



Clips

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FROM THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

Angels beat Athletics 8-7 in Garrett Richards' return

By Pedro Moura

When he does not start a game at Angel Stadium, Ben Revere uses every inch of the facility to keep his body warm for a potential pinch-hitting situation. He'll run the underground trail from the clubhouse to the players' parking lot and take incessant swings in the batting cages.

At the Oakland Coliseum, doing so is more difficult. The visitors' cages are behind the center-field fence, inaccessible during games. There's no room to run. So, for the first four hours of Monday's and Tuesday's games here, Revere kept a bat in his hands at virtually all times, and frequently retreated into the clubhouse to take dry swings.

In Monday's tied 10th inning, the left fielder was called upon to pinch-hit and did not succeed. On Tuesday, he came up in the same situation and delivered the winning single to left, landing a liner inches away from Matt Joyce's approaching glove.

"I almost fainted," Revere said. "And then the third-base umpire, he said, 'Safe.' And I'm like, 'Oh, thank you, Jesus.'"

The Angels were elated to vault themselves into playoff position by beating Oakland, 8-7, in 10 innings, though it again took them more time they wanted. They started the talented right-hander Garrett Richards, and with every 96-mph fastball he delivered with ease, he strengthened their playoff dreams. With every 90-mph slider spun out of reach, Richards supplied hope. But for him, the end came quickly, and for the next week, until he's back on a major league mound, that hope will have to suffice.

"It felt great to be grinding right with my teammates instead of sitting on the side, watching games go by," Richards said.

Richards desires to prove he can be depended on, and the Angels need him to reach their goals this year. They, as first baseman C.J. Cron said, "have missed him quite a bit."

"When he's right," right fielder Kole Calhoun said, "he's a guy who is a front-line starter, a No. 1 for a lot of teams. To get a guy back like that who hopefully feels good and can definitely help us going forward is big."

Both parties took a step toward their ambitions at the Oakland Coliseum, an odd place for an event so important to the Angels. Midweek night games at this spacious, empty facility can take on the feeling of community theater, the athletes performing for a select few, with periods of noticeable quiet.

Richards pitched his first game of the season in the same situation, exactly five months earlier. That night, Richards tore through the Athletics lineup until he felt pain in biceps in the fifth inning. Diagnosed

with an irritated nerve, he didn't pick up a baseball for 100 days. This was his return, a bit unconventional, as Richards knew going in he would throw only 50 or so pitches.

Conveniently, he required only five pitches to finish the first, each Athletic biting on the bait he threw at the strike zone's edges. He struck out two men in the second and still needed only 14 more. The third inning was not different in results, but a bit in ease.

As Blake Wood began to warm behind him, Richards found the fourth more difficult. Jed Lowrie punched a double, and Khris Davis lined a first-pitch fastball into center. Richards struck out Matt Olson, then hung a slider to Chad Pinder, who pounded it to the left-field wall.

That scored Oakland's first run and forced Richards' exit at 52 pitches. In relief, Wood worked out of the jam. In the next inning, the Athletics hit him with a barrage of two-out home runs. First, it was Joyce, then Davis, then Olson, the three scoring four runs and demanding his departure.

The Angels threatened often against Oakland starter Kendall Graveman, who fought control issues. Three walks, two singles, and a sacrifice fly meant three third-inning runs. Come the fifth, Trout stood on second with out after reaching on a fielder's choice, and third-base coach Ron Roenicke sent him home when Justin Upton laced a single into left. Joyce's throw beat Trout to the plate, and catcher Bruce Maxwell tagged him in time. Upton took second on the throw, though, and he scored easily when Pujols singled into center field.

Cron clubbed a two-run homer in the sixth to push the Angels back ahead, 6-5. They did not stay there for long. Scioscia quickly pulled a struggling Troy Scribner in the sixth, then used two more pitchers to keep the game tied.

So it continued, the teams matching each other until Revere's hit. In the bottom of the 10th, Eduardo Paredes recorded his first career save. With the bases loaded and two outs, he took Jed Lowrie all the way to a 3-and-2 count, then pumped a fastball down the middle.

Lowrie flied it to medium-length center field, the Angels' infielders holding up their hands in anticipation until Trout caught it.

The Angels are 72-67, for the first time this season not within four games of .500. On Tuesday, they climbed over Minnesota to take control of the American League's second wild-card spot.

Over his seven-year career for five teams, Revere has built a remarkably consistent reputation: He is always cheerful, and he is always the last person to arrive for every team bus, no matter the time of day, no matter the intended location. When there are two buses, he is always on the second bus.

Late Tuesday night, anxious to get some rest before a 12:35 p.m. first pitch Wednesday, players reminded each other of the necessity to board the first bus. If not, they would have to wait for Revere and the second departure.

He doesn't mind waiting.

Short hops

The Angels added right-hander Guerra to their active roster, bringing their current total of pitchers to 18. To make room for Guerra and Richards, the Angels designated for assignment right-handers Mike Morin and Vicente Campos. ...They will activate right-hander Bud Norris from the 10-day disabled list Wednesday, though the right knee soreness that has hindered him for most of the season has not yet healed. He will attempt to pitch through it for the season's final month, then explore all his options to fix the problem in the off-season.

FROM THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Garrett Richards returns with encouraging start for Angels in 10-inning victory

By Jeff Fletcher

OAKLAND — Garrett Richards was in the same place geographically, but a much better place emotionally.

Richards returned to the Oakland Coliseum, where he was in April when he walked off the mound with trainer Eric Munson for the start of what would be a lengthy, maddening absence from the game.

After he pitched 3-1/3 innings in the Angels' 8-7, 10-inning victory on Tuesday night, coincidentally back at the Coliseum, he walked to the dugout alone, with the satisfaction of a successful return.

"It felt great," he said. "Just to be out there and competing with my teammates, grinding out there with them instead of sitting on the side watching games go by."

Richards gave up one run, bequeathing his teammates a lead that would require seven other pitchers and Ben Revere's go-ahead hit in the 10th before the 4-hour, 12-minute grind was over.

In the end, the Angels had improved to 72-67, five games over .500 for the first time all season, and once again leading the race for the American League's second wild card spot. They are a half-game ahead of the Minnesota Twins.

If they are to make it through the final month and reach the playoffs, having a healthy Richards would be a key boost.

"The stuff looked great," Manager Mike Scioscia said. "I thought he used all his pitches. He had his two-seamer going, a lot of life on his fastball. A really good curveball to strike (Matt) Olson out, and he threw some good sliders too. He looked like he didn't skip a beat."

Richards gave up four hits and a walk, with three strikeouts. On a limit of about 50, Richards threw 52 pitches, including 32 strikes. His fastballs, both two- and four-seamers, were 95-97 mph. The stuff that Richards needs to be effective was all there.

After needing just five pitches to get through the first, he struck out two in a 14-pitch second inning.

Richards took the mound in the third after about a 15-minute break while the Angels scored three runs. Richards then allowed his first baserunner, a one-out walk to Matt Chapman. He then allowed a solid single up the middle to Boog Powell.

That forced Richards into a tight spot, with runners on the corners and one out for the top of the A's order. He got out of it with a couple ground balls, including one rundown between third and home, but he was at 38 pitches by the the time the inning ended.

The Angels then went in order, forcing Richards back to the mound after just a few minutes, with Blake Wood already warming up behind him.

Richards gave up a leadoff double to Jed Lowrie, a single to Khris Davis on a ball that it seemed Mike Trout could catch. Lowrie had to wait, so he went only to third. Richards struck out Olson, but then he left a hanging slider over the middle, and Chad Pinder lined it off the left-field fence, for an RBI double.

Scioscia then came out to get Richards, and he walked back to the dugout feeling good about what he'd done.

"I didn't get tired toward the end," he said. "I felt pretty good. I overthrew a couple fastballs tonight but for the most part I was right where I wanted to be. The misses were small. I pounded the zone got ahead of guys. Kind of did everything I wanted to do. It's a good one to build off."

Richards will presumably start again next week, most likely increasing his pitch limit by about 15. He could be up to about 95-100 pitches three starts from now. It's not likely they would push him beyond that at all this year.

The Angels could get four or five more starts out of Richards in the regular season, depending on how they work their rotation around off days. They also could line him up to be ready for the final game of the regular season or the wild card game on Oct. 3.

Ben Revere calmly strokes the winning hit for Angels in 10th

By Jeff Fletcher

OAKLAND — Ben Revere admitted in a postgame TV interview that the situation he faced in the 10th inning on Tuesday night is one that, when he was young, might have made him a little nervous.

To be precise, nervous enough to "almost" soil himself "a little."

Fortunately for the Angels, Revere is now 29 years old and a veteran of parts of eight big league seasons and one postseason. He's also learned relaxation techniques from a 14-year-old buddy movie.

After Revere's single in the 10th put the Angels on top in their 8-7 victory over the Oakland A's, he explained.

"Just take deep breaths," he said. "Woosah style a little bit. Let the game come to you."

Revere was referring to the meditation phrase he saw repeated in *Bad Boys 2*, the 2003 Will Smith-Martin Lawrence movie.

The point is, Revere was able to calm himself enough to poke a 3-and-2 pitch from Blake Treinen into left field, just barely out of the reach of diving Matt Joyce.

When it dropped, the Angels had taken the lead in the rollercoaster game, and Revere had gotten back a little more of the luck he felt he was so lacking when it seemed all his line drives were finding gloves in the first half.

“I got some hits and I got some confidence back, and I feel like I can get back to my normal self,” Revere said.

Revere’s hit was the last one, but the biggest ones came from C.J. Cron, who been one of the keys to the Angels’ recently robust offense.

Cron hit a go-ahead two-run homer in the sixth, followed by a triple to drive in the go-ahead run in the eighth, followed by a single just before Revere’s hit in the 10th.

Cron has hit .305 with 12 homers since the All-Star break. Now that the Angels have added Brandon Phillips and Justin Upton, Cron is hitting eighth in the lineup.

“Right now our lineup is much deeper, and he might seem like an afterthought, but he’s important to us,” Scioscia said. “He’s hitting the ball hard.”

Angels Notes: Brandon Phillips has a front-row seat for shortstop history

By Jeff Fletcher

OAKLAND — Omar Vizquel and Andrelton Simmons are two of the best defensive shortstops in baseball history.

The link between them is Brandon Phillips.

The Angels’ new second baseman first reached the majors in 2002 as a 21-year-old with the Cleveland Indians. Phillips was in the big leagues over parts of three seasons with the Indians, most of the time playing across the bag from Vizquel.

Now 36, Phillips is getting the chance to play with Simmons, who he has admired from across the field for years.

“It’s nice to play next to that filthiness,” Phillips said.

How does Vizquel, an 11-time Gold Glove winner who is in the Hall of Fame discussion on his defense alone, compare with Simmons?

“They are different,” Phillips said. “Omar was very fundamental. He made the plays. He did everything just perfect. Simba, I just started, he has a lot of flair. He doesn’t do it on purpose. He has that little swag to him. It’s normal. They’re both great, but they’re totally different.”

Phillips said he’s been happy to be back across the bag from the shortstop, after finishing his time with the Atlanta Braves playing third base.

“It’s like when you leave home and you’re ready to get back,” said Phillips, a four-time Gold Glove second baseman. “To get back, it’s like your first love. It feels good to go back to your first love and enjoy the time you have.”

Phillips made a couple defensive mistakes in his first two games with the Angels, taking too long to throw to first and missing a throw on a stolen base. He’s since been better, including a diving stop and a behind-the-back flip to start a double play on Monday.

At the plate, Phillips had just four hits in his first 21 at-bats with the Angels.

“People who watch the games know I’m hitting the ball hard, right at people,” he said. “It will be nice to have more success. I know I’m going to get more hits. I know I’m going to get key hits for this team. I know it’s going to happen.”

ALSO

Yunel Escobar (strained oblique) hit on the field before Tuesday’s game, moving another step closer to being activated. ...

The Angels are expecting to activate Bud Norris (knee) from the disabled list on Wednesday, Manager Mike Scioscia said. ...

The Angels recalled Deolis Guerra, making him the 13th man in the bullpen. Norris will be the 14th. Guerra was a fixture in the Angels’ bullpen last year, but this year he had a 5.66 ERA in just 15 big league games. At Triple-A, he posted a 1.98 ERA, with 41 strikeouts and eight walks in 41 innings. “He really refined some stuff down there,” Scioscia said. ...

In order to create spots on the 40-man roster for Guerra and Garrett Richards, who was activated from the 60-day disabled list to start, the Angels designated Mike Morin and Vicente Campos for assignment. Morin was once considered one of the Angels’ more promising relievers, but he gave up 11 runs and 21 hits in 14-1/3 major league innings this season. ...

Mike Trout drew a walk in his 13th consecutive game, equaling the Angels’ franchise record, set by Albie Pearson in 1961...

Matt Shoemaker (radial nerve surgery) is out for the rest of the regular season, but he said he’s still rehabbing just as he would earlier in the season, in case the Angels are playing deep into October. He said he’s scheduled to start throwing on Sept. 19. ...

Cameron Maybin was selected as the Angels' nominee for the Roberto Clemente award, even though he's now on the Houston Astros. The award recognizes a player for his community service.

FROM ANGELS.COM

Skaggs seeks bounceback outing vs. A's

By Maria Guardado / MLB.com

Left-handers Sean Manaea and Tyler Skaggs will face off Wednesday afternoon, as the A's and Angels conclude their three-game series at the Coliseum. The Angels are going for a series sweep and will try to hold onto the second American League Wild Card spot.

Skaggs is coming off his shortest start of the season on Friday, when he surrendered a season-high six runs (five earned) over two-plus innings against the Rangers. In six starts since returning from an oblique injury, Skaggs is 0-3 with a 5.86 ERA.

Full Game Coverage

"I think his fastball command has been a little off," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "He's had a tough time commanding counts to bring his secondary pitches in as much as he would like to. And then when he's tried to put guys away with his located fastball, it just hasn't been there. His last three outings, he's thrown a lot of pitches behind the count. I think that's affected him, but he's working hard on it. Tyler's got the stuff, he's just trying to harness it."

Skaggs has made four career starts against the A's, going 0-3 with a 6.75 ERA.

Manaea was charged with a loss in his last start against the Mariners on Friday after allowing three runs over 6 2/3 innings. In five career starts against the Angels, Manaea is 0-2 with a 6.38 ERA.

Three things to know about this game

- Each month from April through June, Manaea got a swing-and-miss on at least 14.8 percent of his pitches. That rate plummeted to 9 percent in July and is at 7.5 percent since then.
- Angels right-hander Bud Norris (right knee inflammation) is expected to come off the 10-day disabled list, which will give the Angels 14 relievers in their bullpen.
- Angels center fielder Mike Trout has walked in a career-high 13 consecutive games, tying the Angels record, which was set by Albie Pearson in 1961. Trout will have a chance to set a franchise mark on Wednesday.

Angels edge A's with bases full; 2nd in WC race

By Maria Guardado and Jan Lee / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- Pinch-hitter Ben Revere placed a single just out of the reach of A's left fielder Matt Joyce, driving in the go-ahead run with two outs in the 10th inning to help the Angels pull off an 8-7 series-clinching victory at the Coliseum on Tuesday night.

Winners of seven of their last 10 contests, the Angels secured a half-game lead over the Twins for the second American League Wild Card spot with their latest victory. The A's, meanwhile, have dropped a season-high eight consecutive games.

Full Game Coverage

C.J. Cron did his part by homering and tripling in clutch situations, finishing with three hits and as many RBIs and reaching base four times. His two-run homer in the sixth inning off of A's reliever Liam Hendriks put the Angels on top, 6-5, and his run-scoring triple off lefty Daniel Coulombe allowed the Angels to regain another temporary lead in the eighth.

"Wins at this point in the year are really important, obviously," Cron said. "We were able to gain a game tonight, and we're going to come back tomorrow and try to sweep the series. It was a roller-coaster game, so games like that, there's a little bit more emotion."

Joyce's eighth-inning sacrifice fly knotted the game, before the Angels went on to capitalize in extra innings against A's reliever Blake Treinen a second straight day.

"Losing's tough to begin with, and when you lose after battling so hard to come back, it's a little bit tougher," A's manager Bob Melvin said. "But you come out the next day and expect to win again."

Los Angeles starter Garrett Richards, who missed five months with an irritated nerve in his right biceps, gave them 3 1/3 innings in his first Major League start since April 5. Working on a limited pitch count, Richards totaled 52, allowing one run on four hits with three strikeouts and a walk.

"It felt great just to get back out there and compete and be out there with my teammates and just grinding right there with them instead of sitting on the side and watching games go by," Richards said. "It just felt good to be back out there with them."

Angels reliever Blake Wood went to work, yielding three home runs with two outs in the fifth inning: Joyce launched his 22nd home run, before Jed Lowrie connected for a base hit and Khris Davis and Matt Olson went back-to-back for a short-lived 5-4 A's lead.

"When you hit three home runs and score as many runs as we did, you expect to win those games," Melvin said. "The problem is we can't hold the other team down. Are we reliant on the home run? Yeah. That's the way our team was built. But when you have offensive days like we did today, we should win those games."

MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

Walk this way: The Angels worked A's starter Kendall Graveman for three walks in the third, forcing him to throw 40 pitches in a three-run inning that staked them to an early lead. Cron drew the first one to

lead off the frame, scoring when Martin Maldonado and Brandon Phillips teamed up for back-to-back singles. With runners at second and third, Graveman issued free passes to each of his next two batters, Mike Trout and Justin Upton, to bring in another run, and Albert Pujols capped the inning with a sacrifice fly. Graveman allowed four runs in five innings.

"That inning piled up on me," Graveman said. "You ultimately want to limit the damage more than that, but it could have got really out of hand, so I guess to bear down and make pitches at the end was a small silver lining. You're trying to get six, seven innings, and I'm not doing that. It's something we're all working on, something we're all trying to pitch for."

What a relief: The A's threatened to end the game in the ninth inning, when Davis drew a four-pitch walk against Cam Bedrosian to put the leadoff man aboard. But Bedrosian buckled down and needed just two pitches to send the game to extras, retiring Olson on a popup and inducing an inning-ending double play ball from Chad Pinder. Oakland managed to load the bases with two outs in the 10th against right-hander Eduardo Paredes, who got Lowrie to fly out.

QUOTABLE

"A losing streak is never fun, but I think you see a resiliency, I think you see in the future we're going to look back at this time and say, 'This made us a better team. This made us a better unit.' As long as we continue to grow and learn, then we'll keep our heads down and keep moving." -- *Graveman*

"Luckily that ball just fell in front of Joyce. I thought he caught it. I kind of almost fainted, and then the third-base umpire said 'Safe,' and I was like, 'Oh thank you, Jesus!'" -- *Revere, on delivering the game-winning hit in the 10th*

SOUND SMART WITH YOUR FRIENDS

Trout walked in the third inning, drawing a free pass in his 13th consecutive game to match the Angels' all-time record set by Albie Pearson in 1961.

WHAT'S NEXT

Angels: Left-hander Tyler Skaggs (1-4, 4.89 ERA) will take the mound for the Angels on Wednesday as they close out their three-game series with the A's at 12:35 p.m. PT at the Coliseum. In six starts since returning from an oblique injury, Skaggs is 0-3 with a 5.86 ERA.

A's: Wednesday's 12:35 p.m. PT finale will feature lefty Sean Manaea on the mound for the A's. Manaea is 0-2 with a 6.38 ERA in five career starts against the Angels, including 0-1 with a 9.53 ERA in three starting assignments this season.

Angels encouraged by Richards' return

Right-hander allows one run in 3 1/3 innings in first start since April 5

By Maria Guardado / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- The last time Garrett Richards walked off the mound at the Coliseum, he left under a cloud of uncertainty, forced out of his season debut for the Angels on April 5 by an irritated nerve in his right biceps. He departed under far more encouraging circumstances Tuesday night.

In his first Major League start in five months, Richards allowed one run over 3 1/3 innings in the Angels' 10-inning, 8-7 win over the A's. Working within the confines of a 50-pitch limit, Richards allowed four hits, walked one and struck out three in his 52-pitch outing.

Full Game Coverage

"It felt great just to get back out there and compete and be out there with my teammates and just grinding right there with them instead of sitting on the side and watching games go by," Richards said.

Arguably the Angels' most talented pitcher, Richards established himself as the club's ace between 2014-15, but he missed nearly all of last season with a torn ulnar collateral ligament. He avoided Tommy John surgery by receiving an injection of his own stem cells in his damaged elbow and arrived to Spring Training healthy, but the biceps issue prevented him from throwing again until July.

Richards' next game action did not come until last Wednesday, when he made a two-inning rehab start for Triple-A Salt Lake. Though he was still not fully stretched out, the Angels flew Richards to Texas over the weekend and determined that he was ready to return to their rotation. They could afford an abbreviated start, as they entered Tuesday with 13 relievers on their roster, including right-hander Deolis Guerra, whose contract was selected from Triple-A Salt Lake on Tuesday.

To clear spots on the 40-man roster for Richards and Guerra, the Angels designated right-handers Vicente Campos and Mike Morin for assignment.

In the first inning, Richards needed only five pitches to retire the the side, with his fastball humming between 95-97 mph. He then struck out two over a spotless second, though he was tested in the third.

After issuing a one-out walk to Matt Chapman to give the A's their first baserunner of the night, Richards allowed a single up the middle to Boog Powell, Oakland's No. 9 hitter, to put runners on the corners. Still, Richards escaped the jam unscathed, coaxing a fielder's choice out from Marcus Semien and retiring Matt Joyce on a groundout to end the inning.

But he couldn't dodge trouble in the fourth. With his pitch count at 38 and Blake Woodwarming in the bullpen, Richards yielded a leadoff double to Jed Lowrie, followed by a single to Khris Davis to put runners on first and third with no outs for the A's. That brought up Chad Pinder, who crushed a 2-1 slider off the left-field wall for an RBI double that cut the Angels' lead to 3-1 and ended Richards' night.

"The stuff looked great," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "I thought he used all his pitches, had his two-seamer going, a lot of life on his fastball. He threw a really good curveball to strike [Matt] Olson out and threw some good sliders, too. It looked like he didn't skip a beat."

The Angels plan to continue to build up Richards' pitch count over the final few weeks of the season in the hope that he'll be ready to throw 100 pitches in a potential American League Wild Card Game on Oct. 3. Tuesday's victory moved the Angels a half-game ahead of the Twins for the second Wild Card spot, and Richards could continue to boost their postseason push down the stretch.

"This is a good one to build off of," Richards said. "Hopefully next time I can go a little bit longer, but still give the same output."

Former Angel Maybin up for Clemente Award

Outfielder made impact on local community while in Anaheim

By Maria Guardado / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- Cameron Maybin may no longer be a member of the Angels, but he will still be the club's nominee for the 2017 Roberto Clemente Award, a prestigious honor that recognizes character, community involvement, philanthropy and positive contributions on and off the field.

Maybin was claimed off waivers by the Astros last week, but he was actively involved in community efforts during his time in Anaheim, often visiting local elementary schools as part of the Angels Baseball Foundation's Adopt-A-School program. Maybin and his wife, Courtney, also founded the Maybin Mission in 2016 to enrich the lives of inner-city youth. They hosted a Jackie Robinson-inspired essay contest in April to encourage students to share stories of overcoming obstacles.

Full Game Coverage

"In such a very short period of time, Cam made a tremendous impact within our community," Angels vice president of communications Tim Mead said in a statement. "At the outset of Spring Training, Cam stated he wanted to do whatever possible to assist our community relations department and organizational programs. He never wavered from that commitment and we remain grateful for his contributions."

The Angels will honor Maybin for his award nomination in a pregame ceremony on Sept. 14, before they take on the Astros at Angel Stadium.

The Roberto Clemente Award winner will be selected among the group of nominees via a blue-ribbon panel that includes individuals connected to the game, including Commissioner Rob Manfred, representatives from MLB-affiliated networks (MLB Network, FOX Sports, ESPN and TBS) and MLB Advanced Media, as well as Vera Clemente, widow of Roberto.

Fans will also be able to vote for the overall winner from Oct. 2-6.

FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**Angels beat A's 3-2 in 10th, take over 2nd AL wild-card spot**

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. -- On a night when Mike Trout twice got thrown out at the plate, the Los Angeles Angels still found a way to score big in the standings.

Pinch-hitter Ben Revere lined a go-ahead single in the 10th inning that diving left fielder Matt Joyce just missed, and the Angels took over the second AL wild-card spot by beating the Oakland Athletics 8-7 on Tuesday night.

The Angels moved a half-game ahead of Minnesota, which lost at Tampa Bay. The Angels are five games over .500 for the first time since the end of the 2015 season.

"Our offense has been really picking us up the last week," manager Mike Scioscia said. "Now we need to do a better job on the mound. It's going to be tough to reach our goal unless we can get to a certain point in the game. We had this game on our terms probably three times and couldn't hold it."

Oakland lost its eighth in a row, matching its longest skid over the last five years.

Trout was nailed at the plate in the third when he tried to score from third on a grounder. The Angels star was nabbed again in the fifth when he tried to get home from second on a single.

Trout was hit by a pitch from Kendall Graveman in the left side in the first inning. Trout later drew a walk in his career-high 13th straight game.

Cam Bedrosian (5-4) pitched a scoreless ninth. Eduardo Paredes retired Jed Lowrie on a flyball to escape a bases-loaded jam for his first career save.

"Losing's tough to begin with but when you lose and you battle so hard to come back it's a little bit tougher," A's manager Bob Melvin said.

Blake Treinen (1-4) retired the first two batters in the 10th. He then hit a batter, C.J. Cron singled and Revere followed with his hit.

Cron hit a two-run homer in the sixth and an RBI triple in the eighth. Albert Pujols hit a run-scoring single and sacrifice fly, giving him 14 RBI in his last six games for the Angels.

Joyce hit his 22nd homer and a sacrifice fly in the eighth that made it 7-all. Khris Davis hit his 38th home run and Matt Olson connected for the third time in two games for Oakland.

Angels starter Garrett Richards retired his first seven batters while pitching for just the second time this season. He allowed one run and four hits in 3 1/3 innings, striking out three and walking one.

This game came five months to the day that he strained his right biceps muscle in Oakland in his season debut. The plan for him was to throw about 50 pitches or three innings in this outing -- he totaled 52 pitches.

"It just felt good to be back out there with them," Richards said. "I was right where I wanted to be. Misses were small, pounded the zone and got ahead of guys. I did everything that I wanted to do. This is a good one to build off of and hopefully next time I can go a little bit longer but stay with the same output."

The Angels won a day after topping the A's 11-9 in 11 innings. Los Angeles set an AL record by using 12 pitchers in that win -- Boston tied that mark in a 19-inning victory over Toronto that ended early Wednesday.

GOING THE DISTANCE

The Angels sure are working for it in September. Their last five games: 4 hours, 33 minutes, 4:09, 3:49, 4:38 on Labor Day and 4:12 Tuesday.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Angels: RHP Bud Norris is set to return Wednesday when eligible from his second stint on the disabled list with right knee inflammation. He threw a bullpen session Monday to test the knee.

Athletics: RHP Paul Blackburn was transferred to the 60-day DL to clear roster space for September additions. He has been sidelined since Aug. 23 with a deep bone bruise in his pitching hand that's comparable to a fracture. ... RHP Daniel Mengden was recalled from Triple-A Nashville and will pitch the second game of Saturday's doubleheader at home against Houston.

UP NEXT

Angels: LHP Tyler Skaggs (1-4, 4.89 ERA) looks to bounce back from his shortest start of the season of two-plus innings Friday at Texas in which he surrendered a season-high six runs. He is 0-3 with a 6.75 ERA in four career starts against the A's, 0-2 this year.

Athletics: LHP Sean Manaea (9-9 4.52), 1-4 with a 6.81 ERA over his last eight starts, tries for his first win against the Angels after going 0-2 with a 6.38 ERA in his first five starts vs. Los Angeles.

FROM USA TODAY SPORTS

Garrett Richards' return encouraging for Angels, in desperate need of rotation help

By Jorge L. Ortiz

OAKLAND — The wobbly Los Angeles Angels rotation has been seeking a salve, if not a savior.

Not since Aug. 28 has an Angels starter completed six innings, and manager Mike Scioscia has been running through so many pitchers — and American League-record 12 on Monday and 43 in the last five games — that the club added two to the roster Tuesday, with a third one getting activated Wednesday.

Garrett Richards won't play the role of a one-man rescue squad, at least not for a while. He was sidelined for too long, and the time remaining in the season is too short, for him to reestablish himself as the staff ace.

But the signs of that capability were on display again Tuesday, exactly five months after Richards' last start, and the Angels will gladly take any help he can provide as they pursue their second playoff berth in eight years.

Richards fired several 96-97 mph fastballs among his 52 pitches and allowed one run in 3 1/3 innings as the Angels surged to second place in the wild-card race with an 8-7 victory over the Oakland Athletics.

Ben Revere's pinch-single in the 10th inning drove in the go-ahead run for Los Angeles, which played its fifth consecutive game lasting at least three hours and 49 minutes — this one went 4:12 — a major league first.

"Our offense has been really picking us up this last week," manager Mike Scioscia said. "We can do a better job on the mound. It's going to be tough to reach our goal unless we can get to a certain point in the game (with the starter)."

Tuesday's outing marked the 10th time in the last 33 games an Angels starter failed to complete five innings. In this case, it was expected. Scioscia had declined to specify a pitch limit for Richards, but the 50 figure that had been bandied about.

Initially, Richards looked like he might stick around long enough for the five innings it takes to qualify for a win, dispatching the first six A's batters on 19 pitches and breezing through the opening inning in a mere five.

Oakland put runners on the corners with one out in the third but Richards escaped unscathed. He wasn't as fortunate in the fourth, when Khris Davis followed Jed Lowrie's leadoff double with a stinging liner to center that fell in when center fielder Mike Trout failed to pursue it aggressively.

One out later, Chad Pinder crushed a slider for an RBI double off the left-field fence, driving in the A's first run and ending Richards' night.

"It felt great just to get back out there and compete, be out there with my teammates and just grinding right there with them instead of sitting on the side and watching games go by," said Richards, who allowed four hits and struck out three. "This is a good one to build off of and hopefully next time I'll go a little bit longer."

Richards, who overcame a major knee injury late in the 2014 season to win 15 games the next year, has been beset by arm woes since then. A torn elbow ligament limited him to six appearances in 2016, and

after he opted to treat it with stem-cell therapy instead of undergoing Tommy John surgery, Richards returned to action April 5, also at the Coliseum against the A's.

He left that game after 4 2/3 scoreless innings due to biceps tightness but sounded unconcerned at the time, merely playing it safe after such a long layoff.

It took him five months to step on a big league mound again, as the tightness turned into a lingering strain. Richards is jumping back in as the playoff race picks up steam, and he relishes the chance to pitch in.

“To be able to come back and be a part of something like that after the guys have been grinding all year, it makes me want to step my game up to the next level,” he said. “I did everything I could to get back this year and I plan on continuing to move forward.”