



Press Clips

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FROM THE OC REGISTER**How to meet Angels shortstop Andrelton Simmons at Pechanga Resort Casino**

By Stephanie Schulte

Baseball fans have a chance to rub shoulders with Angels shortstop and three-time Gold Glove recipient Andrelton Simmons at a meet-and-greet at Pechanga Resort Casino from 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 9.

The first 500 people at the free event will have the opportunity to have one item signed — excluding bats — and say hello to the baseball star inside the Pechanga Summit.

Simmons made his Major League debut in June 2012 and was named as the winner of the National League Platinum Glove Award as the best fielding player at any position in the league in 2013 before being traded from the Atlanta Braves to the Angels in 2015.

Guests attending the event must be at least 18 years old or accompanied by an adult. No posed pictures will be allowed.

For more information visit, pechanga.com.

One bad inning costs Andrew Heaney and Angels in loss to Rays

By Jeff Fletcher

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Andrew Heaney pitched very well in five innings. Unfortunately for him and the Angels, he pitched six innings.

A four-run fourth inning was too much to overcome for an Angels team playing without Mike Trout, and they lost 4-2 to the Tampa Bay Rays on Thursday afternoon, as the Angels got swept in the three-game series.

The fourth inning was a 30-pitch nightmare for Heaney, ironically just after a breezy nine-pitch third. Heaney gave up four hits and hit two batters.

“I just didn’t make some good pitches,” Heaney said. “Hit a couple of guys, which didn’t help. I tried to force some balls in there and was maybe a little too aggressive.”

Former Angel C.J. Cron came up with the bases loaded and no outs. Heaney got ahead of him 0-and-2, but then he threw a fastball well above the zone. His next one was lower, close enough it could have been called strike three, but he didn’t get the call. The next was right over the middle, and Cron banged it up the middle for a two-run single.

All the while, the Angels bullpen – which has been overworked lately – was silent. They needed Heaney to get deeper in the game, and he accommodated them by retiring six of the seven in the next two innings.

He also retired nine of 10 in the first three innings, making the fourth-inning all the more puzzling.

“They bunched their hits, bunched their offense in one inning and got four runs,” Manager Mike Scioscia said. “I thought Andrew threw the ball really well.”

One bad inning was enough to beat an Angels team playing with a short-handed lineup. The Angels managed just three hits, two by Justin Upton.

Trout was out with a jammed right wrist, and Shohei Ohtani didn’t start because the Rays were expected to use a lefty for most of the game.

The Angels have been one of the worst teams in the majors against lefties this year, and those numbers were mostly accumulated with right-handers Trout, Ian Kinsler and Martín Maldonado in the lineup.

The Angels didn’t even threaten until the seventh inning, when Upton led off with a single and went to third on an Albert Pujols double. They scored on back-to-back groundouts.

“We just didn’t have the continuity on the offensive side,” Scioscia said. “Justin and Albert got us going with a single and a double in the seventh, but those guys bent but didn’t break. They gave up a couple of runs but got out of the jam, and we weren’t able to keep pressing the action.”

Alexander: Does baseball need fixing? Here are some ideas

By Jim Alexander

Baseball, you might have heard, is in trouble. On life support, even.

Its target audience is aging. TV ratings are a shadow of what they used to be (although the same can be said for plenty of other programming). All of the devices meant to cater to millennials haven’t roused them from Fortnite, Snapchat, etc.

The reports of baseball’s demise are premature, but there are signs of concern, especially from within. Baseball people might be the most self-critical creatures in professional sports when it comes to examining their game and ways to improve it. That’s the genesis of pace-of-play initiatives and rumbling about infield shifts and *what in the world do we do to make Mike Trout as popular elsewhere in America as he is in Orange County?*

May I offer some suggestions? I mean, I’m sure if you follow the game you’ve thought of what you would do if you were Rob Manfred for a week or even a day.

Today it’s my turn, and here’s my platform:

1. TV exposure – widen it!

The Dodgers/Time Warner-Spectrum/DirecTV fiasco seemed to have been a tipping point in the relationship between baseball and cable networks, a warning of the dangers of overreaching ... but rumblings are that the Cubs are thinking of going a similar route and launching their own network in the Chicago area. That, too, could get ugly.

Here's a fix that solves two problems and should have been implemented years ago: Remove the "out-of-market" designation from the MLB.TV streaming service and the Extra Innings cable package. You pay, you get every single MLB game, home teams included, local commercials and all – including the Facebook Watch weekday games since there is no reason why that platform should have blanket exclusivity.

Opening up those platforms would give folks in L.A. who currently don't have Spectrum another option. Additionally, it would remove what are patently ridiculous coverage restrictions in various regions. For example, people in Hawaii – 2,500 miles or so from California – can't stream Dodgers, Angels, Giants, A's and Padres games. Those in Las Vegas are prevented from watching all of those plus the Diamondbacks. And those in Des Moines are shut out of the Cubs, White Sox, Royals, Twins, Brewers and Cardinals. Absurd, isn't it?

Another fix: Mandate that every MLB team put 40-50 games on local over-the-air TV, even if they're simulcasts with the cable network. As we've often said in This Space, the first lesson of business is to seek out potential customers instead of forcing them to find you, and that includes cord-cutters. What sense does it make to limit your audience for the benefit of someone else's bottom line?

2. Bring back the high strike.

With great fanfare, baseball reduced the strike zone 50 years ago from top of shoulders/bottom of knees to armpits/top of knees. Twenty years after that, with less fanfare, the top of the strike zone was lowered to the midpoint between the letters and the belt, meaning the top of the strike zone is now a couple of inches above the belly button.

Moving that upper boundary back to at least the pre-1988 limit will force hitters to swing the bat. The result: More action and a quicker pace.

3. The universal DH.

I never thought I'd write this, and people who have known me for a long time might be wondering what medication I've been taking. But it's time to either adopt one set of rules for both leagues, or go to a 28- or 29-man roster in the National League as pitching staffs continue to expand.

After all, what's more excruciating to watch? Pitchers hitting, aside from the Madison Bumgarner of the world? Or a position player pitching?

4. The electronic strike zone.

This is another innovation I didn't expect I'd agree with, but the extreme variance – i.e., inconsistency – in various umpires' strike zones suggests that its time has come.

Plus, a bonus: It will eliminate the emphasis on pitch framing. You can't steal strikes if you can't fool the electronic eye.

5. Banning, or limiting, shifts.

I know. This is the nuclear option. But a large part of the reason why baseball has become a Three True Outcomes sport – homer/walk/strikeout or nothing – has been data-driven defensive strategy, which has become so effective as to skew the game. Mandating two players on each side of second base would at least restore some of that balance.

6. Allow exuberance to flourish.

The complaints about how individual players are marketed – such as the apples/oranges question of why Trout can't be as popular as LeBron James – don't take into account the old-school "play the game the right way" mentality that remains so pervasive. If you are too flamboyant, show too much personality or otherwise violate the unwritten but sacred "code," someone in either your clubhouse or your opponent's will complain. (Or you'll get a fastball in the ribs.)

It's time to lighten up. Bat flips and celebrations are not a sin. Games in the World Baseball Classic between Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, where everyone celebrates and no one gets mad, are as much fun as anything you'll see on a baseball field. What can possibly be wrong with that?

And the more players' personalities emerge, on and off the field, the easier it is to market them. Feel free to check with people in the NBA offices about the way that works.

One final thought: It is popular to assume that younger people aren't so interested in baseball. I would argue that if you go to a game and sit in the stands, you'll see evidence to the contrary.

Mike Trout out of Angels lineup with a sore wrist, hopes to play on Friday

By Jeff Fletcher

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — For the first time all season, an injury kept Mike Trout out of the lineup.

Trout jammed his right wrist on a slide into third on Wednesday night, an injury that left him "pretty sore," he said, on Thursday morning. He said he underwent X-rays and an MRI exam that showed just inflammation.

Trout did not even touch a bat during Thursday's game, which was the first one all season he'd missed entirely. He said he's hoping to be able to play on Friday in Cleveland.

“Going to keep treating it,” he said. “Wake up tomorrow and hope it feels better. ... It’s definitely better than it was.”

Earlier this season, Trout hurt his right index finger, but he could still hit. He was limited to DH duty for nine straight games. He also had one day off, but he came in late in that game.

In the first inning on Wednesday night, Trout took off to steal third. Pitcher Tyler Glasnow threw to third and the ball was there well before Trout, so he tried to slide, feet first, around the tag.

He ended up sliding awkwardly, jamming his right wrist.

“I got my hand stuck under me,” he said. “It was kind of weird.”

Trout said he told Angels trainer Adam Nevala that it was sore. They taped it up and he stayed in the game. He went hitless in his last three at-bats.

“It was kind of weird.”

Trout said he told Angels trainer Adam Nevala that it was sore. They taped it up and he stayed in the game. He went hitless in his last three at-bats.

“I was definitely thinking about it,” Trout said. “I didn’t feel it at the plate, but on deck when I was warming up, I was feeling it with the weight on my bat.”

Last year Trout missed about seven weeks after tearing a ligament in his left thumb on a head-first slide. He now wears a protective glove on his left hand, but this time he hurt the other hand.

“They are joking that now I have to wear two,” Trout said.

ALSO

Shohei Ohtani was not in the lineup for a second straight day on Thursday. On Wednesday, the Angels wanted Trout to DH, and on Thursday, the Angels were expecting the Rays to use a lefty for the bulk of the innings, after their right-handed “opener.” Manager Mike Scioscia added that they are seeing all right-handers this weekend in Cleveland, so Ohtani will “get plenty of playing time.” ...

The Angels, who play this weekend in Cleveland, have lost 10 straight games at Progressive Field, dating to 2014. The Angels had lost 12 games in a row overall to the Indians before taking two of three from them in the first home series of the season. ...

The Angels have lost 20 of their last 27 road games, after starting the season with an 18-8 road record. Since the middle of June, they’ve won one road series, against the Baltimore Orioles. ...

Felix Peña was throwing in the bullpen late in Thursday’s game. The Angels relievers have been worked so much lately that Peña didn’t throw his normal between-starts bullpen session before the game. Instead, he waited until later so he would have been available to pitch in the game. Scioscia said he would have pitched the 10th or 11th inning. ...

Kole Calhoun did not win American League Player of the Month for July, despite hitting .322 with an 1.136 OPS and a league-leading 10 homers in July. Cleveland's Jose Ramirez won, instead. Ramirez hit .322 with an 1.164 OPS and eight homers.

UP NEXT

Angels (RHP Jaime Barria, 6-7, 3.74) at Indians (Mike Clevinger, 7-7, 3.43), Friday, 4 p.m., Fox Sports West, KLAA (830 AM)

FROM LOS ANGELES TIMES

Mike Trout misses game with injured wrist

By Mike Digiovanna

Mike Trout suffered a right-wrist injury on an awkward feet-first slide into third base Wednesday night and did not play in a 4-2 loss to the Tampa Bay Rays.

Trout, who started 108 of the team's first 109 games, 94 in center field and 14 at designated hitter, said he did not test the wrist by trying to swing a bat on Thursday. He received treatment all game. Though he said he felt better afterward, he seemed questionable for Friday night's game at Cleveland.

As difficult as it is for the Angels to absorb the loss of baseball's best all-around player for even one day, the news could have been worse: An X-ray and MRI test revealed only inflammation, with no broken bones or torn ligaments.

Trout missed seven weeks of the 2017 season after tearing a ligament in his left thumb on a head-first slide into second base.

"I'll get as much treatment as I can," Trout said. "I'll see how it goes, and hopefully I'll be back in there [Friday night]."

Trout walked in the first inning of Wednesday night's 7-2 loss to the Rays and stole second. He took off for third as Tyler Glasnow went into his motion but was thrown out when the Tampa Bay right-hander aborted his delivery and fired to third baseman Matt Duffy.

As Trout tried to avoid the tag by sliding to the inside of the bag, he banged his right wrist on the ground twice. Trout got the wrist taped, but the injury seemed to affect him the rest of the game.

He struck out looking in the fourth inning, popped out to third with two on in the fifth and popped out to first in the seventh.

"I was definitely thinking about it," Trout said. "I didn't really feel it at the plate, but I felt it on deck with a weight on my bat. We tried to do as much as we could throughout the game, but after the game, it was really sore."

Trout, who is batting .309 with a 1.083 on-base-plus-slugging percentage, 30 homers, 60 RBIs, 82 runs and 99 walks, has injured his right wrist on slides before, “but not this bad,” he said. “I woke up [Thursday] morning and it was still sore.”

A Groove Thing

Chipper Jones paid homage to a former Angels most valuable player and hitting coach in his Hall of Fame induction speech Sunday, the former Atlanta Braves switch-hitter crediting Don Baylor with laying the foundation for a 1999 season in which Jones won the National League MVP award.

Baylor led the Angels to their first American League West title in 1979, batting .296 with a .901 on-base-plus-slugging percentage, 36 homers, 33 doubles, 139 RBIs and 120 runs to win AL MVP honors. He was the team’s hitting coach in 2014 and 2015 and died in 2017.

“Everyone has that one hitting coach in their career that they just kind of click with,” said Jones, who hit .319 with a 1.074 OPS, 45 homers, 41 doubles, 110 RBIs, 116 runs, 25 stolen bases, 126 walks and 94 strikeouts in 1999. “For me, it was the late, great Don Baylor.

“I only got one year with Don, in 1999. We had a little sit-down in spring training, and he convinced me that I could be just as powerful from the right side as I was from the left side. All we did that year was go out and win the NL MVP. Groove, I miss you, buddy. Not a day goes by that I don’t miss our rigorous cage sessions.”

Short hops

Shortstop Andrelton Simmons made the defensive play of the game Thursday, diving to his left to smother Daniel Robertson’s grounder up the middle and, from his stomach, shoveling a two-hop flip to second baseman David Fletcher to force out Matt Duffy to end the inning. ... The Angels have lost their last 10 games in Progressive Field, where they’ll open a three-game series against the Indians Friday night. They are 2-12 in their last 10 games in Cleveland. ... Albert Pujols is five hits shy of becoming one of nine players in major league history with 1,000 hits in each league.

Rays complete sweep of Trout-less Angels with 4-2 win

By Mike Digiovanna

There was plenty of energy and electricity produced outside of Tropicana Field on Thursday, as scattered thunderstorms and heavy downpours rattled the roof of the domed stadium throughout the afternoon.

Inside, the atmosphere was much more placid.

The loss of their best hitter, Mike Trout, to a right wrist injury and the limited availability of Shohei Ohtani, a lethal left-handed bat, rendered the Angels virtually powerless against the Tampa Bay Rays, who completed a three-game sweep with a 4-2 victory before a crowd of 10,988.

The Angels managed only three hits and struck out 13 times against four Rays pitchers. Unable to find a pinch-hitting spot with runners on base or in scoring position for Ohtani, manager Mike Scioscia sent the slugger up to hit for rookie catcher Jose Briceno to lead off the eighth inning. Ohtani struck out.

"It didn't look like we expanded [the strike zone], but definitely, when we had some pitches to hit, we didn't put them in play hard," Scioscia said. "If those guys were chasing, it would be one thing, but they weren't."

The Angels had one hit and three base runners through six scoreless innings and were trailing 4-0 when they finally put a dent in Rays pitching in the seventh.

Justin Upton, who doubled in the first and walked in the fourth, led off with a single to right field and took third on Albert Pujols' double to left. Andrelton Simmons scored Upton and advanced Pujols to third with a groundout to second.

Jefry Marte followed with another RBI groundout to second to pull the Angels to within 4-2, but Kaleb Cowart struck out to end the inning. Rays right-hander Diego Castillo struck out two in a scoreless eighth, and Sergio Romo struck out two of three batters in a clean ninth for the save.

"We just didn't have the continuity on the offensive side," Scioscia said. "Justin and Albert got us going with a single and a double in the seventh, but those guys bent but didn't break. They gave up a couple of runs but got out of the jam, and we weren't able to keep pressing the action."

Angels left-hander Andrew Heaney registered quality starts in each of his previous five games, allowing 11 earned runs in 34 1/3 innings for a 2.88 ERA in that span, and he cruised through three scoreless, one-hit innings on Thursday, needing only nine pitches to retire the side in order in the third.

The fourth inning was a 30-pitch slog. Matt Duffy opened with a single to right field. Daniel Robertson singled to left-center. Tommy Pham was hit in the back foot by a full-count breaking ball to load the bases with no outs.

Heaney may have struck out C.J. Cron with a 1-and-2 fastball that was up and in but inside the strike-zone box on the television broadcast of the game. Umpire Alan Porter called it a ball. Cron, the former Angels slugger, grounded the next pitch into center field for a two-run single.

"I didn't see the replay," Heaney said of the 1-and-2 pitch to Cron. "I knew it was close.... A lot of balls get called inside the box, outside the box. I know it's a tough job they have. At that point in time, he called it a ball, and I have to make a better 2-2 pitch."

Both runners advanced on Jake Bauers' tapper to the first-base side of the mound. Pham scored on a wild pitch and Willy Adames' sacrifice fly to center field pushed the Rays' lead to 4-0.

"I don't think what happened that inning was because of a lack of confidence; it was a lack of execution," Heaney said. "It was making bad pitches at the wrong time, and putting guys on without making them earn it is gonna hurt you eventually."

Heaney, who gave up four runs and six hits in six innings Thursday, striking out five and walking none, has been dominant this season at home, where he is 6-2 with a 2.44 ERA in 10 starts. But Thursday's loss dropped him to 0-5 with a 5.30 ERA on the road.

His last win away from Angel Stadium was on Sept. 2, 2015, at Oakland, though it should be noted Heaney missed most of 2016 and 2017 because of elbow surgery.

The Rays employed a strategy they've used since mid-May, starting a reliever known as an "opener" instead of a traditional starting pitcher.

Right-hander Hunter Wood, who became 15th starting pitcher Tampa Bay has used this season, a franchise record, struck out five of the seven batters he faced in two scoreless innings.

Wood struck out David Fletcher and Kole Calhoun with 94-mph fastballs to open the game before allowing a double to Upton. Pujols grounded out to end the inning. Wood struck out the side in the second, Simmons with a curve and Luis Valbuena (94 mph) and Cowart (95 mph) with fastballs.

Left-hander Jalen Beeks replaced Wood to start the third and threw four hitless innings, striking out three, before faltering in the seventh.

Mike Trout is not in Angels' lineup today after injuring his right wrist Wednesday night

By Mike Digiovanna

Mike Trout suffered a right wrist injury on an awkward slide into third base Wednesday night and was not in the starting lineup for only the second time this season on Thursday.

As difficult as it is for the Angels to absorb the loss of baseball's best all-around player even for one day, the news could have been worse: An X-ray and MRI test revealed only inflammation. There were no broken bones or torn ligaments.

Trout, who missed seven weeks of the 2017 season after tearing a ligament in his left thumb on a head-first slide into second base, was listed as day to day.

"I'll get as much treatment as I can, and I might try to swing," Trout said before Thursday's series finale (10 a.m. Pacific start) against Tampa Bay. "I'll see how it goes, and hopefully I'll be back in there [Friday night at Cleveland]."

Trout walked in the first inning of Wednesday night's 7-2 loss to the Rays and stole second. He took off for third as Tyler Glasnow went into his motion but was thrown out when the Tampa Bay right-hander aborted his delivery and fired to third baseman Matt Duffy.

As Trout tried to avoid the tag with a feet-first slide into third, he banged his right wrist into the ground twice. Trout got the wrist taped, but the injury seemed to affect him the rest of the game. He struck out

looking in the fourth inning, popped out to third with two on in the fifth and popped out to first in the seventh.

"I was definitely thinking about [the wrist]," said Trout, who has started 94 games in center field and 14 at designated hitter this season. "I didn't really feel it at the plate, but I felt it on deck with a weight on my bat. We tried to do as much as we could throughout the game, but after the game, it was really sore."

Trout, who is batting .309 with a 1.083 on-base-plus-slugging percentage, 30 homers and 60 RBIs, has injured his right wrist on slides before, "but not his bad," he said. "I went to bed, woke up [Thursday] morning and it was still sore."

FROM ANGELS.COM

Angels' bats quiet sans Trout in loss to Rays

By Maria Guardado

With **Trout out of the lineup with a right wrist contusion**, the Halos mustered only three hits and struck out 13 times in a 4-2 loss to the Rays, sealing a three-game sweep at Tropicana Field.

Tampa Bay right-hander **Hunter Wood** pitched two scoreless innings to start the game before giving way to left-hander **Jalen Beeks**, who took a shutout into the seventh inning before giving up a pair of runs that brought the Angels within two.

Justin Upton led off the inning with a single and advanced to third on **Albert Pujols'** double to left field, putting runners on second and third with no outs. Beeks allowed both runners to score on groundouts by **Andrelton Simmons** and **Jefry Marte**, but he avoided further damage by striking out **Kaleb Cowart** to end the inning.

"We just didn't have the continuity on the offensive side," manager Mike Scioscia said. "Justin and Albert got us going with a single and a double in the seventh, but those guys bent but didn't break. Gave up a couple of runs, but got out of the jam and we weren't able to keep pressing the action."

Upton produced two of the Angels' three hits and walked, but the rest of the Trout-less lineup combined to go 1-for-27 against four Rays pitchers. Scioscia said Trout was not available off the bench, as the Halos want to give his wrist a chance to heal after being injured on an awkward slide into third base on Wednesday.

The loss extended the Angels' losing streak to four games and pushed them two games under .500 at 54-56. The Halos were held to four runs over their past two games after averaging 7.6 runs per game in their previous nine contests.

Left-hander **Andrew Heaney** took the loss after yielding four runs -- all in an erratic fourth inning -- on six hits over six innings. While Heaney has logged a 2.44 ERA in 10 starts at Angel Stadium this season, he has not felt quite at home on the road, posting a 5.30 ERA over 10 outings. His last road victory came on Sept. 2, 2015, at Oakland.

"They did a good job of staying up the middle," Scioscia said. "They bunched their hits, bunched their offense in one inning and got four runs. I thought Andrew threw the ball really well."

Heaney opened his outing with three scoreless innings and needed only nine pitches to breeze through a 1-2-3 third, but he hit a speed bump in the fourth, allowing the first four batters to reach base. After back-to-back singles by **Matt Duffy** and **Daniel Robertson**, Heaney hit **Tommy Pham** on the right foot to load the bases with no outs. **C.J. Cron** followed with a two-run single to center field that put Tampa Bay on the board.

Heaney coaxed a groundout from **Jake Bauers** before hitting **Carlos Gomez** on the left leg to reload the bases for the Rays. During an at-bat against **Willy Adames**, Heaney bounced a first-pitch breaking ball that squirted away from catcher **Jose Briceno** for a wild pitch, allowing Pham to score from third. Adames then plated another run with a sacrifice fly to center field, extending Tampa Bay's lead to 4-0.

Jesus Sucre subsequently singled to keep the inning alive, but Heaney induced a groundout from **Kevin Kiermaier** to bring the 30-pitch inning to an end.

"I don't think what happened that inning was because of a lack of confidence," Heaney said. "It was a lack of execution. It was making bad pitches at the wrong time. Putting guys on without making them earn it is going to hurt you eventually."

The Angels, meanwhile, put only three runners on base through the first six innings of the game. Upton doubled off Wood with two outs in the first, but Pujols grounded out to leave him stranded. Marte reached on an error to start the fifth, but he was erased from the basepaths after Cowart grounded into a 5-4-3 double play.

"We just didn't get anything going in the batter's box today," Scioscia said.

UP NEXT

The Angels will head to Cleveland and open a three-game series against the Indians on Friday at 4:10 p.m. PT at Progressive Field. Rookie right-hander **Jaime Barria** (6-7, 3.74 ERA) will start opposite righty **Mike Clevinger** (7-7, 3.43 ERA) in the series opener. Barria, who will make his first career appearance against Cleveland, earned a win on Saturday after holding the Mariners to two runs over six innings. The Halos have lost their past 10 games at Progressive Field.

Mike Trout day to day with wrist contusion

By Maria Guardado

ST. PETERSBURG -- **Mike Trout** was out of the Angels' starting lineup for only the second time all season, sitting out Thursday's series finale against the Rays with a right wrist contusion. Trout is considered day to day and said he is hoping to return to action Friday in Cleveland.

Trout tweaked his wrist in the first inning of the Angels' 7-2 loss on Wednesday after sliding awkwardly into third base on a stolen-base attempt. Trout tried to hook around the base to avoid a tag from third baseman **Matt Duffy**, and he put his right wrist down twice to brace himself as he slid.

"When I slid into third, I kind of got my hand stuck underneath me," Trout said. "When I came into the dugout, I just told [trainer Adam Nevala], 'I felt something in my wrist, felt like I just jammed it pretty bad.' We taped it, tried to do as much as we could throughout the game yesterday, but after the game, Nevy and the guys were like, 'It's going to be sore tomorrow.'"

X-rays and an MRI showed only inflammation in Trout's wrist, and manager Mike Scioscia said Trout would be evaluated before Thursday's game to see if he'd be available off the bench.

"It's really sore," Trout said. "We'll see how treatment goes, and I'll see if I can swing. I haven't even tried."

Last May, Trout tore a ligament in his left thumb on a headfirst slide into second base in Miami and missed six weeks. He now wears a protective glove on his left hand when he's on base, though he does not have any protective gear for his right hand.

"They're joking, now I have to wear two [gloves]," Trout said. "We'll see how that goes."

Trout, who turns 27 on Tuesday, is batting .309 with a 1.083 OPS, 30 home runs and 21 steals in 109 games for the Angels this season.

No-tani

Shohei Ohtani was also out of the Angels' lineup for the second consecutive day on Thursday. While right-hander **Hunter Wood** started for the Rays, left-hander **Jalen Beeks** was expected to pitch the bulk of the game. Ohtani, 24, is batting .170 with a .500 OPS in 59 plate appearances against lefties, compared to .296 with a .967 OPS in 140 plate appearances against righties.

"We're going to face a lot of righties in Cleveland and [against] Detroit," Scioscia said. "He'll get plenty of playing time."

Albert Pujols started at designated hitter, with **Luis Valbuena** manning first base on Thursday.

AL West: Moving forward post-Trade Deadline

By Greg Johns

With three teams lined up for what figures to be a fascinating stretch run, the American League West did its share of dealing prior to Tuesday's non-waiver Trade Deadline.

As expected, the Astros made a bold move to improve the back end of their bullpen, though not one many saw coming. The Mariners, behind ultra-active general manager Jerry Dipoto, made the most moves as they looked to bolster their chances of ending the longest playoff drought in the Majors. And the A's picked their spot wisely in trying to upgrade a bullpen that has helped make them the hottest team in baseball the past month.

Those three teams are among the top five in the AL, which figures to lead to a heated race to the finish. Even the fourth-place Angels have been above .500 most of the year, but they were far enough back to join the Rangers as "sellers" at the Deadline.

Here's how things played out across the AL West:

ANGELS

What they did at the Deadline: Traded catcher **Martin Maldonado** to the Astros for Class A left-hander **Patrick Sandoval** and second baseman **Ian Kinsler** to the Red Sox for Triple-A relievers **Ty Buttrey** and **Williams Jerez**

What it tells us: The Angels entered the 2018 season with heightened expectations after re-signing **Justin Upton** and adding **Shohei Ohtani**, **Zack Cozart** and Kinsler over the offseason, but a crush of injuries -- particularly to their pitching staff -- and inconsistency from the offense and bullpen torpedoed their postseason hopes. Facing sizeable deficits in both the division and Wild Card races, the Angels decided to flip two pending free agents for three pitching prospects they believe will make an impact at the Major League level in the near future.

What's the goal: With their playoff odds down to 0.4 percent, according to FanGraphs, the Angels' focus will likely turn to continuing to develop their core for next season. The departures of Kinsler and Maldonado creates openings for rookies **David Fletcher** and **Jose Briceno** to get extended looks at second base and catcher, respectively. Third baseman Taylor Ward, the Angels' **No. 8 prospect**, according to MLB Pipeline, is also knocking on the door and could help bolster the infield at Angel Stadium soon.

Big question: Will manager Mike Scioscia be back in 2019? Scioscia is in the final year of the 10-year, \$50 million contract he signed in January 2009, creating some uncertainty about his future with the organization. The longest-tenured manager in baseball, Scioscia led the Angels to their first and only World Series title in 2002, but the team has not won a postseason game since 2009 and is on pace to miss the playoffs for the fourth consecutive season. General manager Billy Eppler and Scioscia appear to have a good working relationship, but another disappointing finish for the Angels could prompt the front office to seek a different voice for next season.

ASTROS

What they did at the Deadline: Traded for Maldonado and relief pitchers **Ryan Pressly** (Twins) and **Roberto Osuna** (Blue Jays)

What it tells us: The club clearly was determined to address its biggest need by adding a pair of relievers, including an All-Star closer in Osuna. Manager AJ Hinch had to get creative in the postseason last year by using some starters in relief, but he's better positioned to close out games this time.

What's the goal: The defending champs are poised for a repeat run and should be among the favorites to win the World Series when October starts. The offense has been inconsistent, but they have the best starting rotation in the game and now have a retooled bullpen and catcher who controls the running game in Maldonado.

Big question: Who is going to start in left field in the playoffs? The Astros have struggled to get production in left field, and in July they recalled top hitting prospect **Kyle Tucker**, who struggled. They wanted to add a bat at the Deadline but couldn't get it done. **Marwin Gonzalez** started in left in the postseason last year, but he hasn't come close to putting up the kind of numbers he did in 2017. Perhaps they'll pick up a bat in August.

ATHLETICS

What they did at the Deadline: Acquired RHP **Jeury Familia** from the Mets on July 22

What it tells us: Though the A's were inactive on Tuesday, following an exhaustive search for more pitching help, they're thrilled with the addition of Familia, whose addition gives them a frightening trio at the back end of the bullpen with **Lou Trivino** and closer **Blake Treinen**, and further compensates for the lack of rotation stability.

What's the goal: Buyers at the Deadline for the first time since 2014, the surging A's are pressing forward with intentions of snagging a postseason spot. That means they'll keep an eye on the waiver wire ahead of the Aug. 31 deadline for postseason-eligible roster additions, in hopes of landing a player who could help increase these chances.

Big question: Though the A's possess an enviable bullpen, it remains to be seen just how long they can lean on their relief arms so heavily should the starters struggle to eat up innings.

MARINERS

What they did at the Deadline: Acquired center fielder **Cameron Maybin** from the Marlins and relievers **Zach Duke** (Twins), **Adam Warren** (Yankees) and **Sam Tuivailala** (Cardinals)

What it tells us: Dipoto likes the nucleus of a team that put together a surprisingly strong first half but knew he needed to provide reinforcements in the bullpen and to an offense that has struggled of late. Maybin provides a veteran presence and offensive upgrade in center and assures that **Dee Gordon** will be staying at second base once **Robinson Cano** returns from his 80-game suspension.

What's the goal: This is a club that knows it's in strong position to make the playoffs for the first time since 2001, which is why Dipoto continues dealing prospects for Major League upgrades. The Mariners aren't normally big on rental players, but Maybin, Duke and Warren are all pending free agents acquired to help make the postseason push.

Big question: Dipoto chose to stick with his current rotation, which includes a struggling **Felix Hernandez** and a trio of starters -- **Marco Gonzales**, **Wade LeBlanc** and **James Paxton** -- who will soon

be pushing well past their previous season's innings workloads. Last year, Dipoto acquired **Mike Leake** during the August waiver trade period and might have to go that route again if anyone in the current group falters.

RANGERS

What they did at the Deadline: Traded **Cole Hamels** to the Cubs for right-handers **Eddie Butler**, Rollie Lacy and a player to be named. Traded **Keone Kela** to the Pirates for lefty **Taylor Hearn** and a player to be named. Traded **Jake Diekman** to the D-backs for right-hander Wei-Chieh Huang and a player to be named

What it tells us: Everybody knew the Rangers would be sellers. This is a team looking two to three years into the future, and their main goal right now is to infuse their farm system with as much young talent as possible.

What's the goal: The Rangers added five young pitchers over five trades in July and are still owed three players to be named. They are heavily restocking their Minor League pitching with the hope of being able to develop their own over the next few years. The Rangers did so at the expense of the rest of this season and possibly 2019 as well.

Big question: **Adrian Beltre's** status remains a mystery. The Rangers will put him through waivers in August. If he is claimed, the Rangers could try to work out a deal. If he clears, he is in the same situation as he was at the Trade Deadline. He could be traded if he has a meaningful role on a legitimate World Series contender and the Rangers get value in return.

FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beeks gets 1st win, Rays sweep Angels with 4-2 win

By Mark Dittler

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Jalen Beeks had quite a turnaround.

Beeks got his first major league win after a disastrous performance in his Tampa Bay debut, C.J. Cron had a two-run single and the Rays completed a three-game sweep by beating the Los Angeles Angels 4-2 on Thursday.

Poor play at Tropicana Field wasn't the only concern for the Angels, who have lost four straight overall. Star Mike Trout didn't play because of a bruised right wrist and is listed as day to day. The two-time MVP was hurt when he slid into third base during a stolen base attempt on Wednesday night.

"I caught my hand," Trout said. "Kind of weird. Felt like I just jammed it pretty bad. We taped it and tried to do as much as we could during the game (Wednesday). But when I woke up it was pretty sore."

Angels manager Mike Scioscia said Trout, who underwent treatment during the game, was not available off the bench.

“We’ll take a look at it tomorrow and see what we have,” Scioscia said.

Beeks (1-1), the second pitcher on a bullpen day, allowed two runs and two hits in five innings. The rookie left-hander, acquired from Boston for right-hander Nathan Eovaldi on July 25, gave up eight runs and 10 hits over 3 1/3 innings against Baltimore in his Tampa Bay debut Saturday.

“I think my stuff played a little better today just because I was attacking, I was in the zone more,” Beeks said after his fourth career major league appearance. “A lot of pitches I had in the last outing weren’t even close, weren’t even competitive pitches.”

Beeks struck out four. Both hits came during his final inning.

“It’s amazing what throwing the ball over the plate and throwing strikes can do,” Rays manager Kevin Cash said.

Tampa Bay’s Hunter Wood struck out five and allowed one hit over the first two innings. Diego Castillo and Sergio Romo, who worked the ninth for his 13th save, completed the three-hitter.

The Rays are 20-4 (.833) at Tropicana Field since June 11, the best home record in the majors during that stretch.

Andrelton Simmons and Jefry Marte had run-scoring grounders in the seventh for Los Angeles, which has lost 20 of 27 away from home after starting the season 18-8 on the road.

Cron drove in two with a single during a four-run fourth off Andrew Heaney (6-7). The Rays were aided by two batters hit by pitches and a wild pitch that allowed Tommy Pham to score from third.

Pham, hit by a pitch from Heaney in the fourth, left after the sixth with a bruised right foot. X-rays were negative and the outfielder is day to day.

Heaney allowed four runs and six hits in six innings and dropped to 0-5 in 10 road starts.

“I don’t think it was a lack of confidence, just a lack of execution and making bad pitches at the wrong time,” Heaney said. “Obviously putting guys on without letting them earn it is going to hurt you eventually.”

OHTANI OUT

Angels designated hitter Shohei Ohtani was out of the lineup for the second straight game, in part because regular first baseman Albert Pujols got a start as the DH on Thursday. Ohtani struck out as a pinch-hitter in the eighth and has five hits in his last 37 at-bats.

MILESTONE NEARING

Pujols doubled in four at-bats and has an eight-game hitting streak. He is five hits away from becoming the ninth player to collect at least 1,000 hits in both the AL and NL. Those on the list include Dave Winfield, Frank Robinson and Vladimir Guerrero.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Rays: Cash said ace Blake Snell (left shoulder fatigue) will rejoin the rotation on Saturday night. The left-hander's last outing came in the All-Star Game on July 17th.

UP NEXT

Angels: RHP Jaime Barria (6-7) will face Cleveland RHP Mike Clevinger (7-7) on Friday night in the opener of a three-game series. Los Angeles has lost its last 10 road games against the Indians.

Rays: RHP Ryne Stanek (1-3) will start a bullpen game against Chicago White Sox RHP Lucas Giolito (7-8) on Friday night to begin a three-game set.

Angels' Mike Trout misses loss due to bruised right wrist

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Los Angeles Angels star Mike Trout missed Thursday's 4-2 loss to the Tampa Bay Rays because of a bruised right wrist.

Trout got hurt while sliding during a stolen base attempt of third in the first inning of Wednesday night's 7-2 defeat to the Rays.

"When I slid into third base, I caught my hand," Trout said. "Kind of weird. Felt like I just jammed it pretty bad. We taped it and tried to do as much as we could during the game yesterday. But when I woke up it was pretty sore."

Trout had X-rays on Wednesday and an MRI was planned for Thursday.

"I didn't really feel it at the plate, but on deck warming up I could feel it with the weight of the bat," he said.

Angels manager Mike Scioscia said Trout underwent treatment Thursday's game and was not available.

Los Angeles opens a three-game series Friday night at Cleveland.

"We'll take a look at it tomorrow and see what we have," Scioscia said.

A two-time AL MVP who turns 27 next week, Trout is hitting .309 with 30 homers, 60 RBIs and 21 stolen bases in 109 games.

Angels CF Mike Trout out of lineup vs. Rays with sore wrist

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Los Angeles Angels star Mike Trout is out of the lineup against the Tampa Bay Rays because of a sore right wrist.

Angels manager Mike Scioscia says the center fielder “tweaked” the wrist while sliding during a stolen base attempt of third base during the first inning in Wednesday night’s 7-2 loss to the Rays.

Scioscia says Trout’s status off the bench for Thursday’s game was still being evaluated.

Trout said that X-rays on Wednesday were negative and that he would have an MRI exam Thursday.

Trout is hitting .309 with 30 homers, 60 RBIs and 21 stolen bases in 109 games.

FROM CBS SPORTS

Indians return home with OF Martin for series vs. Angels

CLEVELAND -- Leonys Martin, Cleveland's new center fielder, is expected to make his debut before the home fans Friday night as the Indians open a three-game series against the Los Angeles Angels.

By STATS

CLEVELAND -- Leonys Martin, Cleveland's new center fielder, is expected to make his debut before the home fans Friday night as the Indians open a three-game series against the Los Angeles Angels.

Martin was acquired by the Indians in a trade with Detroit on July 31. In 303 at-bats with the Tigers, Martin hit .251 with nine home runs and 29 RBIs.

Cleveland's outfield has been decimated by injuries and poor performance this season. Martin hopes to give the team a boost both offensively and defensively.

"I'm really happy to be here," Martin said. "Hopefully, I can come in and help us win and push with the boys to try to get a ring."

The left-handed-hitting Martin is expected to be the Indians' everyday center fielder.

"This is the type of team that fights you for nine innings," he said. "They have one of the best rotations in the league. Those guys are really tough. I'm glad I don't have to face them anymore."

Angels center fielder Mike Trout is questionable for Friday's game. Trout sat out the Angels' 4-2 loss Thursday at Tampa Bay, their fourth loss in a row, with a right wrist contusion. He hurt the wrist during an awkward slide into third base in Wednesday's game.

"When I slid into third, I kind of got my hand stuck underneath me," Trout told MLB.com. "I felt something in my wrist, felt like I jammed it pretty bad."

X-rays of the wrist revealed inflammation. Trout is considered day to day, and may or may not be available for Friday's game.

The Indians on Friday may finally get back all-star reliever Andrew Miller, who has been on the disabled list since May 26 with right knee contusion. On Monday and Tuesday, Miller pitched on a rehab assignment with Triple-A Columbus and had no issues. He could be activated Friday or sometime during the weekend.

The return of Miller will be a welcome sight for the Indians, whose bullpen struggles resulted in the Indians trading their top minor league prospect, catcher Francisco Mejia, to San Diego for relievers Brad Hand and Adam Cimber.

Hand was the Padres' closer before joining the Indians, who will soon have Hand, Miller and closer Cody Allen available for late-inning assignments.

"He's a really good pitcher, and a lot like Andrew and Cody, he likes to pitch, so we're going to take advantage of that," Indians manager Terry Francona said of Hand.

Friday's pitching matchup will be Indians right-hander Mike Clevinger (7-7, 3.43 ERA) vs. Angels right-hander Jaime Barria (6-7, 3.74).

Clevinger's last start was a 2-1 loss to Detroit on July 28, a game in which he pitched five innings, allowing two runs and five hits, with eight strikeouts and one walk.

Clevinger hasn't won since July 1. In four starts since then, he is 0-4 with a 4.94 ERA. Clevinger was originally drafted by the Angels in the fourth round of the 2011 June draft. He was traded to Cleveland in August 2014 for reliever Vinnie Pestano.

In his first start of this season, on April 2, Clevinger beat his former team 6-0, pitching 5 1/3 scoreless innings on four hits with five strikeouts and two walks. In four career starts vs. the Angels, Clevinger is 3-0 with a 2.95 ERA.

Barria will be making his first career appearance against Cleveland. Barria's last start was an 11-5 win over Seattle on July 28, when he pitched six innings, allowing two runs and five hits with two strikeouts and no walks.

The Angels have lost their last 10 in a row in Cleveland.

FROM CNBC.COM

This could be MVP Mike Trout's next career when he's done playing baseball

By Tom Huddleston Jr.

At 26 Los Angeles Angels center-fielder Mike Trout already has a career that inspires envy.

The baseball superstar is widely regarded as one of the best (if not the best) players in his sport. He is already a seven-time All-Star and a two-time MLB Most Valuable Player, and he is currently earning more than \$34 million per year. But, even though Trout is making millions of dollars as a professional athlete, he's still enamored with another career path where he'd earn considerably less money.

You see, Trout is a self-professed weather nerd. He reportedly owns his own weather balloon, he follows dozens of weather-related accounts on social media and often posts about the forecast wherever he's playing. Trout's wife has even complained on Twitter that the baseball player is "about one weather map photo short of me muting his text message alerts."

Trout is very open about his love of weather reports and his own hobby of tracking big storm forecasts across various TV and online sources, including the Weather Channel. In January 2016, Trout tweeted a video of snow falling near his New Jersey home (he grew up in Millville, New Jersey) to the Weather Channel meteorologist Jim Cantore.

In fact, Trout's obvious obsession with the weather has inspired some of his fans online to wonder if the millionaire athlete would really rather be a meteorologist himself. Well, Trout doesn't exactly seem like he's ready to trade in his spikes for a raincoat and microphone just yet. But, Trout has said he'd like to try his hand at delivering a weather report on TV.

"I would love to try it," Trout said of trying his hand at reporting the weather in a 2015 interview with Yahoo Sports.

In the past couple of years, Trout has even come close to getting his wish. The baseball star called in to the Weather Channel during a 2016 snowstorm to give Cantore an on-air report on how much snow had fallen in his area of New Jersey.

"We probably got about a foot and it's coming down steady right now," Trout said during the segment. "The wind's just what the worst part about it is. It's blowing hard."

"I love it. I love the weather," Trout also confided in Cantore during the interview, in which the baseball player also admitted that he had been getting up once an hour during the night before to measure the snowfall.

Trout also told Yahoo Sports that his interest in weather patterns emerged at a young age because he wanted to track storms so he would know if school might get cancelled. "I was young, and I always wanted to get off school," Trout said. "So I'd ask, 'When's the snowstorm coming?'" (As a baseball player, Trout's hobby also makes sense, considering that much of his work takes place outdoors.)

In July, Trout even gave a live weather report from the dugout of the MLB All-Star Game, telling FOX reporter Ken Rosenthal that he expected the rain to stay away from the game in Washington, D.C.

Of course, if Trout is thinking about a career change, he'll likely have to take a major pay cut. The average salary for a meteorologist is roughly \$92,000 per year, according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. That's less than 0.3 percent of Trout's current salary.

Meanwhile, Trout isn't the only great athlete to take an interest in the weather. Michael Jordan said in 2015 that he "always wanted to be a weatherman" if he hadn't played basketball. "If I wasn't playing basketball or baseball, I was going to tell you what the weather was going to be like tomorrow," he said.

FROM THE SPORTSTER

One Unique Thing Fans Didn't Know Each MLB Ballpark Has*

Every MLB ballpark has one thing you can't get anywhere else which makes it a must for hardcore baseball fans to go to each one at least once.

By Paul Silano Jr.

Unlike most professional sports stadiums, MLB stadiums are very unique in all the activities there are to do there. NFL stadiums usually have events outside the stadium during the tailgates, but that's pretty common throughout most NFL stadiums. In the MLB, each stadium has many different activities, history and food offerings.

Many people actually have it on their bucket list to visit every MLB stadium because of how diverse they are. Every other sport mandates a certain size for the field of play, and every stadium has to abide by those rules. In baseball, most fields are different sizes and look completely different. You can always tell the difference between MLB stadiums, even if you are not a die-hard fan.

Since many new stadiums are rolling out, there are stadiums with many cool assets to it, while others aren't very interesting. There may be some organizations that don't find a need to include anything else to the stadium, since everyone is supposed to be there to watch a baseball game. But unlike other sporting events, some people just come to relax and enjoy the ballpark.

Baseball has many pauses in the sport, and is not as quick paced as every other sport. Many fans believe skipping innings isn't a big deal, because the end result is all that matters. Plus, since it's America's national past time, it's a tradition for many families to head to the ball park. So prepare to be amazed with what all these beautiful stadiums have to offer you and your family when you go.

18 Los Angeles Angels - Nacho Helmets

Finally, we have our first food item on the list. At Angel Stadium, you can get loaded nachos inside a replica Los Angeles Angels helmet. How great is that? You get a souvenir, along with some great food.

Many ball clubs do this with ice cream, but nachos are a much better deal.

You get an actual meal that can possibly fill you up, and then take home a souvenir from the ball park. If you ever visit Angel Stadium, don't eat before you go in.

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