

THE PINSTRIPE DISPATCH

YANKEES BASEBALL • EVERY ANGLE, EVERY DAY

BRONX EDITION • BASEBALL DESK

JULY 1, 2026

MONTHLY RECAP

June by the Numbers: Yankees Slide to Fifth as Rodón's Struggles Deepen

Aaron Judge authored one of the best months of his career and Anthony Volpe hit .341 in a dozen games back from the injured list, but a 11–16 month, a disastrous June from Carlos Rodón, and a scrambled AL East left New York in fifth place — two games worse off in the standings than it stood a month ago.

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

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

CLUB	REC	POS	GB
New York (MLB)	39-48	5th, AL East	9.5
Scranton/WB (AAA)	35-47	8th	13.0
Somerset (AA)	39-35	3rd	5.0
Hudson Valley (A+)	23-50	6th	18.0
Tampa (A)	39-36	3rd	2.0

Somerset (5–game winning streak) and Tampa have been the system's steadiest clubs all season; Hudson Valley's collapse to 23–50 has only deepened.

Sixty-two games into a stretch that once looked like a real division race, the Yankees are 39–48 and sit fifth in the American League East, nine and a half games behind a Boston club that has quietly taken control of the division at 48–38. Within June itself the Yankees went a marginally better 11–16 than May's 11–18, but the standings tell a worse story: a month ago New York sat third, seven and a half back; it now sits fifth, nine and a half back, passed by both Baltimore (42–45) and a Toronto club (41–46) that looked finished a month ago.

The one trade of the month came on June 7th, when the Yankees sent veteran infielder Paul DeJong to Colorado for two teenage third-base prospects, Wilder Dalis and Larry Suero — a clear salary-and-depth-clearing move rather than a push for immediate help. It has since become a more pointed subtraction than it looked at the time: with Ryan McMahon, the club's best in-house production at the position, working through a rehab assignment at Triple-A after a multi-week injury, the Yankees currently have zero MLB-rated third basemen on the active roster, an organizational hole the front office will need to address well before the trade deadline.

The rotation, meanwhile, remains unsettled everywhere except the one spot nobody's worried about anymore. Carlos Rodón was moved back into the starting five in June with Luis Gil sliding into a relief role, and the early results have not been kind — a 6.10 ERA in four June starts, part of a stretch dating back to his return that has climbed to 7.41 overall. Gerrit Cole, activated off his rehab assignment in mid-June, has been the opposite story: three starts, a 2.08 ERA, and stuff that looks every bit like peak Cole — his 1-2 record is a product of an offense that hasn't scored behind

him, not anything he's doing wrong. Clarke Schmidt remains out entirely as he works back from Tommy John surgery. With Cole already delivering, Rodón is now the far more obvious name to move once Schmidt is ready too.

Hot Corner: Judge Explodes, Chisholm Cools Off

Aaron Judge turned in one of the best months of his career in June: .372/.478/.787 with 11 home runs and 20 RBI across 25 games, an OPS north of 1.260 that single-handedly kept the offense afloat for long stretches. Anthony Volpe, back from a six-day injured-list stint that cost him nearly two weeks, was outstanding in his return — .341/.400/.523 in just 12 games, a strong argument that the shortstop job is his again. Ben Rice stayed exactly what he has been all year, a steady .305 with 4 home runs, and rookie Marco Luciano, given a smaller workload in June, still managed a .262/.351/.569 line with 5 home runs in just 65 at-bats.

The month's cold spot was impossible to miss: Jazz Chisholm Jr., who has been one of the best all-around players on the roster all season, hit just .170 in June with 35 strikeouts in 94 at-bats, though he still found ways to contribute — 5 home runs and 7 more stolen bases even in the slump. Spencer Jones (.158) and Max Schuemann (.095) were both non-factors offensively, and Jasson Dominguez's power and average both cooled from his season norms even as his legs kept working (5 steals in June).

BATTER	G	AB	AVG	OBP	SLG	HR	RBI
Aaron Judge	25	94	.372	.478	.787	11	20
Anthony Volpe	12	44	.341	.400	.523	1	5
Ben Rice	26	95	.305	.382	.474	4	12
Marco Luciano	21	65	.262	.351	.569	5	12
Cody Bellinger	24	92	.250	.290	.424	4	11
J.C. Escarra	11	31	.258	.281	.452	1	6
Austin Wells	21	70	.229	.325	.343	2	6
Paul Goldschmidt	18	54	.222	.276	.370	2	7
Jasson Dominguez	24	87	.207	.300	.345	3	16
George Lombard Jr.	16	47	.191	.224	.362	2	3
Spencer Jones	24	76	.158	.220	.355	3	9
Jazz Chisholm Jr.	26	94	.170	.284	.330	5	8
Max Schuemann	13	42	.095	.152	.238	2	3

A Rotation Still Waiting on Reinforcements

Max Fried remained the steadiest presence in the rotation — a 3.15 ERA across five June starts, part of a season that has him squarely in the Cy Young conversation. Elmer Rodriguez quietly turned in his best month yet (3.60 ERA), and Gerrit Cole's return from rehab (2.08 ERA, 24 strikeouts in 17.1 innings across three starts) was the single most encouraging pitching development of the month — he's locked into the rotation going forward, not a temporary cameo.

Cam Schlitler, who has otherwise anchored the rotation all year, hit real turbulence in June — a 7.09 ERA across five starts, the first extended rough patch of his season and one worth watching as he continues to log a starter's workload rather than the multi-inning relief role once assumed for him. Rodón's 6.10 ERA in four June starts kept him the clear problem child of the staff, and Luis Gil, now working in relief after the rotation swap, posted a 5.29 ERA in a mixed multi-inning role.

The bullpen had its own split month: Ryan Burr was outstanding (0.69 ERA over 13 innings) and Camilo Doval was nearly as sharp (1.29 ERA), while closer David Bednar (5.40 ERA, 3 saves) and setup man Cade Winkes (6.57 ERA) both had rockier stretches. Fernando Cruz, now on the Yankees' own trade block alongside outfielder Randal Grichuk, struggled to a 7.88 ERA in June — not the kind of platform performance a player wants heading into trade season.

PITCHER	G	GS	IP	W-L	ERA	WHIP	K
Max Fried	5	5	34.1	2-1	3.15	1.19	27
Gerrit Cole	3	3	17.1	1-2	2.08	1.15	24
Elmer Rodriguez	4	3	20.0	1-2	3.60	1.40	13
Ryan Weathers	5	2	16.1	0-0	3.86	1.47	13
Will Warren	2	2	12.2	0-0	2.84	1.26	11
Ryan Burr	9	0	13.0	1-0	0.69	1.31	10
Camilo Doval	7	0	7.0	0-0	1.29	0.71	8
Brent Headrick	8	0	11.1	1-2	3.97	1.24	12
Carlos Rodón	4	4	20.2	1-2	6.10	1.55	21
Luis Gil	5	3	17.0	1-1	5.29	1.76	16
David Bednar	10	0	11.2	3-2	5.40	1.29	17
Cade Winkes	9	0	12.1	0-0	6.57	1.46	13
Cam Schlichter	5	5	26.2	0-4	7.09	1.54	24
Fernando Cruz	8	0	8.0	0-0	7.88	1.38	15

“We’re not hiding from where we are in the standings. But Judge is doing Judge things again, Volpe looks like himself, and Cole looked like peak Cole the moment he stepped back on a big-league mound. Once Schmidt’s all the way back too, this rotation looks a lot different than it does today.”

Injuries: Volpe's Return, Judge's Scare

Anthony Volpe missed nearly two weeks in June — a day-to-day issue on June 9th that escalated to a six-day injured-list stint on June 11th — before returning to immediately reclaim the shortstop job. Aaron Judge had his own brief scare, a three-day day-to-day issue on June 23rd that did not cost him significant time. Carlos Rodón (three days, June 12th), Camilo Doval (one day, June 4th), and Fernando Cruz (three days, June 17th) all missed shorter stretches. The month's most consequential roster move wasn't an injury at all: Gerrit Cole's activation off his rehab assignment gave the rotation back a frontline arm three years in the making. Clarke Schmidt remains the lone starter still out, continuing his rehab from Tommy John surgery.

What's Ahead

July opens with the trade deadline clock now genuinely running. Expect reliever Jake Bird to be shopped actively as the more readily movable arm, Rodón's thin trade market to be tested regardless, and Clarke Schmidt to push for late-summer activation as the rotation's last piece still to return — Cole, for his part, is already back and pitching like the front-line starter this staff has been missing. The third-base hole left behind by the DeJong trade, and deepened by McMahon's rehab stint at Scranton/WB, needs an answer well before the deadline, and on the farm, Trent Caraway and Kolby Branch — two names from a draft class that is now fully signed — have emerged as the system's most interesting breakout stories to track into the second half.

NEW YORK YANKEES SEASON COVERAGE

FRANCHISE ARCHIVE