

Oh baby! Lindor gets powdered after walk-off HR

By Jordan Bastian MLB.com @MLBastian

CLEVELAND -- Carlos Carrasco did not have much time. Given that it was Indians star Francisco Lindor at the plate in the bottom of the ninth, the pitcher figured he had to act quickly if he was going to continue a recent Tribe walk-off tradition.

Carrasco ducked into the tunnel behind Cleveland's dugout, grabbed a bottle of baby powder and made it back up the steps in time to see Lindor's walk-off home run sail into the right-field seats. As the shortstop tore around the bases in celebration of a dramatic 5-2 victory over the Twins on Wednesday night, Carrasco positioned himself in the back of the mob waiting at home plate.

"I didn't see," Lindor said.

Following his three-run shot off Trevor Hildenberger -- a blast that canceled out the blown save by closer Cody Allen in the top of the ninth -- Lindor tossed away his helmet as he bounded around third. As the Progressive Field crowd roared, the energetic shortstop shared an emphatic high-five with third-base coach Mike Sarbaugh and then raised both arms skyward as he closed in on his teammates.

"He didn't see me," Carrasco said with a grin.

The players swarmed Lindor and as the celebratory punches flew, Carrasco reached high over Lindor and began shaking and squeezing the bottle. The baby powder created a white cloud over the plate, as fireworks smoke hovered above the ballpark. Lindor tried to escape as the powder covered his head and got into his mouth and eyes.

"All of a sudden, I ran out of breath," said Lindor, who now has 29 home runs on the season. "And I just tried to get out of there, get out of the pile."

Carrasco -- one of Cleveland's resident pranksters -- savored every second.

"From now on, watch out," he said with a smile. "That's the new Cookie thing."

It was a welcome conclusion to what had been a tough night to that point for the American League Central-leading Indians (63-50). A sacrifice fly and run-scoring groundout were all Cleveland could manage against Twins starter Jake Odorizzi, who combined with Minnesota's bullpen to hold the Tribe to an 0-for-9 showing with runners in scoring position through eight innings.

Indians starter Mike Clevinger did his part in making the most of the slim support, limiting the Twins to one run over his seven frames. In the ninth, Allen took the mound with a 2-1 lead, but promptly surrendered a game-tying leadoff home run to Miguel Sano.

"All of a sudden," Indians manager Terry Francona said, "[the lead] is gone in a hurry. OK. It's kind of like you got punched in the stomach."

Cleveland punched back.

With one out in the bottom of the ninth, Jason Kipnis slashed a pitch from Hildenberger to get the ball rolling for the Tribe. Yan Gomes then drilled a pitch to deep right-center, but the play ended with a collective gasp from the Cleveland crowd after Twins right fielder Max Kepler reeled it in with a jumping catch at the wall.

Next came Brandon Guyer, who pulled a pitch into left field to put runners on the corners with two outs. It was at this point that Carrasco said he headed into the tunnel to locate the baby powder -- used in walk-off celebrations a handful of times last season.

Naturally, it was now Lindor's turn.

"It's like every time it's a spot like this, he's always hitting," Clevinger said. "It's like a sixth sense. You know it's going to happen. Like, you look over on-deck and you're like, 'Does he bat every time it's a tie game?'"

Hildenberger fired a first-pitch changeup on the outside edge, and Lindor had only one thing on his mind.

"Today, I purposely went out like, 'Yes, I want to win this game,'" said the shortstop.

Lindor delivered, earning all the jabs and punches and powder that came his way.

"I love winning games," said Lindor, who now has three walk-off hits, including two via home run, in his career. "Whether I hit it or somebody else hits it, I'm going to celebrate the same way. Except next time, I'll be the one with the powder."

MITEL REPLAY OF THE DAY

Allen nearly had an inning-ending double play to escape a jam in the ninth, but an important replay review went the Twins' way. With one out and Logan Forsythe on second, Logan Morrison sent a broken-bat chopper back to the closer, who turned and fired it to Lindor to get Forsythe out in a 1-6-5 rundown.

After third baseman Jose Ramirez tagged the runner, he fired it to Kipnis at second base as Morrison arrived at the bag. Morrison was deemed safe and that call was confirmed via replay after the Indians challenged that Kipnis got a tag on in time. Allen later escaped further damage in the inning with a strikeout of Ehire Adrianza.

MOMENT THAT MATTERED

Gomes nabs Garver: In the third inning, as Eddie Rosario swung through a 1-1 pitch from Clevinger, Mitch Garver moved far enough off second base to entice a pick-off attempt from Gomes. The catcher snapped off a quick throw from his knees (Statcast™ measured his pop time at 1.87 seconds, his second-fastest throw to second this season), but Garver was initially ruled safe on his retreat. The Indians challenged the call, which was overturned after a 51-second replay review. Replays clearly showed Lindor tagging Garver's right leg before the runner reached the bag.

"He works on that in Spring Training," said Indians first-base coach and catching instructor Sandy Alomar Jr. "He's a very aggressive catcher, so he doesn't surprise me that he keeps doing it the right way. He's always had one of the fastest transfers I've seen. When he's on, it's a serious weapon for him."

"Wow, what a throw and tag," Francona said. "I mean, I don't even know if it was a tag. Frankie caught it right there on his leg. That was a big, big play."

Cave's rocky first: The Indians were helped to their first run of the night by back-to-back missteps by Twins center fielder Jake Cave in the opening frame. First, Cave broke in on a fly ball to center from Lindor, who wound up with a double after the ball dropped just out of the outfielder's reach. The play had a 99-percent catch probability, per Statcast™. One batter later, Michael Brantley reached when his liner to center went in and out of Cave's glove. Lindor eventually crossed the plate on a sacrifice fly to center field by Edwin Encarnacion.

HE SAID IT

"Don't taste the ball, because he popped that back out while my leg was still like above my head. So then, I had to move out of the way. But that changed the whole complexion of the inning, let alone potentially the game, especially as tight as it was the whole way through. That play, that might've been why things went the way they did." -- Clevinger, on what he was thinking when Gomes picked off Garver in the third

"They play us tough every time we play them. It seems like they're a different ballclub when they play against us. And I like that we rise to the occasion. I know it's still a 10-game lead or whatever, but they're playing like a team that's in first place -- at least every time we've seen them." -- Clevinger, on the Twins

UP NEXT

Right-hander Corey Kluber (14-6, 2.63 ERA) is scheduled to pitch the series finale for a 1:10 p.m. ET start at Progressive Field on Thursday. The Tribe ace threw a complete-game three-hit shutout against the Angels on Sunday and is 1-1 with a 3.86 ERA against the Twins in 2018. Right-hander Jose Berrios (11-8, 3.51 ERA) will start for Minnesota.

Guyer could see more time in center for Indians

By Casey Harrison MLB.com

CLEVELAND -- The last time Brandon Guyer appeared in center field for a Major League team, the outfielder had yet to wear a Cleveland Indians jersey.

The date was July 20, 2016, and Guyer finished 1-for-3 with two walks and a pair of runs for the Tampa Bay Rays, who traded him to the Tribe just 11 days later. Guyer was put in center by manager Terry Francona on Wednesday to give usual starter Leonys Martin the day off as he recovers from illness.

If Francona likes what he sees, it could benefit Guyer with playing time the rest of the regular season. Apart from Martin and Rajai Davis, the Tribe are without a third center fielder, as Bradley Zimmer, Tyler Naquin and Lonnie Chisenhall are all injured.

"I just thought tonight might not be a bad night to do it," Francona said of Guyer's regular-season center-field debut with Cleveland. "It'd be good for him. It'd be really good for our team. And I want to see how it looks. It may open up something for us where we pinch-hit. It might just give us another alternative. And I just thought tonight was a good night to do it."

In parts of five seasons with the Rays, Guyer played 52 games in center, starting 36, but he has only appeared at the position for the Tribe in Spring Training. Professionally, Guyer has played 340 innings in center with -4 defensive runs saved. Guyer said he also appeared in center during a Minor League rehab start earlier this season.

"I feel like I played pretty good around there when I was with Tampa," Guyer said. "So I should be all right there. ... Lately I've been taking some balls in BP and everything, just to get the reads."

The start marked the third in a row for the right-handed-hitting Guyer, and the fourth consecutive game he's played in -- a span in which he's hit 2-for-8 with a home run and two RBIs. Since being activated off the disabled list on June 14, he's hitting .283 (15-for-53) in 34 games.

Though Guyer has been appeared against left-handed pitching as a platoon option with Melky Cabrera of late, he said he's happy to contribute in any way.

"Any chance I get to play, I'm happy," Guyer said. "If that's a start, coming in to pinch-hit, run, play defense -- if it helps the team win, then I'm happy. If I get a start, cool. Great. I just want to play. So I'll definitely take it."

Worth noting

- Left-hander Andrew Miller's fastball velocity has been down since he returned from the disabled list Thursday after battling right-knee inflammation. Per Statcast™, Miller has averaged 91.8 mph through his first three appearances off the DL, a drop from his 93.1-mph average over the first two months and down from his 94.1-mph average in 2017. Francona believes the issue is mostly related to Miller still working to find consistency and complete trust in his mechanics.

"He's healthy [and] with that comes confidence, conviction, letting the ball go," Francona said. "It'll come. It may come in one pitch. It may come in one outing. It might not. But it'll come. That's the idea. We've all seen what he can do, so we need to be invested in getting him there. And we will."

- Due to the late nature of Tuesday's two-hour, 53-minute game, which didn't start until 9:20 p.m. ET thanks to a two-plus-hour rain delay, Francona pushed the Indians' pregame work (batting practice, infield, etc.) back for Wednesday. The manager felt it was a good opportunity to give his players a mental and physical break.

"That's where the trust comes in," Francona said. "You trust that they'll be ready to play the game. ... Just try to give them the best chance, knowing that you're not sacrificing the game. That's the biggest thing."

- Right-hander Zach McAllister was designated for assignment Friday, after the Indians activated Miller and needed to clear a spot on both the active and 40-man rosters. McAllister, who's been part of Cleveland's bullpen for parts of the past eight seasons, was released Wednesday.

- The Indians activated right-hander reliever Evan Marshall from the 10-day disabled list on Wednesday and optioned him to Triple-A Columbus.

Indians 5, Twins 2: 12 Walk-Off Thoughts on what Francisco Lindor had in his head when he walked to the plate, being covered in baby powder and Mike Clevinger not wanting to get hit in the face

By Ryan Lewis

Here are 12 Walk-Off Thoughts after the Indians' 5-2 walk-off win against the Minnesota Twins Wednesday night.

1. As Francisco Lindor came to the plate, he had his dad's voice in his head. Lindor walked up with runners on the corners and two outs in the bottom of the ninth in a tied game. Less than 24 hours earlier, he struck out looking to end the game with the tying run in scoring position. One pitch into Wednesday night's at-bat, and Progressive Field was sent into bedlam. Lindor hammered a three-run, walk-off home run to right field to end it.

2. Said Lindor: "All I had in my head was ... my dad texted me after [Tuesday's] game and he said, 'Don't worry about it, tomorrow is another day and God is good, God has a plan and good things will come,' and that's what I had in my head and honestly I had good at-bats against that guy, but I was just ready to hit."

3. Lindor walked to the plate with a more aggressive mindset, though the situation also likely called for it. He said he wasn't trying to hit a home run, but he wanted to end it, not just keep the line moving. He added that he felt like he had been given some good pitches to hit by Twins starter Jake Odorizzi but missed his earlier chances to do some damage. He was trying to make up for some previous mistakes, and he did.

4. "Today, I purposely went out like, 'Yes, I want to win this game.' Yesterday, it was like, 'Just get something going. Get on base.' And I couldn't come through," Lindor said. "It's fun. It's fun winning games. I love winning games. Whether I hit it or somebody else hits it, I'm going to celebrate the same way. Except next time I'll be the one with the powder."

5. And since Lindor was the owner of a brand new walk-off home run, he also needed to prepare to have the crap kicked out of him once he reached the mob of teammates at home plate. He had Gatorade dumped on him (both at the plate and afterward, as Fox Sports' Andre Knott also received a soaking). He had his jersey ripped off by Yan Gomes. And he was bombarded by baby powder, courtesy of Carlos Carrasco.

6. Said Lindor on the powder: "I didn't see it otherwise I would have touched the plate and ran. I felt powder and then all of a sudden I ran out of breath and I just tried to get out of there, get out of the pile."

7. This was Lindor's third walk-off home run and second walk-off homer of his career. Though to Mike Clevinger, it seems like Lindor also happens to be at the plate with the game on the line—one of Lindor's bigger at-bats still being his extension of the winning streak last August when it was down to its last strike. Lindor has seemed to often be right in the middle of anything the Indians do, another reason why his batting leadoff and thus receiving the maximum amount of at-bats is something that's difficult to argue against.

8. Said Clevinger: "Yeah. I mean, in Puerto Rico I said it's like every time it's a spot like this he's always hitting when it's a chance like this, and it's like a sixth sense. You know it's gonna happen. Like you look over on deck and you're like 'Does he bat every time it's a tie game?' And then every time it seems like he's coming through too, so it's huge."

9. Clevinger delivered a strong outing, allowing one run on five hits and one walk to go with five strikeouts in seven innings. Aside from a pair of doubles in the fourth, he kept the Twins in check and for most of the night protected a one-run lead. Clevinger has had issues avoiding the big inning this season, one of the few blemishes on an otherwise outstanding 2018 resume. It's continued to be one of the things he's worked on, as well as something with which Trevor Bauer has been helping him, at least on the mental side.

10. Said Clevinger: "It's been almost like second nature now to have that happen. So I was kind of more comfortable with that feeling, just kind of accepting—I was more accepting of the feeling happening this time and to get back to work instead of beating myself up, or kicking myself, because I know if I make my pitch that we're going to continue what we were doing. So it was those two bad pitches, then it was like, 'Hey if I lock it in right now, we've seen what we've done this whole game so far, we can get right back to zeroes and get us back in the dugout,' and I think that helped a lot. Just accepting it."

11. Clevinger was helped out by catcher Yan Gomes, who with two runners on base picked off Mitch Garver from second in the third inning. The snap throw caught Clevinger by surprise, who was still within the ending of his delivery when Gomes fired it past his head and to the perfect spot to allow Lindor to apply the tag. Clevinger's basic thought was to not get hit in the face with the baseball, which is a pretty good rule by which to live.

12. Said Clevinger, on what he was thinking: "Don't taste the ball, because he popped that back out while my leg was still like above my head, so then I had to move out of the way. But that changed the whole complex of the inning, let alone potentially the game—especially as tight as it was the whole way through. That play, I mean, might have been why things went the way they did was that play alone."

Indians 5, Twins 2: Francisco Lindor hits walk-off homer in ninth to down Twins

By Ryan Lewis

CLEVELAND: The young superstar with a flair for the dramatic did it again.

Francisco Lindor stepped to the plate in the bottom of the ninth of a 2-2 game and drilled a three-run home run, leaving no doubt as the ball left the bat, to lift the Indians to a 5-2 win over the Minnesota Twins Wednesday night at Progressive Field.

The walk-off homer came just after the Indians blew a one-run lead in the top of the ninth.

Cody Allen entered the game with a 2-1 lead but kept it for only a few pitches. Miguel Sano, leading off the inning, hammered a solo home run to center field to tie it and silence the home crowd.

Logan Forsythe singled with one out and advanced to second on a wild pitch to put the go-ahead run in scoring position. Logan Morrison tapped a ball back to Allen, who caught Forsythe in a rundown between second and third with Morrison advancing to second. After a walk, Allen escaped the inning without losing the lead by striking out Ehire Adrianza.

That led to the rally in the bottom half of the ninth. Jason Kipnis singled and, with two outs, Brandon Guyer extended the game by ripping a single to left field to put runners on the corners against Twins reliever Trevor Hildenberger.

That brought up Lindor. One pitch later, Progressive Field was sent into bedlam, and a mob of players awaited Lindor at home plate. It was Lindor's 29th home run this season, and one of the biggest.

Indians starter Mike Clevinger delivered arguably his best outing since June, allowing only one earned run on five hits and a walk to go with five strikeouts while protecting a one-run lead for most of the night. The outing lowered his ERA to 3.38 as he continued his breakout 2018 season.

The Twins tied it 1-1 in the fourth. Sano opened the inning with a double and Forsythe later doubled off the 19-foot left-field wall to bring him home. Aside from that stretch, Clevinger was rock solid, stifling the American League Central's second-place Twins.

Clevinger also received some stout help from catcher Yan Gomes in the top of the third. With runners on first and second, Gomes fired a snap-throw to second base and picked off Mitch Garver for the second out of the inning. Clevinger went on to give up another hit but escaped the inning unscathed.

The Indians did strike quickly against Twins starting pitcher Jake Odorizzi.

Lindor led off the first inning with a double and Michael Brantley reached on an error during a rather tough inning for Twins center fielder Jake Cave. With one out, Edwin Encarnacion hit a fly ball deep enough to center to score Lindor and put the Indians on top 1-0.

After the Twins tied it, the Indians retook the lead in the fifth. Gomes led off the inning with a single to right field, Guyer added an infield single and Lindor grounded into a fielder's choice to put runners on the corners. Brantley then grounded a ball to the left side, allowing Gomes to score.

That RBI put Brantley at 60 for the season, giving the Indians five hitters with at least that many (Lindor, Jose Ramirez, Encarnacion and Yonder Alonso). No other team in baseball has more than three this season. Ramirez in the third inning also stole his 27th base of the year to extend his AL lead in that department.

Guyer received the start in center field, his first since the 2016 season. Manager Terry Francona said Wednesday afternoon that he had been talking with Guyer about taking some fly balls in center field in an effort to potentially give the Indians some extra flexibility in the event of Guyer pinch hitting and how the defense might be aligned the following inning.

It also came about in part because of Leonys Martin becoming sick at some point Tuesday night, with Francona saying he was dealing with some "intestinal turmoil."

Indians notebook: Lonnie Chisenhall racing clock in search for clean bill of health; Zach McAllister released

By Ryan Lewis

CLEVELAND: After a frustrating, back-and-forth battle with his own calves and the disabled list, Lonnie Chisenhall just wants to be able to move past these issues and return to the field with a clean bill of health.

And he knows that if that is to happen in 2018, he might be running out of time.

Chisenhall was placed on the 10-day disabled list on July 3 with a left calf strain and later transferred to the 60-day disabled list, the continuance of a struggle with both of his calves that has essentially derailed his last two seasons.

When Chisenhall has been in the lineup the last two years, he's been a productive hitter. He posted an .881 OPS in 2017 and this year is hitting .321 with an .846 OPS. The problem is that his troublesome calves have limited him to only 111 combined games since the beginning of last season.

And the clock is ticking in terms of his potential return, whether it be for the regular season or potentially the postseason in October. If Chisenhall were to really be able to contribute to a potential postseason run, he'd need to return with some time to spare to build up his at-bats and ensure his timing is where it needs to be.

One issue is that minor-league teams only play so far into September and don't have lengthier postseasons like in the majors. The chance to log enough rehab appearances has created a tight window. There's no clear answer as to whether Chisenhall will make any meaningful contributions again this season. His timetable remains in limbo.

"I'll end up in a gray area," he said. "I just want to end the year with a clean bill of health or come back with a clean bill of health. I don't want to short change any of the preparation. I'm going to have to jump through some hoops two, three times."

The race is on, but it's also a situation in which Chisenhall can't risk another setback. He also went through something similar last season when his right calf forced him to the DL. He believed he was ready to enter the playoff atmosphere, but he wasn't.

"I thought I was prepared last year. I remember my game against [New York Yankees pitcher Luis] Severino pretty vividly," he said. "I wasn't prepared for that. It's hard to simulate playoff atmosphere, especially when you're playing catchup the whole time and you're not feeling like yourself."

Chisenhall and the Indians have effectively looked at every possible scenario as to why he's had so much trouble with his calves since last year, and why he can't seem to stay off the DL. They checked his diet. They checked his gait. They checked his routines. Nothing has stood out or been indicated as the primary catalyst.

That, as much as anything, has added to the frustration.

"I wish I could put my finger on it and say it was something in my diet, something [with] how my body works, but there's not anything sticking out, so you just grit your teeth and go. It's tough," Chisenhall said. "We did blood work, there's nothing wrong. I'm not averse to any foods. No foods cause inflammation. I can eat stuff whenever. I take all the supplements that they say to take. It's strange. Frustrating is a nice word for it."

There's never a good time to be injured, but Chisenhall's situation is an especially poor one. He'll be eligible for free agency after this season, making this a crucial winter for his future outlook. He's been a quality hitter, but injury concerns could have a drastic effect on his market value.

"You know, it's not great timing," he said. "Luckily, I have a bit of a track record moving forward. That's one where you want a clean bill of health. Especially the Indians know me more than anybody else does. I'm doing a lot of my stuff in front of them. But next year is next year. We'll see how this year ends up."

McAllister released

The Indians on Wednesday officially released reliever Zach McAllister, who was designated for assignment on Aug. 3 to make room for Andrew Miller's return from the 60-day disabled list.

McAllister struggled with a 4.97 ERA and 4.52 FIP in 41⅔ innings this season. In eight seasons with the Indians, he compiled a 3.99 ERA with an 8.2 K/9.

McAllister didn't have much of a future with the Indians beyond this season, as he's eligible for free agency.

Akron Beacon Journal LOADED: 08.09.2018

Cleveland Indians release right-hander Zach McAllister after designating him for assignment

By Paul Hoynes, cleveland.com phoynes@cleveland.com

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Zach McAllister, a member of the Indians' opening day bullpen, has been released.

McAllister, 30, was designated for assignment on Friday. The Indians had seven days to trade, release or try to get him through waivers.

The Indians traded Austin Kearns to the Yankees for McAllister in a deadline deal on July 30, 2010. McAllister came to the Indians as a starter, but enjoyed his best seasons once he moved full-time to the bullpen.

The 6-6, 240-pound McAllister made 114 appearances in 2015 and 2016, striking out 138 batters in 121 1/3 innings. This year, however, McAllister struggled and he was designated for assignment when the Indians activated Andrew Miller on Friday.

McAllister had enough service time -- he started the year with five years and 77 days in the big leagues -- to refuse an outright to Class AAA Columbus and become a free agent. He did so without the risk of losing what remained of his one-year, \$2.45 million deal.

He signed the one-year deal in January to avoid arbitration.

McAllister was 1-2 with a 4.97 ERA in 41 appearances this season. His strikeouts per nine innings had slipped to 7.3 after being at 9.3 and 9.6 in 2016 and 2017, respectively.

Finally: The Indians, in another move on Wednesday, activated right-hander Evan Marshall (right elbow) from the disabled list and optioned him to Columbus.

Cleveland Plain Dealer LOADED: 08.09.2018

Happy birthday, Rocky Colavito: Book on Indians slugger due soon

By Marc Bona, cleveland.com mbona@cleveland.com

CLEVELAND, Ohio - Rocco Domenico Colavito was born Aug. 10, 1933. He'll have a belated birthday gift coming soon: A Buffalo author is writing a biography on the beloved former Indians slugger.

Mark Sommer, a 63-year-old reporter at the Buffalo News, didn't grow up in Northeast Ohio but, like many fans, became enamored with Colavito, a slugger whose 1960 trade lives in Cleveland sports-history infamy.

Sommer's book, with the working title, "The Rock: The Celebrated Career of Cleveland Slugger Rocky Colavito," is due by noted baseball publisher McFarland & Co. The author hopes to have it out by the All-Star Game, which will be in Cleveland on Tuesday, July 9, 2019.

The biography paints a picture of a man whose reputation has endured through generations of fans.

His is a life born in the Bronx and ending up in Reading, Pennsylvania, with baseball stops throughout the country from Daytona Beach, Florida, to Iowa and points between. But fans in Cleveland remember Colavito patrolling right field in Municipal Stadium, a cannon for an arm and power in his bat.

He spent eight of his 14 seasons in a Tribe uniform, gaining new friends while never quite losing that Bronx accent, more than a hint of which still remains.

In 1951, Colavito was among 200 young players at an "Indiansville" tryout camp. From that group, he would become one of only two players to reach the big leagues, Sommer writes. He finished with a .266 average and 374 home runs - more than half of which were hit as an Indian.

"I liked him as a kid," Sommer said. "And I wasn't from Cleveland. I liked him a lot from afar. I was in California as a kid. I got into baseball. It's hard to say what exactly drew me to him, but it was a lot of things. He held his bat up high, he was handsome, he hit long home runs.

"He just seemed like a cool ballplayer."

Sommer, a Yankees fan growing up, said he liked a lot of players from a lot of teams. But there was something about the power-hitting Indian.

When Sommer turned 13, he took his bar-mitzvah money without his parents knowing it and ordered "Don't Knock the Rock," a 1966 book by then Plain Dealer sports editor Gordon Cobbledeick.

"I didn't tell them about it. I called on the phone and ordered 'Don't Knock the Rock.' All the money was supposed to go to college. I remember riding my bike through my suburban neighborhood to the bookstore and getting the book."

Years ago, he lost the book in a fire, so he bought it to re-read for research.

"When I thought about writing this book I found the book and bought it for 65 bucks," he said. "Obviously it meant a lot to me because I special-ordered it as a 13-year-old, and I would write what I hope would be the definitive Rocky Colavito biography."

Sommer dove into his subject, doing tons of research, poring over newspaper clippings, microfilm and books. He talked to about 20 former teammates - Sam McDowell, Max Alvis, Luis Tiant, Al Kaline among them. He read every reference to Colavito in the Sporting News from 1951 to 2003. He combed through Sport, Sports Illustrated, Baseball Digest, Plain Dealers and other publications. And of course there is Rocky himself.

"Rocky gave me his personal scrapbooks, which no researcher has seen," Sommer said. "Really large-sized photo scrapbooks that were begun by his brother Dominic and his wife, Carmen. ... He's got very substantial scrapbook collections of photos and articles throughout his career and post career. That was very, very helpful."

"I started taking notes," Sommer said, "and I never stopped."

The book is in the final editing stages. And Sommer said he is looking to come to Cleveland for speak-and-sign events.

"I think Rocky's fans would be pleased to know that Rocky is as thoughtful and generous a person as they would probably have assumed," he said. "He is deeply appreciative of his fans and fondly remembers Cleveland."

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Josh Tomlin solid in Akron RubberDucks' loss to Reading

By Cliff Pinckard, cleveland.com

AKRON, Ohio -- Indians right-hander Josh Tomlin pitched three scoreless innings Wednesday night, but some costly RubberDucks mistakes led Akron to a 6-1 loss to the Reading Fightin' Phils at Canal Park.

The game got away from Akron in the ninth inning. Trailing, 2-1, Akron reliever Dominic DeMasi walked the first batter, then gave up a single. A wild pitch allowed the runners to advance to second and third.

DeMasi struck out Deivi Grullon, then loaded the bases with an intentional walk. A groundout to short gave Akron two outs but allowed a run to make it 3-1.

With two outs, an error by center fielder Andrew Calica allowed two runs to make it 5-1. Cornelius Randolph's RBI single put the game out of reach at 6-1.

Akron got its lone run in the seventh with an RBI double from Connor Marabell.

Tomlin, on a rehab assignment with Akron, gave up just one hit and struck out three in three innings. Reading starter Connor Seabold (1-2, 5.53 ERA) gave up just one hit and a run in seven innings.

Cleveland Plain Dealer LOADED: 08.09.2018

Francisco Lindor's walk-off home run lifts Cleveland Indians past Minnesota Twins, 5-2

By Joe Noga, cleveland.com

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Francisco Lindor came to the rescue Wednesday against Minnesota one night after coming up short against the Twins in his final at-bat.

Cleveland's All-Star shortstop delivered a walk-off three-run homer against Twins reliever Trevor Hildenberger in the ninth inning as the Indians won 5-2 at Progressive Field.

Jason Kipnis singled with one out and advanced to third on Brandon Guyer's two-out base hit before Lindor roped Hildenberger's first pitch into the seats. It was Cleveland's first walk-off win since Greg Allen homered in the 14th inning May 27 against Houston, and the team's third walk-off victory of the season.

For Lindor, it marked his third career walk-off plate appearance, and his second walk-off home run. One night after taking strike three with the potential game-tying run on base against Minnesota closer Fernando Rodney, Lindor was not about to make the same mistake twice.

"My dad texted me after the game and he said, 'Don't worry about it, tomorrow is another day and God is good, God has a plan and good things will come,' and that's what I had in my head," Lindor said. "Honestly I had good at-bats against that guy (Hildenberger), but I was just ready to hit."

Francisco Lindor said walkoff homer felt like the playoffs

Reliever Cody Allen (4-4, 4.37) served up a leadoff home run to Miguel Sano in the ninth that tied the score at 2. It was Sano's first home run since May 31 when he went yard against then-Indians reliever Zach McAllister. Allen's blown save was his third of the year, making him 21-for-24 in save opportunities.

Mike Clevinger pitched seven innings and allowed one earned run while striking out five Twins batters and walking one. Clevinger has not won a game in his last six starts dating back to July 1. He has worked at least six innings in each of his last six starts at Progressive Field.

Clevinger worked out of a jam in the third after Mitch Garver and Cave opened the frame with back-to-back singles. The righty struck out Joe Mauer, and Gomes erased Garver at second with a pickoff throw to Lindor.

Garver was originally ruled safe by umpire Marvin Hudson, but manager Terry Francona's challenge was confirmed. The play saved Cleveland a run because Eddie Rosario singled to center on the next pitch, but Clevinger came back to retire Jorge Polanco on a popout to end the inning.

After allowing a run in the fourth on doubles by Sano and Logan Forsythe, Clevinger settled in, retiring 11 straight. He gave way to Brad Hand, who worked a scoreless eighth before Allen came on in the ninth.

Guyer, meanwhile, got a surprise start in center, but it was Minnesota's Jake Cave who looked like he was playing his first game at the position. Cave broke in on a leadoff line drive in the first inning by Lindor that sailed over the rookie's head for a double.

Michael Brantley followed with a liner that Cave dropped for an error, and Lindor later scored an unearned run on Edwin Encarnacion's sacrifice fly as Cave's throw sailed to the first-base side of home plate.

Brantley added an RBI groundout in the fifth against Twins starter Jake Odorizzi after Yan Gomes led off with a single, moved to second on a bunt base hit by Guyer and advanced to third on a fielder's choice by Lindor.

The RBI gave Brantley 60 on the season and gave the Indians five players with at least that many (joining Jose Ramirez, Encarnacion, Lindor and Yonder Alonso). No other team in the majors has more than three.

Tightrope

With two out in the eighth and a runner at first, Twins shortstop Jorge Polanco tried to sneak a bunt down the third-base line. The ball hugged the foul line for a good 50 feet before Indians third baseman Jose Ramirez pulled his hand back and let the ball go by. The ball scooted foul mere inches outside the base. Seven pitches later, Hand struck Polanco out on a high fastball.

Leading man

Lindor's torrid first-inning pace continued with Wednesday's leadoff double and run scored. He maintained his MLB lead in runs scored with 98 and also leads in first-inning runs with 28. His 26 leadoff hits are second in MLB behind Seattle's Dee Gordon (34).

What it means

Cleveland raised its record to 7-8 against the Twins this season, including 3-3 at Progressive Field. The Indians lead MLB with 337 runs scored at home.

The pitches

Odorizzi threw 101 pitches, 59 (58 percent) for strikes. Clevinger threw 95 pitches, 63 (66 percent) for strikes.

Thanks for coming

The Twins and Indians drew 25,476 on Wednesday night. First pitch was at 7:11 p.m. with a temperature of 79 degrees.

Next

Right-hander Corey Kluber (14-6, 2.63) will face Twins right-hander Jose Berrios (11-8, 3.51) on Thursday afternoon at 1:10 p.m. SportsTime Ohio and WTAM will carry the game.

Kluber is 1-1 with a 3.86 ERA in two prior starts against the Twins this season. He last faced Minnesota June 15 at Progressive Field, taking the loss after allowing four runs on four hits in five innings.

Cleveland Plain Dealer LOADED: 08.09.2018

Will Francisco Lindor's walk-off homer instill a sense of urgency in Cleveland Indians?

By Paul Hoynes, cleveland.com

CLEVELAND, Ohio - There must be better things in life than circling the bases after hitting a walk-off home run with two out in the ninth inning Wednesday night at Progressive Field. Francisco Lindor could probably name 10, 15, maybe even 20 of them in the cold light of dawn.

Just start with world peace and work your way down.

But at the precise moment that he hit Trevor Hildenberger's first pitch down the right field line and into the seats to give the Indians a 5-2 victory over the Twins, there was little room in Lindor's brain for anything besides joy, pure Kirk Gibson-like joy.

Hall of Fame pitcher Dennis Eckersley invented the term walk-off for any home run hit in the last inning of a game that caused the pitcher and his teammates to walk off the field in defeat. But what of the player who hits the walk-off homer?

He doesn't walk around the bases. He floats. He soars, pounding his chest, pointing to the sky, saluting the fans.

Then when he sees his teammates gathered at the plate, waiting to greet him with bottles of water, baby powder and general roughhousing - catcher Yan Gomes literally pulled Lindor's jersey off his back - he probably wishes he could walk off in a different direction. But the plate must be touched to make the victory complete.

"It's fun. It's fun winning games," said Lindor. "Whether I hit it or somebody else hits it, I'm going to celebrate the same way. Except next time I'll be the one with the powder."

When Lindor hit third base, he took off his batting helmet and threw it toward the dugout. Better to enter the scrum bareheaded than to have a hard plastic helmet repeatedly pounded into one's head by celebrating teammates. Lindor was ready for that, but not the baby powder.

It looked like pitcher Carlos Carrasco turned the home-plate melee into well shaken Christmas snow globe by covering Lindor and anyone close to him with baby powder. The Indians, led by Josh Tomlin, started doing this last year, but there have been so few walk-off victories this season - Wednesday night being the third - that Lindor had prepared no safeguard for the powder.

Francisco Lindor said walkoff homer felt like the playoffs

"I didn't see the powder," said Lindor. "Otherwise I would have touched the plate and ran."

Asked if it got into his eyes, Lindor laughed and said, "I wasn't worried about my eyes. It got into my nose and mouth. I couldn't breathe."

After Lindor cleared the rumble at the plate, after Gomes pulled his jersey off, he ran toward the mound and the crowd continued to cheer. It seemed like he didn't want the moment to end.

When the field finally started to clear, Lindor was still out there, exchanging high fives with the relievers who were late to the party because of the long walk from the bullpen. He did an on-the-field interview with SportsTime Ohio's Andre Knott and to the surprise of no one had a bucket of Gatorade dumped over his head courtesy of Gomes.

In Tuesday's 3-2 loss to the Twins, closer Fernando Rodney threw called third strike past Lindor to end the game with the tying run on second base. Lindor's father sent him a text after that game and told him to keep the faith.

Wednesday night Jason Kipnis and Brandon Guyer singled to set the stage for Lindor once again in the ninth inning. This time Lindor delivered with his 29th homer of the season.

Later in the locker room Lindor tried to describe what just happened.

"Seeing my teammates and everybody in the stands. . .you're in the regular season and it feels like the playoffs," he said. "The atmosphere, when everybody is going crazy it feels like the playoffs, man, and I believe in what we have here. We're a playoff-caliber team and it's always fun and special seeing those things."

Wax on. Walk-off. Frankie-san.#RallyTogether pic.twitter.com/VNu5P76gpu

-- Cleveland Indians (@Indians) August 9, 2018

The Indians are indeed a playoff caliber team. They have strong MVP candidates in Jose Ramirez and Lindor. They have three Cy Young candidates in Corey Kluber, Trevor Bauer and Carrasco. Kluber won it last year and Carrasco finished fourth in the balloting.

And they are a team that has not been pushed or challenged all year within their own division. The Twins, ravaged by rebuilding, have snapped at their heels, but they are still 10 games back in second place in the AL Central. The Indians have been all but guaranteed a playoff spot since mid-May and that has led to concerning stretches of snooze-fest baseball.

Mike Clevinger, who allowed one run in seven innings Wednesday night, suggested a remedy.

"The more we play to our division lead, the worse we're going to be come October," said Clevinger. "So I think the more we get into that team environment where, like, win at all costs, scrap at all costs, whether the score is 40-39 or 2-1. I think this is one of those games that's going to help that momentum."

Throw in a few more walk-off wins and that sounds like a plan.

Francisco Lindor, baby powder, a text from his dad and a reason to ignore the standings

Zack Meisel 6h ago 1

As he stepped into the batter's box in the bottom of the ninth — moments before he was stripped of his jersey and doused with baby powder — Francisco Lindor repeated his father's message in his head.

Those words made the bout of déjà vù more tolerable. Here he was, at the plate for the second consecutive night, with the game hanging on the barrel of his black and tan Marucci bat.

Less than 24 hours earlier, he watched a third strike sail past, forcing him to the shower, the fate of a long, soggy, unfulfilling night sealed. His father, Miguel — the man who struck grounder after grounder to Lindor in a cow-bordered field near their Puerto Rico home during the shortstop's youth — delivered him some words of encouragement.

Don't worry about it. Tomorrow is another day and God is good. God has a plan and good things will come.

Lindor thought about that text. Then he thought about again ending the game, this time with one, powerful swing. He deposited Trevor Hildenberger's first offering, a 79.5-mph hanger on the outside part of the plate, a few rows deep in the right-field seats.

Lindor spent most of his home run trot signaling to the fans, raising both arms in the air. He chucked his helmet toward the dugout once he rounded third base. And then, the party commenced.

Yan Gomes yanked off Lindor's jersey as if he were initiating a hockey fight. Carlos Carrasco shook a bottle of baby powder over Lindor's head until his hair resembled its spring hue, a look that earned Lindor comparisons to platinum-topped celebrities Sisqo and Amber Rose.

A jolt of adrenaline and an inhaling of baby powder sapped the All-Star of his breath.

"I didn't see it, otherwise I would have touched the plate and ran," he said.

Some soaked the shortstop with cups of water (a singular cup in the case of Trevor Bauer, who carefully power-walked some Gatorade to the mosh pit at the plate). Gomes and Rajai Davis attempted to dump a cooler of yellow Gatorade on Lindor, though TV reporter Andre Knott received the brunt of the bone-chilling shower.

These sort of moments don't tire. They can energize the most worn players, even during the ol' dog days.

"When you're in the regular season, it feels like (the) playoffs," Lindor said. "The atmosphere, when everybody is going crazy, it feels like (the) playoffs."

For the Indians, who own a 10-game lead in the league's least competitive division, it's a welcome reminder of what lies ahead. Those pressure-packed chess matches appear at every turn in October, not just in the ninth inning following a blown save.

"The more we play to our division lead, the worse we're going to become in October," said Mike Clevinger, who limited the Twins to one run across seven innings on Wednesday.

A little baby powder never hurt anyone. (Ken Blaze/USA Today Sports)

There's no need to push the cruise control button and emerge from hibernation when September ends. The Indians have some kinks to iron out over the next two months. They have an outfield puzzle to complete, an Andrew Miller project to finish, a bullpen to assemble.

As they solve those roster riddles, the entities that have carried the Indians to the top of the AL Central continue to thrive. The rotation keeps churning out quality starts. Brad Hand has provided a sorely needed steady, umm, hand in the bullpen. And Lindor and José Ramírez refuse to slow their gaudy offensive paces.

It's pretty customary by now. If there's some action unfolding on the field, there's a decent chance Lindor or Ramírez is involved. For Clevinger, it has reached a point in which, if No. 12 is not approaching the plate with the game on the line, he does a double take.

"Every time it's a spot like this, he's always hitting," Clevinger said. "It's like a sixth sense. You know it's going to happen. Like, you look over on deck and you're like, 'Does he bat every time it's a tie game?' And then every time it seems like he's coming through."

It happened again on Wednesday night, and Lindor finally regained his breath once the baby powder settled. One night earlier, Fernando Rodney froze him with an inside fastball, leaving the tying run on second base.

That hurt. The mobbing at home plate the next night hurt, too. But he'll gladly accept that sort of pain.

"Today, I purposely went out like, 'Yes, I want to win this game,' " Lindor said. "Yesterday, it was like, 'Just get something going. Get on base.' And I couldn't come through. It's fun. It's fun winning games. I love winning games. Whether I hit it or somebody else hits it, I'm going to celebrate the same way.

"Except, next time I'll be the one with the powder."

Indians bullpen goes from awful to awesome after All-Star break | Jeff Schudel

By Jeff Schudel, The News-Herald & The Morning Journal

The Indians were comfortably in first place in the American League Central Division at the start of the All-Star break on July 16, but their bullpen also had the highest ERA in all of Major League Baseball at 5.28.

It was like a warning sign on the freeway: Danger ahead — Playoffs begin in 11 weeks. Continue at your own risk.

In the three weeks since the start of the second half, the Tribe bullpen had a 3.02 ERA heading into games played Aug. 8 — second only to Oakland in the American League and fifth-best in all of baseball. A bullpen's ERA doesn't tell the whole story because it doesn't take into account how many inherited runners scored. But the improvement bodes well for the Indians as the postseason draws closer.

The improvement coincides with the trade team president Chris Antonetti made on July 19 when he shipped catching prospect Francisco Mejia to the Padres for reliever Adam Cimber and closer Brad Hand.

The Indians lost, 3-2, on Aug. 7, but Andrew Miller threw 1 2/3 scoreless innings without allowing a hit. It was his third appearance since returning from the 60-day disabled list (knee injury) on Aug. 3. Neil Ramirez pitched a scoreless ninth.

A night earlier, Trevor Bauer left with a 7-0 lead after six innings. Cimber, Oliver Perez and Dan Otero each pitched a scoreless inning.

Cimber, Miller, Cody Allen and Hand stitched together 3 1/3 innings on Aug. 5 to preserve a 4-3 victory for Shane Bieber. Allen taken out of the closer's role because he was struggling, entered the game in the seventh inning with the bases loaded, the Indians leading 4-2, and stranded all three runners.

Allen did not have the same success Aug. 8. He entered the game in the top of the ninth with the Indians leading 2-1, trying to preserve a win for Mike Clevinger, who was superb through seven innings. Hand pitched a scoreless eighth inning, but Allen gave up a leadoff home run to Miguel Sano then had to squirm out of trouble to keep the score 2-2 heading to the bottom of the ninth. It was his third blown save.

Ironically, the Padres' bullpen (2.94) has the best ERA in the National League since trading Hand and Cimber, and the Padres' relievers have had to work harder, too; San Diego relievers have pitched a combined 66 innings in the second half of the season.

Only the Houston bullpen (46 1/3) has pitched fewer innings than the 47 2/3 innings tossed by the Indians relievers, so the recent success of the Indians bullpen is also a testament to the starting rotation. The Tribe starters posted a 1.94 ERA in 78 2/3 innings (better than six 1/3 innings a start) over their last 12 games.

"The rough stretch was in May, so it's been better since then," Indians manager Terry Francona said. "Getting (Cimber and Hand) certainly has helped. Cody has been back to looking more like Cody.

"We're trying to get Andrew on that run. I thought yesterday was a good step in the right direction. Fortunately, we have time left in the season. That will be a big goal of ours to get him going."

The Indians' bullpen had an atrocious ERA of 8.01 in May. Antonetti was desperate for help and on June 2 signed Oliver Perez, who one day earlier was released by the New York Yankees. Perez has pitched in 17 1/3 innings in 29 games while allowing only one home run.

Neil Ramirez signed a minor league contract with the Indians, his ninth MLB team, on Nov. 30 last year. He was called up on May 15 to help stop the bleeding. He has pitched 28 1/3 innings over 32 games, allowing six home runs. He and Perez helped stabilize the bullpen when it was at its worst.

The Indians had the best bullpen in the majors last season. It is trending in that direction again, just at the right time.

TinCaps send Captains to seventh loss in past eight games

By David Glasier, The News-Herald

These are the dog days of August for the Captains

On Aug. 8 at Classic Park, they opened a three-game homestand against the Fort Wayne (Ind.) TinCaps.

Despite a promising start and strong finish for the home team, the outcome was all too familiar.

The TinCaps spotted the Captains a 5-4 lead after three innings, then scored three in the top of the fourth to take a 7-5 lead en route to a 9-8 victory.

For the Captains, slip-sliding away in the Midwest League's Eastern Division, it was their seventh loss in their past eight games.

With 25 games remaining in the regular season and an 18-26 mark in the second half, the Captains numerically are in the hunt for one of the two second-half playoff berths up for grabs. But the chasm between what's numerically possible and realistically within reach for this team is about the size of the Grand Canyon.

The TinCaps, snapping a three-game losing streak, improved to 20-14 in the second half.

Captains left fielder Oscar Gonzalez had another fine night, going 3-for-5 and raising his batting average to .286. The 20-year-old native of the Dominican Republic slammed a solo home run to left field in the bottom of the first inning to shave Fort Wayne's lead to 2-1. He also doubled and singled home a run in the bottom of the ninth as the Captains scored three runs to throw a scare into the TinCaps.. Gonzalez has 13 home runs and 49 RBI.

Second baseman Richard Palacios went 4-for-5 with an RBI and two runs scored. Designated hitter Jose Vicente was 3-for-5 with a two-run double in the bottom of the third and an RBI single in the bottom of the ninth.

The TinCaps did damage against three of the four pitchers used by the Captains.

Starter Gregori Vasquez surrendered five runs, all earned, on five hits in 3 2/3 innings. He was relieved by Riley Echols (1-5, 4.28 ERA), who was tagged with the loss after giving up two runs in 1 1/3 innings. Adam Scott was nicked for two runs on three hits in two innings.

Fort Wayne reliever Caleb Boushley (5-3, 2.54 ERA) blanked the Captains over three frames to earn the win.

Indians notes: Leonys Martin illness gives Brandon Guyer opportunity to make Indians debut in CF

Chris Assenheimer By **Chris Assenheimer** | **The Chronicle-Telegram** Published on **Aug. 8, 2018** | Updated **6:13 a. m.**

CLEVELAND — Leonys Martin missed Wednesday's game with what manager Terry Francona called intestinal turmoil. It created an opportunity for Brandon Guyer to make his Indians debut in center field.

"(Martin) got sick in the middle of (Tuesday) night. He got real sick," Francona said. "I'd been talking to Guyer about taking balls in center field and I just thought tonight might not be a bad night to do it. One, it'd be good for him. I think it'd be really good for our team. And I want to see how it looks. It may open up something for us where we pinch hit. It might just give us another alternative."

Though he had not appeared in a game in center with Cleveland prior to Wednesday, Guyer isn't unfamiliar with the position, playing there in 52 games for Tampa Bay from 2014-16. Guyer also played a handful of games in center during a minor league rehab stint from May 25-June 10.

Though he was batting just .203 through Tuesday, Guyer has been swinging the bat better of late, entering Wednesday hitting .324 (12-for-37) with three doubles, three home runs and 11 RBIs over his last 21 games.

Miller moment

Since leaving the disabled list Friday, left-hander Andrew Miller had made three scoreless appearances through Tuesday, but his velocity has lagged.

According to Statcast, Miller has averaged 91.8 mph on his fastball, down from 93.1 mph over the first two months of the season and 94.1 mph last year.

Miller could be feeling his way back after a two-month stay on the injured list with right knee inflammation.

“That’s exactly what it is,” Francona said. “He’s healthy. With that comes confidence, conviction, letting the ball go. It’ll come. It may come in one pitch. It might come in one outing. But it’ll come. That’s the idea. We’ve all seen what he can do. So we need to be invested in getting him there. And we will.”

Miller had made only 20 appearances through Tuesday, spending two stints on the DL — the first time for two weeks with a left hamstring strain.

Southpaw struggles

Left-handed pitchers have been tough on Edwin Encarnacion. He entered Wednesday batting .200 with just four of his 25 home runs and 13 of his 80 RBIs coming against lefties.

“At times, when they go soft on him a little bit, and they go up out of the zone, he gets a little where he wants to lift the ball,” Francona said. “Also, at times he’s been letting go of the bat. I think his hand’s bothering him at times. He’s still dangerous. They have to respect that.” Encarnacion, who was batting .233 through Tuesday, was hit on the right hand by a pitch July 15 (the final game before the All-Star break), but did not miss any time.

In and out

Right-hander Zach McAllister, who was designated for assignment to clear a roster spot for Miller, was given his outright release from the Indians.

Acquired in 2010, McAllister posted a 4.97 ERA in 41 games this year, appearing in 277 games and going 29-35 with a 3.99 ERA during his tenure in Cleveland.

Right-hander Evan Marshall was activated from the disabled list and optioned to Triple-A Columbus. Marshall has appeared in 10 games for the Indians, allowing six earned runs on 12 hits over seven innings.

Roundin’ third

Francisco Lindor entered Wednesday leading the majors with 27 of his 28 homers coming out of the leadoff spot. He trailed Grady Sizemore (28 in 2006 and 33 in '08) for the most in franchise history by a leadoff hitter. Lindor had his 45th multihit game Tuesday, matching Atlanta’s Nick Markakis for the most in the majors. It’s the third most by an Indians hitter through 112 games since World War II behind Kenny Lofton’s 50 in 1996 and Carlos Baerga’s 46 in '95.

Indians 5, Twins 2: Cody Allen blows save, but Francisco Lindor rides to the rescue with walk-off HR

Chris Assenheimer | **The Chronicle-Telegram** | Published on Aug. 8, 2018 | Updated 6:38 a. m.

CLEVELAND — Cody Allen’s return to the closer role was far from a triumphant one Wednesday night at Progressive Field.

Francisco Lindor’s at-bat with the game on the line was a much different story.

Allen couldn’t hold a one-run lead in the top of the ninth, but Lindor picked him up in the bottom of the inning, lining the first pitch he saw from Minnesota’s Trevor Hildenberger over the wall in right field for a walk-off three-run homer and a 5-2 victory.

“We didn’t hit the ball all over the ballpark, but we played a nice, crisp game and we had a 2-1 lead and all of a sudden it’s gone in a hurry,” manager Terry Francona said. “It was kind of like you got punched in the stomach. But it feels awful good to leave a team standing out there after that happens. Our guys kinda clutched up.”

Allen, who had pitched well recently after being removed as the primary closer, allowed a game-tying homer to Miguel Sano, the first batter he faced in the ninth.

It took the energy out of the park and cost right-hander Mike Clevinger a well-earned victory, but the electricity returned as Cleveland fought back.

Jason Kipnis lined a one-out single into left and after Yan Gomes drove one deep to the wall in center for the second out, Brandon Guyer delivered a base hit into left.

Lindor followed with his 29th homer of the season.

Lindor struck out against Twins closer Fernando Rodney with a runner on second to end the game Tuesday night — a 3-2 Cleveland loss.

"My dad texted me after (Tuesday's) game and he said, 'Don't worry about it. Tomorrow's another day. God is good. God has a plan and tomorrow's another day. Good things will come,'" Lindor said. "That's what I had in my head. I was just ready to hit from pitch one."

Clevinger worked one of his better outings of the season, allowing five hits — all in the third and fourth — over seven innings.

He got stronger as the game wore on, retiring the side in order in each of the last three innings he worked, while sitting down the last 11 hitters he faced.

"I thought he was terrific," Francona said of Clevinger, who lowered his ERA to 3.38 over 23 starts. "He got us right where we thought it matched up for (Brad) Hand and then Cody. He gave up the one (run) early. That was it."

Hand, who has been on the mound in save situations the past week or so, worked a scoreless eighth inning before turning it over to Allen.

Allen, who was riding a string of six straight scoreless appearances, blew his third save in 24 chances.

The Indians' first two runs were driven in without a hit.

Edwin Encarnacion scored Lindor with a sacrifice fly in the opening inning after Lindor's leadoff double. Gomes and Guyer started the fifth with singles and Gomes scored on a groundout from Michael Brantley.

It was RBI No. 60 for Brantley, giving Cleveland five players with 60 or more on the season. No other team in the majors has more than three.

For Clevinger, it was no surprise who was at the plate in a key situation for the Indians.

"It's like every time it's a spot like this, it's like, (Lindor's) always hitting," he said. "When it's a chance like this, he's always hitting. It's like a sixth sense that you know is going to happen. You look over on deck and you're like, 'Does he bat every time it's a tie game?' And then every time it seems like he's coming through. It's huge."

Lindor, who was doused with baby powder and piled on upon reaching home plate, was happy to oblige.

"Seeing my teammates and seeing everybody in the stands, it's the regular season and it feels like playoffs," he said. "The atmosphere, when everybody is going crazy it feels like playoffs, man and I believe in what we have here. We're a playoff-caliber team and it's always fun and special seeing those things."

Tito's pregame minutiae: Aug. 8 by Jordan Bastian

Q: After a long night like Tuesday's game, how important is it to give the players a little break by having a delayed start to pregame, or pushing back batting practice?

Francona: "That's the idea. That's where the trust comes in. You trust that they'll be ready to play the game. You can get lost in trying to make sure guys take BP. Like, 'We're going to be the hardest working team.' You know, everybody wants to do that. But, they've had so much repetition now, sometimes you need to take that into consideration. Day game tomorrow. We travel. Just try to give them the best chance, knowing that you're not sacrificing the game. That's the biggest thing."

Q: Can you walk us through the reasoning for having Brandon Guyer in center?

Francona: "Leonys [Martin] is sick. He got sick in the middle of the night. He got real sick. We're trying to get him straightened out. And I'd been talking to Guyer about taking balls in center field. And I just thought tonight might not be a bad night to do it. One, it'd be good for him. I think it'd be really good for our team. And, I want to see how it looks. It may open up something for us where we pinch hit. It might just give us another alternative. And I just thought tonight was a good night to do it."

Q: He played center during his Minor League rehab this year, right?

Francona: "And I know he did it in Tampa [with the Rays]. And he's been working so hard in the outfield. I just thought the timing is really good."

Q: How much have the recent bullpen additions helped settle things down?

Francona: "The rough stretch was in May. So, it's been better since then. Getting those two [Brad Hand and Adam Cimber] certainly has helped. Cody [Allen] has been back to looking more like Cody. We're trying to get Andrew [Miller] on that run. Yesterday was a good step in the right direction. Fortunately, we have time left in the season and that will be a big goal of ours, to get him going."

Q: Has Allen's recent improvement been due to fixing his mechanics, or did the role change help?

Francona: "I think it's both. It can be mechanical, but I think he was starting to think about mechanics. And that was the idea behind getting him in where he's competing, because he's such a good competitor, I thought then the mechanics fall into line."

Q: Miller's velocity has been down since he came off the DL. How much of that is simply getting him confident again in his mechanics to the point where he can just let it go?

Francona: "That's exactly what it is. He's healthy. With that comes confidence, conviction, letting the ball go. It'll come. It may come in one pitch. It might come in one outing. It might not. But, it'll come. That's the idea. We've all seen what he can do. So we need to be invested in getting him there. And we will."

Miller FB velocity by season

2016: 95.2 mph

2017: 94.1 mph

2018: 92.8 mph

Miller FB/SL velocity in 2018

March 31-April 25: 93.1 mph/83.2 mph

May 11-25: 93.0 mph/83.5 mph

Aug. 3-7: 91.8 mph/82.4 mph

Q: What have you seen within Edwin Encarnacion's at-bats against left-handed pitching this season?

Francona: "At times, when they go soft on him a little bit, and they go up out of the zone, he gets a little where he wants to lift the ball. Also, at times he's been letting go of the bat. I think his hand's bothering him at times. He's still dangerous. They have to respect that."

NOTE: This season, Encarnacion has a 119 wRC+ and .823 OPS vs. right-handers, compared to a 91 wRC+ and .689 OPS vs. lefties. That goes against his career, during which he's hit left-handers (130 wRC+ and .866 OPS) slightly better than righties (124 wRC+ and .844 OPS).

Q: Is it just a stomach bug that Martin is dealing with?

Francona: "We're trying to figure out [the source of the issue]. I would term it 'intestinal turmoil.' He definitely has that."

Q: Yan Gomes didn't appear to be favoring his hamstring at all during Tuesday's game...

Francona: "He did well. Normally, when those guys come back, the medical guys, to clear them, it's like they're going to the Olympics. They're usually in pretty good shape when they get cleared."

Q: Jorge Polanco got called out on interference in the seventh on Tuesday, when Eddie Rosario was trying to steal third. It seems like we don't see those types of interference calls that much anymore...

Francona: "He backed up. I don't think he tried to. He just backed up and he got in his way. Yeah, that was interesting. I was looking at the runner, because I just told Andrew, 'Make him stop,' and the next thing you know, there he goes."

Fightin Phils 6, RubberDucks 1: Josh Tomlin sharp in rehab start before Fightin Phils pull away against Ducks bullpen by ABJ/Ohio.com correspondent

Hoping to regain his success from the magical season of 2016, and perhaps channeling his Aeros days of 2009, Josh Tomlin looked a lot like the pitcher who helped the Indians to the World Series two years ago and the standout who won 14 games for Akron.

It came in a rehab start on Wednesday for the RubberDucks in a 6-1 loss to Reading.

Tomlin, who has been on the shelf since July 10 with a pulled right hamstring, faced one over the minimum at Canal Park in a sparkling three-inning appearance.

"These past 10 days now I've got to face hitters that weren't teammates, so that adrenaline and the stuff you home in on to control on the mound are things I'm experiencing now," Tomlin said. "It feels good [when I pitch] and it feels good in between innings and after the game, so that's a positive to take out of it for sure."

There were quite a few positives from the nine-year veteran, who gave up one hit and struck out three.

In fact, had second baseman Mark Mathias been an inch taller, Damek Tomscha's shot to right-center would have left the right-hander unscathed.

"We're definitely closer," Tomlin said. "It may be a thing where I try to get built up to five or six innings just in case because it's easier to go to the bullpen after getting built up than something happening in the rotation and you're getting built up on the fly."

"It's more just trying to feel as good as you can and I think part of that is trying to get the repetitions so you're not out there for one outing and if you make mistakes and get away with them, you can just kind of hang your hat on it. You're actually trying to work on things and trying to get better delivery [and] better mechanically."

Tomlin indicated he likely will have another rehab start, but didn't feel resistance from the hamstring.

"I worked on getting through the ball instead of rushing through everything," he said. "It's getting back on the backside and being able to drive towards home plate and get that hip to rotate where I'm square toward home plate, so I'm not getting rotational and I'm not trying to go up and around things to simplify as much as I can."

Tomlin's mechanics were on display as the 33-year-old rarely fell behind hitters and when he did it was no worse than 1-0.

Of the 38 pitches he threw, 29 went for strikes, including seven of the eight pitches he threw to Drew Stankiewicz, which ended in a groundout to second.

"It's nice to go out there and not be down 2-0, 2-1, 3-1," Tomlin said. "That's something I was falling into in the big leagues. I was falling behind guys. With my kind of stuff, it means more to strike out a guy. I don't miss too many bats, so to be falling behind 2-1, 3-0, 1-0 to guys at the big-league level, they'll make you pay for it in a hurry.

"That's what I fell in the habit of doing because of inconsistent delivery, not being able to repeat that delivery kind of put me in a funk for a while."

Fightin Phils first baseman Darick Hall ruined the evening with two-run home run in the fourth put Reading (54-60) up for good. The Ducks (66-49) scored on a RBI double by Connor Marabell in the seventh.

The three-game series concludes Thursday at 7:05 p.m. when Ducks right-hander Kyle Dowdy (3-5, 5.84) faces right-hander Felix Paulino (1-0, 5.40).

The post Fightin Phils 6, RubberDucks 1: Josh Tomlin sharp in rehab start

Powder power: Lindor's 3-run homer gives Indians 5-2 win

By TOM WITHERS

CLEVELAND (AP) - Francisco Lindor skipped down the third-base line, crossed home plate and suddenly couldn't breathe.

He wasn't alone.

Lindor connected for a three-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning as the Cleveland Indians again moved 10 games ahead of Minnesota in the AL Central with a 5-2 win over the Twins on Wednesday night.

Lindor, who struck out with the winning run at second base in the ninth to end a 3-2 loss on Tuesday, drove the first pitch from Trevor Hildenberger (2-3) over the wall in right to trigger a wild celebration.

As the Progressive Field crowd roared as if it was October, the All-Star shortstop pointed and waved to the fans before being swarmed by his teammates, including pitcher Carlos Carrasco who emptied most of a bottle of white baby powder on him.

"I didn't see it otherwise I would have touched the plate and ran," Lindor said of Carrasco's powder-packed ambush. "I felt powder and then all of a sudden I ran out of breath. I just tried to get out of there."

Down 2-1, Minnesota tied it in the ninth on Miguel Sano's leadoff homer against Cody Allen (4-4), who cost Mike Clevinger a victory and wound up with a blown save and win.

Lindor saved him.

Jason Kipnis singled with one out in the ninth before Twins right fielder Max Kepler raced back and robbed Yan Gomes of extra bases with a leaping catch before crashing into the padded wall.

Brandon Guyer followed with a single to bring up the electrifying Lindor, who has a knack for coming up big in clutch moments.

"It's like every time it's a spot like this he's always hitting when it's a chance like this, and it's like a sixth sense," Clevinger said.

"You know it's gonna happen. Like you look over on deck and you're like 'Does he bat every time it's a tie game?' And then every time it seems like he's coming through too, so it's huge."

Lindor's homer was his 29th and gave him an MLB-leading 67 extra-base hits and 99 runs.

Allen, the Indians' dependable closer - and career saves leader - not only let the lead go, he cost Clevinger his first win since July 1. The right-hander limited the Twins to one run and five hits over seven strong innings, retiring the final 11 batters he faced before turning things over to Cleveland's bullpen, which has been much better after some earlier struggles.

However, Allen's 2-1 knuckle curve didn't fool Sano, as Minnesota's cleanup hitter pounded his eighth homer over the wall. It was the ninth homer allowed by Allen in 47 1-3 innings - a concerning statistic for the Indians as the push toward the playoffs.

Minnesota committed three errors in the first six innings.

"We didn't do a lot with the bats, Clevinger was good," Twins manager Paul Molitor said. "It just came down to trying to find a way to get back to even, which we did with Miggy with one swing, and then they put together the rally there in the bottom of the ninth."

RBI CLUB

Cleveland has five players with at least 60 RBIs. No other team has more than three.

TOUGH LOSSES

The Twins aren't strangers to late-inning pain, having lost 11 times on walk-offs.

"It comes down to the last couple innings, and you find yourself in that predicament," Molitor said. "It's been a part of the story line of the season."

PITCHING PLAN

Minnesota may follow Tampa's lead and use relief pitchers to open games before bringing in the scheduled starter. The Twins are intrigued by the method and have researched the experiment in the minor leagues. Molitor suggested the club could begin implementing it soon.

"I don't know if we'll get into that situation by the time we get to the end of the year or not," he said. "Like everything that involves change in this game, we're more than willing to look at it and see if it's something that might be something for us to pursue."

LONG RUN

The Indians officially released reliever Zach McAllister, who had been with the club since 2010. The 30-year-old was designated for assignment last week.

McAllister struggled this season, going 1-2 with a 4.97 ERA in 41 appearances.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Twins: Molitor still doesn't know if LHP Adalberto Mejia will make his next start. Mejia pitched five shutout innings before leaving Tuesday's win with a strained wrist. Mejia will throw a bullpen session on Friday.

Indians: Guyer played center field for the first time since 2016 because Leonys Martin got "real sick" during the night, according to manager Terry Francona. Martin has played six games for Cleveland since being acquired in a deadline trade with Detroit.

UP NEXT

Indians ace Corey Kluber starts the finale of the four-game series against Twins RHP Jose Berrios. Kluber pitched a three-hitter and his seventh career complete-game shutout in his previous start on Aug. 3 against the Los Angeles Angels.

Francisco Lindor hands Twins 11th walk-off loss, their most since 1987

By MIKE BERARDINO | mberardino@pioneerpress.com | Pioneer Press

CLEVELAND — Miguel Sano finally ended his home run drought with a game-tying shot off Cody Allen in the ninth, but it still wasn't enough for the hard-luck Twins.

Francisco Lindor topped Sano with a three-run walk-off homer off Trevor Hildenberger in the bottom of the ninth as the Cleveland Indians took a 5-2 win at Progressive Field on Wednesday night. Lindor danced his way around the bases after jumping on the first pitch to hand the Twins their 11th walk-off loss, most in club history since the 1987 edition suffered 12 of them en route to the World Series title.

The franchise record is 15 walk-off losses in 1964. Of course, the Twins reached their first World Series the following season.

Eight of this year's walk-offs have come by homer, two more than the previous franchise record from 1985. That's the most for any team since the 2010 St. Louis Cardinals, who won the World Series the following season.

"It's tough," Twins manager Paul Molitor said. "They've come in a lot of different fashions, but there have been other things that have caused us to walk off with a loss. It has been a part of the storyline of the season."

Starting with Adam Jones on Opening Day and continuing though Lindor's 29th homer, the Twins have also been sent to the showers on homers by Carlos Gomez, Trayce Thompson, Gary Sanchez, Mike Zunino, Alcides Escobar and Mookie Betts.

Hildenberger became the sixth different Twins pitcher to surrender a walk-off homer this year, joining closer Fernando Rodney (twice), Addison Reed (twice), Matt Magill, Taylor Rogers and Matt Belisle.

For Sano, who spent six weeks in the minors rebooting his career, it was his first homer since May 31 at Target Field, also a game-tying shot off an Indians reliever (Zach McAllister). The Twins lost that one 9-8 after wiping out an eight-run deficit.

The Twins fell 10 games behind the first-place Indians but still lead 8-7 in the season series.

"It shows we're in a lot of games; I think that's the brightest spot to take out of it," Twins starting pitcher Jake Odorizzi said. "That's 11 games we're in to the very end. I'm sure there are a lot of points in the game, looking back on those 11 games, that if we had done something a little bit better we could have won the game."

Odorizzi's defense certainly didn't do him any favors, but the Twins right-hander still made the wrong sort of personal history.

For the first time in a big-league career that now spans 153 outings and 150 starts, Odorizzi failed to strike out a single batter while throwing more than one inning. His only other K-free appearance came April 15 of last season at Boston's Fenway Park.

Working into the fifth on 101 pitches, Odorizzi gave up just two runs (one earned) on four hits and two walks (one intentional), but he couldn't put the Indians away. A dozen times he worked the count to two strikes, but three of those confrontations resulted in hits.

Lindor's first-inning double sailed over the head of center fielder Jake Cave, who took a false step upon contact and couldn't quite recover. Michael Brantley followed with a first-pitch liner right at Cave, who dropped it for an error.

Edwin Encarnacion's sacrifice fly punctuated a 23-pitch first for Odorizzi, who failed to complete five innings for the seventh time in 24 starts with the Twins.

"I know he feels horrible for everything," Odorizzi said of Cave. "He's going to learn from it. He's going to do better from it. But I was trying to do my best to limit the damage, get him off the hook and just kind of give him a little pat on the butt like, 'I got you like you got me.' "

The Twins made two more errors but neither proved costly. Catcher Mitch Garver's throw trickled into center field on Jose Ramirez's third-inning stolen base, and reliever Trevor May made an errant pickoff throw in the sixth.

Speaking of pickoffs, Garver was nabbed at second by catching counterpart Yan Gomes in the third. That pushed the Twins' league-leading pickoff total to 15, six clear of the rest of the American League.

Doubles by Sano and Logan Forsythe tied the game in the fourth off Indians right-hander Mike Clevinger, but Sano couldn't handle Brandon Guyer's popped-up sacrifice bunt attempt an inning later. Sano wasn't charged with an error, but his barehand flub opened the door for Brantley's go-ahead roller to shortstop.

After their latest clunker, the Twins can still split series with Indians

By La Velle E. Neal III AUGUST 8, 2018 — 10:57PM

Ugh, that wasn't pretty to watch.

The mistake-prone Twins were walked off 5-2 on Wednesday by Cleveland and need to win Thursday's afternoon game to earn a split of the four-game series.

That was walkoff loss No. 11.

"They've come in a lot of different fashions," Twins manager Paul Molitor said. "Probably at least half have been home runs. But there's been other things that have caused us to walk off with a loss. It's just kind of the nature of the game when you're on the road playing close games as we seem to. There just hasn't been a lot of separations in a lot of these games and it just comes down to the last couple of innings and you find yourself in that predicament. It has been a part of the storyline of the season."

As ugly as Wednesday's game was, Thursday's potentially could be quite entertaining.

The Twins will send Jose Berrios to the mound opposite of former Cy Young winner Corey Kluber - who's coming off his seventh complete game shutout on Saturday. He's had some hiccups this season but he's still 14-6 with a 2.63 ERA. Judging by his last outing, the Kluber is back.

Berrios will be making his first start of the season at Progressive Field. He's 2-0 with a 2.63 ERA in two career starts at Progressive Field. He's also 7-0 against AL Central opponents this season.

So this series, in which the Twins have looked awful in two games, can still be tied after tomorrow. Provided that Berrios is up for the challenge.

And the Twins can score more than two runs.

And the Twins can make fewer than 19 mistakes.

Star Tribune LOADED: 08.09.2018

Rosario is the Twins' new Everyday Eddie

By La Velle E. Neal III Star Tribune AUGUST 9, 2018 — 12:32AM

CLEVELAND – Eddie Rosario went 4-for-4 on Tuesday and entered Wednesday tied for the American League lead in hits as he continues his fine season at the plate.

But Rosario's production is just part of the story. He's also been durable.

Rosario made his 75th consecutive start of the season Wednesday, batting second and playing left field.

Out of the 113 games the Twins have played, Rosario has played in 112 and started 108.

"It's good," Rosario said, predictably. "I don't like staying in the dugout. Sometimes I'll feel tired from the [time zone change] or the night games to day games. It's tough but this is the major leagues.

"I want to play major league games. All the legends in the past did it, and nobody had an excuse."

Meet the new Everyday Eddie, whose bat (.299, 20 home runs, 66 RBI) is needed in the lineup more than ever after July's deadline deals. His glove is needed, too; his eight outfield assists are tied for the third most in the American League.

Rosario is just needed.

"Define 'horse,' " manager Paul Molitor said. "[Is it] 155 games or what?"

If Rosario plays in every remaining game, he'll be the first Twin to play more than 160 since Justin Morneau played all 163 in 2008. Morneau started every game that season.

Three players — the Padres' Freddy Galvis and the Braves' Freddie Freeman and Nick Markakis — have appeared in every game this season for their clubs.

Rosario's willingness to handle the workload is one less thing Molitor has had to worry about.

"I'm kind of leaving it open to him unless I really feel strongly about a given day," Molitor said. "If he wants to play, I'm going to give him every chance, at least for the most part."

Bullpen test on hold

Adalberto Mejia spent Wednesday undergoing treatment on his left wrist after suffering a strain Tuesday on the final pitch he threw to the Indians.

"He's doing better today," Molitor said. "I was hoping we would have a little better indication of what Sunday might bring. But [head trainer] Tony Leo has asked to buy a little more time. He's really encouraged about the opportunity for him to go ahead and throw on Sunday."

Mejia, 2-0 with a 2.01 ERA in five appearances for the Twins, is expected to play some catch Thursday, then attempt to throw in the bullpen Friday. For now, the Twins haven't named a Sunday starter.

Buxton swings

Byron Buxton, who is on the disabled list at Class AAA Rochester, is testing his sore left wrist.

"He hit in the cage yesterday, and I guess with the weather [Wednesday] it is going to be in the cage down there again," Molitor said. "I think that we're probably not looking at a game until sometime next week if the next three, four, five days go well as progressing with his swing."

Proving his health, however, can be tricky. Because batting practice is different than actual games.

"They immobilized it for four days just to make sure he didn't irritate it," Molitor said. "There was a collaboration that said that this was something we can find out sooner rather than later without much risk."

"I think the hard part with this injury, from what I can understand and from some personal history, is that you take your normal swing during BP or off the tee or flips, you're not getting fooled. It's not having to start and stop and check swings."

"I think that's when these things get aggravated. Those are tough to simulate in a practice environment."

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Miguel Sano homers but Twins lose in a walk-off to Francisco Lindor, Indians

By La Velle E. Neal III Star Tribune AUGUST 9, 2018 — 12:29AM

CLEVELAND – Errors. Bad routes on fly balls. Bungled baserunning. The Twins did it all — badly — on Wednesday.

That they were one swing away from tying the score in the ninth inning was remarkable — and then they got that swing.

Miguel Sano's first homer since May 31 knotted the score at 2-2. But the Cleveland Indians retaliated in the bottom of the ninth when Francisco Lindor lined Trevor Hildenberger's hanging changeup into the seats in right for a three-run homer to walkoff the Twins 5-2 at Progressive Field.

Walkoff loss No. 11 of the season was one of the more painful ones because Sano tried to bail out his team with his mighty swing off Indians closer Cody Allen. Then Cleveland, 0-for-9 with runners in scoring position until the ninth, responded.

"It was a big moment for him, hitting a walkoff, which was bad for us," said Sano, who went 82 plate appearances between home runs. "It's just part of the game. We need keep working and come back tomorrow and do our job and win the game."

Hildenberger took over in the ninth and sandwiched two outs around a Jason Kipnis single. One out away from extra innings, Brandon Guyer singled to left. Hildenberger then elevated a changeup, and Lindor extended his arms and lined it into the stands.

"Kipnis goes the other way, and he got behind Guyer and had to come in 3-1, and Lindor's just a really good hitter," Twins manager Paul Molitor said. "He got him [Tuesday] and tonight it looked like he was looking for that changeup and he was able to keep it fair."

From the outset, Twins righthander Jake Odorizzi pitched under duress created by one of the sloppier performances by the Twins defense this season.

To start the first inning, Jake Cave broke the wrong way on Lindor's liner to center that sailed over him for a double. He had a chance to atone for his mistake on the next play, but he dropped Michael Brantley's liner for an error. Lindor advanced to third, then scored on a sacrifice fly. It was Cleveland 84th first-inning run this season, the second most in baseball.

Logan Forsythe's RBI double in the fourth tied the score at 1-1. But the Twins were back at it in the fifth.

With Yan Gomes on first, Guyer bunted down the third base line. Sano rushed in but failed to handle the ball with his bare hand. Lindor hit a bouncing ball that the Twins might have been able to turn into a double play. But the ball spun out of Forsythe's glove. Forsythe was able to snatch the ball with his right hand and get a force play at second. On cue, Brantley followed with a ground ball to short that allowed the run to score.

There was more.

Mitch Garver was picked off second base in the third when Gomes threw behind him. Garver then threw wildly to second on Jose Ramirez's stolen base in the bottom of the inning, allowing him to advance to third. Reliever Trevor May threw wildly to first during a pickoff attempt in the sixth, enabling Melky Cabrera to move to second.

The game looked more lopsided than it was — but it was about to get even worse with the latest walkoff disaster.

"It's not something you want to be a part of," Odorizzi said. "It shows we're in a lot of games. I think that's the brightest spot to take out of it. That's 11 games we're in to the very end."

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