

Stanton Provides Offense for Ailing Yanks

By Dave Lukow

Giancarlo Stanton is doing his part.

A power-hitting outfielder and designated hitter, Stanton came to New York in a December trade. To get the slugger, the Yankees sent Starlin Castro and a pair of prospects to the Miami Marlins. Adding Stanton to a lineup that included Aaron Judge, last season's American League Rookie of the Year, looked to give New York a terrifying - and perhaps unstoppable - batting order.

Although record books aren't being re-written this season, the Yankees are 78-46 and lead the race for a wild card in the American League. Judge, however, hasn't played since being hit by a fastball July 26. He may return in early September.

Before getting hurt, the 6-foot-7 outfielder was batting .285 with 70 runs, 26 home runs, 61 RBIs and 68 walks in 99 games. He had 128 runs, 52 homers and 114 RBIs in 2017.

Thankfully, for the Yanks, Stanton is nearing expectations. Through 123 games, he's contributed 82 runs, 26 doubles, 32 home runs, 80 RBIs and 48 walks. The big Californian is hitting .285.

Last year, as a member of the Marlins, Stanton hit .281 with 123 runs, 59 home runs, 132 RBIs and 85 walks. He was named National League MVP after the season.

In addition to Stanton, other players are contributing while Judge and catcher Gary Sanchez have been sidelined.

Rookie Miguel Andujar, a fixture at third base, has 63 runs, 36 doubles, 20 home runs and 65 RBIs. He's batting .299.

Outfielder Aaron Hicks has added 67 runs, 20 home runs, 58 RBIs, 68 walks and 10 stolen bases.

Veteran Brett Gardner, as usual, has been solid. In 109 games, the 34-year-old outfielder has 75 runs, four triples, 10 home runs, 35 RBIs, 54 walks and 11 steals.

Catcher Austin Romine, normally limited to a reserve role, has 12 doubles, eight home runs and 36 RBIs.

Gleyber Torres, despite missing time with an injury, has 40 runs, 18 home runs and 53 RBIs. The rookie, who replaced Castro at second base, is hitting .265. Just 21, he was AL Rookie of the Month for May.