

# THE PINSTRIPE DISPATCH

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## SOLD OFF, THEN SURGED

*After a deadline sell-off and a July to forget, the Yankees went 32-18 over the final two months — good enough to look like a different team, not nearly enough to change where they finished*

**By Nick Ferraro | Pinstripe Dispatch Staff Writer**

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### THE FINAL TALLY

The Yankees closed the regular season on Sunday with a 5-4 win over Baltimore, their second straight, and finished 76-86: fifth in the American League East, 16 games behind a Red Sox club that won the division at 92-70. Toronto (82-80), Baltimore (80-82), and Tampa Bay (79-83) all finished ahead of them in a division where Boston was the only club clear of the pack. The run differential, 747 scored against 795 allowed, says the record was about right. The postseason opens without them.

### A SEASON DECIDED IN JULY

The year came down to one month. The Yankees went 5-20 in July, getting outscored 163 to 111, and that stretch turned a bad start into a lost season. Every other month combined, they were 71-66. March and April were 14-17, May was 14-15, and June was 11-16 as the injuries piled up. Then the club sold at the August deadline, moving Jazz Chisholm Jr., Cody Bellinger, David Bednar, Carson Coleman, and Jose Caballero, and trading Camilo Doval and Ryan Weathers for Zac Gallen. What followed was the best baseball of the year: 17-10 in August and 15-8 in September, a .640 clip over the last 50 games.

***Outside of July, the Yankees were five games over .500.***

The finish was real. A 3-0 sweep at Arizona in the middle of the month, a 2-1 series win over Tampa Bay, and a 2-1 series win over Baltimore to close the books drove an 8-3 run over the last 11 games.

### JUDGE FINISHES AS THE BEST BAT IN BASEBALL

Aaron Judge ended the year at .310/.448/.638 with 38 home runs, 66 RBI, and 112 walks. His 1.087 OPS was the best of any qualified hitter in MLB, ahead of Shohei Ohtani's 1.003, and his 38 homers ranked sixth in the majors behind Ohtani and Munetaka Murakami, who tied at 46. He saved some of his best for the end: in September he hit .373/.471/.797 with six home runs, 22 hits in 59 at-bats. Ben Rice was the other everyday constant, with 29 home runs, 80 RBI, and an .839 OPS, the team lead in RBI.

Around them the lineup rounded into shape late. Marco Luciano hit .338/.415/.620 with five homers in September (1.034 OPS), and Jasson Dominguez hit .309/.404/.543 with six homers and eight steals in the same month, finishing with 33 stolen bases and an .806 season OPS. Kristian Campbell, who came over from Boston in the Bellinger deal, hit .304/.417/.504 across 152 plate appearances in pinstripes, and Dylan Crews, who started his Yankees career ice-cold, went 12-for-42 in September. Not everyone got there. Spencer Jones hit .111 in September and struck out 124 times in

355 at-bats on the year, though he still hit 17 home runs, and Trent Grisham (.183) and Ryan McMahon (.212) never found a groove.

### A ROTATION BUILT AROUND FRIED, WITH A SECOND-HALF CAST

Max Fried was the constant on the mound: 11-9 with a 3.24 ERA, a 1.09 WHIP, and 191 strikeouts in 197 innings, including a 1.96 ERA over four September starts. Cam Schlittler struck out 174 in 164.1 innings but led the staff in losses at 7-15 with a 5.09 ERA, and Elmer Rodriguez finished 6-8, 4.83. Will Warren was the quiet find of the second half, going 6-2 overall and posting a 4.18 ERA with a 1.07 WHIP over five September starts. And Zac Gallen, acquired at the deadline, finally got on a major-league mound in September, going 1-0 with a 3.55 ERA and seven strikeouts over 12.2 innings in his first two Yankees starts.

The back end of the bullpen settled. Brent Headrick finished with 16 saves and allowed one earned run in 10 September appearances (a 0.79 ERA), while Fernando Cruz struck out 110 in 72 innings. The injured list tells the rest: Clarke Schmidt made it back from Tommy John surgery but finished 3-5 with a 6.52 ERA over 11 starts, and Gerrit Cole (six starts) and Carlos Rodon (12 games, 7.01 ERA) never got the seasons they were supposed to have.

### ON THE FARM

The Tampa Tarpons finished 69-63 and first in their division, the only Yankees affiliate to finish on top. Elsewhere the standings were harder: Scranton/Wilkes-Barre went 70-80, Somerset 62-76, and Hudson Valley 51-81. At Triple-A, Yanquiel Fernandez hit .298/.347/.567 with 15 home runs in 259 plate appearances at Scranton, Carlos Lagrange struck out 168 in 149.1 innings, and Duke Ellis stole 35 bases. In the Dominican complex, 16-year-old Robby Mireles hit seven home runs in 216 plate appearances. The 2026 draft class is still too new to judge: Trent Caraway, Kolby Branch, Tommy LaPour, and Pablo Torres all reached Double-A or Triple-A this fall, but each has only part of a season of professional stats.

### WHAT'S AHEAD

The offseason starts now. Fried and Gallen look like a front of the rotation, but Cole and Rodon are open questions, and the bullpen has to replace Bednar and Doval. The deadline sell-off also stocked the system with younger talent, and the winter will show how much of it is ready to help. The checklist ahead covers the coaching staff, arbitration and non-tender calls, extension candidates, the Winter Meetings, free agency, and the Rule 5 protection list.

| BY THE NUMBERS — ORGANIZATION AT A GLANCE (FINAL) |               |        |                   |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------|--------|-------------------|
| AFFILIATE                                         | LEVEL         | RECORD | PCT / FINISH      |
| New York Yankees                                  | MLB (AL East) | 76-86  | .469 — 5th, 16 GB |
| Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders                  | AAA           | 70-80  | .467 — 6th        |
| Somerset Patriots                                 | AA            | 62-76  | .449 — 6th        |
| Hudson Valley Renegades                           | High-A        | 51-81  | .386 — 6th        |
| Tampa Tarpons                                     | Low-A         | 69-63  | .523 — 1st        |
| FCL Yankees                                       | Rookie        | 27-25  | .519 — 3rd        |
| DSL Yankees (Blue)                                | Rookie        | 32-28  | .533 — 3rd        |
| DSL Yankees (Orange)                              | Rookie        | 17-43  | .283 — 7th        |

## 2026 BATTING — NEW YORK YANKEES

| Player             | AB  | H   | HR | RBI | BB  | K   | SB | AVG  | OBP  | SLG  |
|--------------------|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|----|------|------|------|
| Aaron Judge        | 448 | 139 | 38 | 66  | 112 | 127 | 10 | .310 | .448 | .638 |
| Ben Rice           | 492 | 134 | 29 | 80  | 54  | 106 | 3  | .272 | .348 | .492 |
| Austin Wells       | 420 | 101 | 18 | 65  | 47  | 124 | 4  | .240 | .319 | .402 |
| Jazz Chisholm Jr.* | 411 | 103 | 25 | 64  | 43  | 130 | 32 | .251 | .325 | .474 |
| Jasson Dominguez   | 384 | 103 | 16 | 50  | 54  | 99  | 33 | .268 | .358 | .448 |
| Cody Bellinger*    | 372 | 98  | 17 | 51  | 31  | 72  | 6  | .263 | .317 | .446 |
| Spencer Jones      | 355 | 71  | 17 | 48  | 22  | 124 | 12 | .200 | .254 | .403 |
| Ryan McMahon       | 344 | 73  | 14 | 45  | 29  | 126 | 2  | .212 | .270 | .381 |
| Marco Luciano      | 322 | 78  | 18 | 47  | 51  | 115 | 8  | .242 | .349 | .466 |
| Trent Grisham      | 301 | 55  | 10 | 43  | 56  | 83  | 3  | .183 | .317 | .322 |
| Anthony Volpe      | 329 | 76  | 11 | 37  | 22  | 96  | 19 | .231 | .288 | .383 |
| Paul Goldschmidt   | 320 | 74  | 8  | 41  | 27  | 77  | 7  | .231 | .291 | .359 |
| Kristian Campbell  | 125 | 38  | 4  | 18  | 19  | 35  | 6  | .304 | .417 | .504 |
| Giancarlo Stanton  | 104 | 25  | 6  | 15  | 2   | 33  | 0  | .240 | .255 | .481 |
| Dylan Crews        | 83  | 15  | 0  | 2   | 9   | 25  | 4  | .181 | .269 | .241 |

## 2026 PITCHING — NEW YORK YANKEES

| Pitcher         | G  | GS | W  | L  | SV | IP    | H   | BB | K   | ERA  | WHIP |
|-----------------|----|----|----|----|----|-------|-----|----|-----|------|------|
| Max Fried       | 33 | 32 | 11 | 9  | 0  | 197.0 | 171 | 43 | 191 | 3.24 | 1.09 |
| Cam Schlichtler | 35 | 28 | 7  | 15 | 0  | 164.1 | 155 | 68 | 174 | 5.09 | 1.36 |
| Elmer Rodriguez | 27 | 23 | 6  | 8  | 0  | 119.1 | 117 | 62 | 113 | 4.83 | 1.50 |
| Will Warren     | 29 | 16 | 6  | 2  | 0  | 105.1 | 99  | 41 | 108 | 4.44 | 1.33 |
| Ryan Weathers*  | 26 | 12 | 6  | 4  | 1  | 85.0  | 105 | 31 | 75  | 5.51 | 1.60 |
| Cade Winquest   | 45 | 1  | 2  | 1  | 1  | 81.1  | 72  | 32 | 81  | 4.54 | 1.28 |
| Luis Gil        | 19 | 12 | 4  | 5  | 0  | 75.0  | 83  | 31 | 57  | 4.92 | 1.52 |
| Fernando Cruz   | 59 | 0  | 4  | 3  | 6  | 72.0  | 55  | 34 | 110 | 4.88 | 1.24 |
| Brent Headrick  | 56 | 0  | 6  | 4  | 16 | 62.0  | 62  | 22 | 75  | 3.92 | 1.35 |
| Clarke Schmidt  | 11 | 11 | 3  | 5  | 0  | 58.0  | 64  | 18 | 49  | 6.52 | 1.41 |
| Cade Smith      | 8  | 8  | 3  | 1  | 0  | 46.0  | 36  | 19 | 36  | 4.30 | 1.20 |
| Carlos Rodon    | 12 | 7  | 1  | 6  | 1  | 43.2  | 63  | 13 | 40  | 7.01 | 1.74 |
| Ryan Burr       | 37 | 0  | 1  | 2  | 0  | 43.2  | 47  | 16 | 41  | 3.71 | 1.44 |
| Camilo Doval*   | 35 | 0  | 1  | 3  | 1  | 39.0  | 30  | 21 | 53  | 3.46 | 1.31 |
| Merrill Kelly   | 12 | 3  | 2  | 2  | 0  | 35.2  | 35  | 10 | 32  | 4.79 | 1.26 |
| David Bednar*   | 33 | 0  | 6  | 7  | 17 | 33.2  | 37  | 14 | 52  | 6.15 | 1.51 |
| Gerrit Cole     | 6  | 6  | 1  | 4  | 0  | 27.2  | 31  | 10 | 36  | 6.18 | 1.48 |
| Bennett Sousa   | 17 | 0  | 3  | 0  | 2  | 16.1  | 16  | 7  | 15  | 2.76 | 1.41 |
| Zac Gallen      | 2  | 2  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 12.2  | 10  | 6  | 7   | 3.55 | 1.26 |

\* Traded in August; Yankees statistics only. Season totals for the 162-game regular season.