



Press Clips

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FROM THE OC REGISTER**Angels hitters do surprisingly little at Coors Field in loss to Rockies**

By Jeff Fletcher

DENVER — After a significant offensive explosion over the previous week, the Angels' bats went quiet again in the most unlikely of places.

Coors Field.

The most hitter-friendly ballpark in the majors didn't seem like it to the Angels in their first visit here since 2015. The Angels didn't score until the eighth inning of a 4-2 loss to the Colorado Rockies on Tuesday night.

The Angels, who had hit .337 and averaged 8.6 runs over the previous five games, were blanked by Jon Gray for seven innings.

Their best chance to do some damage against him was in the first inning, when they loaded the bases with two outs. Zack Cozart struck out.

"I think he gave us a bunch of pitches to hit early, and we didn't capitalize on it," Ian Kinsler said. "Then he settled down and started throwing the ball really well."

In the seventh, when they trailed just 2-0, Andrelton Simmons led off with a single. After Simmons went to second, Shohei Ohtani came up to pinch-hit, as the crowd came to life with anticipation. Ohtani, who had belted a few balls into the third deck during batting practice, grounded out.

"He had a lot working for him out there," Manager Mike Scioscia said of Gray. "We couldn't get the kind of pressure on him. He pitched a good ballgame."

Gray was also responsible for the first three at-bats of an 0-for-4 day for Kinsler, who continues to struggle out of the leadoff spot.

Kinsler is now hitting .189, including .134 over his past 67 at-bats, numbers that he conceded "look brutal."

"Right now I'm not hitting the ball very hard and when I am hitting the ball hard, it seems to be going right at people," he said. "It's tough to build confidence when you aren't getting the hits when you are actually having good at-bats. Just keep working."

Perhaps Kinsler can take some encouragement from Justin Upton, who was slumping a week ago but has since gotten hot, including a two-run homer that accounted for the Angels' only runs.

Upton's eighth-inning blast was after Noé Ramírez had allowed two runs in the seventh, doubling the deficit left by a strong start from Andrew Heaney.

Heaney, who gave up two runs in six innings, has a 2.12 ERA over his last three starts, which coincides with his move back to the first base side of the rubber.

Heaney had spent most of his career on the first base side, but after he came back from Tommy John surgery last year, and for his first two starts this year, he was on the third base side.

“I feel more comfortable (on the first base side),” he said. “I feel like my stuff is playing the way I want it to. I feel better making the pitches I need and getting some early swinging contact. Swings and misses are great, but early swings and bad contact are definitely helping me work through lineups a little longer.”

The Rockies didn't score until the third when Tony Wolters reached on an infield single. He went to second on a bunt and then scored on DJ LeMahieu's single.

In the sixth, Trevor Story hit a drive that dropped just inside the right-field line, at the warning track, and he raced to third with a triple. He scored on Gerardo Parra's bloop single.

“Just a couple mistakes,” Heaney said, referring to the LeMahieu and Story pitches. “Little mistakes, but in a game like that, those are the ones that beat you.”

Slumping Kole Calhoun keeps his confidence up as he looks to get back in Angels' lineup

By Jeff Fletcher

DENVER — Kole Calhoun is trying to find his swing, and keep his confidence.

“It's tough,” Calhoun said. “But every day is a new day. It can only take one day (to get going). I just want to help this team win. You can't change the past, but going forward, I have the opportunity to have some good at-bats and try to help this ballclub.

Calhoun, who had started against every right-handed pitcher for more than a month, was benched against a righty on Sunday and, after Monday's off day, again on Tuesday. He also didn't play on Saturday, against a left-handed starter. The Rockies are starting a lefty on Wednesday, so it's likely that Calhoun will go four straight games without starting.

Normally a fixture in the Angels' lineup, Calhoun is hitting .165 after grounding into a game-ending double play as a pinch-hitter on Tuesday night. He has with 33 strikeouts and four walks in 119 plate appearances. He has just two extra-base hits – a triple and a homer – and they were his first two hits of the season.

One clear difference for Calhoun is that his ground ball rate is 56.8 percent, which is significantly higher than his career rate of 42.9. In the past, Calhoun has been able to counter the shift by hitting over it, but not this season.

“I think (the ground balls) are a symptom of the problem,” he said. “That’s what we’re trying to work on. Get back to some line drives. Not necessarily get the ball in the air, but backspin some stuff and try to find some holes.”

LEARN BY WATCHING

When Jaime Barria makes his fourth major-league start on Wednesday, it will be the first time he’s started after being in the dugout in the previous days.

For his first three starts, he was only activated the day he pitched. And after the first two, he was optioned immediately after he pitched, so he hadn’t had the chance to sit in the dugout and learn from the other pitchers and hitters until now.

“I think there’s a lot of value that can be gained from that,” Manager Mike Scioscia said. “What happens in the major leagues between starts with a pitcher, especially a young pitcher, is very important.”

ALSO

The Angels are planning on Shohei Ohtani making his next start on the mound on Sunday, but Scioscia won’t make that official until they see how Ohtani feels after his last outing. That would fit with their pattern, of keeping him on six days rest when possible. He twice had longer breaks, once because of a postponement and once when he sprained his ankle. ...

The combination of Ohtani’s power and the thin air at Coors Field led to a batting practice show that made quite an impression on longtime observers in Denver. Ohtani hit a few balls into the third deck in right field, territory usually only touched by Carlos Gonzalez, according to the locals. ...

Catcher Martín Maldonado returned after missing the weekend on the bereavement list. Juan Graterol was optioned back to Triple-A. ...

Kenyan Middleton (elbow inflammation) pitched a scoreless inning in a rehab outing at Triple-A on Tuesday night at Triple-A. Scioscia said he’s not sure how many games Middleton would need, but he’s expected to be back sometime later this week. ...

Nick Tropeano (shoulder inflammation) threw a bullpen session on Tuesday. He said he’s scheduled for another on Thursday. If that goes well, he would rejoin the rotation on Saturday, the first day he’s eligible. ...

Blake Wood (elbow impingement) still had not yet thrown off a mound, but he was going to do so any day, Scioscia said. ...

Matt Shoemaker (forearm strain) continues to throw off a mound, Scioscia said. ...

Jo Adell, the Angels’ top prospect, returned to the lineup at Class-A Burlington, Iowa, on Tuesday after missing two weeks with a thumb contusion.

UP NEXT

Angels (Jaime Barría, 2-1, 3.46) at Rockies (Tyler Anderson, 2-0, 3.78), Wednesday, noon, Fox Sports West, KLAA (830 AM)

FROM THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

Angels' bats come alive too late in 4-2 loss to Rockies

By Jeff Miller

It was a night of pyrotechnic offense, the show stopping Coors Field and forcing everyone's eyes skyward.

Then, unfortunately for the Angels, the game began.

Unable to duplicate the fireworks-filled batting practice of Shohei Ohtani, the Angels fell 4-2 to Colorado on Tuesday night.

"You're disappointed when you come in and you don't swing the bat as well as you want," shortstop Andrelton Simmons said. "You gotta shake it off and come back tomorrow and try again."

Playing in a National League park that doesn't allow for a designated hitter, Ohtani didn't start. He pinch-hit in the seventh inning, grounding out as the potential tying run with the Angels trailing 2-0.

But it was his thin-air batting practice that mesmerized the stadium as he hit baseballs into places generally considered reachable only via Uber.

Ohtani deposited multiple would-be home runs into the park's third deck in right field, 400-who-knows-how-many feet away.

Each one was marked by oohs and aahs. When Ohtani was done, he received an ovation particularly hearty given that the game was still an hour or so away from starting.

Once play commenced, the Angels were unable to figure out Jon Gray and lost at Coors Field for the first time in nine games, a streak that began in 2001, a month before Mike Trout's 10th birthday.

Beforehand, manager Mike Scioscia talked about the importance of being productive here, noting the need to "score whatever runs are available" in a place famous for serving all-you-can-eat offense.

Then he watched his team load the bases with two outs in the first inning and fail to produce against Gray, Zack Cozart striking out on a full-count slider to end the threat.

"He made a good pitch," Scioscia said. "But there was a lot of baseball left."

There just weren't many chances to come as the Angels were dominated by Gray, who continued a run of unprecedented success by Rockies starters.

The right-hander retired 11 batters in a row during one stretch and gave up only two more singles, striking out eight over seven innings.

Gray's performance was Colorado's ninth consecutive quality start, a franchise record.

"He made good pitches," Simmons said. "He didn't give anything away."

For the Angels, Andrew Heaney provided another start that was good in every way other than the fact it wasn't as good as Gray's.

He gave up a run-scoring single to DJ LeMahieu in the third inning and, three innings later, a run-scoring single that Gerardo Parra just sort of coaxed into left field.

Beyond that, only one other Colorado runner advanced past second, Heaney holding down a team that had scored 24 runs in its previous four games.

"We had a game plan going in there," Heaney said. "I think with the exception of a couple mistakes on my part, we executed it pretty perfectly."

Since moving back to the first-base side of the pitching rubber three games ago, the left-hander has a 2.12 earned-run average and 16 strikeouts in 17 innings.

Heaney started the game by setting down the Rockies in order in the first inning on eight pitches, each one a strike.

"I think Andrew is starting to get into the flow of the season," Scioscia said. "He's giving us chances to win games. Andrew's doing his part, no doubt."

Heaney was good, but he wasn't enough, not on a night when the Angels' offense was better in practice than in the real thing.

Angels' Kole Calhoun trying to get back in the swing of things

By Jeff Miller

During a three-game stretch ending April 11, Kole Calhoun had six hits in 13 at-bats.

Before Tuesday, he had six hits since then — in 63 at-bats.

"It's tough, but every day is a new day," Calhoun said. "You can't change the past. Going forward, we've got an opportunity to have some good at-bats and continue to help this ballclub."

The right fielder didn't start for the third consecutive game as the Angels opened a series against Colorado. With left-hander Tyler Anderson scheduled to pitch for the Rockies on Wednesday, Calhoun likely won't start again.

Manager Mike Scioscia said over the weekend that the idea is to give Calhoun a few days to “clear his head” and allow him to work with the team’s hitting coaches. Calhoun was on the field early Tuesday for extra batting practice.

“Trying to get there,” Calhoun said. “Trying to get back to doing what I do. Keep working and hopefully find some holes.”

Calhoun, who was hitting .167 with a .211 slugging percentage going into the two-game series, had a triple and a home run in his first two at-bats of the season. Since then, he has not had an extra-base hit, each of the last 17 hits being singles.

He grounded into a game-ending double play against Colorado.

“Just trying to get back to some line drives,” Calhoun said, “and not necessarily get the ball in the air but more backspin some stuff and try to find some holes.”

Jabari Blash was recalled from triple-A Salt Lake on Sunday and has started the last two games in right field.

Keynan Middleton pitches at Salt Lake

Reliever Keynan Middleton (elbow inflammation) started a rehab assignment, striking out two batters and walking two in a scoreless inning for Salt Lake.

He has served the required 10 days on the disabled list, meaning he could rejoin the Angels this week.

Short hops

Catcher Martin Maldonado returned and catcher Juan Graterol was optioned to Salt Lake. Maldonado sat out three games while on the bereavement list. ... Center fielder Mike Trout had an assist for the second game in a row, throwing out Gerardo Parra at second base to complete a sixth-inning double play.

FROM ANGELS.COM

Heaney’s strong start not enough vs. Rockies

By Owen Perkins

DENVER -- On most days, six innings of two-run ball at Coors Field puts a pitcher in position to win. But the Angels came up against a Rockies rotation on a roll on Tuesday, and Jon Gray's seven innings of shutout ball proved too much to overcome as the Rockies recorded their franchise-record ninth consecutive quality start, dealing the Halos a 4-2 loss in the series opener.

The Angels could only get past second base twice against Gray. They loaded the bases with two out in the first frame before Zack Cozart became Gray's first strikeout victim to end the inning, then went five innings with just one base hit before a leadoff single from Andrelton Simmons in the seventh ended up with him stranded on third.

Shohei Ohtani took his first at-bat in a National League park when he pinch-hit with Simmons on second. Ohtani put on a remarkable display in batting practice, hitting the third deck multiple times as he got comfortable at Coors Field, but in the seventh he settled for a hard grounder to first, advancing the runner with the second out of the inning.

L.A. finally broke through in the eighth, after Gray was out of the game. Reliever Adam Ottavino walked Mike Trout with two outs, then gave up a 438-foot no-doubter to left to Justin Upton, his seventh homer of the season to make it a two-run game again.

Angels starter Andrew Heaney allowed five hits and three walks while striking out five over his six innings on the hill. He kept a dangerous lineup in check, and it was some small ball in the third that put the Rockies on the scoreboard. Tony Wolters led off with an infield single, was sacrificed to second by Gray, then scored on a single to right that Jabari Blash kicked to Trout in center, avoiding extra bases and limiting the damage in the inning to a single run.

The loss ended an eight-game winning streak for the Angels in Colorado, dating back to 2001. They scored 10 or more runs five times during the streak, and in their 13 total games played at Coors Field, the Angels have had five games with 15 hits or more, making Tuesday's four-hit effort pale by comparison.

Calhoun gets time off to get right

Right fielder has not met expectations to start season; Middleton set for rehab appearance Tuesday; Ohtani may pitch Sunday

By Owen Perkins

DENVER -- Angels right fielder Kole Calhoun missed his third consecutive start Tuesday after missing only three starts previously in the season, none of which were back to back, and until Sunday, none of which came against a right-handed pitcher.

After starting the season slashing .167/.195/.211 through his first 29 games, manager Mike Scioscia is giving Calhoun a break to try and get things right.

"It's tough," Calhoun said of his 6-for-63 (.095) slump. "Every day is a new day. You can't change the past, but going forward we have the opportunity to have some at-bats."

The Angels brought Jabari Blash up from Triple-A Salt Lake City Sunday to give them some depth while Calhoun works on his swing.

"All of us feel this way -- I know Kole feels this way -- that eventually he's getting back to where he needs to be," Scioscia said before the opening of the two-game set in Colorado on Tuesday. "This is just one little step -- take a half-step back, regroup, to get further ahead on a little quicker pace. He worked out earlier today, he feels great, he looked great. We'll see when he gets back out there."

Over the weekend, Scioscia said that Calhoun was working on some mechanics, but Calhoun downplayed the idea that he was doing any significant tinkering.

"You're always working on mechanics, every single day," Calhoun said. "Nothing too crazy."

A career .261 hitter over parts of six big league seasons heading into 2018, with 63 home runs over his last three seasons, Calhoun is 19-for-114 with four walks and 33 strikeouts on the season, with one triple and one homer accounting for his extra-base hits.

"We're trying to work on getting back to line drives," Calhoun said. "Not necessarily getting the ball in the air, but backspin and stuff, try to find some holes. My focus is on trying to help this team win any way that I can."

Medical tent

Closer Keynan Middleton was sent on a rehab assignment with Triple-A Salt Lake City on Tuesday after going on the disabled list Wednesday (retroactive to April 29) with right elbow inflammation.

"We'll see how he comes out of tonight," Scioscia said of Middleton, who is expected to pitch for the Bees Tuesday.

Middleton has notched six saves in 13 games this season, posting a 2.40 ERA in 15 innings.

In other rehab news, Matt Shoemaker (on the DL since April 3 with a right forearm strain) and Blake Wood (on the DL since April 24 with elbow posterior impingement) are both progressing.

"They're still moving along, but we don't have any endpoint with them yet, as far as when they'll be ready," Scioscia said. "I'm not sure if Woody's on the mound yet. He's close to that progression. I think he's day to day as far as when he gets on the mound."

Reservation for Sunday

Scioscia is not sure when Shohei Ohtani will pitch again, but pencil in Sunday as a possibility. Ohtani is available to pinch-hit and pinch-run as needed in the Rockies' National League park this week, and he was peppering the third deck at Coors Field with towering shots during batting practice Tuesday.

"We'll see how he comes out of it," Scioscia said of Ohtani's six-plus innings of two-run ball Sunday.

"He looks good. We'll look at some things this weekend. We'll look at Sunday, but we'll reserve the right to adjust down from that if something comes up."

On deck

Jaime Barria will start the finale of the two-game set in Colorado on Wednesday at 12:10 p.m. PT. It will

be Barria's fourth start of the season, but it's the first time he's stayed with the team for consecutive starts, as his previous three have all been spot-start callups.

"What happens between starts with a pitcher in the Major Leagues, especially a young pitcher, is very important," Scioscia said of the value of Barria spending time with the team between starts. "That's the flow you want to get. Sometimes it's not possible, and it really hasn't been possible this year with some of the things in our rotation. It's good to experience the game, watch other hitters, watch your pitchers, and understand what you need to do when you get out there."

FROM MiLB.COM

Jones taking position change in stride

Angels' No. 4 prospect embracing move from outfield to second

By Nathan Brown

Jahmai Jones entered his first Major League Spring Training with a secret.

He spent his first three professional seasons as an outfielder, and he found plenty of success along the way. At 20, the Angels' fourth-ranked prospect was the youngest player in the organization to receive a non-roster invitation to Major League camp this spring. Last year, Jones reached Class A Advanced Inland Empire for the last month and a half of the season, and he grabbed attention with a 25-game hitting streak. He was also named the Angels' Minor League Player of the Year for 2017.

So, in early March when a representative from a baseball glove company came to the Tempe Diablo facility in Arizona and Jones took an infielder's tool, he effectively ignited Glovegate. Was Jones switching positions?

He initially shot down speculation, claiming the small glove was intended to help him fine-tune his precision and feel in the outfield, which wouldn't have been outside the box for a prospect well-known for his work ethic.

"I didn't think it was going to cause so much commotion, but I wanted to keep it under wraps and fully transition before the articles started," the 2015 second-rounder said. "But, honestly, I did like shagging with a smaller glove. It makes you really focus in everything."

But in the offseason, Los Angeles personnel approached him about transitioning back to the infield, where he played the majority of his youth and high school years and where his athleticism could be more of an asset.

As the youngest boy with five other siblings, Jones has never been one to back down from a challenge. He trusted that the organization that thought so highly of him during the 2015 Draft only had his best interests at heart.

"It's something I knew might happen at some point, whether it be 10 years or 10 days down the road, ever since I was 15," Jones said. "They proposed it to me originally, but I was all for it. I think it's a great opportunity to go farther in this game, so whatever I can do to get to the Majors.

"They needed someone who could transition quickly and play well, so I looked at it as a compliment, rather than a negative. I knew they had confidence in me and a plan for me, so rather than me being frustrated, like, 'I've been doing this for so long,' I'm not going to look at it like that. That's selfish. I want to open as many doors as possible, and whatever they think is going to get me there, I'm going to go in 100 percent and not look back."

Jones grew up in Roswell, Georgia, in a family that revolved around sports, particularly football. His father, Andre, played for the Detroit Lions in 1992 and helped lead the Notre Dame football team to the 1988 national championship. His older brothers, T.J. and Malachi, both followed Andre's legacy from college-level football to the professional ranks. No matter the playing surface, Jones always faced a tall task during family contests, and he wasn't one to cower away.

"My biggest thing was, I didn't want to live in anyone's shadow. On the blacktop playing basketball, people would say, 'He's too young,' or 'He can't play,' but I wanted to be the best out there," he said. "Whether guys were one year my senior or 10, that fearlessness was instilled in me at a young age. It puts a drive in you that there's nothing you can't do when you put your mind to it. I was never restricted to what I could or couldn't do."

In Spring Training this year, Jones wasn't alone in making a conversion. His Tempe roommate, No. 14 Angels prospect Taylor Ward, had been tasked with moving from catcher to third base. The good friends both tackled their moves with an open mind and laughed off the tough times. Having Ward there made it easier for Jones to see the light at the end of the tunnel, because the potential for his future Angels teammate was clear.

"He can hit and catch and throw, and this move eases his legs so they don't have to take his bat out of the lineup," Jones said. "It opens up doors for him. He could move to first or play on the corners. There are so many opportunities.

"But we took it in stride and did what we do best, two guys who work their butts off and continue to do what we need to."

On the surface, at least, the transition has kick-started Ward more than Jones. The Mobile infielder entered Tuesday with a .380/.484/.550 slash line, ranking him near the top of all of Double-A. But Jones knew from experience that professional baseball is a game of failure, even for players who have played half their life. Switching to a new position would only amplify that, at least for a short time.

"Just going from the amateurs to the pros, you're going to have a rough patch, especially at a new place on the field," he said. "You have to get used to the speed of the game, and there were going to be errors early on, but I'm getting better every day from it. I try not to harp on them or take it too seriously.

"But I've got to get used to having my feet back on the dirt and being locked in at any moment. I'm involved in almost every play, on a cutoff or a ground ball to me or backing someone up. I always have

to be in the right place at the right time. The biggest thing is doing all the small things and making the routine things routine."

At the plate, Jones has faced challenges this spring, but the numbers don't tell the full story. He entered Tuesday's matchup with Lancaster hitting .222/.333/.400, not unlike his slow start with Class A Burlington a year ago. But both Jones and 66ers manager Ryan Barba said he's been hitting it hard right at the opposition, a far cry from a year ago when Jones admitted to chasing pitches too often.

"We sit and look at numbers, and his average isn't where it's supposed to be, but he's hitting it hard," Barba explained. "He just needs to keep what he's doing, making contact and good decisions."

The new second baseman is committed to waiting patiently to catch a few breaks.

"You can go through weeks of hitting it well, and nothing drops," he said, "and then you can have two weeks making contact you don't think will be hits, and they just fall."

Jones finds it easy to take on these career challenges simply because he doesn't take anything too seriously. The way he sees it, he's getting paid to play baseball. Treating it like a joyless job would undermine that gift.

You can find him making goofy faces, cracking jokes, sticking his tongue out at photographers in the heat of the action.

"I've talked with [MiLB.com photographer Jerry Espinoza] a bit, and one of the first times he took it, it was a joke. Now, he'll get a couple with me playing, and we'll make eye contact, and I'll stick my tongue out," Jones said of his trademark pose. "You can get caught up so much with stats and stuff, and at its core, it's a game we play for fun, and that's how I want to keep playing it."

"I play better loose and having fun, when it doesn't feel like a job. But I want to win, though. Don't get me wrong. I want to win just as much as the next guy. But I want to create a fun environment for the team and let the stats take care of themselves. Games are meant to be fun. This is a little kids' game played by grown men, and I'm just thankful for the opportunity."

When it comes to the intricacies between his two positions, Jones gets a bit more serious. To the casual baseball fan, fielding may be the same everywhere, but Jones said he's had to brush up on some tools that had gone rusty from playing four seasons in the outfield. His footwork can't be sloppy. A miscue on a play made in fractions of a second could cost a win. He has to be hyper-alert every moment, ready to turn a double play or dive for a grounder and flip to first.

"It's all about angles. The ball comes off the bat differently, and the first step is new," Barba said. "Understanding certain plays and being able to keep speed underneath the ball and understanding where to be on certain plays, it's something you'd normally take for granted."

That's where the new glove comes in handy. He's switched from an outfielder's glove, size 12 $\frac{3}{4}$, to an 11 $\frac{1}{2}$. Now, the ball won't stick in the webbing, allowing him to make a fluid throwing motion, but he must be that much more precise when snagging liners in the middle infield.

Still, Jones is confident he could play either position in the Major Leagues. He sees this move as one to speed up the process and allow him to impact the Angels sooner. But his experience as an infielder and as an outfielder not only means he would enter the big leagues a versatile, budding star, but that he has a better handle on what's going through the minds of his teammates.

"I now know how the outfielders think and what they want to do," he said. "It gives me an aspect of understanding of what to do on a hit, and I know where they want to throw the ball and where it should go."

In Jones, Barba sees a fighter, someone who's unafraid to take on his lofty ranking within the Angels organization and a major challenge in the field in stride. Surviving a 140-game season is tough for anyone, but the Inland Empire manager is certain that his second baseman is prepared for the added degree of difficulty.

Jones added that he's not trying to rush himself to the Majors too hastily, either. Already as the youngest player on the 66ers roster, he knows perfection in a game of mistakes takes time. All he hopes to accomplish in 2018 is tackle the unique challenges that each day brings.

"I just want to continue to capitalize on things I did well last season and stay level-headed," he said. "As long as I improve, either a little or a lot, that's what I want."

Bees' Adell collects four hits in return

Angels' No. 2 prospect scores twice in first game in two weeks

By Rob Terranova

Jo Adell's performance on Tuesday was worthy of two thumbs up.

The No. 59 prospect in baseball collected four hits and scored twice in in his first game in two weeks as Class A Burlington edged out South Bend, 4-1, at Four Winds Field.

With one out, Adell lined a laser into right field in the first inning for a single off Cubs No. 17 prospect Erich Uelmen.

In the third, the second-ranked Angels prospect turned around the first pitch he saw from the right-hander and sent it right back up the middle for a base hit. Adell got the best of Uelmen again in the fifth by lining a single to center after working the count full.

The No. 10 overall selection in last year's Draft was responsible for half of the hits surrendered by the South Bend starter.

Lefty Yapson Gomez got the center fielder to hit a weak dribbler back to the mound in the seventh.

In his final at-bat, the 19-year-old put an exclamation point on his return with a two-out knock off righty Brian Glowicki into center.

The Bees put Adell on the seven-day disabled list on April 24 after he sustained a thumb injury during a game.

Brandon Marsh, Angels' No. 5 prospect, got the scoring started for the Bees with a double right in fifth that brought in 15th-ranked Leonardo Rivas and Adell. Torii Hunter laced an RBI double to right in the seventh that scored Marsh. In the ninth, it was Marsh driving in Adell again with his 11th double of the season.

Righty Luis Madero (1-2) picked up his first win of the season after surrendering a run on five hits without walking anyone and fanning five over five frames. He set down eight of the final nine batters he faced.

Uelmen (1-4) surrendered two runs on six hits with a walk while striking out five.

FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gray's 7 shutout innings lead Rockies past Angels, 4-2

By Michael Kelly

DENVER (AP) — Jon Gray was staring at a big first-inning jam, but one good pitch got him out of it and kept the Colorado Rockies rolling.

Gray continued Colorado's strong stretch of starts with seven scoreless innings, and the Rockies beat the Los Angeles Angels 4-2 on Tuesday night for their sixth straight win.

Gray walked one and struck out eight to notch Colorado's ninth straight quality start, a franchise record. He shook off a 28-pitch first inning to hold the Angels' potent lineup to four hits.

"All of them are pitching with a great deal of confidence," Rockies manager Bud Black said of his starting staff. "They have conviction of what they're going to throw. You can see during the game, even when there's some stress I've noticed poise and calmness through this stretch."

Colorado's starters have combined for an ERA of 1.92 over the last 12 games while the Rockies are 9-3 in that stretch.

"We always want to outdo each other," Gray said.

Justin Upton hit a two-run homer off Rockies reliever Adam Ottavino in the eighth to cut Colorado's lead in half but closer Wade Davis got the last three outs for his major-league leading 14th save.

Los Angeles averaged 7.7 runs while winning five of its last six but was quieted by Gray in hitter-friendly Coors Field.

“He made good pitches. He didn’t give away anything,” the Angels’ Andrelton Simmons said. “He was throwing some good sliders away, some backup sliders. He was just hitting corners.”

The Angels were poised for a big inning when they loaded the bases in the first on two singles and a walk but Gray struck out Zack Cozart on a full-count slider to end the threat. He was nearly unhittable after that, retiring 11 in a row and 18 of the last 20 he faced.

“We set the table early, had some good looks at him and he made some pitches to get out of some innings and then he got on a nice roll,” Los Angeles manager Mike Scioscia said. “He made a great pitch on (Cozart) 3-2.”

The Rockies took a 1-0 lead on DJ LeMahieu’s RBI single in the third off starter Andrew Healey (1-2) and tacked on another run in the sixth. Trevor Story led off with a triple and scored on Gerardo Parra’s one-out single to left.

Los Angeles tried to rally in the seventh. Simmons led off with a single and moved to second on a ground out. Shohei Ohtani, who didn’t start because there is no designated hitter in NL parks, came up as a pinch-hitter. He worked the count to 3-1 but grounded out sharply to first, and Gray escaped without allowing a run.

“I knew it was going to be a big part of the game. He’s really talented; saw him in spring training a few times,” Gray said. “I knew we were going to have to execute pitches and throw our best stuff.”

Colorado added a pair of runs on Story’s two-out double off reliever Noé Ramírez in the seventh.

SHOWSTOPPER

Ohtani wasn’t in the starting lineup on Tuesday but he still thrilled the fans that arrived early for batting practice. Ohtani launched several moonshots in the cage, twice hitting balls into the third deck in right field as fans oohed and aahed.

TRAINER’S ROOM

Rockies: LeMahieu was activated from the 10-day disabled list and batted first. He missed nine games with a strained right hamstring. INF Pat Valaika was optioned to Triple-A Albuquerque to make room on the roster for LeMahieu.

UP NEXT

Angels RHP Jaime Barria (2-1, 3.46) is scheduled to make his fourth start of the season on Wednesday in the finale of the two-game series. He will face Colorado LHP Tyler Anderson (2-0, 3.78).

FROM THE DENVER POST**Kiszla: Rockies should make Shohei Ohtani pay damage deposit to take batting practice at Coors Field**

Add Ohtani taking B.P. in LoDo to your bucket list

By Mark Kiszla

Just once before you die, you should climb the Great Wall of China, dance with the Northern Lights in Iceland and watch Shohei Ohtani take batting practice at Coors Field.

Ohtani, as you might have heard, is the 23-year-old sensation from Japan that can hit and pitch the way Beyonce can sing and dance.

We're talking freak of nature, so big and beautiful, if folks don't get out of the way, somebody could get hurt.

I now understand the real reason why Rockies owner Dick Monfort installed The Rooftop in right field. The best outdoor bar in LoDo was all that stopped the American League's new sensation from blasting a ball to Wyoming. During batting practice, he smacked so many pitches into the upper reaches of the ballpark it should be rechristened the Shohei Party Deck.

Fans showed up with gloves, anxious to collect B.P. souvenirs from Ohtani, only to run for cover, looking more shell shocked than White Goodman in the final reel of "DodgeBall."

Ohtani hit the ball so hard it awakened sweet memories of my late father. Dad was a batting practice guy. In the late 1960s, when we lived in West Virginia, he liked to park us in the seats so early the ushers at old Forbes Field were still wiping away the black soot that had accumulated on the chairs after Pittsburgh's steel mills spent the night wheezing.

Although it was 457 feet to dead center in Forbes, what I remember most vividly as a kid wasn't how far the ball flew, but how the sound of a bat crushing a pitch could raise goose bumps. In B.P., Willie Stargell made noise sweeter than fireworks.

Yes, some of the best magic in sports can happen before the game. Here are images guaranteed never to fade for me:

Ralphie storming Folsom Field. The sweet tension that fills an Olympic stadium as the gun is raised for the start of the 100-meter dash. Stephen Curry nailing a shot from the tunnel to the locker room after a warm-up routine flashier than any show in Harlem Globetrotters' history.

Add Ohtani taking B.P. in LoDo to your bucket list.

Until a recent sprained ankle caused him to miss time in the Angels starting rotation, it appeared Ohtani would both throw strikes and take cuts at Coors Field, where none of that designated hitter nonsense is

allowed. Fans desiring a good, long gawk at Ohtani, however, had to commit to an early arrival for batting practice during this two-game series, when he's scheduled to work only as a pinch hitter.

In the top of the seventh inning, with the Rockies leading 2-0, Ohtani dug in the box, as Colorado pitcher Jon Gray stared at the potential tying run at the plate. On a 3-1 count, Gray coaxed a harmless grounder to first baseman Ian Desmond.

Good for Gray, again looking like an ace after a shaky start to the season. Good for the Rockies, whose 4-2 victory was their sixth in a row.

And as for Ohtani? He's got the goods. No doubt. His 32 strikeouts and three victories on the mound are every bit the real deal as his four homers and 1.001 OPS as a hitter.

I'm a bad speller, hoping to learn how to type all the letters of his name in the proper order without looking them up at least once before his induction at Cooperstown.

Although my foreign language skills are also severely limited, I have figured out how to translate Shohei Ohtani from Japanese to English.

It's Roy Hobbs ... or Steve Nebraska, depending on which day of the week Ohtani decides to make truth wilder than anything you'll ever see at the movies.

FROM INSIDE THE SEAMS

Pujols Returns to Where Hit Parade Began – Coors Field

By Jack Etkin

Coors Field is where the march to 3,000 hits began for Albert Pujols in 2001. It's also where he took a swing five years later that still resonates, not for how prodigious it was but for the improbable damage it inflicted on the Rockies and, in particular, Jason Jennings.

The Rockies and Cardinals began the 2001 season on April 2. Pujols, 21, played left field and batted sixth. He had vaulted to the Cardinals after spending the bulk of the 2000 season at the Low Class A level with a brief stop at High Class A and an even briefer one at Triple-A. While Pujols was the talk of Cardinals camp in 2001, the big Rockies news that spring was left-hander Mike Hampton, who was new to the team.

Signed as a free agent to an eight-year, \$121 million contract, Hampton made his debut with the Rockies on Opening Day against the Cardinals. Facing Hampton in the seventh inning, Pujols grounded a single into left field for his first major league hit. At the time, the Rockies were ahead 6-0 and on their way to an 8-0 win in which Hampton pitched 8 1/3 innings. He allowed five hits in a 102-pitch, good-as-advertised performance that proved short-lived.

Fast forward to July 25, 2006. Pujols, then entrenched at first base and batting third, was the reigning National League Most Valuable player _ an award he also won in 2008 and 2009 _ a five-time All-Star and winner of three Silver Sluggers.

The Cardinals entered that July game 56-42 with a 4 ½ game lead in the NL Central. The Rockies were 47-52, 4 ½ games behind and in fourth place in the NL West. Cardinals ace Chris Carpenter, who was 9-4 with a 2.83 ERA, opposed Jennings, who was 6-8 with a 3.88 ERA. He pitched a complete game four-hitter and lost 1-0 when Pujols hit a two-out homer in the sixth.

It was the first time a Rockies pitcher had thrown a nine-inning complete game in Denver and lost. Curiously, it happened again seven days later when Josh Fogg lost 1-0 to the Brewers and hasn't happened since.

Jennings, who walked two and struck out four while throwing 69 of 105 pitches for strikes, gave up singles to David Eckstein and So Taguchi to start the game, putting runners on first and third. After Pujols lined to shortstop, Scott Rolen walked to load the bases, but Jennings escaped by getting Juan Encarnacion to ground into a double play.

The Cardinals didn't have another at-bat with a runner in scoring position the rest of the game. In fact, they never got a runner past first base the rest of the night, save for Pujols when he trotted around the bases.

Jennings had retired 12 straight batters and 15 of 16 when Pujols came to bat in the sixth. With the count 1-1, Jennings threw a changeup. The pitch didn't hang and offer Pujols a tantalizing target, quite the contrary.

"I'm kind of known as a sinker-slider guy, but when we are at home, I used my changeup a lot just because you can't really depend on slider breaks some nights up there," Jennings said last week. "So it was a 1-1 changeup. It was below the knee and definitely not on the black.

"I was trying to kind of just back-door a changeup, maybe get a rollover ground ball to short. Which most guys maybe would've offered at and given me my wish. He decided to do otherwise."

Pujols lined the ball just over the out-of-town scoreboard in right field. It was Pujols' 33rd homer of the season _ he finished that year with career-highs in home runs (49) and RBI (137). The ball traveled an estimated 362 feet and barely made it into the stands.

Jennings lives in Frisco, Texas. He owns a baseball facility there called Pastime Training Center, where he gives pitching lessons and coaches several select teams that use the facility as a base. Jennings, 39, vividly remembers that fateful pitch to Pujols.

"I actually use that when I'm doing some lessons," Jennings said. "We'll start talking about big league hitters, and my example when I use that game is you can't really control what goes around you. You pitch, and you do your job. And that day we just happened to not score."

Jennings was an exceptional hitter for a pitcher. That night against Carpenter, Jennings drove a ball to the track in right field to end the second with runners on first and third. In the first inning, Jamey Carroll

led off with a double and was sacrificed to third by Clint Barmes. But third baseman Rolen, sprawling to his left, then snared Garrett Atkins' grounder and threw Carroll out at home.

Carpenter gave up seven hits _ six singles and Carroll's double – in 7 1/3 innings and held the Rockies hitless in six at-bats with runners in scoring position. The final two such at-bats came in the ninth with one out and runners on first and second against closer Jason Istringhausen. He struck out Carroll and retired Barmes on a fly to right, sealing Jennings' bitter loss.

He retired the final eight batters without allowing a ball to leave the infield and finished the game with 12 outs on ground balls and one costly pitch to Pujols he didn't regret throwing.

"His stance, his swing are so simple and clean," Jennings said. "He doesn't get fooled. He just sits there and waits on it, and if he likes it, he's going to go get it. Maybe he was zoning me away and just looking for something away. But Vlad (Vladimir Guerrero) is about the only other guy I could remember who could hit pitches (that were) not even close to a hittable pitch and do damage with it.

"A 1-1 changeup off the plate below the knees. I still to this day, I don't even understand how it's possible. But you know, you get 3,000 hits, you're probably capable of doing stuff like that."

Amazingly, Pujols, 38, who is in his seventh year with the Angels after 11 with the Cardinals, has never struck out 100 times in a season. He's a 10-time All-Star, whose resume also includes six Silver Sluggers and two Gold Gloves. He is the 32nd player to reach 3,000 hits and with 620 home runs is just the fourth player in the exclusive 3,000/600 circle, joining Hank Aaron, Willie Mays and Alex Rodriguez. The gaudy bottom line Pujols brings into a two-game series tonight with the Rockies at Coors Field includes 3,002 hits, a .304 average and a .945 OPS.

The Rockies first-round pick and 16th player taken overall in 1999, Jennings ranks fourth all-time in franchise history in wins (58), innings pitched (941) and is tied for fourth in complete games (6) and tied for first in shutouts (3).

Jennings threw three complete games in 2006, the last was on that July night against the Cardinals. It was the second complete game Jennings lost. The first was at Dodger Stadium on May 21, 2003, where the Rockies fell 3-2. Jennings gave up 11 hits, including three doubles and a triple, in eight innings, faced 12 batters with runners in scoring position and stranded 10 runners. It was a gritty 113-pitch effort but nowhere near as dominant an outing as the one Pujols ruined. In his mind's eye, Jennings still recalls standing on the Coors Field mound in disbelief the instant Pujols parked what Jennings thought was an ideally located changeup.

"I distinctly remember, because it never happened before then and it never happened after that," Jennings said. "I'm pretty sure I said, 'You've got to be f... kidding me.' Or something like because I've given up a lot of cheapies at this place. But I don't know if that's a cheapie or I'm like super impressed that he hit that out. Can't decide."

FROM BSN DENVER**Ringolsby: How one of the greatest to ever play was overlooked by everyone**

By Tracy Ringolsby

Jeff Scott can't help but laugh when he thinks back 19 years, to that day in June 1999, when as the scouting director of the St. Louis Cardinals he used the team's 13th round draft choice, the 402nd player selected that year, to announce on the conference call, "The St. Louis Cardinals selected Pujols, Albert, a third baseman from Maple Woods Community College in Kansas City, Mo."

Go figure, right after the Angels made infielder Alfredo Amazega the 401st player taken that draft, and seconds before Toronto selected right-handed pitcher Marc Bluma with the 403rd pick, Scott called out the name of Pujols, who last weekend became the 32nd player in Major League history to collect 3,000 hits, and only the fourth to have both 3,000 hits and 500 home runs.

It is not that Pujols was an unknown.

The attendance for the Rockies games on Tuesday and Wednesday will be bigger than one would normally expect because, after all, Pujols, fresh off that milestone hit in Seattle, and the Angels will be in town. And diehard baseball fans don't want to miss a chance to see a future Hall of Famer play.

"He is one of those guys people stop to watch when he comes to the plate," said Scott. "That guy selling beer, he's not pouring when Albert comes up. He's watching, too."

And old-time baseball folks are muttering about "how the heck did that guy get past us?"

Don't ask Pujols. He doesn't understand it.

Hey, on draft day he thought the Rays might take him in the second round. But no call came.

He was told by several scouts he'd be taken somewhere in the first five rounds, but it didn't happen. The Mets indicated an interest of drafting him in the ninth round, but his agent scared them off.

The Red Sox were ready to call his name in the 10th round but weren't going to offer money for college, which Pujols felt was a necessity in case baseball didn't work out.

So there he was when it came time for the Cardinals to make selection No. 402 in the 13th round. Scott made the call.

"I have guys to this day asking me how I could have taken him that late," said Scott. "I just tell them, 'Hey, we drafted him. That's more than the other clubs did.'"

Scott said the Cardinals knew who he was. He had been seen by the Cardinals area scout Dave Karaff, who lived in Kansas City-area, national cross-checker Mike Roberts, Karaff's brother-in-law also lived in the Kansas City-area, and regional cross-checker Clark Crist.

“I want to say all three guys wrote Albert up the same way,” said Scott. “They all put a 50 on him. Obviously, he’s better than a 50, but that’s how they saw him. They never asked me to see him.

“So now we are there on draft day. We go through 12 rounds, and Mike is sitting next to me and leans over and goes, ‘There’s that Pujols boy. We got (No. 1) on our third base list. He’s a pretty good bat. We maybe should take him next round.’

“So he didn’t get drafted by anyone else so we took him. Then I saw him after we drafted him and I’m like, ‘Oh my God.’ It took all summer to sign him.”

Finally, the deal got done. Pujols received a \$30,000 bonus and \$30,000 for college, which was the stumbling block initially.

Once he signed he didn’t waste time. He played at the A level in his pro debut except for three games at season’s end when he was promoted to Triple-A, and the next spring he wound up forcing his way onto the big-league roster.

“We brought Albert over from the minor league camp because Bobby Bonilla got hurt in spring training,” said Scott. “Bonilla was going to be our fourth, fifth outfielder and occasionally fill in at first for (Mark) McGwire. He got hurt and we brought Albert over.

“He played the outfield that first day and had two, three, four hits, I’m not sure, but they brought him back (to big league camp) the next day, and the next thing you know it’s the end of spring training, and his name gets brought up. I don’t remember anybody pooh-poohing him breaking with the big-league team. You saw him play a game or two and you knew he had big-league ability.”

And he has proven that, time and again, putting up those Cooperstown worthy numbers that will earn him a plaque in the Hall of Fame along with Willie Mays and Hank Aaron, who along with Alex Rodriguez are the only others to have crossed both the 3,000 hit and 600 home runs barrier.

Not bad for a guy who held out for that \$30,000 of college money because, “I told my wife I was going to play three years in the minors, and if I don’t make it, I’ll retire. ... But it just took me one year to prove people they were wrong.”

FROM BLEACHER REPORT

MLB Superstar Power Rankings: How All 30 Teams’ Biggest Stars Stack Up So Far

By Jacob Shafer

As we churn past the one-week mark in May, the 2018 MLB season is officially heating up.

Let's take this opportunity to rank every team's biggest star, from No. 30 to No. 1.

First off, what defines a star? There's an undeniable amount of subjectivity involved, especially on clubs blessed with two or more exemplary performers.

In essence, it's a combination of ability, potential, track record and an indefinable something. Your results may vary, but we feel we've identified a credible candidate from every squad.

After that, it was a matter of ranking them based on their performance through May 7. It's a small sample, but it's enough to draw initial conclusions.

No. 1: Mike Trout, CF, Los Angeles Angels

Mike Trout is boring—or at least predictable—in the best sense of the word.

Every year, we know he'll be great. Every year, he is. He doesn't boast the most compelling personality in baseball, but he owns the most impressive, unimpeachable skill set.

So far in 2018, he's got 12 home runs, a .336 average and 3.0 WAR, which leads MLB—if you required statistical evidence.

Which you don't, because he's Trout.

Oh, did we mention he's 26 years old? We're going to enjoy this guy for a long time—and that's predictably good for everyone.

****Article edited to include only Angels-related material.*

FROM YAHOO! SPORTS

Mike Trout reveals the MLB pitcher he just can't figure out

By Mike Oz

There could be some argument about this, but there shouldn't be: Mike Trout is the best baseball player on the planet.

Trout is a two-time MVP at 26, a guy who has never finished any lower than fourth in the MVP vote. He's already having one of his across-the-board-great seasons, which shouldn't be a surprise at this point. He's also the guest on this week's Yahoo Sports MLB podcast, which we can't say will add to his Wins Above Replacement total, but it sure won't take away from it either.

In a fun sitdown with Yahoo Sports' Tim Brown, Trout talks about a number of topics, including Albert Pujols and Shohei Ohtani, what he loves about baseball, what pitcher he just can't figure out and even a little bit of football — he puts together an NFL roster of baseball players.

As for the pitcher who frustrates Trout — it's not Clayton Kershaw or Justin Verlander. It's Max Scherzer, the Washington Nationals ace, who has almost as much hardware in his awards case as Trout.

"When Scherzer was with Detroit," Trout told Yahoo Sports. "I'm happy he went to the NL.

"He's got unbelievable stuff. Obviously with the Cy Young awards. He's just an athlete on the mound. He's a grinder. You see his emotion out there. He competes. I like guys who go out there and leave it all on the line."

The numbers support Scherzer owning Trout. In 16 at-bats against Scherzer, Trout has struck out 10 times and has only three hits. One is a homer at least. There are only 10 pitchers in MLB who have ever struck out Trout 10 times and Scherzer is the only one to do it in fewer than 20 at-bats.

If you listen to the entire podcast, you'll see how Trout holds Scherzer in high regard. He also earned himself a spot on Trout's Football-Baseball team.

FROM USA TODAY

Mike Trout: The day he was intentionally walked with the bases loaded

By Josh Friedman

On May 20 of last year, Mike Trout had New York Mets manager Terry Collins debating the merits of a move only six others have ever tried in baseball history.

The Los Angeles Angels were trailing 7-2 in the top of the ninth inning, but tallied two in the frame and loaded the bases for the Millville native.

Addison Reed got Trout to hit into a sacrifice fly, making the score 7-5, and the Mets hung on from there.

However, Collins almost didn't give Trout the opportunity to swing the bat.

"The first thought is, I'd almost try to walk this guy (rather) than pitch to him," Collins said after the game.

An intentional walk with the bases loaded — the highest form of respect a manager could show to a hitter, and Trout had Collins thinking about it.

Ironically, almost nine years to the day before that, before Trout started crushing baseballs into the sport's Mount Rushmore, carving his name among the game's all-time greats, he had another manager in that exact position.

On May 23, 2008, Millville High School was hosting Cherry Hill East in the South Jersey Group 4 quarterfinals, and Cougars coach Erik Radbill entered the game with one simple strategy – don't let Trout beat us.

So Radbill intentionally walked the junior leadoff hitter three times that day – including once with the bases loaded. The plan worked, as East upset the Thunderbolts 11-5.

Radbill didn't know Trout would become the player he's turned into, but his ascension has made his decision "folklore," as he puts it.

As the 10-year anniversary of that day approaches, those involved with that game reflect on the strange-but-true moment.

Radbill: "We knew he was by far the best player (in South Jersey). Was he this generational Major League baseball player? No, but he was by far the best player in the area bar none, that was the first thing. The second thing is if you know the field that is Millville, it is a short porch all the way around."

Radbill: "At the time (assistant coach Dan McMaster, now the head coach at Cherry Hill West, and I) were meeting (in the leadup to the game), we didn't say we're going to walk him every time even if the bases are loaded, but we were saying look, if we want to move on we can't let Mike Trout beat us, so we had talked that over and that's what it came down to, let's just walk him every single time he comes up. That's what we said we're going to do."

Roy Hallenbeck, Millville baseball coach: "We're very close with Erik Radbill at Cherry Hill East. ... He'd seen Mike enough and he was one of the guys that respected Mike more than anybody."

Mike Edwards, former Millville assistant, current Mainland assistant: "He was so electric, even as a junior. He did things on a baseball field that you hadn't seen up to that point and really, quite honestly, you really haven't seen afterward. He was different."

Cherry Hill East took a 3-0 lead in the top of the first inning, but the Thunderbolts had made it a 3-1 game in the second and brought Trout up with the bases full.

Radbill: "Dan's kneeling right beside me and the second it happened he's like, 'Rad, don't forget what we talked about.' ... He had to like tap me on the shoulder and I was like you're right man, uh, excuse me (to the ump), sir, sir, and we had to get his attention like three or four times."

McMaster: "The fans were all over us, booing and screaming, but we wanted to put our team in the best position to win."

Edwards: "It upset some people in the stands, but me, Roy and Kenny (Williams), we sat there and said, we'd probably do the same thing. From a competitive standpoint, it made a ton of sense."

Radbill: "(Trout's) mom was on the fence, shaking the thing."

Debbie Trout, Mike's mom: "I don't remember shaking the fence. I do remember saying like, I can't believe it. As a mom, you just, you don't know what the strategy of other coaches is, but honestly, we

were upset they were going to walk him, and of course I wanted him to get a grand slam, not one RBI. I'm selfish, but as years have gone by, I understand it totally. ... I didn't before. I was pretty upset about the whole situation."

Hallenbeck: "The last thing we wanted was that walk. So when you decide to put him on we're like, that's going to kill us. That indicates he made the right move because he did exactly what we didn't want to happen."

Edwards: "Efen Fernandez was the hitter behind him, played third base and he was a tremendous player in his own right, all-conference player, and I remember (Trout) said (to me at first base), I hope Ef gets him. That was the mindset. I hope we make him pay. Mike knew he had the respect of his opponents, but there weren't many people in the park that wanted it more than he did."

McMaster: "One thing I do remember and I still talk about to this day, I'm actually a scout for the Phillies, it's a very low-level scout. ... Trout came to a workout (at Citizens Bank Park) and when he walked in and I shook his hand, he said you're the coach from Cherry Hill East that walked me, and I laughed and I kind of apologized and he laughed and said don't worry, that was the right move and it worked out."

Radbill: "We play in the American Division, Olympic Conference. We see Division-I players all the time. We've played against Billy Rowell (Bishop Eustace) here a couple times, he was the (ninth pick) overall in the (2006) Draft (to the Orioles), and just no, never (have I considered that with anyone else). And I'm telling you, it had half to do with Trout and half to do with the bandbox they played in. We probably wouldn't have walked him with the bases loaded out here (at Cherry Hill East). Well, I shouldn't say that, we might've. But maybe we think about it a little more. ... (The next year) he hit a dead center-field home run here (at Cherry Hill East)."

Hallenbeck: "In hindsight, knowing what he is now, looking back, it's kind of funny, every season that goes by, Erik gets a lot smarter for having done that. As Mike solidifies his hold on greatest player in the world, I think Radbill can sit back and say I was right."

Radbill: "I'd be lying if I told you it wasn't a cool thing that happened."

Debbie Trout: "Even more crazy now is when (the Angels) first got Albert (Pujols, who recorded his 3,000th career hit on Friday) on their team, with them walking Mike to get to Albert just blew my mind, just blew my mind, I'm not kidding you. So it's like, as the years have gone on of course, you start to realize what the coaches are doing."

Radbill: "The fact remains he was by far the best player we'd ever seen, no question about it."

FROM THE DESERT SUN**Albert Pujols' milestone in Angels uniform latest in line of big moments in Anaheim**

By Pete Donovan

Just as Reggie Jackson, Don Sutton and Rod Carew did, Albert Pujols has achieved a significant major league milestone in an Angel uniform. In fact, Pujols has accomplished three historic plateaus in an Angel uniform.

But Jackson, Sutton, Carew and Pujols are not Angels. At least not in baseball's Hall of Fame.

Reggie is enshrined as a Yankee (but he should have been as an Oakland A's), Sutton a Dodger, Carew a Minnesota Twin and Pujols (eventually) will be as a Cardinal.

And rightfully so. All four players had their grandest moments with other teams before arriving in Anaheim. Jackson, Carew and Pujols (three times) all earned Most Valuable Player awards for other teams. Jackson hit 123 homers for the Angels, 269 with the A's and 144 with the Yankees. Carew had 2,085 of his 3,053 hits with the Twins, only 968 with the Angels. Sutton won 233 games as a Dodger, 28 as an Angel. Pujols hit 445 of his 620 home runs as a Cardinal.

The milestones are more than noteworthy though:

*Jackson hit No. 500 on Sept. 17, 1984 in a 10-1 loss to Kansas City at the Big A. The victim was future Angel coach and current Colorado Rockies manager Bud Black. For the season, Reggie, who was 38 that year, hit 25 homers, but managed just a .223 batting average. He played two more seasons with the Angels before finishing up one year back in Oakland.

*Carew's 3,000th hit came against his old team, Minnesota, on Aug. 4, 1985 in a 6-5 Angel win at Anaheim. Typical of Carew, 39 at the time, he stroked a soft single into left field for 3,000. It was his final year playing the game for the seven-time American League batting champion (none with the Angels).

*Sutton, on his second attempt, won game No. 300 on June 19, 1986 in Anaheim with a three-hitter against Texas in a 5-1 win. At age 41, he had a solid season, going 15-11 for the Angels. He pitched two more years.

*Pujols has had more drama in his milestones. On April 21, 2014, he hit two homers to reach 500 in a 7-2 win over the Nationals in Washington. On June 3, 2017, he hit No. 600 against former Angel pitcher Ervin Santana of the Twins. It, too, was a 7-2 Angel win and it was a grand slam.

Pujols got hit No. 3,000 Friday night in Seattle, flipping a single to the opposite field. He joined Henry Aaron, Willie Mays and Alex Rodriguez as the only players to have 600 career home runs and 3,000 career hits. Pujols is 38 and has three years remaining on his 10-year Angel contract.

Note: It has been not only the Angels who ushered in Hall of Famers with their milestones: Wade Boggs (Rays), Eddie Murray (Indians), Dave Winfield (Twins) and Ichiro Suzuki (Marlins) all got their 3,000th hit in an end-of-career uniform. And pitchers Tom Seaver (White Sox), Greg Maddux (Cubs) and Randy Johnson (Giants) won their 300th game in uniforms other than the ones they display in the Hall of Fame.