



Press Clips

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CLIPS CONTENT

FROM THE OC REGISTER (PAGE 3)

- **Angels blow three leads in loss to Mariners, ending winning streak**
- **Albert Pujols brings back rough childhood memories for Angels rookie Justin Anderson**

FROM THE LOS ANGELES TIMES (PAGE 6)

- **Angels let the victory slip away in extras against the Mariners**
- **Shohei Ohtani to start for Angels in Sunday finale at Seattle**
- **Angels weren't sure how to react to Albert Pujols' feat**
- **The 10 greatest individual achievements in Angels history**

FROM ANGELS.COM (PAGE 13)

- **Angels can't finish off pesky Mariners in extras**
- **Ohtani (ankle) set to start Sunday vs. Mariners**

FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS (PAGE 15)

- **Healy the hero as Mariners beat Angels 9-8 in 11 innings**
- **Shohei Ohtani set to return to mound Sunday for Angels**
- **Albert Pujols becomes 32nd player in 3,000-hit club**

FROM ESPN.COM (PAGE 19)

- **Albert Pujols' 3,000 hits, by the numbers**
- **Albert Pujols becomes just fourth with 3,000 hits and 600 homers**

FROM CBS SPORTS (PAGE 24)

- **The L.A. Times put together a great sports front page for Pujols' 3,000th hit and Dodgers' no-hitter**
- **Reminder: Albert Pujols was nearly a member of the Devil Rays and history could have been much different**
- **Angels Pujols looking for wins with the milestone accomplished**

FROM USA TODAY (PAGE 27)

- **Ichiro Suzuki and Shohei Ohtani shared a wonderful moment**

FROM THE OC REGISTER**Angels blow three leads in loss to Mariners, ending winning streak**

By Jeff Fletcher

SEATTLE — The bullpens for the Angels and Seattle Mariners both blew Saturday night's game.

Except the Angels blew it three times.

The Angels coughed up a two-run lead in the eighth and one-run leads in the 10th and 11th, finally falling 9-8 to the Seattle Mariners in a gut-wrenching 11-inning game, with Jim Johnson surrendering the last two leads and taking the loss.

It snapped the Angels' four-game winning streak.

"We just couldn't make that big pitch when we needed to try to hold the lead," Manager Mike Scioscia said. "Our bullpen went out there and had a little trouble putting some guys away, and those guys didn't miss some mistakes."

The failures of the Angels' bullpen spoiled a good night starter Tyler Skaggs, who dominated for five innings before giving up two runs in the sixth.

The bullpen also ruined a nice night for most of the hitters, who combined for 17 hits, although they failed to blow the game open with repeated chances in the first five innings.

The Angels got homers from Jefry Marte, who hit a three-run shot in the sixth to make it 4-0, and Justin Upton, whose two-run homer in the ninth stuck Seattle's Edwin Diaz with his first blown save of the season.

But they could never quite provide enough margin for seven Angels relievers who pitched. The only one who didn't allow a baserunner was Cam Bedrosian, who got two outs. Noé Ramirez got two outs without allowing a run or an inherited runner to score.

Otherwise, it was an off night for a group that had been pretty good.

Coming into the game, Angels relievers had combined for a 3.47 ERA, which was eighth best in the majors.

"They've been pitching their butts off the whole season," Skaggs said. "They've been helping the starting staff, but they've been pitching a lot."

The Angels had also led the majors in both relief games and relief innings, the result of starters who had been ineffective for much of the season's first month.

Two relievers, Kenyan Middleton and Blake Wood, had already hit the disabled list. Wood's injury opened the door for Justin Anderson, who had been a revelation. He hadn't allowed a run in any of his first six big league games, going through some of the toughest hitters in the league.

He entered with a 4-2 lead in the eighth on Saturday night, and didn't retire any of the three hitters he faced. In the middle, he hung a slider to Mike Zunino, who hit a mile-high two-run homer to put the Mariners up 5-4. They added an insurance run to go up 6-4.

After Upton's ballpark-silencing homer in the ninth against Diaz erased that deficit, the Angels took a 7-6 lead in the 10th on a two-out RBI single by Chris Young.

Johnson, who seems to be the closer now that Middleton is on the DL, couldn't hold it. Marte, the first baseman, made a bad throw after handing a tough grounder to his right, allowing the tying run to score.

Still, the hitters bounced back and got another run in the 11th, this one when Andrelton Simmons bellyflopped into first with a two-out infield hit as Mike Trout slid across the plate.

Given another chance, Johnson failed again.

He walked leadoff hitter Robinson Cano. An out later, he gave up a game-tying double to Kyle Seager. Eduardo Paredes entered and gave up a hit, just past diving third baseman Zack Cozart, to drive in Seager with the winning run, ending the 4-hour, 28-minute epic.

"It frustrating," Johnson said. "It wasn't for lack of effort on anyone's part. You can look back at a couple things here or there... I'm the old guy, and hopefully I can lead the rest by example and hopefully show them how to come to the ballpark ready to play again tomorrow."

Albert Pujols brings back rough childhood memories for Angels rookie Justin Anderson

By Jeff Fletcher

SEATTLE — As Albert Pujols approached and passed the 3,000-hit milestone, his teammates all spoke in reverent terms about the respect they had for Pujols and his career.

None of them, though, viewed Pujols through quite the same lens as rookie reliever Justin Anderson.

See, Anderson grew up in Houston, as an Astros fan. Anderson was 8 when Pujols broke into the majors with the St. Louis Cardinals, beginning more than a decade of terrorizing the Astros as a division rival.

Anderson had just turned 13 when Pujols hit his iconic homer against Brad Lidge, temporarily denying the Astros the National League pennant in 2005.

“It was a nightmare,” Anderson recalled on Saturday. “That homer just deflated everybody in that stadium when it happened... That guy crushed me as a kid, and now here we are as teammates.”

Anderson said that, although Pujols dashed his hopes repeatedly, he was never one of the fans who booed him. Now, his respect for Pujols has only increased.

“You always looked at the incredible accomplishments,” Anderson said. “You always knew he’d be a first-ballot Hall of Famer. Now, watching him go about his work as a teammate is incredible.”

STICKING IT OUT

Pujols became the second player to notch his 3,000th hit in an Angels uniform, some 33 years after Rod Carew did it.

Carew, however, almost didn’t get there. Carew recently recalled a slump that occurred earlier in the 1985 season, when he was still a few dozen hits short of 3,000.

“I was struggling and just got tired and fed up with baseball,” Carew said.

He said it took the words of Reggie Jackson, another future Hall of Famer playing out the string in his career, to get him back on track.

“I was real frustrated with the game and I was thinking of giving it up,” Carew said. “Reggie said, ‘If you do I’m going to kick you in the rear.’ He said, ‘Rod, you’re going to do something that will mean too much to you and others,’ so I decided to stay on.”

Carew notched hit No. 3,000 on Aug. 4, coincidentally against the Minnesota Twins, with whom he’d played the first half of his career.

STILL SLUMPING

Kole Calhoun was out of the lineup for the fourth straight game when the Angels faced a left-handed starter on Saturday. He last started against a lefty on April 17, against Boston’s David Price.

Still, the Angels continue to play him against all righties, the only concession to his slump being a drop to eighth in the order. Calhoun has five hits in his last 58 at-bats, with 20 strikeouts.

Manager Mike Scioscia said he still believes Calhoun has been working extra with hitting coaches Eric Hinske and Paul Sorrento.

“I think he’s trying to work through some things with Ski and Pauly, and I think he’s making progress,” Scioscia said. “It just hasn’t been able to translate out to the field yet.”

ALSO

Matt Shoemaker (forearm stiffness) came through Friday’s bullpen session without issue, and he will throw another one on Sunday. “He feels good today,” Scioscia said. “He had a great bullpen.”...

Parker Bridwell (elbow inflammation), who has been on the disabled list in Triple-A, has already thrown a couple bullpen sessions, Scioscia said.

UP NEXT

Angels (Shohei Ohtani, 2-1, 4.43) at Mariners (Felix Hernandez, 4-2, 4.89), Sunday, 1 p.m., Fox Sports West, KLAA (830 AM).

FROM THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

Angels let the victory slip away in extras against the Mariners

By Jeff Miller

Down to their final strike and having survived an appeal on a checked swing, the Angels dramatically rose Saturday.

Only to fall again. And dramatically, too.

Ryon Healy's run-scoring single off reliever Eduardo Paredes in the 11th inning lifted Seattle to a 9-8 victory on a night when the Angels lost leads of 4-0, 7-6 and 8-7 and simply could not prevail.

"Give those guys credit," manager Mike Scioscia said of the Mariners. "We just couldn't make that big pitch when we were trying to hold the lead. ... Great comebacks on both sides."

The Angels' road record fell to 12-3, and they now turn to rookie starter Shohei Ohtani on Sunday to try to win the three-game series.

The loss wasted the late highlights provided by Andrelton Simmons, Chris Young and Justin Upton.

Simmons' two-out, two-strike infield single scored Mike Trout to put the Angels up 8-7 in the 11th.

Young, who was batting .125 at the time, had a two-out, RBI single in the 10th to give the Angels a 7-6 lead.

In the bottom of the inning, the Mariners tied the score with an unearned run off Jim Johnson after a throwing error by Jefry Marte.

Upton first rescued the Angels with a homer with two outs in the ninth, a two-run drive that pulled the Angels even 6-6.

Before the home run, Upton was hitless in four at-bats, three of which ended in strikeouts.

He then fell behind Mariners reliever Edwin Diaz before successfully checking his swing and hammering a ball 400-plus feet over the wall in center.

The Angels saw something else sour: the perfect run by reliever Justin Anderson.

After six scoreless appearances to begin his career, Anderson allowed a lead-changing, eighth-inning two-run homer to Mike Zunino.

Anderson, who had not been on the 40-man roster until April 23, quickly emerged as one of the Angels' best late-game options.

He succeeded in several tight situations and earned Scioscia's trust in a way few rookie relievers have in Scioscia's nearly two decades of managing.

But against the Mariners, Anderson failed to hold a 4-2 lead after entering with one out and a runner on second.

He surrendered a RBI single to Healy and then Zunino's homer, halting his spotless string at 6 1/3 innings.

"That's the life of a reliever," Scioscia said. "Sometimes you make pitches and sometimes guys are going to hit them. ... It's not always what you don't do."

But there were encouraging signs along the way. Through four innings, the Angels had seven hits, including leadoff doubles in the second, third and fourth.

However, they only produced one run.

They had 11 at-bats with runners in scoring position and made outs in 10 of those opportunities.

After a 1-2-3 fifth, Marte came through in the sixth inning. Batting with runners at first and second, the reserve infielder lined a homer over the wall in left.

The Angels had a 4-0 lead and appeared to be comfortably on their way to another road victory.

But, like the weather here, baseball fortunes can change rapidly and with little warning.

Early in the game, it was raining at Safeco Field and the roof was open. So they closed it.

And the sun came out.

Eventually, things would end up going dark for the Angels, a pile of lost leads blotting out the positives.

Shohei Ohtani to start for Angels in Sunday finale at Seattle

By Jeff Miller

Shohei Ohtani was named the Angels' starting pitcher for the series finale against Seattle on Sunday. He'll oppose Felix Hernandez.

One change for Ohtani will be at catcher, where Rene Rivera is scheduled to start for Martin Maldonado, who was placed on the bereavement list Friday.

"Rene will pick up right where Maldy left," manager Mike Scioscia said. "Rene understands his pitches, understands what he's doing with the hitters. Hopefully it will be a seamless transition."

Ohtani, 2-1 with a 4.43 earned-run average, was dominant in his first two starts but allowed seven runs in 7 1/3 innings in his last two starts, against Boston and Houston.

Angels unsure how to celebrate

The occasion, as historic as it is, happens once in awhile, not once in a lifetime.

In fact, Albert Pujols is the fourth player in as many years and the ninth since 2000 to reach the 3,000-hit plateau.

Friday wasn't even the first time that the Angels' Ian Kinsler and Chris Young shared the same field for such a moment.

They were opponents on June 19, 2015, when Alex Rodriguez of the New York Yankees homered for his 3,000th. Young was with the Yankees and Kinsler was with Detroit.

When Rodriguez homered, the Yankees gathered to congratulate him in front of the dugout.

The Angels weren't sure what to do after Pujols singled. They had discussed the possibilities as a group but never settled on anything.

Gradually, they emerged from the dugout and began trotting toward Pujols after he walked off first base and in their direction.

"We were trying to figure it out as a team. 'What's the protocol here?' " Kinsler said. "We just kind of all came out. When he left the base, that was sort of the sign that it was OK."

The game was delayed about two minutes for hugs, backslaps and acknowledgments.

"You want to respect the other team," Kinsler said. "It's on their field. Mike Leake's out there trying to get outs. You just don't want to disrupt the game to the point where you upset those guys."

Etc.

Starter Matt Shoemaker (forearm strain) is scheduled to throw his second bullpen session Sunday. ... Reliever Blake Wood (elbow impingement) is expected to throw his first bullpen session this weekend, Scioscia said.

Angels weren't sure how to react to Albert Pujols' feat

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Ohtani to start Sunday

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The 10 greatest individual achievements in Angels history

By Mike Digiovanna

Albert Pujols collected his 3,000th career hit Friday night, a significant milestone for the Angels slugger and a franchise that has won only one World Series title in 57 years but has produced plenty of memorable moments.

Here's one man's opinion of the top individual achievements in club history, in chronological order:

Chance encounter

Dean Chance wasn't as notorious as pitching pal Bo Belinsky, who dated Hollywood actresses and was once suspended for slugging a sportswriter, but the right-hander put together the best-pitched season in franchise history.

Chance went 20-9 with a major league-best 1.65 ERA in 1964, throwing 15 complete games, 11 shutouts, striking out 207, walking 86 and allowing only seven homers in 178 1/3 innings to win the American League Cy Young Award.

After going 5-5 with a 2.18 ERA in 23 first-half games, Chance went 15-4 with a 1.29 ERA in 23 second-half games. He won five 1-0 games, all after June 1.

The Express

Nolan Ryan set a major league record with 383 strikeouts in 1973, a season in which the flamethrowing right-hander pitched two of his seven no-hitters. Needing 16 strikeouts in his final start to break Sandy Koufax's record of 382, Ryan whiffed Rich Reese to end the 11th inning against Minnesota for No. 383.

The Hall of Famer achieved the record in an era when strikeouts were frowned upon. Only 10 AL players struck out 100 times that season, with a high of 137 by Bobby Darwin. There were 73 AL hitters who struck out 100 times or more in 2017, including one — Aaron Judge — who struck out 208 times.

Ryan went 21-16 with a 2.87 ERA and 26 complete games in 1973 but finished second in Cy Young voting to Baltimore's Jim Palmer (22-9, 2.40 ERA).

Witt's end

A seemingly meaningless game between out-of-contention teams on the final day of the 1984 season produced one of baseball's rarest of feats: a perfect game by Mike Witt against the Rangers in Texas on Sept. 30.

A crowd of 8,375 saw the 6-foot-7 right-hander with the wispy mustache out-duel Charlie Hough in a 1-0 win that took 1 hour, 49 minutes. Witt needed 94 pitches to complete baseball's 11th perfect game. Reggie Jackson drove in the only run with a seventh-inning fielder's choice.

"It probably won't be until tomorrow and the next day and every day this winter that I'll be saying to myself, 'Hey, I did that,' " Witt said. "I mean, to get 27 straight batters out is unbelievable."

Act of inspiration

When Jim Abbott made his Angels debut on April 8, 1989, the left-hander from Michigan, then 21, was the 15th player to make the jump from high school or college to the major leagues since the inception of baseball's amateur draft in 1965. He was the first to do so with one hand.

The Angels were second-guessed for rushing Abbott to the major leagues, with some charging the team of publicity-mongering, of using Abbott to sell tickets in the short-term at the long-term expense of his development.

Though Abbott had a rocky debut, yielding six runs in a 7-0 loss to Seattle, he went on to go 12-12 with a 3.92 ERA in 1989 and 18-11 with a 2.89 ERA in 1991. Abbott threw a no-hitter for the Yankees in 1993.

Spectacular catch

Jim Edmonds was playing a shallow center field in Kauffman Stadium when light-hitting Royals infielder David Howard drove a ball over his head on June 10, 1997.

Edmonds sprinted straight back about 60 feet and made a full-extension, over-the-shoulder diving catch with two on, two out and the score tied 1-1. The ball nestled in the tip of Edmonds' glove as he slid face-first onto the warning track.

"That's the best catch I've ever seen," Angels infielder Tony Phillips, then 38 and a 16-year veteran, said. "Willie Mays doesn't do stuff like that, I'm sorry."

Among the fans who gave Edmonds a standing ovation was a 16-year-old who had just moved to Kansas City and was attending his first big-league game: Albert Pujols.

Clutch delivery

It was the biggest home run in franchise history. San Francisco was eight outs away from the World Series title in 2002 when first baseman Scott Spiezio came up with two on in the seventh inning of Game 6 and the Angels trailing 5-0.

Spiezio hit a three-run homer off reliever Felix Rodriguez that barely cleared the wall in right field. Darin Erstad's solo homer and Troy Glaus' two-run double in the eighth gave the Angels a 6-5 victory, and Garret Anderson's three-run double in a 4-1 Game 7 victory the next night led the Angels to their only title.

Vlad the Impaler

Of the greatest offensive seasons in franchise history — Don Baylor in 1979, Erstad in 2000, Vladimir Guerrero in 2004 and Mike Trout in 2016 — Guerrero's MVP season in 2004 may stand one pine-tar slathered helmet above the rest.

In his first year with the Angels, Guerrero hit .337 with a .989 on-base-plus-slugging percentage, 39 homers, 39 doubles, 126 RBIs, 124 runs, 15 stolen bases, 52 walks and 74 strikeouts to lead the Angels to the AL West title.

The right fielder carried the Angels in the final month, hitting .363 with a 1.150 OPS, 11 homers, 25 RBIs and 25 runs in 30 games in September and early October to help the Angels hold off Oakland.

One-man wrecking crew

Garret Anderson knocked in a franchise-record 10 runs to lead the Angels to an 18-9 thumping of the New York Yankees in Anaheim on Aug. 21, 2007.

Anderson hit a two-run double in the first inning, an RBI double in the second, a three-run homer in the third and a grand slam to cap a five-run sixth.

With runners on first and third and two out in the eighth, Anderson had a chance to break the major league record of 12 RBIs in a game, held by a pair of Cardinals players — Jim Bottomley in 1924 and Mark Whiten in 1993 — and the AL record of 11 RBIs, set by former Yankees great Tony Lazzeri in 1936. He grounded out.

No fish tale

Seven years into his big-league career, Trout, 26, already has established himself as one of the best players in baseball history. He won AL MVP awards in 2014 and 2016, finished second in MVP voting three times and is a six-time All-Star.

He hits for average (.306 career mark entering Saturday), for power (212 homers, 590 RBIs in 6 1/2 seasons) and in the clutch (.320 average with runners in scoring position). He's stolen 30 or more bases in three seasons.

He's made several spectacular defensive plays, most notably his four-foot leap above the Camden Yards wall to rob J.J. Hardy of a homer in 2012 and his scaling of the Angel Stadium wall to rob Seattle's Jesus Montero of a homer in 2015.

And Trout has barely hit his prime.

The Machine

Reggie Jackson hit his 500th career homer, Rod Carew notched his 3,000th hit and Don Sutton earned his 300th career win in Angels uniforms.

But none ascended to the heights of Pujols, who hit his 500th and 600th homers and collected his 3,000th hit as an Angel, the latter accomplishment earning him membership in baseball's exclusive 600-

homer, 3,000-hit club, which includes only three other players, Hank Aaron, Willie Mays and Alex Rodriguez.

"I hope people grasp how incredible this is," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "This is the fourth time in, what, 100 years? That speaks volumes."

FROM ANGELS.COM

Angels can't finish off pesky Mariners in extras

By Maria Guardado

SEATTLE -- A wild back-and-forth showdown between the Angels and Mariners finally came to an end after **Kyle Seager** scored on **Ryon Healy**'s walk-off single off **Eduardo Paredesto** lift Seattle to a 9-8 victory in 11 innings at Safeco Field on Saturday night.

The Angels took an 8-7 lead after **Mike Trout** scored on **Andrelton Simmons**' infield single in the 11th, but the Mariners staged the finally rally in the bottom half of the inning. **Robinson Cano** drew a leadoff walk against **Jim Johnson** and scored on Seager's double to tie the game. Healy then shot a single down the left-field line to score Seager from second to end the wild affair.

The loss snapped the Angels' four-game winning streak.

Justin Upton hammered a game-tying home run off closer **Edwin Diaz** to erase a two-run deficit in the ninth, and the Angels regained the lead on **Chris Young**'s bloop single in the 10th, but they couldn't slam the door on the Mariners, as **Ben Gamel** scored on a fielding error by **Jefry Marte** to tie the game once again.

The Angels jumped out to a 4-0 lead before Robinson Cano delivered a two-run double to bring the Mariners within two in the bottom of the sixth. **Mike Zunino**'s towering two-run shot off rookie reliever **Justin Anderson** then highlighted a four-run eighth that gave Seattle its first lead of the night.

Ohtani (ankle) set to start Sunday vs. Mariners

By Maria Guardado

SEATTLE -- **Shohei Ohtani** will return to the mound and pitch against the Mariners in Sunday afternoon's series finale at Safeco Field.

Ohtani missed his scheduled start against the Orioles on Tuesday with a mild left ankle sprain, but he threw a 30-pitch bullpen Friday without incident and showed enough progress to convince the Angels to clear him to pitch for the first time since April 24.

"He feels good today," manager Mike Scioscia said Saturday. "He had a great bullpen. He came out of last night's game with no residual effects, so he's good to go."

Ohtani is 2-1 with a 4.43 ERA, nine walks and 26 strikeouts over 20 1/3 innings as a right-handed pitcher this season. He came away with a no-decision in his most recent outing after yielding four runs over 5 1/3 innings against the Astros. Sunday will mark his first pitching appearance against the Mariners.

The 23-year-old two-way phenom said earlier this week that he was eager to return to the mound after the long layoff.

"It's been awhile since my last start, so I'm a little anxious," Ohtani said through interpreter Ippei Mizuhara. "But I just have to concentrate. This is going to be my next big test."

Ohtani does not hit on days before his starts, so he was not in the Angels' lineup Saturday night. A left-handed batter, Ohtani is hitting .339 with a 1.018 OPS, four home runs and 14 RBIs. He drew a rain of boos from the fans at Safeco Field during his at-bats Friday, and he will likely receive a similar reception Sunday. The Mariners had been viewed as one of the frontrunners to land Ohtani before he decided to sign with the Angels in December.

"I'm not really used to being booed," Ohtani said Friday. "It was probably my first time, so it felt kind of awkward and a little weird."

Worth noting

- **Kole Calhoun** did not start Saturday against Mariners left-hander **Marco Gonzales**. Calhoun is batting .167 with a .405 OPS, the lowest mark among qualified batters in the Majors. Calhoun has struck out 33 times while drawing just four walks.

"I think he's trying to work through some things," Scioscia said. "Just hasn't been able to translate them out there on the field yet. He's making some progress."

Chris Young started in right field in place of Calhoun on Saturday.

- **Matt Shoemaker** (right forearm strain) completed a bullpen session Friday and is scheduled to throw off the mound again Sunday. Shoemaker made only one start for the Angels this season before landing on the disabled list April 3.

"He felt really good, and that was a good sign," Scioscia said. "Put good effort into it. No residual effects. Hopefully he's on the right track."

- **Parker Bridwell** (right elbow inflammation) has resumed throwing off the mound and is progressing well, according to Scioscia. Bridwell, who is currently on Triple-A Salt Lake's roster, has been sidelined since April 27.

FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Healy the hero as Mariners beat Angels 9-8 in 11 innings

SEATTLE -- Ryon Healy was more exhausted than jubilant as teammates chased him into the outfield.

Don't worry, the Seattle Mariners were plenty happy.

"I think with the walk-off, it was more so just like, 'We get to go home, we're really happy, we won the game,'" Healy said.

Healy's single just fair down the left-field line scored Kyle Seager with the winning run in the 11th inning, giving the Mariners a wild 9-8 win over the Los Angeles Angels on Saturday night.

Seattle was the last team in the majors to play an extra-inning game and made up for the lengthy drought by rallying twice in extras to answer the Angels. Healy provided the decisive blow, his third hit in the final four innings.

"With our lineup, it's just a matter of getting somebody on base. When it gets rolling, you can feel it, it's a momentum thing, the confidence," Seattle manager Scott Servais said. "And it doesn't matter who really is in the box, guys feel good about it."

Both teams staged rallies in the eighth and ninth innings, and Seattle overcame runs by the Angels in the 10th and 11th.

The Angels took the lead in the 11th when Andrelton Simmons was safe on an infield single with two outs, allowing Mike Trout to score -- the second straight inning the Angels took the lead with two outs.

Seattle answered immediately both times. In the 11th, Robinson Cano walked against Jim Johnson (2-1) leading off and with one out scored from first on Seager's double that one-hopped the wall in right-center field.

Eduardo Paredes replaced Johnson, and Healy turned on an 0-1 pitch, pulling it down the line. Zack Cozart made a diving attempt, but the ball ricocheted off his glove, and Seager scored with ease.

"Give those (the Mariners) credit. They kept battling back. We kept getting the lead, and we just couldn't make that big pitch when we needed it to try to hold the lead," Angels manager Mike Scioscia

said. "Our bullpen went out there and just had a little bit of trouble putting guys away. Those guys didn't miss many mistakes."

It was a wild final few innings with clutch hits on both sides. None was bigger than Justin Upton's two-out, two-run home run in the ninth off Seattle closer Edwin Diaz. Upton stunned the crowd with a two-strike homer to tie it at 6. The Angels stayed alive when Trout's double fell just fair down the left-field line, then Diaz left his two-strike slider in the middle of the plate and Upton didn't miss, hitting it out to center field for his sixth homer of the season.

While Upton's homer sent the game to extras, it was Mike Zunino's two-run home run that gave Seattle the lead in the eighth inning after trailing 4-0.

"Anytime we can pick up our pitching staff like we did today; they've been outstanding for us and what we want to be as a team is pick one another up and everyone answered from top to bottom," Zunino said.

The Angels took the lead in the 10th on Chris Young's two-out single to shallow center field to score Cozart, only to see Seattle pull even in the bottom of the inning as Ben Gamel singled and eventually scored on Jefry Marte's throwing error trying to get Jean Segura at first base.

The Angels took the lead again in the 11th, although Simmons' hit traveled all of 70 feet. Third baseman Seager made a tough play on the slow chopper, but Simmons beat the throw and Trout scored. Trout opened the inning with a walk against Eric Goeddel (1-0), who struggled to throw strikes but got the victory.

NO RAIN

Fans and players got a little wet during the fifth inning as a brief glitch kept Safeco Field's retractable roof from closing after rain showers suddenly popped up in the area. It was mostly light showers but enough to get seats wet and send fans scrambling briefly for the concourses. By the time the roof started closing, most of the rain had passed.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Angels: RHP Matt Shoemaker (right forearm strain) came out of his most recent bullpen session with no problems and is slated to have another one Sunday. "He felt really good. That was a good sign. Put good effort into it. No residual effects so hopefully he's on the right track," manager Mike Scioscia said. Shoemaker has been on the disabled list since the first week of the season.

Mariners: RHP Dan Altavilla is expected to start a rehab assignment at Double-A Arkansas early next week. Altavilla was placed on the disabled list on May 1 with AC joint inflammation in his right shoulder.

UP NEXT

Angels: Shohei Ohtani (2-1) returns to the mound after missing his previously scheduled start due to an ankle sprain. Ohtani last pitched on April 24.

Mariners: Felix Hernandez (4-2) goes for his fourth win in his past five starts. Hernandez is 3-1 with a 3.99 ERA in his past five outings.

Shohei Ohtani set to return to mound Sunday for Angels

SEATTLE (AP) — Shohei Ohtani is set to make his return to the mound after being announced as the Los Angeles Angels' starter for Sunday's series finale against Seattle.

The Angels listed Ohtani as the starter on prior to Saturday's game. He went through a bullpen session on Friday and came out of that without issue. Manager Mike Scioscia said after Friday's game that all signs were pointing to Ohtani making the start but the team wanted to wait till Saturday before making it official.

It sets up an enticing pitching matchup with Felix Hernandez set to get the start for Seattle.

Ohtani had been scheduled to start earlier this week before a mild ankle sprain pushed back his turn in the rotation. Ohtani is 2-1 with a 4.43 ERA in four starts. He's struck out 26 batters in 20 1/3 innings.

Albert Pujols becomes 32nd player in 3,000-hit club

By Tim Booth

SEATTLE (AP) — Los Angeles Angels slugger Albert Pujols got his 3,000th hit, reaching the mark with a broken-bat single Friday night against Seattle and becoming the 32nd player in major league history to join the exclusive club.

Pujols dumped the single into shallow right field in the fifth inning against Mike Leake. It came on Pujols' sixth attempt after getting to 2,999 a day earlier.

Pujols received a standing ovation from the crowd at Safeco Field and was given the baseball and first base as a memento. His teammates all greeted him on the field before action resumed. The Angels won the game 5-0, and Pujols collected hit No. 3,001 in the ninth inning with a two-run single.

"I was really excited, but at the same time you still have a game you need to play and you still need to focus to win that game," Pujols said. "That's what I told those guys. Let's go win that game so it can taste a little better with a win."

The 38-year-old Pujols nearly got the mark in the first inning, but his hard liner was right at shortstop Jean Segura. Pujols walked on a 3-2 pitch leading off the fourth inning after fouling off four two-strike pitches.

Pujols joined Hank Aaron, Willie Mays and Alex Rodriguez as the only players in baseball history with 3,000 hits and 600 homers. He's the first player to reach the mark since Adrian Beltre last year against Baltimore.

"I'm aware of the legacy and the people that I tie and am on the same page right now," Pujols said. "But at the end of the day it's about winning a championship. Nothing would be more special than in September and October and playing in the playoffs and bringing a championship back to the city of Anaheim."

Pujols reached the precipice of the milestone earlier this week in Anaheim, getting two hits against Baltimore on Wednesday night — including his 620th career homer — before getting No. 2,999 on a second-inning double Thursday night.

He then came to the plate three times with the chance to hit the mark in front of his standing home crowd. But Pujols couldn't quite do it, eventually flying out to right and deflating his eager home fans in the eighth inning of the Angels' 12-3 win.

"Trust me I wanted to do it last night. But it didn't happen last night. It just happened tonight," Pujols said.

Ichiro Suzuki reached 3,000 hits in 2016 and also accomplished it on the road. He was in the Seattle clubhouse on Friday night when Pujols joined the club.

"More than the actual 3,000th hit, I remember the week prior," Suzuki said through a translator before Friday's game. "We were home for the whole week. I just had pinch-hitting opportunities. Every night was a pinch-hitting opportunity and that was really difficult. I was able to start on the last day of the road trip and getting it then."

Pujols became the second Dominican player to reach 3,000 hits by joining Beltre. With Suzuki stepping away this week for the remainder of the 2018 season, Beltre is the only active player with more hits than Pujols.

And it may be a while before another player joins the club. The next closest player to 3,000 is Miguel Cabrera, who is more than 300 hits away. After Cabrera is Robinson Cano, nearly 600 hits away from the mark.

Few sluggers in baseball history have been more versatile than Pujols, who joins Aaron as the only players with 600 doubles and 600 homers among their 3,000 hits. He is seventh on baseball's career homers list after hitting his 600th last season.

Pujols, who was raised in Santo Domingo before moving to New York and Missouri as a teenager, is the sixth foreign-born player to get 3,000 hits along with Suzuki, Rod Carew, Rafael Palmeiro and Roberto Clemente, who also had exactly 3,000 hits.

A three-time NL MVP with the St. Louis Cardinals, Pujols joined the Angels in 2012. Carew and Pujols are the only players to record their 3,000th hit with the Angels.

Pujols is in the seventh season of the lavish 10-year, \$240 million contract that persuaded him to leave the Cardinals, with whom he won two World Series, earned nine All-Star selections and established himself as one of the greatest hitters of his generation.

Pujols has been chosen for just one All-Star team and has yet to win a playoff game in Anaheim during his first six seasons in partnership with two-time AL MVP Mike Trout, but these Angels are off to an encouraging 19-12 start.

While he has slowed on the basepaths during the Anaheim chapter of his career, this season also has been rejuvenating for Pujols, who is playing first base regularly after several years primarily serving as a designated hitter. Two-way Japanese sensation Shohei Ohtani's arrival as the Angels' primary DH has put Pujols in the field, where he remains a capable defender.

FROM ESPN.COM

Albert Pujols' 3,000 hits, by the numbers

By Doug Mittler

The 3,000-hit club is already one of the more exclusive fraternities in baseball. But after Albert Pujols collected No. 3,000 on Friday, the number of players who have reached the milestone the way that he has can be counted on one of his powerful hands.

The 38-year-old Pujols is one of just four players to collect 600 homers and 3,000 hits, joining Hank Aaron, Willie Mays and Alex Rodriguez. A 10-time All-Star who ranks first in WAR among active players, Pujols gets plenty of bang for the buck: Over 40 percent of his hits have been either home runs or doubles, while he also leads all active players with 1,932 RBIs.

With three more years on his Angels contract, Pujols is not done climbing the list. Here is how the native of the Dominican Republic has put himself in such rarefied air.

Power plays

Pujols has hit 620 homers -- good for 20.7 percent of his hits, the third-highest percentage among players with 3,000 hits. His 625 doubles -- 11th most all time -- account for 20.8 percent of his hits, and that total is among the top five percentages in the 3,000-hit club.

The RBI machine

Pujols leads all active players with 1,933 RBIs, and his 14 seasons with 100 or more is tied with Alex Rodriguez for the most in history. Among players with 3,000 hits, he has the second-highest RBI/games played ratio since RBIs became an official statistic in 1920, according to the Elias Bureau.

RBI/Games Ratio By 3,000-Hit Players

PLAYER	CAREER RBI	RBI/GAME %
Alex Rodriguez	2,086	74.9
Albert Pujols	1,932	74.3
Hank Aaron	2,297	69.6
Rafael Palmeiro	1,835	64.8
Stan Musial	1,950	64.4

International All-Stars

Pujols is just the sixth player born outside of the 50 United States to reach the 3,000-hit mark. He is the second Dominican-born player, joining Adrian Beltre, who qualified last season.

Beating the best

Pujols had 32 hits off three-time All-Star Roy Oswalt, his most against any pitcher, ahead of Aaron Harang (27) and Ben Sheets (26). Odalis Perez may still be having nightmares involving Pujols, who was 16-for-26 (.615) with six homers against the left-hander.

But don't think Pujols only piled up numbers against second-tier pitchers -- some of his best numbers have come off of the best pitchers of his generation.

Pujols' Favorite Foes

Randy Johnson	.452 BA (14-for-31)
Clayton Kershaw	.382 BA (13-for-34)
Greg Maddux	.341 BA (14-for-41)
Roger Clemens	.314 BA (11-for-35)
Andy Pettitte	.306 BA (11-for-36)

Intentional passes

Pujols would have reached the plateau sooner if not for the free passes. Pujols has 308 intentional walks, the most of any member of the 3,000 club (the recording of intentional walks began in 1955). For the record -- Barry Bonds, who finished his career 65 hits away from 3,000, had 688 intentional walks.

Intentional Walks To 3,000-Hit Players

PLAYER	INTENTIONAL WALKS
Albert Pujols	308
Hank Aaron	293
George Brett	229
Eddie Murray	222

Angels' Shohei Ohtani cleared to start Sunday against Seattle's Felix Hernandez

Shohei Ohtani has been cleared to start for the Los Angeles Angels on Sunday, facing the Seattle Mariners' Felix Hernandez.

Ohtani's scheduled start Tuesday had been pushed back because of a mild left ankle sprain.

He hasn't started on the mound since April 24. Ohtani is 2-1 with a 4.43 ERA this season.

He has been in the lineup as a DH, however, batting .339 with four home runs and 14 RBIs.

The two-way rookie phenom has been the American League's player of the week and rookie of the month this season, and has a fan in Mariners' icon Ichiro Suzuki.

"He's real pure, just real clean," Ichiro said. "You can't help but like him. There's nothing to not like about him. Some people, because he can do it all and he's such a good guy, maybe they don't like him because of that."

Albert Pujols becomes just fourth with 3,000 hits and 600 homers

By David Schoenfield

Albert Pujols was once an obscure 13th-round draft pick out of Maple Woods Community College in Kansas City, Missouri, who almost didn't sign a professional contract. Now he's the 32nd member of the 3,000-hit club and just the fourth player in that group to get there while also slugging 600 home runs.

After lining out in his first at-bat and walking in his second plate appearance Friday night at Seattle's Safeco Field, Pujols reached the milestone when he singled on a soft liner to right field with two outs in the fifth inning off Mariners starter Mike Leake.

Pujols went on to single in the ninth inning, passing Roberto Clemente for No. 31 on the MLB's career list with his 3,001st hit. He finished 2-for-4 with two RBIs in the Angels' 5-0 win.

"I was really excited, but at the same time you still have a game you need to play, and you still need to focus to win that game," Pujols said. "That's what I told those guys. Let's go win that game so it can taste a little better."

Angels teammate Mike Trout saluted Pujols in a tweet late Friday.

Pujols joined Hank Aaron, Willie Mays and Alex Rodriguez in the 3,000/600 club, further solidifying his reputation as one of the best hitters of all time. He's the fourth player in four seasons to reach 3,000 hits, after Rodriguez in 2015, Ichiro Suzuki in 2016 and Adrian Beltre last season.

Pujols and Beltre are the only Dominican-born players to reach the milestone.

"It was fun that it turned into a little bit of a battle before he got a hit. Congratulations to him," Leake said. "He's a competitor at every second that he's on the field. He's been a joy to watch and a joy to compete against, for sure."

Pujols' trek to 3,000 hits has slowed in recent seasons, but his first 10 seasons with the Cardinals were one of the greatest decades ever for a batter, as he hit .331 while averaging 41 home runs, 123 RBIs and 190 hits. He won three MVPs and finished second in the voting four other times.

"I'm aware of the legacy and the people that I tie and am on the same page right now," Pujols said. "But at the end of the day, it's about winning a championship. Nothing would be more special than in September and October and playing in the playoffs and bringing a championship back to the city of Anaheim."

That path to stardom almost didn't happen, at least not with St. Louis. When the Cardinals drafted the stocky shortstop as the 402nd pick in 1999, they initially offered a signing bonus of \$10,000. Pujols declined to sign and played that summer for the Hays Larks of the amateur Jayhawk League. The Cardinals finally relented and signed Pujols for a bonus close to \$60,000.

He needed just one season and 127 games in the minors to reach the majors, breaking camp with the Cardinals in 2001 and starting in left field on Opening Day. He got his first hit that day off Mike Hampton of the Colorado Rockies and recently reminisced about the game with ESPN's Jerry Crasnick.

"I remember my [second] at-bat. I almost took him deep," Pujols said. "I almost hit a home run. I hit a long fly ball, and they caught it right at the wall. Then I hit a pitch middle-away, and I hit a ground ball, and Neifi Perez almost caught it, but it went through."

"Obviously, it's fun, but I was more worried about trying to stay up in the big leagues. Three days before, they told me I was going to make the ballclub. Then three days later, on Opening Day, I got my first hit."

Pujols would hit his first home run three games later, off Armando Reynoso of the Arizona Diamondbacks, and he was on his way. He hit .329 in his first season, with 37 home runs, winning Rookie of the Year honors and finishing fourth in MVP voting.

One of the most impressive aspects of Pujols' career is that he has never struck out 100 times in a season. That's not unusual for members of the 3,000-hit club, but he's avoided that while hitting for power and playing in the highest-strikeout era in major league history.

"Some guys in this era think the strikeout is a little overrated," Pujols told ESPN. "They're like, 'I don't care about it.' I do. It's something in this game I really, really don't like."

After 11 seasons and two World Series titles with the Cardinals, Pujols signed a 10-year, \$240 million free-agent deal with the Angels, a contract that has been met with much criticism as his production has

declined. Pujols' average dropped to .299 in his final season with the Cardinals in 2011, but he has hit just .261 with the Angels and has never hit .300.

With St. Louis, Pujols' lowest slugging percentage was .541 (also in his final season there); he's reached .500 only in his first season with the Angels.

Despite teaming with Mike Trout since 2012, the Angels have made just one playoff appearance since Pujols joined the team. He's played through foot injuries that have affected his performance, and he still has four years and \$114 million left on his deal, including this season, but the contract is widely viewed as an albatross given his sub-.300 OBPs last season and so far in 2018.

Still, it's been a remarkable career. His 99.4 career WAR leads Beltre among active players, and he could become just the 21st position player to reach 100 WAR (and just the 10th to start his career after World War II).

That extra \$50,000 by the Cardinals was worth the investment.

FROM CBS SPORTS

The L.A. Times put together a great sports front page for Pujols' 3,000th hit and Dodgers' no-hitter

Friday was a big day for Los Angeles baseball

By Mike Axisa

Chances are Friday will go down as the most historic day of the 2018 season.

In Seattle, Los Angeles Angels first baseman Albert Pujols became the 32nd player in baseball history to reach 3,000 career hits. Here's the milestone hit:

Meanwhile, roughly 2,300 miles south of Seattle, four Los Angeles Dodgers pitchers combined to no-hit the San Diego Padres in Monterrey, Mexico, as part of MLB's Mexico Series. Walker Buehler started and three relievers closed it out.

Between Pujols and the first combined no-hitter in Dodgers history, Friday was a very busy day for Los Angeles baseball. So, the *Los Angeles Times* newspapered accordingly, and gave both Pujols and the no-hitter prime sports page real estate:

Quality newspaper work, that is. Now, about the Angels playing in Los Angeles ...

Reminder: Albert Pujols was nearly a member of the Devil Rays and history could have been much different

The Rays had a scout who wanted Pujols, but management decided against it

By R.J. Anderson

On Friday night, Albert Pujols recorded his 3,000th career hit, becoming the 32nd player ever to accomplish the feat.

While Pujols is known for his time with the Los Angeles Angels and St. Louis Cardinals, he could've easily ended up with a number of other teams. Keep in mind, Pujols wasn't a top pick as an amateur. Rather, he was selected in the 13th round in 1999 out of Maple Woods Community College. The Cardinals might've been higher on him than any other team, and yet they still chose him after picking 15 other players -- only five of whom reached the majors, and only one, Coco Crisp, had a significant big-league career.

In Jonah Keri's *The Extra 2 Percent*, he details how Pujols nearly become a member of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. You can read the excerpted story elsewhere, but it boils down to the Devil Rays brass not believing Pujols's body would allow him to have a meaningful career -- that despite the pleas of scout Fernando Arango.

Here's a notable quotable:

"He was this paunchy, thick-bodied kid," Jennings recalled. "Stan said to me, 'I saw this kid strike out two or three times, I don't know what position he'd play, I can't do anything with him. I can't write him up.' "

Undaunted, Arango told his bosses, "All I want to say about this guy is that someday he'll hit 40 home runs in the big leagues." Jennings wasn't ready to dismiss Arango's report or his ranking of the top prospect in Arango's five-state area. So he sent in R.J. Harrison, a national cross-checker (who would take over, years later, as scouting director). Harrison's verdict: "I can't do anything with this guy."

As Keri notes, it's not entirely fair to blame the D-Rays -- every other team, the Cardinals included, passed multiple times. Yet Pujols went on to author a Hall of Fame career that saw him win three MVP awards, homer more than 600 times, and now join the 3,000 Hit Club.

The D-Rays, for their part, did draft some good players that year -- Josh Hamilton and Carl Crawford were their top two picks -- but they also selected eight consecutive players between rounds six

and 13 who never reached the majors. Any of those picks could've been used on Pujols. If so, who knows how different things would have played out -- for them, for him, and for baseball as a whole.

Angels' Pujols looking for wins with the milestone accomplished

For the record, the Los Angeles Angels' Tyler Skaggs will take on the Seattle Mariners' Marco Gonzales in a matchup of left-handers Saturday night at Safeco Field.

By STATS

For the record, the Los Angeles Angels' Tyler Skaggs will take on the Seattle Mariners' Marco Gonzales in a matchup of left-handers Saturday night at Safeco Field.

But nobody on either team was thinking about that Friday, not with the semi-retirement of the Mariners' Ichiro Suzuki a day earlier and the pursuit of career hit No. 3,000 by the Angels' Albert Pujols.

While the pregame talk was all about Suzuki and his transition into a front-office role, Pujols took center stage after the first pitch was delivered.

Pujols reached the milestone in the fifth inning, hitting a single to right field off Mariners starter Mike Leake in a 5-0 victory.

"I was really excited, but at the same time you still have a game you need to play and you still need to focus to win that game," Pujols said. "That's what I told those guys. Let's go win that game so it can taste a little better with a win."

Pujols, 38, became the 32nd player in major league history to reach 3,000 hits. He's the second Dominican-born player to accomplish the feat, after Adrian Beltré.

Pujols also became the fourth player with 3,000 hits and 600 home runs. The others are Hank Aaron, Willie Mays and Alex Rodriguez.

"I'm aware of the legacy and the people that I tie and am on the same page right now," Pujols said. "But at the end of the day it's about winning a championship. Nothing would be more special than in September and October and playing in the playoffs and bringing a championship back to the city of Anaheim."

Prior to the game, Pujols spent some time chatting with Suzuki on the field.

"This is something we can all cheer, even though we are in the same league and we are enemies," Suzuki said through a translator before the game. "It's a moment where all fans, everybody, can root for and cheer him on. So I will be doing that."

Suzuki recalled his own chase for hit No. 3,000 late in the 2016 season ... and the anxiety that came with it.

Suzuki was a backup outfielder for the Miami Marlins at the time. He got hit No. 2,998, then waited eight days for his 2,999th, getting only six pinch-hitting opportunities during that span.

The next day he got a start and tripled for No. 3,000.

"I'd have been so stressed out I'd probably have to go to the hospital," Suzuki said. "The timing of it, it was at the end of the season and only had so much time to do it. He's earlier in the season, so it's better that way."

Skaggs (3-2, 3.03 ERA) suffered a 2-1 loss to the New York Yankees in his last appearance Sunday, allowing a two-run homer to Gary Sanchez.

"Tough game," said Skaggs, who allowed three hits and struck out eight in 5 1/3 innings. "One bad pitch."

Skaggs is 1-2 with a 4.81 ERA in seven career starts against the Mariners, with 41 strikeouts in 39 1/3 innings. In his last start at Safeco Field, last Aug. 20, Skaggs pitched 6 1/3 scoreless innings.

Gonzales (3-2, 5.02) is coming off a 10-4 victory at Cleveland in which he allowed two runs on six hits in six innings, with one walk and four strikeouts.

In two career starts against the Angels, Gonzales is 0-0 with a 3.24 ERA.

FROM USA TODAY

Ichiro Suzuki and Shohei Ohtani shared a wonderful moment

By Alysha Tsuji

Two of the biggest baseball stars from Japan shared a delightful moment at Safeco Field on Friday. Ichiro Suzuki, who transferred to a front-office role with the Mariners the day before, jokingly ran away when the Angels' young star Shohei Ohtani jogged over to greet him during practice.

Both of them laughed as Ohtani caught up and respectfully shook Suzuki's hand.

Ohtani released the following statement, per MLB.com:

"I have nothing but the utmost respect for him," Ohtani said in a statement released by the Angels.
"What he has done for this game, our country and the fans. I wish we could have played against him, but it wasn't meant to be. Wish nothing but the best for him moving forward."

The Angels beat the Mariners 5-0 on Friday in the first game of their three-game series.