

The Pinstripe Dispatch

Yankees Baseball • Every Angle, Every Day

BRONX EDITION • BASEBALL DESK

ALL-STAR BREAK SPECIAL EDITION

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FIRST-HALF REPORT CARD

Battered and Buried: Yankees Limp Into the Break at 41-57

A last-place club, a training room that never empties, and thirteen games separating New York from respectability — but a Cooperstown-caliber first half from Aaron Judge and a handful of returning arms and bats offer something to build on in the second half.

BY **NICK FERRARO**, PINSTRIPE DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

The Yankees will spend the All-Star break exactly where they've spent most of the season: in last place. New York heads into the four-day layoff at 41-57 (.418), thirteen games behind first-place Boston in the AL East and dead last in the division for a second straight refresh. The last ten games have been brutal even by this season's standards — a 2-8 stretch that closed with four straight losses decided by two runs or fewer, including an 11-12 heartbreaker against Toronto on July 12 in the final game before the break.

But the losing record only tells part of the story. The bigger issue — the one that's shaped this roster all year — is health. Nineteen different players on the current 40-man have landed on an injury report at some point in 2026, thirty-four separate injury events in all, from spring-training strains to Carlos Rodón's third IL stint of the season. Six players are out of the lineup or rotation entirely as the break begins: Clarke Schmidt, Giancarlo Stanton, Trent Grisham, and now Rodón on the 60-day IL, plus Ben Rice and Yanquiel Fernandez on shorter-term stints. That's not a team missing a piece. That's a team that has spent the entire first half missing several pieces at once, and it shows in the standings.

There is real good news buried in the injury report, though. Ryan McMahon completed his rehab assignment this week and is back

on the active roster for the first time since late May, immediately solving a third-base hole this paper has flagged for a month straight. And per the organization, both Rice and Grisham are close to beginning their own rehab assignments, with a return to the Bronx targeted for a couple of weeks into the second half. If even two of those three injuries clear up as hoped, the lineup that takes the field in early August looks meaningfully more complete than the one that's been running out there since June.

Individually, this has still been a season worth watching. Aaron Judge is putting together a monster campaign in what amounts to a lost team year — a 1.066 OPS, 22 home runs, and a .308 average through 98 games — and the league noticed: Judge was not just voted an All-Star starter but was named the game's top overall vote-getter, the individual highlight of the Yankees' first half. He was joined on the All-Star roster by Jazz Chisholm Jr., Cody Bellinger, and Ben Rice, giving New York four representatives at a Midsummer Classic its record says it has no business attending. Bellinger, for his part, capped the first half with a Player of the Week award on July 13, riding a 9-for-23, 2-homer week that was the hottest stretch by any Yankee hitter since the last check-in.

“You don't build a 41-57 record by playing badly. You build it by never having your real team on the field. Get healthy, and this looks like a very different club in August.”

— A YANKEES CLUBHOUSE SOURCE, GRANTED ANONYMITY TO DISCUSS THE FIRST HALF

BY THE NUMBERS — ORGANIZATION AT A GLANCE

MLB (New York)		41-57 (.418) · 5th AL East, 13.0 GB		
AFFILIATE	LEVEL	W	L	PCT
Somerset Patriots	AA	47	39	.547
Tampa Tarpons	Low-A	44	42	.512
Scranton/WB RailRiders	AAA	42	51	.452
FCL Yankees	Rookie	27	25	.519
Hudson Valley Renegades	High-A	28	57	.329
DSL Bombers	Rookie	21	15	.583
DSL Yankees	Rookie	9	27	.250

THE INJURY LEDGER

Six Out, Nineteen Touched

The injury report has been the story of the Yankees' 2026 season as much as anything that's happened on the field. Gerrit Cole opened the year on a 90-day recovery timeline, Grisham and McMahon each lost more than a month, Jose Caballero missed over five weeks, and Anthony Volpe alone has been dinged four separate times. Most of the thirty-four injury events have been short day-to-day knocks — the kind that cost a game or two, not a roster spot — but they've piled up all year, and the current group of six sidelined players is the worst the roster has looked at any single point this season.

Carlos Rodón · SP

60-Day IL · new this cycle, last appeared Jul 8

Clarke Schmidt · SP

60-Day IL · still recovering from Tommy John surgery

Giancarlo Stanton · DH

60-Day IL · unchanged since last check-in

Trent Grisham · CF

60-Day IL · per the club, close to starting a rehab assignment

Ben Rice · 1B

IL · new this cycle, the club's #2 bat before going down

Yanquiel Fernandez · RF/DH

IL · unchanged since last check-in

Ryan McMahon · 3B

Activated · rehab assignment complete, back on the active roster

Jose Caballero · 3B/SS

Active · back and hitting well (1.199 OPS since Jul 6) despite a stale IL flag in the club's own records

The silver lining is that this is a moment, not a permanent state. McMahon and Caballero are proof the pipeline back to the active roster works, and the club says Rice and Grisham are the next two names in that pipeline, with a target of a couple of weeks into the second half. Rodón and Schmidt remain the longer-term questions.

ALL-STAR HONORS

Four Yankees Head to the Midsummer Classic

TOP VOTE-GETTER

Aaron Judge was named the All-Star Game's top overall vote-getter (Jul 1) on top of his own starting nod — the individual headline of a lost team season, backed by a 1.066 OPS and 22 home runs through the break.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Cody Bellinger capped the first half with a Player of the Week award (Jul 13), the product of a 9-for-23, 2-homer week that was the hottest stretch by any Yankee hitter since the last check-in.

ALL-STAR

Jazz Chisholm Jr. earned his own All-Star selection, riding a 20-homer, 30-steal season that's quietly been one of the more complete years on the roster.

ALL-STAR

Ben Rice made the All-Star team before landing on the IL this week — a .304/.529 season at the plate that made him one of the club's most productive hitters before the injury.