



Press Clips

(June 7, 2018)

CLIPS CONTENT

FROM THE OC REGISTER (PAGE 3)

- **Angels hold on to win after Shohei Ohtani leaves with a blister**
- **Angels' Andrelton Simmons out indefinitely with a sprained ankle**
- **Five things we learned from the 2018 Major League Baseball draft**

FROM THE LOS ANGELES TIMES (PAGE 8)

- **Angels hang on without Ohtani in 4-3 win over the Royals**
- **Angels need another Mike Trout to hit in front of Mike Trout**
- **Simmons goes on DL after rolling ankle on dugout stairs**

FROM ANGELS.COM (PAGE 13)

- **Halos slug way to sweep after blister lifts Ohtani**
- **Ohtani exits after four innings with finger blister**
- **1st pick Adams key to dynamic Halos Draft class**
- **Simmons to DL with Grade 2 ankle sprain**

FROM THE ATHLETIC (PAGE 19)

- **Oh, No: Shohei Ohtani makes early exit against Royals due to blister on pitching hand**

FROM BLEACHER REPORT (PAGE 20)

- **Shohei Ohtani Leaves Game vs. Royals with Blister on Right Middle Finger**
- **Andrelton Simmons Placed on 10-Day DL with Ankle Injury Suffered on Dugout Steps**

FROM MLB TRADE RUMORS (PAGE 22)

- **Latest on Andrelton Simmons, Shohei Ohtani**

FROM DEADSPIN (PAGE 22)

- **Curse This Shohei Ohtani Blister**

FROM KYODO NEWS (PAGE 23)

- **Baseball: Blister forces Shohei Ohtani out after 4 innings in Angels' win**

FROM DES MOINES REGISTER (PAGE 24)

- **Cedar Rapids native Connor Van Scoyoc drafted by the Angels**

FROM THE OC REGISTER**Angels hold on to win after Shohei Ohtani leaves with a blister**

By Jeff Fletcher

ANAHEIM — Two days in a row, the Angels have gotten a win with an asterisk.

The Angels' 4-3 victory over the Kansas City Royals on Wednesday night included Shohei Ohtani walking off the mound with a recurrence of his blister problem.

It's unclear whether Ohtani will be able to make his next start, but Manager Mike Scioscia said this blister didn't look as bad as the one in April, and he didn't miss a start then. The Angels did not make Ohtani available to comment after the game.

The Ohtani blister came a night after the Angels lost Andrelton Simmons, who sprained his ankle slipping on the dugout steps. Simmons was placed on the disabled list.

"You never want to see your guys go down," said Ian Kinsler, whose two-run homer snapped a sixth-inning tie. "You gotta keep playing. The game doesn't stop. We don't get to wait for Simba to come back or for Ohtani's blister to heal or whatever. We just need to keep working."

While there was certainly some frustration with Ohtani's blister, at least the Angels were able to pull out their fourth straight victory, thanks to Kinsler's fourth homer in the last nine games and Justin Upton's insurance solo shot in the seventh. It was Upton's third homer in the last six.

That provided enough cushion to withstand Justin Anderson giving up two runs in the eighth before Blake Parker recorded a four-out save. The three relievers before Anderson – Jim Johnson, Cam Bedrosian and José Álvarez – had all worked scoreless innings.

They were summoned to work early because Ohtani lasted only four innings before coming out of the game.

Ohtani had blister issues periodically in Japan, and he'd also dealt with one during his April 17 start against the Boston Red Sox. Ohtani was pulled after two innings in that game, with the blister clearly affecting his command.

Ohtani ended up making his next start in Houston a week later, on his normal schedule. Ohtani said after that game he'd formed a callus, and generally, that solved the blister issues for the rest of the season. There had been no indication of a problem since, and he'd posted a 2.16 ERA in his previous four starts.

He came out looking normal in this start, with his fastball hitting 99 mph in the first inning, and he didn't allow a run in the first three innings.

In the fourth, though, he gave up a single to Mike Moustakas, who took second when Ohtani missed badly with a pitch that catcher Martín Maldonado couldn't handle. Moustakas scored on a two-out single, and Ohtani would walk two more hitters in the inning before getting the third out.

"When he started missing with his fastball all the way across the strike zone, I knew something was going on," Maldonado said.

Scioscia said Ohtani had shown them his finger in the dugout between innings, and "you could see the beginnings of (a blister) and we didn't want it to get past that."

They sent him out to warm up to start the fifth, but Scioscia said they could tell from his warmups that it was bothering him. Trainer Eric Munson was summoned to the mound. After a short discussion with Manager Mike Scioscia and Munson, Ohtani came out of the game, clearly looking frustrated.

At that point, the Angels hitters were frustrated too. Without Simmons, Ohtani or Albert Pujols, who has a sore knee, the Angels were struggling to convert their scoring opportunities.

They left the bases loaded in the second and left two on in the third. In the fifth, they scored one on back-to-back doubles by Kinsler and Zack Cozart, but they had the bases loaded with one out and couldn't get any more.

They finally got the lead on the two homers, and they needed all the runs. Anderson walked two and threw a critical wild pitch in the eighth, allowing the Royals to cut the lead to 4-3.

Angels' Andrelton Simmons out indefinitely with a sprained ankle

By Jeff Fletcher

ANAHEIM — Andrelton Simmons won't be back as quickly as he'd hoped in the immediate aftermath of the sprained ankle he suffered slipping on the dugout steps.

The Angels placed Simmons on the disabled list with a grade 2 right ankle sprain. Simmons, who had hoped to miss just a couple days, now will have to miss at least 10 days, and probably more.

"There's no timeline yet, but it's certainly going to take a little bit of time," Manager Mike Scioscia said. "He's going to go on the DL and the medical staff will evaluate this every day and we'll see where it leads."

General Manager Billy Eppler also wouldn't give a timetable.

Simmons has undergone X-rays and an MRI, which at least confirmed that he doesn't need surgery. After slipping just before the first pitch on Tuesday, he tried to play for two innings before coming out of the game. He was still walking with crutches when he arrived in the clubhouse on Wednesday.

"It's a little better," he said. "I'm planning to be back on my feet and moving around as soon as possible, but we've got to play it smart."

Zack Cozart, who had been a shortstop his entire professional career until signing to play third for the Angels, will become the everyday shortstop in Simmons' absence.

Luis Valbuena, Jefry Marte and Kaleb Cowart could all see some time at third. Cowart had been optioned to Triple-A on Tuesday afternoon. Hours after he arrived in Salt Lake City on Tuesday night, he was told he was coming back on Wednesday morning.

Defensively, the Angels will miss Simmons, but Cozart is still an above-average shortstop, so the drop-off should be negligible in the short term. Offensively, however, Simmons was one of the hottest hitters on the team, batting .330. He is a top candidate for the All-Star team.

"He's an important guy for us," Scioscia said. "The way it happened is tougher to stomach than anything, just coming down the steps. But it happens."

PUJOLS OUT

Albert Pujols has a sore left knee, so the Angels gave him back-to-back days off on Tuesday and Wednesday. He will get the scheduled day off on Thursday before returning to the lineup on Friday, Scioscia said.

"We're going to manage it," Scioscia said. "I don't think it's anything that we can't take care of with a little bit of rest here and there. We want Albert to get his looks in the batter's box. He's starting to get comfortable swinging the bat."

Pujols, 38, has played 35 games at first base, compared with 21 at DH so far this year. He played a total of 34 games at first the last two years combined. The Angels felt that he was healthy enough this year to handle the increased defensive workload, which was also necessary for them to get Shohei Ohtani's bat in the lineup at DH.

Pujols is hitting .252 with a .691 OPS, slightly better than he hit last year.

END OF THE DRAFT

The Angels completed the 40-round draft by taking 25 college players, 14 high schoolers and one intriguing selection who wasn't playing at any school.

Right-handed pitcher Cristian Reyes, the Angels' 21st-round pick, had reportedly been enrolled at Florida Memorial University but did not play because of eligibility concerns.

Reyes was playing in the Federal League, an amateur league that bills itself as a place where undrafted players get exposure and pro opportunities. Reyes, 23, is 6-foot-5, 220 pounds and has reportedly hit 96 mph with his fastball. The Angels found him at an open tryout, scouting director Matt Swanson said.

The Angels also took 29 pitchers. Swanson said it wasn't a conscious effort to focus on pitching, just how their draft board lined up with the available players.

The Angels took college seniors with their sixth- through 10th-round picks. Those players typically sign for minimal bonuses because they do not have the leverage of going back to school, so the Angels will have the ability to exceed the slot value to sign other players.

UP NEXT

Angels (Garrett Richards, 4-4, 3.25) at Twins (Lance Lynn, 4-4, 5.46), Friday, 5 p.m., Fox Sports West, KLAA (830 AM)

Five things we learned from the 2018 Major League Baseball draft

By J.P. Hoornstra

A total of 1,214 players were selected in this year's MLB amateur draft. Few will ever play baseball at the major league level, but their individual stories paint a picture about where the sport is today. One player whose name wasn't called this week tells a story on its own.

Here are five things we learned from the 2018 draft:

1. NOBODY WANTED LUKE HEIMLICH

It's easy to see why the two-time Pac-12 Pitcher of the Year is a free agent.

Heimlich, a senior at Oregon State, sat down for interviews with Sports Illustrated and the New York Times in the past month. Each time, Heimlich denied committing the crime to which he once confessed in writing: molesting his then 6-year-old niece when he was 15.

It didn't take 30 Ivy League-educated front offices to realize the problem with drafting Heimlich: Many fans would feel conflicted about celebrating a felon's on-field accomplishments. Some fans are still torn when processing the achievements of Aroldis Chapman, Jose Reyes and others who have been disciplined under MLB's domestic violence policy. Expecting fans to sort through their feelings about Heimlich is a bridge too far.

Heimlich's advocates believed he has been punished enough. As part of his guilty plea, Heimlich was ordered to serve two years' probation and register as a sex offender.

But each baseball team is a private, profit-making enterprise with an image to protect. There is no such thing as double jeopardy in the court of public opinion. Perhaps Heimlich can begin his career overseas or in an independent league. Then MLB can decide whether his future throwing pitches outweighs his past.

2. AWKWARD INTRODUCTION

Dillon Paulson won't have to drive far to meet with the team that drafted him. The USC first baseman was selected by the Dodgers in the 13th round of Major League Baseball's amateur draft on Wednesday.

Meeting the Dodgers' right fielder might be awkward. In October 2014, Paulson used a gay slur in reference to Yasiel Puig on his Twitter account. It was the only instance of that slur, or a slur against Puig, on Paulson's Twitter timeline.

After calling his name, the Dodgers advised Paulson to look through his Twitter timeline and delete anything that could be construed as offensive. Paulson said he didn't remember what he was thinking at the time of the tweet, but he was embarrassed to see it Wednesday.

"Being young and dumb is not an excuse," he said in a telephone interview. "I wish it never went out. I was young, thinking it was funny. It's obviously not funny. It's not the way I want to represent myself. Not how I want to carry myself."

A Dodgers spokesperson said the social media accounts of prospective draft picks are monitored as a general policy. This tweet, however, was missed.

3. WHAT'S IN A NAME?

This year's draft produced an amazing crop of names.

Make room in your heart (if not your jersey collection) for the following: A.J. Bumpass (Reds), Alex Royalty (Indians), Hunter Speer (Dodgers), Cash Gladfelter (Mariners), Owen Sharts (Rangers), Jax Biggers (Rangers), Cre Frinrock (Blue Jays) and Rayne Supple (Rockies).

The best moment of the draft? That would be in the 35th round when Toronto announced its pick, Damiano Palmegiani, as "Chicken Palmegiani."

4. PLAYING MULTIPLE SPORTS IS A GOOD THING

Unless you count Tim Tebow, who is hitting .242 for the New York Mets' Double-A affiliate, we haven't seen a star baseball/football crossover since the days of Deion Sanders and Bo Jackson.

Kyler Murray could change that. The Oakland A's took Murray, a quarterback at the University of Oklahoma, with the No. 9 overall draft pick. His signing bonus guarantees close to \$5 million according to one report and will allow him to play quarterback during the next school year.

Murray appears to be sold on baseball long-term. If it doesn't work out, he might have a good fallback option.

Each year, it isn't hard to find high draft picks who don't specialize in baseball. Michael Grove, the Dodgers' second-round draft pick, played hockey and football during the offseason. John Rooney, the Dodgers' third-round pick, played basketball.

And yet, each year, more parents are sold on the idea of travel teams and year-round baseball as a sure ticket to the major leagues. Facts suggest otherwise.

5. HAVING A RELATIVE WHO PLAYED PRO BALL IS GOOD, TOO

The Dodgers snagged a third-generation professional in the 34th round: North Florida University pitcher Austin Drury. His uncle (Ronald Kelly) and grandfather (Roy Kelly) both played minor league baseball.

The Cardinals got another third-generation pick in the 36th round, UC Irvine third baseman Cole Kreuter. His father is veteran catcher Chad Kreuter, and his grandfather is the Anteaters' retiring coach Mike Gillespie. (Does that make Gillespie the Kreuter recruiter?)

Drury and Kreuter were just the tip of the iceberg. The Houston Astros drafted the brothers of two of their own players, Carlos Correa (C.J. Correa) and Alex Bregman (A.J. Bregman). The A's drafted Austin Piscotty (brother of Stephen), while the Marlins drafted Osiris Johnson (cousin of Jimmy Rollins).

Other players were drafted simply to make the rest of us feel old: the Tigers' Kody Clemens (son of Roger), the Cardinals' Mateo Gil (son of Benji), the Blue Jays' Griffin Conine (son of Jeff), the Brewers' Aaron Ashby (nephew of Andy), the Giants' George Bell Jr. (son of George Sr.), and the Giants' Benito Santiago Jr. (son of Benito).

Only one player was drafted to make the rest of us feel young: Beverly Hills High second baseman Cannon King. He is the teenage son of 84-year-old talk-show host Larry King.

FROM THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

Angels hang on without Ohtani in 4-3 win over the Royals

By Mike DiGiovanna

Say it ain't Sho.

That phrase could have been uttered by fans in Angel Stadium who headed for the concession stands or restrooms after the fourth inning Wednesday night and returned to their seats expecting to see Shohei Ohtani on the mound in the fifth.

The right-hander seemed fine, with the exception of some command issues and a slight dip in velocity, through four innings of a 4-3 victory over the Kansas City Royals, allowing one run and four hits, striking out four and walking three.

Then, as Ohtani completed his warmup pitches for the fifth, manager Mike Scioscia, athletic trainer Eric Munson and interpreter Ippei Mizuhara hustled to the mound.

A 20-second examination of the middle finger of Ohtani's pitching hand, where a blister had formed, yielded a swift decision. Ohtani was pulled in favor of reliever Jim Johnson.

"He started to feel it somewhere in the third or fourth inning," Scioscia said. "We talked to him between innings to see how it would feel. He didn't look good in his warmups, and we went out to talk to him. It was time to get him out."

This marked the second time this season that Ohtani left a game because of a middle-finger blister, which is usually caused, and exacerbated by, his split-fingered pitch. He lasted only two innings of a 10-1 loss to Boston on April 17.

Ohtani, who missed two months of the 2016 season in Japan because of a blister but also pitched entire seasons with blisters, made his next scheduled start a week later.

"It's in the same place," Scioscia said. "I haven't checked it yet, but it didn't look as bad" as the blister from the Red Sox game. Ohtani was not available for comment afterward.

The Angels trailed 1-0 when Ohtani departed. Three innings later, they had a 4-1 lead. Johnson, Cam Bedrosian and Jose Alvarez kept the Angels in front with scoreless relief innings.

Justin Anderson, who walked the bases loaded before saving Sunday's win over Texas, walked two in the eighth, threw a wild pitch and gave up a two-run single to Alex Gordon that pulled the Royals to within 4-3.

Hunter Dozier's single advanced Gordon to third, but Blake Parker relieved Anderson and struck out Ryan Goins with a nasty split-fingered pitch in the dirt to snuff out the rally.

Parker retired the side in order in the ninth for his fifth save to complete a three-game sweep of Kansas City and a 5-1 homestand.

Back-to-back doubles by Ian Kinsler and Zack Cozart to start the fifth tied the score 1-1.

The Angels loaded the bases with one out on walks to Mike Trout and Luis Valbuena, but Royals starter Ian Kennedy got Martin Maldonado to pop out to the catcher and Chris Young to pop out to second.

Kaleb Cowart, recalled from triple-A Wednesday to replace injured shortstop Andrelton Simmons on the roster, doubled to right-center field off reliever Scott Barlow to open the sixth.

Kinsler, who ended an 0-for-14 skid with his earlier double, hit a towering two-run home run to left to give the Angels a 3-1 lead.

Scioscia gave Justin Upton the green light on a 3-0 pitch in the seventh. Upton clobbered a 90-mph fastball, lining over the wall in left for his 14th homer of the season and a 4-1 lead. He went eight for 11 (.727) with two homers and three RBIs in the series.

Ohtani's fastball touched 99 mph in the first and hit 98 mph in the second, but it dipped to the 96-mph range in the third, when he allowed a leadoff single to Mike Moustakas and a two-out RBI single to Gordon for a 1-0 Royals lead.

A pair of walks to Dozier and Goins loaded the bases with two outs, but Ohtani struck out No. 9 hitter Abraham Almonte with a split-fingered pitch in the dirt to minimize damage.

"He had a little problem early commanding his split and slider," Scioscia said, "but he made some great pitches with guys on base to put up some zeroes."

Angels need another Mike Trout to hit in front of Mike Trout

By Mike DiGiovanna

It has become a bit of a quandary, probably more so for Angels fans than manager Mike Scioscia: To maximize Mike Trout's run-producing opportunities, should the two-time American League most valuable player bat second or third?

One solution would be to find a guy who gets on base at a .450 clip, has great plate discipline and speed, plug him into the two-hole and drop Trout to third.

"We don't have another Mike to put in front of Mike," Scioscia said. "So, it's just the way it is."

Trout began Wednesday night's game against Kansas City with a .315 batting average, an AL-leading .447 on-base percentage, 19 homers, 15 doubles, 39 runs batted in, 13 stolen bases, and a league-leading 52 runs scored and 51 walks.

He has hit second for all but four of his 61 starts, leading off twice and batting third twice.

Of Trout's 273 plate appearances through Tuesday, 101 came with men on base, 52 came with runners in scoring position, 18 were with runners on first and second, and one was with the bases loaded.

No. 3 batter Justin Upton had 133 plate appearances with men on base and 73 with runners in scoring position, and cleanup man Albert Pujols had 121 plate appearances with men on base and 73 with runners in scoring position.

Shortstop Andrelton Simmons, who usually bats fifth or sixth depending on Shohei Ohtani's availability, had 104 plate appearances with men on base and 62 with runners in scoring position before he was placed on the 10-day disabled list because of a sprained right ankle on Wednesday.

"Guys like Upton and Pujols have so many more plate appearances with men on base and runners in scoring position because Mike is on base so often," Scioscia said. "Mike sets the table so well — he's on base almost half the time — and you want the guys behind him to be able to take advantage of that."

Scioscia had considered moving Simmons, who is batting .330 with a .399 OBP and 34 RBIs, into the second spot, but Simmons emerged as a middle-of-the order force, and Scioscia didn't want to disrupt that. Zack Cozart, who led off for 26 games, might be a candidate if he had a better average (.225) and OBP (.301).

Kole Calhoun, on the DL because of an oblique strain, would have been an option if he were hitting closer to the career .261 average and .330 OBP he had entering the season. He's batting .145 with a .195 OBP.

"We've looked at some things," Scioscia said. "All the studies we've seen on it say that while there's an increase from leadoff to second as far as how many runners you have in scoring position, there isn't much of an increase from the second to third spot."

For Trout's RBI opportunities to increase, the hitters in front of him need to get on base more often. That's been the biggest impediment to an offense that still ranked fifth in the AL in runs (284) and OPS (.742) entering Wednesday.

Angels leadoff batters — Ian Kinsler and Cozart — entered Wednesday ranked last in the major leagues in average (.204) and OBP (.281) and 25th in runs (34).

"One reason Mike's numbers aren't quite what we know they will be is we went long stretches where guys were trying to find their game, and some of those guys were hitting in front of Mike," Scioscia said.

Kinsler, slowed by a left adductor strain in April, heated up last week, hitting .550 (11 for 20) with three homers, three doubles, six runs and six RBIs in five games to raise his average from .179 to .222.

He was hitless in 12 at-bats with one walk in his first three games this week until he doubled and scored in the fifth inning Wednesday and hit a two-run home run for 3-1 lead in the sixth.

The challenge for Trout, who was batting .371 (13 for 25) with runners in scoring position entering Wednesday, is always to keep the same approach.

He came up twice with two on in Monday night's 9-6 win over the Royals, delivering a score-tying RBI single in the sixth inning and a game-winning RBI single in the eighth.

"Obviously as a hitter, you want to be at the plate with guys on base, but I'm not going to go up there and press and worry about that stuff," Trout said. "Whether I'm hitting first, second or third, I go out and play. It doesn't change my game."

Simmons goes on DL after rolling his ankle on dugout stairs

By Mike DiGiovanna

Andrelton Simmons was placed on the disabled list because of a right-ankle sprain on Wednesday, an injury that will sideline the team's best defensive player and one of its most productive hitters for at least 10 days.

The shortstop was hurt minutes before Tuesday night's game when he came down the five dugout steps and rolled his ankle on the last one. He played two innings before being removed and sent for an MRI test.

"It showed some damage in there, but nothing major that requires surgery," said Simmons, who was still on crutches Wednesday. "I'm hoping I can come back in 10 days ... but I have to play it smart. We'll see."

As bizarre as Simmons' injury is, it's not the first time an Angels player sprained an ankle in the dugout. In his first game after signing a six-year, \$80-million contract, first baseman **Mo Vaughn** tumbled down the dugout steps pursuing a foul popup in the 1999 season opener. He missed 2½ weeks because of the injury.

But at least Vaughn was hurt in action. "Simple and stupid" is how Simmons described his mishap after Tuesday night's game.

"I'm just pissed off that I'm gonna miss some games," Simmons said. "That's what's really bothering me right now. I've hurt myself in similar ways before, but nothing where it caused me to lose games."

Simmons is batting .330 with a career-high .857 on-base-plus-slugging percentage, four homers, 12 doubles, two triples, 32 runs and 34 RBIs.

He has more than twice as many walks (25) as strikeouts (10) and has a major league-high streak of 69 plate appearances without a strikeout dating back to May 18.

"He's an important guy for us," manager **Mike Scioscia** said. "We're gonna have to absorb it and hopefully continue to play well."

Third baseman **Zack Cozart**, a Cincinnati Reds shortstop for six years before signing with the Angels last winter, will move to shortstop. **Kaleb Cowart**, recalled from triple-A Salt Lake, started at third Wednesday night and can back up at shortstop. **Luis Valbuena** and **Jefry Marte** will also play some third.

"He's an incredible shortstop," Scioscia said of Cozart, "so for us to have that luxury to slide him over is something that other teams wouldn't be able to do."

The Angels will travel to Minneapolis on Thursday to begin a nine-game trip to Minnesota, Seattle and Oakland. Simmons will not be joining his teammates.

"I don't think the trainers want to deal with me for 10 days, so I'm staying back," Simmons said. "I can be annoying."

Diamond in the rough

Of their 40 picks in the three-day amateur draft, which concluded Wednesday, the Angels selected 24 right-handed pitchers, four left-handers, six infielders, four outfielders and two catchers.

Among Wednesday's picks was **Cristian Reyes**, a 6-foot-5, 220-pound right-hander from Miami who was selected in the 21st round. Reyes, 23, did not have a school listed. He was playing in what scouting director **Matt Swanson** called a "Sunday league," but impressed scouts at a workout with his 98-mph fastball.

"Hats off to our South Florida-area scout, **Ralph Reyes**, for staying on him," Swanson said, adding that the scout and pitcher are not related. "It's a very old-school way of scouting a player."

Three-day break

Albert Pujols, nursing a sore left knee, was not in the lineup for a second straight game Wednesday. Scioscia said the slugger will return on Friday, and he doesn't expect the condition to cut too much into Pujols' playing time at first base.

"We're gonna manage it," Scioscia said. "I don't think it's anything we can't take care of with a little bit of rest here and there. We wanted to combine [two games off] with the off day to let him recharge."

FROM ANGELS.COM

Halos slug way to sweep after blister lifts Ohtani

By Maria Guardado

ANAHEIM -- Ian Kinsler and Justin Upton homered to power the Angels to a 4-3 win over the Royals on Wednesday night at Angel Stadium, completing a three-game sweep and ameliorating some of the sting of a truncated start from Shohei Ohtani, who was forced to depart after four innings because of a blister on his right middle finger.

Kinsler launched a two-run home run to left field off Royals reliever Scott Barlow to snap a 1-1 tie in the sixth inning, and Upton added a solo shot off Barlow in the seventh to extend the Angels' winning streak to four games. Kinsler is now hitting .341 (14-for-41) with four home runs, four doubles and eight RBIs over his last 10 games, a stretch that has lifted his batting average from .178 to .212.

"I'm trying to help the team any way I can," Kinsler said. "It was a long stretch of frustration and not being able to help the team. Anytime you can get back into a place where you're making things happen, it's a good place."

The Angels took a 4-1 lead into the eighth, but the Royals scored two runs off rookie reliever Justin Anderson to pull within one. After Mike Moustakas and Salvador Perez drew back-to-back walks,

Anderson uncorked a wild pitch during an at-bat by Alex Gordon, allowing the runners to advance to second and third. Moustakas was originally called out at third for the final out of the inning, but the call was overturned following a replay review.

Gordon then made the most of the reprieve, shooting a single just past an outstretched Kinsler to drive in two runs and narrow the deficit to 4-3. After Hunter Dozier singled to put runners on the corners, manager Mike Scioscia decided to pull the plug on Anderson and bring in Blake Parker, who struck out Ryan Goins to end the inning.

Parker returned to the mound for the ninth and posted a scoreless inning to convert a four-out save. The Angels are now 35-28 after completing a 5-1 homestand against the Rangers and Royals.

"Blake Parker did a great job," Scioscia said. "Justin just a little problem putting some guys away with his command, but all those guys threw the ball well."

Still, Ohtani's early exit cast a shadow over the victory. The two-way phenom came out to warm up for the fifth inning and everything seemed normal, but catcher Martin Maldonado then motioned toward the dugout for trainer Eric Munson and Scioscia. After a brief mound conference, Ohtani walked off the field with Munson and headed straight to the clubhouse. Veteran reliever Jim Johnson entered the game to replace Ohtani.

"Normally he throws a lot of curveballs," Maldonado said. "He threw a lot of fastballs when he was warming up, so I thought something was different with him."

Ohtani allowed one run on four hits while walking three and striking out four over four innings. It marked the second-shortest outing of the season for Ohtani, who exited his start against the Red Sox on April 17 with a blister on the same finger. Scioscia said Ohtani's blister is not as severe as his last one, though the Angels will have to wait before determining whether the malady will impact his next pitching appearance.

Before the injury, Ohtani managed to work through a few jams and minimize damage. In the first, he gave up a leadoff single to Whit Merrifield and walked Moustakas to put runners on first and second with one out, but coaxed a 1-4-3 double play from Perez to emerge from the inning unscathed.

Jorge Soler then opened the second with a ground-rule double to left field, but Ohtani retired the next three batters to strand the runner. The Royals got on the board in the fourth, when Moustakas singled, advanced to second on a passed ball by Maldonado and scored on Gordon's two-out single to center field.

Ohtani then issued back-to-back walks to Dozier and Goins to load the bases, but he extricated himself from further trouble by striking out Abraham Almonte swinging on a splitter.

The Angels' offense endured their own share of frustration against Royals right-hander Ian Kennedy, who held them to one run on seven hits over five innings. The Angels squandered several early scoring

opportunities and were blanked through the first four innings before Kinsler and Zack Cozart delivered back-to-back singles in the fifth to tie the game, 1-1.

The Angels finished 3-for-10 with runners in scoring position and left 10 men on base, but they received just enough offense from Kinsler and Upton's homers to improve to 6-0 against the Royals this season.

"As long as you keep giving yourself those opportunities, eventually you feel like you're able to get it done in some of those situations," Upton said. "It's just baseball. The last few days we've been able to get ourselves in certain situations. Last night we were only able to scratch across one run -- that's all we needed. Just got to keep grinding, getting baserunners and seeing what we can do with runners in scoring position."

UP NEXT

The Angels will head to Minnesota and enjoy an off-day on Thursday before opening a three-game series against the Twins on Friday at 5:10 p.m. PT at Target Field. Right-hander Garrett Richards (4-4, 3.25 ERA) will duel righty Lance Lynn (4-4, 5.46 ERA) in the series opener. Richards took a no-decision in last start on Saturday despite allowing one unearned run over a season-high seven innings against the Rangers. He is 1-3 with a 1.89 ERA and 32 strikeouts over his last six outings.

Ohtani exits after four innings with finger blister

Angels' phenom removed while warming up for fifth vs. Royals

By Maria Guardado

ANAHEIM -- Hours after they saw Gold Glove shortstop Andrelton Simmons land on the disabled list with a right ankle sprain, the Angels were dealt yet another injury, as two-way phenom Shohei Ohtani was forced to depart his start against the Royals after four innings because of another blister on his right middle finger.

The double dose of injury news loomed large for the Angels, even as they used home runs from Ian Kinsler and Justin Upton to emerge with a 4-3 win on Wednesday night and complete a three-game sweep at Angel Stadium.

Ohtani exited his start against the Red Sox on April 17 after two innings because of a blister on the same finger, though he recovered in time to take his next turn in the rotation as scheduled. Manager Mike Scioscia said this blister is not as severe as the previous one, though the Angels will have to wait before determining whether the ailment will affect Ohtani's next start, which would be next Wednesday in Seattle if he remains on his once-per-week pitching schedule.

"We'll see," Scioscia said. "We got a lot of options. We got an off-day tomorrow. Another off-day swinging back next week, so there are some things we can look at."

Ohtani was not made available to reporters following the game.

Ohtani came out to start the fifth inning and threw his usual warmup tosses, but catcher Martin Maldonado noticed he was a bit off and motioned toward the dugout for trainer Eric Munson and Scioscia. After a brief mound conference, Ohtani walked off the field with Munson and headed straight to the clubhouse.

"Normally he throws a lot of curveballs," Maldonado said. "He threw a lot of fastballs when he was warming up, so I thought something was different with him."

Ohtani allowed one run on four hits while walking three and striking out four over four innings. The blister seemed to hamper his command in the fourth, when he yielded an RBI single to Alex Gordon and then issued back-to-back walks with two outs before striking out Abraham Almonte to end the inning with the bases loaded.

"You could see the beginnings of [a blister], and we obviously didn't want him to get past that," Scioscia said.

It marked the second consecutive day in which the Angels were forced to see one of their star players make a premature exit. Simmons slipped on the dugout steps during pregame warmups on Tuesday and departed the Angels' 1-0 win after two innings. He's out for at least 10 days as he recovers from a Grade 2 ankle sprain.

"You never want to see your guys go down," Kinsler said. "That's always the case. You've got to keep playing. The game doesn't stop. The season doesn't stop. We don't get to wait for Simba to come back or for Ohtani's blister to heal or whatever. We've just got to continue to play baseball and continue to play hard and just try to rack up wins."

1st pick Adams key to dynamic Halos Draft class

By Avery Yang

ANAHEIM -- The Angels' guiding principle coming into the 2018 Draft was to pick up as much raw talent, as much raw athleticism, as they possibly could.

"I think it's a very common thread of what we're looking for. What we're trying to bring in our organization is guys we can get bigger, faster, stronger -- that we can develop internally," director of scouting Matt Swanson said after the event concluded on Wednesday. "Sometimes it looks like a safer pick, sometimes it looks like a riskier pick, but it's the lens that we look at all of our players through."

That principle was reflected in their first two selections -- Jordyn Adams at 17th overall and Jeremiah Jackson at No. 57 -- following in the footsteps of their Draft plan last year, when they nabbed outfielder Jo Adell -- now the No. 1 prospect in the Angels organization, according to MLB Pipeline -- with the 10th overall pick.

Adams, who was committed to play both baseball and football at the University of North Carolina, said he has already agreed to terms with the Angels and expects to travel to Anaheim in the near future to officially sign.

"Very blessed to be in this spot," Adams said. "I'm glad to make it official that I'm going to be part of the Angels organization. I'm ready to go to work."

Starting with Round 3 on Day 2 of the Draft, the Angels snagged 11 straight pitching prospects, seven from college, four from high school.

"We took some heat for not taking any [pitchers] on Day 1, so just figured we'd take them all from there on out," Swanson joked. "I think we were pretty intentional on all of our picks, and we felt really comfortable with the two position players on Day 1 and the way the board lined it up was to make a run on pitchers coming up."

Out of those 11 pitchers, 10 were right handed.

"If they were all left-handed, we [still] would've taken them," Swanson said.

One of those pitchers selected, William English, is a potential two-way talent. As the one organization that has tried that experiment in the big leagues, with Shohei Ohtani, the Angels are a natural fit for English, who profiles better as a pitcher but wants to play both ways as he develops through the ranks. Swanson said the club has already decided to begin his developmental process as a two-way player.

"Our organization can take a player like that and be patient with him, develop him both ways," Swanson said. "When a player like that is so young and so gifted athletically, I'd hate to pigeonhole him from such a young age into doing one or the other. I think the upside in giving him the opportunity to go out there as a position player and at the same time develop as a pitcher is just a bonus to the kid, and to us."

Because of the regiment that they've undergone with Ohtani, general manager Billy Eppler feels comfortable about the infrastructure the Angels have in place.

"Ultimately, we have a little bit better lens into that right now, so we can put [English] on somewhat of a similar workload program," Eppler said. "He's gonna have to move a lot slower. ... But we can begin to start his development process -- kinda gaining strength and getting ready for that workload. It's something that he asked if we'd be open to having him do, and we said yes."

With their 21st round selection, the Angels selected Christian Reyes, whose school is listed as "No School," as he isn't enrolled in one. Swanson said that their area scout in South Florida, Ralph Reyes, found the 23-year-old while he was pitching in a Sunday league.

"We brought him to a workout, he was up to 98 in our workout and we made him our Draft pick," Swanson said. "I think there's a lot of excitement. It's a very old school way of scouting a player, where there's so much information these days, and our scout outworked 29 other teams and signed a player with a really good arm."

Overall, Swanson is excited to bring so many ballplayers from so many backgrounds into the Angels family.

"I'm really excited about all the players that we were able to get," Swanson said. "It's exciting to see the process come together. We got players from all different backgrounds, and they all ended up being Angels Draft picks, so I think we're all excited about it."

Simmons to DL with Grade 2 ankle sprain

By Maria Guardado

ANAHEIM -- The Angels placed shortstop Andrelton Simmons on the 10-day disabled list with a Grade 2 right ankle sprain before Wednesday night's game against the Royals. In a corresponding move, the club recalled utility man Kaleb Cowart from Triple-A Salt Lake.

Simmons was injured shortly before the first pitch of Tuesday's 1-0 win over Kansas City when he slipped on the dugout steps. He proceeded to take the field when the game started just four minutes later, but he was eventually forced to depart after two innings.

"He's an important guy to us," manager Mike Scioscia said Wednesday. "The way it happened is probably tougher to stomach than anything, just coming down the steps. But it happens, and we'll get back out there."

Simmons said he underwent an MRI exam that showed "some damage" in his ankle, though nothing serious enough to warrant surgery. There is currently no timetable for his return, though Simmons said he's hoping to only miss the requisite 10 days. Simmons is currently walking around on crutches to minimize the strain on his balky ankle.

"I'm planning to be back on my feet, moving around, as soon as possible," Simmons said. "But got to play it smart. We'll see. I'm just pissed I'm going to miss a couple games. That's the only thing that's really bothering me right now."

Losing Simmons for an extended period of time is a significant blow for the Angels. The 28-year-old has been one of their most consistent hitters this season, batting .330 with an .860 OPS while providing his usual Gold Glove-caliber defense at shortstop.

Simmons' injury will give Zack Cozart a chance to return to shortstop, his natural position. Cozart exclusively played shortstop for the Reds before signing a three-year, \$38 million deal with the Angels and transitioned to third base over the offseason. Luis Valbuena, Jefry Marte and Cowart could all see time at third in the interim.

"Zack, he's an incredible shortstop," Scioscia said. "For us to have that luxury to be able to slide him over there is something that a lot of teams wouldn't be able to do."

Following Wednesday's game, the Angels will head to Minnesota for the start of a nine-game road trip, but Simmons said he plans on staying in Southern California as he recovers from the ankle sprain.

"I don't think the trainers want to deal with me for 10 days," Simmons joked. "I'll be staying back."

Pujols also on the mend

Albert Pujols was not in the Angels' lineup for the second consecutive game on Wednesday because of a sore left knee. Scioscia said the Angels had planned on combining the two days of repose with Thursday's off-day to give the 38-year-old Pujols a chance to recharge. Scioscia said he expects Pujols to return to the lineup on Friday against the Twins.

"We're going to manage it," Scioscia said. "I don't think it's anything that we can't take care of with a little bit of rest or there. We want Albert to obviously get his looks in the batter's box. He's starting to really feel good and comfortable swinging the bat."

FROM THE ATHLETIC

Oh, No: Shohei Ohtani makes early exit against Royals due to blister on pitching hand

By Steve Dilbeck

Oh, no.

The blister felt around the world popped up again on Shohei Ohtani's right middle finger Wednesday, ending his night with a premature four innings.

It's the same finger and in the same spot he experienced a blister issue on April 17 against the Red Sox, which to this point, was his only poor outing of the season.

Manager Mike Scioscia did not believe the blister was as severe as that last time — and he did not miss a start then — but the reoccurring issue hovers over what has been a remarkable start to their prized two-way star.

Ohtani was not his typically sharp self Wednesday, allowing one run on four hits and three walks, but neither was he awful.

"I thought he threw the ball good," said Angels catcher Martín Maldonado. "He was doing what he normally does — throwing strikes, throwing every pitch in the count."

But Scioscia thought something was off and when he came after the fourth and met with Ohtani, who showed him his finger. He was sent out to warm up for the fifth, but Scioscia did not like what he saw and he was pulled before throwing a pitch in the fifth.

“Bottom line is, he started to feel it and it was time to get him out,” Scioscia said.

Ohtani walked off the mound looking dejected. He had blister issues in the past in Japan, but now he was living his dream, off to an astonishing start in the majors and stopped for a second time by a small bubble on the skin of a finger.

“He was a little frustrated,” Maldonado said. “He wants to go out there and compete.”

Between treatment and the team flying Wednesday night to start a nine-game road trip, Ohtani was not made available to the media after the game. Scioscia tried to find encouragement in his eyes telling him the blister was not as unsightly as the one he suffered against Boston.

“I haven’t checked yet, but it didn’t look as bad when he was in the dugout,” Scioscia said.

The Angels lost shortstop Andrelton Simmons to a sprained ankle on Tuesday, and as in their game with Ohtani, came back to find a way to win. They defeated the Royals 4-3 for their fourth consecutive victory.

Ian Kinsler hit a go-ahead two-run homer in the sixth and Justin Upton smacked a decisive solo shot in the seventh.

“You never want to see one of your guys go down,” Kinsler said. “That’s always the case. But you have to keep playing. The game doesn’t stop. The season doesn’t stop.

“You don’t get to wait for Simmons to come back or Ohtani’s blister to heal. Albert [Pujols] has a knee right now that’s bothering him a little bit. We just have to continue to play baseball, play hard and try to rack up wins.”

Ohtani’s two-way status remains something of an ongoing experiment for the Angels and they’ve tried to be careful not to overuse him. Wednesday was only his second start in 17 days, and he threw only five innings in his previous start May 30 against the Tigers.

Scioscia said it was too early to know if Ohtani would have to miss a start this time because of the finger.

“We’ll see, we have a lot of options,” he said. “We have an off-day [Thursday] and another off-day swinging back next week, so there are some things we can look at.”

FROM BLEACHER REPORT

Shohei Ohtani Leaves Game vs. Royals with Blister on Right Middle Finger

By Timothy Rapp

Los Angeles Angels star pitcher Shohei Ohtani left Wednesday's game against the Kansas City Royals with a blister on his right middle finger, per Jeffrey Flanagan of MLB.com.

Otani, 23, has made an impact as both a starting pitcher and designated hitter for the Angels. On the mound, he's 4-1 with a 3.18 ERA, 1.08 WHIP and 57 strikeouts in 45.1 innings. He's been impressive at the plate too, hitting .289 with six homers and 20 RBI.

He's also been all business, as Buster Olney of ESPN detailed: "Shohei Ohtani has zero interest in bells and whistles, in accoutrements. After his first HR, the Angels offered to give him framed picture of the moment. He politely declined, and asked if he could get a picture of the Angels' ballpark, from any day."

While Ohtani doesn't serve as the designated hitter each game, allowing him some rest time between starts on the mound, his impact in every facet of the game has been big for an Angels team that has started 34-28 and is gunning for its first postseason berth since 2014.

Ohtani hasn't been without injuries, as a blister and an injured ankle cost him some time in April. But in general, he's been one of the team's key players and offered Angels fans a reason to be excited. Certainly, he's one of the team's pillars moving forward alongside outfielder and two-time MVP Mike Trout.

If Ohtani is out of action, Jaime Barria could take his spot in the rotation, while Jefry Marte will play first base and Albert Pujols will serve as the team's designated hitter.

Andrelton Simmons Placed on 10-Day DL with Ankle Injury Suffered on Dugout Steps

By Scott Polacek

The Los Angeles Angels announced they placed shortstop Andrelton Simmons on the 10-day disabled list with a Grade 2 right ankle sprain and recalled utilityman Kaleb Cowart from the minor leagues.

This comes after Mike DiGiovanna of the *Los Angeles Times* reported Simmons twisted the ankle on the dugout steps prior to Tuesday's game.

The loss of Simmons is a significant blow for the Angels as they look to compete for a playoff spot in the American League West. He impacts the game in a number of ways with his speed, hitting ability and slick fielding and is an anchor of their infield on a daily basis.

Simmons is best known for his glove as a three-time Gold Glover, but he impressed on the offensive side in 2017 with a slash line of .278/.331/.421 with 14 home runs, a career-best 69 RBI and a career-best 19 stolen bases.

He has followed with a slash line of .330/.399/.460 during the 2018 campaign.

Look for Los Angeles to shift Zack Cozart to shortstop during Simmons' absence. Cozart is versatile enough to play second base or short in addition to his role as a third baseman, but the Angels can turn the hot corner position over to Luis Valbuena if Cozart is elsewhere.

FROM MLB TRADE RUMORS**Latest on Andrelton Simmons, Shohei Ohtani**

By Jeff Todd

Mike Trout is somehow having the best season of his already illustrious career, but otherwise the Angels' top two players have been shortstop Andrelton Simmons and starter/DH Shohei Ohtani. For a Halos club that's engaged in a tough division battle, then, it's certainly worrisome to see both show up on the injury sheet.

Fortunately, there's no reason at present to believe that either Simmons or Ohtani are dealing with serious maladies, as Jeff Fletcher of the Orange County Register reports. But Simmons, the club's magnificent shortstop, has been placed on the DL with a grade 2 ankle sprain. And Ohtani, who was pulled after four frames, will need to allow a blister to heal up before he takes his next start.

In the case of Simmons, the injury grade indicates that there is at least a slight tear to a ligament. Online sources, at least, suggest a potential recovery time in the range of two to six weeks, though the club has not yet offered a timeline specific to the player.

Any absence is most unwelcome, given that Simmons is both fielding and hitting at top-of-the-line levels thus far. Fortunately, Zack Cozart is also an outstanding defender at short, though obviously the loss of Simmons will mean plugging in less-polished options on the left side of the infield. Fletcher says the club expects to utilize Luis Valbuena, Jefry Marte, and Kaleb Cowart (who was recalled after just being optioned) in some combination at the hot corner.

As for Ohtani, skipper Mike Scioscia says that the blister does not seem to be as serious as one he experienced earlier in the season, when he was able to make his next scheduled start. However, his status will surely depend upon how this particular injury heals up.

Even if Ohtani does need some time away from the mound, it seems reasonable to anticipate that he'll still be able to appear as a hitter. And despite some notable injuries to starters, the team still has five other worthwhile options to go to in the rotation. Youngster Jaime Barria has pitched well in seven starts this year and is waiting in the wings at Triple-A if he's needed.

FROM DEADSPIN**Curse This Shohei Ohtani Blister**

By Laura Wagner

After Angels pitcher Shohei Ohtani started the season on a tear, hitting .367 with three homers through eight games, and posting two dominant starts that featured a five-inning stretch with 65 pitches and 10

strikeouts, it seemed his only kryptonite would be an eventual regression to numbers resembling normalcy. Enter the blister.

Ohtani was pulled last night after just two miserable innings against the Red Sox with a blister on his right middle finger. After the game, Ohtani said the blister affected his grip on basically all of his pitches, including his best pitch, the splitter.

"My splitter, I didn't have good command of it; I threw it in the dirt a lot, my fastball I didn't good feel at my fingertips, off the seam, and same with the slider," he said through an interpreter. "I didn't have a really good feel on the ball."

(Ohtani did say he didn't think his hitting would be affected.)

Worryingly, this is not the first time Ohtani has had to deal with a blister on his pitching hand. In 2016, when he was still playing in the Japanese professional league, he was kept off the mound for several weeks because of a blister.

Hopefully he doesn't need as much time to allow this one to heal, but blisters can have notoriously unpredictable effects on pitchers. Please don't let this be a Rich Hill situation; it would be particularly cruel for one of the most exciting young players in the history of baseball to be diminished just as we've gotten introduced to him.

FROM KYODO NEWS

Baseball: Blister forces Shohei Ohtani out after 4 innings in Angels' win

Shohei Ohtani left the Los Angeles Angels' game against the Kansas City Royals with a blister on his right middle finger after allowing one run in four innings on Wednesday.

The two-way rookie went to the mound to pitch the fifth inning with the Royals leading 1-0 at Angel Stadium but was replaced by Jim Johnson after a visit by manager Mike Scioscia. The Angels later rallied to win 4-3.

Ohtani allowed four hits, walked three and struck out four in his ninth start of the season. He had entered the game with a 4-1 record, a 3.18 ERA and 57 strikeouts over 45-1/3 innings.

After scoring first in the fourth inning on an RBI single by Alex Gordon, the Royals loaded the bases with two outs against Ohtani. The Japanese right-hander then struck out Abraham Almonte swinging at a splitter to escape the jam.

"His split and his slider didn't look as crisp as when he came in," Scioscia said in his postgame press conference. "We went out and we could see the beginnings of one (blister) and we didn't want it to go any further."

"He had a little trouble early finding his command, but he made some great pitches with guys on base to put up some zeroes. As the game went along, he didn't look that crisp. It didn't look as bad when he was in the dugout. The bottom line is he started to feel it and it was time to get him out."

Zack Cozart hit a game-tying double in the fifth. The Angels went on to make it 4-1 on a two-run homer by Ian Kinsler in the sixth and a solo home run from Justin Upton an inning later.

Gordon again came through in the clutch for the Royals, cutting the Angels' lead to one with a two-run single in the eighth. But Blake Parker, the sixth pitcher for the Angels, retired the final four Royals, striking out three.

It was the second time this season that Ohtani did not pitch five innings. He lasted only two on April 17 when he developed a blister and took his first loss at the hands of the Boston Red Sox.

Ohtani has had blister problems since his time in Japan.

FROM DES MOINES REGISTER

Cedar Rapids native Connor Van Scoyoc drafted by the Angels

By Tommy Birch

As Connor Van Scoyoc sat in his living room and prepared for the Los Angeles Angels to make their 11th-round pick in the Major League Baseball Draft on Wednesday, he knew what was coming.

Long before the Angels announced their selection, the Cedar Rapids Jefferson right-handed pitcher had already agreed to forgo college and sign with the team.

So when the pick came out, Van Scoyoc had three computers set on the draft and was ready to hear his name called.

"I don't know the exact words to describe it, but I got the chills when I heard my name called," Van Scoyoc said.

It was an exciting day for Van Scoyoc, a right-hander who plans to pass on playing at Arizona State next season and instead sign with the Angels for an undisclosed amount.

"I never dreamed of playing in Omaha and winning a College World Series," Van Scoyoc said. "I always dreamed about playing at Wrigley Field or Busch Stadium — that's where I want to be."

That dream could now become a reality after Van Scoyoc said he agreed to sign with the Angels on Wednesday night if they selected him Thursday morning. Van Scoyoc, who was named the Gatorade Iowa Baseball Player of the Year for 2017-18 season, boasts a 6-foot-5, 200-pound frame and a low 90s fastball.

He also comes from a baseball family: his father, Aaron Van Scoyoc, played minor league baseball, and his brother Spencer Van Scoyoc was a left-handed pitcher for Arizona State who was drafted by the Toronto Blue Jays in 2016.

All those factors likely drew the attention of the Angels, who reached out to Van Scoyoc's advisor Jay Franklin on Tuesday night. The Angels, who had an offer for Van Scoyoc, wanted to see if the pitcher would agree to a deal if they selected him Wednesday.

Van Scoyoc, who had just finished a game against Pleasant Valley, was still on the field with his teammates listening to Jefferson's coaches talk when someone told him that he had a phone call he had to take. On the other end: Franklin, who laid out the Angels' offer. Van Scoyoc, who took the call behind the team's dugout, made the decision right then that he wanted to sign with the Angels.

"I took a couple of deep breaths and I was, like, 'I've got to make the move,'" Van Scoyoc said. "It's what I wanted to do."

Van Scoyoc said he plans to fly out to Arizona within the next week to begin his professional career. That means Van Scoyoc, who went 1-0 with a 0.72 ERA in two starts with Jefferson this season, is done with his high school career. Next up: professional ball.