



# ***Press Clips***

**(August 1, 2018)**

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**FROM THE OC REGISTER****Tyler Skaggs' breakout season interrupted by a rare bad outing in Angels' loss**

By Jeff Fletcher

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Tyler Skaggs was enjoying the best extended stretch of his career before hitting a giant speed bump on Tuesday night.

Skaggs, who brought a 2.62 ERA into the game, gave up a career-worst 10 runs in the Angels' 10-6 loss to the Tampa Bay Rays.

The Angels trailed 10-1 before they rallied to at least make the game interesting, including Mike Trout's 30th homer of the season.

The offense's performance only made Skaggs feel worse.

"We're swinging the bats really well," he said. "I wish I would have had a better outing because we easily could have won the game today. It's frustrating."

That was a new feeling for Skaggs, who had been doing pretty much anything he wanted on the mound for the past two months, with a 1.44 ERA over his previous eight starts.

"I feel like I've been throwing the ball as well I have my whole life, and today was probably the worst outing I ever had in my life," Skaggs said. "It's the ups and downs of a season. Everyone is liable to have a few. You can't be perfect every time out, but I'm definitely better than that. Today was a tough one."

Skaggs gave up a homer in the second inning to Jake Bauers, which was the first homer he'd allowed in two months. He gave up two more in the third, but then in the fourth, the game became a nightmare.

With one out, Skaggs couldn't retire any of the next seven hitters. He gave up solid hits to two of them and infield hits to two. He also hit one and walked two.

"It spiraled out of control," Skaggs said. "Baseball is a humbling game. Last game all I could do was strike people out (nine in six innings). This time all they could do was score runs."

The Angels didn't even get anyone up in the bullpen until after the fifth straight hitter reached. Manager Mike Scioscia said the bullpen was still trying to rebound from a heavy workload, including 8-2/3 innings on Sunday, so they were hoping to get Skaggs deeper into the game.

His night finally ended when he hit Daniel Robertson with a pitch, forcing in the seventh run of the game. He left the bases loaded and all three came around to score.

Scioscia said Skaggs had been pitching so well that they could simply dismiss this one as an aberration.

“He just didn’t seem to set the tone he’s been setting when he’s going well,” Scioscia said. “He usually gets ahead in the count and he can bring all his pitches into the game. He just had trouble doing that tonight.”

With the Angels down 10-1, it looked for the second game in a row like they might resort to using a position player to pitch, something they haven’t done in 25 years.

Just as they did after falling behind 8-0 on Sunday, the Angels’ hitters came through to make the game too close for them to give up.

Kole Calhoun hit a two-run homer in the fifth, one of his three hits as he continues to sizzle since coming off the disabled list last month.

They added two more in the sixth and one in the seventh on a blast by Trout. Trout hit a shot off one of the catwalks that hang from the roof of Tropicana Field. The drive was estimated at 427 feet.

“It was kind of cool,” Trout said of hitting the catwalk.

He also took pride in the accomplishment of hitting 30, as he’s done five times.

“It’s obviously a big number,” he said. “You try to reach 30 at the beginning of the season. I can’t tell you I’m going to hit 30 or 40. I just try to barrel up the ball. If it goes out, it goes out.”

## **GM Billy Eppler says Angels didn’t have a ‘fire sale’ before trading deadline**

By Jeff Fletcher

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — After the Angels passed the trading deadline with two of their everyday players sent elsewhere, Billy Eppler was asked about the “fire sale” characterization some have used to describe the club’s position.

“A fire sale sounds like you put everything on the lawn and people just walk by and start grabbing things,” the Angels general manager said, “and that’s definitely not what happened here. Not even close.”

In the days leading to Tuesday’s deadline, the Angels moved catcher Martín Maldonado and second baseman Ian Kinsler. Both players were set to be free agents at the end of the season, so the Angels turned the remaining two months they’d have with each into three minor league pitchers, two of whom are on the cusp of the majors. They didn’t make any more moves on Tuesday. Eppler said his discussions on the final day included some attempts to acquire controllable major leaguers. He said there was “groundwork laid” for deals they could revisit in the winter.

The Angels also could have traded away some of their controllable players, such as relievers Blake Parker and José Álvarez, but Eppler opted to keep them all. He reaffirmed that the team’s goal is to “increase our win total year in and year out,” as opposed to taking a step back to rebuild.

Standing in the Angels clubhouse shortly after the deadline passed, Parker said it was a new experience for him to be the subject of trade rumors. He mostly tried to ignore it.

“The only time it ever crossed my mind is when my wife said something about it, so I told her not to bring it up because I didn’t want to think about it,” Parker said.

### **WHAT NEXT?**

As expected, David Fletcher will get the bulk of time at second base and the Angels will “mix and match” at third, Manager Mike Scioscia said on Tuesday, a day after they traded Kinsler.

Fletcher played more second than third in the minors, so moving back to the middle of the infield should not be an issue.

As for third, the Angels have Luis Valbuena, Jefry Marte and Kaleb Cowart, who was recalled on Tuesday to take Kinsler’s roster spot.

Many Angels fans certainly would have liked to see the team recall third base prospect Taylor Ward, who has hit .352 this season at Double-A and Triple-A. Eppler conceded that Ward is “raking,” but he said he could use more time in the minors learning to play third. This is his first season after moving from catcher.

“The game is going to present you with a variety of plays and the randomness of those plays is hard to replicate in practice,” Eppler said. “For him getting an opportunity to play third base every day in Salt Lake, at this moment in time is what we felt was best.”

### **ALSO**

Shortstop Andrelton Simmons got a routine day off on Tuesday, according to Scioscia. Simmons said there was no physical reason he couldn’t play. Simmons appeared to tweak his back on a swing in Friday’s game, but he said it was just a temporary issue that isn’t bothering him any more. ...

Scioscia said center fielder Mike Trout will be the DH in one of the final two games at Tropicana Field to give him a day off the artificial turf in the outfield. That means Shohei Ohtani, who can only DH, will be on the bench for at least one of the remaining games. ...

Catcher René Rivera, whose rehab from knee surgery has stalled, has a platelet-rich plasma injection. The Angels are still hoping he’ll be back sometime in August. ...

Relievers Ty Buttrey and Williams Jerez, who the Angels got from the Red Sox for Kinsler, were both assigned to Triple-A Salt Lake. Buttrey had been out with knee inflammation recently with the Red Sox, but Eppler said he’s expected to be active soon. ...

Kole Calhoun’s wife took to Twitter to try to track down the ball from his first career walk-off homer on Friday. Calhoun said on Tuesday that he believes they found the person who has the ball, and he’s hoping to get it when the Angels return home. ...

Pitcher Garrett Richards was moved to the 60-day disabled list to create a spot on the 40-man roster for one of the new pitchers. The other took the spot vacated by Kinsler...

Jo Adell, the Angels' top prospect, hit a homer in his first game at Double-A on Tuesday night. Adell, 19, has already been promoted twice in his first full season as a professional.

#### UP NEXT

Angels (RHP Nick Tropeano, 4-5, 4.82) at Rays (RHP Tyler Glasnow, 1-2 4.34), Wednesday, 4 p.m., Fox Sports West, KLAA (830 AM)

### FROM LOS ANGELES TIMES

## Angels can't dig themselves out from early hole in 10-6 loss to Rays

By Mike Digiovanna

It was like a death by a thousand paper cuts for Tyler Skaggs, who couldn't find an escape hatch to a fourth inning that seemed like it would never end Tuesday night.

The Angels left-hander gave up seven of his 10 runs and four of his eight hits in the frame, digging a hole too deep for his plucky offense to climb out of in a 10-6 loss to the Tampa Bay Rays in Tropicana Field.

Two of the hits in the decisive inning were singles that didn't leave the infield. Skaggs walked two, one with the bases loaded, and hit a batter with the bases loaded with his 33<sup>rd</sup> pitch of the inning — and last of the game.

All three of reliever Noe Ramirez's inherited runners scored, leaving Skaggs with a career-worst line: 3 1/3 innings, eight hits, 10 earned runs, three walks, three strikeouts.

"It kind of spiraled out of control," said Skaggs, whose previous high for earned runs allowed in a game was seven. "Baseball is a humbling game. My last game, all I could do was strike people out. This time, all I could do was give up runs."

Skaggs entered Tuesday with an 8-6 record and 2.62 ERA in 19 starts. He'd been dominant since early June, compiling a 1.44 ERA and allowing one earned run or fewer — and no homers — in seven of his last eight starts.

His ERA jumped to 3.34 after Tuesday night's debacle. Skaggs hung a first-pitch curve that Jake Bauers belted for a solo homer in the second. Mallex Smith doubled and Kevin Kiermaier tripled in a two-run third.

Mike Trout doubled and scored on Albert Pujols' single in the fourth, but things unraveled for Skaggs in the bottom of an inning in which the Rays sent 12 batters to the plate.

Carlos Gomez singled with one out and scored on Michael Perez's double to right. Willy Adames walked, and Smith reached on an infield single to load the bases. Kiermaier walked to force in a run, Matt Duffy hit an RBI infield single, and Daniel Robertson was hit by a pitch, forcing in a run. Ramirez gave up an RBI single to C.J. Cron and a two-run single to Gomez that pushed the lead to 10-1.

"I got behind, and when I did get ahead, I threw a lot of pitches over the middle," Skaggs said. "They're an aggressive team. They swing early. ... I didn't really give our team a chance to win, and it stinks."

The Angels mounted a spirited comeback, scoring twice in the fifth on Kole Calhoun's two-run homer, his 13<sup>th</sup> of the season, and twice in the sixth on a Pujols double, David Fletcher single and RBI singles by Jose Briceno and Calhoun.

Trout's 30<sup>th</sup> homer of the season, a 427-foot solo shot that hit the C-ring catwalk above center field, pulled the Angels to within 10-6 in the seventh, but pinch-hitter Francisco Arcia, the rookie catcher who had a major league-record 10 RBIs in his first two games last week, struck out with two on to end the inning.

The Angels threatened again in the eighth when Calhoun walked with one out and Shohei Ohtani singled to center off Jose Alvarado, but the left-hander struck out Trout looking at a curve and Justin Upton flied out to center.

"We could have easily folded after the first couple of innings," said Trout, who joined Willie Mays as the only players with three 30-homer, 20-stolen-base seasons by their age-26 season or younger. "But we kept battling, we had great at-bats and just fell short."

### **Short hops**

Calhoun raised his average to .209 with a three-hit night and is batting .298 (37 for 124) with 12 homers and 29 RBIs in 35 games since returning from the disabled list on June 18. ... Shohei Ohtani is batting .170 (nine for 53) with 22 strikeouts against left-handers this season. ... Top prospect Jo Adell, a 2017 first-round pick, homered in his debut for double-A Mobile Tuesday night, a 428-foot shot with an exit velocity of 113 mph. ... Right-hander Tyler Glasnow, one of the prospects the Rays acquired for pitcher Chris Archer on Tuesday, is scheduled to start Wednesday night. ... Reserve catcher Rene Rivera, who underwent knee surgery to repair a torn meniscus in June, received an injection of platelet-rich plasma in the knee this week, leaving his rehabilitation "in a holding pattern," manager Mike Scioscia said.

## **Angels react to the team's moves at the trade deadline**

By Mike Digiovanna

The Angels returned to work Tuesday night feeling somewhat deflated but undeterred.

A season that began with high expectations and promise — remember that 13-3 start? — deteriorated to the point that the Angels traded two everyday players, second baseman Ian Kinsler and catcher

Martin Maldonado, for prospects this past week, an indication the front office is playing more for the future than the present.

It's only human nature for the Angels, who expected to contend for the playoffs after acquiring Kinsler and Zack Cozart and retaining Justin Upton last winter, to feel a letdown.

But the show, and the season, must go on. There are two months left for the Angels (54-54), who remained 9½ games behind Seattle for the second American League wild-card spot.

"You go to battle with these guys every day — it hurts a little bit to look over your shoulder and not see them anymore," shortstop Andrelton Simmons said before Tuesday night's 10-6 loss at Tampa Bay. "But you just have to go out there and play and do the best you can, put good at-bats together every time and try to win. The goal doesn't change."

Mike Trout acknowledged that when teams trade impending free agents to contenders for prospects this time of year — Maldonado went to Houston and Kinsler to Boston — it creates an impression they're raising the white flag.

"But we can't look at it that way," said Trout, who hit a 427-foot solo shot to center for his 30th home run. "People from the outside can speculate about deals like these, but the guys in here, we want to win, and we're gonna fight until that last game."

The Angels are not in tear-down-and-rebuild mode. General manager Billy Eppler got several trade inquiries on relievers Blake Parker, Jose Alvarez and Justin Anderson, but all three were Angels when Tuesday's non-waiver trade deadline passed.

Eppler believes the value of the prospects he received for Maldonado and Kinsler — Class-A starter Patrick Sandoval from Houston and triple-A relievers Ty Buttrey and Williams Jerez from Boston — outweighed what the two veterans would have brought over the final two months.

"We want to increase our win total," Eppler said, "year in and year out."

Eppler took exception to those who attached a "fire sale" label to the team's trade-deadline transactions.

"My definition of a fire sale is when you put everything out on the lawn and people just walk by and start grabbing things," Eppler said. "That's not even close to what happened here."

Manager Mike Scioscia said rookie infielder David Fletcher, who has played mostly third base in recent weeks, will replace Kinsler as the second baseman. Luis Valbuena, Jefry Marte and Kaleb Cowart, who was recalled from triple-A Salt Lake on Tuesday, will "mix and match" at third base.

The Angels opted against promoting triple-A third baseman Taylor Ward, a 2015 first-round pick who is batting .352 with a .993 on-base-plus-slugging percentage, 14 homers and 57 RBIs across 91 games for double-A Mobile and Salt Lake. Ward, a converted catcher, is in his first season at third.



"He's in a really good place right now," Eppler said. "He was raking in double-A, and he's raking in triple-A. The game is going to present you with a variety of plays, and the randomness of those plays is hard to replicate in practice. So him playing third base every day in Salt Lake right now is what we felt was best."

Rookies Jose Briceno and Francisco Arcia are handling catching duties while veteran backup Rene Rivera recovers from a knee injury. Arcia set a major-league record with 10 RBIs in his first two games.

Kinsler, 36, will be difficult to replace. He played Gold Glove-caliber defense all season and after a sluggish start he was batting .320 with an .860 OPS, two homers and 10 RBIs this month.

"He was one of the best second basemen I've ever played with when it came to turning double plays," Simmons said. "He was very professional. It was a pleasure playing with him."

Simmons, who tweaked his back on a swing Friday night, did not start Tuesday. He is expected to be back in the starting lineup Wednesday with a new double-play partner and the same motivation.

"You have to play for yourself, you have to put up good numbers and try to win," Simmons said.

"You don't fold after a good player gets traded," he added.

**FROM ANGELS.COM**

## Trout makes history as Angels fall short

*Slugger clubs No. 30 off catwalk at Trop; Calhoun adds HR, 3 hits*

By Maria Guardado

ST. PETERSBURG -- It was a rare clunker in what has otherwise been a breakout season for **Tyler Skaggs**.

The 27-year-old left-hander was charged with a career-high 10 runs over 3 1/3 innings in the Angels' 10-6 series-opening loss to the Rays on Tuesday night at Tropicana Field.

"I feel like I've been throwing the ball as well as I ever have in my whole life, and today was probably the worst outing I've ever had in my life," Skaggs said. "It's kind of the ups and downs of a season. I think everyone is liable to have a few bad ones. You can't be perfect every time out. But I'm definitely better than that. Today was a tough one."

The bulk of the damage against Skaggs came in a disastrous fourth inning, when he retired only one of eight batters he faced and allowed the Rays to score seven runs, sinking the Angels into a 10-1 hole from which they would not recover. They are now back at .500 (54-54) after dropping the opening game of their six-game road trip to St. Petersburg and Cleveland.

Skaggs, who entered Tuesday having yielded one earned run or less in seven of his last eight starts, saw his ERA jump from 2.62 to 3.34 as a result of the poor outing.

"Tyler just seemed like he never got the fastball where he wanted to," manager Mike Scioscia said. "He just didn't set the tone that he's been setting when he's been going well. He's usually getting ahead in the count and being able to bring all of his pitches into the game, and he just had trouble doing that tonight."

The Angels' offense managed to chip away at the deficit and pulled within four after **Mike Trout** launched his 30th home run of the season off the C-ring catwalk in the seventh inning. Trout joins Willie Mays as the only players to hit 30 home runs and steal 20 bases in three seasons before their age-26 campaigns.

The Angels had a chance to close the gap even further after **David Fletcher** and **Kaleb Cowart** drew back-to-back walks off left-hander **Ryan Yarbrough** to put runners on first and second with two outs.

Manager Mike Scioscia sent **Francisco Arcia** -- who set an MLB record by driving in 10 runs over his first two games -- to pinch-hit for **Jose Briceno**, but Arcia struck out swinging to end the inning.

"We were just battling back, chipping away, chipping away," Trout said. "We had some chances. We could have easily just folded in the first couple innings, but we just kept battling and having great at-bats. We just fell short."

**Kole Calhoun** went 3-for-4 with a home run and three RBIs to continue his impressive offensive resurgence. The Angels' right fielder is now batting .298 with 12 home runs and 29 RBIs in 35 games since returning from the disabled list, a surge that has helped lift his batting average from .145 to .209 on the season. **Albert Pujols** also enjoyed a productive night, finishing 3-for-5 with an RBI. The 38-year-old slugger is now hitting .310 with 11 RBIs over his last 18 games.

Skaggs faced the minimum in the first inning, but he allowed the Rays to get on the board via **Jake Bauers'** solo home run in the second. It was the first homer Skaggs had surrendered since May 28, a stretch that spanned 53 innings.

"They're an aggressive team," Skaggs said. "They were swinging early. It's the first home run I've given up in months. He put a good swing on a kind of get-me-over curveball. That was a sign of things to come."

Skaggs gave up two more runs in the third on **Kevin Kiermaier's** RBI triple and **Daniel Robertson's** run-scoring groundout before completely unraveling in the fourth.

After retiring Bauers on a flyout to open the inning, Skaggs allowed seven consecutive batters to reach base. **Carlos Gomez** singled before scoring on **Michael Perez's** RBI double. After **Willy Adames** walked and **Mallex Smith** singled to load the bases, Skaggs issued another walk to Kiermaier to force in a run. **Matt Duffy** followed with an RBI single, and Skaggs then hit Robertson with the bases loaded to bring his rocky outing to an end.

Scioscia summoned right-hander **Noe Ramirez** to replace Skaggs on the mound, but he yielded an RBI single to **C.J. Cron** and a two-run single to Gomez before finally working out of the inning. All 10 runs were charged to Skaggs. The most runs he had allowed in a previous outing was seven.

"I think it kind of spiraled out of control today," Skaggs said. "Baseball's a humbling game. ... They put some good swings on it today, especially in that fourth inning. I've got to be better, though. I didn't really give our team a chance to win today, and that sucks."

#### **SOUND SMART**

Calhoun's two-run shot off Yarbrough in the fifth inning marked his first homer off a lefty since Sept. 30, 2017.

#### **HE SAID IT**

"It's cool. It's obviously a big number you try to reach at the beginning of the season. For me, I can't tell you I'm going to hit 30 or 40. I just try to barrel up the ball. If it goes out, it goes out. If I try to hit a homer, I'm going to get out. I'm just preparing myself to get a pitch to hit and not missing it. But it's a cool accomplishment, for sure." -- *Trout, on reaching 30 home runs*

#### **UP NEXT**

Right-hander **Nick Tropeano** (4-5, 4.82 ERA) will take the mound on Wednesday as the Angels and Rays continue their three-game series at 4:10 p.m. PT at Tropicana Field. He will be opposed by right-hander **Tyler Glasnow** (1-2, 4.34 ERA), who was acquired from the Pirates on Tuesday as part of the **Chris Archer** trade. Tropeano faced Tampa Bay at Angel Stadium in May and took the loss after allowing four runs over 2 2/3 innings. He is 0-2 with a 6.23 ERA in three career starts against the Rays.

## **Mike Trout's 30th home run of the season was hit so high it hit off the catwalk at Tropicana Field**

By Jessica Kleinschmidt and Maria Guardado

Mike Trout hit his 30th home run of the season during the Rays' 10-6 win over the Angels on Tuesday night -- shocker, right? We aren't surprised over this piece of information, but the execution of said home run was interesting to say the least.

During the top of the seventh inning on a 2-1 pitch, Trout smacked the dinger to deep center field and it ended up hitting the Trop rings (probably C or D rings which would deem it a homer):

Kevin Kiermaier watched as the ball flew up, and in an instant, he knew it was gone -- well as gone as a home run can be at the Trop. Trout wasn't sure if it was deemed a homer or not -- at least that's how it appeared while he was in a near-sprint around second base. This makes sense though, he's pretty sure this is the first time he's ever hit one of the catwalks before.

"It was kind of cool," Trout told MLB.com's Maria Guardado. "Before the game, we were talking about it, what happens if you hit one of them. Couldn't remember which one [third-base coach] Dino [Ebel] was

talking about, if you hit it and it comes down, it's in play. As soon as I saw Kiermaier go back, and then I saw him chasing after it, I thought, 'I just got to keep running.' I was just running to make sure."

It may not have gone as far as we would have wanted, but it still counts.

## GM Eppler focused on prospects, not 'fire sale'

*Angels building for future around young, controllable arms*

By Maria Guardado

ST. PETERSBURG -- Shortly after the 1 p.m. PT non-waiver Trade Deadline passed Tuesday without any further activity from the Angels, outfielders **Mike Trout** and **Kole Calhoun** took a second to jointly hug right-hander **Blake Parker** in the visitors' clubhouse at Tropicana Field.

"I made it," Parker said.

Parker and left-hander **Jose Alvarez** had been the subject of trade speculation in recent weeks, but the two relievers ultimately stayed with the club, keeping the Angels' bullpen intact for now.

"I didn't really know what to expect," Parker said. "But I love it here. I like what's going on here, I like the team, the front office and what they're doing, and I want to be a part of it."

After a disappointing and injury-plagued first half, the Angels tipped their hand as sellers by trading catcher **Martin Maldonado** to the Astros on Thursday and second baseman **Ian Kinsler** to the Red Sox on Monday, but they declined to part with any of their controllable assets on Tuesday. While the Angels unloaded two of their starting position players -- and soon-to-be free agents -- within a five-day span, general manager Billy Eppler said he thought the transactions fell way short of what he would call a fire sale.

"A fire sale, to me, sounds like you put everything out on the lawn and people just walk by and start grabbing things," Eppler said Tuesday. "That's definitely not what happened here. Not even close. I would completely disagree with that. But people have their own definitions of things."

In the end, the Angels simply chose to extract as much value as they could from a pair of expiring contracts, flipping Maldonado and Kinsler for three pitching prospects that they believe have the potential to make a future impact: right-hander **Ty Buttrey** and left-handers Patrick Sandoval and **Williams Jerez**.

With Trout under control through 2020, a full tear-down makes little sense for the Angels, who will instead attempt to once again retool and take advantage of their shrinking window to compete. Eppler said he had a handful of conversations with other teams on Tuesday, and while no transactions were made, he feels there was "some groundwork laid that could potentially pick up in the winter time."

"We want to continue to increase our win percentage, our win total, year in and year out," Eppler said.

For now, the departures of Maldonado and Kinsler will give the Angels a chance to develop other young players who could become a key part of their core moving forward. Manager Mike Scioscia said rookie **David Fletcher** will get an opportunity to take over the void at second base, with **Luis Valbuena**, **Jefry Marte** and **Kaleb Cowart** splitting time at third. Cowart was called up from Triple-A Salt Lake on Tuesday to replace Kinsler on the roster.

While the outside perception is that the Angels, who entered Tuesday 9 1/2 games behind the Mariners for the second American League Wild Card spot, are now operating more with an eye toward 2019 and beyond, shortstop **Andrelton Simmons** said that they aren't going to resign themselves to waving a white flag just because Maldonado and Kinsler are gone.

"I think most baseball players take pride in performing well," Simmons said. "You don't fold after a good player gets traded. You go out there and you still try to win."

#### **Worth noting**

- Simmons received a day off on Tuesday, with Fletcher starting in his place at shortstop. Simmons tweaked his back on a swing on Friday, but he said the respite was not health-related.
- Buttrey, who was acquired along with Jerez as part of the deal for Kinsler, is dealing with knee inflammation, but Eppler said he is slated to throw off the mound on Wednesday and will likely be activated from the disabled list soon. Buttrey and Jerez were both assigned to Triple-A Salt Lake after being acquired on Monday.

### **FROM THE ATHLETIC**

## **Bowden: Grading all 30 MLB teams on their deadline moves\***

By Jim Bowden

### **AL West**

#### **Houston Astros | Grade: A-**

- Acquired Closer Roberto Osuna from Blue Jays for RHP Ken Giles, RHP David Paulino and RHP Hector Perez.
- Acquired RHP Ryan Pressly from Twins for RHP Jorge Alcala and OF Gilberto Celestino.
- Acquired C Martín Maldonado from Angels for LHP Patrick Sandoval.
- Traded RHP James Hoyt to Indians for RHP Tommy DeJoneas.

The defending world champions made two significant moves at the deadline, acquiring Gold Glove catcher Martín Maldonado from the Angels and closer Roberto Osuna from the Blue Jays. Maldonado is the best defensive catcher in the league not named Salvador Pérez, and his ability to call a game, frame pitches and shut down the running game is elite. Osuna is a top-five closer, and despite his ongoing legal

issues (he is still facing assault charges in Canada), he gives the Astros an impact closer for October, which they desperately needed. The Astros have a better team now, when healthy, than the team that won the World Series last year.

### **Los Angeles Angels | Grade: B-**

- Traded C Martín Maldonado to Astros for LHP Patrick Sandoval.
- Traded 2B Ian Kinsler to Red Sox for LHP Williams Jerez and RHP Ty Buttrey.
- Traded 1B Chris Carter to Twins for cash considerations.

The Angels were in sell mode and did well in acquiring three pitchers at the deadline in two separate deals, highlighted by the acquisition of left-handed starting pitcher Patrick Sandoval from the Astros. Maldonado was on his free-agent year, and although Sandoval is two or three years away from the major leagues, he has a ceiling of being a quality No. 2 or No. 3 starter. The Angels also received two bullpen arms in the Ian Kinsler trade with the Red Sox. Ty Buttrey has a high-90s fastball but needs work on his breaking ball, while Williams Jerez is a converted outfielder who could eventually help the Angels as a second left-hander in their bullpen, if the command and control of his pitches arrives.

### **Oakland Athletics | Grade: B**

- Acquired Jeurys Familia from Mets for 3B William Toffey, RHP Bobby Wahl and \$1m International bonus pool money.
- Acquired RHP Josh Lucas from Cardinals for RHP Casey Meisner.

The Athletics made one of the most lopsided trades of the summer when they acquired Mets reliever Jeurys Familia in exchange for a 26-year-old reliever who has averaged 4.7 walks per nine innings in the minors and an A-ball third baseman who many think won't hit and has below-average power. Why the Mets didn't wait until the trade deadline to try to maximize the return is puzzling. One thing is for sure: The A's got Familia for a better price than any other reliever who was dealt at the deadline.

### **Seattle Mariners | Grade: B**

- Acquired RHP Alex Colomé, OF Denard Span and cash considerations from Rays for RHP Tommy Romero and RHP Andrew Moore.
- Acquired RHP Sam Tuivailala from Cardinals for RHP Seth Elledge.
- Acquired LHP Zach Duke from Twins for RHP Chase De Jong and 1B/3B Ryan Costello.
- Acquired RHP Adam Warren from Yankees for International bonus capacity.
- Acquired OF Cameron Maybin from the Marlins for INF Bryson Brigman and International bonus pool money.

Nobody makes more trades than Mariners GM Jerry DiPoto, and no one acquires more relievers. DiPoto did a great a great job in striking early and getting reliever Alex Colomé from the Rays back in May, along with outfielder Denard Span. His last-minute additions to the bullpen were also high-quality, led by the trade for Adam Warren of the Yankees, who can eat innings and spot start, and left-handers Zach Duke and Sam Tuivailala, who provide depth and important matchups for manager Scott Servais. The acquisition of Cameron Maybin gives Seattle another outfielder with speed. The Mariners and Athletics

are locked in a great wild-card race, and both teams' bullpen acquisitions over the last year-plus might prove to be the difference-maker come October.

### Texas Rangers | Grade: C

- Traded LHP Cole Hamels to Cubs for RHP Rollie Lacey, RHP Eddie Butler and PTBNL.
- Traded RHP Keone Kela to Pirates for LHP Taylor Hearn and PTBNL.
- Acquired LHP Tyler Thomas from Cubs for RHP Jesse Chavez.
- Acquired RHP Cory Gearrin, RHP Jason Bahr and OF Austin Jackson from Giants for PTNL or cash considerations.
- Acquired RHP Wei-Chieh Huang and PTBNL from Arizona for LHP Jake Diekman.

The Rangers didn't have a lot to sell at the trade deadline, but they did trade veteran starter Cole Hamels to the Cubs, which saved them approximately \$4 million and landed them a mid-level pitching prospect in Rollie Lacey. They also traded Keone Kela to the Pirates for two minor-league players to be named later. They talked with teams about a possible Adrián Beltré deal, but Beltré made it clear to the Rangers that he would invoke his 10-and-5 rights, wanting to finish his Hall of Fame career in Texas.

*\*Article cut to only include AL West-related material.*

**FROM MLB.COM**

## Every team's moves up to the Trade Deadline\*

By Daniel Kramer, Manny Randhawa and Tyler Maher

### AL West

#### ANGELS

**Players acquired:** LHP Patrick Sandoval (HOU), RHP Ty Buttrey (BOS), LHP Williams Jerez (BOS), future considerations (HOU)

**Players traded:** C **Martin Maldonado** (HOU), 2B Ian Kinsler (BOS)

With a limited pool of coveted pieces to trade, the Halos were able to deal impending free agents Kinsler and Maldonado for prospects.

#### ASTROS

**Players acquired:** C Martin Maldonado (LAA), RHP Ryan Pressly (MIN), RHP Roberto Osuna (TOR)

**Players traded:** LHP Patrick Sandoval (LAA), CF Gilberto Celestino (MIN, No. 14 prospect), RHP Jorge Alcala (MIN), RHP David Paulino (TOR, No. 20), RHP Hector Perez (TOR, No. 11), RHP Ken Giles (TOR), future considerations (LAA)

Houston had question marks at catcher and in the back end of the bullpen -- with **Brian McCann's** right knee injury and Giles' mid-July demotion to Triple-A -- and the club addressed both needs as it looks to repeat its title run.

**ATHLETICS**

**Players acquired:** RHP **Jeury Familia** (NYM)

**Players traded:** RHP **Bobby Wahl** (NYM), 3B Will Toffey (NYM, No. 25 prospect), future considerations (NYM)

The A's are confident that their surprising run will continue into the dog days, and potentially beyond. The addition of Familia to go with All-Star closer **Blake Treinen** and darkhorse AL Rookie of the Year Award candidate **Lou Trivino** gives Oakland a loaded 'pen that has already proven it can go toe to toe with the league's top lineups.

**MARINERS**

**Players acquired:** RHP **Sam Tuivailala** (STL), LHP Zach Duke (MIN), RHP Adam Warren (NYY), LF **Cameron Maybin** (MIA)

**Players traded:** RHP Seth Elledge (STL, No. 22 prospect), RHP Chase De Jong (MIN), 1B Ryan Costello (MIN), SS Bryson Brigman (MIA, No. 28), future considerations (NYY, MIA)

The Mariners added three pieces that should help bridge the gap to **Alex Colome** and **Edwin Diaz**, then acquired a veteran bat on Deadline day, as they look to snap the Majors' longest postseason drought.

**RANGERS**

**Players acquired:** LHP Tyler Thomas (CHC), RHP **Eddie Butler** (CHC), RHP Rollie Lacy (CHC), RHP Wei-Chieh Huang (ARI), LHP **Taylor Hearn** (PIT, No. 7 prospect), 3 players to be named later (ARI, CHC, PIT)

**Players traded:** RHP **Jesse Chavez** (CHC), LHP **Cole Hamels** (CHC), LHP **Jake Diekman** (ARI), RHP **Keone Kela** (PIT)

To no major surprise, the Rangers dealt away a throng of veteran talent in exchange for prospects. They did retain veteran third baseman **Adrian Beltre** despite many rumors suggesting that the future Hall of Famer could be moved to a contender.

*\*Article cut to only include AL West-related material.*

**Tuesday's top prospect performers\***

By Daniel Kramer and Casey Harrison

- Making his debut for Double-A Mobile, No. 16 overall prospect Jo Adell (**Angels No. 1**) went 2-for-4 with a two-run homer to help the BayBears to a 9-6 win. Adell, who the Halos took with the 10th overall pick last June, has already climbed from Class A Advanced Inland Empire and Class A Burlington. It's been a busy month for the 19-year-old, who also played in the SiriusXM All-Star Futures Game a little more than two weeks ago at Nationals Park.

*\*Article cut to only include Angels-related material.*



FROM MiLB.COM

## Angels' Adell aces test at higher level

*Top prospect homers, scores three runs in Double-A debut*

By Vincent Lara-Cinisomo

The Angels have challenged **Jo Adell** three times and he's passed each test with flying colors.

Debuting at his third level this season, the **Angels' top prospect** homered, singled and scored three times on Tuesday to lead Double-A Mobile over Jacksonville, 9-6, at Hank Aaron Stadium.

The 10th overall in last year's Draft began this season at Class A Burlington as the Angels skipped him to full-season ball after he played in the Rookie-level Arizona and Pioneer leagues last summer.

"It's really about slowing the game down," Adell said of excelling at three levels. "I hopped off a plain at about 4 [p.m.] and the next thing you know, I was in the lineup. [Angels general manager] Billy Eppler is really big on, at the plate, 'Hit your strike.' When you get your pitch in the zone, get ready to attack it.

"That's the plan I had from Low-A to High-A to here. In the beginning, I was jumping out early; now, I'm taking the approach that I'm waiting for my strike."

All he did was bat .326/.398/.611 with six homers to earn a promotion to Class A Advanced Inland Empire, where he hit 290/.345/.546 and clubbed 12 more long balls after totaling five in his pro debut.

The power hasn't surprised Adell.

"Go back to last year, it was kind of one of those things that I was getting my feet under me and not trying to do too much, he said. "Now I'm starting to get more comfortable, and on which pitches I can explode on and what pitches I just need to put in play. It's about knowing what the situation calls for. For example, on the home run tonight, I just stepped out of the box and I was understanding that there's a 3-1 count and there's two outs -- and that's something I wouldn't have done last year. Now I understand there's going to be something in the zone that I can handle."

The Louisville, Kentucky, native earned another promotion to Double-A at 19 years old, making him the second-youngest player at the level behind **top Padres prospect** Fernando Tatis Jr., who's three months younger.

Adell credits his desire to keep improving for his quick ascent.

"For me, I was coming up through high school, I packed my summer schedule down with games," he said. "I took advantage of playing one game after another. So I took something from every game and I tried to figure out what happened. When at-bats went well, I tried to figure out why did they go so well. Playing every game has helped get me into a rhythm. I've always been about rhythm and pace of play -- the more games, the better for me. I'm a student of the game."

Batting behind Angels No. 4 prospect **Jahmai Jones**, Adell was hit by a pitch in his first Southern League at-bat in the first inning. He scored on a single by **Jose Rojas** to cap a two-run frame.

MLB.com's **No. 16 overall prospect** reached on an error by shortstop **Joe Dunand** -- the **Marlins' No. 23 prospect** and nephew of **Alex Rodriguez** and -- and scored when 18th-ranked **Brennon Lund** blasted a three-run homer to right.

Adell's first hit at his new level came in the third as he clubbed his 19th homer of the season, a two-run shot to left that scored Jones, who tripled. Adell singled in the fifth and struck out in the eighth to end his night with two hits, three runs scored and two RBIs.

"I've been here one day and I can already tell guys are trying to get quick outs," he observed. "From a stuff standpoint, I think at all levels [pitchers are good]. In Low-A guys throw in the low 90s but moreso the location gets better and better and guys are more around the zone."

The University of Louisville commit had plenty of help on offense as Lund fell a triple short of the cycle and drove in four runs, Jones scored three times and Rojas banded out three singles.

**Alex Klonowski** (7-2), who relieved starter and Angels No. 13 prospect **Jesus Castillo**, got the win after allowing three runs on two hits in three innings.

Jacksonville starter **Max Duval** (2-11) surrendered eight runs -- four earned -- on 10 hits in three frames.

**Rodrigo Vigil** homered and drove in four runs for the Jumbo Shrimp.

But Adell was the story. He credited his dad, Scott, who played in the NFL for the Saints, as well as Ballard High School coach David Trager and his boss, Eppler, for his success.

"My dad played college and professional football -- the mentality was to go into every game that it was my last and to never forget what you are, an athlete. You're explosive, you have the tools and never been afraid to fine-tune those," Adell said. "I didn't want to step into pro ball and be anyone else but Jo. No matter where you go, there has to be a part of you that's you."

Even with all of his upward movement, he's not looking too far ahead.

"For me, this goes back to college and [Louisville coach Dan McDonnell]. A little before I got drafted, he told me, 'Wherever you go, always be where your feet are.' That stuck in the back of my head," Adell said. "Right now, I'm in Double-A with the Mobile BayBears. Those decisions are not up to me, my decisions are how I go about my business. That's the stuff I can control."

"Guys are flying through, we're getting challenged day by day and at-bat by at-bat. I trust our process as an organization."

**FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS****Rays beat Angels 10-6 despite Trout's 30th homer**

By Dick Scanlon

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — The Tampa Bay Rays finished a long day of making trades by producing a long inning for Los Angeles starter Tyler Skaggs on Tuesday night in a win over the Angels.

After making a series of deals just before the non-waiver trade deadline, the Rays broke through with a seven-run inning and beat the Angels 10-6 Tuesday night despite Mike Trout's 30th home run.

Trout's homer, which came off Ryan Yarbrough in the seventh inning, made him the second major leaguer to hit 30 home runs and steal 20 bases in a season three times before the age of 26. The only other player to do it was Willie Mays.

"It's a cool accomplishment," said Trout, who also doubled and scored the Angels' first run.

Yarbrough (10-5) became the first rookie to win 10 games this season despite giving up a career-high six runs on nine hits in five innings.

"Obviously I'm happy about getting the win for the team and everything, but it's not the way I envisioned my outing to go," said Yarbrough. "All I was worried about was being aggressive and sometimes you give up runs like that."

Yarbrough took over in the second inning after Rays starter Ryne Stanek pitched the first.

"We probably pitched just good enough," noted Rays manager Kevin Cash, whose staff had given up 37 runs in the last three games of a weekend series at Baltimore. "Yarbs got hit a little but . . . it was better than what we saw over the weekend."

Carlos Gomez had two of the Tampa Bay's six hits in a seven-run fourth inning off Angels starter Tyler Skaggs (8-7). That inning left the Rays with a 10-1 lead.

Matt Duffy had three of the Rays' 14 hits and every hitter in the lineup had a hit by the sixth inning.

Jake Bauers' eighth home run got the Rays on the board in the second inning.

"It was a crazy day. So to go out and put up the numbers that we did, that was a big thing for us," Bauers said. "We did it our way, good at bats strung together."

Skaggs lasted only 3 1/3 innings in his shortest start of the season, giving up 10 runs. The left-hander had given up only eight earned runs in his preceding eight starts, which included five wins.

"Baseball is a humbling game," he said. "I really didn't give our team a chance to win today. I feel like I've been throwing the ball as well as I ever had and today was probably the worst outing I've ever had in my life."

Skaggs entered the game with a 2.62 ERA, sixth in the American League, but it rose to 3.34.

Kole Calhoun had three hits for the Angels including a two-run homer, his 13th of the season and seventh in 13 games.

#### TRADE DEADLINE AND BEYOND

In the final hours before the non-waiver trade deadline, the Rays acquired OF Tommy Pham from St. Louis, traded C Wilson Ramos to Philadelphia, and traded RHP Chris Archer to Pittsburgh for OF Austin Meadows and RHP Tyler Glasnow. It was their 17th trade since Jan. 1 involving players on their 40-man roster, one short of the club record for an entire calendar year, set last year.

The Rays also traded LHP Hunter Schryver to the Chicago White Sox for international signing bonus pool money. Schryver, 23, is a combined 1-3 with a 2.40 ERA and nine saves in 31 Class A appearances.

#### INFIELD SHUFFLE

David Fletcher is the regular second baseman in the wake of Ian Kinsler's trade to Boston, manager Mike Scioscia said, and the Angels will "mix and match" at third base with Luis Valbuena, Jefry Marte and Kaleb Cowart. Fletcher played shortstop Tuesday night with Andrelton Simmons getting a day off.

#### TRAINERS ROOM

Angels: P/DH Shohei Ohtani is "out to 90 feet" on his long tosses, according to Scioscia, but will throw longer tosses before any consideration is given to starting the process of his return to the mound. He has not pitched since June 6.

Rays: LHP Blake Snell (left shoulder fatigue) will have a bullpen session Wednesday in the hopes of turning to the rotation this coming weekend. Snell last pitched in the All-Star Game on July 17. . . RHP Jake Faria (left oblique strain) will be re-activated Wednesday. RHP Andrew Kittredge was optioned to Triple-A Durham.

#### RAYS TWO-WAY PROSPECT

Brendan McKay, Tampa Bay's version of Ohtani, hit .209 with three homers and 14 RBIs through his first 18 games as a 1B/DH since a promotion from Low-A Bowling Green to High-A Charlotte. The left-hander has gone 2-2 with a 4.10 ERA in six mound appearances, including four starts entering Tuesday.

#### UP NEXT

RHP Nick Tropeano will pitch for the Angels on Wednesday night against newly acquired Glasnow. The newly acquired Pham will be in the lineup, Cash said.

**FROM BLEACHER REPORT****When Will the Angels Face Harsh Reality They May Need to Trade Mike Trout?**

By Zachary D. Rymer

It wasn't long ago that it would have been unthinkable for the Washington Nationals to put Bryce Harper on the trading block. But all of a sudden, that idea is now extremely thinkable.

Thus, a thought experiment: When might the Los Angeles Angels be in the same position with Mike Trout?

Certainly not imminently. There's been *zero* buzz about the Angels trading Trout ahead of this year's non-waiver trade deadline. That presumably has to do with how they're not rebuilding and with how he's achieving peak Mike Trout.

The seven-time All-Star and two-time American League MVP is hitting .310/.462/.621 with 29 home runs and 20 stolen bases. Per Baseball Reference, he leads everyone in wins above replacement by a considerable margin:

- **1. Mike Trout: 7.9 WAR**
- **2. Jose Ramirez: 6.8 WAR**
- **3. Mookie Betts: 6.6 WAR**

With 62 career WAR to his name, Trout is all but certain to surpass Ty Cobb (63.4) for the most WAR ever through a player's age-26 season by the end of the year. When we look back years from now, it should be just another chapter in the story of Trout becoming the greatest player in Major League Baseball history.

The Angels are slated to play a part in Trout's story for at least the next two years. The six-year, \$144.5 million contract extension he signed in March 2014 runs through 2020.

After that, the Angels have no guarantee that he won't test the free-agent waters.

"I don't know the answer," Trout said in June about the possibility of signing on beyond 2020, per Bill Shaikin of the *Los Angeles Times*. "I want to get to the playoffs. That's my mindset. I can't predict the future. So I just take it one game at a time now and see what happens."

The longer Trout continues to not have an answer, the more likely a trade becomes.

This isn't the first time the idea has materialized. A possible Trout trade was a hot topic back in 2016. Although he was en route to his second MVP at the time, the Angels were an injury-riddled mess of a team that was on its way to a 74-88 record.

Instead, the Angels held on to Trout and committed to building a better team around him. Thanks to key additions such as slugging outfielder Justin Upton and two-way marvel Shohei Ohtani, the effort hasn't been a total failure.

Nor, however, has it been a rousing success. The Angels fell short of .500 last year. If they hold to their .388 winning percentage since May 11, they'll end up right there again this year.

The Angels will be hard-pressed to spend their way out of mediocrity. Their payroll is at \$174.4 million. Per Baseball Reference, they're projected to spend \$168.7 million in 2019 and \$197.1 million in 2020. The \$33.3 million they'll pay Trout in 2019 and 2020 is a good deal, but it's offset by the \$87 million they'll owe what's left of Albert Pujols between 2019 and 2021.

Likewise, the Angels' farm system may not be the solution. It's better than it used to be, but it still only ranks as Bleacher Report's No. 20 system following the 2018 draft. Its best player is uber-athletic outfielder Jo Adell, and he's just 19 and has advanced only as far as High-A.

Meanwhile, there's the Mike Scioscia factor. He's been managing the Angels since 2000, but the 10-year contract he signed in 2009 is up at the end of this season. If the Angels go in a new direction with a new manager this winter, perhaps they'll also commit to a rebuild.

For that, Step No. 1 might be cashing in Trout's tremendous trade value.

Despite being the highest-paid player in MLB, he still checks in at No. 4 among the most valuable trade chips, according to Kiley McDaniel of FanGraphs. In theory, the Angels could dump his remaining contract *and* get multiple elite prospects back for him if they were to put him on the block this offseason.

In reality, it might not be that simple.

Although this winter's free-agent class has lost some of its shine, it's still going to offer Harper, Manny Machado, Patrick Corbin, Dallas Keuchel, A.J. Pollock, Nelson Cruz, Eduardo Escobar, Josh Donaldson, Brian Dozier, Craig Kimbrel, Andrew Miller, Zach Britton and, if they opt out of their current deals, Clayton Kershaw and David Price.

Amid that much readily available talent, some teams may just as soon spend loads of money rather than enter into a bidding war for Trout that'll cost them loads of money *and* loads of prospects.

Besides, the Angels might give contending another shot no matter who's in the manager's chair for 2019.

They'd be betting on better things being in store for a lineup built on Trout, Ohtani, Upton, Andrelton Simmons, a reborn Kole Calhoun and a hopefully healthy Zack Cozart. Provided that Ohtani's balky elbow holds up, a rotation with him, Andrew Heaney, Tyler Skaggs and Jaime Barria could do some damage.

If the Angels do go that route, however, it'll be a case of trying the same thing and expecting different results. Because the Houston Astros, Seattle Mariners and Oakland Athletics figure to still be relevant, the American League West probably isn't going to give them any more leeway than they've had in 2018.

If things were to go south again in 2019, the Angels might not have much choice but to put Trout on the market either that summer or the ensuing winter. On the chance they hold on to him for one last push in 2020, him sharing a lineup with a past-40 Pujols and past-30 versions of Upton, Simmons and Cozart could ultimately necessitate a midsummer trade.

All told, it's hard to place a bet on exactly when the Angels will determine that they need to trade Trout. But barring a series of miracles, that time sure seems to be coming.

## **MLB Power Rankings: How All 30 Teams Rank Post-2018 Trade Deadline\***

By Joel Reuter

This week's MLB power rankings were pushed back a day from our usual Monday morning publish time to accommodate the non-waiver trade deadline. Now that it's passed, it's time for an updated look at where all 30 teams stand.

Along with on-field performance, this week's rankings also took into account deadline activity. Teams on the fringe of contention, in particular, were impacted by the moves they made or didn't make, as a clear line was drawn between contenders and also-rans.

These rankings are fluid. Teams rise and fall based on where they were ranked the previous week. If a team keeps winning, it will keep climbing—it's as simple as that.

### **Fringe Teams That Waived the White Flag**

The **Los Angeles Angels**, **St. Louis Cardinals** and **Washington Nationals** appeared to accept that this isn't their year.

"Bryce [Harper] is not going anywhere. I believe in this team," Nationals general manager Mike Rizzo told Chelsea Janes of the *Washington Post*.

Rizzo apparently didn't believe in it to the point of making additions to the roster, though, and he even traded reliever Brandon Kintzler to a fellow National League contender in the Cubs.

The Cardinals turned Tommy Pham into prospects in a trade with the Rays, opening a spot for Tyler O'Neill on the big league roster. They also sent off Luke Voit and Sam Tuivailala in small-scale moves while failing to add anyone of short-term significance.

And it looks like the Angels will squander another year of Mike Trout.

They traded catcher Martin Maldonado and second baseman Ian Kinsler, both impending free agents, but made no notable additions.

*\*Article cut to only include Angels-related material.*