

Yankees add to deep bullpen, acquire Britton

By **DAVID GINSBURG AND RONALD BLUM**
Associated Press

BALTIMORE — The Yankees have acquired left-hander Zach Britton from the rebuilding Baltimore Orioles for three prospects, a deal that will bolster New York’s bullpen for the stretch run.

Right-hander Dillon Tate is going to the Orioles along with left-hander Josh Rogers and right-hander Cody Carroll. The teams announced the deal Tuesday night.

The 30-year-old Britton will serve as a setup man for closer Aroldis Chapman, joining David Robertson, Dellin Betances, Chasen Shreve, Chad Green, Jonathan Holder and Adam Warren in an already strong bullpen.

“I think he’s one of the best relievers in the game,” Chapman said through a translator. “Having the opportunity to add somebody like that with so much talent would be very helpful.”

Britton is eligible to become a free agent after this season, a timely summer rental for the Yankees in their pursuit of first-place Boston in the AL East.

He began the season on the disabled list after tearing his right Achilles tendon in December. He made

his debut on June 12 and has appeared in 16 games, going 1-0 with a 3.45 ERA and four saves. He has not allowed a run in his last eight appearances, allowing just three hits over eight innings.

In 2016, Britton was exceptional. He was 2-1 with a 0.54 ERA and 47 saves in 47 chances. He converted an AL-record 60 consecutive save opportunities from Oct. 1, 2015, to last Aug. 21. Over his eight-year career, all with the Orioles, Britton is 30-22 with a 3.22 ERA and 139 saves.

The Yankees are responsible for \$4,387,097 of his \$12 million salary this year. New York began the season with a \$179 million payroll for purposes of luxury tax, which left the team room to add salaries and remain under \$197 million threshold.

Britton was the third closer traded this month, following deals that sent Brad Hand from San Diego to Cleveland and Jeurys Familia from the New York Mets to Oakland. He gives the Yankees insurance should Chapman be further slowed by the tendinitis in his left knee that has bothered him this season.

“When you bring in somebody like him, it gives you the opportunity to rotate and divide the workload,”



AP Photo/Gail Burton, File

Baltimore Orioles’ Zach Britton throws to a Texas Rangers batter during the ninth inning of a baseball game in Baltimore. A person familiar with the talks tells The Associated Press the New York Yankees are close to agreement on a trade to acquire Britton from the rebuilding Orioles for three prospects, a deal that would bolster New York’s bullpen for the stretch run.

Chapman said.

Baltimore is in full-scale sell mode as the July 31 non-waiver trade deadline approaches. The last-place Orioles traded All-Star shortstop Manny Machado to the Los Angeles Dodgers last week and are seeking buyers for center fielder Adam Jones and reliever Brad Brach, both eligible for free agency after the World

Series.

Tate, 24, was selected by Texas with the fourth-overall pick in the 2015 amateur draft and was traded to the Yankees the following year in the deal that brought Carlos Beltran to the Rangers. Tate is 5-2 with a 3.37 ERA in 15 starts this season for Double-A Trenton of the Eastern League, striking out 75 and walking 25 in 82 2/3

innings.

Rogers, also 24, is 6-8 with a 3.95 ERA this year for Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre. He was an 11th-round selection three years ago.

Carroll, 25, is 3-0 with a 2.38 ERA in 32 appearances for the RailRiders, striking out 55 and walking 18 in 41 2/3 innings. Carroll was a 25th-round pick in 2015.

MARINERS: Seager thrown out at home halted rally

Continued from 1B

big rally was halted when Kyle Seager was thrown out at the plate trying to score on Mike Zunino’s single. Seager was sent by third-base coach Scott Brosius but was thrown out by several steps on a good throw by Austin Slater.

TRAINER’S ROOM

Giants: IF Evan Longoria’s rehab stint with Triple-A Sacramento will be extended for a few more days. Longoria was hit by a pitch Sunday and has a tri-

ceps contusion, manager Bruce Bochy said. He was sitting out Tuesday but was expected to play Wednesday. Longoria, who suffered a fracture in his left hand last month, started his rehab assignment with Sacramento late last week. ... IF Joe Panik will begin a rehab assignment with Sacramento on Thursday. Panik has been out since July 7 with a groin strain.

Mariners: Manager Scott Servais said the hope with Paxton is that he’ll be ready to return to the mound his

next turn through the rotation, which would likely be early next week when Seattle returns home to host Houston.

UP NEXT

Giants: Lefty Derek Holland (5-8) returns to the rotation with Jeff Samardzija now in his third stint on the disabled list. Holland has made 18 starts in 22 appearances this year, but for the past month has been primarily used out of the bullpen. Holland has been used in relief in four of his past five outings.



AP Photo/Ted S. Warren

Seattle Mariners’ Guillermo Heredia rounds the bases through a patch of sunlight after he hit a solo home

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