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JUNE 1, 2026

MONTHLY RECAP

May by the Numbers: Yankees Slide to 28-32 as the AL East Turns Upside Down

Aaron Judge came back scorching and Jasson Dominguez broke out, but an 11-18 month, a fresh injury to Anthony Volpe, and a shaky rotation left New York in third place anyway — four and a half games worse off than it stood a month ago, in a division that no longer resembles the one that opened the season.

By Nick Ferraro | Pinstripe Dispatch Staff Writer

THE BRONX — May 2026

BY THE NUMBERS — ORGANIZATION AT A GLANCE (through May 31)

CLUB	REC	POS	GB
New York (MLB)	28-32	3rd, AL East	7.5
Scranton/WB (AAA)	24-33	8th	12.0
Somerset (AA)	26-25	3rd	5.0
Hudson Valley (A+)	17-34	6th	12.0
Tampa (A)	32-19	1st	—

Tampa has been the best story in the system in May, running away with its division after sitting last a month ago. Hudson Valley is the mirror image — a first-place club in April that has fallen to sixth.

Sixty games into the season, the Yankees are 28–32 and sitting third in the American League East — the same rank they held after April, but on far shakier footing. Within May itself the club went 11–18, its worst month of the year by a wide margin, and the seven-and-a-half-game deficit behind first place is more than triple what it was a month ago.

The division looked almost nothing like this on May 1. Toronto, which led the East at 19–12 through April, has collapsed to last place at 25–35. Tampa Bay, which was 12–18 and running in last, has surged all the way to the top of the East at 35–24. Boston (33–26) has quietly climbed into second, and Baltimore (26–34) sits just behind New York in fourth. The East that opened the season bunched within five games of one another has been scrambled top to bottom — New York's problem in May wasn't a runaway leader, it was its own inability to keep pace while everyone else's fortunes flipped.

No trades were made in May. The most notable roster move was a call-up: infielder Marco Luciano debuted on May 15th and immediately made a case to stick, while Carlos Rodón served the remainder of his suspension from the April 28th Texas brawl before returning to the mound in relief on May 9th and finally back into the rotation for a spot start on May 31st.

Hot Corner: Judge Returns Roaring, Dominguez Breaks Out

Aaron Judge missed the first ten days of May recovering from the injury that cut short his April, but what he did in the fifteen games he did play was the offensive story of the month: .333/.455/.722 with 5 home runs, 12 walks against 18 strikeouts, and an OPS over 1.170. If the calf and the schedule cooperate in June, a full month of that bat changes the division math by itself.

Jasson Dominguez quietly put together the best all-around month of any Yankee regular — .300/.373/.500 with 3 home runs and 11 stolen bases across 27 games, five-tool production from a player who didn't crack the April recap's leaderboard. Ben Rice stayed steady across the heart of the order at .310/.394/.571 with 7 home runs and a team-high 17 RBI, and Jazz Chisholm Jr. remained a power source even as his average cooled, hitting 7 more home runs with 21 RBI and 11 more steals. Marco Luciano, up since the 15th, hit .294/.390/.588 in his first taste of the majors.

The cold spots were real. Trent Grisham (.195/.305/.354) and Austin Wells (.197/.299/.329) both scuffled for most of the month, Ryan McMahon continued to struggle to find consistency at .215, and Anthony Volpe's May ended after just seven

games and 27 at-bats — he last played on May 9th and remains out, a significant loss at shortstop that the club has not fully replaced.

BATTER	G	AB	AVG	OBP	SLG	HR	RBI
Jazz Chisholm Jr.	26	103	.272	.318	.544	7	21
Jasson Dominguez	27	90	.300	.373	.500	3	10
Ben Rice	24	84	.310	.394	.571	7	17
Aaron Judge	15	54	.333	.455	.722	5	8
Cody Bellinger	22	83	.265	.311	.518	6	16
Trent Grisham	25	82	.195	.305	.354	3	11
Austin Wells	23	76	.197	.299	.329	3	8
Ryan McMahon	18	65	.215	.271	.446	4	10

Fried Anchors a Rotation Still Finding Its Feet

Max Fried was the best pitcher on the staff for the second straight month, throwing 38 innings across six starts with a 1.66 ERA, a 0.89 WHIP and 39 strikeouts against just 10 walks — ace-caliber work that has kept the rotation from cratering further. Cam Schlittler was nearly as good in the strikeout column, fanning 40 over 36.2 innings, though his 3.44 ERA and 1.17 WHIP were a level behind Fried's. Elmer Rodriguez, pressed into a full six-start workload after his April spot-starting audition, held a respectable 3.46 ERA.

Luis Gil's return from his April injury was uneven — three starts and two relief outings for a 5.21 ERA before a step back into a bullpen role in the final week of the month. Will Warren struggled to a 6.26 ERA across four starts, and Carlos Rodón's transition back from suspension was rocky in short relief stints before his lone May start on the 31st. Ryan Weathers, largely converted to a multi-inning relief role after his poor April, posted a 5.01 ERA that didn't represent much of an improvement.

In the bullpen, David Bednar was the primary closer, converting 6 saves with a 3.52 ERA, and Fernando Cruz (2.08 ERA) and Jake Bird (2.45 ERA) were quiet, reliable middle-relief options. Camilo Doval had the roughest month of anyone in the pen, a 6.97 ERA and 1.65 WHIP that will bear watching as the calendar turns to June.

PITCHER	G	GS	IP	W-L	ERA	WHIP	K
Max Fried	6	6	38.0	2-1	1.66	0.89	39
Cam Schlittler	6	6	36.2	3-1	3.44	1.17	40
Elmer Rodriguez	6	6	26.0	2-2	3.46	1.12	26
Ryan Weathers	9	2	23.1	2-2	5.01	1.46	27
Will Warren	6	4	23.0	1-1	6.26	1.74	17
Luis Gil	5	3	19.0	0-2	5.21	1.42	16
Carlos Rodón	6	1	14.2	0-2	5.52	1.91	11

“Nobody's happy with third place and a losing month, but the lineup we saw in stretches — with Judge healthy and Dominguez hitting like that — is a real team. We've got to find a way to get the rotation lined up behind Max and go from there.”

Injuries: Volpe's Absence Lingers

Anthony Volpe's injury has been the month's most consequential absence — out since May 9th and still not back on the active roster as of this writing, forcing the club to patch together shortstop production for the better part of three weeks. Reliever Ryan Burr went down for nine days beginning May 3rd, and shorter absences hit Elmer Rodriguez (two days, May 12th) and rookie outfielder Spencer Jones (three days, May 29th). None of the May injuries individually match the disruption of April's Judge and Rodón absences, but their cumulative effect on a already-thin pitching staff was real.

What's Ahead

June opens with the Yankees needing a healthy Judge and a full month of Dominguez-level production to climb back into a scrambled East race. Fried and Schlittler must keep setting the pace while the club sorts out Rodón's rotation spot, whether Gil's setback is a blip, and when Volpe returns. On the farm, Tampa's rise and Hudson Valley's collapse are the storylines to watch.