



ANAHEIM ANGELS

W-L: 38-34 Place: 2nd

Edmonds exemplifies team's injury woes

Jim Edmonds, suffering from torn cartilage in his left knee and a jammed right thumb, was scratched from last Friday's lineup and didn't play last Saturday. Asked if he might benefit from a stint on the D.L., Edmonds said, "Honestly, yeah ... but I think three, four or five days off would be good, too. This is a crucial point of the season, and I'm trying to push through." Edmonds says he can handle the pain, but the tightness in his knee and hamstrings makes it very difficult to run. So using him at DH wouldn't necessarily provide relief. "Striking out four times a game and walking back to the dugout would really help," Edmonds says, "but that's not what I want to do." ... Besides Edmonds, injuries to Darin Erstad (elbow), Luis Alicea (hamstring) and two pitchers, Mark Langston and Mark Gubicza, both of whom still are on the D.L., have kept manager Terry Collins busy. "Hopefully, we've gotten all our bad luck out of the way now," Collins says. However, it didn't appear luck was changing when a stomach virus kept several players out of the lineup last week, including pitchers Rich DeLucia and Allen Watson and right fielder Tim Salmon, all of whom had flu-like symptoms. **Gross point blank:** The initial plan for Kevin Gross was to make one start, but the veteran righthander pitched so well in the team's 5-2 victory over the A's, Collins says he'll keep Gross in the rotation. Gross, recalled after two starts for Class AAA Vancouver, used his trademark curve and mixed in his slider and fastball against the A's. He lost command when he walked Mark McGwire. Jose Canseco and Dave Magadan with two out in the sixth, but reliever Pep Harris struck out George Williams to end the inning. "It was obvious Kevin got real fatigued, but I was real impressed with everything he had," Collins says. "His velocity was good; his breaking ball was sharp." ... Alicea's average was a season-high .315 on June 12, but then he went 1-for-20. —MIKE DIGIOVANNI



EDMONDS: Trying to play through pain.

PLAYING HARDBALL

Spectacular defensive plays in center field are becoming contagious. Last Friday, Garret Anderson, who was replacing injured **Jim Edmonds**, robbed A's catcher George Williams of a two-run homer and made a long one-hop throw to first base to double up Dave Magadan. Then on Saturday, Anderson took away a two-run homer from Mark McGwire. With the many injuries the team has suffered, replacements must continue to come up with clutch plays if the team hopes to stay in contention.

For more on the ANGELS check out: www.sportingnews.com/baseball/teams/angels

Prospect Watch: TODD GREENE, C

The team would like to recall Greene, who is hitting .370 with 23 homers and 67 RBIs at Class AAA Vancouver, but the catcher is suffering from a knee injury and was limited to DH duty last week. Greene was the team's 12th-round pick in the 1993 free-agent draft.

ANGELS BY THE NUMBERS

	'97 Season to date													Vs. RH		Vs. LH		WEEK 12									
	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	Avg.	OBP	SB	CS	BB	SO	E	AB	HR	AB	HR	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	TB	SB	
Edmonds	56	251	46	64	11	12	45	.322	.378	4	5	25	35	5	174	333	9	67	299	3	13	0	4	0	3	5	0
Anderson	69	288	30	92	9	2	46	.319	.339	6	1	9	25	2	193	311	2	95	337	0	21	0	5	0	9	10	0
Greene	33	117	6	27	0	0	5	.313	.362	1	1	6	5	2	26	200	1	42	361	0	4	0	2	0	0	2	0
Hollins	61	254	53	77	11	1	12	.306	.385	3	3	31	52	11	166	271	3	85	364	1	22	6	5	1	2	9	2
Erstad	61	251	49	74	18	0	37	.296	.349	12	2	20	32	3	174	305	5	76	278	2	18	3	4	0	1	5	0
Salmon	58	253	34	74	15	1	52	.292	.360	5	3	43	75	4	186	282	8	65	323	3	16	1	1	0	5	15	2
Hovland	29	110	5	18	4	1	3	.283	.333	1	1	5	10	0	50	342	2	12	183	0	2	2	3	0	1	3	0
Joynt	54	221	34	58	11	0	36	.286	.357	1	0	22	39	1	142	268	5	61	328	3	13	1	3	0	1	4	0
Phillips	56	235	46	71	11	1	37	.285	.411	6	6	53	50	4	183	290	2	71	271	1	22	5	6	0	0	1	1
Alicea	57	217	31	57	4	1	21	.284	.358	6	3	29	6	1	149	268	0	52	321	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
Knutson	36	98	13	25	4	0	12	.284	.342	0	1	13	25	1	62	266	0	34	235	2	13	2	4	0	0	1	0
DeSantis	27	145	14	34	14	1	7	.278	.349	2	0	5	15	5	167	273	3	80	195	0	21	1	3	0	1	3	0
Palmieri	36	145	19	31	1	0	10	.244	.351	1	1	1	1	1	44	159	0	21	425	0	4	2	1	0	1	2	0
TEAM	11	254	36	77	13	1	54	.285	.355	54	28	258	361	4	174	271	44	816	291	20	190	26	47	3	25	72	5
OPP	11	254	36	77	13	1	54	.285	.355	54	28	258	361	4	174	271	44	816	291	20	190	26	47	3	25	72	5
W-L	38	34	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
ERA	4.71	5.64	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
IP	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152
H	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
R	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
ER	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
HR	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
BB	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
SO	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
SH	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
G	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
GS	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
CS	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
SV	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
AB	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Avg.	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
HR	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4

*ROOM # LEFT HANDED # SWITCH HITTER



OAKLAND ATHLETICS

W-L: 30-45 Place: 4th

Obvious mistakes are team's glaring flaw

In no way, shape or form can this club make a mistake and expect to win. But that's exactly what is happening. The team made three misplays last Saturday, including a passed ball that led to two runs. One day before, first baseman Mark McGwire failed to field a high chopper in the first inning against the Angels. Four pitches later, Tim Salmon hit a three-run home run. Last Sunday against the Angels, Darin Erstad doubled off reliever Aaron Small, then went to third on a single by Dave Hollins. Hollins stole second and when catcher George Williams' throw sailed into center field, Erstad scored the tying run. **Jim Edmonds** followed with a base hit, scoring Hollins. This club does not have the talent or inner strength to overcome such obvious mistakes. ... Williams also is slumping at the plate. He has two hits in his last 18 at-bats. **Two dozen and counting:** Jason Giambi began the week with a career-best 24-game hitting streak. Giambi had two hits last Saturday to tie Carney Lansford's Oakland record set in 1984. He did not play last Sunday, the ninth time during the streak. Giambi has been out of the lineup. The franchise record is 29 games, set by Billy Lamar in 1925 for the Philadelphia A's. During Giambi's hitting streak, the team is 8-16. ... Scott Brosius, whose batting average remains below .200, drew his first walk in 22 games last Thursday. ... Jose Canseco, 0-for-8 in the two All-Star Games in which he has played, would like to make it to Jacobs Field for this year's extravaganza. Canseco entered this season with more hits (128) and more RBIs (99) in Cleveland than he had in any other city in which he has appeared as a visiting player. ... Don Wengert's complete game was only the second by the club, whose 5.62 ERA is the worst in the majors. The other was an eight-inning effort, by Mike Olquist in a loss at Toronto on June 6. ... The team was 15 games under .500 for the first time since June 27, 1994, when it had the identical 30-45 record. —PEDRO GOMEZ



GIAMBI: Hot hitter on a cold club.

PLAYING HARDBALL

Opponents must be giddy when they see this team come to town. The club has become a perfect guest providing the home folks with what they desire, a victory. The team's record away from Oakland was 15-28 after last weekend, with more losses than any A.L. club. Prospects for coming out of the doldrums appear futile. The team has become the complete opposite of what it was during the glory days of not so long ago, when it had the A.L.'s most road victories, year after year.

For more on the ATHLETICS check out: www.sportingnews.com/baseball/teams/athletics

Prospect Watch: DEMOND SMITH, OF

Smith was rewarded for his .309 average with 59 runs in 60 games at Class AA Huntsville with a promotion to Class AAA Edmonton. Smith was placed in the Trappers' leadoff spot. Given the team's need for speed, another solid few months could earn Smith a September callup.

ATHLETICS BY THE NUMBERS

	'97 Season to date													Vs. RH		Vs. LH		WEEK 12											
	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	Avg.	OBP	SB	CS	BB	SO	E	AB	HR	AB	HR	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	TB	SB			
Stars	58	103	21	36	6	0	10	.29	.350	434	0	1	15	17	0	95	347	8	8	375	2	13	4	6	0	3	7	0	
Lennon	20	34	4	11	3	0	0	.324	.425	0	1	6	9	2	8	250	0	26	346	0	1	1	2	0	1	2	0		
Giambi	59	222	31	70	20	1	7	.315	.367	0	0	19	34	0	186	323	4	36	278	3	6	1	2	0	1	4	0		
Bertha	69	248	38	76	10	0	16	.31	.306	390	3	2	35	53	1	199	296	12	49	368	4	15	3	0	1	8	10	0	
Bethorn	12	40	7	12	0	1	0	.290	.391	2	0	5	11	3	175	234	0	5	200	0	19	5	7	0	0	0	9	1	
McDonald	15	41	10	12	3	0	1	.293	.356	3	1	4	8	1	39	282	1	2	500	0	18	5	5	1	3	9	1		
McGwire	73	254	37	71	14	0	26	.265	.280	386	1	0	44	58	6	206	279	22	46	283	4	21	3	7	2	5	14	0	
Bourjiga	49	110	16	30	5	0	0	.273	.339	1	1	9	8	3	74	270	0	36	278	0	9	3	4	0	1	1	1	0	
Mashore	68	235	49	61	10	2	2	.266	.317	5	3	39	62	2	175	234	0	60	333	2	6	5	1	0	2	1	0	0	
Magadan	61	104	10	26	2	0	2	.250	.366	1	0	18	19	2	93	258	2	11	182	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Williams	46	126	11	31	6	0	0	.246	.391	1	1	25	28	4	92	261	0	34	206	0	18	0	2	0	1	3	0		
Canseco	71	270	39	65	12	0	16	.241	.327	6	2	35	78	4	216	245	15	54	222	1	21	3	4	3	6	13	0		
Mayne	24	75	4	16	2	0	2	.213	.272	0	0	5	5	0	67	229	2	8	250	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Brosius	72	269	30	51	12	1	4	.18	.190	249	3	3	21	54	1	210	205	3	59	136	1	23	3	3	0	0	3	1	
TEAM	75	257	36	66	12	6	9	.267	.335	267	342	36	16	32	52	54	2022	260	78	555	245	18	207	35	55	8	37	88	3
OPP	75	262	45	80	16	25	32	.243	.304	379																			

Peter Schmuck

Surprise, surprise, surprise

Jay Bell, David Bell and the less-than-dominant Yankees seize attention—but they're not the half of it when analyzing a season that is one-fourth old and already filled with intrigue

All right, whoever predicted Albert Belle would hit 62 home runs and challenge for the major league lead, please leave the building.

Oops.

Of course, everyone knows that in our April handicapping of the 1999 homer race, we were referring to Jay Bell. Or David Bell. Certainly not Angry Albert, who gets a fat pitch about as often as beleaguered Orioles manager Ray Miller gets a vote of confidence.

The season is one-fourth old, and we're not even half right. The division races are going pretty much as expected, but the baseball world is still full of surprises.

Diamondbacks second baseman Jay Bell got a lot of publicity last year as one of the game's most overpriced free agents, but he has been among the National League's home run leaders throughout the first six weeks of the season. He also leads the league in runs scored, which isn't bad for a guy who was supposed to be past his prime when Jerry Colangelo signed him to a \$34 million contract on the day of the 1997 expansion draft.

And how about David Bell, who has been jousting with Seattle teammate Ken Griffey Jr. and Tampa Bay's Jose Canseco—among others—for the American League home run lead? Bell had 14 career homers in four seasons before nearly matching that output a quarter of the way through 1999.

Meanwhile, it's Albert Belle who just put his name on a new breakfast cereal, which is called "Albert Belle's Slugger Cereal," but should be released in Baltimore under the name "Albert's Not-So-Cheeri-Os." Belle, stuck in the middle of an injury-ravaged lineup, has been productive, but he's leading the last-place Orioles in the wrong direction. And he's now a long shot to break Roger Maris' A.L. homer record of 61—a mark we said he'd topple.

Other views of the '99 season from TSN's quarter pole:

DAMN YANKEES Talk about heightened expectations. The Yankees, who finished with a .704 winning percentage last season, have been atop the A.L. East for most of the season; yet everyone is wondering what has gone wrong.

The answer: The Yankees won too many games last year. They should have eased up after they finished embarrassing the rest of the East Division, but they got full of themselves and went on to break the A.L. record for victories in a season.

Now, a five-game losing streak is enough to make front-running mayor Rudy Giuliani sleep in his Mets jacket.

Sure, the Yankees are struggling—their winning percentage is down by more than 100 points from last year—but they still possess talent aplenty. The return of Joe Torre's steadying influence could have major impact.

JOSE'S OK We were right about this one. Canseco, the Devil Rays' designated hitter, is hammering balls into the rafters at Tropicana Field at an amazing rate. So amazing it may be time to get out the architectural plans and find out if a domed stadium even has rafters.

Canseco is right there in the home run race, and not entirely coincidentally, Tampa Bay is holding its own in the middle of the A.L. East.

TURN BACK THE CLOCK If Toronto's Tony Fernandez is among the A.L.'s leading hitters, this must be 1987, right?

Wrong. Fernandez, who in '87 batted a career-high .322 as the Blue Jays' shortstop, is now reincarnated as the Jays' everyday third baseman. Besides hitting in the .370 range, Fernandez, 36, ranks among the A.L. leaders in hits and doubles—not bad for a player who appeared finished three years ago.

TURN BACK THE DOC The first quarter would have been slightly more exciting if many marquee



players hadn't suffered serious illness or injury during spring training and the early weeks of the season. Here's our all-out-of-action team (players who have missed part or all of the season):

1B—Andres Galarraga (Braves)	OF—Tim Salmon (Angels)
2B—Carlos Guillen (Mariners)	OF— Jim Edmonds (Angels)
SS—Alex Rodriguez (Mariners)	OF—Barry Bonds (Giants)
3B—Cal Ripken (Orioles)	
C—Mike Piazza (Mets)	
P—Kerry Wood (Cubs)	

HURTS THE MOST: WOOD The Cubs have gotten by surprisingly well without Kerry Wood, hanging tough in the N.L. Central, but just think how optimistic they'd be if the young righthander was doing what he did last year at this time. And think how much fun we'd be having watching him do it.

HURTS THE LEAST: EDMONDS **Jim Edmonds** is a great player, but the Angels have so many good outfielders his absence solved a lineup problem—until Tim Salmon got hurt, too. No one will say it on the record, but club officials and teammates had grown so exasperated with Edmonds' attitude and approach to the game they weren't that upset to lose him. When Edmonds gets healthy, he'll be traded.

HURTS ALL OVER: ANGELS Though Edmonds' injury didn't create a huge void in Anaheim, the loss of several others did. The Angels will be without starting pitcher Jason Dickson and reliever Mike James for the foreseeable future. They don't know when Salmon will come back