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MONTHLY RECAP

April by the Numbers: Yankees Tread Water at 17–14 While the Farm Sends Mixed Signals

A patchwork rotation, a red-hot Jazz Chisholm Jr., and a Texas brawl that cost Carlos Rodón a week — the opening month left the Bombers third in the East and short on certainty everywhere but Hudson Valley.

By Nick Ferraro | Pinstripe Dispatch Staff Writer
THE BRONX — April 2026

BY THE NUMBERS — ORGANIZATION AT A GLANCE (through April 30)

CLUB	REC	POS	GB
New York (MLB)	17-14	3rd, AL East	2.0
Scranton/WB (AAA)	19-11	2nd	0.0
Somerset (AA)	14-10	2nd	1.0
Hudson Valley (A+)	16-7	1st	—
Tampa (A)	10-14	5th	7.0

Hudson Valley has been the best story in the system through April, running away with its division. Tampa is the one affiliate under .500.

Thirty-one games into the season, twenty-six of them played in April proper, the Yankees sit 17–14 and third in the American League East, two games behind a fast-starting Toronto club and one behind Baltimore. Within the month itself the record was a flatter 14–12 — a club that opened the schedule hot in late March, cooled through a rough stretch against Detroit and Kansas City in the middle two weeks, then rallied to close April on a stretch that included consecutive series wins over Boston and Tampa Bay before dropping three straight to Houston to end the month.

Toronto (19–12) sits atop the division, with Baltimore (18–13) a game back in second. Boston (13–18) and Tampa Bay (12–18) occupy the bottom of the East, meaning the Yankees' early-season problem isn't a runaway division leader — it's that four of five East clubs are bunched within five games of one another, and New York has yet to separate itself from the pack it was expected to beat.

No trades were made in April. The most consequential outside-the-lines event of the month was a bench-clearing brawl in the series finale against Texas on April 28th, which drew a suspension for Carlos Rodón — a costly loss for a rotation already running thin.

Hot Corner: Chisholm Heats Up, Judge Cut Short

Jazz Chisholm Jr. was the Yankees' best hitter through April by any measure that matters — .304/.402/.565 with 7 home runs and 11 stolen bases across 24 games, the kind of five-tool line that made him a trade chip worth acquiring in the first place. Aaron Judge wasn't far behind before his month ended early: .286/.438/.524 with 4 home runs and a team-best 17 walks in 19 games, an on-base machine even in a relatively muted power month by his standards. Ben Rice quietly matched Chisholm's home run total with 7 of his own and a team-high 20 RBI, doing damage even as his average sat in the .270s.

The cold spots were more surprising. Cody Bellinger, the winter's marquee free-agent addition, opened at just .244/.330/.354 with 2 home runs in 23 games — a quiet first month by the standard he was signed to. Giancarlo Stanton was worse, hitting .221 with a 33 percent strikeout rate, and Jose Caballero (.167) and Ryan McMahon (.194) struggled to find any consistency before Caballero's injury sidelined him. Anthony Volpe, back at shortstop all month, was serviceable if unspectacular at .268/.346/.408.

BATTER	G	AB	AVG	OBP	SLG	HR	RBI
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Jazz Chisholm Jr.	24	92	.304	.402	.565	7	17
Aaron Judge	19	63	.286	.438	.524	4	9
Ben Rice	26	102	.275	.324	.529	7	20
Anthony Volpe	23	71	.268	.346	.408	1	7
Cody Bellinger	23	82	.244	.330	.354	2	9
Giancarlo Stanton	22	86	.221	.230	.465	5	12
Ryan McMahon	21	62	.194	.261	.323	1	6
Jose Caballero	19	54	.167	.250	.259	1	2

A Rotation Held Together with Tape

Max Fried was the workhorse the front office paid for, leading the staff with 31.2 innings and a 3.98 ERA across five starts. Luis Gil went 3–2 with a 4.40 ERA before landing on the injury list at month's end, and Cam Schlittler struck out 28 in 21.1 innings — a strong peripheral number buried under an 0–3 record that undersells how he actually pitched. Elmer Rodriguez was the best of the fill-in starters, posting a 2.81 ERA across three spot starts.

The find of the month was Cade Winquest, a bulk reliever who threw 18 innings across seven appearances without a single start and posted a 1.50 ERA and 0.83 WHIP — exactly the kind of length the bullpen needed with the rotation short-handed. Carson Coleman worked a similar multi-inning relief role. On the other end, Ryan Weathers (7.77 ERA) and Ryan Yarbrough (13.50 ERA) had rough months, and Carlos Rodón's lone spot start was a disaster — 2.1 innings, 8 earned runs — before a five-day injury absence and, days later, a suspension out of the Texas brawl kept him out of the rotation picture entirely.

PITCHER	G	GS	IP	W-L	ERA	WHIP	K
Max Fried	5	5	31.2	2-2	3.98	1.04	24
Luis Gil	6	6	30.2	3-2	4.40	1.34	22
Cam Schlittler	5	4	21.1	0-3	4.22	1.59	28
Cade Winquest	7	0	18.0	0-1	1.50	0.83	16
Elmer Rodriguez	3	3	16.0	1-0	2.81	1.31	18
Ryan Weathers	5	5	22.0	2-2	7.77	2.00	17
Carlos Rodón	1	1	2.1	0-1	30.86	3.43	3

“Nobody in that clubhouse is confusing April for who this team is going to be. Everybody's just trying to stay close until the whole roster's available.”

Injuries and the Texas Aftermath

The injury list grew steadily through the month. Elmer Rodriguez opened April on a four-day absence, Trent Grisham followed with a week out on April 5th, and Carlos Rodón missed five days beginning April 17th. Rookie outfielder Spencer Jones was in and out twice, on April 8th and again on April 21st, four days each time — the kind of nagging absences that come with a first full season at the highest level. Aaron Judge's ten-day injury on April 25th was the month's most damaging blow, cutting short his best offensive stretch of the year, and Luis Gil went down five days later on April 29th.

None of it compares in strangeness to April 28th, when a benches-clearing brawl in the finale of the Texas series left Rodón suspended alongside an opposing player. Coming just days after his own injury absence and one disastrous spot start, the suspension effectively ended his run as a rotation option for the immediate future — a storyline worth tracking as the Yankees decide how to reconstruct a rotation waiting on Gerrit Cole and Clarke Schmidt, neither of whom has thrown a big-league inning yet this season.

What's Ahead

May opens with the Yankees looking for their record to catch up to a lineup that, healthy, has real thump in it — Chisholm, Judge and Rice were all hitting well before injuries and matchups intervened. On the mound, the club needs Fried and Gil to keep anchoring the rotation while it sorts out whether Winquest's bulk-relief role expands, whether Rodón has a path back to the rotation once his suspension clears, and how much longer the wait for Cole and Schmidt stretches. Down on the farm, keep an eye on whether Hudson Valley's hot start holds and whether Tampa, the system's lone sub-.500 club in April, turns things around.