



Press Clips

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CLIPS CONTENT

FROM OC REGISTER (PAGE 3)

- **Omar Vizquel was among Angels' managerial candidates, but out of the running now**
- **Angels Offseason Options: Daniel Descalso**

FROM ANGELS.COM (PAGE 4)

- **Vizquel thankful for interview with Angels**

FROM MLB.COM (PAGE 5)

- **Each team's most exciting postseason win**
- **Here's what happened in Thursday's AFL action**

FROM THE LONG BEACH POST (PAGE 13)

- **Angel Stadium in Long Beach? It's not so far-fetched**

FROM OC REGISTER**Omar Vizquel was among Angels' managerial candidates, but out of the running now**

By Jeff Fletcher

Omar Vizquel, an 11-time Gold Glove winner who has been pursuing a career as a manager since the end of his playing days, was one of the 10 candidates the Angels interviewed for their manager opening, although he said he did not make the cut to the second round of interviews.

Vizquel described the process, including the written test administered to the candidates, while speaking in Spanish to "Talkin' Beisbol," a podcast released on Thursday out of Vizquel's native Venezuela.

The Angels have completed their first round of interviews, and it's possible they could have a decision before the start of the World Series on Tuesday. If not, the announcement of their new manager likely won't come until after the World Series, in November, because Major League Baseball discourages teams from making announcements during its jewel event.

Vizquel is the fifth confirmed candidate among the 10. The Angels also interviewed Brad Ausmus and Eric Chavez, who were special assistants to General Manager Billy Eppler; along with Chicago Cubs bench coach Brandon Hyde and Houston Astros bench coach Joe Espada.

Former manager Mike Scioscia's contract expired at the end of the season after a 19-year run at the helm of the organization.

Angels Offseason Options: Daniel Descalso

By Jeff Fletcher

(This is the latest in a series of quick profiles on players who fit for the Angels to add over the winter. They are purely "informed speculation," based on what we know about the Angels' roster needs along with General Manager Billy Eppler's preferences and history. We'll have a new one every weekday, until the GM Meetings, which are the unofficial start of the hot stove season.)

DANIEL DESCALSO, UTILITY, Arizona Diamondbacks

The basics: Descalso spent his early years with the St. Louis Cardinals but has played for the Colorado Rockies and Diamondbacks recently. He will be 32 this week.

2018 season: Although he hit .238, Descalso posted a .353 on-base percentage, which was the best of his career. He also hit a career-high 13 homers in 423 plate appearances.

Contract stats: Descalso is a free agent, having just completed a two-year, \$3.35-million deal that proved to be a steal for the Diamondbacks. He has never made more than \$2.1 million in a season.

Why he makes sense: Versatility is going to be vital for the Angels. With Shohei Ohtani likely taking up one position player spot, even though he won't be able to play a position, the Angels could use as many players as they can find who can play multiple positions. Descalso played first, second, third and left field last season. Although first base is the infield spot at which Descalso has played the least – 62 games, and 29 starts in his career – that could be where he would help the Angels the most. Albert Pujols is not going to be able to play first every day, so the Angels might want to get an experienced player to complement him. They could use someone who had the skill set that Luis Valbuena had – ability to play multiple positions, including first – but would perform better than Valbuena did. Descalso also hits left-handed, making him a good complement to right-handed hitters Pujols, Zack Cozart, David Fletcher and Taylor Ward. If the Angels want an inexpensive, experienced safety net for youngsters like Fletcher and Ward, Descalso could be the someone who could be productive in a variety of spots. The Angels need to improve their on-base percentage, and Descalso has a .344 on-base percentage over the past three years. According to Statcast, Descalso also made better contact last season, with a higher launch angle, than he'd made in previous years.

Why he doesn't: Although Descalso won't cost much, the Angels might want to use almost all of their resources on pitching or a catcher, which are their most dire needs over the winter. Billy Eppler has said he has confidence that players such as Cozart, Fletcher, Ward, José Fernández and prospects Matt Thaiss and Luis Rengifo could be sufficient to fill out their infield needs. Also, if the Angels are going to add someone to the infield mix from outside, they might want someone with more experience at first base, as insurance in case Pujols misses significant time with injury or Ohtani is slow to return, moving Pujols to DH.

FROM ANGELS.COM

Vizquel thankful for interview with Angels

Former All-Star shortstop brought in to discuss manager role, but no longer in running

By Maria Guardado

ANAHEIM -- Three-time All-Star and 11-time Gold Glove-winning shortstop Omar Vizquel was among the 10 candidates who interviewed for the Angels' managerial opening earlier this month, though he is no longer in the running to succeed Mike Scioscia, according to the Talk Beisbol podcast hosted by Efrain Zavarce and Oscar Prieto Rojas.

Brad Ausmus and Eric Chavez (both employed as special assistants to general manager Billy Eppler), Cubs bench coach Brandon Hyde and Astros bench coach Joe Espada have also interviewed. Other potential contenders include third-base coach Dino Ebel, bench coach Josh Paul and White Sox bench

coach Joe McEwing. The Angels have completed their first round of interviews, but it's unclear who remains under consideration.

While he is no longer in the mix, Vizquel said he was grateful for the opportunity to interview with the Angels, especially because he had no prior relationship with Eppler. Vizquel, who is currently the manager for the White Sox's Class A affiliate, served as a roving infield instructor with the Angels in 2013 under former GM Jerry Dipoto.

"I'm really happy that the Angels took the time and invited me to interview to be the manager of their team," Vizquel said in Spanish on the Talk Beisbol podcast. "It honestly caught me by surprise. I didn't know general manager Billy Eppler, but he was very generous in flying me out to California to talk and go over what it means to be a manager in the big leagues. I was surprised by a lot of the questions they asked me. There were a lot of sabermetrics involved in all of their questions. They're apparently going far beyond what it means to be responsible and wise about the moves that you can make. They want someone who is very interested in the numbers and can weigh the percentages."

As MLB.com's Jon Morosi reported earlier this week, the Angels put candidates through a two-hour written exam as part of their rigorous interview process. The test was meant to assess each candidate's critical-thinking skills and their approach to in-game decisions, analytical information and relationships with team personnel.

"Of course, you can handle some parts of them, but some of [the questions] surprise you," Vizquel said. "It's good to go through that experience so that you're not caught off guard the next time that you have an interview and they talk about some of the terms that are used. But I'm very happy. I think I made a good impression with them, and from now on, I'm going to keep preparing, especially with the percentages and those things that they might ask in the future."

One of the criteria that Eppler said he would be looking for in the Angels' next manager is a "probability-based mindset," which he defined as "making decisions in-game tactically that tilt the win expectancy or the run expectancy in your favor." Eppler said he would also prioritize connectivity with players and the ability to foster a team-oriented culture.

FROM MLB.COM

Each team's most exciting postseason win

By Will Leitch

I don't know about you, but I'm still shaking from **Game 4 of the American League Championship Series** between the Red Sox and Astros on Wednesday night -- an epic game with constant twists and turns, controversies and an unforgettable ending. That's the reason postseason baseball is so electrifying, and we'll be lucky to have another game even close to it this October.

But the crazy question is this even among the five most memorable Red Sox postseason victories? They've had a lot.

Thus, today at The Thirty, inspired by that game, we're taking a look at the most exciting postseason win of the divisional era (since 1969) for each MLB team. This isn't necessarily the biggest win or most important win. It's just the most viscerally exciting one. Every team's got at least one. Some have plenty.

AMERICAN LEAGUE EAST

Blue Jays: 1993 World Series, Game 6: Blue Jays 8, Phillies 6

There's actually a temptation here to go with Game 4 of this series, when the Blue Jays scored six runs in the eighth inning to take a 15-14 lead that would become the final score ... but come on, a ninth-inning comeback that ends in a World Series title has to be the pick.

Orioles: 1969 ALCS, Game 2: Orioles 1, Twins 0 (11 innings)

How different was baseball 50 years ago? Orioles pitcher Dave McNally threw an 11-inning shutout in the first-ever ALCS. The Orioles won on a walkoff single by Curt Motton, who had 89 career RBIs over eight seasons. He got the hit off Ron Perranoski, the game's first reliever, who came in with two outs in the 11th.

Rays: 2008 ALCS, Game 2: Rays 9, Red Sox 8 (11 innings)

After losing Game 1 at home to the defending champs, the Rays fell behind 2-0 and 3-2, blew leads of 5-3 and 8-6, yet somehow hung in through 11 innings -- thanks in part to secret weapon rookie **David Price** -- before winning on Melvin Upton Jr.'s sacrifice fly with the bases loaded. The Rays would take a 3-1 series lead before finally eking out the series in Game 7.

Red Sox: 2004 ALCS, Game 4: Red Sox 6, Yankees 4 (12 innings)

It's not like the Game 5 14-inning marathon wasn't a stunner either, but the Dave Roberts steal is going to live longer than all of us.

Yankees: 2001 World Series, Game 5: Yankees 3, D-backs 2 (12 innings)

So many games this series to pick from, but this is the one that had Yankee Stadium roaring the loudest.

AL CENTRAL

Indians: 1995 World Series, Game 3: Indians 7, Braves 6 (11 innings)

It ended with Eddie Murray's walk-off single in the 11th, but it was wild long before that, with the Braves scoring three in the eighth to take their first lead of the game and the Indians tying it right back up in the next inning.

Royals: 2014 AL Wild Card Game: Royals 9, A's 8 (12 innings)

No Denkinger Game here. The Royals were toast in this game, trailing 7-3 headed into the bottom of the eighth. They scored three that inning, followed by the vroom-vroom **Jarrold Dyson** steal in the ninth that helped score the tying run. The A's then took the lead again in the top of the 12th, but the Royals won it in bottom half on **Salvador Perez's** single. They would win their next seven postseason games en route to the World Series.

Tigers: 1972 ALCS, Game 4: Tigers 4, A's 3 (10 innings)

No one remembers this game, mainly because the Tigers ended up losing the series, but the A's scored two in the top of the 10th to take a 3-1 lead. Detroit came back, largely because of an error by second

baseman Gene Tenace, and won it on a walkoff single from Jim Northrup. This wild 10-inning postseason game still finished in three hours, four minutes, by the way.

Twins: 1991 World Series, Game 7: Twins 1, Braves 0 (10 innings)

Obviously.

White Sox: 2005 World Series, Game 3: White Sox 7, Astros 5 (14 innings)

Every game in this series was great -- it's the closest four-game sweep you'll ever see -- but this was the epic 14-inning game with Geoff Blum's homer in the top of the 14th that barely hung on. Forty-three players were used in this game.

AL WEST

Angels: 2002 World Series, Game 6: Angels 6, Giants 5

The Russ Ortiz keep-the-ball game, the Angels were down 5-0 and facing elimination heading into the bottom of the seventh. Two three-run innings later, they forced a Game 7 and won their first (and only) title.

Astros: 2017 World Series, Game 5: Astros 13, Dodgers 12 (10 innings)

We still can't believe this game happened.

Athletics: 1973 World Series, Game 3: A's 3, Mets 2 (11 innings)

It can be tough to pick one game when a team has lost 11 of its last 12 postseason series, so we'll go back to the 1970s, when the A's came back from a 2-0 deficit to win in the 11th inning in a game that featured Reggie Jackson, Tom Seaver, Catfish Hunter, Rollie Fingers, Sal Bando, Rusty Staub, Bud Harrelson and Willie Mays.

Mariners: 1995 ALDS, Game 5: Mariners 6, Yankees 5 (11 innings)

We all just remember the walk-off now, but this game had five lead changes leading up to the final wild play.

Rangers: 2011 ALCS, Game 2: Rangers 7, Tigers 3 (11 innings)

This series, strangely, had two different extra-inning games that the Rangers won by four runs. This was the most thrilling one, ending on **Nelson Cruz's** grand slam off poor **Ryan Perry**.

NATIONAL LEAGUE EAST

Braves: 1992 National League Championship Series, Game 7: Braves 3, Pirates 2

Honestly, Pirates fans, I'm sorry to even bring this up.

Marlins: 2003 NLCS, Game 6: Marlins 8, Cubs 3

Sure, to Cubs fans this is a nightmare, but from the Marlins' perspective, this is one of the most amazing postseason comebacks of all time. (Sure, the answer here is probably Game 7 of the 1997 World Series, but that'd be too easy.)

Mets: 1986 World Series, Game 6: Mets 6, Red Sox 5 (10 innings)

Authors have written novels specifically about this game.

Nationals: 2012 NLDS, Game 4: Nationals 2, Cardinals 1

A taut, well-pitched game that ended in **Jayson Werth's** big blast, which everyone thought would send the Nationals to the NLCS the next night (it didn't).

Phillies: 2008 NLCS, Game 4: Phillies 7, Dodgers 5

If you needed to explain the appeal of baseball to an alien, showing them the Matt Stairs homer in the eighth inning of this game would be a great place to start.

NL CENTRAL**Brewers: 1982 ALCS, Game 5: Brewers 4, Angels 3**

The first World Series trip was clinched by Cecil Cooper's staggering single in the seventh inning of a decisive game.

Cardinals: 2011 World Series, Game 6: Cardinals 10, Rangers 9 (11 innings)

The second-easiest call on this entire list.

Cubs: 2016 World Series, Game 7: Cubs 8, Indians 7 (10 innings)

The easiest call on this entire list.

Pirates: 1979 NLCS, Game 2: Pirates 3, Reds 2 (10 innings)

The day after an extra-inning game, the Pirates played another one -- a back-and-forth battle in which the Pirates took the lead on Dave Parker's RBI single in the 10th and held on with Don Robinson in the bottom half.

Reds: 1975 World Series, Game 7: Reds 4, Red Sox 3

The dirty secret is that this game was just as exciting as Game 6, but nobody talks about it nearly as much, because more people are from the Boston area than the Cincinnati area.

NL WEST**D-backs: 2001 World Series, Game 7: D-backs 3, Yankees 2**

There are a shocking number of blown saves by Mariano Rivera on this list.

Dodgers: 1977 NLCS, Game 3: Dodgers 6, Phillies 5

The Kirk Gibson moment is the great moment, but this one, which featured a wild three-run comeback in the top of the ninth with two outs, may have been even more of a nail-biter.

Giants: 2014 NLDS, Game 2: Giants 2, Nationals 1 (18 innings)

It seems impossible that a postseason game could go 18 innings. The hero of this game remains Yusmiero Petit, who sneaked in a one-hitter over six innings before the Giants won it in the 18th.

Padres: 1984 NLCS, Game 5: Padres 6, Cubs 3

The Cubs had a 3-0 lead headed into the bottom of the sixth, but Leon Durham's error opened the floodgates, and the Padres were off to their first World Series.

Rockies: 2007 NL West Tiebreaker Game: Rockies 9, Padres 8 (13 innings)

Not technically a postseason game, but it doesn't matter, because **Matt Holliday** didn't touch the plate, and it didn't matter.

Here's what happened in Thursday's AFL action

Here's a team-by-team breakdown of how all 30 teams' prospects fared in Arizona Fall League action on Wednesday:

AL East**Blue Jays (Surprise)**

Blue Jays No. 4 prospect Nate Pearson (No. 90 overall) flashed his usual premium stuff but didn't see the results in his start for Saguaros. Working one-plus inning, the 22-year-old right-hander allowed eight runs (seven earned) on five hits with four walks and three strikeouts. Cavan Biggio (No. 9), who started at first base, went 0-for-3 with a pair of strikeouts.

Orioles (Glendale)

Steve Wilkerson went 1-for-4 with a double, also scoring Glendale's lone run. Ryan McKenna (Baltimore's No. 12 prospect) went 0-for-4 with a strikeout. Jay Flaa took the loss in relief, allowing two runs (one earned) on two walks in one-third of an inning.

Rays (Peoria)

Rays No. 9 prospect Lucius Fox went 2-for-5 from the leadoff spot. He is batting .407 through six Fall League games, and he has multiple hits in five of them.

Red Sox (Mesa)

Red Sox **No. 6 prospect** Bobby Dalbec connected on his first Fall League homer, a three-run shot in the first inning, before finishing 3-for-5 with four RBIs. Through six games, he's hitting .304 with nine RBIs. Darwinzon Hernandez and Mike Shawaryn -- Boston's Nos. 7 and 9 prospects, respectively -- both pitched well in relief. Hernandez allowed two runs (one earned) in two innings, but also recorded four of his six outs via strikeout, while Shawaryn struck out a pair as he pitched around a single during a scoreless ninth inning.

Yankees (Glendale)

Steven Sensley went 1-for-4 with a single and **Thairo Estrada** (New York's **No. 16 prospect**) went 1-for-3 with a single as the duo accounted for half of Glendale's hits. Kyle Zurak blew a save opportunity in the 10th inning, as he balked in Salt River's winning run.

AL Central**Indians (Glendale)**

Justin Garza had a strong start for the Desert Dogs, tossing 3 2/3 scoreless innings. The right-hander allowed one hit and struck out four. Dalbert Siri and Jared Robinson each worked a scoreless inning of

relief. Siri allowed one hit and struck out one, while Robinson also gave up one hit. Connor Marabell went 0-for-4 with a strikeout in the cleanup spot.

Royals (Surprise)

Royals **No. 2 prospect** Khalil Lee went 0-for-4 with a pair of strikeouts. Catcher Meibrys Vilora scored a run and reached base three times as part of a 1-for-2, two-walk showing that improved his Fall League average to .357. Nick Heath is hitting .533 through five games despite going 0-for-2. Arnaldo Hernandez (2 1/3 innings, 3 hits allowed, one walk, two strikeouts) and Grant Gavin (two innings, one strikeout) were bright spots out of the bullpen as the only Surprise hurlers to not allow a run in the game. Gavin, a 23-year-old righty, has given up only one hit in five scoreless innings (three appearances) so far in the AFL. Walker Sheller was tagged for five earned runs on three hits and two walks in two-thirds of an inning.

Tigers (Mesa)

The lone Tigers farmhand to play for Mesa on Thursday, Daniel Woodrow went 2-for-4 with a walk and three runs scored from the bottom of the order. He's hitting .389 through five games.

Twins (Salt River)

Jaylin Davis went 1-for-4 with an RBI as he drove in the game-tying run with a fielder's choice. Travis Blankenhorn (Minnesota's **No. 18 prospect**) went 1-for-3 with a single. The Twins' duo accounted for two of the Rafters' three hits.

White Sox (Glendale)

White Sox No. 9 prospect Luis Alexander Basabe went 0-for-3 with a walk and strikeout. Zach Thompson pitched a perfect ninth inning, striking out two and sending the game to extra innings.

AL West

A's (Mesa)

A's **No. 30 prospect** Skye Bolt's second AFL homer was a three-run shot that capped Mesa's eight-run eighth inning. He scored three runs to match his three RBIs and also walked twice before finishing 2-for-4. First out of the 'pen for the Solar Sox, **Jake Bray** notched two strikeouts and two ground-ball outs as he completed two perfect frames.

Angels (Mesa)

Angels **No. 4 prospect** Jahmai Jones recorded three hits for the second time in six games in the AFL. He reached base four times, as the 21-year-old second baseman went 3-for-5 with a double, RBI and three runs scored. Roberto Baldoquin (1-for-6, RBI) and David MacKinnon (0-for-4, 2 walks) each scored a run, and Ryan Clark contributed with a scoreless inning in relief.

Astros (Scottsdale)

Astros **No. 8 prospect** J.B. Bukauskas collected his first win of the Fall League season, tossing four scoreless innings against Peoria. The right-hander allowed two hits and one walk while striking out four. Bukauskas hasn't allowed an earned run in 7 1/3 innings over two AFL starts. Trent Thornton (No. 24) followed Bukauskas with 1 1/3 scoreless innings of relief, allowing two hits and striking out three. Abraham Toro-Hernandez (No. 21) went 1-for-2 with a run scored. Ronnie Dawson went 1-for-3 with a walk and a run scored. Drew Ferguson walked in a pinch-hit appearance.

Mariners (Peoria)

Mariners prospects Evan White (**No. 2**) and Ian Miller (No. 20) each went 1-for-4 with a single. White is batting .346 in six Fall League games. Matt Walker pitched an inning of relief, allowing one run on one hit and one walk with one strikeout.

Rangers (Surprise)

Rangers **No. 2 prospect** Julio Pablo Martinez (No. 56 overall) went 1-for-3 from the bottom of the lineup as he accounted for one of the Saguaros' four hits. Charles LeBlanc notched a hit and scored a run, as he owns a .381 average after finishing 1-for-3. Reliever Joe Barlow allowed two earned runs on two hits in 1 2/3 innings, striking out three and walking two.

NL East**Braves (Peoria)**

Jeremy Walker took his first loss of the Fall League season, allowing six earned runs on seven hits in 3 2/3 innings. The right-hander walked one and struck out three. Ray-Patrick Didder went 1-for-5, while Braxton Davidson went 0-for-3 with a walk.

Marlins (Salt River)

Marlins No. 26 prospect Bryson Brigman went 1-for-3 with a single, one of the Rafters' three hits. Brian Miller (No. 11) entered as a pinch-runner in the 10th and scored the game-tying run.

Mets (Scottsdale)

Mets **No. 11 prospect** Desmond Lindsay went 2-for-4 with a double, a walk and a run scored. Lindsay has played in two Fall League games and collected two hits in each of them. Andres Gimenez (No. 1) entered as a pinch-hitter in the eighth inning and went 1-for-1 with an RBI double, a walk and a run scored. **Stephen Nogosek** (No. 24) tossed 1 2/3 innings of scoreless relief, allowing one hit and one walk with two strikeouts.

Nationals (Salt River)

Nationals **No. 2 prospect** Carter Kieboom (No. 37 overall) went 0-for-3 with a walk and scored the game-winning run on a balk in the 10th inning. Daniel Johnson (Washington's No. 7) went 0-for-4 with two strikeouts from the leadoff spot. Ben Braymer tossed two scoreless innings of relief, allowing one hit and striking out four. Taylor Guilbeau pitched 1 1/3 perfect innings of relief, while Jordan Mills worked two perfect innings with three strikeouts.

Phillies (Scottsdale)

Phillies **No. 11 prospect** Arquimedes Gamboa went 1-for-4 with an RBI. Darick Hall went 2-for-4 with three RBIs out of the cleanup spot. Austin Listi went 1-for-5 with a run scored. Jonathan Hennigan worked a perfect eighth inning, striking out one.

NL Central**Brewers (Peoria)**

Daniel Brown tossed 2 1/3 scoreless innings of relief, allowing two hits and one walk with three strikeouts. Miguel Sanchez followed Brown with a perfect seventh inning, striking out one. Jon Olczak

also pitched in relief, allowing one run on one hit and two walks while striking out one over one inning. Trent Grisham (Milwaukee's No. 19 prospect) went 0-for-3 with a walk.

Cardinals (Surprise)

Andy Young drove in a run and went 1-for-4, giving the second baseman at least one hit in all five games so far in the AFL. Lane Thomas struck out in his lone at-bat as a pinch-hitter. Will Latcham gave up a three-run homer while working the final 1 1/3 innings for the Saguaros.

Cubs (Mesa)

It was a big day for Cubs hitters, as **No. 6 prospect** Nico Hoerner (1-for-6, three RBIs), No. 16 D.J. Wilson (1-for-3, four runs, three walks, RBI) and catcher P.J. Higgins (2-for-5, homer, three RBIs, two runs) all stood out at the plate in the Solar Sox's lopsided win over Surprise. Left-hander Justin Steele, the Cubs' No. 8 prospect, dominated in his second Fall League start as he posted two strikeouts and two walks over three hitless frames.

Pirates (Surprise)

Pirates prospects Cole Tucker (**No. 5**) and **Bryan Reynolds** (No. 8) were both hitless, going 0-for-4 and 0-for-3, respectively. They each struck out once.

Reds (Scottsdale)

Reds **No. 23 prospect** Alfredo Rodriguez went 2-for-3 with an RBI and a run scored out of the No. 8 spot in the lineup. **Shed Long** (No. 8) went 0-for-4 with a walk and a run scored, while Mark Kolozsvary went 0-for-5 with an RBI and a run scored.

NL West

D-backs (Salt River)

D-backs **No. 1 prospect** Jon Duplantier (No. 80 overall) tossed three scoreless innings in his second start of the Fall League season. The right-hander allowed one hit and struck out five. Pavin Smith (Arizona's No. 4) went 0-for-3 with a walk. Renae Martinez started at catcher and went 0-for-3. Bo Takahashi pitched two-thirds of an inning in relief, allowing no runs, one hit and one walk. Kevin Ginkel earned his first win of the AFL season, allowing one unearned run on one hit in one inning. **More »**

Dodgers (Glendale)

Dodgers **No. 2 prospect** Keibert Ruiz (No. 39 overall) drove in Glendale's lone run with an RBI double in the 10th inning. It was his only hit as he finished 1-for-4. Errol Robinson (Los Angeles' No. 20) went 0-for-4 with three strikeouts from the leadoff spot. Jared Walker went 0-for-3 with three strikeouts. Nolan Long pitched 1 1/3 innings of perfect relief, striking out one, and Jordan Sheffield also struck out one in one perfect inning.

Giants (Scottsdale)

Sam Wolff pitched a scoreless inning of relief, allowing two hits and closing out the Scorpions' win over Peoria. Heath Quinn entered as a pinch-hitter and went 0-for-1.

Padres (Peoria)

Padres **No. 23 prospect** Hudson Potts went 1-for-4 with a double, the Javelinas' lone extra-base hit as

they got shut out by Scottsdale. Buddy Reed (No. 13) went 1-for-4 and Austin Allen (No. 25) went 0-for-4.

FROM THE LONG BEACH POST

Angel Stadium in Long Beach? It's not so far-fetched

By Mike Guardabascio and JJ Fiddler

When it was announced on Tuesday that the Angels are opting out of their stadium lease in Anaheim, it got us thinking: How feasible would it be to imagine a new baseball stadium being built in Long Beach?

The team is free to leave Angel Stadium after the 2019 season, and owner Arte Moreno is clearly looking to find a new home for his team, which currently plays in the fourth-oldest Major League Baseball stadium (only Fenway Park, Wrigley Field, and Dodger Stadium are older). The Angels are also clearly looking for a brand refresh, having fiddled around with their name over the last few years, adding Los Angeles, eventually dropping Anaheim, and recently refusing to acknowledge a geographic name at all.

Now, to be clear—we're both Dodgers fans. Neither of us are emotionally invested in bringing Orange County up to Long Beach in any way. But after doing some research and bar-napkin math, it is surprisingly feasible to imagine the Angels playing in Downtown Long Beach on the waterfront with the most picturesque background in baseball. It's a move that would give the Angels central access to both Los Angeles and Orange County, something they've been searching for, and would give Long Beach's rapidly expanding Downtown a real national-level attraction.

There are three major questions that would have to be answered: Where would a stadium go? How would people get to and from it? And, of course, what would it cost?

Where?

The average footprint of an MLB stadium is between two and three acres—that's the stadium itself, not parking. It just so happens that Long Beach has a 13-acre undeveloped parking lot on the waterfront. Referred to in city planning documents as "the Elephant Lot," the public would know it better as the parking lot around the Long Beach Arena, a facility the public would know know better as the big building with the whales on it. You know, the one the Ice Dogs used to play in.

Mayor Robert Garcia said at the "Building a Better Long Beach" development forum in late August that he wants to see the city create a plan for developing that land. It's scenic, it's a major part of downtown, and there's a ton of space there compared to other waterfront locations around Southern California.

"The waterfront is critical to connecting the city to our coast," Garcia said. "We have an opportunity to rethink what and how and where things should go in our waterfront. It's time for us to think big."

A Major League Baseball stadium would certainly qualify as "big."

Keep in mind, the parking lot is big enough to actually fit an entire LA Live development, according to the Long Beach Business Journal. It could easily fit a south-facing baseball stadium with a beautiful view of Long Beach's waterfront, and still have 9-10 acres left over.

The biggest issue with building on that land is that it's spoken for until 2028, when the site will be transformed into Olympic competition venues for water polo and BMX biking.

A stadium there would be transformational, though, creating a true sports and entertainment district in Long Beach with the Aquarium, Arena, and the Terrace Theater all within walking distance. Because a baseball stadium would feature so many dates (baseball teams have 81 home games a year as opposed to eight for NFL teams or 41 for NBA teams) it would bring a steady stream of tourists and fans into Long Beach's Downtown waterfront.

Parking and traffic

Any time anyone brings up an idea in Long Beach, whether it's something big like an MLB stadium or small like going to the store, it feels like we have to watch a few hundred cranky Facebookers complain about parking and traffic. So it's worth taking a look at how a stadium downtown would handle these issues.

As far as parking, there's no doubt that there isn't any room anywhere in Long Beach for the kind of 100-acre parking lots that Dodger Stadium and Angel Stadium employ. The footprint of a stadium here would have to be more like Wrigley Field or Fenway Park, both of which are on smaller footprints than the parking lot the city is looking to redevelop. The majority of fans would have to arrive via foot, rail, bike or trolley.

Could our current infrastructure handle that kind of influx of humanity? Not yet. But Google Maps has the Blue Line's Downtown Long Beach Station as a 10-minute walk from the site, which provides a great framework to build off of, and the city and the LA Metro are already keen to find ways to beef up Long Beach's rail.

Money

The cost of a new stadium is, in our opinion, actually the biggest stumbling block. Cities across the country have been albatrossed by horrible publicly-financed stadium deals where citizen tax payers bear the cost and teams reap the profit.

The last thing we want to see is Long Beach get involved in a deal like that. The average cost of a new MLB stadium today would be a half a billion dollars, a figure we haven't seen laying around on the sidewalk in our travels around the city.

That being said, if Moreno and his investors could come up with a plan that wouldn't involve major investments of public funds, it would be worth listening to. The benefit to the city of an influx of people is obvious—the Angels have drawn at least three million fans in each of the last 16 seasons, despite being terrible in several of them. The nearby Aquarium of the Pacific, for contrast, draws 1.7 million people annually as the fourth most-visited aquarium in the country.

Is this a slam dunk—pardon us, a home run—idea? No. There are big unsolved issues with the timing of the site, transportation, and financing. But it's fun, every now and then, to break away from worrying about the details to imagine something big—even if it does involve the wrong team.