



Press Clips

(October 12, 2018)

CLIPS CONTENT

FROM OC REGISTER (PAGE 3)

- **Angels casting wide net in search for new manager**
- **Angels Offseason Options: J.T. Realmuto**

FROM MLB.COM (PAGE 4)

- **Here's what happened in Thursday's AFL action**

FROM OC REGISTER**Angels casting wide net in search for new manager**

By Jeff Fletcher

At least 10 candidates will be interviewed for the Angels managerial opening, with the initial interviews still ongoing.

General Manager Billy Eppler said Thursday night the Angels have completed eight interviews, with at least two left to go. They might still add more.

Presumably, there will be at least one more round of interviews, although Eppler would not elaborate on the details of the process, including confirming any specific candidates.

It's unclear when the Angels would name a new manager, but the sheer volume of candidates makes it seem unlikely they'd select one before the end of the World Series.

So far the only known candidate is Joe Espada, the Houston Astros' bench coach. It is not clear if Espada is one of those who has already interviewed or one of the two remaining. Although the Astros are still playing, teams in the playoffs sometimes allow their staff members to do interviews around their postseason responsibilities. The Astros are set to open the American League Championship Series on Saturday in Boston.

Beyond Espada, the internal candidates expected to be interviewed included Brad Ausmus and Eric Chavez, both special assistants to Eppler; third base coach Dino Ebel and bench coach Josh Paul.

The Angels are hiring their first new manager since 1999, when Mike Scioscia was hired. Scioscia announced after the Angels' final game, after he'd completed his 10-year contract, that he would not be returning.

"What we're looking for in that next manager is connectivity with the players," Eppler said earlier this month. "We're are looking at somebody who can think with a probability-based mindset. We are looking for someone who is eager to grow. Someone who can develop a culture that puts the welfare of the team ahead of any singular person. Those are the criteria."

Angels Offseason Options: J.T. Realmuto

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.)

J.T. REALMUTO, catcher, Miami Marlins

The basics: Realmuto is the best all-around catcher in baseball. Next year will be his age 28 season. He's a right-handed hitter.

2018 season: He hit .277 with 21 home runs and an .825 OPS, both career highs.

Contract status: Arbitration-eligible for two more years before free agency, set to make around \$5 million to \$6 million in 2019.

Why he makes sense: Although José Briceño and Francisco Arcia did well in short stints last season, it's unlikely the Angels view either as a No. 1 catcher. When Eppler was describing how he believes the Angels have internal options for most of their everyday spots, he conceded that catcher is a position at which they need to be "open-minded." Realmuto can also play first base, so he could help share that spot with Albert Pujols, so the Angels could keep his bat in the lineup even when he's not catching.

The prospect cost for Realmuto would be steep, but it might still make sense. In November 2015, when the Angels were staring at a potential void at shortstop, Erick Aybar was coming into his final year and the Angels had no heir apparent. In that case, they simply paid the high prospect price for Andrelton Simmons. Eppler reasoned that shortstops of that caliber just don't become available often, and it was worth the cost. You could say the same about Realmuto.

It's safe to guess that dealing for Realmuto would require two of the Angels' top 10 prospects, and maybe even a third lesser prospect. There is probably room for a deal that wouldn't include top prospect Jo Adell, though. If the Angels did get Realmuto, they probably would have depleted their prospect capital to the point that they couldn't make any other major trades this winter.

Why he doesn't: Even for only two years, it's possible the prospect cost for Realmuto would be exorbitant. There are other teams looking for catchers, and the market is thin. The top free agents are Yasmani Grandal and Wilson Ramos. The Marlins also might choose to build around him, signing him to an extension.

FROM MLB.COM

Here's what happened in Thursday's AFL action

Here's a team-by-team breakdown of how all 30 teams' prospects fared in **Arizona Fall League** action on Thursday:

AL East**Blue Jays**

Blue Jays No. 9 prospect Cavan Biggio went 0-for-2, but walked four times and drove in a run. Right-hander Zach Jackson recorded four strikeouts while allowing one hit in 1 1/3 innings of relief for Surprise.

Orioles

Orioles **No. 12 prospect** Ryan McKenna went 2-for-4 with two runs and a walk out of the leadoff spot for Glendale. One of the hits was a double, McKenna's second extra-base hit in as many games after he tripled on Wednesday. Starter **Chris Lee** gave up one hit over two scoreless innings, while righty Jay Flaa worked 1 1/3 scoreless frames despite issuing four walks. Tyler Erwin also struggled with his control as he allowed one earned run on three walks and two hit batsmen.

Rays

Shortstop **Lucius Fox**, the Rays' **No. 9 prospect**, connected on a three-run home run in the eighth inning en route to his second straight two-hit game for Peoria. He scored two runs, walked once and stole a base, finishing 2-for-4. Joe McCarthy (No. 17) also reached base twice, going 1-for-3 with a walk and an RBI. On the mound, right-hander Phoenix Sanders allowed five runs (four earned) on five hits, two walks and two balks in 1 1/3 innings, while Brandon Lawson took the loss after giving up a sacrifice fly in the 10th inning.

Red Sox

Esteban Quiroz put Mesa on the board with a third-inning solo homer and reached base five times, going 2-for-3 with three runs scored, three walks and an RBI. Mike Shawaryn, Boston's **No. 9 prospect**, tossed 1 1/3 hitless innings in relief.

Yankees

Steven Sensley plated a pair of runs with a double and finished 2-for-5 for Glendale. Hobie Harris posted 2 1/3 innings of one-run ball in relief, while Matt Wivinis recorded an out late in the game.

AL Central**Indians**

Indians **No. 6 prospect Yu Chang** went 1-for-5 and logged his second start at third base for Glendale. Hard-throwing righty Dalbert Siri scuffled in relief, allowing three earned runs on three hits and a walk in one inning.

Royals

Royals **No. 2 prospect** Khalil Lee went 2-for-3 with two RBIs, two walks and a stolen base from the bottom of Surprise's lineup. Catcher **Meibrys Vilorio** also made an impact with a 1-for-4 performance that included a two-run double and two walks. Grant Gavin recorded the save despite allowing an unearned run on one hit.

Tigers

Daniel Pinero and Daniel Woodrow each collected two hits, an RBI and a steal for Mesa. **Eduardo Jimenez** was sharp in relief, striking out a pair of hitters over two perfect frames, though **Tigers No. 26 prospect Sandy Baez** was hammered for five earned runs on five hits in two-thirds of an inning.

Twins

Twins **No. 19 prospect Luke Raley** went 0-for-4, but walked twice and scored a run for Salt River. Hector Lujan gave up three runs and retired only two hitters. Jaylin Davis went 2-for-5. **Adam Bray** picked up the win for Salt River with two hitless innings.

White Sox

White Sox **No. 4 prospect** Luis Robert (No. 44 overall) went 2-for-5 with an RBI and three runs scored. He's hit safely in all three games so far for Glendale. Outfielder **Luis Alexander Basabe** (No. 9) and shortstop Laz Rivera (No. 28) each drew a walk, but collectively finished 0-for-7.

AL West**A's**

Outfielder Luis Barrera scored the walk-off run in the 10th for Mesa to cap a 1-for-4 game in which he scored two runs, walked twice and stole a base. Right-hander Calvin Coker retired all four batters he faced in relief, striking out one.

Angels

Brett Hanewich pitched around a pair of walks as he struck out the side in the 10th to earn his second win in as many outings for Mesa.

Astros

Astros **No. 8 prospect** J.B. Bukauskas threw 3 1/3 innings in a start for Scottsdale. The right-hander yielded one unearned run that scored on a passed ball, but was lights-out otherwise. He gave up three hits, struck out five and walked one. Abraham Toro-Hernandez (No. 21) went 2-for-5 with a double and an RBI. Trent Thornton (No. 24) followed Bukauskas and gave up two runs on two hits. Ronnie Dawson went 0-for-3, but walked three times. Erasmo Pinales gave up two hits but also struck out two in a scoreless frame.

Mariners

Mariners **No. 2 prospect** Evan White has five RBIs through two games after his 1-for-3, three-RBI game for Peoria. Chris Mariscal also had a solid game, going 2-for-4 with two runs, while Matt Walker worked an inning in relief.

Rangers

Third baseman Charles Leblanc tallied two hits and two walks out of the No. 3 spot in Surprise's lineup. Starter Tai Tiedemann and reliever Joe Barlow both struggled as they allowed a combined eight earned runs on eight hits over 4 2/3 innings. **Rangers No. 15 prospect C.D. Pelham** tossed a scoreless inning to earn the win.

NL East**Braves**

Braves **No. 6 prospect** Christian Pache (No. 66 overall) went 1-for-5, but also grounded into a pair of double plays, while outfielder Izzy Wilson scored a run from the No. 2 spot in Peoria's lineup. Jeremy Walker was effective as he completed three innings of one-run ball in his first AFL start. He was relieved by Braves No. 12 prospect Kyle Muller, who struck out a pair but allowed one run on two hits and two walks in one inning.

Marlins

Marlins No. 16 prospect Jordan Yamamoto was impressive in his start for Salt River. The right-hander racked up five strikeouts, including each of the final two batters he faced, over three scoreless innings.

Kyle Keller followed Yamamoto and gave up two runs -- via a two-run homer -- in 1 1/3 innings. Chad Smith was the third Marlins farmhand to toe the rubber, and he cruised through 1 2/3 scoreless innings. He issued one walk and didn't give up a hit. **Tommy Eveld** put together a scoreless outing as he threw 1 1/3 innings. Brian Miller (No. 11) was inserted as a pinch-runner. **Bryson Brigman** (No. 26) went 1-for-4.

Mets

Mets **No. 2 prospect** Peter Alonso turned in a multi-hit effort for the third straight day for Scottsdale. After his 2-for-4 night, Alonso is 7-for-12 through three games. Joe Zanghi cruised through his one inning on the mound, yielding one hit in a scoreless frame. Andres Gimenez (No. 1) entered the game as a pinch-runner and drew a walk in his only plate appearance. Ali Sanchez (No. 25) went 0-for-1. **Gerson Bautista** gave up one hit over two scoreless innings, and Matt Blackham took the loss after he gave up an unearned run in the bottom of the 11th.

Nationals

Nationals **No. 2 prospect** Carter Kieboom picked up a pair of hits, including a triple, and scored a run as part of his 2-for-6 night for Salt River. Daniel Johnson (No. 10) went 1-for-5.

Phillies

For Scottsdale, Darick Hall went 2-for-5, including a two-run homer, his first long ball of the Fall League.

NL Central

Brewers

Catcher Mario Feliciano, Milwaukee's **No. 23 prospect**, went 1-for-3 with an RBI, two runs scored and two walks in his first AFL game. Weston Wilson went 1-for-5 with an RBI double, but also committed two errors at third base.

Cardinals

Tommy Edman was a catalyst out of the leadoff spot for Surprise with his 2-for-4, three-walk performance. He also drove in a run, scored once and swiped a pair of bases. Jeremy Martinez also tallied a hit, while **Lane Thomas** reached base on a pair of walks.

Cubs

Cubs **No. 29 prospect** Trent Giambrone paced Mesa's offense as he went 4-for-6 with two RBIs and one run scored. 2018 first-rounder Nico Hoerner (No. 6) went 0-for-5, but picked up an RBI in his second Fall League contest. PJ Higgins didn't collect a hit, but drove in a run and walked twice. Starting pitcher Justin Steele (No. 8) was tagged for four earned runs and five hits in 1 2/3 innings, while lefty **Manuel Rondon** permitted one walk over two hitless frames in relief.

Pirates

Pirates **No. 5 prospect** Cole Tucker drove in three runs and stole two bases in a 2-for-5 showing for Surprise. **Bryan Reynolds** (No. 8) also collected two hits, going 2-for-5 with two runs, while Will Craig (No. 16) scored a run after entering as a pinch-hitter.

Reds

Reds **No. 3 prospect** Taylor Trammell went 1-for-5 for Scottsdale. **Shed Long** (No. 8) picked up a hit as a pinch-hitter, while Alfredo Rodriguez (No. 23) went 2-for-4.

NL West**D-backs**

D-backs **No. 4 prospect** Pavin Smith came through with an RBI single as part of a 1-for-4 night for Salt River. Daulton Varsho (No. 5) went 1-for-4 with an RBI and Drew Ellis (No. 9) went 1-for-5 with a two-run homer.

Dodgers

Dodgers **No. 2 prospect** Keibert Ruiz (**No. 39 overall**) went 1-for-3 with two walks and an RBI for Glendale. Errol Robinson (No. 20) also had a strong game, going 2-for-4 with a double, two RBIs and a stolen base, while designated hitter Cody Thomas contributed by scoring one run. On the mound, relievers Nolan Long and Andre Scrubb allowed a combined five runs (three earned) on three hits and three walks.

Giants

Giants **No. 10 prospect** Heath Quinn went 0-for-5 for Scottsdale. C.J. Hinojosa (No. 28) went 0-for-6. **Chase Johnson** gave up three runs on three hits in one inning. Matt Winn went 0-for-4 with four strikeouts.

Padres

Padres **No. 13 prospect** Buddy Reed went 1-for-5 and scored a run for Peoria. Left-hander Travis Radke recorded three strikeouts and three walks as he allowed an unearned run on two hits in 2 2/3 innings of relief.

Rockies

Rockies **No. 11 prospect** Tyler Nevin reached base four times (3-for-5 with a walk) and drove in a run for Salt River. Justin Lawrence (No. 17) gave up one unearned run in one inning, but he avoided a big inning by inducing a 1-2-3 double play when he was stuck in a bases-loaded, no-outs jam. Josh Fuentes was inserted into the game as a pinch-runner.