



Press Clips

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FROM OC REGISTER**Cubs bench coach Brandon Hyde on Angels' managerial list**

By Jeff Fletcher

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Brandon Hyde, the Chicago Cubs bench coach, is among the candidates to be interviewed for the Angels' managerial job, according to multiple sources.

Hyde, a product of Long Beach State, has been with the Cubs since 2014, under both Rick Renteria and Joe Maddon. This season was his first as bench coach. Hyde also reportedly interviewed for the opening with the Texas Rangers this week.

The Angels are planning interviews with at least 10 candidates for the job. The only two confirmed candidates are Joe Espada, the Houston Astros bench coach, and Hyde.

Internal candidates Brad Ausmus, Eric Chavez, Dino Ebel and Josh Paul are also believed to be on the list.

Angels Offseason Options: RHP Nathan Eovaldi

By Jeff Fletcher

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

NATHAN EOVALDI, RHP, Boston Red Sox

The basics: Eovaldi missed a season and a half recovering from Tommy John surgery. He came back in May with the Tampa Bay Rays, who traded him to the Boston Red Sox. Next year will be his age 29 season.

2018 season: He posted a 3.81 ERA over 111 and 21 starts between the two teams, with 8.2 strikeouts per nine innings. In his first playoff start, he gave up one run in seven innings against the New York Yankees.

Contact status: Free agent

Why he makes sense: Eppler likes pitchers who throw hard, and Eovaldi averaged 97.5 mph with his fastball this year. He even hit 100 mph in his first playoff start. This season Eovaldi struck out 101 and walked just 20, numbers that suggest he could have performed even better. Eovaldi was acquired by the

Yankees in December 2014, when Eppler was the assistant general manager in New York. The Angels need healthy pitchers, and Eovaldi is just back from Tommy John surgery, so his ulnar collateral ligament is relatively fresh. This was his first season after surgery, so it's logical to assume he'll be even better next year. If the market values him for his career 4.16 ERA, rather than what he did this year, he could prove to be a bargain. Maybe three years, \$33 million?

Why he doesn't: Eovaldi is still a gamble. He's coming off his best season, and it was still only two-thirds of a season. If he's expecting to cash in on this year's success, without regard to the track record prior to this year, he could be looking for more money or years than the Angels are willing to spend for a pitcher of his caliber.

FROM MLB.COM

Halos' Jones homers in perfect day at plate in AFL

By Ricardo Avila

PEORIA, Ariz. -- Jahmai Jones had a perfect day at the plate on Friday, reaching base in all five trips to the plate and belting his first homer of the **Arizona Fall League** season to lead the Mesa Solar Sox to an 8-0 win over the Peoria Javelinas.

Jones, a second-round Draft pick by the Angels in 2015 and **the team's No. 4 prospect**, went 3-for-3 with a walk, two runs, two RBIs and a stolen base. He was also hit by a pitch. His solo shot off Javelinas reliever Brandon Lawson (Rays) put Mesa up, 7-0 in the fourth.

"Just got a pitch in my zone. Just felt good today at the plate, felt good today in the cage before we came over so I just tried to ride it out as long as I could," Jones said.

Mesa hurlers struck out 16 Javelinas in what was the first shutout of the 2018 Fall League, including six by **Red Sox No. 7 prospect** Darwinzon Hernandez, who fanned the size in the sixth and seventh innings.

"I felt great. Our team played absolutely amazing today," Jones said.

Jones is no stranger to athletic success. His brother, T.J., is a wide receiver for the Detroit Lions, the team his father Andre also played for.

The 21-year-old is knocking on the door of the big leagues after converting from the outfield to the infield and reaching Double-A this year, but he trusts Angels General Manager Billy Eppler with his future.

"That's not up to me, it's up to Billy and what he thinks is right and whatever decision he thinks is right, I'm rolling with," Jones said.

Despite going hitless in his first two Fall League games, Jones did draw two walks in each, stole a base and scored three runs. He now sports a .643 OBP through three games.

Jones only hit .239 between Class A Advanced Inland Empire and Double-A Mobile, but he did draw 67 walks for a combined .337 on-base percentage while hitting 10 homers and stealing 24 bases

"Of course I wanna be in the big leagues! Who doesn't wanna be in the big leagues? But it's all a plan. Whatever happens happens;" Jones said.

The Roswell, Ga. native is more than 1,800 miles away from home, but he has a secret to what has been a successful start to Fall League and what he hopes will be an even more successful 2019 season.

"I try not to take it too hard on stuff that's out of my control and just have some fun while doing it."

FROM NBC SPORTS

Angels giving managerial candidates two-hour written test

By Craig Calcaterra

Jon Morosi of MLB.com reports that the Los Angeles Angels are administering a two-hour written test to managerial candidates. The test presents "questions spanning analytical, interpersonal and game-management aspects of the job," according to Morosi.

I can't find any reference to it, but I remember another team doing some form of written testing for managerial candidates within the past couple of years. Questions which presented tactical dilemmas, for example. I don't recall it being so intense, however. And then, as now, I have a hard time seeing experienced candidates wanting to sit for a two-hour written exam when their track record as a manager, along with an interview to assess compatibility should cover most of it. Just seems like an extension of the current trend in which front offices are taking away authority and, with this, some measure of professional respect, from managers.

FROM ARMCHAIR ALL AMERICANS

The Angels must have 2020 in mind this offseason

The Angels have always loved big offseasons. However, this offseason the Angels need to focus on the future rather than the present.

By Ryan Kanne

How should the Los Angeles Angels approach this offseason?

Anyone could tell you the Los Angeles Angels 2018 season was derailed by injury. They were fourth in the MLB in total players on the disabled list, seventh in money spent on DL players, and first in total days

spent on the DL. While the Angels should focus on winning as soon as they can, the organization should look to contend not in 2019, but 2020.

2020 is a significant year for the Angels. It is the last year of Andrelton Simmons and Mike Trout's current contracts. Along with that, Shohei Ohtani will be fully cleared to pitch, and most of the team's top prospects are expected to arrive in the majors. With all of the roster changes, the Angels should focus on consistent and undervalued talent in the off-season.

Prospects

Two of the Angels' top five prospects are expected to make their debuts by 2020. One such prospect is Jahmai Jones. Jones is the fourth-ranked prospect in the Angels system. He was drafted in the second round of the 2015 MLB Draft for his exciting athleticism. Jones turned that potential into a 10 home run, 24 stolen base season in 2018. His walk rate improved from 7.55 % to 11.85% as well.

Jones primarily plays second base but can transition into the outfield. David Fletcher will most likely transition to third base or the bench despite a solid rookie season. The power and speed combination make Jones an interesting modern prospect who can solidify the top of the Angels lineup for years.

Griffin Canning was selected in the second round of the 2017 MLB Draft. The 22-year-old pitcher is currently the number two ranked prospect in the Angels system. Canning has a low-90's fastball, curveball, slider, and a changeup that he consistently throws for strikes. His 19.8 K-BB % would rank in the top 15 among qualified starters in the MLB.

Canning dominated in AA ball with a 1.97 ERA in 45.2 innings but struggled in the hitter-friendly AAA Salt Lake with a 5.49 ERA in 59 innings. Despite the struggles, Canning should be a dependable starter for years with the Angels. His groundball ability plays into the innings eater type of pitcher the Angels desperately need.

Free Agents

While those prospects are easier to imagine in 2020, free agents are normally seen as instant upgrades. Though they generally are, the Angels need to think of the future with their 2018 free agency. The organizations older philosophy of short-term success led to the infamous contracts of Albert Pujols, C.J. Wilson, and Josh Hamilton. To avoid the same mistake, the Angels must look for solid, consistent talent

One of the players the Angels need to consider is current Los Angeles Dodgers catcher Yasmani Grandal. Good catchers are hard to come by in today's MLB and Grandal has quietly been one of the best two-way catchers in baseball. His defensive runs saved since 2015 rank second in baseball behind only Buster Posey. His wRC+, which measures a player's offensive value, ranks third since 2015.

The 30-year-old catcher has had a long career worthy of more chances at winning. While stealing him away from the Dodgers will be difficult, the Angels need to pry him down to Anaheim. If they do, the Angels will have an effective veteran catcher behind the plate for what looks to be a relatively young pitching core in 2020.

Despite injury struggles throughout his career, current Boston Red Sox pitcher Nathan Eovaldi should be on the Angels radar. The 29-year-old pitcher had a career year in Tampa Bay and Boston with a 3.81 ERA in 111 innings. Those numbers aren't mind-boggling, but this is coming off of two seasons lost to injury.

Eovaldi helped the Red Sox reach the ALCS after successful Tommy John surgeries. If the veteran can remain healthy, he is a solid option to solidify a young rotation. In 2020, the rotation could feature Nathan Eovaldi, Tyler Skaggs, Shohei Ohtani, Andrew Heaney, Jaime Barria, and Griffin Canning. If healthy, this rotation could help an improving offense make a playoff push in 2020.

While immediate success is easy to see, the Angels must play the 2018 offseason with the future in mind. Most importantly, if they can lock up players like Andrelton Simmons and Mike Trout, the 2020 Angels could be a team on the rise.

FROM THE SPORTSTER

10 MLB Ballparks That Are Overhyped And 10 That Are Severely Underrated

By Paul Silano Jr.

Out of every type of stadium throughout the world, baseball stadiums are definitely the most unique. Every stadium is set up differently and are of different sizes, so it allows architects to get really creative with the design of the stadium. It also may be in part because of baseball being a slower sport. Considering baseball games can drag, there's not that same level of intensity that other sporting events have. So, stadiums need to have other activities for fans to do to keep themselves occupied when they may not be as interested in the game itself.

Some fans go to games strictly to check out the stadium. Every baseball stadium is different, so many MLB fans' goals are to visit every single stadium. While they may watch the game for a little bit, they will spend a good amount of time looking around and checking out what the stadium has to offer.

Most stadiums aren't really underappreciated. Like anything, negativity is always quicker to come out more than positivity. Speaking in baseball stadium terms, fans talk more about the stadiums they dislike, as opposed to the ones they enjoyed.

It's worth checking out every stadium at some point. There are so many great things out there, you just may enjoy some stadiums more than others. We have 10 really nice stadiums on this list that are underappreciated, while 10 others that are pretty overrated. Hopefully reading through this list will allow you to know which stadiums you should put at the top of your list, and which ones you can wait a little while for.

20. Overrated: Busch Stadium

The Gateway Arch may be part of why people love Busch Stadium, but is that enough to visit it? It's over 10-years-old and seems to be aging as more stadiums come out.

It's always great to have a city skyline in the outfield of a stadium, but there needs to be more than that.

With Budweiser screen in center field, it seems like you're trapped inside the stadium. Yeah, there might be a nice view of St. Louis, but that once you see it you won't care. No need to rush over and see the Cardinals at home.

19. Underrated: Globe Life Park In Arlington

It's a shame that Globe Life Park in Arlington is closing its doors soon because it really is a nice stadium. One big issue with the current stadium for the Texas Rangers is that it doesn't have a retractable dome. But, the stadium is unique. The stadium is closed off, with a unique area in center field.

What may be the coolest thing about the location of the stadium, is the fact that it's right across the street from a Six Flags and AT&T Stadium. You can visit the Rangers ball park, and enjoy all the other amenities that surround the stadium.

18. Overrated: Progressive Field

Some people may think Progressive Field is nice, and there are nice parts in the stadium. The big screen out in left field, as well as the city skyline in the outfield both provide some good aesthetics. But one problem with going to the stadium is that there are bugs everywhere. This became a noticeable issue when the Yankees played the Indians a while back in the playoffs, and there were just bugs flying everywhere around Joba Chamberlain while he was pitching. It may not be as big of an issue for the fans, but it's still not fun for the players who have to deal with that while they're playing.

17. Underrated: Rogers Centre

Everybody who's a baseball fan and is visiting Toronto should visit Rogers Centre. Most baseball fans like that old-school field when a ballpark doesn't have a roof and everything, but you can't deny how nice the Blue Jays' stadium is.

The dome helps keep the temperature comfortable at all times, and they can always open it if needed.

The coolest part about the stadium is the fact that there's a hotel attached to the outfield. Fans can actually purchase a room with a theme park view, and watch the ball game from their hotel room. You really can't get any more creative than that.

16. Overrated: Coors Field

Having natural beauty out in the outfield with the geysers and trees don't necessarily give fans a reason to need to go to a stadium. Coors Field definitely did something unique with this, but these are things you can see all throughout the country. It's obviously different when you're watching a baseball game and they have these things, but it's no reason to rush to the stadium.

Colorado has a lot of natural beauty throughout the state, which may be more worth it to check out than a sports stadium. The idea is cool, but unless you're a Rockies fan, you aren't going to freak out over the geysers.

15. Underrated: Minute Maid Park

Minute Maid Park is a fun atmosphere, that is only getting better after the Astros won the World Series last season. Even before the Astros were good, it would be cool to come to the stadium and see the train in left field cross by when there would be a home run hit by the home team.

There are some other great things to experience, including \$1 hot dogs, the Astros mural, and the scenery of the stadium itself. It has a retractable dome, but it feels like it's only covering part of the stadium. The right and left field bleachers just look like they are two separate stadiums; it's weird but unique.

14. Overrated: Comerica Park

Just because Comerica Park got a new scoreboard, doesn't mean that this stadium is all of a sudden nicer.

The Tigers went from having an old-school scoreboard to just adding a small screen that can be used for replays.

If you're going to replace the scoreboard, you might as well put money into it to make it worth it.

The Tigers will soon be doing renovations throughout the stadium. Maybe, they should just start brand new and build a new stadium. While it may be more expensive, it will help draw in more fans that may have not wanted to go to a Tigers game in the past.

13. Underrated: Miller Park

A majority of people that aren't from Wisconsin have probably never been to Milwaukee before. Miller Park is a pretty nice stadium for a team that hasn't had much recent success, until this year, where they broke through and won the NL Central. Perhaps that will bring some deserved attention to the Brewers' beautiful ballpark. There are many unique areas to grab some refreshments and relax while enjoying the game. The best part about the stadium is that it also caters to the children, as there's a massive slide in the outfield.

Imagine taking your child to the ball game and they just see this slide in the outfield. It's the perfect way to entertain kids who may be getting bored at a three-hour baseball game.

12. Overrated: SunTrust Park

When you take a look at SunTrust Park in Atlanta, it definitely seems like they took some ideas from Yankee Stadium. One is the Delta sign at the top of the stadium, and the other is a massive screen in the outfield. And of course, they have the beautiful skyline of Atlanta in the outfield.

But for a new stadium, does this really wow anybody? The new screen is kind of cool, and so is the skyline, but you can see the skyline from outside the stadium. It will make fans happy, but they could have done a lot more to a brand new stadium.

11. Underrated: PNC Park

Usually, scenic views don't make it worth it to watch a baseball game. But no view beats the view of the outfield at PNC Park.

Looking towards the outfield, you can see the whole city of Pittsburgh, as well as the yellow Roberto Clemente Bridge.

The city itself feels like part of the stadium because the view is clear throughout the whole outfield. Just the way you see it from the stadium is perfect, with the bridge right across the city.

The natural beauty helps bring people to the game, and it just has that old-school baseball feel. It doesn't always capture fans to go, but it's hard to resist this beautiful view of Pittsburgh.

10. Overrated: Camden Yards

Camden Yards seems like a great place to watch baseball, but isn't it kind of overrated?

It's known for the storage units and office spaces that are in right field, which tower over the stadium. But, why would that make a stadium any nicer?

That's really the icon of the stadium, which isn't worth going to.

The area around the stadium also isn't the most desirable and a lot of the allure of MLB ballparks is where they're located. When looking at stadiums across the league, Camden Yards is one that visiting fans can afford to skip.

9. Underrated: Kauffman Stadium

MLB games are great, but it's a lot of fun to watch lower level divisions while kids are in school. What's beautiful about watching those games is seeing the nice grass surrounding you, feeling the soft breeze and the relaxing atmosphere of just watching someone you know. You may not get all of that at Kauffman Stadium, but you get the feeling, considering the outfield is all natural.

Yes, there's the crown scoreboard in the outfield and some seating, but for the most part, it's very open. It has a different feel from other stadiums that make it much more relaxing to watch a game at.

8. Overrated: AT&T Park

Besides the Home Run Derby, it's really not all that exciting to visit AT&T Park. Years ago, it was fun during the Home Run Derby, because many fans would be in a canoe in the lake just waiting for home run balls to come at them. That is one of the cooler parts of the stadium, that people can literally just hang out in the water while a baseball game is going on.

But besides that, it's a very outdated stadium. They try to do a lot of promotions to consistently bring people in, but with a city like San Francisco, the Giants could easily build a new ballpark by the water and add a bunch of cool features that don't exist at AT&T Park.

7. Underrated: Chase Field

For some reason, many people dislike Chase Field, home of the Arizona Diamondbacks. It may be because of the retractable dome, which many old school baseball fans dislike. But when it's open, it looks really cool. Having it open honestly makes the stadium look much bigger. The stadium just has such a different look, feeling very bulky.

What truly makes this stadium, is the pool and spa.

That's right, there is a pool and spa at a baseball game. Can it get any more relaxing? Fans who purchase tickets can take a dip in the pool while watching a game go on.

6. Overrated: Wrigley Field

Every long-time baseball fan would love to go to Wrigley Field, but why? Is it because it's the oldest stadium in the majors? Because there are ivy walls in the outfield? Because of the old-school scoreboards, and history behind why they have so many day games? All of these features just prove that Wrigley Field is too old.

It's great to preserve a classic stadium, but eventually, you have to move on from it. The history was there and it's sad, but you have to keep up with the times. When you're stuck in the early 1900s, you're behind the ball.

5. Underrated: Petco Park

What's great about Petco Park, is the fact that it's in San Diego. San Diego itself may be one of the most underrated cities in the United States. It's so relaxing, with beautiful weather and many furry friends that roam the streets.

Petco Park has many great spots that you can view the game, especially high up in right field. There's also a cheap seating area in center field where you can bring a blanket and food from outside the stadium, and enjoy the game. Like Kauffman Stadium, it gives you that feeling like you're at a little league stadium, at least if you're in center field.

4. Overrated: Citi Field

When you're within 30 minutes of Yankee Stadium, expectations are super high. Citi Field, unfortunately, does not meet those expectations. The new Yankee Stadium was surprisingly really nice and has a lot of new additions. Citi Field does not. One complaint that many Mets fans have made is that the seats are too tight. Fans have also complained that it is uncomfortable to watch a game there.

So many variables ruin the experience for Mets fans at the new stadium.

While it is looked at as a nice stadium from some eyes, many others would have been fine with keeping Shea Stadium.

3. Underrated: Angel Stadium

There's a lot to love about Angel Stadium. First off, the waterfall on the rocks in center field is so simple but so nice in the outfield. When you see it for the first time it's so cool because it truly stands out on television. When you first enter the stadium, you get to see all the Angels Walk of Fame on the floor, and the massive Angels cap which is the front of the stadium. It's just a great vibe there with so many fun things to do, and not to mention, it's down the road from Disneyland, which helps extend the trip.

2. Overrated: Fenway Park

The Green Monster, the oldest stadium in the MLB, the history of the Red Sox and much more. Yeah, there's a lot of legendary things to see at the stadium. But, like Wrigley Field, it's outdated.

Fenway Park is over 100 years old, and while the history provides a novelty, there needs to be an upgrade.

A major reason why the organization is probably so skeptical about moving on is that the location is prime for the stadium, and they don't know how the fan base would react. Remember, there was a big uproar back in the 90s when the Red Sox were considering a new stadium. Boston is about history, and Fenway Park is part of that history in the city.

1. Underrated: Marlins Park

If you talk to most baseball fans, they will say they hate Marlins Park if they have ever visited there. But for Miami, it's perfect. Miami is one of the biggest party cities in the world and they love their home stadium.

Marlins Park is loud, with a party-like atmosphere. In left field, there's actually a club called The Clevelander with a pool inside. When you stare about the club and through the glass, you can actually see the city of Miami. And behind the plate, there's a fish tank on the backstop. It may not be your traditional baseball field, but it's a fun time.