



***Press Clips***

**(September 9, 2018)**

**CLIPS CONTENT**

*FROM THE OC REGISTER (PAGE 3)*

- **Mike Trout belts two homers among his five hits in Angels victory**
- **Reliever Jose Alvarez has 'quietly' had his best season for the Angels**

*FROM ANGELS.COM (PAGE 6)*

- **Trout hits 2 HRs, goes 5-for-5 as Halos romp**
- **Ohtani day to day after awkward slide at home**

*FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS (PAGE 8)*

- **Trout homers twice, leads Angels past White Sox 12-3**

**FROM THE OC REGISTER****Mike Trout belts two homers among his five hits in Angels victory**

By Jeff Fletcher

CHICAGO — Could have seen this one coming.

Mike Trout's latest offensive explosion was sparked by one of his favorite victims, James Shields.

After blasting two homers and equaling his career high with five hits in the Angels' 12-3 victory over the Chicago White Sox on Saturday night, Trout has six homers in 21 career plate appearances against Shields, including his only postseason homer.

The only pitcher who has given up more homers to Trout is Felix Hernandez, who has given up eight Trout homers ... in 93 plate appearances.

Trout, who also singled against Shields on Saturday, is now 9 for 18 against him, with three walks, including the postseason.

"He's obviously been a great pitcher," Trout said of Shields. "We compete against each other. It's fun. I'm just not missing pitches. I can't tell you a reason. I'm getting a pitch to hit and not missing."

To say Shields gave him a couple pitches to hit on Saturday would be an understatement.

Shields twice threw Trout 3-and-2 pitches right over the middle of the plate, belt high. In the first inning, Shields threw him a fastball. In the third, he threw a knuckle curve. Trout hammered both of them, blasting a two-run shot to center field in the first and yanking a three-run homer to left field in the third.

"The two balls he hit were killed and the wind was pushing them back," Manager Mike Scioscia said. "It shows you how strong Mike is. It's a great night for Mike. It gave us a big lift for sure."

In the fifth, Shields was a little more careful with Trout, throwing a cutter a little higher in the zone. Trout simply served it into center field for a single.

After Shields was done, Trout also singled against reliever Juan Minaya in the seventh and against Jace Fry in the ninth, for his second career five-hit game. The five RBIs matched Trout's career high, a figure he hadn't reached since 2015.

Shohei Ohtani, who was batting cleanup between Trout and Justin Upton for the first time, added two hits and a walk, including a three-run triple in the ninth to put the game away. Ohtani then scored on a wild pitch, suffering a right thigh contusion in a collision with pitcher Thyago Viera. Ohtani said he is fine, and will be available to play on Sunday.

It was enough offense to get a victory for Matt Shoemaker, whose second start since coming off the disabled list did not go as smoothly as his first.

After shutting out the Texas Rangers for five innings on Monday, Shoemaker gave up three runs on seven hits in five innings on Saturday. The White Sox scored one in the first and then single runs in the third and fourth, both times after Shoemaker had retired the first two hitters of the inning.

“Not quite as crisp as the other day, but he did a great job,” Scioscia said. “The double play balls obviously helped him. When he needed to make pitches, he did. Matty did a good job to get through five innings.”

## **Reliever Jose Alvarez has ‘quietly’ had his best season for the Angels**

By Jeff Fletcher

CHICAGO — José Álvarez jogged to the mound Friday night, recorded his three outs, and then jogged off, finishing another workday in the anonymity of middle relief.

All the Angels’ lefty has done is pitch, more often than anyone else in the American League.

Álvarez’s league-leading 70<sup>th</sup> appearance was clean and boring, another zero for a player who has received little recognition for what he’s done.

“He’s quietly having a terrific season for us,” Manager Mike Scioscia said Saturday. “He’s really doing a great job for us.”

Over the previous three years, Álvarez had metronome-like consistency, posting ERAs of 3.49, 3.45 and 3.88. Each year he also pitched exactly 64 games.

This season, he’s pitched more often and better, lowering his ERA to 2.61 after Friday’s game. He’s allowed 7.7 hits per nine innings, a career-best. He’s also improved his strikeout rate each year, from 7.9 to 8.0 to 8.3 to 8.6 per nine innings, although that could be more about the changing approach of hitters than anything Álvarez has done.

To pitching coach Charlie Nagy, Álvarez has been valuable for his durability and consistency.

“They are hard to find, (relievers) who have been as consistent as he’s been,” Nagy said. “I think he’s gotten better every year.”

Álvarez is one of only four players on the team to have been active every day of this injury-ravaged season. The other three are also relievers: Blake Parker, Cam Bedrosian and Noé Ramirez.

### **NEW SPOT FOR OHTANI**

Scioscia tried a new lineup Saturday night, moving Shohei Ohtani into the cleanup spot, in between Mike Trout and Justin Upton.

He said they are going to take a look at this alignment against right-handed pitchers, with Upton hitting behind Trout against lefties.

Prior to Saturday's game, Upton had hit immediately behind Trout in all but two of the games they both played. Those were in May, when Trout had a two-game cameo in the leadoff spot and Ohtani hit second.

Ohtani has been hot for about five weeks – hitting .361 with 10 homers and a 1.272 OPS in his previous 26 games – but for most of that time the Angels were without Trout or Upton. Trout jammed his wrist and then missed time for a death in his family, and Upton then suffered a lacerated finger and a concussion.

Since Aug. 1, the Angels have played only four games with Trout, Upton and Ohtani in the lineup together.

### **COUNTING INNINGS**

Scioscia said the Angels have not discussed putting a cap on Felix Peña's innings as he approaches the end of his first season as a major league starter.

"I think he's still fresh," Scioscia said Saturday, a day after Peña pitched seven innings for the second consecutive start.

Peña, 28, has pitched 109 innings this season, including 75-2/3 innings in the majors. As a reliever in the previous two years, he maxed out at 80 innings. Peña did throw 131-2/3 innings as a starter in the minors in 2015.

JC Ramírez, another reliever converted to starter with the Angels, doubled his innings from 2016 to 2017. He ended up requiring Tommy John surgery. Ramírez, however, was five years removed from being a starter.

### **ALSO**

Tyler Skaggs (groin) had an extended bullpen session, simulating the break between innings, on Saturday in Arizona. Skaggs will be re-evaluated in the coming days and could next face hitters in a simulated game...

Nick Tropeano (shoulder) has not yet progressed to throwing off a mound, leaving a question about whether he'll be able to return before the end of the season.

### **UP NEXT**

Angels (LHP Andrew Heaney, 8-9, 4.16) at White Sox (RHP Reynaldo Lopez, 5-9, 4.37), Sunday, 11 a.m., Fox Sports West, KLAA (830 AM).

**FROM ANGELS.COM**

## Trout hits 2 HRs, goes 5-for-5 as Halos romp

By Max Gelman

CHICAGO -- Mike Trout did not let anything James Shields threw get past him Saturday at Guaranteed Rate Field.

The Angels' slugger clubbed home runs off the White Sox starter in each of his first two at-bats, his 32nd and 33rd blasts of the season, to give Los Angeles an early lead it would not relinquish in a 12-3 win over Chicago. Trout's five RBIs marked a season high.

"It's a great day for Mike. The two balls he hit were killed, and the wind was pushing them back, which shows you how strong Mike is," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "But great at-bats, it's a great night for Mike, much like Shohei's the other night."

Trout finished 5-for-5, also collecting three singles, in his second career five-hit performance. He also did so on May 26 at Yankee Stadium. Saturday additionally signified Trout's 14th career multihomer game and fourth in 2018. He has never hit more than two in a game. Both home runs came on full-count pitches.

For his career, Trout now has six home runs off Shields in 21 plate appearances and is 9-for-18 overall with two walks. His fifth-inning single against Shields was his first non-extra-base hit off the veteran righty.

"I am [aware]," Trout said of his numbers against Shields. "He's obviously a great pitcher. When we compete against each other, it's fun. But it's just not missing pitches. I can't tell you the reason, but just getting a pitch to hit and just not missing them.

"Obviously he's dropping down a little bit more [now]. He's a good pitcher. He throws four pitches for strikes at any time, and like I said, it's a battle every time I face him."

Kole Calhoun opened the night with a first-pitch flyout, and David Fletcher singled up the middle. Trout then worked the count against Shields, sending a two-seam fastball 419 feet to straightaway center, per Statcast™.

In the third inning, Trout came up with Calhoun and Fletcher on base and nobody out. The slugger again waited patiently, connecting with a 78 mph knuckle-curve. He deposited his second home run into the left-field stands 377 feet away.

"I got a close look at him because I was on deck every time he was up, and I knew he was going to have a big game today," Shohei Ohtani said through a team interpreter. "Something about his swag today, and it made me realize again how great of a player he is."

Ohtani added three insurance runs in the ninth inning with a three-run triple. Since his last appearance on the mound on Sunday, Ohtani is 8-for-16 with four homers and 10 RBIs. Ohtani later scored on a wild

pitch, but collided with White Sox reliever Thyago Vieira at the plate and appeared shaken up. He walked off under his own power and is day to day with a right thigh contusion.

Matt Shoemaker made his third start of the season and second since returning from May forearm surgery. Shoemaker gave up three runs in five innings.

"Not quite as crisp as the other day, but did a great job," Scioscia said of Shoemaker. "I thought that the double-play balls obviously helped him, but when he needed to make pitches he did."

"I felt OK. I think that's the best way to put it, OK," Shoemaker said. "I enjoy the cool weather, but being in cool weather from being in hot, hot, hot, hot, hot [in Texas], you just have to find a way to stay loose in between innings. Fatigue-wise, I felt pretty good, it was just a matter of staying loose."

#### **MOMENTS THAT MATTERED**

**Hansel escapes the woods:** The White Sox threatened to tie the game at 6 in the seventh inning after Hansel Robles allowed a walk and single to Tim Anderson and Kevan Smith to open the frame. Following a mound visit, Robles settled down and retired the next three batters in order. The White Sox did not record another hit.

#### **SOUND SMART**

Not only was Saturday Trout's second-career five-hit game, but it was also his 16th-career game recording four or more hits.

#### **UP NEXT**

The Angels conclude their three-game series on Sunday with the White Sox at 11:10 a.m. PT and send Andrew Heaney (8-9, 4.16 ERA) to the mound at Guaranteed Rate Field. Heaney is coming off a six-inning, four-run outing against the Rangers, and owns a 5.62 ERA since the beginning of August. Reynaldo Lopez (5-9, 4.37) goes for Chicago.

## **Ohtani day to day after awkward slide at home**

By Max Gelman

CHICAGO -- While trying to score on a wild pitch, Angels designated hitter Shohei Ohtani collided with reliever Thyago Vieira at home plate in the ninth inning of Saturday's 12-3 win over the White Sox and was diagnosed with a right thigh contusion.

He is day to day and the Angels will check him out before Sunday's finale, manager Mike Scioscia said.

"He's OK," Scioscia said. "Looked like it got him more in the quad than on the knee. But we'll see how it sets up."

Ohtani got up gingerly after the collision, but was able to walk off the field under his own power.

He said through the team interpreter that he will be fine, and if "Scioscia's going to write my name, then I'll be ready."

Ohtani added that he wasn't sure at first where Vieira struck him, but after viewing the replay he said Vieira's "shin kind of got above my kneecap."

The two-way phenom finished Saturday with two hits, including a three-run triple in the ninth to give the Angels insurance runs.

### **FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

## **Trout homers twice, leads Angels past White Sox 12-3**

By Sarah Trotto

CHICAGO (AP) — The wind blowing in posed a challenge to some hitters. Not Mike Trout.

Trout homered twice and drove in five runs, and the Los Angeles Angels beat the Chicago White Sox 12-3 on Saturday night.

Trout's 5-for-5 performance matched his career high for hits in a game and raised his batting average to .314.

"The two balls he hit were killed," manager Mike Scioscia said. "The wind was pushing them back. It shows you how strong Mike is. Great at-bats."

David Fletcher, Shohei Ohtani and Andrelton Simmons had two hits each for the Angels, who have won four of five.

Ohtani hit a bases-clearing triple and scored on one of Thyago Vieira's three wild pitches in a six-run ninth inning.

Yolmer Sanchez and Kevan Smith each had two hits for the White Sox, who lost their fourth straight.

Trout hit a full-count, two-run homer to center field with one out in the first inning. Justin Upton added an RBI single to make it 3-0.

Trout smacked another full-count homer off White Sox starter James Shields — a three-run shot for his 33rd home run of the season — in the third, extending the lead to 6-1. He has 14 career multi-home run games and four this season. His most recent was July 25, against the White Sox.

"I knew he was going to have a big game today, something about his swag today and it made me realize again how good of a player he is," Ohtani said through a translator.



Trout last had five hits May 26 at the Yankees, and drove in five RBIs in a game Sept. 17, 2015, against Minnesota.

“He seems to get me quite often, unfortunately,” Shields said. “He’s one of the best hitters in the game, if not the best hitter, so can’t really do that to that guy.”

Six of Trout’s nine career hits against Shields have been home runs.

“He’s been a great pitcher,” Trout said. “We compete against each other. It’s fun. Just not missing pitches. I can’t tell you the reason. Just getting a pitch to hit and just not missing.”

In his other at-bats, Trout singled.

“Couple balls they hit were hit pretty well. They just died,” Trout said about the wind. “It was weird. It was swirling the whole night.”

Matt Shoemaker (2-0) gave up three runs and seven hits for the Angels in his second start since coming off the disabled list and third overall start this season. He has allowed six runs in 15 2/3 innings. Shoemaker missed 134 games after his season debut due to a right forearm strain.

Four relievers combined to throw four one-hit innings.

Shields (6-16) allowed six runs and nine hits in 4 1/3 innings. It was his shortest outing since July 25.

Yoan Moncada and Sanchez hit back-to-back doubles in the first to pull the White Sox within two.

Smith’s double in the fourth cut the lead to 6-3.

#### OHTANI UPDATE

Ohtani has a right thigh contusion after colliding with Vieira when he scored. He said he is fine and will be able to play Sunday.

#### MAKING MOVES

The White Sox placed right-hander Michael Kopech on the 60-day disabled list Saturday after learning Friday he will likely need Tommy John surgery and miss next season. The team purchased the contract of right-hander Rob Scahill, who was 3-4 with a 5.64 ERA in 52 relief appearances at Triple-A Charlotte.

#### TRAINER’S ROOM

White Sox: 1B Jose Abreu (testicular surgery) will possibly return to the lineup Monday at Kansas City, manager Rick Renteria said. Abreu and LF Leury Garcia (strained hamstring) took live batting practice Saturday. Garcia is a little further away from a return, Renteria said. .RHP Nate Jones (pronator muscle strain) looked good throwing Saturday, Renteria said. Jones will take a day or two off and possibly throw in another simulated game before being activated.

## WELCOME

Joe Hudson made his major league debut with the Angels. He grounded out as a pinch hitter in the ninth.

## UP NEXT

LHP Andrew Heaney (8-9, 4.16 ERA) is set to start for the Angels in the series finale Sunday against the White Sox, and RHP Reynaldo Lopez (5-9, 4.37). Heaney is 1-6 with a 5.02 ERA on the road this season, but 0-0 with a 2.31 ERA in two career starts against Chicago. Lopez has not earned a home victory since June 26.