sabathia’s spot.

The Yankees were so afraid to start Tanaka at home last Sunday against Baltimore that they pushed his start to Monday against the Angels. Instead of calling up a starter from the minor leagues, the Yankees used five relievers to beat the Orioles. But that decision came at a cost with the subsequent injury to Sabathia, which limited him to four innings, and an 11-inning loss on Tuesday.

In the previous three days, Green had thrown 53 pitches, Chasen Shreve 60, Jonathan Holder 43, Adam Warren 46 and Tyler Clippard 36.

“Our bullpen is pretty fried,” Girardi said before the game.

That explains why Girardi stuck with Pineda and also why he turned to Herrera, who was awakened at 3:30 a.m. at a hotel in Hartford, and told to head west. He entered to start the seventh with the score tied and Albert Pujols at the plate.

“That’s really what I had,” Girardi said. “Obviously, we’ll get some guys back tomorrow, but that was what it was today. We knew the kid was going to pitch at some point today, but we didn’t know exactly when.”

Herrera allowed a two-out walk to Valbuena, and Simmons jumped on a first-pitch curveball, going down to one knee to club it an estimated 409 feet to left field.

That the Yankees would be behind seemed so unlikely after Sanchez’s three-run homer had pushed the Yankees to an early lead. But the Angels got one run back on Valbuena’s near-slam, added two more in the second on a home run by Danny Espinosa (who was hitting .164 entering Wednesday) and took a 5-4 lead in the third on a wild pitch by Pineda and a single by Young.

Pineda settled down enough for the Yankees to tie the score in the sixth, when reliever Parker Bridwell threw away a dribbler by Sanchez, putting him in position to score on Chase Headley’s single.

The Yankees had one more chance late. Hicks appeared to have been robbed by right fielder Kole Calhoun, who leapt against the wall to snag his two-out drive. As Calhoun and the Angels celebrated, the Yankees appealed — and the call was overturned.

That brought up Judge, who leads baseball with 22 home runs and seemed due for a turn of good luck after being thrown out at the plate by Young to end the fifth and being robbed of an extra-base hit by him in the seventh. But Judge, jumping on the first pitch from reliever Bud Norris, grounded sharply to third.



Yankees summon in Double-A arm, who blows game in debut | Rapid reaction

By Randy Miller

June 15, 2017

ANAHEIM -- The Yankees made an eye-opening roster move Wednesday to add a fresh arm to their overworked bullpen.

They passed on pitchers with Major League experience such as Brian Mitchell and Luis Cessa to double-jump a kid who has been lights out this season as a starter in the Eastern League for the Trenton Thunder.

Greg Bird's rehabbing isn't going well and CC Sabathia didn't get good news in his MRI.

By night's end, this risky decision backfired.

Right-hander Ronald Herrera was sent in for his debut with the Yankees and Los Angeles tied in the seventh inning.

Four batters later, the Yankees were down two runs and on their way to losing 7-5.

Herrera learned the hard way that big-league hitters kill hanging curveballs.

The 5-foot-11, 185-pounder from Venezuela served one up with a runner on to Aldrelton Simmons, and the Angels shortstop whacked it over the left-center field wall for a two-run homer that broke a 5-5 tie.

The late-inning blast sunk the Yankees, who lost the final two games of the series after taking the opener to stretch a winning streak to six games.

Herrera, 22, joined the Yankees with great Double-A stats, as he was 7-0 with a league-best 1.07 ERA in eight starts for the Thunder.

In his big-league debut, Herrera retired the first two batters he faced, first Albert Pujols on a chopper to second and then Yunel Escobar on a grounder to third.

From there, Luis Valbuena worked a two-out walk, then Simmons hit a first-pitch curve out for a 7-5 lead.

The Yankees lost despite taking a 4-0 first-inning lead on a sacrifice fly by Matt Holliday and three-run homer by Gary Sanchez, his 11th.

The lead didn't last long because Yankees starter Michael Pineda had nothing early, and the game would have been tied in the bottom of the first if center fielder Aaron Hicks hadn't leaped over the center-field wall to turn a grand slam into a sacrifice fly.

The Angels settled for one run in the first, but scored two in the second on a homer by Danny Espinosa and took a 5-4 lead in the third when scoring runs on a wild pitch and RBI hit by Eric Young Jr., who had two great games in a row.

With the Yankees bullpen used for 16 innings over the previous three games, Pineda was kept in the game, and to his credit, he gutted his way through six innings holding the Angels to five runs.

The Yankees had all kinds of chances to score after the first, but managed just a single run in the sixth when Chase Headley tied the game at 5-5 with an RBI single.

The Yankees wasted Rob Refsnyder's one-out triple in the second, came up empty in the fifth when Aaron Judge was thrown out at the plate trying to score on a two-out hit by Starlin Castro and didn't score in the seventh after putting two on with one out.

NOTABLE

-- There was a strange ending to the game, as the Angels thought they'd won on a great leaping catch at the right-field wall by Kole Calhoun, but the final out was overturned on a replay review and Hicks was awarded a double. That allowed Judge, the majors' leading home run hitter, to bat representing the tying run, but reliever David Hernandez induced a game-ending, two-hop groundball to third base.

-- Shortstop Didi Gregorius extended his career-long hitting streak to 16 games with a fourth-inning infield single. This is the Yankees' longest streak since Jacoby Ellsbury hit in 17 straight in 2014.

-- Yankees left-hander CC Sabathia suffered a Grade 2 left hamstring strain during the fourth inning of his start Tuesday night, an MRI revealed. He's expected to be placed on the 10-day disabled list Thursday and likely will be sidelined for at least a couple weeks and perhaps more than a month. Brendan Kuty of NJ Advance Media reported Triple-A right-hander Domingo German will join the Yankees in Oakland on Thursday, presumably to take Sabathia's spot on the 25-man roster.

-- Angels righty starter Matt Shoemaker exited with the Yankees batting in the fourth due to tightness in his pitching forearm.

LOOKING AHEAD

Thursday: Yankees at Oakland Athletics, 10:05 p.m., EST; YES Network. LHP Jordan Montgomery (4-4, 3.55) vs. RHP Sonny Gray (2-2, 4.37).

Friday: Yankees at Oakland Athletics, 9:35 p.m., EST; YES Network. RHP Luis Severino (5-2, 2.75) vs. LHP Sean Manaea (6-3, 3.67).

Saturday: Yankees at Oakland Athletics, 4:05 p.m., EST; YES Network. RHP Masahiro Tanaka (5-6, 6.07) vs. RHP Jesse Hahn (2-4, 3.56).

Sunday: Yankees at Oakland Athletics, 4:05 p.m., EST; YES Network. TBA vs. RHP Jharel Cotton (3-6, 5.22).

AP

Simmons' two-run homer leads Angels past Yankees, 7-5

June 15, 2017

ANAHEIM, Calif. -- Andrelton Simmons as known as one of the finest defensive shortstops in the majors, though that hardly means he doesn't enjoy swinging the bat well.

The Angels shortstop enjoyed his offensive output plenty Wednesday night, drilling a two-run homer in the seventh to snap a tie game and lead Los Angeles to a 7-5 victory over the New York Yankees.

"It's nice to contribute offensively," Simmons said.

Simmons fell to one knee to hit his seventh home run and ruin the major league debut of New York right-hander Ronald Herrera (0-1).

"I was on it the whole way, but it just kept going lower and I wanted to stay with it," he said.

Danny Espinosa also hit a two-run homer for the Angels, and Gary Sanchez a three-run shot for the Yankees.

Blake Parker (2-2) earned the victory in relief. Angels starter Matt Shoemaker left the game in the fourth inning with what the team called tightness of his right forearm extensor muscle.

"I'm just really annoyed and frustrated by it," Shoemaker said. "I'm not really concerned about it at all."

Powered by the Sanchez three-run homer, the Yankees scored four times in the first but could add only one other run the rest of the night.

After winning six consecutive games, the Yankees dropped the last two and the series to the Angels.

"We had chances to win every game," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "We had a lot of opportunities tonight. We just didn't get it done."

Yankees shortstop Didi Gregorius' infield single in the fourth pushed his career-high hitting streak to 16 games.

PINEDA GRINDS

Michael Pineda started for the Yankees and gave up four runs in the first three innings, before settling down to go six innings. He allowed five runs on 10 hits and a walk.

"He struggled with his command," Girardi said. "I wasn't sure he'd last three innings. But he battled and gave us six."

ANGELS BULLPEN

After Shoemaker was forced to exit the game with no outs in the fourth, the Angels bullpen held the Yankees to one run over the last six innings. Parker Bridwell, Blake Parker and Hernandez held New York without an earned run.

"That was the story of the game," said Angels manager Mike Scioscia. "That's a powerful lineup. What they did was truly extraordinary."

YANKEES BULLPEN

The Yankees used six relief pitchers Tuesday night when Sabathia was injured and needed Pineda and Herrera to come through Wednesday.

"It was really about all I had," Girardi said. "I can't hurt people."

YOUNG DEFENSE

Young did more than just contribute with his bat. He made two strong defensive plays to help contain Yankees rookie sensation Aaron Judge. Young threw him out at the plate in the fifth and made a diving catch of a Judge line drive with two on in the seventh.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Yankees: LHP CC Sabathia was diagnosed with a Grade 2 left hamstring strain and could be out at least four weeks. . Closer Aroldis Chapman (shoulder inflammation) threw a 22-pitch simulated game in Florida, the team concerned the Single-A game would again be rained out. He is scheduled make a final rehab appearance for Double-A Trenton on Friday and then activated Sunday.

Angels: Reliever Huston Street (right lat strain) could only manage one out in his rehab outing for Single-A Inland Empire Wednesday. He surrendered two hits, two

walks and three runs. . Reliever Cam Bedrosian (right groin strain) is scheduled to pitch for the Inland Empire Thursday. If it goes well, he is expected to be activated by Saturday.

SABATHIA WATCH

Girardi wasn't about to speculate when his ace would be able to return.

"He'll be ready when he's ready," Girardi said. "With a pitcher (hamstrings) are a little bit tougher, because they can't throw.

UP NEXT

Yankees: LHP Jordan Montgomery (4-4, 3.55 ERA) is scheduled to open a four-game series in Oakland. The rookie hopes to continue his recent turnaround. After going 2/3 with a 4.81 ERA in his first seven starts, he's gone 2-1 with a 1.50 ERA in his last four starts.

Angels: Struggling right-hander Ricky Nolasco (2-7, 4.81 ERA) will be looking for his first victory since April 27 when he opens a four-game series at home against the Kansas City Royals. In eight career starts against the Royals, he is 2-4 with a 4.80 ERA.



Pineda struggles through six innings as Yankees fall to Angels

By Chris Carelli

June 15, 2017

Michael Pineda pitched six innings, allowing five runs on 10 hits as the Yankees lost the rubber game to the Angels, 7-5, on Wednesday night.

Pineda found trouble in the first three innings of the game, giving up all five runs in those opening frames.

The Yankees struck first with four runs in the opening inning as **Gary Sanchez** delivered the big blow with a three-run homer. That lead was short-lived; Danny Espinosa hit a two-run home run in the third inning to give the Angels a 5-4 lead.

Chase Headley knocked in a run with an RBI single in the top of the sixth inning to tie the game 5-5. The Angels reclaimed the lead after an Andrelton Simmons two-run home run in the bottom of the seventh inning.

The Yankees were hampered by missed opportunities as they left 13 runners on base.

The Yankees' West Coast trip continues Thursday when they begin a four-game series against the Oakland Athletics. Game time is set for 10:05 p.m. ET.

YANKEES NOTEBOOK

Bird trying to find swing in minors

BY ERIK BOLAND
erik.boland@newsday.com

ANAHEIM, Calif. — All indications are Greg Bird's health is just fine, but his swing isn't.

And until the Yankees deem it is, it doesn't sound like the first baseman will be rejoining the club anytime soon.

"The results, they haven't

been great," Joe Girardi said yesterday. "Trying to get him going is what we're trying to do. We'll continue to let him play and hopefully he gets it going."

Bird, who has been out since May 2 with a right ankle bone bruise, went 0-for-3 last night in his sixth rehab game, dropping his average to .143 with a .595 OPS.

Girardi didn't shoot down the possibility of Bird staying in the minors until his swing has returned with results to prove it.

"You want to see him swinging the bat and making hard contact, I think that's the big thing," Girardi said. "I'm not there so I'm not necessarily watching the whole at-bat and how he's reacting to pitches,

but when you look at the numbers, they're not what we expect from Greg Bird."

■ Judge starts at DH

Aaron Judge got a partial day off last night — he was the DH as Rob Refsnyder got the start in right field.

"I need to get Judge a day here somewhere," Girardi said of the

25-year-old, who started 58 of the Yankees' first 62 games in right. "Try to get him off his feet a little bit and he stays somewhat rested in his legs. Trying to keep all the guys strong during this stretch [33 games in 34 days]."

Matt Holliday started at first in place of Chris Carter.

■ Chapman nears return

LHP Aroldis Chapman (left rotator cuff inflammation) threw a 23-pitch simulated game yesterday and will pitch tomorrow for Double-A Trenton. He could return Sunday in Oakland.

Newsday
@.15.17

TRIAL AND

Girardi thinks big picture in making small sacrifice

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Some nights, you walk away from a ballgame muttering, "What the hell was [your manager] doing?!"

No such mystery existed Wednesday night at Angel Stadium. If you didn't know precisely what Joe Girardi was doing with his Yankees, then you might be a football fan.

Girardi gave this one away by design. He took the loss, 7-5 to the Angels, after his club jumped out to a 4-0, first-inning advantage, in the hopes of securing a couple of bigger-picture victories.

We'll need time to see if those victories emerge. Really, though, you can't fault the thinking that led to the Yankees' second straight defeat.

After Michael Pineda displayed toughness in grinding through six innings, Girardi turned to rookie right-hander Ronald Herrera, making his major league debut in a 5-5 contest. Herrera retired the first two batters he faced, only to walk Luis Valbuena and then serve up the game-winning, two-run homer to Andrelton Simmons.

Why turn to a newbie — a newbie who got the call from Double-A Trenton, not even the top rung of the minor league ladder — in such a high-leverage spot? Because the Yankees found themselves leveraged out. Their bullpen, as Girardi said before the game, was "fried," the result of an 11-inning loss to the Angels on Tuesday in which CC Sabathia departed after four innings with a left hamstring strain: a "bullpen game" victory over the Orioles on Sunday in which Chad Green lasted just two-plus innings; and, overall, a six-game winning streak prior to Tuesday's game in which everyone got regular work.

With the workhorse Sabathia down for as long as four weeks with a Grade 2 strain, meanwhile, Girardi figures to lean on his bullpen more moving forward. Sabathia is tied with Friday night's starter Luis Severino for the team lead of 75 1/3 innings.

So the Yankees (38-25), who saw their American League East lead over the surging Red Sox (37-28) drop to two games

overall and three in the loss column, can spin it that their relievers will be better prepared for action now. That Herrera got his feet wet. And, perhaps most important, Pineda showed he can hang in there on a night when he lacks his best stuff.

Maybe Pineda got thrown off by his teammates sending seven men to the plate and scoring four of them before he even took the mound. Maybe this marked a continuation of his drastic home/road disparity; he now has a 6.25 ERA in 31 2/3 away innings as opposed to 1.96 in 46 innings at

Yankee Stadium. Regardless, he looked so awful in the bottom of the first, allowing hard-hit ball after hard-hit ball, you wondered whether he would've made it past the first inning had this been a do-or-die post-season contest. The Yankees

minimized the damage to just one Angels run thanks to Aaron Hicks' brilliant, grand slam-saving catch of a Valbuena blast, leaping over the fence to change it to a sacrifice fly. Nevertheless, the Angels added two more runs in the second on Danny Espinosa's two-run homer and took the 5-4 edge with two tallies in the third.

And then ... Pineda, not known at all for his ability to adjust on the fly, calmed down. The Angels didn't score in Pineda's final three innings, which allowed the Yankees to tie the game at 5-5 in the sixth. For his final batter, the incredibly hot former Yankee and Met Eric Young Jr., Pineda — dealing with a man on second — huddled with his catcher Gary Sanchez on a full count and whiffed Young on a 92-mph fastball. That marked his 102nd and final delivery of the night.

Herrera's entrance and the Yankees' resulting negative shouldn't take away from what Pineda did in the positive. This was one for the marathon, respecting the length of the baseball season. Whether it works only partly matters. You want your manager to utilize sound process, even if it doesn't lead to good outcomes, and that's what Girardi did.

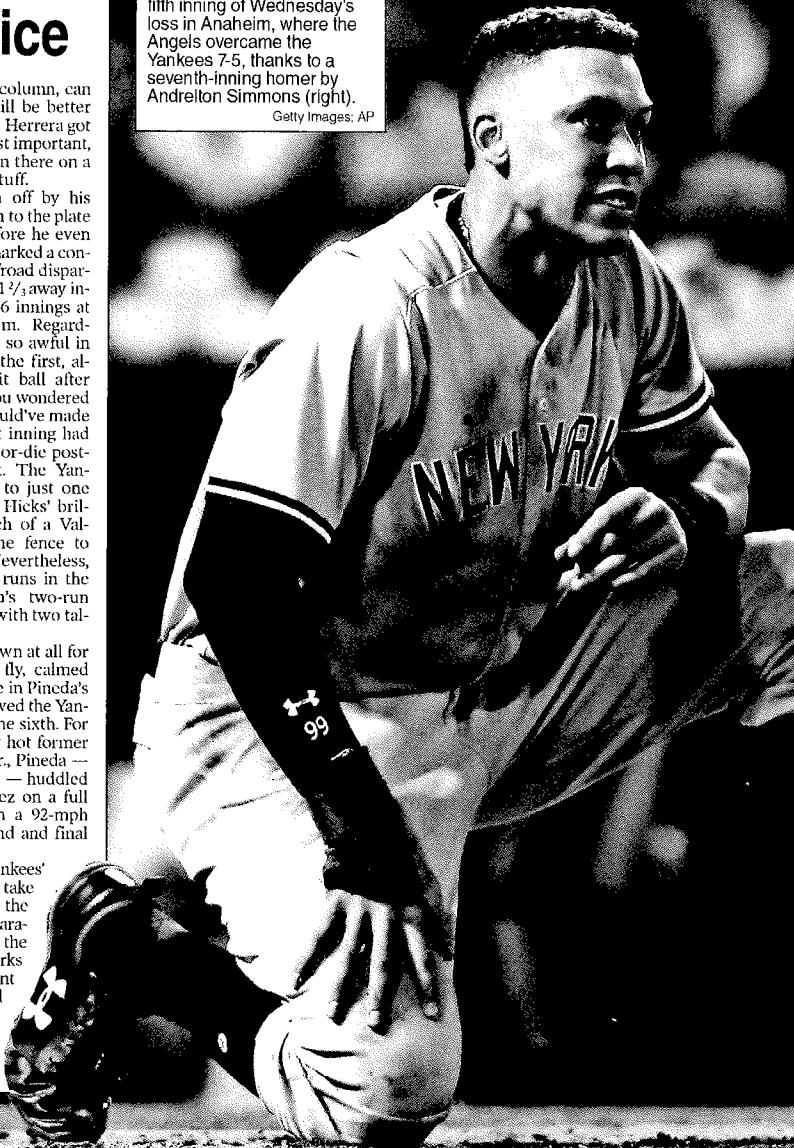
kdavidoff@nypost.com

GUILTY VERDICT: Aaron Judge reacts after being thrown out at the plate in the fifth inning of Wednesday's loss in Anaheim, where the Angels overcame the Yankees 7-5, thanks to a seventh-inning homer by Andrelton Simmons (right).

Getty Images: AP



Ken Davidoff



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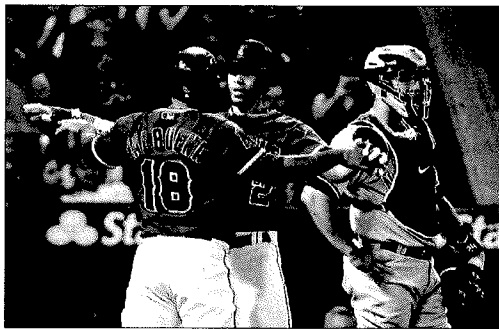
ERROR

By GEORGE A. KING III

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Watching the Yankees and Angels Wednesday night at Angel Stadium was akin to reading a poorly written lease.

The best play of the game was provided by Aaron Hicks, who denied Luis Valbuena of a first-inning grand slam by jumping high enough to get his glove over the center-field wall and bring the ball back into play with a brilliant grab.

ANGELS	7	Boxscore Page 46
YANKEES	5	



Debut turns disaster for reliever Herrera

From there it turned into a game devoid of rhythm or pace, but because MLB demands a winner the Angels obliged with a 7-5 victory in front of an announced crowd of 43,851 that witnessed Michael Pineda blowing a four-run lead in the first inning.

The Yankees (38-25) dropped two of three to the Angels and had their AL East lead over the second-place Red Sox sliced to two games.

Having used six relievers Tuesday, two Monday, four Sunday and describing his bullpen as "fried" before the game, manager Joe Girardi turned to Ronald Herrera, who was promoted from Double-A Trenton earlier in the day, with the score tied 5-5, and Albert Pujols leading off the seventh.

Two pitches later, the 22-year-old right-hander in his major league debut had two outs. Then he walked Luis Valbuena and watched Andrelton Simmons crush a first-pitch breaking ball for a two-run homer.

Brett Gardner opened the seventh with an infield single behind second base and Hicks, who had two hits in a dozen at-bats, dropped a bunt down the third base line for a 4-5-foot hit.

Aaron Judge's sinking line drive to left was snagged by a diving Eric Young Jr. for the first out and Matt Holliday popped up for the second. Blake Parker arrived from the bullpen to

face Starlin Castro and with the count full, Castro flailed at a third strike to strand two.

By the third inning a 4-0 Yankees lead taken in the first inning when Gary Sanchez clubbed a three-run homer was given back by Pineda. He gave up a run in the first and two each in the second and third.

Pineda, who is tied with CC Sabathia for the club lead in victories with seven, gave up five runs and 10 hits in six innings.

The Angels' outfielders don't have strong throwing arms and Young's is below average, but it was enough to throw out Judge at the plate to end the fifth inning and keep the Angels ahead 5-4.

With Judge on second and Matt Holliday on first and two outs, Starlin Castro laced a single to left where Young fielded the ball

and unleashed a one-hop throw that arrived ahead of a Judge, whose head-first slide wasn't enough to get him home.

A throwing error by Angels pitcher Parker Bridwell helped the Yankees tie the score 5-5 in the sixth. Bridwell fielded Sanchez's grounder and threw wide past first. Sanchez was credited with a third hit and the pitcher was tagged with an error that allowed Sanchez to reach second. Chase Headley's one-out single to center plated Sanchez and tied the score, 5-5.

Judge stepped to the plate in the ninth representing the tying run — with Hicks on second after Kole Calhoun's catch against the wall was overturned — but ground out to third.

george.king@nypost.com

JUDGEMENT DAY
Tracking Aaron Judge's incredible rookie season

Judge, starting at DH, got thrown out trying to score in the fifth inning and grounded out to end the game.

2017 SEASON

HR..... 22
RBI..... 49
AVG.... .338

Yanks fear CC headed for DL stint

By GEORGE A. KING III

YANKEES NOTES

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The first cut hurt. How deep it is remains to be discovered.

Nobody expected the Yankees' rotation to avoid injury across a six-month season that extracts a severe toll on starters' bodies.

However, through Tuesday no starter had missed a turn. Then, CC Sabathia left the fourth inning of an eventual 3-2, 11-inning loss to the Angels with a strained left hamstring.

Immediately after the game, and before Sabathia was stuffed into a MRI tube Wednesday morning, manager Joe Girardi said he "anticipated" a stint on the disabled list for the veteran lefty.

Before Wednesday night's game at Angels Stadium, the Yankees announced Sabathia had a Grade 2 strain after team doctor Chris Ahmad read the results of the MRI exam.

The club didn't immediately put Sabathia on the disabled list, but late in the 2013 season, the left-hander went on the DL with a Grade 2 strain of the same hamstring.

"He feels OK and walking around pretty good. He said he feels better than expected so we will see what Dr. Ahmad says and we will have a determination about what we are going to do," Girardi said of Sabathia, who was in the clubhouse but didn't address the injury.

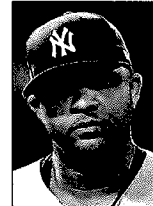
"We are going to make sure he is healthy before he takes the mound because there are risks of a lot of things that could happen. It's a little bit too early to determine the timetable."

How long the 36-year-old Sabathia will be out should determine who takes his spot in the rotation. If it's deemed a short-term problem (10 days at the earliest) the Yankees aren't likely to summon a pitcher from the minor leagues who isn't on the 40-man roster.

Girardi mentioned reliever Chad Green, who started this past Sunday against the Orioles so

Tanaka could work Monday against the Angels, as a possibility to start Saturday or Sunday. Girardi said they could push Tanaka from Saturday to Sunday if that fit better, but the decision will be based on who is needed before then.

However, if Sabathia has to miss three or four starts or more, the Yankees could elevate Chance Adams, Brady Lail or Caleb Smith from Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre. Bryan Mitchell and Luis Cessa are pitching for the RailRiders who are on the 40-man roster, as is Domingo German.



CC SABATHIA

► If all goes right, **Ar-oldis Chapman** will be activated from the disabled list Sunday in Oakland, Calif., and return to the closer's role **Dellin Betances** handled flawlessly when Chapman went down with an inflamed left rotator cuff.

Wednesday in Tampa, Chapman threw 23 pitches in a simulated game and Girardi said it went well. Chapman is slated to pitch for Double-A Trenton on Friday and then be activated Sunday.

Chapman's last big league outing was May 12, and going into Wednesday night's game at Angel Stadium, Betances had appeared in nine games as the Yankees' closer.

► Wanting to give **Aaron Judge's** huge legs a break, Girardi used him as the designated hitter Wednesday.

Rob Refsnyder started in right field and **Matt Holliday** was at first base. It was Refsnyder's fifth start this year, but the first one at a position other than first base. Holliday started at first for the sixth time.

► The Yankees elevated right-handed reliever **Ronald Herrera** from Trenton to the big leagues Wednesday and optioned fellow righty **Ben Heller** to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.

(2/2)



Montgomery looks to keep rolling vs. A's

By Glenn Satell

June 14, 2017

Jordan Montgomery is pitching his best baseball of the season, and the left-hander looks to keep it going on Thursday night as he gets the start for the Yankees when they visit Oakland Coliseum in the first game of a four-game series with the A's. Right-hander Sonny Gray will oppose him on the mound for Oakland.

In two starts this month, Montgomery is 2-0 with a 1.38 ERA, and he has struck out 13 batters over 13 innings while walking only four and allowing just two runs. In stints at Toronto and at home against Baltimore, Montgomery had a 0.92 WHIP and opposing batters hit just .174 against him.

Pitching his best baseball at home, Gray looks to improve on his 2-0 mark and 2.92 ERA over four starts this season at the Coliseum. Against the Yankees, the right-hander is 1-2 with a 4.44 ERA over four career starts. In 24 1/3 innings, Gray has struck out 20 Yanks batters while yielding 23 hits, including one home run (Chris Carter).

Three things to know about this game

- Left-handed hitters are batting just .220 against Gray, but right-handers have compiled a .286 average against him.
- Gray has been dominant in the early innings. He has a 1.13 ERA over the first and second innings this season, but a 6.03 ERA from the third inning on.
- Montgomery is making his first career appearance against the A's. He is 3-3 lifetime against American League teams (1-1 vs. National League teams).

Sabathia, With Strain, Looks Destined for D.L.

By BILLY WITZ

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The Yankees were dealt a blow on Wednesday night even before they took the field against the Los Angeles Angels: C. C. Sabathia had been found to have a Grade 2 (or moderate) strain in his hamstring, an injury that would almost assuredly send him to the disabled list.

Sabathia, who left Tuesday night's loss at the conclusion of the fourth inning, was not placed on the D.L. immediately because the Yankees were not able to call up a replacement quickly enough. Still, earlier in the day, the team had made another move to replenish what Manager Joe Girardi described as a fried bullpen: sending Ben Heller to Class AAA Scranton/Wilkes-Barre and summoning Ronald Herrera from Class AA Trenton.

Sabathia sustained a similar injury late in September 2013, ending his season early.

The Yankees will have to plug the hole in the rotation caused by Sabathia's injury, and they also face a vexing problem at first base.

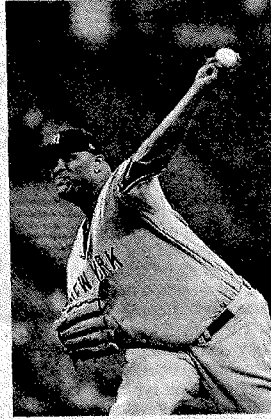
Chris Carter has shown some faint signs of life in his bat, but his error at first base on a routine play cost the Yankees a run in their 3-2 loss to the Angels in 11 innings Tuesday. It also landed him on the bench Wednesday, with Matt Holliday — the usual designated hitter — taking his spot.

A pitcher's hamstring injury leaves the Yankees with multiple holes to plug.

More significantly, Girardi, who typically glosses over his players' poor performances, did no such thing in describing where first baseman Greg Bird stands as he recovers from an ankle injury, which sent him to the disabled list more than a month ago. Bird, who struck out, walked and grounded out twice with Scranton/Wilkes-Barre on Wednesday night, has just three hits in 21 at-bats over the past week.

Girardi did not dismiss the possibility that Bird, who had a torrid spring training but a frigid start to the season, would remain in the minors until he found his swing.

"I think anything's a possibility," Girardi said. "I think you have to make a determination on how the player is doing. You just let it play out."



JAE C. HONG/ASSOCIATED PRESS

C.C. Sabathia on Tuesday. He left the game at the conclusion of the fourth inning.

Noting that Bird, who had gone 6 for 60 when he was placed on the disabled list last month, had grounded out three times on Tuesday, Girardi said, "The results, they haven't been great, is the bottom line."

He added: "You want to see him swinging the bat and making hard contact. I think that's the big thing — that he feels good at the plate. I'm not there, so I'm not necessarily watching the whole at-bat and how he's reacting to pitches, but when you look at the numbers, they're not what we expected from Greg Bird."

As for the options to replace Sabathia, Girardi said that Chad Green, who started Sunday's win over Baltimore, was among the candidates. He added that the Yankees could bump Masahiro Tanaka's scheduled start back to Sunday at Oakland — a game Sabathia is scheduled to pitch near his hometown, Vallejo, Calif. — and have Green or another starter pitch on Saturday instead.

Although Girardi did not say what the Yankees would do with Sabathia, they need look no further than the Mets to see the problems that hamstrings can cause. Yoenis Cespedes tweaked his hamstring in early May, spent a couple of days on the bench and then, after returning, injured it severely. He missed a month.

Sabathia, who is 7-2 with a 3.46 E.R.A., had won his last five starts before Tuesday's. His injury was to his left hamstring, the leg he uses to push off from the pitching rubber toward home plate.

"We're going to make sure he's healthy before he takes the mound," Girardi said. "We're not going to send him out there because there's risk of a lot of other things that could happen."

NY Times 6.15.17

4D Thursday, June 15, 2017 R

The Journal News lohud.com

YANKEES

Grade II hamstring strain benches Sabathia

PETE CALDERA
THE RECORD OF NORTH JERSEY

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Any hope that CC Sabathia could avoid the disabled list was dashed by Wednesday evening.

The veteran Yankees lefty was diagnosed with a Grade II left hamstring strain according to the club, an injury that could keep him sidelined until around the All-Star break.

Before the official diagnosis, Yankees manager Joe Girardi was awaiting the recommendation of team physician, Dr. Christopher Ahmad, who was examining Sabathia's MRI taken earlier Wednesday.

"He feels OK, he's walking around pretty good," Girardi said before the Yankees-Angels

series finale at Angel Stadium. "He felt better than what he expected, so we'll see what Dr. Ahmad says."

Sabathia was receiving treatment in the trainer's room and did not speak to reporters prior to Wednesday night's game.

His injury occurred in Tuesday night's eventual 3-2, 11-inning victory that snapped the Yankees' six-game winning streak.

Having won his previous five starts, Sabathia yielded one unearned run through four innings on Tuesday, posting a 0.99 ERA since May 16. But he did not come out for the fifth.

What should have been an easy 1-2-3 fourth inning was extended when first baseman

Chris Carter let a throw from Didi Gregorius glance off his glove for a glaring error. C.J. Cron followed with a broken bat, RBI single.

Cron was caught stealing to end the inning, and Sabathia walked gingerly off the mound, having felt his hamstring grab a pitch earlier.

"I thought maybe it was a cramp, and I went to push off the last time and it hurt. It didn't feel good," Sabathia said after the game, adding that he didn't feel a pop. "I thought I might be fine and went to throw the next pitch."

With the surprising Yankees (38-24) leading the AL East, "it (stinks)," Sabathia said of the injury's timing. "You want to be out there with the guys and you

just feel bad. Just a tough situation."

Sabathia had finished the 2013 season on the DL due to a Grade II left hamstring strain, but "I can't really compare it because I don't remember it," he said.

And though Girardi seemed resigned that Sabathia was headed to the DL after Tuesday's game, the manager was more optimistic on Wednesday.

"I think it's always encouraging if you don't wake up really sore," Girardi said.

For now, Girardi said that Chad Green is a candidate to replace Sabathia, whose next turn was due to occur Sunday at Oakland.

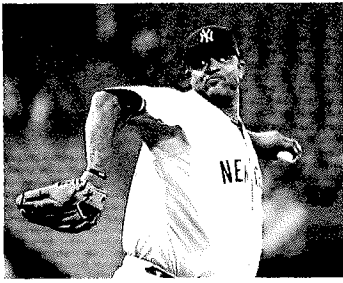
Girardi floated the idea that Green — or another candidate

— could start on Saturday at Oakland, with Masahiro Tanaka's scheduled next start moved from Saturday to Sunday's series finale.

"For us, it's going to be determined on what happens in the next few days," Girardi said, guarding against the possibility of needing Green in long relief. "I mean, our bullpen is pretty fried. We've got to get through the next couple of days before I make a determination."

Green started last Sunday against the Orioles and tossed two innings, allowing the Yanks to provide the struggling Tanaka an extra day to work on his mechanics. Tanaka took a no-decision in Monday's 5-3 win to open the road trip.

Journal News
6.15.17



The Yankees' CC Sabathia was injured against the Angels on Tuesday night in Anaheim, Calif. *Jae C. Hong/Associated Press*

Sore hamstring likely to send Sabathia to DL

Randy Miller *For The Star-Ledger*

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Yankees left-hander CC Sabathia was shutting out the Los Angeles Angels Tuesday when his latest strong outing took a turn he didn't see coming.

All first baseman Chris Carter had to do was catch a head-high throw from short-stop Didi Gregorius and the Angels would have been set down 1-2-3 in the fourth inning at Angel Stadium. It was a play a good Little League first baseman would make most of the time.

Carter, on the other hand, "just missed it," manager Joe Girardi said of the play, which led to the Angels' first run in the Yankees' 3-2, 11-inning loss — snapping their six-game winning streak. The error forced Sabathia to throw nine more pitches

SEE YANKEES, 38

YANKEES

FROM 37

that inning. On the second-to-last pitch, the veteran felt a grab in his left hamstring. He finished the inning but then came out of the game.

The results of an MRI on Wednesday showed a Grade 2 strain, which often has a recovery time of four to six weeks. The Yankees called up right-hander Ronald Herrera from Double-A Trenton.

Herrera, the Eastern League Player of the Week, was 7-0 with a 1.07 ERA.

"It's an issue," Girardi said. "I anticipate it's a DL."

"I thought it may be a cramp," Sabathia, the 2007 Cy Young Award winner, said a couple of hours after leaving the game. But this was no cramp. Sabathia found that out when he made his next pitch out of the stretch, a 2-2 slider that missed his spot with Martin Maldonado trying to steal second.

Catcher Gary Sanchez whipped a strike to second, Gregorius tagged Maldonado out, the inning was over, and so was Sabathia's night.

Sabathia's expected to be placed on the 10-day disabled list today.

After starting out with a 5.77 ERA and 27 strikeouts to 24 walks in his first seven outings, Sabathia has a 0.99 ERA and 35 strikeouts to seven walks in

his last six starts. He's 7-2 with a 3.46 ERA overall.

As much as rookie right fielder Aaron Judge and the Yankees' high-powered offense has carried the club, the starting rotation is just as responsible for the three-game AL East lead it will take into Wednesday night's series finale with the Angels.

No. 1 starter Masahiro Tanaka (5-6, 6.07) has struggled for most of the season, but the other starters have picked him up, including the oldest member of the rotation.

"We've had some losses this year and guys have stepped up, so we're going to have to have someone step up in his absence," Girardi said. "It's not what you want because (Sabathia) is throwing the ball so well and he was throwing the ball great (Tuesday)."

The best bet is Green taking Sabathia's rotator spot, but calling up a minor-leaguer is an option.

CHAPMAN UPDATE

Closer Aroldis Chapman (left rotator cuff inflammation) had his scheduled rehab outing with Class A Tampa at Bradenton Tuesday rained out and was slated to pitch Wednesday, weather permitting, Girardi said if Chapman can pitch by Friday he would likely be activated from the disabled list Sunday.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Star Ledger
6.15.17



CC has Grade 2 hamstring strain; DL likely

By Barry M. Bloom

June 15, 2017

ANAHEIM -- Yankees veteran left-hander CC Sabathia has a Grade 2 strain of his left hamstring, which came as somewhat of a surprise to him.

"I woke up feeling a lot better than I expected," Sabathia said after the Yankees dropped a 7-5 decision to the Angels on Wednesday night. "Really, in my mind, I'm going day to day. Hopefully tomorrow I'll feel even better."

Sabathia is likely to be placed on the 10-day disabled list with a corresponding move to be announced Thursday before the Yankees open a four-game series against the A's at the Coliseum. He was scheduled to start next in Oakland on Sunday.

Sabathia came out of the game after four innings Tuesday night and underwent an MRI Wednesday that was analyzed in New York by Dr. Christopher Ahmad, the team's physician. Ahmad diagnosed the degree of the strain, which is similar to one that sidelined Sabathia only a few days before the end of the 2013 season. At that time he went on the DL, and the prognosis for recovery was six to eight weeks.

Hamstring strains are graded from one to four with a Grade 1 as the mildest.

"He'll be ready when he's ready. I think that's the bottom line," Yanks manager Joe Girardi said after the game. "As a pitcher, it's a little bit trickier just because they can't throw for a while. We'll try to keep his arm active in a chair, but he's not going to be able to throw his sides, so we'll see."

The 36-year-old Sabathia, in the final year of a five-year, \$122 million contract, downplayed the possibility of a lengthy absence. He's 7-2 with a 3.46 ERA in 13 starts.

"Just because of the way I feel in these early stages, it makes me feel that it won't be that long, though," he said.

In the meantime, the club made another move in recalling right-hander Ronald Herrera from Double-A Trenton to give relief to its beleaguered bullpen. Correspondingly, right-handed reliever Ben Heller was sent to Triple-A Wilkes-Barre.

Herrera entered a 5-5 game in the seventh inning, replacing starter Michael Pineda. He recorded the first two outs, walked Luis Valbuena and allowed an Andrelton Simmons two-run homer that proved to be decisive.

Girardi said the bullpen was completely depleted.

Sabathia came out of Tuesday's 3-2 loss in 11 innings when he felt the hamstring grab, beginning this chain of events. He was replaced by right-hander Giovanny Gallegos, the first of six relievers Girardi had to use in the extended game.

The Yankees also used four relievers on Sunday in a 14-3 victory over the Orioles at Yankee Stadium and two more on Monday when they defeated the Angels here, 5-3.

"I can't hurt guys," Girardi said about the bullpen. "So we knew the kid was going to pitch at some point today. We didn't know exactly when. It was really what I had. We'll get some guys back tomorrow. But that was what it was today,"

The immediate issue is who will replace Sabathia on Sunday.

Girardi said there were several options, including Chad Green, who made a spot start this past Sunday. Masahiro Tanaka could also be moved from Saturday to Sunday, giving him five days' rest for his second consecutive start. But a decision hasn't been announced.

"There's a lot of different things we can do for that start," Girardi said. "But a lot of things can happen in the days that lead up to it."



Why Yankees' CC Sabathia is so optimistic despite alarming MRI results on hamstring

By Randy Miller

June 15, 2017

ANAHEIM -- Yankees left-hander CC Sabathia took a trip to a local hospital Wednesday to find out how badly he'd strained his left hamstring pitching the night before.

After a several hours of waiting and hoping, Sabathia was alerted that his MRI results didn't jive with how he was feeling a day later ... "a whole better than I expected."

Greg Bird's rehabbing isn't going well and CC Sabathia didn't get good news in his MRI.

His strain was diagnosed as a Grade 2 ... aka moderate strain. That's better than a Grade 3, which can lead to surgery, but Sabathia was hoping for the least severe, a Grade 1 strain.

A Grade 1 can take up to three weeks to recover.

A Grade 2 can take 4-to-8 weeks.

"I think it'll be a lot less," Sabathia predicted Wednesday night after the Yankees' 7-5 loss to the Los Angeles Angels at Angel Stadium.

How much less?

Well, it's seems to be a foregone conclusion that Sabathia will be placed on the 10-day disabled list Thursday, but he's not ruling out missing just one start.

"Hopefully," he said. "We'll see."

Sabathia, who is 7-2 with a 3.46 ERA in 13 starts, first noticed a problem on his second to last pitch in the fourth inning of his start against the Angels on Tuesday. He threw one more pitch -- one that led to an inning-ending caught stealing -- and experienced enough pain to know he was done for the night.

When Sabathia goes on the DL, his stint will be backdated to Wednesday, which would make him first eligible to be activated for the Yankees' home game against the Texas Rangers on Saturday, June 24.

Sabathia is overly optimistic at this point based on how he was feeling from morning to night Wednesday.

"I'm just going off how I feel in these early stages," Sabathia said. "It makes me think that I won't be (shut down) that long."

AP

CC Sabathia Likely Headed To Disabled List With Grade 2 Hamstring Strain

June 14, 2017

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — New York Yankees left-hander CC Sabathia was diagnosed with Grade 2 left hamstring strain Wednesday and could be out at least four weeks.

The Yankees have yet to place Sabathia, whose next scheduled start would have been Sunday, on the disabled list. He injured the hamstring pushing off the mound Tuesday.

It could be a big loss for the Yankees, who were seeing the left-hander pitch like an ace again in his last six starts (0.99 ERA).

Grade 2 hamstring strains can take four to eight weeks to fully recover. Though normally associated with runners, Yankees manager Joe Girardi said they also can be a difficult challenge for pitchers.

“It can be an issue when it’s a push-off leg,” Girardi said. “That’s the leg you’re using to drive downhill and push off on.”

Girardi said the team was undecided who would fill his spot in the rotation.



Sabathia diagnosed with grade 2 hamstring strain

By Chris Carelli

June 14, 2017

Yankees pitcher **CC Sabathia** has been diagnosed with a grade 2 hamstring strain after undergoing an MRI.

The left-hander exited Tuesday's start against the Angels after four-plus innings due to the strain. The team hasn't decided whether or not it will put Sabathia on the disabled list.

Sabathia is scheduled to pitch in Oakland this Sunday.

According to Brendan Kuty of NJ.com, the Yankees will recall rookie **Domingo German**. He threw 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings of shutout relief against the Orioles last Sunday and was then sent down to Triple-A.

Tough news for Sabathia who was well on his way to another fine season. This injury could take several weeks between the healing time and the rehab process. Sabathia is no spring chicken, so it could take even longer for him to fully recuperate. Losing Sabathia creates a big hole in the rotation that had gone about two and half months without suffering a significant injury.

German has worked primarily as a starter, so it is entirely possible he will be the first pitcher to get a crack at holding down the fort with Sabathia on the shelf. German owns a 3.34 ERA across 59 $\frac{1}{3}$ innings between Double-A and Triple-A in 2017.

Yankees **ON DECK**

AT A'S

THURSDAY — 10:05
LHP Jordan Montgomery (4-4, 3.55) vs.

RHP Sonny Gray (2-2, 4.37)

FRIDAY — 9:35

RHP Luis Severino (5-2, 2.75) vs.

LHP Sean Manaea (6-3, 3.67)

SATURDAY — 4:05

RHP Masahiro Tanaka (5-6, 6.07) vs.

RHP Jesse Hahn (2-4, 3.56)

SUNDAY — 4:05

TBD vs. RHP Jharel Cotton (3-7, 5.52)

YES, WFAN
(101.9 FM, 660 AM)

INSIDE THE MATCHUPS

YANKEES: After an inconsistent May, Montgomery has solidified his spot in the rotation with two straight wins, giving up just two runs on eight hits in 13 innings and holding opponents to a .174 average. The southpaw has been close to unhittable against left-handed batters, holding them to a .161 average.

ATHLETICS: Gray hasn't won since May 24, posting a 6.11 ERA with opponents hitting .310 off him in his three most recent starts. In four career starts against the Yankees, the 27-year-old holds a 4.44 ERA and 1-2 record.

STAT 0?

YANKEES: Tuesday night was the first time this season the Yankees have lost a game they led after seven innings. They had started the season 33-0 in such games.

ATHLETICS: Oakland's .238 batting average is the lowest in the American League entering Wednesday, their 268 runs scored is the second-lowest, as is their .304 on-base percentage.

By **KEN DAVIDOFF**
and **GEORGE A. KING III**

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Thursday night won't be Aaron Judge's first time stepping to the plate at the Oakland Coliseum. He did so in 2010, when the Athletics brought in Judge from his hometown of Linden, Calif., about 80 miles to the northeast, for a pre-draft workout. He did so again in 2013, shortly after the Yankees drafted him and they happened to be in town.

This time, however, will be quite different. As an amateur, Judge felt amazed by his surroundings. As he makes his major league debut at the ballpark closest to his home, he will be the surroundings. The main event, really.

Though the citizens of Linden, a census-designated place with a modest population of 1,784 (as of 2010), can't quite fill the ballpark, they undoubtedly will make their presence felt.

"I can guarantee you will there will be Linden people at every game," Joe Piombo, one of Judge's baseball coaches at Linden High School, said Wednesday in a telephone interview.

Piombo, now retired, will be there Friday night with his family, a seven-person group. Trevor Snow, a high school teammate of Judge's who sells air-conditioning and heating systems in the area, will meet up early Saturday with another teammate, Howard Knapp, and they plan to tailgate in the Coliseum's parking lot before heading inside to see their buddy.

A 64-person bus commissioned by the Linden athletic boosters will be full. That group will attend Saturday's game and sit in Section 104, foul territory in right field.

"I'll probably bring one of our banners for the organization," said Vic Solari, who organized the trip. "Hopefully Aaron sees us and waves at us."

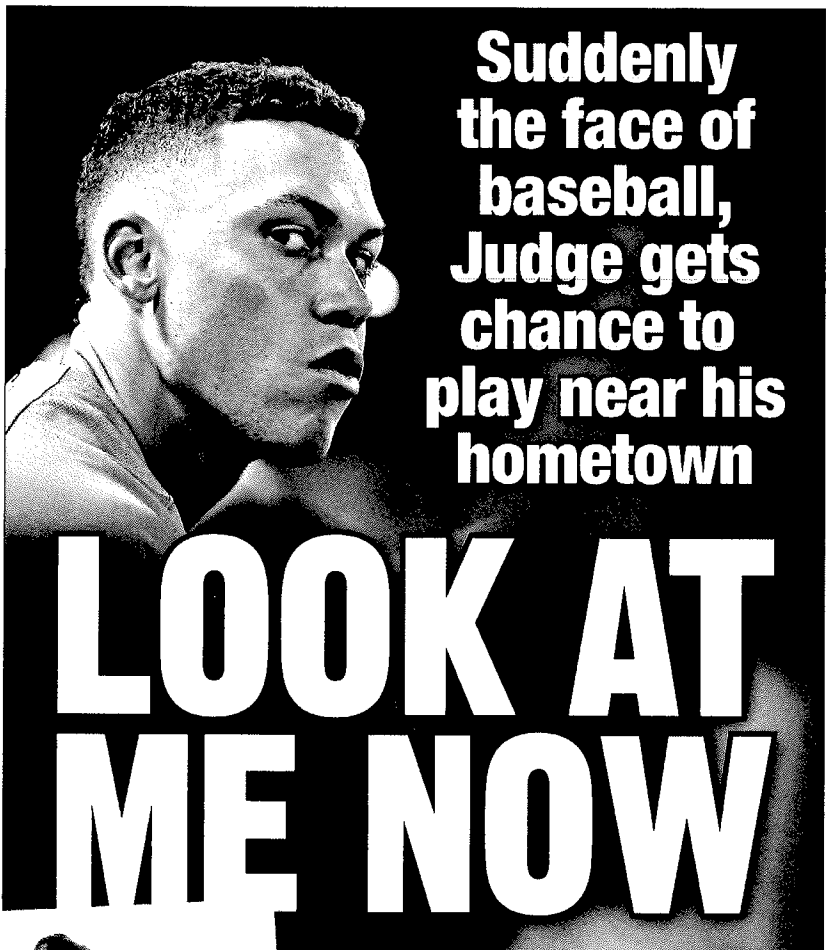
Judge's parents, Patty and Wayne, who were at Angel Stadium to see their son and the Yankees take on the Angels, are expected to attend, as well, accompanied by a group from the family's church.

"They have quite a contingent going, too," Solari said.

If Judge were a nice guy experiencing a modest rookie season, he probably still would draw a nice crowd from his hometown. If he were a jerk putting up the head-scratching numbers that he currently owns, he still would be generating plenty of buzz.

Combine his Most Valuable Player campaign with his dynamic personality, and you have yourself the sort of homecoming extravaganza that makes everyone involved — the Yankees' social-media folks, the A's ticket-sales department and the TV networks broadcasting the game — salivate.

"I'm still pretty shocked at what he's doing," Snow said of Judge. "It's pretty crazy."



HOMECOMING: Aaron Judge was a high school star in Linden, Calif., about 80 miles northeast of Oakland, where the Yankees rookie, who has captured the imagination of baseball with his jaw-dropping power, will return for the first time as a major leaguer to face the A's on Thursday. Getty Images; AP; Mark Bahrenluss/MaxPreps.com

nouncer for games.

"He may have been big for being little," Solari said with a chuckle of the currently 6-foot-7 Judge.

Judge played high school baseball, football and basketball and also participated in student government. He attracted a bevy of scouts to his baseball games, yet he has said repeatedly he never seriously considered signing with the A's, who selected him in the 31st round of the 2010 draft, because he wanted to go to Fresno State. Both of Judge's parents are educators.

It doesn't matter that seven years have passed since Judge made Linden his full-time home. He remains such an integral part of his community that the theme of the 2017 annual Linden Cherry Festival, Solari said, was "Hit it out of the park," in Judge's honor. He returns there

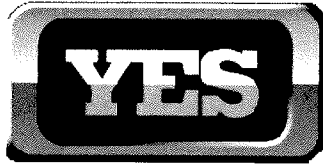
during the offseason, and Amerman said his family and the Judges went out for pizza this past winter, a couple of weeks before Judge departed for spring training in Tampa.

"I've given him a hard time a couple of times," Amerman said. "I've told him, 'You're not Babe Ruth. Stay away from the beer and the hot dogs and you'll be all right.' We go back and forth on Twitter."

Piombo said he watched Judge's postgame interview Monday, after his two-run, eighth-inning homer gave the Yankees a 5-3 victory over the Angels, and he didn't like when a TV commentator shrugged off Judge's sentiment that he was thinking more about an errand throw he had made.

"The guy said something like, 'It sounds like [Judge] knows what to say, like it was a canned speech,' but that's the truth," Piombo said. "That's how Aaron really thinks."

NY Post
6.15.17



Mike Trout offers high praise for Aaron Judge

By A.J. Hermann

June 14, 2017

Aaron Judge has quickly become a household name among baseball fans, and his huge season has caught the eye of one of MLB's brightest superstars.

Judge, the reigning AL Player of the Week, enters Wednesday's series finale in Anaheim as the MLB leader in home runs (22), OPS (1.162) and tied for first with 57 runs scored, and his sensational start to the season has made waves across the country.

Mike Trout, the reigning AL MVP, recently spoke with Ken Davidoff of The Post, and offered high praise for the Yankees' rookie slugger.

"He's great for the game, and obviously a very good kid. So he's fun to watch play," Trout said of the 25-year-old Judge. "He's having an unbelievable season."

Judge hails from Linden, Calif., nearly 400 miles from where he's played the last two nights at Angel Stadium in Anaheim, but he already received "M-V-P" chants after a thrilling performance in the series opener, which saw him break a 3-3 tie with a 2-run home run to lift the Yankees to an eventual victory.

That Judge earned those chants in the house of the current AL MVP makes clear just what kind of impact he's had on the sport so far this season, just 60 games into the year.

"Obviously the long home runs. He makes so many plays. He's always smiling," Trout continued. "He's fun to watch."

Yankees fans have been glued to their television sets during Judge's at-bats, which have since been deemed "must-watch TV" by YES analyst David Cone, but despite the tremendous hype surrounding the 6-foot-7 behemoth, Judge has continued to keep the focus on his team and on the task at hand.

When asked how he felt about hearing "M-V-P" chants on the road following Monday night's tilt, Judge was quick to respond, "I just don't listen to it, I've got a job to do on the field." All business from the newest Yankees rookie sensation.

Trout has been sidelined since tearing the UCL in his thumb after jamming it while sliding head-first in a game on May 28, but hopes he could return to the field before the All-Star break. He and Judge are in position to share defensive duties in the outfield for the Midsummer Classic, joining together the game's most consistently dominant player with one of its brightest rising stars.

"[Judge is] having a great year," said Trout. "You can't take anything away from him. He's on an unbelievable run."



What Angels' Mike Trout thinks about Yankees' Aaron Judge

By Randy Miller

June 14, 2017

ANAHEIM -- Los Angeles Angels outfielder Mike Trout, most everyone's best player in baseball until Yankees rookie Aaron Judge started challenging that title this season, is driving himself crazy waiting for his torn thumb ligament to heal.

The South Jersey product who already has two AL MVPs and three seconds in his five full seasons would love to be off the disabled list before the All-Star break.

One of the reasons is Trout will get a kick starting for the American League in the same outfield as Judge in the July 11th All-Star Game, which will be played at Marlins Park in Miami.

"It would be pretty cool just to be hopefully back by then if everything goes on schedule," Trout said Tuesday before the Angels' 3-2 win over the Yankees in 11 innings. "I obviously don't determine that. But I'd like to be out there as quick as I can. We'll see."

Trout has been paying attention to Judge, who leads the AL in hitting, homers, walks and run scored while ranking second in RBIs.

"(Judge) is having an unbelievable season and he's fun to watch," said Trout, who has been on the DL since May 29 and is due to return in mid-to-late July. "Obviously the long home runs and just the way he plays ... he's great for the game. He's obviously a pretty big kid, so he's fun to watch at the plate."

With Trout sidelined, Judge has been the big attraction in this week's Yankee-Angels series at Angel Stadium. With thousands of Yankees fans on hand for the first two games of the series, there were a lot of MVP chants for Judge.

Trout was around for the games and heard fans in his home ballpark declaring a visiting player MVP.

Strange?

"Yeah," Trout said. "Well, it's good for (Judge). He's having a great year. You can't take anything away from him. He's putting up unbelievable numbers."



‘The Herd:’ Why Aaron Judge might be the answer MLB is looking for

By Chris Bahr

June 14, 2017

Major League Baseball often is criticized for its failure to develop its stars into household names for the length of its regular season — especially now after its best player, two-time AL MVP Mike Trout, will be sidelined for up to another month after thumb surgery. So Yankees rookie Aaron Judge is one of the best things to come along for the sport at the right time.

The slugger is already the runaway leader for AL Rookie of the Year. But many also consider the 25-year-old Judge the front-runner for AL MVP, both for the stats he has produced (.341/.448/.714, 22 homers, 49 RBI, five stolen bases) and the majestic homers (see: 495-foot blasts) he has launched. Suddenly, the 162-game marathon has some flair.

On Wednesday's episode of "The Herd," guest host Doug Gottlieb explained why Judge has the talent and charisma to reenergize the sport.

Gottlieb: Judge is the real deal

“Aaron Judge appears to be the real deal — he’s 6-8, 6-7, 280 pounds. So there’s not the sense that he’s Sammy Sosa — used to be a platoon player who steroided his way into being a home run hitter. Like he’s the real deal.”

Gottlieb: It's the perfect scenario

“He plays for the perfect team, he wears No. 99, he’s got a name like Aaron Judge — the Judge, the

Judge has ruled, all these things ... all rise for the Judge. It just fits.”

Gottlieb: Even the haters can join in

“And there’s also the certain kind of Haterade aspect to it, right? Which is, he is a Yankee, it doesn’t seem fair that they have this guy.”

Gottlieb: There's a cross-sport appeal

“He doesn’t look like a baseball player, he looks like a football player playing baseball.”

Gottlieb: Judge strikes at the heart of the game

“‘Casey at the Bat’ is about a mighty hitter. That’s the root of baseball. Big man with a bat, throwing the baseball, can you strike him out? It just all fits.”



Judge's Court is now in session

By Sarah Langs and Mark Simon

June 14, 2017

New York Yankees rookie Aaron Judge has been holding court in the majors all season. He plays Wednesday night on ESPN at the Angels. Stats & Info takes a closer look at his judicial résumé.

OPENING STATEMENT

After hitting .179 with a 44 percent strikeout rate in 27 games in 2016, Judge has come on strong in his rookie season. Judge is hitting .341 with an MLB-leading 22 home runs. He could make a rare opening statement: Only two players have won Rookie of the Year and MVP in the same season, Fred Lynn in 1975 and Ichiro Suzuki in 2001.

WHAT ARE THE COUNTS AGAINST THE DEFENDANT?

Two strikes are no obstacle. He has nine homers in two-strike counts this season, tied with Eric Thames for the most in the majors. He's slugging .532 in two-strike counts this season, second-highest in the majors behind Bryce Harper (.543).

THE ROBES

Judge is the third Yankees player to wear number 99. Brian Bruney wore it in 2009 (39 innings pitched) and Charlie Keller wore it in 1952 (one plate appearance).

THE RULINGS

Judge leads the majors in home runs with 22. He's the first Yankees rookie to hold sole possession of even the AL lead in home runs for a day, and he's held it for 37 days this season.

He became the first rookie in MLB history to be the first player to 20 homers in a season. According to the Elias Sports Bureau, the last Yankees player to be the first to 20 homers in a season was Alex Rodriguez in 2007.

Judge hit his 26th career home run in his 86th career game, tied with teammate Gary Sanchez for most career HR through 86 career games in Yankees history.

ORDER IN THE COURT

How He Hits

Soft pitches: Judge has a .680 slug percentage in plate appearances ending on soft pitches, second-highest in the majors (Justin Bour .724). Eight of his 22 home runs have come on those

pitches, only three players have more HR on soft pitches (Joey Votto, Cody Bellinger, and Justin Bour each have nine).

Plate discipline was an issue for Judge last season. He had a 30 percent chase rate and 43 percent swing-and-miss rate. This season, he has a 22 percent chase rate and 32 percent swing-and-miss rate.

BURDEN OF PROOF

It looks like Judge hits long home runs, and there's evidence to back that up. On Sunday, he hit a 496-foot homer, the longest HR since ESPN began tracking in 2009. Judge's 22 home runs have been calculated at an average of 416 feet this season.

POLL THE JURY

At the last balloting update on Tuesday, Judge checked in with 1,893,260 votes for the All-Star Game this season, the most of any player in the American League.

FINAL VERDICT: HOW MANY HR WILL HE END UP WITH?

Judge has 22 home runs in 62 team games, which puts him on pace for 57 this season.

If he manages 23 more, he'll have the 20th season of 45-plus home runs in Yankees history. Those seasons were by Babe Ruth (nine times), Lou Gehrig (four times), Mickey Mantle (two times), Alex Rodriguez (two times), Joe DiMaggio (once), and Roger Maris (once). If he gets to 57, he would be tied for 14th-most in a season in MLB history. Two Yankees have hit 57-plus homers: Babe Ruth (twice) and Roger Maris (once).



What Yankees' Aaron Judge thinks of playing close to hometown, 'cherry capital of the world'

By Randy Miller

June 15, 2017

ANAHEIM -- There will be no visits to home this week for the Yankees' new superstar.

Northern California native Aaron Judge will settle for spending some time off the field with friends and family who make an 80-mile drive west from Linden to Oakland for the Yankees' four-game series against the Oakland Athletics that begins Thursday night and figures to have an extra buzz.

Greg Bird's rehabbing isn't going well and CC Sabathia didn't get good news in his MRI.

Judge is the reason.

He's just a rookie and leads the majors in home runs.

He's also probably the most popular player in baseball these days.

Judge is proud of his small hometown, which is nestled along California Highway 26 and sits 12 miles east of Stockton, home to Class A California League minor-league baseball for decades. Mike Piazza, Gary Sheffield, Ben Sheets and Dallas Braden are some of the names who passed through Judge's neck of the woods.

Now Judge is king in his neighboring town, which is just 7.5 square miles and had a population of 1,784 as of the 2010 census.

Linden is best known for being the self-proclaimed "cherry capital of the world," which is exactly what Judge mentioned right away when his hometown came up during a pregame interview.

"It's a little farm community with a lot of orchards with walnuts and cherries," Judge said before the Yankees' 7-5 loss to the Los Angeles Angels on Wednesday.

The town's biggest event every year is its cherry festival in May.

"I actually just had some shipped to the stadium for all of us guys to enjoy," Judge said.

Most everyone back home is enjoying Judge's breakout season, he's heard from phone conversations with his parents, both of whom are retired teachers.

A lot of Linden will be heading to Oakland this weekend to see its now very famous native son play in person.

How many people are coming?

"I don't have the list," Judge said. "I think my mom does."

Yankees manager Joe Girardi will like hearing that because he's a little concerned about how Judge handles his first trip to Northern California as a big leaguer.

"I think you always get a little worried and I think what I probably worry more about are the demands that are going to be placed on him," Girardi said. "A lot of friends want to come, I'm sure. A lot of family.

"You have to make sure that you allow him to be himself and to get his rest. That's the tricky part when you play close to home. It's something that I had to deal with and I learned how to deal with it as I went on. But sometimes it's hard to say no when you're younger and you want to take care of the people that took care of you and are really close to you."

Judge has been tugged in all directions this season because he's become the face of the Yankees, a face of baseball. He's also as fan and media friendly as anyone in the game, but he'll be trying extra hard over the next four days to stay focused on his job.

"I still have to play a game," Judge said. "That's the most important thing. All the off-the-field stuff I think will take care of itself. It's just going to be fun, and I'm excited everyone is going to be there and see me play the game I love."



Betting website offers odds on Aaron Judge's Triple Crown chances

By Jimmy Traina

June 14, 2017

How hot has Aaron Judge been the season? Offshore site Bovada.lv just released a bunch of odds on various Judge statistics, including his chances to win a Triple Crown.

The Yankees rookie outfielder currently leads the American League with 22 home runs and a .341 batting average. His 49 RBIs trail Mariners slugger Nelson Cruz by three.

If you think Judge will maintain his numbers and catch up to Cruz, it would cost you \$100 to win \$3,300. Here is the full list of prop bets offered on how Judge will fare in the Triple Crown categories:

Aaron Judge – Will he win the Triple Crown?

Yes: 33/1

Aaron Judge – Will he lead the MLB in Batting Average at the end of the Regular Season?

Yes: +1000 (10/1)

No: -2500 (1/25)

Aaron Judge – Will he lead the MLB in Home Runs at the end of the Regular Season?

Yes: +300 (3/1)

No: -500 (1/5)

Aaron Judge – Will he lead the MLB in RBI's at the end of the Regular Season?

Yes: +500 (5/1)

No: -1000 (1/10)

The value on Judge (+300) leading the AL in home runs seems like a solid play, but we could just be caught up in the hype.



Clothing Outfit Applies For "Judge's Chambers" Trademark Around Yankees' Rookie Sensation

June 14, 2017

N.Y.-based clothing company Block Industries has "applied for a trademark" for the name of Yankees RF Aaron Judge's cheering section at Yankee Stadium -- "The Judge's Chambers," according to A.J. Perez of USA TODAY. Block Industries, which "counts baseball-focused apparel-maker 7th Inning Stretch among its brands," filed an application with the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office on May 29. The company is "seeking to use 'The Judge's Chambers' on sweatshirts, T-shirts and tops for men, women and children." Block Industries President Jeff Block said that he "expects to sell the apparel in August or September." The application "actually lists 'The Judges Chambers' as the trademark sought, but it's common for those seeking a trademark to leave off apostrophes and other symbols." If approved, the trademark would "cover the use of the apostrophe" (*USA TODAY, 6/14*).

THE NEXT BIG THING: In N.Y., Josh Cooper wrote Judge's 22 home runs "leads all of baseball and he has clearly become the sport's No. 1 sensation." Yankees fans in attendance on Monday chanted "MVP" on his behalf for the "majority of the game" (*NYTIMES.com, 6/13*). In New Jersey, Bob Klapisch wrote under the header, "Can Anyone Stop Aaron Judge?" The rookie has "not only become the early front-runner for the MVP, he could potentially win the Triple Crown and single-handedly carry the Yankees straight to the post-season" (*Bergen RECORD, 6/13*). ESPN.com's Buster Olney wrote, "Judge does not seem to have [Babe] Ruth's larger-than-life personality, on or off the field; he is very understated and reflexively deflects attention." But for a sport and a team "searching for a breakthrough star, Judge has made quick inroads." He has "at least some elements of the formula that elevated Ruth into an icon" (*ESPN.com, 6/13*). In N.Y., John Harper wrote the unofficial home run record for a single season is still held by Roger Maris with 61 and "wouldn't it be something if Judge took a serious run at that?" Judge has "completely changed the feel around the Yankees, re-energizing a jaded fan base with his must-see at-bats and athleticism that is remarkable for someone 6-foot-7, 282 pounds." If he is in "serious pursuit of Maris come August and September, Judge would bring some of that feel-good vibe to the entire sport." In some ways, in fact, he could "make home run numbers matter again." As it is, the steroids era has "made us all numb to what was once the most prestigious of all records" (*N.Y. DAILY NEWS, 6/13*).



Ronald Herrera gets the call to the show, joins the Yankees

By Sean Miller

June 14, 2017

TRENTON--While it had been a pretty good week, and month for that matter, for Thunder pitcher Ronald Herrera, his week just got a whole lot better.

Herrera, the reigning Eastern League Pitcher of the Week, got the call to the show Wednesday night, after C.C. Sabathia looked to be headed to the D.L. with a hamstring injury.

Herrera, who was on the Yankees 40-man roster, was listed as one of five potential players that could make it up to the Bronx by season's end. But few though he would get the call this early in the season.

The 22-year-old righty has been dominant for the Thunder in 2017. He was 7-0, with a 1.07 ERA and a 0.74 WHIP, in his eight starts with Trenton since he was activated on April 30th from extended spring training. He will be reunited with Jonathan Holder, who Herrera combined with last April 26th to throw a no-hitter for the Thunder.

But a quick check the stats shows that it is Herrera, who sits at 7-0 in his eight starts, with a 1.07 ERA and a 0.87 WHIP.

Thunder manager Bobby Mitchell had this to say about Herrera after his last start, a dominant performance where the righty went 6.2 innings in a 9-0 shutout win. He allowed just two hits, walked none, and struck out nine.

"He has command of his pitches, and is pitching really well," Thunder manager Bobby Mitchell said. "He has command of his pitches much more this year compared to last. I think that is huge.

"He didn't walk anybody last night, and I think that is huge. He keeps them off balance, and he knows how to mix his pitches well. Obviously, our catchers work really well with him, and he is comfortable.

"He is able to command in and out on the plate, has pitched backwards at times and get swings at it, so I assume he has good movement on it."

Herrera spoke after the latest in a back-to-back outings for the Thunder, where he allowed two hits or less for Trenton.

"I just rested in the offseason," Herrera said. "That helped me a lot, because I threw a lot of innings last year. I rested in the offseason, and I came back stronger. I have been able to throw all my pitches for strikes, and I am mixing them pretty well. That has helped me as well.

"I wanted to start this season, and I wasn't able to, so that was pretty tough. But I worked very hard in spring training to come back strong, and I am feeling pretty good right now.

"I had the blister problem, and a shoulder issue last year. I have not really had a run like this. This is the first time that I am pitching so well. I am feeling so good right now. My work with the pitching coach (Jose Rosado) and our catchers (currently Wilkin Castillo and Jorge Saez) have been good. They help the pitching staff a lot."

Herrera joins the Yankees on the west coast in Anaheim. New York finishes a series with the Angels, then travels to Oakland for a four-game set with the A's.



Source: Yankees bringing back Domingo German

By Brendan Kutty

June 14, 2017

The Yankees are bringing back Domingo German and promoting one of their best pitching prospects to the highest level of the minors, a source with knowledge of the team's personnel decisions told NJ Advance Media on Wednesday night.

The source, which wasn't authorized to speak publicly, requested anonymity.

German made his big-league debut on Sunday. He was subsequently sent back to Triple-A.

Domingo Acevedo, 23, will move from Double-A Trenton to Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre. MLB.com ranks Acevedo as the Yankees' No. 12 overall prospect.\

It seems likely the Yankees were making the move with the idea of putting a player on the disabled list. League rules say an optioned player must spend 10 days in the minors before he can return to the majors -- except in event of an injury.

Starting pitcher CC Sabathia left Tuesday's start with a strained hamstring.

Angels star Mike Trout says Yankees rookie Aaron Judge is "great for the game."

NJ Advance Media couldn't immediately confirm how the team plans to use German, a starting pitcher whom the Yankees used in relief in his first major-league appearance.

German threw 2 2/3 innings of scoreless relief against the Orioles on Sunday. Between Double-A Trenton and Triple-A, German went 3-5 with a 3.34 ERA in 10 games (nine starts).

The Yankees acquired him in a five-player deal that brought Nathan Eovaldi and Garrett Jones to New York and sent Martin Prado and David Phelps to the Marlins.

Acevedo, who has touched 103 mph, had a 3.25 ERA in 12 starts between High-A Tampa and Double-A Trenton this season.

Here's a piece of MLB.com's scouting report on Acevedo:

"Acevedo has thrown as hard as 103 mph and usually operates at 95-100. His 6-foot-7 frame and low three-quarters delivery create a difficult angle, especially for right-handers, though his arm slot also makes it tough for him to stay on top of his mid-80s slider. His changeup is significantly better than his breaking ball."

"Though Acevedo has had no problems throwing strikes, it's unlikely that he'll remain a starter. He has yet to show he can hold up over a full season in the rotation, and his mechanics don't help because he throws with effort and lands on a stiff front leg. If he does move to the bullpen, his fastball could make him a closer."



UPDATED: 6 important Yankees things; Latest on CC Sabathia, Greg Bird not good

By Randy Miller

June 15, 2017

There was a good bit of news in Yankees land Wednesday before their season finale in Anaheim against the Los Angeles Angels ... news on Greg Bird, Aroldis Chapman and CC Sabathia.

Also, the Yankees made a roster move.

Here's the latest:

Sabathia update

The morning after leaving a start after four innings with a strained left hamstring, Yankees left-hander CC Sabathia woke up Wednesday feeling better.

He probably felt sick after getting the results of his morning MRI:

His strain is a Grade 2, which usually has a recovery time from anywhere from 4-to-8 weeks.

Sabathia for sure will head to the 10-day disabled list, probably on Thursday.

"He feels OK," manager Joe Girardi said before getting the MRI results. "He's walking around pretty good. He talked about feeling better than he expected, so we'll see what (Yankees team physician) Dr. (Christopher) Ahmad says.

Sunday's starter

CC Sabathia's next scheduled start is for Sunday in Oakland against the Athletics, and it seems likely that he'll be on the disabled list by then ... possibly just for 10 days and back so that he'd miss just one start.

That all depends on the MRI results.

Meantime, long reliever Chad Green is the best bet to take Sabathia's spot in the rotation, perhaps on Saturday until of Sunday so that Masahiro Tanaka again can get an extra day of rest.

Green came out of the bullpen to make his first start of the season last Sunday against Baltimore so that Tanaka could be pushed back a day on the heels of four terrible starts in his last five outings.

Tanaka was better in his last start, so the Yankees are toying with giving him an extra day off again.

"There's a lot of different things we can do," manager Joe Girardi said. "Sometimes very much like against Baltimore, it could be based on need ... what we need to do. Green started the last game. Obviously, he's a candidate.

"But I can't tell you what's going to happen Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday that leads up to (Sabathia's) spot, so we really don't need that turn until Sunday. You could possibly do (a roster move) on Saturday if you felt like the person that you're pitching is lined up better to pitch then and move Tanaka back a day. There's a lot of different things.

"So for us it's going to be determined on what happens in the next few days. Our bullpen is pretty fried, so we've got to get through the next couple of days before I make a determination."

Herrera gets first big-league call

The Yankees added a fresh arm to their tired bullpen on Wednesday by double-jumping right-hander Ronald Herrera from Double-A Reading for a first big-league call-up.

Herrera, 22, is a starter who was having a great season for the Trenton Thunder (7-0, 1.07 ERA, 8 starts), but he'll start out as a long-relief option for the Yankees, whose bullpen had to eat up 16 innings over three games from Sunday through Tuesday.

Herrera is replacing rookie reliever Ben Heller, who is heading back to Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre after a two-day, one-appearance stay. The right-hander made his season debut in the 11th inning Tuesday and gave up a walk-off hit to Eric Young Jr. in the Angels' 3-2 victory.

Here's Girardi's scouting report on Herrera:

"He throws strikes. He seems like he has a pretty good demeanor. Part of (the roster move) was just kind of the way that things felt. A lot of (minor-leaguers who were options) threw sides (Tuesday), but the young man has command and he throws strikes and he has a very good changeup. He's got a curveball. If we need him, we'll use him (Wednesday)."

Bird struggling in Triple-A

First baseman Greg Bird probably has until June 30 to get his act together at the plate because that's when his 30-day rehab assignment ends.

It's not going well at all, thus he's become a candidate to be optioned to Triple-A on July 1 instead of being activated from the disabled list beforehand.

"Anything's a possibility," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said Wednesday. "I think you have to make a determination in how the player's doing, so we'll just let it play out. You want to see him swinging the bat and making hard contact. I think that's the big thing ... that he feels good at the plate.

"I'm not there, so I'm not watching the whole at-bats and how he's reacting to pitches, but when you look at the numbers, they're not what we expect from Greg Bird."

On the DL since May 2 with a right ankle bruise, Bird has struggled in his rehab games with Scranton/Wilkes-Barre almost as much as he did going 6-for-60 in 19 games for the Yankees before being shut down.

Bird was 0-for-3 with two strikeouts and a walk on Wednesday night and now is 3-for-21 in six Triple-A games

Earlier, Bird hit .353 playing six High-A Florida State League games for the Tampa Yankees, but he's slumped since facing better competition and the Yankees seem to be getting frustrated waiting for the left-handed-hitting slugger to start hitting like he did in spring training when he was among the top hitters in the Grapefruit League.

"The results haven't been great is the bottom line," Girardi said. "So we're trying to him going. We'll continue to let him play and hopefully he gets it going."

Why Judge is DHing

Yankees manager Joe Girardi switched up his lineup somewhat for Wednesday night's game in Anaheim and his changes included rookie star Aaron Judge moving from right field to designated hitter and DH Matt Holliday playing first base over Chris Carter, who gifted the Angels a run in Tuesday's 11-inning loss by dropping a routine throw at first.

Part of Girardi's thinking for these moves is he wanted to give Judge a lighter workload for a day with the Yankees nine days into a stretch in which they are scheduled to play 13 days in a row from June 6-18.

"I need to kind of get Judge a (lighter) day here somewhere," Girardi said. "There's a chance I'll give my lefties (Brett Gardner and Didi Gregorius) a day off against (Oakland lefty Sean) Manaea (on Friday). I'm just trying to pick some days for each guy in this 13-day stretch.

"You try to get (Judge) off his feet a little bit to make sure that he stays somewhat rested in his legs. I'm just trying to keep all the guys strong during this stretch. We're in a midst of our schedule of (playing) 33 (games) in 34 (days)."

Chapman still due back Sunday

Rehabbing closer Aroldis Chapman, who is working out with the Tampa Yankees, threw a 23-pitch simulated game in Bradenton, Fla., and walked away with no issues.

On the DL since May 13 with left rotator cuff inflammation, Chapman now will head to Trenton and pitch one inning for the Double-A Thunder in an Eastern League game on Friday night.

If all goes well through Friday, Chapman will travel to Oakland on Saturday and come off the DL for the Yankees' series finale against the Athletics on Sunday.



Charting Yankees rookie Aaron Judge's 22 homers with distances, exit velos

By Randy Miller

June 15, 2017

Yankees right fielder [Aaron Judge](#) hasn't slowed down since setting the Major League record for home runs by a rookie in the month of April with 10. Through Wednesday, he's up to 22 ... most in the major leagues.

Here is a look at all of Judge's homers ... the videos, plus the statistics (opposing pitcher, distance, exit velocity, count, etc):

Judge: By the numbers

Age: 25 (26 on April 26, 2018)

Height: 6-foot-7

Weight: 282

2017 stats: .338 average, 222 AB, 58 runs, 75 hits, 11 doubles, 2 triples, 22 HR, 49 RBIs, 40 BB, 75 K, 6 SB, 2 CS, 61 games

Home run No. 1

Date: April 9

Ballpark: Oriole Park

Opponent: Baltimore Orioles

Pitcher: RHP Mychal Givens

Inning: Top of the 8th

Count: 2-2

Outs: 0

Details: Solo homer on flyball to left field

Distance: 372 feet (ESPN Home Run Tracker)

Exit velocity: 97.0 mph (ESPN Home Run Tracker)

Home run No. 2

Date: April 10

Ballpark: Yankee Stadium

Opponent: Tampa Bay Rays

Pitcher: RHP Alex Cobb

Inning: Bottom of the 4th

Count: 2-2

Outs: 2

Details: Solo homer on flyball to left field

Distance: 391 feet (ESPN Home Run Tracker)

Exit velocity: 105.4 mph (ESPN Home Run Tracker)

Home run No. 3

Date: April 12

Ballpark: Yankee Stadium

Opponent: Tampa Bay Rays

Pitcher: RHP Erasmo Ramirez

Inning: Bottom of the 7th

Count: 1-1

Outs: 2

Details: 2-run homer to deep center.

Distance: 435 feet (ESPN Home Run Tracker)

Exit velocity: 105.9 mph (ESPN Home Run Tracker)

Home run No. 4

Date: April 17

Ballpark: Yankee Stadium

Opponent: Chicago White Sox

Pitcher: LHP Derek Holland

Inning: Bottom of the 5th

Count: 3-1

Outs: 2

Details: Two-run homer to deep left field.

Distance: 405 feet (ESPN Home Run Tracker)

Exit velocity: 101.7 mph (ESPN Home Run Tracker)

Home run No. 5

Date: April 19

Ballpark: Yankee Stadium

Opponent: Chicago White Sox

Pitcher: RHP Dylan Covey

Inning: Bottom of the 5th

Count: 1-0

Outs: 2

Details: Solo homer to deep left-center

Distance: 451 feet (ESPN Home Run Tracker), 448 feet (MLB.com Statcast)

Exit velocity: 113.9 mph (ESPN Home Run Tracker), 115.5 mph (MLB.com Statcast)

Home run No. 6

Date: April 22

Ballpark: PNC Park

Opponent: Pittsburgh Pirates

Pitcher: LHP Antonio Bastardo

Inning: Top of the 9th

Count: 2-2

Outs: 0

Details: Solo homer on flyball to deep left-center.

Distance: 460 feet (ESPN Home Run Tracker), 457 feet (MLB.com Statcast)

Exit velocity: 110.4 mph (ESPN Home Run Tracker), 115.6 mph (MLB.com Statcast)

Home run No. 7

Date: April 26

Ballpark: Fenway Park

Opponent: Boston Red Sox

Pitcher: RHP Rick Porcello

Inning: Top of the 2nd

Count: First pitch

Outs: 0

Details: 2-run homer on flyball to deep right field.

Distance: 391 feet (ESPN Home Run Tracker)

Exit velocity: 100.5 mph (ESPN Home Run Tracker)

Home run No. 8

Date: April 28

Ballpark: Yankee Stadium

Opponent: Baltimore Orioles

Pitcher: RHP Kevin Gausman

Inning: Bottom of the 5th

Count: 1-1

Outs: 0

Details: Solo homer on liner to deep left-center.

Distance: 410 feet (ESPN Home Run Tracker)

Exit velocity: 112.2 mph (ESPN Home Run Tracker)

Home run No. 9

Date: April 28

Ballpark: Yankee Stadium

Opponent: Baltimore Orioles

Pitcher: RHP Kevin Gausman

Inning: Bottom of the 6th

Count: 3-2

Outs: 2

Details: Two-run homer on liner to deep center.

Distance: 425 feet (ESPN Home Run Tracker), 435 (MLB.com Statcast)

Exit velocity: 112.3 mph (ESPN Home Run Tracker), 119.4 (MLB.com Statcast)

Home run No. 10

Date: April 29

Ballpark: Yankee Stadium

Opponent: Baltimore Orioles

Pitcher: LHP Jayson Aquino

Inning: Bottom of the 7th

Count: 0-1

Outs: 2

Details: 2-run homer on flyball to deep right-center field.

Distance: 435 feet (ESPN Home Run Tracker)

Exit velocity: 105.4 mph (ESPN Home Run Tracker)

Home run No. 11

Date: May 2

Ballpark: Yankee Stadium

Opponent: Toronto Blue Jays

Pitcher: RHP Mat Latos

Inning: Bottom of the 3rd

Count: First pitch

Outs: 1

Details: Solo homer on flyball to right field.

Distance: 337 feet (ESPN Home Run Tracker)

Exit velocity: 91.6 mph (ESPN Home Run Tracker)

Home run No. 12**Date:** May 2**Ballpark:** Yankee Stadium**Opponent:** Toronto Blue Jays**Pitcher:** RHP Jason Grilli**Inning:** Bottom of the 7th**Count:** 3-2**Outs:** 0**Details:** Three-run homer on flyball to deep left field.**Distance:** 391 feet (ESPN Home Run Tracker)**Exit velocity:** 104.9 mph (ESPN Home Run Tracker)**Home run No. 13****Date:** May 3**Ballpark:** Yankee Stadium**Opponent:** Toronto Blue Jays**Pitcher:** RHP Marcus Stroman**Inning:** Bottom of the 3rd**Count:** 2-0**Outs:** 0**Details:** Two-run homer on flyball to deep center field.**Distance:** 426 feet (ESPN Home Run Tracker)**Exit velocity:** 103.0 mph (ESPN Home Run Tracker)

Home run No. 14

Date: May 14 (Game 1 of doubleheader)

Ballpark: Yankee Stadium

Opponent: Houston Astros

Pitcher: RHP Mike Fiers

Inning: Bottom of the 4th

Count: 3-2

Outs: 0

Details: Solo homer on flyball to deep center field.

Distance: 457 feet (ESPN Home Run Tracker)

Exit velocity: 108.4 mph (ESPN Home Run Tracker)

Home run No. 15

Date: May 20

Ballpark: Tropicana Field

Opponent: Tampa Bay Rays

Pitcher: RHP Matt Andriese

Inning: Top of the 2nd

Count: 1-2

Outs: 0

Details: Solo homer on flyball to deep right field.

Distance: 384 feet (ESPN Home Run Tracker)

Exit velocity: 102.9 mph (ESPN Home Run Tracker)

Home run No. 16

Date: May 28

Ballpark: Yankee Stadium

Opponent: Oakland Athletics

Pitcher: RHP Andrew Triggs

Inning: Bottom of the 3rd

Count: 2-1

Outs: 2

Details: Liner to deep right for 1st career grand slam.

Distance: 377 feet (ESPN Home Run Tracker)

Exit velocity: 104.8 mph (ESPN Home Run Tracker)

Home run No. 17

Date: May 29

Ballpark: Oriole Park

Opponent: Toronto Blue Jays

Pitcher: RHP Dylan Bundy

Inning: Top of the 7th

Count: 3-2

Outs: 1

Details: Solo homer on flyball to deep right-center field.

Distance: 429 feet (ESPN Home Run Tracker)

Exit velocity: 111.2 mph (ESPN Home Run Tracker)

Home run No. 18

Date: June 2

Ballpark: Rogers Centre

Opponent: Toronto Blue Jays

Pitcher: LHP Francisco Liriano

Inning: Top of the 6th

Count: 1-0

Outs: 0

Details: Solo homer on flyball to right field.

Distance: 448 feet (ESPN Home Run Tracker)

Exit velocity: 111.9 mph (ESPN Home Run Tracker)

Home run No. 19

Date: June 10

Ballpark: Yankee Stadium

Opponent: Baltimore Orioles

Pitcher: RHP Chris Tillman

Inning: Bottom of the 1st

Count: 1-0

Outs: 1

Details: Solo homer on line drive to left field.

Distance: 391 feet (ESPN Home Run Tracker), 382 feet (MLB.com Statcast)

Exit velocity: 121.1 (MLB.com Statcast)

Home run No. 20

Date: June 11

Ballpark: Yankee Stadium

Opponent: Baltimore Orioles

Pitcher: RHP Logan Verrett

Inning: Bottom of the 6th

Count: 1-1

Outs: 1

Details: Solo homer on flyball to left-center field.

Distance: 496 feet (ESPN Home Run Tracker), 495 feet (MLB.com Statcast)

Exit velocity: 119.6 mph (ESPN Home Run Tracker), 118.6 mph (MLB.com Statcast)

Home run No. 21

Date: June 11

Ballpark: Yankee Stadium

Opponent: Baltimore Orioles

Pitcher: RHP Jimmy Yacabonis

Inning: Bottom of the 7th

Count: 2-2

Outs: 1

Details: Two-run homer on line drive to right-center field.

Distance: 401 feet (ESPN Home Run Tracker)

Exit velocity: 112.4 mph (ESPN Home Run Tracker)

Home run No. 22

Date: June 12

Ballpark: Angel Stadium

Opponent: Los Angeles Angels

Pitcher: RHP Bud Norris

Inning: Top of the 8th

Count: 2-0

Outs: 1

Details: Two-run homer on flyball to right-center field.

Distance: 438 feet (ESPN Home Run Tracker)

Exit velocity: 107.7 mph (ESPN Home Run Tracker)



Is this the least hateable Yankees team ever?

By David Schoenfield

June 14, 2017

The New York Yankees are back. They made the playoffs just once in the past four seasons, and while they never slipped below .500, they did mostly slip into irrelevance other than a one-and-done wild-card appearance in 2015. But here they are, led by future first-ballot Hall of Famer Aaron Judge (what, too soon?), making an argument that they are the best team in baseball.

The thing about these Yankees -- I kind of like them. I said it. They're not your typical Yankees team, built more on youth and homegrown players than aging, high-priced free agents. You can't help but like Judge, or at least admit his combination of power at the plate and grace in the outfield is pretty awesome. Luis Severino has been fun to watch. Brett Gardner is playing like an All-Star. Alex Rodriguez isn't around to steal the headlines.

It got me thinking: Is this the most likable Yankees team ever? I mean, it's OK to admit that most of us dislike the Yankees by default. You know the reasons why. The rings. George Steinbrenner. The money. That pinstripes magic that makes everything always go the Yankees way. And no, I'm absolutely not bitter about that home run David Justice hit off Arthur Rhodes.

So let's go back to 1920 and rank all the Yankees teams from least likable to most likable, focusing mostly on the post-1976 era, when I first started watching baseball.

2000 Yankees (87-74): This team won the World Series, which is bad enough. But even more disheartening, it wasn't even a good team. The Yankees won only 87 games and beat my Mariners in the American League Championship Series in part because Jamie Moyer broke his kneecap in practice before the series began. They won the first game of the World Series because Timo Perez didn't hustle and was thrown out at home plate. Then in Game 2, Roger Clemens THREW THE JAGGED SHARD OF A BROKEN BAT AT MIKE PIAZZA, a guy he had hit in the head with a pitch earlier in the season. If this happened in 2017, Twitter would have had a nuclear meltdown.

2009 Yankees (103-59): In 2008, the Yankees missed the playoffs for the first time since 1993, so they went out and spent \$423.5 million to sign Mark Teixeira, CC Sabathia and A.J. Burnett. That's more than 17 franchises were valued at the time. They moved into the new Yankee Stadium and tried to sell \$2,500 tickets. Then they won the World Series.

1999 Yankees (98-64): Chad Curtis, the World Series hero, was later sent to prison for molesting three teenage girls at a rural Michigan high school where he volunteered. Chuck Knoblauch was later arrested twice for domestic violence. Jim Leyritz killed a mother of two in a DUI accident. Hideki Irabu was later arrested for assaulting a bartender and drunken driving. Clemens and Darryl Strawberry were still here. They also won the World Series.

2012 Yankees (95-67): This was an aggravating, overachieving old team -- the starting lineup featured guys 31, 31, 32, 34, 36, 38, 38 and 40 years old -- that made the playoffs even though Mariano Rivera was injured. It then turned into destroyer of dreams against the Orioles in the division series. The O's had made the playoffs after 14 consecutive losing seasons. A feel-good story! Game 1 was a tie game in the ninth, when Russell Martin leads off with a home run, and the Yankees score five runs. In Game 3, Raul Ibanez homers in the ninth to tie it, and homers again in the 12th to win it. Raul Freakin' Ibanez, supreme Mr. Nice Guy and ex-Mariner, doing this for the Yankees (alongside Ichiro Suzuki). At least the ALCS turned in a four-game sweep in which the big story was Alex Rodriguez getting benched and holding that infamous on-field session with the media. And you wonder why teammates once called him "A-Fraud" for his poor playoff performances.

1949-1964 Yankees: Yeah, baseball in the 1950s was great -- if you were a Yankees fan. Otherwise, it mostly sucked. They won 14 pennants in 16 seasons, including five straight World Series titles from 1949 to 1953. Even Yankees fans grew bored with all the winning. They drew almost 2.3 million fans in 1949, but just 1.3 million by 1964. They also were one of the last teams to integrate, not signing a black player until 1955.

2004 Yankees (101-61): This was the apex of the Red Sox-Yankees rivalry. The Red Sox were searching for that long-awaited World Series title and were still the scrappy underdogs. The Yankees were the evil empire. They had traded for Rodriguez and Kevin Brown, and signed Gary Sheffield as a free agent. Jason Giambi went down with some weird intestinal parasite, and I am in no way suggesting that there was something more to that story.

In July, this happened:

In Game 6 of the ALCS, this happened:

I'm kind of getting all weepy just remembering these good times.

2001 Yankees (95-65): Of course I hate this team! They beat the 116-win Mariners in the ALCS! Then they almost won the World Series for the fifth time in six seasons. There was the Derek Jeter flip play against the A's, the Tino Martinez and Scott Brosius home runs off Byung-Hyun Kim, the Jeter Mr. November home run. I'll never forget when the Yankees took a 2-1 lead over the Diamondbacks in the eighth inning of Game 7. It started to rain, the wind picked up, garbage was flying throughout the stadium. It felt like the Apocalypse.

1978 Yankees (100-63): They were 14 games back on July 19. Billy Martin got fired. The Red Sox won their final eight games, but the Yankees finished 6-1 to end up in a tie for the division title. Bucky Dent hits the home run. Bob Welch strikes out Reggie Jackson in an epic confrontation in Game 2 of the World Series, but Jackson gets his revenge with a two-run homer in Game 6. Of course he did. It's the Yankees. They win back-to-back titles. The only redeeming thing about this year was Ron Guidry going 25-3. You can't dislike somebody nicknamed Louisiana Lightning.

2005 Yankees (95-67): I'm still annoyed that Aaron Small went 10-0.

1936-1939 Yankees: They demolished the American League, winning four straight pennants by an average margin of 15 games. They won four World Series in a row, losing just three games.

Lou Gehrig got sick in 1939, and that didn't even slow down the team. The Yanks went 106-45 and outscored their opponents by 411 runs.

2014 Yankees (84-78): This should have been the first losing season since 1992. In Jeter's final season, Joe Girardi kept hitting him second, despite a .304 OBP, which was just dumb. It was actually kind of infuriating, like saying, "We know this is really dumb, but we're the Yankees and we don't care and we'll probably win anyway." They were outscored by 31 runs and still finished with a winning season.

2010 Yankees (95-67): Steinbrenner passed away in July and everybody talked about what a great owner he had been. I mean, forget that time he took away dental insurance from Yankees employees. Anyway, the Yankees were tied for the AL East lead on the final day of the season. Now, I'm not saying they threw that game so they'd face the Twins in the playoffs instead of the Rangers, but they started Dustin Moseley in the season finale. They won the wild card, but MLB was so appalled at what the Yankees did that it added a second wild card for 2012 to force teams to go all-out for the division.

1982 Yankees (79-83): Peak Steinbrenner. After losing the World Series in 1981, The Boss decided he needed more speed, so they traded for Ken Griffey Sr. and signed Dave Collins. Those two combined for 23 stolen bases. He fired Bob Lemon as manager after 14 games, hired Gene Michael, replaced him with Clyde King, and after the season, hired Martin again (for the third of five times).

2006 Yankees (97-65): Do you remember anything about this club? Me neither. But they probably weren't all that likable. I do remember Joe Torre moving A-Rod down to eighth in the lineup in Game 4 of the ALDS, which was in no way a complete overreaction to a three-game sample.

2013 Yankees: Jeter missed almost the entire season. Teixeira played just 15 games. A-Rod played 44 games, and I don't remember if it was because he was hurt or suspended. (He was injured, but his suspension for the 2014 season was announced during this season.) Lyle Overbay, Eduardo Nunez, Jayson Nix, Vernon Wells and Travis Hafner played key roles. I have no memory of Wells in pinstripes. They still finished over .500. Once, just once, could they have a losing season?

2002 Yankees (103-58): It was time for change, so they replaced Tino Martinez with Giambi, that winter's mega free agent. They also brought back former top prospect Ruben Rivera, only to release him in spring training after he stole Jeter's glove and sold it to a memorabilia dealer for \$2,500. Giambi would hit 41 home runs, but the club flamed out with a playoff loss to the Angels.

1979-1981 Yankees: Thurman Munson died in 1979, George Brett torched Goose Gossage in the 1980 playoffs, and Tom Paciorek beat the Yankees with walk-off home runs on consecutive nights, which was like the biggest highlight in Mariners history for a long time. Even as a kid, it was sweet to beat the Yanks. Steinbrenner shuffled through five managers (including Bob Lemon twice) and called Dave Winfield "Mr. May" after he went 1-for-22 in the 1981 World Series. But the highlight of this era was Steinbrenner getting into a fight in an elevator with two

Dodgers fans during the World Series, or so he claimed. "There are two guys in town looking for their teeth," he said, explaining the cast on his left hand, a swollen lip and bruise on his head.

2016 Yankees (84-78): This team committed the worst sin imaginable for the Yankees, being both boring *and* mediocre. Releasing A-Rod in August was only a temporary reprieve.

2007 Yankees (94-68): Of all the dramatic things that could happen, Roger Clemens announced his return to the Yankees during the seventh-inning stretch of a game in May. Can you get any more insufferable? Just be careful clicking on that link; you may grow a third ear.

1965-1975 Yankees: The dark years. No playoffs for 11 seasons in a row. In 1965, they had their first losing season since 1925. These teams weren't as bad, mostly just unmemorable, although there was that time pitchers Mike Kekich and Fritz Peterson exchanged wives and children. They even had to play two seasons at Shea Stadium as Yankee Stadium was rebuilt. What would be the seminal moment in the era came in 1973, however, when Steinbrenner led a group that purchased the Yankees from CBS for \$8.8 million. "I won't be active in the day-to-day operations of the club at all," he said. "I can't spread myself so thin. I've got enough headaches with my shipping company. We plan absentee ownership as far as running the Yankees is concerned."

2003 Yankees (101-61): It's easy to forget how much the Yankees used to outspend the other teams in this era. This team had a payroll 55 percent higher than the No. 2 team. There was the memorable Pedro Martinez-Don Zimmer fight in the ALCS, and then Aaron Boone ripped apart hearts across New England with his Game 7 home run. Joe Torre crying in joy after that game almost made us all Yankees fans for a moment -- until we realized they were still the Yankees. At least they lost the World Series.

2011 Yankees (97-65): By this time, we were numb to Yankees success. Maybe I liked this team a little. Bartolo Colon was on it.

1983 Yankees (91-71): Winfield killed a seagull. Was it an accident or on purpose?

1997 Yankees (96-66): You know who was underrated? Mike Stanton. From the 1997 postseason through 2001, he pitched 26 innings with a 2.77 ERA, .204 average allowed and no home runs. He helped get the ball to Rivera and never gets any credit.

1929-1935 Yankees: It's kind of amazing in retrospect: The Yankees had Babe Ruth (through 1934) and Lou Gehrig and won just one pennant in seven seasons. That was 1932, the year Ruth CALLED HIS HOME RUN IN THE WORLD SERIES AND THEN POINTED SEVERAL TIMES AT THE PITCHER AS HE ROUNDED THE BASES. How incredible is that? Then again -- what a jerk! Imagine that happening in 2017. We would never discuss another bat flip again because we'd be in the middle of a civil war over respect for the game.

1984 Yankees (87-75): I have fond memories of playing this team on MicroLeague Baseball, although I refused to hit Omar Moreno leadoff like Yogi Berra did. This was the year Don Mattingly became Donnie Baseball as he battled Winfield for the batting title. The final day began with Mattingly at .339 and Winfield at .341, but Mattingly went 4-for-5 with two doubles to end up at .343, while Winfield went 1-for-4 to finish at .340.

1996 Yankees (92-70): This was actually kind of a nice story at the time, as the Yankees returned to the World Series for the first time since 1981 and beat the Braves. They had those young guys leading the way -- Jeter, Bernie Williams, Andy Pettitte and Mariano Rivera. David Cone returned from a blood clot. Dwight Gooden threw a no-hitter.

Then this happened in the playoffs, which is when we should have known Jeter was destined for a charmed existence:

Even all that would have been bearable, but THEN WADE BOGGS HAD TO JUMP ON A HORSE IN A VICTORY LAP and:

2015 Yankees (87-75): After a glorious two-year absence from the playoffs, the Yankees win a wild-card spot in the first post-Jeter year. A-Rod returned from his year-long suspension to hit 33 home runs, and it almost felt like a redemption story. Then he went 0-for-4 with two strikeouts in the playoff game and the Yankees lost, and all was right with the world.

1985 Yankees (97-64): This was a fun team. Rickey Henderson scored 146 runs and stole 80 bases. Mattingly won MVP honors by driving in 145 runs. Winfield and Don Baylor provided plenty of beef. Steinbrenner fired Berra after 16 games and replaced him with Martin (for his fourth stint). The Yankees lost eight in a row down the stretch, and Martin and pitcher Ed Whitson brawled for 20 minutes in a Baltimore bar. Whitson had been bad-mouthing Martin for not starting him the day before. Martin went after Whitson. Big mistake: Whitson had been trained in martial arts. He broke Martin's arm. The 1980s, everyone!

1986-1989 Yankees: The decline from perennial playoff contender to sub-.500 team began under Lou Piniella, included a fifth and final appearance from Martin, went back to Piniella, and concluded with a 74-87 season in 1989 under Dallas Green and Bucky Dent. This was also the era when Steinbrenner hired gambler Howard Spira to dig up dirt on Winfield. Obviously, I enjoyed this era.

1992-1995 Yankees: After Steinbrenner was banned from day-to-day management of the team in 1990 for the Winfield/Spira episode, the Yankees set about rebuilding the farm system without Steinbrenner's interference. Buck Showalter was hired as manager in 1992, and even though Steinbrenner was reinstated in 1993, the rebuilding was successful and the team made the playoffs in 1995 after a 14-year absence.

That was an enjoyable team. It was Donnie Baseball's final season and first playoff appearance. Pettitte and Rivera were rookies. Jeter made his debut. Williams blossomed into a star. Paul O'Neill was kicking Gatorade coolers. Now, this may seem like a bad moment for Yankees fans:

It was actually a great moment! Showalter wasn't brought back and "Clueless Joe" was hired. See, even bad things for the Yankees turn into good things.

2008 Yankees (89-73): OK, they didn't finish .500, but they did miss the playoffs for the first time since 1993 despite a \$209 million payroll. I miss you Kei Igawa and Darrell Rasner.

1920-1926 Yankees: The Yankees became *The Yankees* when they acquired Ruth from the Red Sox prior to the 1920 season. Ruth was a sensation in 1920, cracking 54 home runs. Imagine watching the young, charismatic, force of nature that was Ruth. And I just mean his nightlife

activities. They won pennants in 1921, 1922 and 1923. Yankee Stadium opened in 1923, and they'd win their first World Series. A dynasty was born.

1998 Yankees (114-48): I will grudgingly admit that excellence is to be admired. Orlando Hernandez's escape from Cuba to postseason hero was an incredible story. You can't dislike Rivera. They had awesome brawls. Of course, they received a little help in Game 1 of the World Series. Remember when Mark Langston fanned Tino Martinez in a tie game in the eighth inning? Except Richie Garcia -- the same ump in the Jeffrey Maier crime scene -- called the pitch a ball. And Tino followed with this:

Ask Padres fans if they're still angry about that one.

1976-1977 Yankees: After a 12-year absence from the postseason, the Yankees returned to the World Series in 1976, beating the Royals in the ALCS with one of the seminal moments of my childhood:

Those were the days. Howard Cosell hogging the call. Fans streaming on the field. Chambliss slugging people as he rounded the bases. The likable Willie Randolph at second base, the vastly underrated Graig Nettles playing third as good as Brooks Robinson, Thurman Munson taking no crap from anybody. They lost the World Series, so they signed Reggie Jackson in 1977 and he did this to become Mr. October.

1927-1928 Yankees: Ahh, to go back in time to see Ruth and Gehrig terrorize opposing pitchers. I think we'd all enjoy that. They swept back-to-back World Series.

1990-91 Yankees: I loved these teams. Years of bad trades -- Willie McGee, Fred McGriff, Jay Buhner -- and bad free-agent signings had depleted the farm system. They hit rock bottom in 1990 with a 95-loss season, their worst since 1913. What a list of True Yankees: Bob Geren behind the plate, Steve Balboni at DH, Alvaro Espinoza at shortstop, the legendary Oscar Azocar in left field. Deion Sanders hit .158 in 57 games. Tim Leary lost 19 games as the staff ace. Man, those were the good old days.

2017 Yankees: Imagine this: A Yankees team without a lineup of 30-something veterans. Sure, they still have some high-priced free agents in Jacoby Ellsbury, Masahiro Tanaka, Aroldis Chapman and Sabathia, but the core players came up through the system (Judge, Gary Sanchez, Gardner, Severino, Dellin Betances, Jordan Montgomery) or were acquired via trade (Michael Pineda, Aaron Hicks, Didi Gregorius, Starlin Castro). Judge has been baseball's most exciting player so far, and don't sleep on Sanchez, last year's rookie starlet who has been heating up as well. Hicks' maturation has been impressive and Severino is pitching his way onto the All-Star team. It's a group that, dare I say it, may grow together to resemble another core group from 20 years ago. In other words -- we don't even want to go there, do we?



Palladino: Red-Hot Yankees Proving To Be A Sum Of Their Parts

By Ernie Palladino

June 14, 2017

The inarguable fact is that Aaron Judge has become the face of the Yankees.

But here's another one: A body is comprised of more than a face. And when you're talking about these Baby Bombers as they attempt to distance themselves from the rest of the AL East, one should remember that a lot of other parts have gotten involved.

In essence, there's a lot of good going on besides Judge's massive, monstrous homers and his dominance over exit velo, the Statcast set's newest fascination.

For all the exotic numbers the larger-than-life rookie has entered into that web-based pleasure dome for seamheads, recording five of the top six hardest-hit balls in baseball wouldn't count for much without others helping out.

Let's also not forget the Triple Crown potential Judge's league lead in batting average (.347), homers (22) and barely runner-up status with 49 RBI has generated doesn't happen without others reaching base.

And those leads Judge's blasts afford wouldn't stand up if not for a pitching resurgence that has solidified what was once a shaky rotation.

In other words, a lot of good has come from a lot of different people in helping Joe Girardi's crew build a 38-24 record, trailing only the 44-22 Astros in the American League and leading the Red Sox by three games in the East.

Even Masahiro Tanaka had finally gotten into the act. After a 2 1/2-month struggle, his 6 2/3-inning, one-earned-run performance Monday night in Anaheim indicated he might have turned a corner. He might even have come away with a win, in fact, had Judge not set up a tying hit with a throwing error.

Decision or not, Tanaka's four-hit effort, highlighted by eight strikeouts against just two walks, put him in the company of fellow starters CC Sabathia, Michael Pineda, Luis Severino and, yes, even Jordan Montgomery in win worthiness.

Hitting? It's been more than Judge.

The 5-3 win over the Angels broke a five-game streak in which the offense scored at least eight runs and a four-game streak in which the lineup produced three homers.

After all, a team that hands Baltimore 16-3 and 14-3 beatings over the weekend doesn't do that off one player alone.

Gary Sanchez, acknowledged now as so ideal a complement to Judge that pundits have coupled their names with Mantle and Maris, has made himself a home in the No. 6 hole. Since his placement there at the beginning of the streak, he has slashed at .429/.478/1.095 with nine runs, two doubles, four homers and 13 RBI.

Elder statesman Matt Holliday had reached safely in 14 straight games since May 30, hitting .321 over that stretch with four homers and 14 RBIs. Starlin Castro banded three homers in three days against Baltimore. Aaron Hicks continues to keep highly prized prospect Clint Frazier in the minors because there's just nowhere to put him in the outfield, even as Jacoby Ellsbury fights off the effects of a concussion on the DL.

Judge isn't the only one with double-figure home runs. Castro, Hicks, Holliday, Sanchez and Brett Gardner have done that, too — though their totals together wouldn't match the mileage Judge puts on his clouts.

Then again, they all count, whether they go 495 or barely clear the fence.

Judge is clearly the face of the Yanks. He has earned that with his Ruthian power and his humble, team-first attitude.

But it is true that a lot of others are generating excitement, too.

Especially at this high point, the Yanks have become the sum of their pinstripes.

PATIENCE IS KEY WORD FOR TORRES, ADAMS, FRAZIER

For Yankees' Triple-A stars, waiting is hardest part



BOB KLAPISCH
COMMENTARY

MOOSIC, Pa. - They hear the same questions, over and over, about getting called up to the big leagues, about having to manage their raging impatience while watching snippets of the Yankees on the clubhouse TV. Whether you're Gleyber Torres or Chance Adams or Clint Frazier, it's both a beautiful and tortuous life, although the ratio changes from day to day, sometimes inning to inning.

That's the surcharge for playing in a

loaded farm system that's bottlenecked at Class AAA. The RailRiders have at least four prospects who could've theoretically made it to The Show with another organization by now. But not with the Yankees, who have the industry's No. 2 farm system as well as the American League's youngest major-league roster.

So how do the kids keep their edge waiting for a chance - or perhaps a trade? Patience is the only currency that matters here.

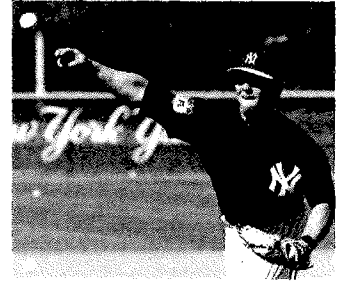
Tyler Wade, a natural shortstop who's being blocked by Didi Gregorius, is learning to become a super-utility player around the infield - or his words, "to be like Ben Zobrist." Adams, a righty with a

95-mph fastball and 0.84 WHIP, hunkers down and works on his secondary pitches. And Torres, the Yankees' No. 1 prospect, is trying to master third base before the Bombers finally give up on Chase Headley.

And then there's Frazier, the bad boy with a shock of red hair who's performing triage on his image. This, after a spring training news-cycle that was dominated by a bizarre countdown - how long could Frazier hold out before falling in line with the Yankees' conservative grooming policy?

"I was the new guy, the young guy in

See **KLAPISCH, Page 4D**



CHRIS PEDOTA/THE RECORD OF NORTH JERSEY
Chance Adams: a 95-mph fastball, 0.84 WHIP.

Klapisch

Continued from Page 1D

the clubhouse and I looked different than everybody else," Frazier said. "I think I needed to go through some of the criticism to realize they do things differently here (with the Yankees).

"I was still kind of caught up in the Cleveland (Indians) way, just letting people look the way that they want and just go out and play."

Frazier's universe is considerably smaller these days, as is his "do." With shorter hair and a lower profile, the slugger is leading the team in home runs and RBI. The problem, however, is trying to impress a Yankees hierarchy that's already fallen in love with another corner outfielder, Aaron Judge.

Not a day goes by without the RailRiders seeing or hearing about Judge's latest power display. Everyone knows the big man who, like them, was a Class-AAA prospect a year ago. "Now Aaron is destroying the baseball," Torres said with a laugh.

The clubhouse TV picks up the Bombers' telecasts, which reminds them of the glamor that awaits. Greg Bird is here, as is Tyler Austin. So much has to go right for them, just as it does for Frazier, Adams and Torres in order to be pardoned from the minors.

In fact, as much as Yankees fans are hungering for Torres to replace Headley, manager Al Pedrique says the 20-year-old rookie isn't yet prepared for the Bronx.

"If you ask me today, if the call comes, he is not ready," Pedrique said. "He's very mature. But defensively, he needs more

work at third and second."

Torres indeed looked unsure at third in Tuesday's game against Rochester - his first half-step on a couple of ground balls was backward. And even though the Yankees are confident Torres has the bat speed and power to handle major league pitching, he nevertheless struggled after his promotion from Class AA in late May.

Batting under .200 only a week ago, Torres is finally on a hot streak, including going 3 for 4 on Tuesday and raising his average to .284. But Pedrique's mandate from the Bronx is to make sure Torres doesn't become overwhelmed the day he sets foot in the Stadium. The Venezuelan-born star is remarkably mature, having already mastered English and blessed with the confidence to look you in the eye and offer a handshake at first meeting.

Yet, Torres is in a race with

Wade, who leads the RailRiders with a .310 average and has the can-do attitude of a prospect who's figured out how to escape Class AAA.

"(VP of Player Development) Gary Denbo came to me last year and said, "this is what we're thinking," Wade said of a career path that will mimic Zobrist's. "I couldn't be more excited. I can help keep the (everyday players) fresh come September and October."

Wade has no choice but to be invested in the Yankees' vision; it's the only way to keep the spirits up so far away from the Bronx. It's only a two-hour drive but remote enough to occasionally challenge your cell reception on the way. The games themselves start at 6:30 p.m. in front of a sparse, friendly crowd whose individual conversations can be heard up in the press box.

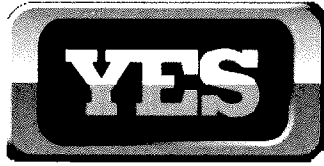
That's actually one of the

perks of the minor league reality: the absence of media, which means the players have the clubhouse to themselves. No need to push through TV cameras or tape reporters. Only two reporters regularly cover the RailRiders, which is why interviews are easy to come by. Unlike their big-league counterparts who typically disappear into the players' lounge, the RailRiders hang out at their lockers before and after games. Have a question? They're happy to answer.

Of course, any of them would trade the tranquility for the wall of noise in the Bronx. But they'll have to wait their turn. According to Baseball America, the Yankees have more talent in the pipeline than any other AL club.

In other words, there's more to survival in this pretty little town than bat-speed or spin-rate. It's called patience.

Journal News
6.15.17



RailRiders manager Al Pedrique: Gleyber Torres 'not ready yet'

By Aidan Curran

06/14/2017

New York Yankees fans may need to temper their excitement concerning the team's top prospect, shortstop Gleyber Torres, if recent comments made by his Triple-A manager are any indication.

"If you ask me today, if the call comes, he is not ready," Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders manager Al Pedrique told reporters on Tuesday. "He is headed in the right direction. I like where he is at for a 20-year-old kid to be in Triple-A. He's very mature, but defensively, he needs more work at third and second."

Torres, acquired last July in the trade that sent closer Aroldis Chapman to the Cubs, started the season with Double-A Trenton before getting promoted to Triple-A on May 21.

So far with the RailRiders, Torres is hitting .284 with two home runs and 14 RBI, and he has committed five errors - two at third base, two at shortstop, and one at second base - in 19 games.

Aside from the comments Pedrique made about Torres' defense, another stat that also bears watching for Torres' development is his strikeout rate. Since his promotion, Torres is striking out in 28.4 percent of his at-bats, according to FanGraphs, which is a sharp increase from his Double-A strikeout percentage of 15.1%.

Yankees focus on pitching during Draft

By Bryan Hoch

June 14, 2017

NEW YORK -- The Yankees went into this year's Draft aiming to add more quality talent to a system that is already rated among the best in the game, using their first picks on a trio of impact arms in right-handers Clarke Schmidt, Matt Sauer and Trevor Stephan.

It was a sign of what would transpire over the course of the three days to follow. New York's Draft was pitching rich, calling the names of 28 hurlers while using 28 of 40 selections on collegiate players.

"We feel real good about the haul that we were able to bring in," said Damon Oppenheimer, the Yankees' vice president of domestic amateur scouting. "I think we have a good crop of pitching. We've done a lot of research on where big leaguers come from; once you get past the first few picks, you're generally more successful when you put pitching into your system."

The 16th overall selection was Schmidt, who starred at the University of South Carolina before Tommy John surgery ended his junior season. Schmidt was 4-2 with a 1.34 ERA in 60 1/3 innings for the Gamecocks, posting a 10.44 K/9.0 IP ratio while holding opponents to a .194 average (41-for-211).

"Clarke Schmidt was someone that we never would have had access to, sitting at 16, without that injury," general manager Brian Cashman told Yankees On Demand. "He was the Friday night starter for South Carolina and he was one of the top four college pitchers in the industry. He would've been picked well before us if he was able to finish the season healthy."

Oppenheimer said that the signing process should be straightforward, and the Yankees expect Schmidt to be pitching at full strength in approximately 12 months. Schmidt said that he was aware of the Yanks' interest and that he "can't wait" to get a look at Yankee Stadium.

"That's something I'm looking forward to," Schmidt said. "I can only imagine how pretty that park is."

The Yanks were similarly excited by the chance to call on Sauer, a right-hander from Righetti High School in Santa Maria, Calif. MLB Pipeline.com had Sauer ranked as the No. 28 prospect in this year's Draft, but Oppenheimer said the Yankees did not select Schmidt to save bonus money for Sauer.

"We weren't in it to try to take a lesser player, that's for sure," Oppenheimer said. "We were in it to take what we thought was the next best available player. I think we're fortunate that we're going to probably be able to work this thing through to get Sauer and maneuver some of our money."

New York selected two catchers, five infielders and five outfielders in the Draft, taking only one non-pitcher on Day 2: Canaan Smith, a lefty-hitting outfielder from Rockwall-Heath (Texas) High, who went in the fourth round.

"I think we attacked some things on Day 2 that we've found have been successful in this organization, some college power arms," Oppenheimer said.

The final day of the Draft produced some interesting picks. University of Notre Dame catcher Ryan Lidge, a cousin of former Major Leaguer Brad Lidge, went to New York in the 20th round. Oppenheimer and his scouts then took a few big swings in the later rounds.

Stanford right-hander Tristan Beck was selected in the 29th round despite missing all of his sophomore season due to injury; Beck has been called "the most complete college pitcher on the West Coast" by MLBPipeline.com.

Mississippi State outfielder Jake Magnum drew the attention of the Yanks in the 30th round; the speedy switch-hitter broke his hand on a slide this April, which dented his numbers, but he was the Southeastern Conference's freshman of the year and batting champ (.408) a year ago.

"We always take some guys that we think are good on Day 3 in case something crazy happens and signability comes down," Oppenheimer said. "I think we're in pretty good shape with this group."

Lidge prepares to begin career with Yankees

By Bryan Hoch

June 14, 2017

NEW YORK -- Ryan Lidge recalls leaping off his living room couch and celebrating with his family after his cousin, Brad, threw the final strike of the 2008 World Series. The catching prospect hopes to make his mark on the other end of those 60 feet and six inches.

Lidge heard his name called by the Yankees on the third and final day of the 2017 Draft on Wednesday, selected in the 20th round out of the University of Notre Dame. He said that it helped his development to have a connection to the big leagues just a phone call or text message away.

"He taught me the way I should go about my business as a professional baseball player in college," Lidge said. "I'm really thankful to have a cousin like that who could really help me. Not many people have that kind of resource."

A two-time All-Star, Brad also attended Notre Dame before an 11-year Major League career with the Astros, Phillies and Nationals. Growing up in Arlington Heights, Ill., Lidge said that he traded in his Cubs garb for whatever team Brad was pitching for.

Now the script can be flipped, as Lidge prepares to begin his pro career. He said that he intends to sign and fly to Tampa, Fla., later this week, where the fruits of the Yankees' pitching-heavy Draft will put Lidge to work on the back diamonds of the player development complex.

"I'm speechless, honestly. It's pretty cool," Lidge said. "I wasn't the biggest Yankees fan growing up, but it's hard not to respect that organization. All those championships and all those Hall of Fame players that have come through there, to hear my name with the Yankees is a dream come true."

Reputed as a strong defender, Lidge said that he takes pride in developing relationships with his pitchers as well as sharpening his throwing, blocking and pitch framing. The switch-hitter batted .215 (42-for-195) with 10 doubles, two triples, a homer and 31 RBIs as a senior, playing in all 58 of Notre Dame's games and starting 57 of them.

"Once I got to college, you learn your true responsibility as a catcher," Lidge said. "You might have three or four at-bats in a game, but you're going to catch around 150 or 200 pitches a game. That's where you're needed most, and that's really what I learned through college."

Lidge was previously drafted by the Red Sox in the 40th round of the 2013 Draft, and while it was mildly tempting to go pro out of high school, he is satisfied that he made the right choice to attend Notre Dame.

"You only get one chance at college," Lidge said. "I played four years there. No regrets. It was an incredible experience. It's pretty cool to say that I'm a professional baseball player in the New York Yankees' organization."



Scouting AL East division foes' Day 1 draft picks

By Aidan Curran

June 14, 2017

Monday marked the opening day of the 2017 MLB Draft, with every club looking to strike gold on selecting the next players to fill up their farm systems.

The New York Yankees selected right-handed pitcher **Clarke Schmidt with the 16th overall pick**, and have stuck with replenishing the farm with **young pitching talent**.

As the big-league club looks to maintain its hold on the top spot in the AL East, it's never too early to scout out the draft picks from the Bombers' divisional opponents.

Here now we take a look at the Day 1 draft picks for the Baltimore Orioles, Boston Red Sox, Tampa Bay Rays and Toronto Blue Jays, and how they project going forward.

Baltimore Orioles

D.L. Hall, LHP (#21): Ranked as the eighth-best prospect in this year's draft by **ESPN's Keith Law**, the 6-foot-1 left-hander hails from Valdosta High School in Georgia. Hall has good command for a young pitcher, sports a fastball that sits at 93-94 MPH, and also has a plus curveball and average changeup. As Hall adds more strength and fills out his frame, his ceiling is a #2 or #3 starter in an MLB rotation if he can continue to develop his changeup and fine-tune his mechanics.

Adam Hall, SS (#60): Hailing from Ontario, Canada, Hall is a raw 18-year-old shortstop with the reputation of having a very good glove with an average arm. Being only 5-foot-11, 165 lbs. Hall has a long way to go in terms of his physical development, but projects as a middle infielder at the next level. Hall is committed to Texas A&M next season, but is not expected to be difficult for Toronto to sign.

Zac Lowther, LHP (#74): Lowther is viewed as one of the most low-risk, productive college hurlers in the draft this year. During his junior season at Xavier University, Lowther had a 2.92 ERA and struck out an astonishing 13.3 batters per nine innings. There are questions about Lowther's ceiling in the pros however, due to his fastball sitting at 87-89 and his lack of command.

Boston Red Sox

Tanner Houck, RHP (#24): From the University of Missouri, Houck had a lackluster junior season after pitching very well during his freshman and sophomore years. He finished his junior year with a 4-7 record, to go along with a 3.33 ERA and 9.0 K/9 rate. The righty is considered as having one of the best fastballs in the draft, a two-seamer with some sink to it that sits at 92-93 but has reached 97 a few times. Houck has drawn some comparisons to Max Scherzer and Chris Sale because of the low three-quarter arm slot delivery that he uses. Because of his plus fastball and ability to throw a slider, Houck would fit in well as a reliever, but the Sox will try him out as a starter and see if he can develop his changeup as a dependable third pitch.

Coleman Brannen, CF (#63): Brannen is a 6-foot-1, 185 lb. centerfielder with above average speed and a good arm. With good bat speed and some pop to go along with it, Brannen's ceiling is that of an above average hitter with some power that can steal some bases and cover some ground in the outfield. The athletic centerfielder from The Westfield School in Georgia is committed to Georgia Southern in the fall but is expected to sign with Boston. "I'm 110 percent going pro," Brannen told 3rdManIn.com in February. "I made up my mind. I've known for a long time that's what I want to do. I want to play ball."

Tampa Bay Rays

Brendan McKay, 1B (#4): McKay was in the conversation to be picked first overall by the Minnesota Twins, but contract demands made the Twins draft Royce Lewis instead of McKay. The Louisville first baseman is a two-way star, and according to Rays general manager Erik Neander, will be allowed to hit and pitch with the Rays. "At this point, our plan is to continue to let him explore that," Neander said. "He's probably the first guy, as long as we can remember, that has qualified on both sides of the ball to do this. We're excited to get him in here and explore it further." A plus hitter with average power, **Baseball America said that** "he was in the discussion for being the best pure hitter in the draft class," but scouts remain "mixed on his overall power potential." It will be intriguing to see how the Rays handle his two-way ability.

Drew Rasmussen, RHP (#31): The right-hander from Oregon State was the 56th ranked player on **Baseball America's pre-draft rankings**. Rasmussen has only pitched a limited number of innings since coming back from Tommy John surgery but is seen as having a plus fastball with an average slider. He will need to work on adding another pitch to his repertoire to be successful at the next level.

Michael Mercado, RHP (#40): A 6-foot-5, 165 lb. high school pitcher, Mercado was ranked 48th by Baseball America prior to the draft. His fastball sits 88-92 and according to MLB.com, he also possesses an above average curveball and a below average slider. The lanky righty will need to bulk up to be able to handle the rigors of a full professional season, but his ability to consistently throw strikes and three-pitch arsenal indicate a good amount of promise in the young pitcher from San Diego.

Toronto Blue Jays

Logan Warmoth, SS (#22): After not being drafted in high school, Warmoth improved dramatically in only three seasons at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, earning the reputation as the top college shortstop in the draft. The 6-foot shortstop is a solid defender and an above average hitter with some power. He hit .337 with four home runs and a team-leading 53 RBI for the Tar Heels.

Nate Pearson, RHP (#28): Pearson has a lot of potential, sporting a 6-foot-6 frame as a 20 year old and featuring a 97 MPH fastball that can touch 100. Playing at the Junior College of Central Florida, Pearson mixes in a slider and a curveball that are viewed as more of a work in progress. Toronto will break him in as a starter with their organization.

Hagen Danner, C (#61): Following what has been a trend in this year's draft, Danner is a two-way high school player from California. He is seen as a really strong catcher both offensively and defensively, but can also hit 94-95 MPH on the radar gun from the mound. The 6-foot-2, 195 lb. 18-year-old is committed to UCLA and is viewed as a tough sign, but the Blue Jays obviously saw enough in the young player to take a gamble on being able to sign him.

James Hall, former Yankees PA announcer

BY KIERAN LYNCH

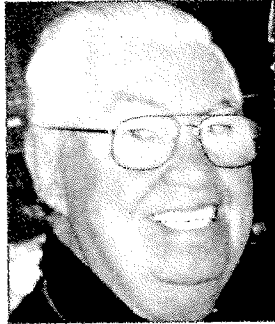
kieran.lynych@newsday.com

James Hall has probably greeted you more times than you'll ever know. "Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to Yankee Stadium. Tonight's game . . ."

For years, the Floral Park resident was Bob Sheppard's backup announcer at Yankees and Giants games, but fans rarely knew when it was Hall, and not Sheppard, addressing them.

"Often enough, people would not know Jim was replacing Bob, although Bob's voice was certainly distinct," Yankees chief operating officer Lonnie Trost said of Hall, who died Monday at 84. "There was a similarity, but not an imitation."

Sheppard, the legendary announcer who died in 2010, was a mentor to Hall, a fellow faculty member in the St. John's University Speech Department.



James Hall also was an announcer for the Giants.

Sheppard first brought Hall to Yankee Stadium in 1963 to show him how the job worked, Hall's daughter, Trisha Tuohy of Levittown, said. While learning from Sheppard, Hall met his favorite player, Mickey Mantle, and then he was hooked, she said.

Hall styled himself after Sheppard, bringing grace to the microphone with distinct

pronunciations, said Don Sperling, vice president and executive producer of Giants Entertainment.

"He was never a guy looking for attention," Sperling added. "He just had so much respect for the game, respect for the team, respect for his mentor, Bob Sheppard. That's Jim Hall right in a nutshell."

Like Sheppard, Hall remained objective, said his son, Jim Hall.

"He always felt his role as the public address announcer was to inform the fans, but not to root for the teams," said Hall, of Port Jefferson Station. "He always felt that his job was to be impartial in his announcements," he added, noting his allegiance to the football Giants, "but he bled Giant blue."

Born on May 30, 1933, in Manhattan, Hall graduated from St. John's Prep in 1951 and St. John's University in 1955 after winning two consecutive national Catholic colleges and universities debate titles. He took

his love of speech and imparted it to the students he taught and coached on the debate team throughout the years.

Hall, who was chairman of the St. John's Speech Department for 20 years, took over for Sheppard at Yankee Stadium in 2007 and brought a similar style to the public address system speakers through the end of 2008. He served as the full-time Giants announcer from 2006-15 and was the live voice heard during the closing of Yankee Stadium in 2008 and for the Giants's last game at Giants Stadium in 2009.

The Giants presented him with a Super Bowl ring after they defeated the Patriots at the end of the 2007 season and honored him during the last regular-season home game in 2016 for his role in the organization that dated back to 1977.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. tomorrow at the Church of Saint Anne in Garden City with burial at Holy Rood Cemetery in Westbury.

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6.15.17

Still Bullish on NYCFC

Red Bulls knock Hudson River rivals out of Open Cup



NEW YORK CITY FC may be having a better Major League Soccer season, but the Red Bulls still have their Hudson River Derby rival's number as the first installment in the third year of the series began Wednesday night with the Red Bulls scoring a 1-0 victory in the fourth round of the U.S. Open Cup.

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NYCFC	0	iel Royer

scored in the 67th minute in

front of the home crowd at Red Bull Arena as the Red Bulls now own six victories in their seven-game history with NYCFC. The teams play again at Red Bull Arena in their first of three MLS regular-season games on June 24. In the seven games of the rivalry, the Red Bulls have outscored NYCFC, 19-5. It is third straight time NYCFC has exited the Open Cup after one game. The Red Bulls will find out their Round of 16 opponent during Thursday's draw. — Staff report

Sacha Kijestan (l.) and Red Bulls continue domination of NYCFC with win over rivals in fourth round of U.S. Open Cup. USA TODAY

NY Daily News
6.15.17



GOAL! Daniel Royer scores the deciding goal for the Red Bulls in a 1-0 win over NYCFC. Corey Sipkin

By RYAN LAZO

Red Bulls 'sub' scores winner vs. NYCFC

NYPOST
6.15.17

Usual Red Bulls starting midfielder Daniel Royer watched his team struggle against NYCFC from the bench of the opening half of its fourth-round match of the U.S. Open Cup.

He watched intently as he recognized a need for speed, more attacking prowess and creativity on the ball. And in the second half, Chris Armas, who was coaching in place of the suspended Jesse Marsch, gave Royer his chance.

He didn't disappoint, giving the Red Bulls the energy they needed to dominate the second-half action and tallying the game-winning goal in the 67th minute to advance to the round of 16 with a 1-0

win over NYCFC.

"I tried to go out onto the field and help the team," Royer said. "I tried to be dangerous, tried to be shifty and a person that could be an option offensively."

He was that and more during a second half that saw the Red Bulls control 61.1 percent of possession and seemingly take up permanent residence in the NYCFC defensive zone. But it wasn't until Bradley Wright-Phillips launched a near-post shot that Royer made his impact.

As Wright-Phillips' shot deflected high into the

sky, Royer calmly found himself underneath it and lofted a left-footed blast into net for the lone tally of the game.

"I just saw Bradley in a situation to finish and I was trying to be in a spot to be an option for him to pass," Royer said. "After the ball got deflected, I just tried to have a good touch to get it in."

His good touch seemed to give the Red Bulls the extra energy it needed to hold off the dangerous NYCFC squad, which was riding the coattails of former World Cup champion David Villa.

rlazo@nypost.com



Open Cup: Red Bulls 1, NYCFC 0

June 14, 2017

The New York Red Bulls extended their mastery over their Major League Soccer rivals New York City FC and advanced to the fifth round of the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup with a 1-0 victory at Red Bull Arena on Wednesday night.

While the Red Bulls move on to face New England in the next round, it was the third straight year that NYCFC was eliminated in the fourth round.

NYCFC had the first chance of the game, in the 16th minute. **David Villa** hauled the ball into the Red Bulls' end before sliding a pass to an unmarked **Tommy McNamara**. McNamara's left-footed blast from about 10 yards kissed the crossbar, bounced straight down and straight up again, caroming off the crossbar and out. Or so it appeared live and on replay.

In the 37th, NYCFC came close, though not quite as close, when **Maxi Moralez** chipped a pass to Villa at the near post. He settled and took a shot that skittered wide of the near post. Three minutes later it was Villa again, collecting an errant clearance and hitting a grass-cutting right-footed shot that that appeared to be touched lightly by **Alex Ring** before it rebounded off the far post and into the arms of the sprawling goalkeeper **Ryan Meara**.

The Red Bulls showed a bit of life before the end of the first half. **Felipe**'s cross from the left found **Bradley Wright-Phillips** for a side volley that demanded a diving save by NYCFC's **Sean Johnson** in goal.

It was a different Red Bull team that began the second half, helped when **Daniel Royer** replaced **Mike Grella** and had an immediate impact. Royer took a pass from Wright-Phillips but powered his shot at Johnson. Three minutes later, NYCFC's **Alexander Callens** drew a yellow card for a foul at the top of the area on Wright-Phillips. But the free kick by **Sacha Kljestan** sailed high over the goal.

Wright-Phillips had a chance in the 60th minute but lofted an open shot from 20 yards high over the crossbar. It was Royer, however, who broke the deadlock in the

67th minute. A shot by Wright-Phillips deflected high off the on-rushing Johnson. Royer tracked it down and coolly volleyed a left-footed shot inside the near post.

Both teams began the game with first-choice lineups, though the Red Bulls rested their iron-man goalkeeper **Luis Robles** (who has appeared in 155 consecutive games in MLS) and gave a rare start to Meara. Also missing was left back **Kemar Lawrence**, just off international duty with Jamaica. The biggest difference for New York: **Chris Armas**, normally the assistant coach, took over for **Jesse Marsch**, who was suspended by US Soccer after an incident in last year's fifth-round tournament game against Philadelphia. NYCFC was without **Maxime Chanot** who was out injured.

The teams have plyed six times in the league, with the Red Bulls winning five, including three in RBA by a lopsided 16-5 in goals scored. Now that streak has been extended to four games, in all competitions.

The match was the teams' first meeting outside league play. NYCFC had been ousted from the Open Cup the last two years by New York Cosmos of the North American League Soccer; the Red Bulls suffered same fate against the Union. In 2003, the MetroStars lost to Armas and the Chicago Fire, 1-0, in the Open Cup final at Giants Stadium.



NYCFC, Orlando City SC recognized by ESPN Sports Humanitarian Awards

By Colin Stephenson

June 14, 2017

Two MLS clubs have been recognized among the nominees and honorees in the third annual Sports Humanitarian of the Year Awards, presented by ESPN and sponsored by Bristol-Myers Squibb, ESPN announced Wednesday.

New York City FC is a finalist for Sports Humanitarian Team of the Year. Meanwhile Orlando City SC is one of the honorees for the Stuart Scott ENSPIRE Award, and have received a \$100,000 grant to continue their community efforts.

Orlando City FC is one of three honorees in that category, along with the WWE's Stephanie McMahon and the Ross Initiative in Sports for Equality. ESPN is honoring the team for its efforts a year ago in the aftermath of the June 12, 2016 shooting at a popular gay nightclub in Orlando that killed 49 people. Six days later, the Lions hosted the first professional sporting event in Central Florida following the shooting – a match against the San Jose Earthquakes – and the club made the entire game a tribute to those who were killed.

Families of the victims and first responders were recognized before the game, players wore #OrlandoUnited patches on their jerseys, black armbands on their sleeves, and rainbow wristbands. A section of seats at midfield was left empty, except for a single, colorful balloon, the match was stopped in the 49th minute to honor the victims with a moment of silence, and later, the victims of the tragedy were memorialized by 49 rainbow-colored seats in Section 12 of the stadium.

The club has continued to support the cause of the LGBTQ community in Central Florida, and has raised \$500,000 for the OneOrlando Fund.

With their new \$100,000 grant, Orlando have chosen to split the reward between the Better Together Fund, Contigo Fund, and OnePulse Foundation.

Meanwhile NYCFC is one of four finalists for the team award, joining the Chicago White Sox of Major League Baseball, San Francisco 49ers of the NFL, and Memphis Grizzlies of the NBA. NYCFC was chosen as a finalist because it supports City in the Community (CITC) charity, using the game of soccer to address issues around health, education and crime throughout New York City.

To address the statistic that one-third of children in New York City's public schools are obese or overweight, CITC serves over 5,000 children each year with free programs that promote fitness and healthy eating habits. NYCFC has committed to increase the space for communities to play soccer by building three soccer fields, and making a commitment to build 50 mini-pitches – in collaboration with partners – over the next five years.

To address rising levels of crime and youth violence, and to improve community relations with local law enforcement, CITC has partnered with the Manhattan District Attorney's office on Saturday Night Lights, a program that offers soccer during times when crime levels are the highest.

Together, NYCFC and CITC are impacting more than 4,000 youths each week across New York City's five boroughs.

The winners of every award category will be announced at The Sports Humanitarian of the Year Awards on July 11 at L.A. LIVE's the Novo. They will be hosted for the third time by Laila Ali, daughter of Muhammad Ali, and ESPN's Mike Greenberg. Highlights of the show will be broadcast on ESPN on July 25, in a one-hour program beginning at 7 p.m. ET.

The net proceeds of the event will benefit the Stuart Scott Memorial Cancer Research Fund and The V Foundation. In addition, ESPN will donate \$1 million to the charities of the nominees and winners. Last year, \$1.7 million was distributed to the community as a result of the Awards.

NEW YORK POST

Why the stakes are higher in this NYCFC-Red Bulls clash

By Brian Lewis

June 14, 2017

Three years into the Hudson River Derby, New York clearly has remained red. Upstart New York City FC have had the money, yet the old-guard Red Bulls have had the wins.

Nevertheless, NYCFC have a golden opportunity to change the narrative with a single win in their first elimination game with silverware implications: Wednesday's U.S. Open Cup fourth-round showdown at Red Bull Arena (8 p.m., streaming online).

"Of course we're growing up as a football club. It's important for us to win the silverware," said NYCFC coach Patrick Vieira, whose team was eliminated in the Cup by the Cosmos the past two years. "The Open Cup is one of the competitions we're in, and we want to represent the fans, we want to represent the club really well. That's why we have to perform. We have to give ourselves the best chance to win.

"We want to make this cup a little more spicy because the game's against the Red Bulls. We know how important those games are for the fans and for the football club. We're going to go there and try our best to win the game, of course."

The rivalry has made up in spice what it lacks in history or competitiveness.

The Red Bulls, despite a frugal payroll dwarfed by big-spending NYCFC's, are 5-1 with a plus-13 goal differential in the Derby, all so far played in the MLS regular season. Bradley Wright-Phillips (a team-high six goals this year) has personally outscored NYCFC 8-5 in the series, and his Red Bulls are 3-0 at home.

Vieira and counterpart Jesse Marsch got heated in the Red Bulls' 4-1 home win last July 29, when Vieira said Marsch's pregame comments influenced referee

Mark Geiger. Vieira got dismissed from the sidelines by Geiger, and had a verbal confrontation with Marsch on his way off the field.

But on Wednesday it's Marsch who is suspended, a result of being ejected in the Red Bulls' fifth-round loss at Philadelphia last June 29.

This is NYCFC's best team, third in the East at 7-5-3 with young Jack Harrison emerging to help star David Villa. The Red Bulls, meanwhile, are stuck in sixth at 6-7-2.

"[NYCFC] is a good team. I've heard them say things like, 'This is the best team that they've had,' and I agree with that," said Marsch, who will give way to assistant Chris Armas. "It's been an up-and-down year for every team, except maybe Toronto. But they're good. They'll miss some guys because of international break like us in some of the same positions. But it sets up for a great game, a game we're really excited for. We know that we'll get their best, and they know we're going to give our best."

NYCFC will be without forward Khiry Shelton (hamstring), defender Maxime Chanot (hamstring) is questionable and Yangel Herrera unlikely to play after a grueling run to the U-20 World Cup final with Venezuela. But they will get midfielder Andrea Pirlo (knee) back for the first time since May 17. The Red Bulls could get back defender Aurelien Collin (abdominal strain).

Numbers

3

The age of Nationals manager Dusty Baker's son Darren when he was a bat boy for the Giants in the 2002 World Series, managed by his dad. The younger Baker, now 18, was drafted by Washington in the 27th round of the MLB Draft on Wednesday.

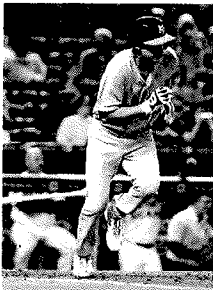
28

Franchise-record number of hits for the Twins in their 20-7 win over the Mariners on Tuesday. They lost to Seattle, 14-3, on Monday.

Quotable

"You can close your eyes and swing, and sometimes it works."

— Athletics pitcher Daniel Gossett on his infield single in Wednesday's loss to the Marlins — his first major-league hit.



The Big Picture



The Dodgers' Yasiel Puig avoids an inside pitch during Tuesday's game against the Indians in Cleveland. An incident with fans earlier in the game has earned Puig a one-game suspension and undisclosed fine from Major League Baseball. Tony Dejak/Associated Press

Obscene gesture earns a suspension for Puig

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder Yasiel Puig has been suspended for one game and fined by Major League Baseball for making an obscene gesture to Indians fans on Tuesday night.

Puig flashed the middle finger on both hands at fans sitting behind home plate at Progressive Field after hitting a home run in the second inning. Baseball executive Joe Torre announced the one-game penalty and undisclosed fine.

Puig is appealing the decision and was expected to play on Wednesday night.

The mercurial player said he "stooped" to the level of fans who he said were heckling him in the on-deck circle. Puig said that the group of fans kept talking to him

after the home run.

The suspension is the latest incident involving Puig, who has tried the Dodgers' patience with previous behavior.

Puig got two hits in the Dodgers' 7-5 win over the Indians.

"People were talking to me before the home run, and they talked to me after the home run," he said through a translator after Tuesday's game. "I stooped to their level. It happened suddenly. It came out. There's nothing I can do about it. There were about four of them. They were pretty close there."

Puig said on Tuesday that he realized he could face a fine from Major League Baseball for his actions.

"If I get fined, I can't not pay it. I know I did it," he said.

Stat leaders (through Tuesday)

AMERICAN LEAGUE BATTING

Average

.341
Aaron Judge
Yankees



Homers

22
Aaron Judge
Yankees



RBIs

52
Nelson Cruz
Mariners



Runs

57
Aaron Judge
Yankees



NATIONAL LEAGUE BATTING

Average

.372
R. Zimmerman
Nationals



Homers

19
R. Zimmerman
Nationals



RBIs

57
Jake Lamb
Diamondbacks



Runs

57
P. Goldschmidt
Diamondbacks



AMERICAN LEAGUE PITCHING

Wins

9
D. Keuchel
Astros



Ks

126
Chris Sale
Red Sox



ERA

1.67
D. Keuchel
Astros



Saves

18
C. Kimbrel
Red Sox



NATIONAL LEAGUE PITCHING

Wins

9
C. Kershaw
Dodgers



Ks

124
M. Scherzer
Nationals



ERA

2.23
C. Kershaw
Dodgers



Saves

23
G. Holland
Rockies



Star Ledger
6.15.17

DIAMOND NOTES

Angels Trout hopeful he will return before All-Star Game

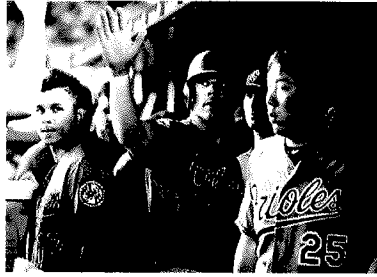
ANAHEIM, Calif. — Angels star outfielder Mike Trout, who had left thumb ligament surgery last month, said Tuesday his recovery is progressing on schedule and he has not ruled out returning prior to the July 11 All-Star Game.

That would get him back just after the five-week mark, a week earlier than the six to eight weeks he was originally expected to be out. Trout said he is not catching with his left hand, but has started throwing with his right.

The two-time AL MVP Trout is batting .337 with 16 home runs, 36 RBIs and 36 runs scored in 47 games this season.

Orioles Strained right oblique sends 1B Davis to the 10-day DL

CHICAGO — The Baltimore Orioles have placed slugging first baseman Chris Davis on the 10-day disabled list because of a strained right



The Orioles' Chris Davis, center, celebrates with teammates after hitting a home run against the Yankees on Saturday. Frank Franklin II/AP

oblique. The Orioles announced the move before Wednesday's game against the Chicago White Sox.

Davis left Monday's loss to Chicago after hitting a fly to right with the bases loaded in the

third inning. He is batting .226 with 14 homers and 26 RBIs.

The Orioles also selected infielder David Washington's contract from Triple-A Norfolk and transferred outfielder Anthony Santander from the 10-day to the 60-day DL because of a strained right forearm.

Braves Third baseman Garcia to miss two months following surgery

ATLANTA — Atlanta Braves third baseman Adonis Garcia is expected to miss about two months after having surgery to repair ligament damage in his left ring finger.

The Braves announced Wednesday that Garcia had the procedure on Monday in Atlanta.

The 32-year-old Garcia was placed on the 10-day disabled list on June 7. He hurt his hand on a swing. He is hitting .247 with four home runs and 16 RBIs. Garcia's surgery leaves rookie Rio Ruiz to handle most of the starts at third base. — *Associated Press*

Who's hot?

YANKEES

Didi Gregorius SS
Gregorius doubled in the 11th inning of Tuesday's game against the Angels to extend his hitting streak to 15 games, longest in the majors. He is batting .381 in those last 15 contests.

GIANTS

Buster Posey C
Posey has gone 6-for-11 in his last three games with five RBIs, three runs scored and three doubles.

DODGERS

Cody Bellinger LF
Bellinger has five home runs in his last three games, with six hits, eight RBIs, five runs scored and 22 total bases during that span.

Star Ledger
6.15.17

'Juiced' balls reason for HR influx: report

By JONATHAN LEHMAN

Just in time for all of the air to have leaked out of Deflate-gate, we again have to talk about *the balls*.

Now it's in Major League Baseball, which is experiencing a mammoth, multi-year spike in home runs without explanation. Unless, as a new study suggests, the baseball itself is "juiced," having undergone subtle yet statistically significant changes in size and composition in recent years that make it come off the bat faster and travel farther.

An article published Wednesday by *The Ringer* related the results of an independent ball-testing experiment commissioned by sabermetrics guru Mitchel Lichtman. He bought authentic game-used baseballs on eBay from the periods prior to and following the 2015 All-Star break — viewed as a point of demarcation when the percentage of batted balls going for homers deviated upward — and sent them to the Sports Science Lab at Washington

State University for rigorous high-impact testing.

The experiment found the batch of balls from 2016, as compared with those from the first half of 2015 (balls from the second half of 2015 were thrown out for being of unknown chronological origin), had a higher "coefficient of restitution" (COR) — read: were bouncier — as well as having lower seams and a smaller circumference. The cumulative effect of these factors is the new balls are estimated to travel an average of 7 feet more, which is the physics equivalent of an extra 1.4 mph of exit speed off the bat.

Lichtman calculated the COR increase in his post-spike sample was 2.6 standard deviations from the mean, the report says, or "unlikely to have happened by chance." Translation: *Something* is different about the latest balls. A couple of caveats are required here. One, the specs of all of the balls tested by Lichtman remain in MLB's (relatively expansive) allowable ranges, which was a major point in

the league's general denial of the "juiced" ball theory.

"As a quality control effort, we routinely conduct in-season and off-season testing of baseballs in conjunction with our consultants at UMass-Lowell to ensure that they meet our specifications. All recent test results have been within the specifications," MLB said Wednesday in a statement. "In addition, we used a third-party consultant to test whether the baseball had any impact on offense in recent years, and he found no evidence of that."

The second caveat is that any change to the baseball would operate in concert with a number of variables to produce the ongoing home-run trend. For instance, noticing marginally longer flights on fly balls, hitters might add more uppercut to their swings (a higher launch angle) or change their risk-reward thinking (which also would yield more strikeouts) to get more balls in the air.

jlehman@nypost.com

NY Post
6.15.17

Puig gets 1 game for giving 2 fingers

Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder **Yasiel Puig** has been suspended one game and fined by Major League Baseball for making an obscene gesture to Indians fans on Tuesday night.

Puig flashed the middle finger on both hands at fans sitting behind home plate at Progressive Field after hitting a home run in the second inning. Baseball executive **Joe Torre** announced the one-game penalty and undisclosed fine.

Puig appealed the decision and played Wednesday night, getting booed each time he stepped to the plate. He went 1-for-4 with two strikeouts in the Dodgers 5-4 win over Cleveland which included Andrew Miller allowing a tie-breaking homer to pinch-hitter Kike Hernandez in the eighth inning.

Puig said he "stooped" to the level of fans who he said were heckling him in the on-deck circle on Tuesday. Puig said that the group of fans kept talking to him after the home run.

Dodgers manager **Dave Roberts** spoke with Puig about the incident Wednesday. The manager addressed the media before the suspension was announced.

"I made it clear I was not pleased with what he did," Roberts said.

- Welington Castillo hit a grand slam

and drove in a career-high five runs, and the **Baltimore Orioles** snapped a six-game losing streak with a rain-delayed 10-6 victory over the host **Chicago White Sox**.

- Derek Fisher homered and had an RBI single for his first major league hits in a nine-run sixth inning to help the host **Houston Astros** to a 13-2 victory over the **Texas Rangers**.

Fisher is the first player to get the first two hits of his career in the same inning since Adam Laroche did it for the Braves on April 7, 2004.



SEX OFFENDER UNDRAFTED

Oregon State pitcher **Luke Heimlich**, who as a teenager pleaded guilty to molesting a 6-year-old girl, was not taken in Major League Baseball's draft.

Heimlich was the top pitcher during the regular season for the No. 1-ranked Beavers, who have lost just four games and are headed to the College World Series starting this weekend in Omaha.

Heimlich has compiled an 11-1 record with a 0.76 ERA. The left-hander from Puyallup, Washington, had been projected to be an early round pick.

Prosecutors initially charged Heimlich with two counts of molestation for abuse that began when the girl was 4.

NY Daily News
6.15.17



Rob Manfred issues a statement on the Congressional Baseball Game

By Craig Calcaterra

June 14, 2017

Commissioner Rob Manfred issued the following statement today:

“Our thoughts and prayers go out to Representative Steve Scalise, Congressional staff, U.S. Capitol Police and all those who were impacted by today’s senseless violence at a baseball field in Alexandria, Virginia.

“Major League Baseball is a proud supporter of the Congressional Baseball Game, a longstanding bipartisan tradition and unifying event that benefits worthy charities. Both teams have been practicing for weeks in preparation for the game at Nationals Park and we fully support the decision to play the game. We look forward to a full recovery for each of the victims and hope that tomorrow night’s game can play a constructive role in the healing process.”



Cubs draft Chris Singleton, son of Charleston shooting victim

June 14, 2017

Chris Singleton, whose mother was one of the victims in the Charleston, South Carolina, church shooting in 2015, was selected on Day 3 of the Major League Baseball draft Wednesday, going with the final pick of the 19th round to the Chicago Cubs.

Singleton just wrapped up his junior season at Charleston Southern, where he was an outfielder. He started all 51 games for the team, finishing the season with 18 steals, 38 runs scored, 10 doubles and four home runs. He was among the nation's leaders with 10 outfield assists.

Chris Singleton, seen here during a guest batting practice session with the New York Yankees in 2015, was drafted Wednesday in the 19th round by the Chicago Cubs.

His drafting comes three days before the two-year anniversary of the shooting at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in downtown Charleston.

"It's a lot of God and a little bit of me right now," Singleton told the Post and Courier of Charleston. "It's timing itself up perfectly in my eyes, so it's really a blessing.

Darren Baker, the son of manager Dusty Baker who was plucked out of harm's way during Game 5 of the 2002 World Series, has been drafted by the Nationals.

Singleton's mother, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, was at the Bible study when Dylann Roof opened fire and killed nine people, including Coleman-Singleton. She was a track and field coach at Goose Creek High School, which Chris had attended.

One day after the shooting, Chris Singleton was praised after making a "love is stronger than hate" speech while on the Charleston Southern baseball diamond.

"If we just love the way my mom would, the hate won't be anywhere close to what love is," Singleton said then.

Singleton was cleaning pools Wednesday when he heard that the Cubs had chosen him. After his father died in February, he and a friend started Moore Clean Pools, to help support the family.

"I was doing one of the pools when my phone rang," Singleton said. "My heart dropped a little bit. I answered the phone and it's been surreal ever since."

Singleton batted .332 with four home runs and 34 runs batted in as a sophomore in 2016. This season as a junior, he hit .276 with four homers and 21 RBIs.

"This is really just the beginning," Singleton said. "I'm prepared to work very, very hard and work my way up each and every day."

Singleton said he knew his mom was very happy today.

"It's not really a sad thought at all," he said. "It's more of a happy thought. I always say, I don't want to let my mom down, and today I think I'm definitely not doing that."



Dodgers' Yasiel Puig suspended one game for obscene gesture

June 14, 2017

CLEVELAND -- Los Angeles Dodgers right fielder Yasiel Puig was suspended one game and fined by Major League Baseball for making an obscene gesture to Indians fans on Tuesday night.

Puig flashed the middle finger on both hands at fans sitting behind home plate at Progressive Field after hitting a home run in the second inning.

Baseball executive Joe Torre announced the one-game penalty and undisclosed fine on Wednesday.

Puig is appealing the decision. He was in Wednesday's night lineup and batting ninth for the second game of the three-game series against the Indians.

The mercurial player said he "stooped" to the level of fans who he said were heckling him in the on-deck circle. Puig said that the group of fans kept talking to him after the home run.

Yasiel Puig has appealed a one-game suspension and fine that was handed down on Wednesday, a day after he made an obscene gesture to fans in Cleveland. Tony Dejak/AP Photo

Dodgers manager Dave Roberts spoke with Puig about the incident on Wednesday. The manager addressed the media before the suspension was announced.

"I made it clear I was not pleased with what he did," Roberts said. "He understands how I felt -- and he won't do it again. To have us talking about obscene gestures, I don't want to do that and he doesn't want to do that."

Roberts said Puig regretted the incident.

"It's something that he wishes didn't happen," Roberts said. "He didn't appreciate what was being said, and he reacted."

The suspension is the latest incident involving Puig, who has tried the Dodgers' patience with previous behavior.

Puig tallied two hits on Tuesday in the Dodgers' 7-5 win over the Indians.

Roberts played in the majors for 10 years, and he realizes there's a give-and-take with fans.

"You either have fun with it, which is what I tried to do, or maybe you go back a little with them to try and win them over," Roberts said. "But sometimes, when it is in bad taste, you get emotional."



Mets' Matt Harvey to have arm examined Thursday after early exit

June 15, 2017

New York Mets starting pitcher Matt Harvey will be examined by doctors Thursday for what manager Terry Collins called a "tired arm."

Harvey came out of Wednesday night's game against the Chicago Cubs after pitching a season-low four innings. He allowed four runs on four hits, including back-to-back home runs to start the game, and averaged a career-low in fastball velocity.

Whether it's arm fatigue or something more serious, the former Mets ace could use a DL stint, while the Dodgers rattle off their sixth straight win.

"We're going to have Matt looked at just as a precaution," Collins said. "He'll go see the doctor. Again, like anything else, when someone is just abnormal. It would be one thing if Matt was 91-92 [miles per hour], but it's another thing when he's 89."

Harvey underwent surgery for thoracic outlet syndrome in July of 2016.

Wednesday night, he said he was "fatigued" and "tired" and the most concerned he'd been since the surgery.

"The last time I threw 87 on a fastball was freshman year of high school," Matt Harvey said after four innings Wednesday, a season-low. Esa/Getty Images

"It's pretty frustrating," Harvey said. "My arm was not working at all."

"I looked up a few times and saw 86, 87 on the fastball. ... The last time I threw 87 on a fastball was freshman year of high school."



Everfi Becomes MLB's Official Education Partner, Rolls Out "Summer Slugger" Program

June 14, 2017

MLB has collaborated with education technology company Everfi to begin a widespread rollout of Summer Slugger, a free baseball-themed education course aimed at preventing students from losing math and literacy skills during the summer break from school. Summer Slugger will be initially targeted to fourth and fifth grade students with interactive, baseball-themed games, and 14 clubs have joined in the initial promotion of the program with localized, team-branded efforts. Some of those initiatives, such as the Rangers' Summer Slugger program in North Texas, have already started, and Everfi now will become an official education partner of the league. Everfi has also worked with the NFL and NHL on sports-themed education programs, but Summer Slugger is particularly targeted toward curbing summer learning loss. "This is a really unique program that is designed to be used outside of the classroom, and it obviously lines up with the heart of our schedule," said MLB Exec VP/League Economics & Strategy Chris Marinak. "We think this will grow quickly and that we'll have all 30 clubs involved next year." MLB Chief Baseball Officer Joe Torre, COO Tony Petitti and Everfi co-Founder & CEO Tom Davidson will participate this afternoon in a launch event for the Summer Slugger initiative at the Dream Charter School in N.Y. The new MLB effort follows Everfi's recent closing of a \$190 million round of funding.



Terry Francona will be back in the dugout after falling ill last night

By Craig Cacaterra

June 14, 2017

Cleveland Indians manager Terry Francona felt ill late in last night's loss to the Dodgers and did not meet with reporters afterward. Bench coach Brad Mills filled in for Francona in the ninth inning and for his postgame news conference.

A team spokesman says Francona is feeling better today, however, and is expected back in the dugout for tonight's game against the Dodgers.

Francona has had a handful of minor health problems in recent years, missing a game last season in Washington because of chest pains. It's good to hear that this all seems to be a minor issue.

In Another Tense and Wacky Game, Late Home Runs Lift the Mets

By WALLACE MATTHEWS

Candid answers leavened with a healthy dollop of humor are a standard feature of Mets Manager Terry Collins's pre- and postgame interview sessions.

So when **METS** 9 Collins was asked after his club's **CUBS** 4 rousing 9-4 victory over the Chicago Cubs at Citi Field on Wednesday night whether his starter, Matt Harvey, was hurt, it was taken for granted that his answer was less than totally serious.

"Can we not use the word 'hurt'?" he said, and after the chuckles had died down, it was obvious that one man in the room was not laughing.

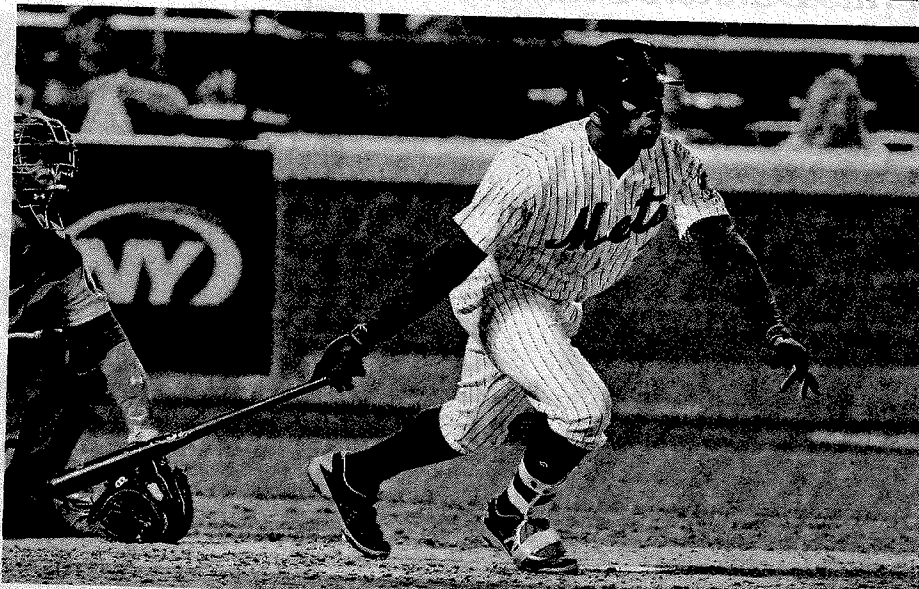
That was Collins, whose team has sustained more than its share of injuries so far this season and had already had another in the third inning, when second baseman Neil Walker pulled up while running out a sacrifice bunt.

Walker will see a doctor on Thursday and have a magnetic resonance imaging exam, but from the looks of things, the Mets are likely to lose another key player by the time they take the field for another important series against the Washington Nationals on Thursday night.

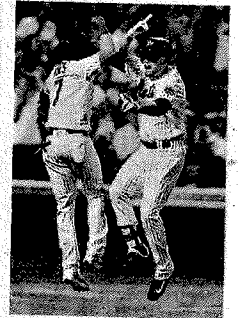
The news could also get worse. Collins was not joking; Harvey technically was not "hurt," something was clearly wrong with an arm that at one point in his career seemed destined to collect a Cy Young Award. Harvey was set to see a doctor on Thursday. It was unknown whether he would undergo an M.R.I.

By the end of his four-inning stint Wednesday night, Harvey, a right-hander, could barely generate a 90-mile-per-hour fastball.

"I looked up at the scoreboard a few times and saw 86 and 87 for the fastball," a dejected Harvey said in an otherwise upbeat Mets clubhouse. "That's something I'm not used to. The last time I threw 87 with my fastball was probably



Curtis Granderson after leading off the bottom of the eighth inning with his 300th career homer to put the Mets ahead to stay. FRANK FRANKLIN II/ASSOCIATED PRESS



MIKE STORE/Getty Images
Jose Reyes (7) and Lucas Duda after Duda hit a three-run homer in the eighth.

my freshman year in high school." Collins and Harvey both described the pitcher's problem as "fatigue," and although Harvey denied being in any pain, he used the word "discomfort" several times in referring to an arm that was unable to give him what he asked for.

"He just said his arm feels tired," Collins said. "He told me, 'It doesn't hurt, but there's nothing coming out.'"

Harvey's fastest pitch of the night was his first, a 94-m.p.h. fastball that Anthony Rizzo smashed over the left-center-field wall for a leadoff home run. Six pitches later, Ian Happ belted a

hanging curve over the right-field fence to make it 2-0. By the time Kyle Schwarber launched a first-pitch serving clocked at 89 m.p.h. over the bridge in distant right-center field, Collins was asking his pitching coach, Dan Warthen, "Was that a fastball?"

Neither man could tell, which is why Collins chose to put in a pinch-hitter for Harvey with one out and the bases loaded in the fourth inning. And because Yoanis Cespedes, recently sidelined with a hamstring strain and lately slowed by a sore heel, was not yet ready to go, Collins sent another pitcher, Steven Matz, to the plate. "I had turned to Dickie Scott,"

Collins said, referring to the Mets' bench coach, "and said, 'Please tell me Cespedes is ready to hit.' He wasn't. So I went with Matz, and he saved the manager tonight."

Matz's grounder to deep short became a run-scoring infield single, and when Juan Lagares drove in another run with a sacrifice fly, the worry about Harvey had been replaced with renewed hope. "In the dugout, we all thought, 'we're back in this thing,'" Collins said.

The Mets tied it on Lagares's run-scoring triple in the sixth and eventually blew it open with a five-run eighth inning that featured a solo home run by Curtis

Granderson — the 300th of his career — and a three-run shot by Lucas Duda.

The Mets got effective relief from Paul Sewald and Jerry Blevins and heart palpitations from Addison Reed, who allowed the Cubs to load the bases in the ninth and bring Rizzo to the plate, but he grounded out to end the game.

"This was a huge win for us, especially going into tomorrow night," Collins said. The Mets, who were 12½ games behind the Nationals on June 6, have cut that deficit to eight and a half.

Still, the injury bug has bitten this club deeply. Walker is likely to

go on the disabled list on Thursday, and the Mets can only hope that Harvey's discomfort is temporary and not an indication of further problems with an arm that has already undergone Tommy John surgery as well as the removal of a rib because of thoracic outlet syndrome.

"It's frustrating for me to be taken out that early and not feel great and have to be checked out by a doctor," Harvey said. "It's the last thing I want to have happen. This has been a very difficult year for me. A lot of ups and downs, a lot of discomfort, battling through a lot of weaknesses, strengthening areas that I'm not used to. It's been rough. I have no idea what's going to happen next."

INSIDE PITCH

The Mets recalled the right-handed pitcher **RAFAEL MONTERO** from Class AAA Las Vegas to replace **JOSH SMOKER** on the roster. In his last appearance for the Mets, Montero started a game against the San Diego Padres on May 25 and lasted three innings, throwing 87 pitches and allowing three runs in a 4-3 loss.

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MLB Transactions

Date	Transaction
06/15/17	<p><u>Chicago White Sox</u> optioned <u>Juan Minaya</u> to Charlotte Knights.</p> <p><u>Texas Rangers</u> sent 1B <u>Mike Napoli</u> on a rehab assignment to Frisco RoughRiders.</p>
06/14/17	<p><u>Colorado Rockies</u> sent RHP <u>Jon Gray</u> on a rehab assignment to Lancaster JetHawks.</p> <p><u>Los Angeles Angels</u> optioned RHP <u>Mike Morin</u> to Salt Lake Bees.</p> <p><u>Los Angeles Angels</u> recalled RHP <u>Parker Bridwell</u> from Salt Lake Bees.</p> <p><u>New York Mets</u> placed LHP <u>Josh Smoker</u> on the 10-day disabled list. Left shoulder strain.</p> <p><u>New York Yankees</u> recalled RHP <u>Ronald Herrera</u> from Trenton Thunder.</p> <p><u>Tampa Bay Rays</u> sent RHP <u>Brad Boxberger</u> on a rehab assignment to Durham Bulls.</p> <p><u>New York Yankees</u> optioned <u>Ben Heller</u> to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders.</p> <p><u>Texas Rangers</u> sent CF <u>Carlos Gomez</u> on a rehab assignment to Frisco RoughRiders.</p> <p><u>Washington Nationals</u> signed free agent OF <u>Alejandro De Aza</u> to a minor league contract.</p> <p><u>Seattle Mariners</u> sent RHP <u>Hisashi Iwakuma</u> on a rehab assignment to Modesto Nuts.</p> <p><u>Los Angeles Dodgers</u> sent RHP <u>Sergio Romo</u> on a rehab assignment to Rancho Cucamonga Quakes.</p> <p><u>Boston Red Sox</u> signed free agent OF <u>Henry Urrutia</u> to a minor league contract.</p>

Date	Transaction
	<u>Toronto Blue Jays</u> recalled LF <u>Dwight Smith Jr.</u> from Buffalo Bisons.
	<u>Toronto Blue Jays</u> placed LF <u>Ezequiel Carrera</u> on the 10-day disabled list. Right foot fracture.
	<u>New York Mets</u> recalled RHP <u>Rafael Montero</u> from Las Vegas 51s.
	<u>St. Louis Cardinals</u> optioned LHP <u>Marco Gonzales</u> to Memphis Redbirds.
	<u>Minnesota Twins</u> signed free agent RHP <u>Drew Rucinski</u> to a minor league contract.
	<u>Oakland Athletics</u> selected the contract of RHP <u>Daniel Gossett</u> from Nashville Sounds.
	<u>Pittsburgh Pirates</u> activated C <u>Francisco Cervelli</u> from the 7-day disabled list.
	<u>Pittsburgh Pirates</u> optioned RHP <u>A.J. Schugel</u> to Indianapolis Indians.
	<u>Baltimore Orioles</u> placed 1B <u>Chris Davis</u> on the 10-day disabled list retroactive to June 13, 2017. Right oblique strain.
	<u>Baltimore Orioles</u> transferred OF <u>Anthony Santander</u> from the 10-day disabled list to the 60-day disabled list. Strained right forearm.
	<u>Baltimore Orioles</u> selected the contract of 1B <u>David Washington</u> from Norfolk Tides.
	<u>Boston Red Sox</u> optioned 2B <u>Deven Marrero</u> to Pawtucket Red Sox.
	<u>Boston Red Sox</u> recalled RHP <u>Hector Velazquez</u> from Pawtucket Red Sox.
	<u>Los Angeles Angels</u> sent RHP <u>Huston Street</u> on a rehab assignment to Inland Empire 66ers.
	<u>Milwaukee Brewers</u> optioned LHP <u>Brent Suter</u> to Colorado Springs Sky Sox.
	<u>Milwaukee Brewers</u> designated RHP <u>Neftali Feliz</u> for assignment.
	<u>Milwaukee Brewers</u> activated RHP <u>Matt Garza</u> from the 10-day disabled list.

Date	Transaction
	<u>Seattle Mariners</u> recalled RHP <u>Chase De Jong</u> from Tacoma Rainiers.
	<u>Seattle Mariners</u> optioned RHP <u>Casey Lawrence</u> to Tacoma Rainiers.
	<u>Oakland Athletics</u> optioned RF <u>Matt Olson</u> to Nashville Sounds.
	<u>Houston Astros</u> transferred RHP <u>Jandel Gustave</u> from the 10-day disabled list to the 60-day disabled list. Right forearm tightness.
	<u>Houston Astros</u> placed RF <u>Josh Reddick</u> on the 7-day disabled list retroactive to June 13, 2017. Concussion.
	<u>Houston Astros</u> selected the contract of RF <u>Derek Fisher</u> from Fresno Grizzlies.
	<u>Miami Marlins</u> sent 1B <u>Justin Bour</u> on a rehab assignment to Jupiter Hammerheads.
	<u>Pittsburgh Pirates</u> traded RHP <u>Matt Frawley</u> to <u>New York Yankees</u> .
	<u>Cincinnati Reds</u> sent RHP <u>Homer Bailey</u> on a rehab assignment to Dayton Dragons.
	<u>Arizona Diamondbacks</u> activated RHP <u>Taijuan Walker</u> from the 10-day disabled list.
	<u>Arizona Diamondbacks</u> optioned RHP <u>Silvino Bracho</u> to Reno Aces.
	<u>Miami Marlins</u> optioned RHP <u>Tom Koehler</u> to New Orleans Baby Cakes.