



**Minnesota Twins Daily Clips**  
**Saturday, June 9, 2018**

- Lynn's solid effort erased by overtaxed bullpen. MLB.com (Bollinger) p.1
- Eddie Rosario busted out an inflatable Prince guitar that inspired Robbie Grossman to hit a home run. MLB.com (Clair) p.2
- Mauer progressing, working out at Target Field. MLB.com (Bollinger) p.3
- Struggles for Ryan Pressly, Addison Reed continue as Twins fall to Angels. Star Tribune (Neal) p.3
- Twins postgame: Duffey sent back to Rochester, Mauer and Santana updates. Star Tribune (Neal) p.4
- Angels place Shohei Ohtani on disabled list, and it could be a while. Star Tribune (Neal) p.5
- Twins-Los Angeles game recap. Star Tribune (Neal) p.6
- Late homer victimizes Ryan Pressly again in 4-2 Twins loss. Pioneer Press (Berardino) p.6
- Miguel Sano, searching for answers at the plate, is dropped to seventh. Pioneer Press (Berardino) p.7
- Preview: Twins vs. Angels. Fox Sports North (AP) p.8
- Twins fall to Angels 4-2 despite Lynn's solid start. Fox Sports North (AP) p.9
- Twins' Rosario emerging into All-Star. Fox Sports North (Staff) p.10
- Kinsler, Upton power Angels past Twins 4-2. ESPN (AP) p.11
- Trying to ease the burden, Twins manager Paul Molitor moves Miguel Sano down in the order. ESPN 1500 (Wetmore) p.13
- Heavy load may be catching up to Twins as bullpen falters again in loss to Angels. The Athletic (Hayes) p. 13
- Dixie State baseball: Senior RHP Tanner Howell drafted by the Minnesota Twins. Desert News (Johnson) p. 15

---

**Lynn's solid effort erased by overtaxed bullpen**

**Rhett Bollinger | MLB.com | June 8, 2018**

MINNEAPOLIS -- Lance Lynn continued his recent streak of strong starts with a solid six-inning performance, but the Twins found themselves in a familiar situation, seeing the overworked bullpen giving up a late lead in yet another frustrating loss.

Reliever Ryan Pressly, who is tied for the Major League lead with 34 relief appearances in 60 games, gave up a go-ahead two-run homer to Ian Kinsler in the seventh, while Addison Reed served up a solo shot to Justin Upton in the eighth in a 4-2 defeat to the Angels on Friday night at Target Field. It's been indicative of the duo's recent struggles, as Pressly has allowed a homer in three of his last five outings and Reed has served up one in three of his last four.

"I left a pitch hanging -- he hit it and made me pay for it," Pressly said. "He put a good swing on it. I probably should've gone with another pitch, but it is what it is. I wanted it down. Obviously, I left it up and that's the way it happened."

Pressly came in to protect a one-run lead, but gave up a one-out double to Martin Maldonado before getting ahead of Kinsler with a 1-2 count. But Pressly hung a curveball and Kinsler connected for his seventh homer of the season to spoil Lynn's outing.

After posting a 1.98 ERA through his first 28 outings of the year, Pressly has allowed seven runs over his last four innings, including three homers, to see his ERA rise to 3.73 on the season.

"His stuff is still good," Twins manager Paul Molitor said. "You don't want to second guess. He's throwing pitches that he thinks he can get out with. He threw him the 1-2 fastball and he fouled it off and he thought he could get him to chase a curveball, but he didn't get it in the chase zone, he got it in the nitro zone."

Lynn has been trending the other way, as he's turned it around after an ugly start to the season that saw him post a 7.47 ERA through his first eight starts. Lynn gave up one run on four hits over six innings in a no-decision, lowering his ERA to 5.08. He's 3-0 with a 1.46 ERA over his last four outings.

"It's getting there," Lynn said. "Had the one inning where I gave up the run, threw a bunch of pitches, which cost me the ability to go deeper into

the game. But overall, my stuff was good."

The lone run he allowed came in the second on three hits, including an RBI single from Maldonado, although he escaped further damage by striking out Mike Trout with the bases loaded.

"It didn't hurt my feelings any," Lynn said with a smile about the strikeout. "But he's a good player, and to be able to beat him right there was a big win for us, because it could have been a huge inning."

The Twins couldn't muster much offense against Angels right-hander Garrett Richards, who gave up two runs on six hits over 5 1/3 innings. Minnesota tied in the second on an RBI double from Miguel Sano that third baseman Luis Valbuena couldn't handle. And they took the lead on a go-ahead solo shot from Robbie Grossman in the sixth.

But the offense was quiet against the Angels' bullpen and Upton provided an insurance run with his solo shot off Reed, who has allowed six homers in 30 appearances this year.

"For Reeder, it's been probably more location-based than stuff-based," Molitor said. "We have workload issues with a lot of guys, as far as outings continuing to compile."

#### DUFFEY OPTIONED

The Twins optioned right-handed reliever Tyler Duffey after the game and will make a corresponding roster move before Saturday's game. There's a chance it could be a position player, but if the Twins want to add another reliever, right-hander Alan Busenitz is the most likely candidate. Duffey has a 6.97 ERA in six appearances with the Twins this year, but had thrown five scoreless innings since coming up on May 31. Busenitz has a 0.41 ERA with 28 strikeouts in 22 innings at Triple-A Rochester.

#### SOUND SMART

Pressly is on pace to appear in 92 games this season, which would set the club record. Mike Marshall set the record with 90 appearances in '79.

"I'm fine," Pressly said. "Still throwing pretty hard and I've got control of all my stuff. I just made a bad pitch. I can't do nothing about it now. You just have to tip your hat to him. I left it hanging."

#### HE SAID IT

"Our overall record particularly in one-run games is a big reason why we are where we are. You look at teams that have been more effective in finding ways to close out games and win those close ones, Seattle comes to mind, every time I look up they're winning by one run. So, yeah, those can be swings in how your season unfolds." -- Molitor on close losses this season becoming a theme

#### UP NEXT

Right-hander Kyle Gibson will look for his second win of the season when the Twins host the Angels in the second game of the series on Saturday at 1:10 p.m. CT. Gibson (1-3, 3.54 ERA) allowed two runs in 5 2/3 innings in a no-decision against the Indians last time out and hasn't won since his first start of the season. Lefty Tyler Skaggs (4-4, 3.27 ERA) starts for the Angels.

### **Eddie Rosario busted out an inflatable Prince guitar that inspired Robbie Grossman to hit a home run**

**Michael Clair | MLB.com | June 8, 2018**

With the Angels and Twins locked in a 1-1 tie in the sixth inning of Friday's Prince Night at Target Field, Eddie Rosario knew only one thing he could do to inspire the team. Forget the rally caps, rally monkeys or rally opossum: The infielder turned to the inflatable purple Prince guitars the team handed out before the game. While Rosario was presumably rocking out to the funky rhythms of "Kiss" or perhaps the face-melting solo from "Purple Rain," Robbie Grossman walked to the plate.

You could probably guess what happened next: While Prince had dozens of hit singles, this was a smashed homer:

While it was nice that the Twins wore their little red jerseys, they should have ditched their ballcaps for some raspberry berets.

### **Mauer progressing, working out at Target Field**

**Rhett Bollinger | MLB.com | June 8, 2018**

MINNEAPOLIS -- Twins first baseman Joe Mauer, who is recovering from a cervical neck strain and concussion-like symptoms, has continued pregame workouts at Target Field, and the club will decide whether it makes sense to send him on a rehab assignment before he's activated from the 10-day disabled list.

Mauer has been going through on-field drills before each game -- fielding grounders, running the bases and hitting with his teammates during batting practice. He suffered a setback on May 31, but has been progressing better since then.

But there's still no timetable for his return, given the nature of concussions. Mauer has been on the DL since May 19 after suffering what he believes was a concussion on a diving attempt at a foul ball against the Angels on May 11.

"Just kind of hasn't changed much," Twins manager Paul Molitor said. "We've just been running him through workouts. Trying to get some consistency with where he's at. We're just going to allow that to unfold as it needs to."

Molitor mentioned a rehab assignment could make sense before returning, as it would allow Mauer to play in a game situation to see how he'd respond with his symptoms, which have included balance issues and sensitivity to light.

"We've talked about a lot of things," Molitor said. "Mainly, we have to get a point where we have to decide one way or another. We're not at that point."

Worth noting

- Right-hander Ervin Santana played catch for the first time since suffering his setback with his surgically repaired right middle finger. He's scheduled to throw off a mound for the first time Thursday and Molitor said it'll be a similar process to the one he went through before he went on his first rehab assignment.

"We've had to turn the clock back," Molitor said. "There are a lot of things he's been through already [that] he's going to have to go through again."

- The Twins celebrated "Prince Night" at Target Field on Friday and players wore purple Prince-themed T-shirts during batting practice. The shirts will be auctioned off at [twins.com](http://twins.com) to benefit Achieve Minneapolis for music grants in Minneapolis Public Schools.

- Miguel Sano was moved to seventh in the batting order for the first time in his four-year career Friday. He had previously hit sixth on nine occasions, but not since '16.

- Outfielder Trevor Larnach, the Twins' first-round Draft pick on Monday, hit a two-run homer for Oregon State against the University of Minnesota in the NCAA Super Regionals on Friday.

- The Twins announced they signed second-round Draft pick Ryan Jeffers, fourth-rounder DaShawn Keirse and eighth-rounder Chris Williams on Friday. All three will head to Fort Myers, Fla., for a mini-camp for Draft picks.

### **Struggles for Ryan Pressly, Addison Reed continue as Twins fall to Angels**

**La Velle E. Neal III | Star Tribune | June 9, 2018**

On a full-count pitch in the sixth inning Friday at Target Field, Robbie Grossman planted a Garrett Richards slider well into the seats in right, and the Twins took a one-run lead.

That is a dangerous time for the Twins. They headed to the late innings working with a 3-12 record in one-run games. And they promptly provided reasons why. Relievers Ryan Pressly and Addison Reed both gave up late home runs, and the Angels pulled off a 4-2 victory.

The record in one-run games remains unchanged, but the Twins now have lost 18 games by one or two runs — in only 60 games played. The Twins might test the theory that the cumulative effect of so many losses that way could leave them desensitized.

"I think you keep talking and finding ways to win," manager Paul Molitor said. "We've done it at times. Our overall record, particularly in one-run games, is a big reason why we are where we are."

“You look at teams that have been more effective in finding ways to close out games and win those close ones — Seattle comes to mind, every time I look up they’re winning by one run. So, yeah, those can be swings in how your season unfolds.”

Pressly was handed the 2-1 lead in the seventh but gave up a double to Martin Maldonado. With two out, Pressly was ahead 1-2 to .218-hitting Ian Kinsler — a strike away from getting out of the inning — when he centered a breaking ball. Kinsler bashed it 411 feet and into the stands in left.

“Left a pitch hanging,” said Pressly, who has given up seven runs over his past four innings. “He hit it. Made me pay for it. He put a good swing on it.

“I probably should’ve gone with another pitch but it is what it is. I wanted it down. Obviously I left it up and that’s the way it happened.”

Reed took over in the eighth and gave up a 420-foot blast to Justin Upton.

Pressly, is tied for the AL lead in appearances with 33, has given up three home runs over his past five outings. Reed has given up three in his past four.

“I think for Reeder it’s been probably more location-based than stuff-based,” Molitor said. “For Pressly, it’s been a mixed bag. Sometimes his breaking balls are backed up. The other day he walked [Jose] Ramirez on four pitches, on offspeed pitches, and then challenged the next hitter [Edwin Encarnacion] with a fastball, and it went a long way [427 feet]. So I think he tries to reach back and throw everything as hard as he can, and sometimes not getting it to a spot maybe is more costly than maybe trying to back down and make sure he’s commanding his pitches.”

The offense isn’t doing its part either. The Twins managed only one hit over the past four innings — an infield single by Eddie Rosario in the seventh. It enabled the Angels to win their fifth consecutive game.

It also spoiled the latest good outing by Lance Lynn, who reached back to throwing 96 miles per hour when he had to.

Starting with a strikeout of Mike Trout with the bases loaded and two out in the second, Lynn retired 13 of the last 14 batters he faced. After going 1-4 with a 7.47 ERA over his first eight starts, Lynn has posted a 1.46 ERA over his past five.

“We just didn’t have enough offense overall,” Molitor said. “Came down to bullpens at the end for both sides. One strike from protecting the lead in the seventh and we make a mistake with the curveball. Even though Kinsler hasn’t had his best year, we still know he’s dangerous and we made the mistake.”

### **Twins postgame: Duffey sent back to Rochester, Mauer and Santana updates**

**La Velle E. Neal III | Star Tribune | June 8, 2018**

Roster move

The Twins announced after the game that righthander Tyler Duffey had been optioned to Class AAA Rochester. Duffey threw four scoreless innings, over three outings, since being called up a week ago. That included a scoreless ninth inning on Friday.

Despite pitching effectively, the Twins are sending Duffey back and will announce his replacement on Saturday. I don't get this move. He hasn't thrown that much and could probably pitch Saturday if needed. The Twins might have something funky up their sleeves here. Stay tuned.

Next step for Mauer?

First baseman Joe Mauer went through pre-game drills again on Friday but the Twins appear to have no immediate plans to send him out on a minor league rehabilitation assignment just yet. Mauer has missed 20 games because of what began as a cervical strain but has turned into a concussion.

“We’ve talked about a lot of things,” Twins manager Paul Molitor said. “Mainly, we have to get a point where we have to decide one way or another (on a rehab assignment). We’re not at that point.”

Etc.

Righthander Ervin Santana, who has missed all 60 games while recovering from finger surgery, has started playing catch. He will try to throw off a mound on Thursday.

### **Angels place Shohei Ohtani on disabled list, and it could be a while**

**La Velle E. Neal III | Star Tribune | June 8, 2018**

Angels rookie Shohei Ohtani wasn't scheduled to pitch vs. the Twins this weekend at Target Field but was expected to appear as a designated hitter. But, in a stunning turn of events, he will miss the series and might not be seen for some time.

Ohtani was put on the 10-day disabled list Friday because of a Grade 2 sprain of the ulnar collateral ligament in his right elbow and will be out at least a month. But the injury is more troubling than that — Yahoo Sports reported in December that Ohtani had a Grade 1 sprain and had a platelet-rich plasma injection in October to treat it.

Now Ohtani has a Grade 2 sprain, which is worse. It means there is some tearing in the ligament. But the Angels will try another PRP injection and hope for the best.

This weekend would have marked Ohtani's first games in Minnesota, but Twins fans will be unable to see him here until next season — and Angels fans now are afraid they might have to wait just as long. The absence of the two-way star is a blow to one of the best stories in baseball this season.

The Twins played against Ohtani during a four-game series in Anaheim last month and came away impressed. He went 3-for-8 at the plate with a home run, a double and two RBI against them, then held them to one run over 6½ innings while striking out 11 on May 13.

"I didn't get a chance to watch his batting practice in Anaheim but some of the guys just were in awe of the power display," Twins manager Paul Molitor said. "We got a glimpse of both his offensive and pitching prowess when we were out there. I wish him well. I think guys like that and stories like that are really good for the game. Hopefully it's not a long-term deal."

The Angels also placed infielder Kaleb Cowart on the DL because of a left ankle sprain. Infielders Jose Fernandez and Nolan Fontana were called up to replace them. Los Angeles now has five key players on the DL.

Sano seventh

For the first time in his 343-game major league career, Miguel Sano batted seventh in the Twins lineup.

"Just been thinking about it for a while and how to help him try to get back on track," Molitor said. "Not the first guy that's been dropped down around here. I just thought it was the time to give him a little bit different look in the lineup. How much hitting in the 3-hole and 4-hole has added to the burden, I can't really measure that."

Sano earned the drop by batting .184 with two home runs and 11 RBI in 12 games since returning from the DL for a left hamstring strain. He hit an RBI double Friday when his grounder to third hopped over the glove of third baseman Luis Valbuena, but Sano followed that with three more strikeouts.

Molitor was asked about Sano hitting balls to the opposite field lately, and said it was the result of being late on many pitches. Sano, Molitor added, appears to be guessing what is about to be thrown instead of reacting to the pitch.

"I think a lot of balls I've seen him hit over there are balls he's getting beat on," Molitor said. "It's one thing when you stay on offspeed pitch and drive it through the right-center field gap, but I think some of those fly balls to right are — he's trying to see it a little bit longer, so it makes sense that it's getting a little deeper on him. But you start getting in between, a little late on the fastball, a little ahead on the offspeed. You've got to try to find that right balance there."

Three picks sign

Catcher Ryan Jeffers, drafted in the second round from North Carolina Wilmington; outfielder DaShawn Keirsey, a fourth-rounder from Utah; and catcher Chris Williams, an eighth-rounder from Clemson, signed with the Twins on Friday. All will be assigned to Elizabethton of the Appalaichian League.

The Twins are closing in on deals with several more of their picks from the draft, which was held earlier this week.

**Twins-Los Angeles game recap**

**La Velle E. Neal III | Star Tribune | June 9, 2018**

## GAME RECAP

### IMPACT PLAYER

Ian Kinsler, Los Angeles

The Angels second baseman's two-run homer in the seventh put the Angels in front to stay.

### BY THE NUMBERS

5 straight wins for the Angels

1.46 ERA for Lance Lynn over his last four starts

### ON DECK

Angels lefthander Tyler Skaggs has allowed two or fewer runs in nine of his 12 starts this season. Righthander Kyle Gibson will start for the Twins. First pitch is scheduled for 1:10 p.m.

### **Late homer victimizes Rvan Pressly again in 4-2 Twins loss**

**Mike Berardino | Pioneer Press | June 8, 2018**

Ryan Pressly's velocity remains impressive. The right-hander's raw stuff is as good as any in the game, as shown by the eight strikeouts he has piled up over his past four innings.

Trouble is, in between all those strikeouts, the ball keeps flying over the fence.

Ian Kinsler's two-run homer in the seventh inning of Friday's 4-2 loss to the Los Angeles Angels was the latest example of Pressly's recent struggles. It wiped out a one-run lead for the Twins, who lost for the third time in four tries and fell 5 1/2 games behind the first-place Cleveland Indians.

"You play a game of failure for a reason, you know?" Pressly said. "These guys are good. These are the best hitters in the world. If you make a mistake, they're going to make you pay for it."

Kinsler's blast followed Martin Maldonado's one-out double on a slider down in the zone and came on a hanging two-strike curveball from Pressly, who had held him to three hits (no homers) and a walk in 14 prior meetings. Kinsler came in hitting .212 with just six homers this season, his first with the Angels.

"I left a pitch hanging and he hit it," Pressly said. "He put a good swing on it. I probably should've gone with another pitch but it is what it is."

Kinsler's only extra-base hit off Pressly had been a double back in 2013, the pitcher's rookie year as a Rule 5 pick from the Boston Red Sox. Justin Upton added a solo homer off Addison Reed in the eighth as the Angels won their fifth straight to open a three-game weekend series at Target Field.

Over his past five outings, covering four innings, Pressly has a 15.75 earned run average with eight hits and three homers allowed.

"I'm fine," he said. "Still throwing pretty hard and I've got control of all my stuff. I just made a bad pitch."

It was Pressly's 33rd appearance through 60 games, keeping him on pace for a career-high 89 outings that would challenge the Twins' single-season mark of 90, set by Mike Marshall in 1979. Though he'd pitched just once in the previous four days, Pressly remained one outing behind American League leader Joe Jimenez of the Detroit Tigers.

Reed, second on the team with 30 outings, has allowed homers in three of his past four outings. He's on pace for 81 outings, which would eclipse the career-high 80 he made for the New York Mets in 2016.

“We’ve had workload issues with a lot of guys,” Twins manager Paul Molitor said. “We try to back guys off sometimes, even a couple days when we have to. When you’re up here, sometimes you’ve got to be called upon, even when you’re not maybe 100 percent. That’s just how it is sometimes.”

Facing an Angels lineup that was without rookie sensation Shohei Ohtani and All-Star shortstop Andrelton Simmons — both placed on the disabled list week — resurgent right-hander Lance Lynn ripped off his fourth straight quality start with six innings of one-run ball.

Maldonado’s run-scoring single up the middle highlighted a four-hit second, but that would be the only scratch on Lynn’s card. He blew a 95-mph fastball by Mike Trout to leave the bases loaded and would allow only a two-out walk in the third over his final four innings.

Lowering his earned run average to 5.08, Lynn struck out at least one batter in every inning and jumped ahead to 11 of his final 15 batters. Hitting 95 mph several times while mixing in a high-80s cutter and a handful of curves, Lynn went to three-ball counts just four times while inducing 11 swinging strikes on a 105-pitch night.

Despite retiring his final 10 batters, Lynn was pulled with an eye on the big picture.

“Would I have liked to go out?” Lynn said of the seventh. “Yes, but was it the smart play to (say) maybe this is a good time to not push it. That’s where we were at. We both agreed, Mollie and I, that this is a good time not to push it.”

Until Pressly’s meltdown, Lynn stood to win his fourth straight start after Robbie Grossman’s go-ahead homer off Garrett Richards in the sixth.

### **Miguel Sano, searching for answers at the plate, is dropped to seventh** **Mike Berardino | Pioneer Press | June 8, 2018**

Slumping Miguel Sano, dropped to seventh in the batting order for the first time in his four big-league seasons, is trying to keep his sanity while the strikeouts mount.

“Most players learn how to put up a good front but he has to be frustrated, I would imagine,” Twins manager Paul Molitor said. “It seems like guys are willing to put the work in to try to find whatever they’ve been missing, and he’s been doing that. It just hasn’t translated particularly well as of late.”

Since missing four weeks with a strained left hamstring, Sano entered Friday hitting .184 with two home runs and 21 strikeouts in 53 plate appearances. His season on-base percentage had dropped to .273, nearly 70 points below his career mark, before a bad-hop RBI double and three more strikeouts against the Angels.

Sano, who has seen time at both first and third since returning from a brief rehab assignment at Triple-A Rochester, started six games in the No. 6 slot in the order late in the 2016 season. He also broke in as a No. 6 hitter in early July 2015 at Kansas City, but since then he has regularly occupied one of the three spots in the middle of the order.

“Not the first guy that’s been dropped down around here,” Molitor said. “I just thought it was the time to give him a little bit different look in the lineup. How much hitting in the 3-hole and 4-hole has added to the burden, I can’t really measure that. But if we can alleviate that to some degree, we’ll just try to look for something to get him going.”

The Twins are 5-2 when Sano homers, something that hadn’t happened since his game-tying, three-run shot to right off Cleveland’s Zach McAllister in a 9-8 loss to the Cleveland Indians on May 31.

Too often lately, as Molitor noted, Sano has been caught “in-between: a little late on the fastball, a little ahead on the offspeed.”

Sano was hitting .135 and slugging just .270 on breaking pitches before Friday, down from .234 and .427 last season.

### **ERVIN RESET**

Right-hander Ervin Santana played catch without incident Thursday but won’t try to throw off a mound again until June 14. That means more than two weeks will have passed since he was pulled after 3 1/3 innings and 59 pitches in his second and most recent rehab outing following Feb. 6 finger surgery.

“We’ve had to turn the clock back obviously,” Molitor said. “There’s going to be a lot of things he’s been through already he’s going to have to go through again as far as building back up.”

Santana’s next 30-day rehab clock won’t start until he faces minor-league competition again.

## MAUER PLAN

Joe Mauer, who originally strained his neck against the Angels on May 11 and hasn’t played since May 18, hit again on the field but remains in a holding pattern as he tries to get past concussion-related symptoms.

“Hasn’t changed much,” Molitor said. “We’re just going through the workout, trying to get some consistency to where he’s at. We’re just going to allow that to unfold as it needs to.”

There had been some talk of sending Mauer out on a minor-league rehab assignment, but that doesn’t appear imminent.

“We’ve talked about a lot of things,” Molitor said. “Mainly we have to get to a point where we can decide one way or the other. We’re not at that point.”

## FAMILY TIES

Twins bullpen coach Eddie Guardado was happy to see Matt McLain go 25th overall to the Arizona Diamondbacks in this year’s draft.

Like Jacob Guardado, Eddie’s son, McLain is a second baseman at Beckman High School in Irvine, Calif. McLain’s younger brother Nick has been a teammate of Jacob’s on youth teams the elder Guardado coached before joining the Twins’ coaching staff in 2015.

“Good for him,” said Guardado, a 21st-round pick in 1990 who went on to make the Twins Hall of Fame. “Great family. We’ve known them for years.”

Tennessee high school lefty Ryan Weathers, son of Guardado’s former Cincinnati Reds teammate David Weathers, went seventh overall to the San Diego Padres. What are Jacob’s chances of being drafted in 2020?

“He can hit a little bit,” Guardado said with a smile. “It’s all up to him.”

## BRIEFLY

The Twins announced the signings of three draft picks: second-round catcher Ryan Jeffers (UNC-Wilmington), fourth-round outfielder DaShawn Keirsey (Utah) and eighth-round catcher Chris Williams (Clemson).

Reliever Tyler Duffey was optioned back to Triple-A Rochester after Friday’s game despite a string of four straight scoreless outings totaling six innings. A corresponding move will be made before Saturday’s 1:10 p.m. start.

## **Preview: Twins vs. Angels**

**Associated Press | Fox Sports North | June 9, 2018**

The first two months of Shohei Ohtani went about as well as could be expected for the Japanese phenom.

He went 4-1 with a 3.10 ERA and 61 strikeouts through 49 1/3 innings of work and batted .289 with a .907 OPS and six home runs in his quest to become baseball’s first modern day two-way player.

But the next month won’t be nearly as enjoyable for Ohtani, who will be sidelined for at least three weeks after he was placed on the disabled list with a grade 2 sprain of the ulnar collateral ligament in his right elbow.

Ohtani returned to Los Angeles Thursday and received platelet-rich plasma and stem-cell injections on the elbow. UCL injuries are often associated with Tommy John surgery, which would cost Ohtani at least a year but general manager Billy Eppler was optimistic that an operation wouldn’t be necessary.

“This is completely treatable with the biologic prescription that the doctors recommended,” Eppler said during a Friday conference call with reporters.



Ohtani was pulled early from his last start after developing a blister on his right middle finger but there was no mention of elbow discomfort.

If he were strictly an offensive player, the situation might be different and Ohtani could conceivably play out the season.

“That’s not how we want to utilize him as a player and realize the impact of the player,” manager Mike Scioscia said. “It was determined that any unique swing or variability could impose some small percentage increase in risk, so that’s why we’re going to give it the three weeks’ time period right now to further assess and then make a determination at that time.”

With Ohtani out, Scioscia plans to rotate players in and out of the designated hitter spot. Albert Pujols, Luis Valbuena and Jefry Marte will share time at first base, as will Jose Miguel Fernandez who the Angels called up from Triple-A Friday to replace Ohtani on the roster.

They also recalled infielder Nolan Fontana after placing Kaleb Cowart on the DL with a sprained ankle sustained when he slipped getting off the team bus. He was called up a day earlier to replace Andrelton Simmons, who sprained his ankle coming down the dugout steps.

“I think you know you’re under a rain cloud when guys are getting hurt not in baseball activities,” Scioscia said. “He was coming off the bus yesterday morning. He just missed a step and twisted his ankle. Freak injury.”

The Angels will try to extend their winning streak to six games Saturday afternoon when left-hander Tyler Skaggs faces Twins right-hander Kyle Gibson at Target Field.

Skaggs threw six shutout innings against Texas in his last start and held Minnesota to just two runs over six innings back on May 11.

Gibson, meanwhile, has been snakebit this season. He owns a 3.54 ERA and has allowed more than three earned runs in three of his 12 starts but hasn’t taken a victory since March 31 — his first start of the season.

He held Cleveland to a pair of runs over 5 2/3 innings his last time out despite battling a bug.

“I didn’t feel good while warming up,” Gibson said. “My stomach was churning throughout the game but I just wanted to go out there, be a professional and do my job.”

Gibson has made nine starts against the Angels, going 2-2 with a 5.05 ERA.

### **Twins fall to Angels 4-2 despite Lynn’s solid start** **Associated Press | Fox Sports North | June 9, 2018**

MINNEAPOLIS — Ian Kinsler hit a two-run home run for the lead in the seventh inning and Justin Upton went deep in the eighth, powering the Los Angeles Angels past the Minnesota Twins 4-2 on Friday night.

Blake Parker pitched a perfect ninth inning for his sixth save in seven attempts, capping a strong finish for the Angels after a rough start before the game with the ominous news that two-way rookie sensation Shohei Ohtani has an elbow injury and will be out for at least three weeks.

Robbie Grossman gave the Twins a 2-1 edge with a solo homer in the sixth against starter Garrett Richards, but Noe Ramirez (2-2) and Jose Alvarez set up Parker with some shut-down relief of their own. The Angels bullpen recorded 11 outs, including five strikeouts.

That’s what the Twins were looking for, after six strong innings by Lance Lynn to continue his rebound from a rough start to his first season with the team. Ryan Pressly (0-1) gave up a double to Martin Maldonado, but he had two outs and two strikes on Kinsler before hanging a curveball that was crushed into the left-field seats.

Kinsler has five home runs in his last 10 games, batting .366 over that span. Upton, who took Addison Reed deep, has five homers in his last six games.

### **DROPPED DOWN**

Struggling Twins third baseman Miguel Sano was moved to seventh in the batting order, the lowest starting spot of his major league career and only the second time this season he’s been lower than third. Since coming off the disabled list on May 25, Sano is hitting just .189 in 53 at-bats with four walks and 24 strikeouts.

He does have 12 RBIs over those 13 games, including a high chopper to third baseman Luis Valbuena in the second inning that bounced over him to earn a double ruling from the official scorer and drive in Max Kepler from first base. Sano, though, is batting .088 with two strikes (7 for 80) this season.

## THE LONG ROAD

With Ohtani out, Albert Pujols was the designated hitter and Jose Fernandez played first base in his major league debut at age 30. He singled in his first at-bat. Fernandez didn't leave his native Cuba until 2015 and didn't join a major league organization until 2017, when he played mostly in Double-A in the Los Angeles Dodgers system. He signed with the Angels in January and was promoted from Triple-A Salt Lake on Friday with infielder Nolan Fontana.

## LET'S GO CRAZY

The Twins held another "Prince Night," a heavily themed celebration of the Minneapolis-born-and-raised musician whose 60th birthday would have been Thursday. The first 10,000 fans through the gates got inflatable plastic purple guitars. Eddie Rosario was spotted strumming one in the dugout as Grossman sent his drive to deep right field, and he leaped to his feet with the souvenir in hand as the ball cleared the wall.

## TRAINER'S ROOM

Angels: Though this was largely overshadowed by Ohtani's absence, rookie infielder Kaleb Cowart also went to the DL with a sprained left ankle. He was hurt, yes, when he missed a step while getting off the team bus upon arrival in Minnesota following an overnight flight. Cowart was called up to replace shortstop Andrelton Simmons, who sprained his right ankle on Tuesday when he slipped walking down the dugout stairs.

Twins: First baseman Joe Mauer has plateaued in his recovery from concussion-like symptoms, missing his 20th straight game. Manager Paul Molitor said the team hasn't reached the point where a decision would be made about sending Mauer on a rehab assignment or not. "Just kind of hasn't changed much," Molitor said. "We've just been running him through workouts."

## UP NEXT

Angels: LHP Tyler Skaggs pitches on Saturday afternoon. Skaggs (4-4, 3.27 ERA), who has surrendered two runs or fewer in nine of his 12 starts, took a no-decision against the Twins on May 11 after giving up two runs on six hits and two walks with seven strikeouts in six innings.

Twins: RHP Kyle Gibson takes the mound in the middle game of the series. Gibson (1-3, 3.54 ERA), who hasn't won in 12 turns since throwing six no-hit innings in his season debut on March 31, gave up two runs on three hits and four walks with six strikeouts in six innings of a no-decision against the Angels on May 12.

## **Twins' Rosario emerging into All-Star** **Staff Writer | Fox Sports North | June 8, 2018**

If Mike Trout is the face of baseball, Eddie Rosario can't be far behind.

That's what the statistics indicate, anyway.

The Twins' outfielder has been raking lately, sometimes singlehandedly winning games for Minnesota like Sunday afternoon when he slugged three homers, including a walk-off blast in the ninth inning of a 7-5 win over division rival Cleveland. Since May 1, Rosario is batting .364/.405/.678 with 11 homers, 12 doubles and 31 RBI.

But expand it even further, and Rosario has been one of the top-performing players over the past year. In his last 162 games played — or in other words, the equivalent to a full regular season — Rosario is hitting .304 with 36 dingers and 106 RBI.

He's one of six active players with a .300+ average, 35+ homers and 100+ RBI in his last 162 contests.

AVG HR RBI

J.D. Martinez	.309	57	139
Scouter Gennett	.311	36	123
Nolan Arenado	.326	37	132
Eddie Rosario	.304	36	106
Jose Ramirez	.317	41	100
Mike Trout	.306	49	100

That's not the only list Rosario shares with Trout, either. Both players are responsible for a large chunk of their team's offensive output — 16.2 percent of their team's total bases, to be exact, which is tied for second in MLB behind Baltimore's Manny Machado (18.2 percent).

Those type of numbers — surrounded by the league's biggest names — should earn Rosario a trip to Washington for his first career All-Star Game in mid-July.

Among American League outfielders, Rosario ranks fifth in batting average (.312), RBI (43) and doubles (16), fourth in slugging percentage (.568) and second in hits (73).

It's time to recognize Rosario for who he is. He's not a just solid left-handed bat with a strong arm in left field.

Rosie is a game changer.

#### NOTABLE

— It's not likely Joe Mauer, who is recovering from concussion symptoms, will play this weekend against Los Angeles. But he does own the second-highest all-time batting average against the Angels at .339. His manager Paul Molitor ranks fifth on that list with a .333 average.

— Launch angle: The Twins (39.2 percent) and Angels (40.8 percent) own the two lowest team groundball rates in the big leagues.

— Eduardo Escobar has 36 extra-base hits in 56 games, the fourth-most among switch-hitters through 56 contests since 1920. Ahead of him on that list are Lance Berkman (39, 2008), Ripper Collins (38, 1934) and Mickey Mantle (37, 1956).

— Minnesota has launched 11 homers in June, tied with Boston for the AL lead.

— Twins pitcher Lance Lynn has recovered from his horrendous start to the season. He registered an 8.37 ERA over 23 2/3 innings in his first five starts. Since then, Lynn has gone 4-1 with a 3.34 ERA in six outings (32 1/3 innings).

Statistics courtesy STATS, baseball-reference.com

#### **Kinsler, Upton power Angels past Twins 4-2**

**Associated Press | ESPN | June 9, 2018**

MINNEAPOLIS -- The Los Angeles Angels are missing some significant pieces of their team. The Minnesota Twins are down several important players, too.

With a couple of clutch hits and a strong night by the bullpen, the Angels taught a lesson in resiliency. The Twins are still searching for theirs.

#### ADVERTISEMENT

Ian Kinsler hit a two-run home run for the lead in the seventh inning and Justin Upton went deep in the eighth, powering the Angels past the Twins 4-2 on Friday after they placed rookie sensation Shohei Ohtani on the disabled list with an elbow injury .

Star shortstop Andrelton Simmons went down this week, too.

"You can't replace those guys, but at the same time, the games don't stop," Kinsler said, adding: "Close ball games build character."

Blake Parker pitched a perfect ninth inning for his sixth save in seven attempts. Robbie Grossman gave the Twins a 2-1 edge with a solo homer in the sixth against starter Garrett Richards, but Noe Ramirez (2-2) and Jose Alvarez set up Parker with some shut-down relief. The Angels bullpen

recorded 11 outs, with five strikeouts.

That's what the Twins were looking for, after six sharp innings by Lance Lynn to continue his rebound from a rough start to his first season with the team. Ryan Pressly (0-1) gave up a double to Martin Maldonado, but he had two outs and two strikes on Kinsler before hanging a curveball that was crushed into the left-field seats .

"I probably should've gone with another pitch, but it is what it is," Pressly said. "I wanted it down."

Upton, who took Addison Reed deep , has four homers in his last five games. Kinsler has five home runs in his last 10 games, batting .366 over that span.

"Even though Kinsler hasn't had his best year, we still know he's dangerous," Twins manager Paul Molitor said.

Said Angels manager Mike Scioscia: "Hopefully he's turned the corner."

The Twins haven't yet.

Fifteen of their last 27 games have been decided by one or two runs, and they're just 6-9 in those games. For the season, they're 3-12 in one-run games, which, as Molitor said, "is a big reason why we are where we are."

The Angels are 6-1 in June, trying to keep up in the fast-paced AL West race with Seattle and Houston.

"We're going to grind it out," Richards said. "We're going to find ways to win."

#### DROPPED DOWN

Struggling Twins third baseman Miguel Sano was moved to seventh in the batting order, the lowest starting spot of his major league career and only the second time this season he's been lower than third. Since coming off the disabled list on May 25, Sano is hitting just .189 in 53 at-bats with four walks and 24 strikeouts.

He does have 12 RBI over those 13 games, including a high chopper to third baseman Luis Valbuena in the second inning that bounced over him to earn a double ruling from the official scorer and drive in Max Kepler from first base. Sano, though, is batting .088 with two strikes (7 for 80) this season.

#### THE LONG ROAD

With Ohtani out, Albert Pujols was the designated hitter and Jose Fernandez played first base in his major league debut at age 30. He singled in his first at-bat. Fernandez didn't leave his native Cuba until 2015 and didn't join a major league organization until 2017, when he played mostly in Double-A in the Los Angeles Dodgers system. He signed with the Angels in January and was promoted from Triple-A Salt Lake on Friday with infielder Nolan Fontana.

#### LET'S GO CRAZY

The Twins held another "Prince Night," a heavily themed celebration of the Minneapolis-born-and-raised musician whose 60th birthday would have been on Thursday. The first 10,000 fans through the gates got inflatable plastic purple guitars. Eddie Rosario was spotted strumming one in the dugout as Grossman sent his drive to deep right field, and he leaped to his feet with the souvenir in hand as the ball cleared the wall.

#### TRAINER'S ROOM

Angels: Rookie infielder Kaleb Cowart also went to the DL with a sprained left ankle. He was hurt when he missed a step off the team bus upon arrival in Minnesota after an overnight flight. Cowart was called up to replace Simmons, who sprained his right ankle on Tuesday when he slipped walking down the dugout stairs.

Twins: First baseman Joe Mauer has plateaued in his recovery from concussion-like symptoms, missing his 20th straight game. Molitor said the team hasn't reached the point where a decision would be made about sending Mauer on a rehab assignment or not.

#### UP NEXT

Angels: LHP Tyler Skaggs pitches on Saturday afternoon. Skaggs (4-4, 3.27 ERA), who has surrendered two runs or fewer in nine of his 12 starts, took a no-decision against the Twins on May 11 after giving up two runs on six hits and two walks with seven strikeouts in six innings.

Twins: RHP Kyle Gibson takes the mound in the middle game of the series. Gibson (1-3, 3.54 ERA), who hasn't won in 12 turns since throwing six no-hit innings in his season debut on March 31, gave up two runs on three hits and four walks with six strikeouts in six innings of a no-decision against the Angels on May 12.

### **Trying to ease the burden, Twins manager Paul Molitor moves Miguel Sano down in the order** **Derek Wetmore | ESPN 1500 | June 8, 2018**

MINNEAPOLIS — Miguel Sano probably isn't used to showing up to the ballpark to see his name in the seventh spot in the batting order. Then again, Sano probably isn't accustomed to seeing a 40% strikeout rate next to his name, or a .202 batting average on his bubblegum card.

So the strikeout artist with mad power hit in the bottom-third in the Twins' batting order for the first time in his Major League career.

Perhaps it's a message — a challenge to Sano to get back on track with keeping his swings primarily in the strike zone. Perhaps it's just a pragmatic lineup decision designed to score the most runs on a Friday night against the Angels. (Sano was out of the lineup for Thursday's day game, and since returning from his 24 games on the disabled list the Twins' slugger has hit just .184/.245/.367 with 21 strikeouts and just 4 walks.)

Or perhaps, as Twins manager Paul Molitor explained, batting seventh could ease some of the mental burden that Sano could be placing on himself these days.

“[I've] just been thinking about it for awhile and how to help him try to get back on track,” Molitor said. “Not the first guy that's been dropped down around here. I just thought it was the time to give him a little bit different look in the lineup.

“How much hitting in the three hole and four hole has added to the burden, I can't really measure that. But if we can alleviate that to some degree — just try to look for something to get him going,” Molitor said.

Sano grounded a ball to the third baseman in his first plate appearance Friday, and that was kicked into short left field and Sano was credited with an RBI double. It looked like an error from my seat, but Sano — and the Twins — will no doubt take it. He struck out in his second plate appearance but I didn't see it as one of those non-competitive strikeouts that he's fallen into during his two weeks back from the DL. He was called out on strikes on a borderline pitch in the 6th inning, and then he struck out swining again in his final plate appearance.

We could nitpick individual things about each plate appearance, but the end results of 3 punchouts wouldn't change.

Molitor was asked before the game how Sano has handled the stretch from a mental standpoint, and Molitor was quick to point out Sano's work through this slump.

“Most players learn how to put up a good front,” Molitor said, “but he has to be frustrated. It seems like when guys are willing to put the work in to try to find whatever they've been missing — and he's been doing that. It just hasn't translated particularly well as of late.”

### **Heavy load may be catching up to Twins as bullpen falters again in loss to Angels** **Dan Hayes | The Athletic | June 9, 2018**

A beat-up and struggling Twins offense has put its pitching staff in a precarious position all season long. Over the past week, two of the biggest workhorses in the bullpen haven't been able to pitch the team out of those tight spots.

Ryan Pressly and Addison Reed have bailed out their teammates time and again this season. But a long week for the pair continued on Friday night as Pressly and Reed each yielded late home runs and the Twins couldn't recover in a 4-2 loss to the Los Angeles Angels at Target Field.

Pressly yielded a two-run homer to Ian Kinsler in the seventh that put the Angels ahead for good and Justin Upton took Reed deep in the eighth to provide insurance.

“Left a pitch hanging,” Pressly said. “He hit it. Made me pay for it. He put a good swing on it. I probably should’ve gone with another pitch, but it is what it is. I wanted it down. Obviously, I left it up and that’s the way it happened.”

The Twins have played 60 games this season. Friday was Pressly’s 33rd appearance, which is tied for fourth in the majors while Reed made his 30th, tied for 16th.

Both pitchers have reiterated in the last week that they feel fine. But they haven’t been able to keep pace with their strong early performances.

Through May 27, Reed had a 2.36 ERA in 26 2/3 innings with 27 strikeouts. Pressly was even better with a 2.00 ERA and 37 strikeouts in 27 innings. Since then, the pair has combined to allow 11 earned runs and six homers in 9 1/3 combined innings.

Pressly was one strike away from escaping the seventh inning with a 2-1 lead intact on Friday. But after his 1-2 fastball was fouled off, Pressly left a curveball up and Kinsler blasted it 411 feet for a go-ahead homer. Martín Maldonado doubled earlier in the inning to get the rally going.

“(Pressly’s) stuff is still good,” manager Paul Molitor said. “You don’t want to second-guess. He’s throwing pitches that he thinks he can get outs with. The 3-2 slider to Maldonado, double, and he made some pitches to get the second out. Kinsler (he) got ahead there. He threw him the 1-2 fastball and he fouled it off and he thought he could get him to chase a curveball, but he didn’t get it in the chase zone, he got it in the nitro zone.”

An inning later, Upton ripped a 1-1 fastball from Reed into the bullpen to help Los Angeles secure the win. After producing good contact early against Garrett Richards, the Twins offense went silent in the late innings against the Angels bullpen. Following Robbie Grossman’s go-ahead homer in the sixth, Twins hitters went 1-for-12 with a walk the rest of the way.

“I’m fine,” Pressly said. “Still throwing pretty hard and I’ve got control of all my stuff. I just made a bad pitch. I can’t do nothing about it now. You just have to tip your hat to him. I left it hanging.”

“You play a game of failure for a reason, you know? These guys are good. These are the best hitters in the world. If you make a mistake, they’re going to make you pay for it.”

Lynn sharp again

Lance Lynn blew a 95.3-mph fastball past a swinging Mike Trout to strand the bases loaded in the bottom of the second inning on Friday night. Lynn had plenty of confidence in his fastball and it was evident throughout a 105-pitch outing.

But after he continued a strong stretch by limiting Los Angeles to a run and four hits in six innings, Lynn suggested his higher usage of off-speed pitches has played a factor, too. After walking two and striking out seven, Lynn is 4-1 with a 3.05 ERA and 36 strikeouts in 38 1/3 innings pitched over his last seven starts.

According to BrooksBaseball.net, Lynn has combined to use his cut-fastball, curve and changeup about 22.5 percent of the time this season, the most since 2013.

“I never have any lack of confidence in my fastball ever,” Lynn said with a smile. “It doesn’t matter who is in the box. If they beat me, they beat me and that’s just the way I see it.”

Lance Lynn

Effective again on Friday, Lance Lynn is 4-1 with a 3.05 ERA in his last seven starts. (Credit: Harrison Barden/USA TODAY Sports)

“But I think if you go back and look at it, I threw a lot more breaking balls than I ever have, so that might have been the big thing that got me going (Friday).”

When Lynn needed it most, however, he gave Trout a heater to escape the second-inning jam. Lynn struck out Trout in each of the first two innings.

“It didn’t hurt my feelings any,” Lynn said with another smile. “He’s a good player, and to be able to beat him right there was a big win for us, because it could have been a huge inning.”

Mauer’s status the same

Joe Mauer has missed more than three weeks of action with a neck injury. Even so, Mauer has worked out on the field and taken batting practice for much of the homestand. But the Twins have remained cautious with Mauer, who also suffered concussion-like symptoms after a full-out dive in Southern California last month.

The Twins are still undecided on how to proceed with Mauer when he's ready to return to action.

"Just kind of hasn't changed much," Molitor said. "We've just been running him through workouts. ... Trying to get some consistency with where he's at. We're just going to allow that unfold as it needs to."

"We've talked about a lot of things. Mainly, we have to get to a point where we have to decide one way or another. We're not at that point."

Outfielder Byron Buxton (broken left toe) still hasn't resumed baseball activity. Buxton said Friday he has seen some improvement but isn't sure when he'll return to action. Molitor also said that pitcher Ervin Santana (sore middle finger) played catch on Thursday but is unlikely to throw off a mound until next Thursday.

**Dixie State baseball: Senior RHP Tanner Howell drafted by the Minnesota Twins**  
**Steve Johnson | Desert News | June 8, 2018**

Dixie State senior right-hander Tanner Howell was selected in the 35th round (No. 1,024 overall) of the 2018 Major League Baseball June amateur draft on Wednesday by the Minnesota Twins. Howell is the sixth DSU baseball player to be drafted in the program's 12-year NCAA era and is the 47th Dixie State player overall to be selected in the MLB draft since 1976.

Howell (6-foot-5; Boulder City, Nevada/Boulder City HS) served as the Trailblazers' closer this past season, appearing in 18 games with two starts and posted a 3-2 record with six saves, which ranked him third in the Pacific West Conference. Four of Howell's six saves came in multi-inning outings, while he finished third on the staff in strikeouts with 39 in 45.0 innings of work and held opposing hitters to a .262 average.

Howell completed his four years in a DSU uniform as the program's career leader in appearances (53) and finished tied for sixth in career saves (nine), while his six saves this season ranked 10th on DSU's single-season list.

This makes back to back years, and the fourth time in the last five years overall, that a Trailblazer pitcher has been selected in the Major League Baseball first-year player draft. Two of those pitchers, Bubba Blau (2014/24th round) and Dylan File (2017/21st round), were drafted by the Milwaukee Brewers, while former DSU hurler Porter Clayton (2015/19th round) was selected by the Tampa Bay Rays.

Dixie State wrapped up the 2018 season with a 25-25 overall record, which included a 21-19 mark and a tied for fourth place finish in its final season of PacWest play.