

AROUND THE BASES

ORIOLES SCOUT FIRED IN GAMBLING PROBE

Baltimore fired a high-ranking scout after MLB's newly formed investigative unit linked him to a gambling probe.

MLB was asked for assistance in the inquiry about six months ago by the New York Police Department, a person with knowledge of the investigation said Friday. The person spoke anonymously because he lacked the authority to speak publicly.

The fired scout, **Alan Marr**, was national cross-checker for the Orioles and the top person listed in the team's scouting directory. The gambling investigation that led to his firing first was reported by SI.com.

MLB's investigative unit is still actively investigating scouts as part of the probe. There has been no indication games were fixed, the person with knowledge of the probe said.

Andy MacPhail, the Orioles' president for baseball operations, declined to go into the reasons for Marr's firing.

"He's no longer our employee. That's all I can say," MacPhail said.

Marr declined to comment when reached at his home in Sarasota. His firing was first reported by The (Baltimore) Sun on July 4. There was no indica-

tion whether the gambling investigation implicating Marr involved bets on baseball.

Under MLB rules, players, umpires and club officials or employees who bet on baseball games in which they have "no duty to perform" are subject to one-year suspensions. If they bet on games in which they have "a duty to perform," they are subject to lifetime bans.

The gambling probe is unrelated to MLB's investigation into whether scouts and other personnel might have taken money from signing bonuses given to Latin-American players.

- **Dodgers:** Los Angeles made its departure from Vero Beach official, terminating a facility-use agreement. After calling Vero Beach their spring home for 61 years, they informed Indian River County officials they were exercising an option to end the agreement in hopes of opening a \$100 million, two-team complex in Glendale, Ariz.

"I guess there's no particular place in the world - including my home - that holds more memories for me than Dodgertown," Hall of Fame broadcaster **Vin Scully** said. "I've been going there for 59 years, and just imagine the parade of players, coaches, newspapermen, owners and managers that went through there. So it really has

always been cherished ground for me. But nothing is forever, and it was time. . . . It should be closer to Los Angeles, so I'm all for it. To me, there's no deep sentiment. I'm not touched by leaving there."

- **All-Star Game:** Mets third baseman **David Wright** will replace Cubs outfielder **Alfonso Soriano** on the NL All-Star roster, Rockies manager **Clint Hurdle** said. Colorado outfielder **Matt Holliday**, originally picked as a reserve, will replace Soriano in the starting lineup.

- **Yankees:** **Hideki Matsui** could resume on-field batting practice Saturday while he rehabs his sore left knee. On Friday, Matsui hit off a tee and took part in a soft-toss session for the third day in a row.

- **Mariners:** Ace **Felix Hernandez** was activated from the 15-day DL to start Friday against Kansas City. Hernandez sprained his left ankle covering home plate on a wild pitch in a victory over the Mets on June 23.

- **Astros:** Starter **Roy Oswalt** left the game against Washington because of a left hip abductor strain after throwing a scoreless first inning.

- **Cubs:** Chicago recalled pitcher **Kevin Hart** from Triple A Iowa and sent down reliever **Michael Wuertz**. Hart will likely return to the bullpen. Soriano

and pitcher **Scott Eyre** will probably come off the DL after the All-Star break.

- **Royals:** **Jose Guillen** was a late scratch from the game against Seattle because of a stiff neck. He was replaced in the outfield by **Joey Gathright**.

- **Angels:** Right-hander **Kelvim Escobar** will have season-ending surgery to repair a torn labrum in his pitching shoulder. He was diagnosed with the injury in March but delayed surgery in hopes that rest and rehab would fix the problem. An Angels spokesman said the recovery timetable is nine to 12 months.

- **Nationals:** General manager **Jim Bowden** denied an ESPN.com report that he and special assistant **Jose Rijo** are being investigated by federal authorities in a probe examining an alleged scam involving the skimming of signing bonuses for young Dominican players.

. . . First baseman **Dmitri Young** left the game against Houston in the third inning with lower-back tightness.

- **Rangers:** The revolving door on Texas' pitching staff spun when the club sent **Scott Feldman** and **Wes Littleton** to the minors and called up **Kameron Loe** and **Joselo Diaz** from their farm system. Upon debuting, Diaz will be the 26th pitcher to throw for Texas in 2008.