



Minnesota Twins Daily Clips Tuesday, July 31, 2018

- Garver sends Twins to walk-off win over Tribe. MLB.com (Denney) p.1
- Twins add 4 prospects in Duke, Lynn trades. MLB.com (Bollinger) p.2
- Fernando Rodney's cleat got stuck, and the resulting wild pitch totally caught Francisco Lindor by surprise. MLB.com (Garro) p.3
- Twins trade Lance Lynn to Yankees, Zach Duke to Mariners. Star Tribune (Christensen) p.4
- Mitch Garver's walkoff double leads Twins past Cleveland 5-4. Star Tribune (Christensen) p.5
- Twins' sell-off has a purpose, but it's still guesswork. Star Tribune (Scoggins) p.6
- Twins put Papa John's back in their promotional lineup. Star Tribune (Walsh) p.7
- Easy come, easy go: Twins pitchers acquired in the offseason and how they've fared. Star Tribune (Staff) p.7
- Monday's Twins-Cleveland game recap. Star Tribune (Christensen) p.8
- Twins' sell-off continues: Zach Duke, Lance Lynn shipped out for prospects. Pioneer Press (Shipley) p.9
- Fernando Rodney saves the day — kind of — as Twins fell first-place Cleveland. Pioneer Press (Shipley) p.10
- Twins' Miguel Sano not worried about cold return to majors. Pioneer Press (Shipley) p.11
- Twins trade Lynn to Yankees for Austin, prospect. Fox Sports North (AP) p.11
- Preview: Twins vs. Indians. Fox Sports North (AP) p.12
- Garver's walk-off double leads Twins past Indians. Fox Sports North (AP) p.13
- Twins trade LHP Zach Duke to Mariners for two prospects. Fox Sports North (Staff) p.14
- Will Nats actually deal Bryce Harper and other deadline questions. ESPN (Schoenfeld) p.14
- Zulgad: Twins' brass is making the right call by dealing in reality. ESPN 1500 (Zulgad) p.17
- Twins deal Lance Lynn to Yankees, Zach Duke to Mariners as trade deadline nears. ESPN 1500 (Zulgad) p.18
- Twins continue to break down roster with trades of Lance Lynn, Zach Duke. The Athletic (Hayes) p.20
- Twins trade Lance Lynn to Yankees, Zach Duke to M's as sell-off continues. The Athletic (Pierce) p.21

Garver sends Twins to walk-off win over Tribe Jarrid Denney | MLB.com | July 31, 2018

MINNEAPOLIS -- In a span of two hours before Monday's game, Minnesota's clubhouse saw two key players traded away as the Twins continue to operate as sellers on the eve of the non-waiver Trade Deadline. But with first-place Cleveland in town for a crucial three-game set, the Twins managed to end Monday night on a positive note.

Mitch Garver crushed a double in the bottom of the ninth to give the Twins a 5-4 win over the Indians at Target Field and end Minnesota's three-game losing streak.

Miguel Sano drew a leadoff walk and was replaced by Ehire Adrianza before Garver drilled a double to the left-center-field gap to finish the game.

"That was a big win for us as a group, as a group of brothers," Garver said. "We lost some key guys to our team this year, and to come back and kind of put that one away and finish that game is pretty exciting for us."

It was another timely hit in what has been a standout month for the 27-year-old Twins catcher; Garver entered Monday hitting .310 with 13 RBIs over his past 30 games.

"Happy for Mitch," Minnesota manager Paul Molitor said. "He stepped up when he had a chance to win the game and puts one in the gap. It's a really good way to start the series, especially with all the tumultuous things that have been going on the last three, four days."

In his second outing for the Twins since returning from the disabled list last week, Ervin Santana didn't miss many bats and was stung by the longball as he allowed four earned runs over 5 1/3 innings. Three of the six hits he yielded were solo homers, and he generated just three swinging

strikes on 88 pitches.

Cleveland All-Star Jose Ramirez entered Monday in the midst of an 0-for-16 skid, but he snapped out of it early against Santana when he launched a solo homer off the Twins right-hander with two outs in the first. Then, in the fourth inning, Ramirez smashed another solo shot, his 32nd of the season.

"They're always an aggressive team," Santana said. "They're one of the hottest teams in baseball right now and we had a good battle, and it was good to get the win."

In between Ramirez's two homers, the Minnesota offense went to work and generated two runs of its own. Brian Dozier reached on an error to lead off the second and then went first-to-third on a Max Kepler single. Robbie Grossman then lifted a sacrifice fly to plate Dozier, and Sano followed with an RBI double to give the Twins a 2-1 lead.

Ramirez evened the score with his second homer in the fourth, but the Twins answered in the bottom half of the inning, when Jorge Polanco cracked a two-RBI single to make it 4-2.

Cleveland tacked on a run over each of the next two innings to draw even and had a chance to take the lead in the seventh. Francisco Lindor drilled a one-out triple off reliever Trevor Hildenberger and forced the Twins to move their infield in. Hildenberger got Michael Brantley to ground out to second and then intentionally walked Ramirez. He worked a full count against Edwin Encarnacion before getting a called strike three with a changeup to end the threat.

In the ninth, Fernando Rodney came on to hold a 4-4 tie and worked the Twins out of another jam. With a pair of runners in scoring position, Rodney struck out Yonder Alonso swinging with a 97.7 mile-per-hour heater to end the inning and set the stage for Garver's big hit.

HE SAID IT

"He's still got it. He takes care of himself and can reach back when he needs to. It's sometimes a little tough to watch, as far as how it unfolds. There's usually one stretch where the command can lose him a little bit. But he seems to like having those moments. He bears down, doesn't always work out, but he made pitches and gave us a chance to score there." -- Molitor, on Rodney

UP NEXT

The Twins will continue their three-game set with the Indians at 7:10 p.m. CT Tuesday with hopes of further trimming Cleveland's eight-game lead in the AL Central. Kyle Gibson (5-7, 3.42 ERA) will get the start for Minnesota. Last time out on Thursday, Gibson tossed eight strong innings as he held the Red Sox to a single earned run in Boston. Cleveland will counter with Trevor Bauer (9-6, 2.32).

Twins add 4 prospects in Duke, Lynn trades **Rhett Bollinger | MLB.com | July 30, 2018**

MINNEAPOLIS -- The Twins continued to sell on Monday, trading lefty reliever Zach Duke to the Mariners and right-hander Lance Lynn to the Yankees, receiving prospects Chase De Jong and Ryan Costello from Seattle and Tyler Austin and Luis Rojo from New York. Reliever Addison Reed was activated from the 10-day disabled list to take Duke's spot on the roster, but there was no replacement for Lynn in time for Monday's game against the Indians.

After trading infielder Eduardo Escobar and reliever Ryan Pressly on Friday, Duke was the first to get dealt on Monday, with news breaking as the club was getting ready to take batting practice at Target Field. Lynn was dealt roughly 45 minutes prior to first pitch.

De Jong, a 24-year-old right-hander, was ranked as Seattle's No. 28 prospect by MLB Pipeline, while the 22-year-old Costello is a corner infielder who was not ranked among the Mariners' Top 30. Austin, a 26-year-old first baseman with power, has played a combined 85 games in the Majors over the past three seasons, while Rijo, a 19-year-old right-hander, wasn't among the Yankees' Top 30.

"We lost Zach today," Twins manager Paul Molitor said before Monday's 5-4 win over the Indians. "Just very complimentary to what he brought professionally. Personality, leadership, he took the ball -- all those kinds of things. A guy who can do what he can do is going to be sought out by a lot of teams, and he was."

Duke had posted a 3.62 ERA with 39 strikeouts and 15 walks in 37 1/3 innings this season. Notably, he hasn't allowed a homer in 45 appearances this year. The 35-year-old was signed to a one-year, \$2.15 million deal before the season. The Twins sent \$75,000 to the Mariners as part of the deal, while Seattle will pay the rest, which is roughly \$600,000.

"It's an exciting chapter -- I truly enjoyed my time here," Duke said. "Love the guys in this room and I'm going to miss them. But I'm looking very

forward to being out there in a pennant race."

Lynn, 31, went 7-8 with a 5.10 ERA in 20 starts with the Twins, striking out 100, walking 62 and allowing 12 homers in 102 1/3 innings. He was signed to a one-year, \$12 million deal in Spring Training. Minnesota will pick up half of the roughly \$4.5 million he's still owed. He was scheduled to start Wednesday against the Indians. Instead, lefty Adalberto Mejia will make the start.

"It happened fairly close to pregame," Molitor said of the Lynn trade. "Lance did a nice job of recovering his season after a rough start. Speculatively, I think it had to do with things that happened this winter with his late start. It took a little while until he got on track but we got a glimpse who he can be."

"I've never been through this before," Lynn said. "I really enjoyed my time here and I wish it had gotten off to a better start. But I really enjoyed it here; they were great to me. Great people, great organization. I see a lot of good things in the future here, and I wish them all the best and thank them for the opportunity."

The Twins could make more moves before Tuesday's 3 p.m. CT non-waiver Trade Deadline, with second baseman Brian Dozier and closer Fernando Rodney also pending free agents. Molitor, though, said he's going to operate normally despite the chance of additional trades.

"I don't think 'expect' is the right word," Molitor said. "Just kind of holding steady until something else comes across. We're talking and obviously teams are out there trying to make acquisitions. So I wouldn't say it's an expectation. I'm like everybody else. I don't know which way it's going to go and who teams might pick off and who might be available."

Austin could immediately join the Twins, as he's a career .230/.287/.459 hitter with 15 homers and 43 RBIs in 85 games with the Yankees. He's split time between Triple-A and the Majors this season, hitting .223/.280/.471 with eight homers and 23 RBIs in 34 games with New York. He's under team control through 2022 and fills a need for the Twins, who didn't have any first-base prospects close to the Majors.

Rijo, a 6-foot-1, 200-pound Venezuela native, has pitched well at three levels this season, posting a combined 2.77 ERA with 32 strikeouts and three walks in 39 innings between Rookie-level Pulaski, Class A Staten Island and Class A Advanced Tampa.

De Jong has Major League experience, going 0-3 with a 6.35 ERA in seven appearances (four starts) with the Mariners last year. This season, he's posted a 3.80 ERA with 89 strikeouts and 34 walks in 120 2/3 innings at Double-A Arkansas.

Costello, a 31st-round pick in the 2017 Draft, was hitting .266/.360/.486 with 16 homers, 24 doubles and 70 RBIs in 101 games at Class A Clinton. At 22 he's a tad old for the level, but he's a career .285/.381/.529 hitter in two seasons in the Minors, while seeing time at first base and third base.

Reed, meanwhile, had been on the DL since July 11 with right triceps tightness. He made two rehab appearances with Triple-A Rochester over the weekend, giving up one run over two innings. He's struggled with a 4.83 ERA in 41 appearances this season, but Molitor said Reed worked on his mechanics once he got healthy enough to throw again.

"He got people out for the most part," Molitor said of Reed's rehab outings. "His velocity was topping out about 90 mph. But I think he was able to do some of the things he worked on during his down time. Specifically, he tried to get back to a few things he did better that he got away from. He felt comfortable trying those things. We had thought about waiting another day after pitching yesterday, but after Zach was traded, he was activated today."

Fernando Rodney's cleat got stuck, and the resulting wild pitch totally caught Francisco Lindor by surprise

Adrian Garro | MLB.com | July 30, 2018

Francisco Lindor and Fernando Rodney are two examples of how baseball fans are truly blessed. These two players are arguably among the most consistently entertaining in the game today.

Combining the two, then, presents an opportunity for pure gold. And that's what we got in the Twins' 5-4 win over the Indians on Monday night at Target Field, all thanks to Rodney's cleat getting stuck in the dirt on a delivery to the plate.

Lindor, who watched that 66-mph non-pitch sail to the backstop, just did not know what was going on:

I mean, can you blame him?

That was wacky.

Twins trade Lance Lynn to Yankees, Zach Duke to Mariners
Joe Christensen | Star Tribune | July 31, 2018

If last Friday's trades of Eduardo Escobar and Ryan Pressly blindsided the Twins clubhouse, Monday's moves — shipping Lance Lynn to the Yankees and Zach Duke to the Mariners — were no surprise.

Even with first-place Cleveland visiting Target Field, the Twins front office focused on swapping veterans for future assets ahead of Tuesday's 3 p.m. non-waiver trade deadline.

Will Brian Dozier be next? Or maybe Kyle Gibson?

"There's a lot of things going on, not just here, but around the game as we get closer [to the deadline]," manager Paul Molitor said. "In the next 23 hours there will probably be more flurry of activities."

The Escobar-to-Arizona and Pressly-to-Houston trades netted five minor leaguers, including four who moved into the Twins' top 30 prospects, as ranked by MLB.com. One of them, Jhoan Duran, made an immediate impression, tossing seven no-hit innings for Class A Cedar Rapids on Monday.

The Lynn and Duke moves added four more minor leaguers, including former second-round pick Chase De Jong and Tyler Austin, who once ranked among Baseball America's top 100 prospects.

The Twins might be trade deadline buyers, not sellers, if not for their 9-15 start. Lynn took responsibility for his part, as he was 0-3 with an 8.37 ERA through the end of April but heads to the Yankees at 7-8 with a 5.10 ERA.

"I really enjoyed my time here," Lynn said. "I wish I could have done better."

The Yankees reportedly might use him out of the bullpen. To sweeten the deal for the Yankees, the Twins agreed to pay half of the \$4.5 million Lynn has remaining on his one-year contract.

The Yankees gave up Austin, 26, a power hitter who has split time mostly at first base, right field and designated hitter. He made New York's Opening Day roster this year and hit eight home runs in 34 games, but he batted just .223 with a .280 on-base percentage before heading to Class AAA Scranton/Wilkes Barre.

Austin hit as three-run homer off Lynn in April when the Twins played at Yankee Stadium.

The Yankees also sent the Twins righthanded pitcher Luis Rijo, 19, who went 4-1 with a 2.77 ERA in seven starts at three minor league levels this season, with the highest being Class A Tampa.

The Twins have bolstered their farm system, but the veterans are still reeling from Friday, when the trades started with the team riding a four-game winning streak.

How long will it take them to get over those moves?

"Honestly, it'll be a while," said Dozier, another pending free agent. "It's not one day, two days or anything. It always still lingers and it always will."

Duke was 3-4 with a 3.62 ERA and 39 strikeouts in 37⅓ innings. He has made 513 career appearances and has not allowed a home run this season.

The key to that trade for the Twins was the 24-year-old De Jong, who ranked as the No. 28 prospect in Seattle's system, according to MLB.com. The Twins also acquired infielder Ryan Costello, 22, who wasn't ranked in Seattle's top 30 prospects.

The Twins agreed to pay \$75,000 of the \$675,000 Duke had remaining on his one-year contract. The Mariners, like the Yankees, would be wild-card teams if the season ended today.

"Love the guys in this [Twins clubhouse] and I'm gonna miss them," Duke said. "But I'm looking very forward to being out there in a pennant race."

De Jong is a 6-4 righthander who went 5-5 with a 3.80 ERA in 21 starts for Class AA Arkansas this season. He had 89 strikeouts in 120⅓ innings. Drafted by Toronto six years ago, De Jong also pitched in the Dodgers system and made seven appearances, including four starts, in the big

leagues for the Mariners last season, going 0-3 with a 6.35 ERA.

Costello, 22, has a Midwest League-leading 16 home runs with a .266 average and 70 RBI this season for Class A Clinton. Still, it's hard to say how soon any of these players will help the Twins.

"A lot of good players in [the Twins clubhouse] with a lot of upside and a lot of good futures ahead of them," Lynn said. "I wish them all the best."

Mitch Garver's walkoff double leads Twins past Cleveland 5-4 **Joe Christensen | Star Tribune | July 31, 2018**

Twins players have said enough goodbyes in recent days to last a whole offseason. They had a lot more fun celebrating Mitch Garver's walkoff double Monday night.

After seeing Zach Duke and Lance Lynn become the third and fourth players traded since Friday, the Twins were locked in a seesaw battle with Cleveland at Target Field.

Fernando Rodney escaped a ninth-inning jam, and then Garver drove a ball to left-center field, scoring pinch-runner Ehire Adrianza for a 5-4 victory before an announced crowd of 26,256.

The win halted a three-game losing streak and pulled the Twins within eight games of the first-place Indians. Minnesota leads the season series 7-3.

"To bounce back, shoot, we've got [nine] more games against these guys," Garver said. "We're just going to keep fighting."

Cleveland had a runner on third base with one out in the ninth and Jose Ramirez at the plate. Ramirez had already hit home runs No. 31 and 32 earlier against Ervin Santana. But Rodney fanned Ramirez with a 97-mph fastball. Then, after a walk to Edwin Encarnacion, Rodney struck out Yonder Alonso to end the top of the inning.

"Sometimes it's a little tough to watch, as far as how it unfolds," Molitor said of Rodney. "There's usually going to be at least one stretch where the command kind of eludes him a little bit, but he seems to like having those moments."

Molitor pulled Santana after Cleveland caught a break and tied the score 4-4 in the sixth inning. Alonso lined a ball that center fielder Jake Cave gambled on, trying to make a diving catch. The ball bounced for a double, allowing Encarnacion to score from first.

After Santana left, the Twins got some key scoreless relief appearances from Gabriel Moya and Matt Magill, who each inherited two runners apiece.

Miguel Sano, who went 2-for-3 with an RBI and a run scored, walked to start the ninth before Molitor inserted Adrianza to pinch run. Cave's sacrifice bunt moved Adrianza to second, setting the stage for Garver's game-winner.

"It's a really good win to start the series," Molitor said. "Especially with all the tumultuous things that have been going on here the last three, four days."

Reed activated from DL

The Twins replaced Duke on the roster by activating Addison Reed from the disabled list after a rehab assignment in Class AAA Rochester.

Reed, who missed 16 games with right triceps tendinitis, walked two batters and struck out one Sunday in his last appearance for Rochester.

"We'll try to get him some good matchups so we can see where he's at," Molitor said of Reed.

Etc.

- Adalberto Mejia will start Wednesday's game against Cleveland for the Twins, in place of Lynn.
- Byron Buxton went 0-for-3 with three strikeouts for Rochester on Monday, dropping his average to .215.

Twins' sell-off has a purpose, but it's still guesswork
Chip Scoggins | Star Tribune | July 31, 2018

Good thing Major League Baseball's trade deadline happens Tuesday. The Twins are running out of veterans to purge.

Brian Dozier is probably next. And maybe more. The clubhouse has a revolving door attached to it right now.

The Twins front office waved the white flag by initiating a fire sale that involves unloading veterans in order to stockpile prospects. As of Monday night, four trades had fetched nine minor leaguers in return, and baseball bosses Derek Falvey and Thad Levine probably aren't finished reshaping the roster in a youth movement.

Falvey and Levine are acting like the two Duke brothers at the end of the movie "Trading Places" when they realize they've been duped out of their fortune.

Sell! Sell! Sell!

If 2016 served as the organization's Total System Failure, this season represents a Total Stopgap Failure.

The Falvine Regime, perhaps reluctantly, attempted to reward the team after a 26-win improvement last season by bolstering, in theory, the roster with a crop of veterans on rental deals. Their plan backfired.

So now Falvine has commenced a new plan that makes sense in conception but offers no guarantees of a meaningful payoff.

The organization suddenly finds itself in a weird, transitional spot after reaching the one-game wild card last season. The Twins are not close to being a contender, but it's hard to know if the front office privately views this as a long, slow rebuild.

Look at the lineup Monday night against Cleveland. Of the eight position players, who looks like a sure bet in terms of predicting with confidence future performance?

There's left fielder Eddie Rosario and who else?

Miguel Sano? No clue. Dozier likely will either be traded or leave in free agency. Joe Mauer's future is unknown. Shortstop Jorge Polanco and right fielder Max Kepler have shown flashes but still have a lot to prove. Catcher is up in the air. Byron Buxton remains in the minors and has yet to prove that he can stay healthy or hit big-league pitching consistently.

Turnover in the pitching staff is inevitable, too.

The decision to bring in veteran help this offseason wasn't misguided. The front office just targeted the wrong guys and/or those veterans underperformed. They were never viewed as long-term pieces.

Too many players — and not just the newcomers — have had unproductive seasons so it's hard to blame the front office for losing faith and deciding to punt on the rest of the season.

Now the narrative again returns to hoping and wishing about the future. It feels like another "Get to know 'em" campaign is upcoming.

Levine noted that four of the five prospects acquired over the weekend will crack the organization's list of top 30 prospects.

"That's meaningful," he said. "What we were able to accomplish yesterday may not pay dividends tomorrow, but on the horizon, that just got brighter."

Maybe. Maybe not.

Buxton and Sano provide cautionary tales about becoming intoxicated by potential. They were billed as generational prospects and the Twins still have no idea what their ceiling will be. That doesn't mean Falvine's plan is flawed or the wrong course of action, but nobody really knows how this will play out.

Predicting future success of Class A-level prospects is pure guesswork. Trading Lance Lynn and Zach Duke — even Eduardo Escobar, as painful and unpopular as that was — in a lost season is worth the risk.

The development of Buxton and Sano remains the most important part of this whole blueprint. The organization can't go 0-for-2 on those two

cornerstones and pretend the impact would be minimal.

Sano's physical appearance upon return from his midseason boot camp provides a dose of encouragement. His body looks noticeably different after shedding 20 pounds.

Sano doubled and singled in first two at-bats Monday after striking out five times in his first seven plate appearances after rejoining the team.

"Good things are coming," he said.

He was talking about himself. The organization hopes a flurry of trades will produce the same result. In both cases, wait-and-see has become the template again.

Twins put Papa John's back in their promotional lineup

Paul Walsh | Star Tribune | July 31, 2018

The Minnesota Twins have resumed their business relationship with the Papa John's pizza brand, citing its dedication to a local franchisee, despite the recent national uproar over the founder using a racial slur during a conference telephone call.

Forbes first revealed the utterance by John Schnatter earlier this month, reporting that he used the N-word during a media training session in May, and the comment led the marketing agency to sever its ties with the company.

Soon after the Forbes report, the Twins front office followed other Major League Baseball teams and "indefinitely suspended" its relationship with the pizza chain. That suspension was lifted Monday, the team announced, pointing to its seven-year partnership with DMD Minnesota Pizzas, who owns local Papa John's franchises.

"Based on our local partnership experience, the Twins believe the comments made by Schnatter are not reflective of the views or actions of DMD Minnesota Pizza," the team announcement read.

Manny Overton, operating partner of DMD Minnesota Pizza, released a statement distancing itself from what Schnatter said, adding that "we respect each and every employee and customer regardless of their race and will continue to serve our employees and our customers as we always have, respectfully."

The Minnesota Lynx also suspended promotions with Papa John's. The team has yet to say whether that suspension is still in force.

Schnatter, who quit as CEO on that night in May, said he used the word while describing how KFC marketing icon Colonel Sanders spoke, but added that he would never use it as an epithet.

He has since apologized for what he said but is fighting to reclaim his CEO post. He remains on Papa John's board and is the company's largest shareholder.

Easy come, easy go: Twins pitchers acquired in the offseason and how they've fared

Staff Writer | Star Tribune | July 30, 2018

About those offseason moves ...

The Twins brought in five veteran pitchers during the offseason in an attempt to stabilize their staff. Two of them have now been traded. Here's a look:

Fernando Rodney

- Signed as a free agent on Dec. 15
- 3-2, 3.40 ERA, 22 saves in 42 games as the closer

- Has six blown saves

Zach Duke

- Signed as a free agent on Dec. 26
- 3-4, 3.62 ERA in 45 games as lefty setup man
- Traded Monday to Seattle

Addison Reed

- Signed as a free agent on Jan. 15
- 1-5, 4.83 ERA in 41 games as righty setup man
- Just activated from the DL

Jake Odorizzi

- Acquired in a trade on Feb. 17
- 4-7, 4.58 ERA in 22 starts
- Averaging just five innings per start

Lance Lynn

- Signed as a free agent on March 12
- 7-8, 5.10 ERA, 62 walks in 20 starts

Monday's Twins-Cleveland game recap
Joe Christensen | Star Tribune | July 30, 2018

GAME RECAP

IMPACT PLAYER

Matt Magill, Twins

Came on in the eighth inning and got two outs to escape a key jam.

BY THE NUMBERS

5 Walkoff victories this season for the Twins, who also have 10 walkoff losses.

7-18 Twins' record in one-run games.

15 Consecutive games started with a hit for Jorge Polanco, who had a two-out, two-run single in the fifth.

ON DECK

Kyle Gibson, who held the Red Sox to one run over eight innings Thursday, is scheduled to start for the Twins.

Twins' sell-off continues: Zach Duke, Lance Lynn shipped out for prospects
John Shipley | Pioneer Press | July 30, 2018

Who's next?

That's been the primary focus in the Twins' clubhouse since the brass began selling off pending free agents ahead of Tuesday's 3 p.m. non-waiver trade deadline.

Saturday in Boston, it was infielder Eduardo Escobar and reliever Ryan Pressly, dealt to Arizona and Houston, respectively, for prospects. When the Twins returned to Target Field on Monday, it was reliever Zach Duke and starter Lance Lynn who got a tap on the shoulder.

"Everybody's been as upbeat as they can," said Lynn, sent to the New York Yankees for Class A pitcher Luis Rijo, 19, and Class AAA first baseman/outfielder Tyler Austin, 26. "It's really nothing you can control. You hear a lot of things, and you do everything you can to be professional and try to get ready to play that day.

"There are a lot of good players in there with a lot of upside and bright futures ahead of them, and I wish them the best."

Since chief baseball officer Derek Falvey and general manager Thad Levine cracked the seal by trading Escobar, arguably the team's best player this season, it's been clear the young brain trust is ready to deal veterans facing free agency in order to stock an already strong farm system.

So far, they've acquired nine minor leaguers for four veterans who will be free agents at season's end.

Duke, 35, was called back from playing catch in the outfield on Monday and informed he had been sent to Seattle for a pair of prospects.

"I figured that was probably it," he said.

Duke is 3-4 with a 3.62 earned-run average in 45 appearances in his brief time with the Twins. The Mariners also received cash considerations in the deal that sent Class AA pitcher Chase De Jong, 24, and Class A infielder Ryan Costello, 22, to Minnesota.

"It's an exciting chapter," he said. "I've truly enjoyed my time here, love the guys in this room, and I'm going to miss them. But I'm looking forward to being out there in Seattle in a pennant race."

Second baseman Brian Dozier was the most notable asset still wearing a Twins uniform for Monday's series opener against the Cleveland Indians, but he's not the only one expected to be gone before Tuesday afternoon. After Duke was traded, manager Paul Molitor was trying to keep his eye on the ball.

"It's more like holding steady until something else comes across," he said. "Teams are obviously out there trying to do a lot of things, the teams that are trying to look at acquisitions, so I wouldn't say it's an expectation. I'm like everybody else; I'm not sure which way it's going to go."

Dozier acknowledged Monday he's had meetings with Falvey and Levine the past few days but declined to add details.

"I'll keep that between us," he said.

The Twins started Monday in second place in the American League Central but nine games behind the Indians.

"We all kind of know what's going on and stuff," Dozier said. "But at the same time, I'm a Minnesota Twin right now (and) we've got a game tonight trying to beat Cleveland. And like always, you'll get 100 percent from me no matter what."

Dozier, a power-hitting second baseman who won a Gold Glove last season, has been linked to several contending teams, including Milwaukee, Boston and San Francisco. Closer Fernando Rodney, who has 22 often hard-earned saves in his only season with the Twins, is a strong candidate to bolster a contender's bullpen down the stretch, if not necessarily as the stopper. His deal includes an \$8 million team option and \$250,000 buyout.

After Tuesday, teams will still be able to complete trades through Aug. 31, but all players would first have to pass through waivers, so contending teams essentially have less than a day to bolster their rosters for the stretch run.

"Some of these guys have been through it," Molitor said of his players, "and you have conversations as you see needed with certain people depending on how things unfold here before the deadline tomorrow."

So, who's next?

“We addressed some of those things in Boston ... and now with Zach gone, I'll try to put my thumb on the pulse out there the best I can and do what we feel we need to do to rally the guys and keep doing the best we can,” Molitor said.

Fernando Rodney saves the day — kind of — as Twins fell first-place Cleveland

John Shipley | Pioneer Press | July 30, 2018

If the Twins are ready to trade veteran closer Fernando Rodney, he made a good last impression on Monday.

Rodney (3-2) pitched a tied ninth inning and earned the victory as the Twins beat first-place Cleveland 5-4 to open a three-game series at Target Field.

A pending free agent with a team option and \$250,000 buyout, Rodney faced the Cleveland Indians with the score 4-4 in the ninth, and as he's done so many times this season, put himself in immediate trouble, walking leadoff hitter Francisco Lindor on four pitches.

After a groundout and a strikeout, Rodney walked Edwin Encarnacion and faced Yonder Alonso with runners on second and third, then struck out Alonso with a high fastball clocked at 97.7 mph to send the game to the bottom of the ninth still tied.

Mitch Garver's long double to the gap in left-center scored pinch-runner Ehire Adrianza with the winning run.

The victory over the first-place team in the American League Central pulled the second-place Twins to within eight games and was welcome relief for a team that watched four veterans traded for prospects since Saturday, including pitchers Lance Lynn and Zach Duke just before Monday's first pitch.

“That was a big win for us as a group, as a group of brothers,” Garver said. “We lost some key guys to our team this year, and to come back and kind of put that one away and finish that game like is pretty exciting for us.”

Rodney could be next to go. He has 22 saves and at 41 years old still throws consistently in the mid- to upper 90s but hadn't done himself, or the Twins, any favors in his previous two appearances. He earned his 22nd save on July 26 in Boston, but only after he loaded the bases on a pair of two-out walks. On July 27, he was tagged for his sixth blown save in a 4-3 loss to the Red Sox.

But Rodney was the winner on Monday and has shown a penchant for getting out of self-inflicted trouble.

How does he do it?

“It's stuff,” manager Paul Molitor said. “He's still got it. He takes good care of himself and can reach back when he needs to. Sometimes it's a little tough to watch, as far as how it unfolds; there's usually going to be at least one stretch where the command kind of eludes him a little bit. But he seems to like having those moments.”

Miguel Sano went 2 for 3 and walked to start the ninth, and Jorge Polanco's two-out, bases-loaded single to right-center field scored Sano and Garver for a 4-3 lead in the fifth.

With four veterans already traded for nine total prospects, chances are good another one or more players will move before Tuesday afternoon. Those remaining, Garver promised, will still try to win the division and return to the playoffs after earning a wild-card spot last season.

“Losing those guys was tough,” the rookie catcher said. “To bounce back, shoot, we've got 10 more games against these guys, and plenty more games in our division. We're just going to keep fighting. Whatever happens within the squad, it is what it is, but we're going to keep fighting as a group.”

Twins' Miguel Sano not worried about cold return to majors
John Shipley | Pioneer Press | July 30, 2018

Miguel Sano was in the Twins' lineup batting seventh Monday, his third game back from a six-week rehab assignment spent mostly conditioning at Class A Fort Myers.

In his first two games back, Sano was 0 for 7 with five strikeouts and no walks. Before being recalled Saturday, he spent nine games at Triple-A Rochester, hitting .267 with two home runs, five runs batted in, six walks and eight strikeouts.

He hit .328 in 19 games with the Miracle.

"It's not the same pitchers as here; it's a lot of young kids," Sano said. "They throw fastballs and changeups and everything, but it's not the same approach. Here, it's a different game. So, the sooner I get my timing, everything can change, so I'm not worried about that. We've got time, so everything can change."

Sano was an all-star in 2017 after hitting .264 with 28 homers and 77 RBIs in just 114 games but struggled this season after an offseason complicated by surgery to repair a shin injury. Before being sent back to the minors on June 14, he was hitting .203 with seven homers, 27 RBIs and 66 strikeouts in 37 games.

"I don't think I'll have any problem with hitting," Sano said Monday. "My whole life, that's all I've had to do, hitting. So I don't I'll have any problem with that. ... We're pushing hard and working every day, and good things are coming."

In his first at-bat Monday, Sano hit an RBI double to the gap in left-center, then was picked off second for the second out of the inning.

REGRETS

Traded to the New York Yankees just before first pitch on Monday, Lance Lynn regretted not being the player the Twins thought they were getting on a one-year, \$12 million free-agent deal.

"I really enjoyed my time here," he said. "I wish I could have done better. Got off to a late start, but I really enjoyed everybody here, they were great to me."

Lynn, 31, didn't sign with the Twins until March 12, so he missed most of training camp. Still, he made five April starts and went 0-5 with an 8.37 earned-run average, walking 26 batters and fanning 23 in 23 2/3 innings.

"That was something new and that I've never been a part of, trying to play catch up," he said. "I was able to rebound after an ugly April and have success here after that. Hopefully, I can keep building off of that. I've got a lot of good things accomplished here with the pitching coaches."

Lynn said he's ready to start or pitch out of the bullpen for the Yankees, who started Monday 5 1/2 games behind Boston in the American League East but first in the AL wild-card race.

Left-hander Jose Mejia will start in Lynn's place in Wednesday's series finale against the Indians.

BRIEFLY

Reliever Addison Reed was activated from a short rehab assignment (triceps tightness) and took the place of Zach Duke on the active roster. Duke was traded to Seattle for two prospects. ... The Twins on Tuesday will recall a pitcher to replace Lynn's spot on the roster.

Twins trade Lynn to Yankees for Austin, prospect
Associated Press | Fox Sports North | July 30, 2018

MINNEAPOLIS — The disappointing Minnesota Twins have traded right-hander Lance Lynn to the New York Yankees for first baseman/outfielder Tyler Austin and right-handed pitching prospect Luis Rijo.

Minnesota will send \$2 million to the Yankees as part of Monday's deal to cover half of the \$4 million remaining in Lynn's \$12 million salary.

The 31-year-old Lynn was 7-8 with a 5.10 ERA in 20 starts for the Twins, walking 62 and striking out 100 in 102 1/3 innings. He is likely to become a long reliever with the Yankees to replace Adam Warren, who was traded to Seattle on Monday.

Lynn also joins Luis Cessa as insurance for a starting rotation that includes Luis Severino, Masahiro Tanaka, CC Sabathia, Sonny Gray and newly acquired J.A. Happ.

Austin, 26, made his major league debut against Tampa Bay in August 2016, combining with Aaron Judge to become the first teammates to homer in their first major league at-bats in the same game.

But Austin never became a regular with the Yankees. He hit .223 with eight homers and 23 RBIs in 121 at-bats for New York this year and .247 with five homers and 11 RBIs in 97 at-bats with Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre

The 19-year-old Rijo is 4-1 with a 2.77 ERA in five starts and two relief appearances this year for Class A Tampa and Staten Island, and rookie level Pulaski.

Preview: Twins vs. Indians

Associated Press | Fox Sports North | July 30, 2018

MINNEAPOLIS — With his name among those mentioned as Major League Baseball's non-waiver trade deadline approaches, Kyle Gibson is slated to start Tuesday night against Cleveland at Target Field.

Gibson (5-7, 3.42 ERA) has been among the Minnesota Twins' more consistent performers this season and with two more seasons of team control, he's been an attractive target for contenders looking to bolster their rotations for a stretch run.

Minnesota, which comes into Game 2 of the series eight games behind the Indians in the AL Central, has been an active seller over the last few days. Shortstop Eduardo Escobar was first, going to Arizona late last week. Then Ryan Pressly was dealt to Houston and Zach Duke to Seattle.

The Twins swung another deal Monday, moving right-hander Lance Lynn to the Yankees and still have until 3 p.m. Tuesday to entertain offers on the rest of their players — including Gibson.

"I don't know if expect is the right word," manager Paul Molitor said when asked if more moves were coming. "Just kind of holding steady until something else ... if news comes across, you know we're talking. Obviously, teams are out there trying to do a lot of things, the teams that are trying to make acquisitions.

"I wouldn't say it's an expectation. I'm just like everybody else, not sure which way it's going to go and which way teams are going to decide to do this. Who they are going to try to pick off, who might be available."

Cleveland's front office will be working the phones ahead of the deadline, too. Outfield help is high on the wish list and the team is believed to be among those checking in on the availability of Nationals' superstar Bryce Harper.

Reports have also inked the Indians to Detroit's Leonys Martin and Nick Castellanos, Cincinnati's Billy Hamilton, Toronto's Curtis Granderson and Derek Dietrich of the Marlins.

"I don't want to get too in-depth in what they're talking about trade-wise," Cleveland manager Terry Francona told MLB.com. "That's why I try to be pretty consistent. The guys we have, I never, ever want to be like, 'We need that,' because that's going to directly tell somebody out in the clubhouse (I don't think they can get the job done). And I don't feel that way.

"Like I've said, if we make a trade that helps us, good. If we don't, good, because I feel like (the front office) already helped us."

Cleveland sends right-hander Trevor Bauer to the mound Tuesday. Bauer struck out 10 and held the Pirates scoreless over seven-plus innings in his last outing and has been one of the best road starters in baseball this season, posting a 2.64 ERA in 11 starts away from Progressive Field.

In eight career appearances (seven starts) at Target Field, Bauer is 2-2 with a 4.46 ERA and 4-7 with a 4.84 mark in 17 career appearances (16 starts) against the Twins.

Garver's walk-off double leads Twins past Indians
Associated Press | Fox Sports North | July 30, 2018

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Twins lost two more teammates to trades before the game.

They finished the night, at least, in a better mood.

Mitch Garver drove in the winning run with a one-out double in the ninth inning, capping a 5-4 victory over the Cleveland Indians on Monday night and triggering the familiar bucket-dumping celebration in the infield after he rounded second base.

The Twins had more cold water poured on their disappointing season in the afternoon, when reliever Zach Duke and starter Lance Lynn were sent away in separate deals for more minor leaguers.

“That was a big win for us as a group, as a group of brothers,” Garver said. “We lost some key guys to our team this year, and to come back and kind of put that one away and finish that game like is pretty exciting for us.”

Jose Ramirez hit two home runs for Cleveland to match Boston's J.D. Martinez for the most in the majors with 32, but the Indians fell to 3-7 against the Twins this season. The Twins still trail by eight games in the AL Central, not nearly close enough for the front office to halt the sell-off two-thirds of the way through this disappointing season. Eduardo Escobar, who thrived at third base while Miguel Sano was out, and reliever Ryan Pressly were dealt for prospects on Friday.

“It's really good way to start the series, especially with all the tumultuous things that have been going on,” manager Paul Molitor said.

Sano, who hit an RBI single earlier and went 2 for 3 for his first hits in the majors since June 12, drew a walk to start the ninth against Neil Ramirez (0-1). Jake Cave advanced pinch-runner Ehire Adrianza with a sacrifice bunt. Then Garver delivered the deep drive to left-center field.

Fernando Rodney (3-2) pitched a scoreless ninth, striking out Yonder Alonso with runners at second and third. He struck out Ramirez two batters before that.

Twins starter Ervin Santana got one out in the sixth before being removed, allowing four runs on six hits and two walks, and gave up both of Ramirez's homers before another solo shot by Yan Gomes that gave the Indians a 3-2 lead in the fifth.

Jorge Polanco's two-run single in the bottom of that inning against Shane Bieber put the Twins in front, but Santana lost the lead again when Cave made an ill-advised dive for a sinking line drive by Alonso to center field. That went for an RBI double to score Edwin Encarnacion from first base with one out.

HOLD TIGHT

Bieber allowed four runs, three earned, on six hits in 6 1/3 innings, a sharp improvement from the seven runs in 1 2/3 innings he gave up to Pittsburgh last week.

“I felt more like myself tonight,” Bieber said.

SLUMP? NOT SO MUCH

Ramirez hit his 31st homer on a full count in the first inning against Santana, a no-doubt drive to right field that stopped a hitless stretch of 17 at-bats. Ramirez had 11 walks during those seven-plus games.

“Sometimes the pitchers are throwing you a lot of strikes. Sometimes they're throwing balls. So I just stay focused on trying to get my pitches and, yeah, I feel normal,” Ramirez said through a translator.

TRADE ADJUSTMENTS

The Twins announced Adalberto Mejia will start on Wednesday afternoon, taking Lynn's place in the rotation. Duke's departure opened a spot in

the bullpen for Addison Reed, who was returned from his rehab assignment.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Indians: OF Greg Allen was called up from Triple-A Columbus before the game, and RHP Adam Plutko was sent down. With Lonnie Chisenhall, Tyler Naquin and Bradley Zimmer all out with injuries, Allen will help fortify the unsettled CF and RF spots with Rajai Davis, Brandon Guyer and Melky Cabrera.

Twins: Sano, who missed a month with hamstring trouble and after struggling upon his return was sent to the minor leagues for what turned out to be a six-week stay for conditioning and refining his swing, went 0 for 7 with five strikeouts in his first two games back over the weekend.

UP NEXT

Indians: RHP Trevor Bauer (9-6, 2.32 ERA) will pitch on Tuesday night. The All-Star kept up his career-best season against Pittsburgh last week by striking out 10 batters over seven scoreless innings while surrendering only two hits.

Twins: RHP Kyle Gibson (5-7, 3.42), who held MLB batting leader Boston to one run on four hits over eight innings last week, will take the mound for the middle game of the series.

Twins trade LHP Zach Duke to Mariners for two prospects

Staff Writer | Fox Sports North | July 30, 2018

Three days after shipping infielder Eduardo Escobar and relief pitcher Ryan Pressly to contending teams, the Minnesota Twins brass was at it again Monday afternoon.

Minnesota traded reliever Zach Duke to Seattle in exchange for two prospects — right-handed pitcher Chase De Jong and infielder Ryan Costello.

Duke signed a one-year deal worth \$2.15 million in the offseason, and he posted solid numbers in his three months in Minnesota. In 45 appearances (37 1/3 innings), Duke owned a 3-4 record, 3.62 ERA and 9.4 K/9. He didn't allow a single home run all season.

De Jong, a second-round pick by Toronto in 2012, has started 21 games for Double-A Arkansas this season. The 24-year-old, ranked as the Mariners' No. 28 prospect by MLB.com, has registered a 5-5 record, 3.80 ERA and 1.29 WHIP in 120 2/3 innings at Double-A this season. De Jong made his MLB debut for Seattle in 2017 and allowed 20 runs in 28 1/3 innings (seven appearances, four starts). He hasn't seen an MLB mound yet this year.

Costello was a 31st-round draft pick by Seattle in 2017 but impressed in rookie ball, hitting .331/.430/.634 last year. Bumped up to Single-A this season, Costello owns a .266/.360/.486 slash line, 16 homers and 70 RBI in 101 games.

Will Nats actually deal Bryce Harper and other deadline questions

David Schoenfeld | ESPN | July 30, 2018

It has been the perfect storm for a busy month of trades -- there are 11 National League teams in reasonable playoff contention, with the second-best and seventh-best teams separated by just 5½ games -- and as we head into the final hours before Tuesday's 4 p.m. ET non-waiver deadline, we've already seen plenty of action over the past couple of weeks. We had a flurry of deals on Monday, including the Houston Astros' controversial acquisition of reliever Roberto Osuna, who is serving the final week of a 75-day suspension for violating MLB's domestic violence policy.

EDITOR'S PICKS

Sources: Nationals gauging interest in Harper

The Nationals have spoken with teams to determine the return they could get if they decide to trade outfielder Bryce Harper before Tuesday's deadline, a source confirmed to ESPN.

What could happen in the final hours before the deadline?

What trades are still in play as Tuesday's 4 p.m. ET deadline approaches? Here's what teams are discussing now.

MLB trade deadline buzz: The latest deadline rumors

It's deadline day! Stay up to date with the latest deals, rumors and analysis heading into the 4 p.m. ET deadline.

The deal resembles the Chicago Cubs' acquisition of Aroldis Chapman in 2016, with a notable exception: Osuna is hardly a sure bet at the back of the bullpen, whether it's as the closer or in a setup role. He blew 10 saves for the Toronto Blue Jays in 2017 and while he was 9-for-10 this year before his suspension, he'll be pitching after a long layoff and with a dark cloud hanging over him. He also has to make another court appearance Wednesday to deal with the assault charges he faces. The Astros weighed all the baggage and decided it was worth selling a little bit of their soul.

Every playoff contender has made at least one move and several have made multiple trades. Is there anybody left to move on Tuesday? Let's preview what to watch for:

Will the Nationals trade Bryce Harper?

We keep waiting for the Washington Nationals to make a move in the standings, but it hasn't happened. They were 9-16 in June and are 10-14 in July. Harper has hit .203 since mid-April, Stephen Strasburg is on the disabled list, Trea Turner had to apologize for offensive tweets he made when he was a teenager and Yahoo's Jeff Passan had a column on Monday suggesting the clubhouse is a mess. Still, as underachieving as the Nationals have been, it would seem strange to trade Harper when they're only 5½ games out of first place.

But what if you could trade Harper and still make a playoff push? After all, Harper has been worth just 0.4 WAR this season via Baseball-Reference.com. As he continues to struggle at the plate, you could argue that an outfield of Juan Soto, Michael Taylor and Adam Eaton is good enough and would definitely be better on defense.

It seems unlikely any team will blow away the Nationals with an offer for Bryce Harper before the 4 p.m. trade deadline. Rich Schultz/Getty Images

Of course, the Nationals' best bet to run down the Phillies and Braves would likely include Harper going on a two-month MVP binge. Maybe Mike Rizzo doesn't believe that will happen. Maybe he simply believes the return for Harper would be too good to pass up, similar to when the New York Yankees traded Chapman to the Cubs and received Gleyber Torres in return. Maybe the Bryce Harper era in D.C. comes to a conclusion Tuesday afternoon.

If so, what are the possible destinations?

Indians: There were reports Monday that the Indians had inquired about Harper. They're 27th in the majors in outfield wOBA and may feel they need another big bat to get past the Red Sox, Yankees and Astros in the postseason.

Rockies: Harper would be an offensive upgrade over Gerardo Parra and it would be fun to watch him at Coors for two months.

Astros: Their left fielders have hit just .238/.315/.374, but they're not going to trade Kyle Tucker or Forrest Whitley.

Mariners: They could move Mitch Haniger to center field, but they don't have the prospects to get Harper.

Diamondbacks: The offense has been bad, although Steven Souza Jr. is finally healthy and back in the lineup. The farm system isn't all that great.

Phillies: They have the prospects, but an intradivision deal seems unlikely.

Yankees: Even with Aaron Judge on the DL, I don't see them selling the farm when they're six games back of the Red Sox.

So it would seem that the odds of somebody going crazy to get Harper are slim. If he were putting up MVP numbers, it would be a different story. But if he were putting up MVP numbers, the Nationals wouldn't be 5½ out of first place.

Aside from Harper, the Nationals' impending free agents include Kelvin Herrera, Ryan Madson, Gio Gonzalez, Daniel Murphy, Matt Adams, Mark Reynolds and Brandon Kintzler, so they could still be the team to watch on Tuesday if they decide to sell some pieces other than Harper.

Other than Harper, who are the biggest names who might get traded?

Adrian Beltre is a possibility, although he has a full no-trade clause and has said he wants to retire with the Rangers. He also hasn't stated conclusively whether he wants to play in 2019 (he'll turn 40 next April). On the other hand, he has never won a World Series ring, so maybe he

would accept a trade to a playoff contender.

As colleague Jerry Crasnick mentioned in a tweet, however, some teams may consider Beltre a part-time player given his so-so .292/.342/.404 line, and he's probably not willing to be a part-time player. Also, considering Manny Machado, Eduardo Escobar, Asdrubal Cabrera and Mike Moustakas already have been traded, it feels like all the third-base needs have been filled.

Chris Archer's name is still out there, although a trade seems like a long shot -- and it could be non-contender who makes a move for him. Crasnick tweeted this on Monday:

Jerry Crasnick

✓

@jcrasnick

One official with a team in the Chris Archer mix: "The #Rays are in no hurry to move him because of his contract. I think they would have to be completely overwhelmed. I just don't see it happening." If Archer goes anywhere, sense is it will be #Padres.

http://www.espn.com/mlb/story/_/id/24235348/what-happen-final-24-hours-deadline ...

3:42 PM - Jul 30, 2018

What could happen in the final 24 hours before the deadline?

What trades are still in play as Tuesday's 4 p.m. deadline approaches? Here's what teams are discussing now.

What about Brian Dozier?

The Minnesota Twins have traded Escobar, Lance Lynn, Ryan Pressly and Zach Duke, so Dozier is a possibility, although he's certainly more of a franchise icon than anyone in that group. He's a free agent and given his age (32 next season) and down year, the Twins may elect to let him walk after the season. While Dozier is hitting just .224/.306/.404, he has finished strong the past two seasons, slugging 17 home runs the final two months in 2017 and 23 the final two months in 2016. He could fit two teams:

Indians: 24th in the majors in wOBA at second base (.221/.299/.351), Cleveland also could use a center fielder and trading for Dozier could mean shifting Jason Kipnis there, as they did last season.

Mariners: 22nd in the majors in wOBA at second base (.270/.318/.352), the Mariners have struggled to score runs in July, averaging just 3.47 runs per game entering Monday's game against Houston. They have Dee Gordon, and Robinson Cano will be back from his PED suspension on Aug. 14, but they could move Gordon back to center field and Cano has already been told to break in a first baseman's glove.

What's the biggest hole that needs to be filled?

It's a little surprising the Dodgers haven't added to their bullpen, but it's also possible the Dodgers believe in their pen more than we do given its recent performance. A month-by-month look at the Dodgers bullpen:

April: 4.69 ERA, .756 OPS allowed

May: 3.35 ERA, .679 OPS allowed

June: 4.01 ERA, .733 OPS allowed

July: 2.71 ERA, .564 OPS allowed (entering Monday)

The hot hands of late have been Erik Goeddel, Scott Alexander, Caleb Ferguson and J.T. Chargois, who have combined to allow five runs over 40% innings in July, with 50 strikeouts and eight walks. So they've been good!

They also have zero postseason experience, if you believe that kind of thing matters. I think the important note here is remembering that Dave Roberts went to his bullpen early and often last postseason. Assuming the Dodgers get there -- no guarantee -- they're going to need more depth down there than they had last October.

What are some other holes?

In no particular order:

Nationals catcher: Last in the majors in wOBA, but good luck on getting J.T. Realmuto.

Indians center or right field: 28th and 20th in wOBA. Kipnis is at second for now, so maybe they could land Leonys Martin, defensive whiz Billy Hamilton, Andrew McCutchen or Adam Jones (although he may not want to waive his no-trade rights).

A's center field: 25th in wOBA. Mark Canha has been playing there a lot, but he's a little stretched defensively.

Rockies left field: 20th in wOBA. That's not good once you adjust for home park.

Astros left field: 22nd in wOBA. Marwin Gonzalez hasn't matched last year's big season and now has to fill in at second base and shortstop with Jose Altuve and Carlos Correa both on the DL. Rookie Kyle Tucker started 6-for-42 (.143) entering Monday's game. Tony Kemp has a .392 OBP in 162 PAs. Maybe he's the answer out there.

A's rotation: 21st in ERA. Archer? Matt Harvey?

Mariners rotation: 15th in ERA. Felix Hernandez continues to struggle, but the Mariners acquired Adam Warren and Duke on Monday, so they may decide to do a Rays-like bullpen game in that fifth spot in the rotation if Felix gets benched.

Rockies bullpen: They added Seunghwan Oh, but another reliever would help.

Will the Mets trade a starter?

If they do, it probably will be Zack Wheeler, not Jacob deGrom. Wheeler is controlled through 2019, so the Mets may hold their cards for next season, but other than Archer, Wheeler looks like the best starter who could be traded. The Brewers feel like a logical landing spot.

Do the Cardinals do anything?

They stayed above .500 with Monday's win over the Rockies, a game that saw Carlos Martinez exit in the fifth inning with a right shoulder strain - after he'd just returned from an oblique strain. It seems like it just isn't going to happen for the Cardinals. If they turn into sellers, closer/"mentor" Bud Norris could be traded, but there aren't other obvious trade candidates here.

What's the most likely scenario on Tuesday?

I'd say more relievers get traded, but most of the decent ones from non-contenders have already been traded. There's a slim chance some big-name veterans like Beltre or Jones or McCutchen or Dozier get dealt, but given the amount of deals made so far, it may be the slowest deadline day we've had in a while.

Zulgad: Twins' brass is making the right call by dealing in reality

Judd Zulgad | ESPN 1500 | July 30, 2018

MINNEAPOLIS — Derek Falvey and Thad Levine have made one thing clear in the past four days. They aren't going to bank on another miracle finish.

A year after making only two deals as the Major League non-waiver trade deadline approached, the Twins' brain trust wisely isn't counting on the type of two-month surge that boosted their club into the American League wild card game last season.

That's why lefthanded reliever Zach Duke met with the media hours before the Twins' 5-4 victory over Cleveland on Monday at Target Field to discuss being dealt to the Seattle Mariners for two prospects. It's why righthanded starter Lance Lynn met with the media outside the clubhouse shortly before Monday's game to talk about the fact he was headed to the New York Yankees for a prospect and first baseman/outfielder Tyler Austin.

This came four days after infielder Eduardo Escobar was shipped to Arizona for three prospects and reliever Ryan Pressly was dispatched to Houston for two prospects. After the Duke deal was announced, and before the Lynn trade was made official, manager Paul Molitor was asked if he expected more moves before the 3 p.m. deadline Tuesday.

"I don't know if expect is the right word," Molitor said. "Just kind of holding steady until something else ... if news comes across, you know

we're talking. Obviously teams are out there trying to do a lot of things, the teams that are trying to make acquisitions. I wouldn't say it's an expectation. I'm just like everybody else, not sure which way it's going to go and which way teams are going to decide to do this. Who they are going to try to pick off, who might be available."

The Twins were back at Target Field on Monday for the first time since closing a 9-2 homestand with a victory over the Tampa Bay Rays that pulled them within six games of .500 entering the All-Star break. Players spoke of their season not being over and expressed optimism that they would return from a 10-game road trip having closed the gap even more on first-place Cleveland in the American League Central.

That didn't happen.

The Twins somehow got themselves swept by the pathetic Royals, then won three in a row against Toronto before losing the final three of a four-game series to the Red Sox at Fenway Park. Cleveland entered Monday's game with a nine-game lead on the Twins (49-56). The only reason the Twins are in second place in the Central is because the Tigers, White Sox and Royals have spent much of the summer impersonating Triple-A teams.

All you need to know about the Twins is they are 13-14 against those three clubs this season.

That gave Falvey and Levine plenty of motivation to hit the detonate button on the 2018 season and that's exactly what they've done. They almost certainly aren't done yet.

Second baseman Brian Dozier will be a free agent after the season and could be making the walk from the home to the visitor's clubhouse at Target Field before Tuesday's game against the Indians. Closer Fernando Rodney also could be shipped to a contender to provide bullpen help and there's a chance Ervin Santana, who made only his second start of the season Monday, could be on the move.

It's unlikely but starter Kyle Gibson or Jake Odorizzi — who are both under team control through 2019 — could be traded for what would be a large asking price.

This season has been a major disappointment because many of us, me included, got far too excited by last season's 85-77 finish. (It doesn't help that once top prospects Byron Buxton and Miguel Sano have been busts in 2018.) General manager Terry Ryan had been fired during the 2016 season as the Twins dropped a franchise-record 103 games, and Falvey and Levine inherited a franchise that had lost its way. The feel-good story of 2017 made many of us forget that there still was still plenty of work to do.

Falvey and Levine have made numerous moves since their arrival — including a substantial beefing up of the baseball department — but they aren't close to being finished trying to get the on-the-field product right.

Much of what they put together for the 2018 season was or is easy to tear apart. Escobar and Dozier are pending free agents; Duke and Lynn had one-year contracts; Santana can be bought out for \$1 million after this season; Rodney's deal has a \$4.25 million option for 2019 with a \$250,000 buyout; and first baseman/designated hitter Logan Morrison, another major disappointment, has a \$1 million buyout if the Twins don't execute their option for 2019.

Piece by piece, Falvey and Levine are moving everything they can and accumulating prospects in return. The Lynn trade meant the Twins had moved four players and gotten nine in return, eight of whom could be considered prospects.

There will be more Twins player saying their goodbyes on Tuesday as the fire sale continues. It's not what anyone at Target Field wanted when 2018 began, but it's far better than holding onto the false hope that this collection has a chance to turn things around.

Twins deal Lance Lynn to Yankees, Zach Duke to Mariners as trade deadline nears **Judd Zulgad | ESPN 1500 | July 30, 2018**

MINNEAPOLIS — Four gone and likely a few more to go.

With the Major League non-waiver trade deadline approaching at 3 p.m. Tuesday, the Twins made their third and fourth deals in four days on Monday, sending righthanded starter Lance Lynn to the New York Yankees and lefthanded reliever Zach Duke to the Seattle Mariners.

The Twins acquired minor league righthanded pitcher Luis Rijo and first baseman/outfielder Tyler Austin from the Yankees for Lynn and cash considerations. Earlier in the day, they sent Duke and cash considerations to the Mariners for minor league righthanded pitcher Chase De Jong and minor league infielder Ryan Costello.

Lynn, 31, agreed to a one-year, \$12 million free-agent contract with the Twins on March 12 after not being signed during the offseason. Lynn broke into the big leagues with the Cardinals in 2011 and had spent his entire career in St. Louis before joining the Twins. After not having a full spring training, Lynn had a terrible April. He went 0-3 with an 8.37 ERA and was 7-8 with a 5.10 ERA in 20 starts before being dealt.

"I've never been through this before," Lynn said of being traded. "I'm trying to get everything situated. Trying to let it all sink in and all that. I really enjoyed my time here. I wish I could have done better. I got off to a late start and all that. But I really enjoyed everybody here and they were great too me."

Duke, who made his big-league debut in 2005 and will be pitching for his ninth team, was signed to a one-year, \$2.15 million free-agent deal by the Twins last offseason. The 35-year-old went 3-4 with a 3.62 ERA with 15 walks and 39 strikeouts in 45 games this season.

"Just very complimentary to him and what he brought professionally," Twins manager Paul Molitor said after the Duke trade was announced and before the Lynn move became official. "Personality, leadership, took the ball. All those types of things. A guy that can do what he can do is going to be sought out by a lot of teams and he was."

Duke said he "enjoyed" his time in Minnesota, but is "looking forward" to being in a pennant race with the Mariners. Seattle (62-43) entered Monday in second place in the American League West and holding the second wild card spot in the AL. "I will miss it here," Duke said. "It (was a) very positive experience. I enjoyed the area, the city, the fans, my teammates were all great."

The 24-year-old De Jong started 21 games for Double-A Arkansas this season, going 5-5 with a 3.80 ERA. He walked 34 and had 89 strikeouts in 120.2 innings. De Jong was 0-3 with a 6.35 ERA, 13 walks and 13 strikeouts in seven games and four starts with Seattle last season.

De Jong was originally selected by the Toronto Blue Jays in the second round of the 2012 draft. He also spent time in the Dodgers organization.

Costello, 22, was hitting .266 (92-for-346) with 48 runs, 24 doubles, two triples, 16 home runs, and 70 RBIs in 101 games for Single-A Clinton this season. Costello was selected by the Mariners in the 31st round of the 2017 draft.

Lynn will join a Yankees team that is 5.5 games back of Boston in the AL East but holds the top wild card spot. He might be asked to come out of the bullpen.

"I thought (Lynn) did a nice job of recovering his season after a tough start," Molitor said. "Speculatively, I think it was attributed to a lot of the things he endured this winter and then the late start. It took him a while to get on track. We got a little glimpse of who he could be that game in Boston. Whether that peaked interest somewhat, I'm not sure. He took the ball every time and now he's got a chance to go help a really good team."

Lynn's last start as a Twin came Friday in Boston, a 4-3 loss in 10 innings at Fenway Park. Lynn was impressive, giving up two runs and six hits with a walk and three strikeouts in six innings.

Austin, taken by the Yankees in the 13th round of the 2010 draft, was on New York's Opening Day roster this season. The 26-year-old played in 34 games and hit .223 (27-for-121) with six doubles, eight home runs and 23 RBIs. He was hitting .247 (24-for-97) with nine doubles, five home runs and 11 RBIs in 25 games with Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barres. Austin has played in parts of three seasons with the Yankees, hitting .230 (56-for-244) with 11 doubles, 15 home runs and 43 RBIs in 85 games.

Rijo, 19, was signed as an undrafted free agent by the Yankees in 2015. He went 4-1 with a 2.77 ERA with three walks and 32 strikeouts in 39 innings and seven games (five starts) between Single-A Tampa, Single-A Staten Island and Rookie-Level Pulaski this season.

The Twins sent infielder Eduardo Escobar to Arizona for three prospects on Friday and dealt reliever Ryan Pressly to Houston for two prospects on the same day.

The Twins, who entered Monday night's game at Target Field against Cleveland sitting nine games behind the Indians in the AL Central and 13.5 games out in the wild card race, are likely to make more moves before Tuesday's deadline. Trade candidates include second baseman Brian Dozier, closer Fernando Rodney and righthander Ervin Santana, who made only his second start of the season Monday.

Righthander Kyle Gibson also has been mentioned but the asking price for the starter likely will be too high.

Asked if he expects more trades, Molitor said: "I don't know if expect is the right word. Just kind of holding steady until something else ... if news comes across, you know we're talking. Obviously teams are out there trying to do a lot of things, the teams that are trying to make acquisitions. I wouldn't say it's an expectation. I'm just like everybody else, not sure which way it's going to go and which way teams are going to decide to do this. Who they are going to try to pick off, who might be available."

The Twins made two trades at the deadline last year — sending starter Jaime Garcia to the Yankees and closer Brandon Kintzler to Washington for prospects — before the team rallied to capture the second wild card spot in the American League. It appears extremely unlikely there will be a repeat this year, in part because the Twins aren't a wild card contender this time.

Molitor said the moves that chief baseball officer Derek Falvey and general manager Thad Levine are making are part of the business for everyone.

“This isn't new, it's kind of the way the game goes and you're asked to respond to different things,” Molitor said. “It really doesn't change as far as what you do when you get to a major league clubhouse in terms of preparing and competing and all those types of things. Circumstances around you change but you take it upon yourself. That's how you find out a little bit about character about people. About how they respond.”

Twins continue to break down roster with trades of Lance Lynn, Zach Duke

Dan Hayes | The Athletic | July 31, 2018

The roster that was constructed to be easily disassembled if necessary has proven rather easy for the Twins front office to break down.

With the trade deadline less than 24 hours away, the underachieving Twins continued to ship off movable assets with a pair of trades before winning Monday night's series opener against Cleveland 5-4 on a walk-off double from Mitch Garver.

Having already dealt Eduardo Escobar and Ryan Pressly on Friday, the Twins traded starting pitcher Lance Lynn to the New York Yankees and reliever Zach Duke to Seattle. The Twins included cash in both deals and received four prospects in return, the most notable being Triple-A first baseman Tyler Austin, who came over from New York.

The third impending free agent to be traded in 72 hours, Lynn said he suspected he could be traded after the first domino fell on Friday when Escobar was shipped to the Arizona Diamondbacks for three minor leaguers.

“Everybody starts falling one at a time, you kind of feel like, ‘All right, I might be the next one to go,’ because that seems to be what the idea was here,” Lynn said. “You understand that because with guys going into free agency you want to get something for them if you can, especially if you're not doing what you thought you were going to do. It's business. You prepare for it. But you're not ready for it. You know it might be coming. As much as you try to get ready for it, you're not going to be there.”

As Lynn alluded to, this wasn't the plan for 2018.

The Twins originally had high hopes that this week's series against the Indians would have been yet another battle for the American League Central crown. They augmented the holes on their 25-man roster during the offseason by adding a number of free agents on short-term contracts, including reworking the bullpen. Their efforts led to the Twins opening the season with a club-record \$128.7 million payroll, according to Baseball Prospectus.

But just about everything that could go wrong this season has aside from effort level and how the clubhouse has conducted itself in dealing with the adversity.

Injuries. Suspensions. Underperformance. You name it, the Twins have faced it this season. Rather than attempting to chase down Cleveland, which entered Monday with a nine-game lead, the front office has wisely started a mini-tear down, made exponentially easier by the series of one- and two-year deals the team handed out last winter. Signed to a one-year deal in mid-March, Lynn struggled early before he recently rebounded.

“I really enjoyed my time here,” Lynn said. “I wish I could have done better. Got off to a late start, but I really enjoyed everybody here, they were great to me. Great people. Great organization. You see a lot of good things in the future here.”

The team's immediate future, however, is likely to include another trade or two before Tuesday's 3 p.m. CST non-waiver deadline. Second baseman Brian Dozier and closer Fernando Rodney are both headed for free agency at the end of the 2018 season, which makes them prime trade candidates. Only Pressly would have remained under team control next season had the Twins retained him. The flurry of activity has made for a somewhat tense atmosphere in what has been a relatively easygoing Twins clubhouse.

“There's a lot of things going on,” manager Paul Molitor said. “I'll try to put my thumb on the pulse out there the best I can, and do what we feel we need to do to rally the guys and keep doing the best we can to get them ready to play each and every day, including starting with Cleveland.”

In exchange for Lynn and half of his remaining \$4.5 million salary, the Twins received Austin and Low-A right-hander Luis Rijo from the Yankees. Austin, 26, was the No. 75 prospect in baseball before the 2013 season and has belted 15 homers in 268 major-league plate appearances.

The Twins also received Double-A right-hander Chase De Jong and Single-A infielder Ryan Costello back for Duke. The Twins sent \$75,000 to Seattle to pay for part of the remaining \$750,000 on his contract.

Traded for the second time in three seasons, Duke has been aware for some time now he could be traded. Not only is he a left-handed pitcher who still draws a breath, Duke has 39 strikeouts in 37 1/3 innings and hasn't allowed a home run this season.

Knowing full well what time of season it is, Duke planned ahead for the possibility of a trade. With school starting soon, Duke, his wife, Kristin, and their three young children took many of their belongings back to Nashville at the All-Star break just in case he was traded.

"You have all these thoughts going around in your head, like, 'Oh, if it's here, we have to do A, B and C,'" Duke said. "Or if I get traded over here, I have to do A, B and C and then something pops up that you didn't even think about and you've got to try to get your family from Nashville to Seattle. But, at the same time, like I said, it's an exciting chapter. It's another one in my career and I'm looking forward to it.

"I thought about every possibility out there, honestly. But I didn't really put any more stake in one than the other.

"I will miss it here. I had a very positive experience here. I enjoyed the area, the city, the fans. The teammates were all great. It's a very good vibe in this clubhouse, regardless of what the record says. The guys have such a great attitude every day, they get along so well. I will miss that. But, from what I've been told, it's a similar atmosphere there in Seattle. Hopefully I can step in and not mess that up."

Twins top Indians on Garver's walk-off

For the seventh time in 10 games this season, the Twins topped the Indians as Garver doubled in the winning run in the ninth inning to lift them to a 5-4 victory at Target Field. Following a red-hot road trip, Garver went 2-for-4 with an RBI to offer a big boost to the Twins.

"That was a big win for us as a group, as a group of brothers," Garver said. "We lost some key guys to our team this year, and to come back and kind of put that one away and finish that game is pretty exciting for us."

Garver hit .357/.419/.643 with a home run and eight RBIs in 31 plate appearances during the team's 10-game road trip. He noted that the trades of Duke and Lynn kind of snowballed together.

Molitor said he's happy the players still here managed to succeed despite all the chaos caused by the past few days.

"We showed pretty good fight tonight," Molitor said. "It was not an easy game by any means. ... Happy for Mitch. He stepped up when he had a chance to win the game and puts one in the gap. It's a really good way to start the series, especially with all the tumultuous things that have been going on the last three, four days."

Twins trade Lance Lynn to Yankees, Zach Duke to M's as sell-off continues **Zack Pierce | The Athletic | July 30, 2018**

The dismantling of the 2018 Twins continued Monday as Minnesota shipped starting pitcher Lance Lynn to the Yankees and reliever Zach Duke to the Mariners, both in exchange for prospects.

Lynn is off to New York just three days after a strong outing against the Yankees' rival Red Sox at Fenway Park, though the righty is just 7-8 with a 5.10 ERA in 20 starts this season for the Twins. In return, the Twins will get first baseman/outfielder Tyler Austin — who is currently in Triple A but started the season on the Yankees' opening-day roster — and minor-league pitcher Luis Rijo.

One of the team's most-used bullpen arms, the left-handed Duke heads to Seattle in exchange for minor-league pitcher Chase De Jong and minor-league infielder Ryan Costello.

Lynn and Duke were both inked to one-year deals this offseason, part of a flurry of short-term signings expected to help the Twins improve on last season's 85-77 campaign that ended in a wild-card berth yet also keep them flexible for the future. Instead of another playoff run, the team has faded out of contention, sitting at 48-56 and nine games behind the first-place Cleveland Indians entering Monday.

"Everybody starts falling one at a time, you kind of feel like, 'All right, I might be the next one to go,'" Lynn said after he got word of his trade. "You prepare for it. But you're not ready for it. You know it might be coming. As much as you try to get ready for it, you're not going to be there."

Both pitchers now find themselves in the thick of the postseason race. The Yankees and Mariners currently occupy the two American League wild-card spots, trying to fend off the Oakland A's while still hoping to chase down Boston and Houston in their respective divisions.

"I truly enjoyed my time here," Duke said. "Love the guys in this room and I'm gonna miss them. But I'm looking very forward to being out there in a pennant race."

Signed to a one-year, \$2.15 million deal in December, Duke has a 3.62 ERA in 45 relief appearances this season, with 39 strikeouts in 37 1/3 innings, one of the brighter spots in a bullpen that ranks 26th in the majors in ERA.

Zach Duke

Zach Duke made 45 relief appearances for the Twins, one of their go-to arms out of the bullpen. (Credit: Marilyn Indahl/USA TODAY Sports) Lynn waited until March for his deal, signing for \$12 million. He had never had an ERA over 3.97 prior to this season, his struggles a big issue for a Twins team that has been waiting longer than expected for last season's ace Ervin Santana to return to the rotation after an injury.

As part of the deals, the Twins will eat half of Lynn's remaining \$4.5 million salary and \$75,000 of Duke's remaining salary. The Twins called Addison Reed off the DL to replace Duke on the roster for Monday's game against Cleveland. Adalberto Mejia takes Lynn's place.

Lynn and Duke make it four total players the Twins have traded in the run-up to Tuesday's non-waiver trade deadline. On Friday, the team sent third baseman and beloved clubhouse presence Eduardo Escobar to the Diamondbacks and top reliever Ryan Pressly to the Astros, both in exchange for prospects. Pressly had appeared in a team-high 51 games. Duke's 45 outings ranked third.

The Friday moves sent a jolt through the Twins clubhouse, even as the mounting losses made it feel inevitable. With a run at the postseason a longshot — Fangraphs had Minnesota's chances at 0.6 percent as of this morning — there was little sense in hanging on to three players who will be free agents at season's end. Of the four, only Pressly is under control for 2019.

The trades have undoubtedly added depth to the Twins' farm system. Four of the five players acquired in Friday's deals — right-handed pitcher Jorge Alcala (No. 11), outfielder Gilberto Celestino (No. 14), outfielder Gabriel Maciel (No. 17) and right-handed pitcher Jhoan Duran (No. 22) — slotted into the top 25 in the Twins' system in MLB Pipeline's rankings.

Still, the moves are the final kick to the shins of a season that has gone haywire from the start. In addition to Santana's injury, center fielder Byron Buxton has missed 76 games due to injury, infielder Jorge Polanco was suspended for the first 80 games, slugger Miguel Sanó has missed 69 games and was sent to Single-A Fort Myers last month to retool his swing, starting catcher Jason Castro was lost for the season in May with a torn meniscus and offseason acquisition Logan Morrison hasn't been able to replicate his 38-homer 2017 season.

And so once again, the team is adding prospects. Austin was a 13th-round draft pick in 2010. The 26-year-old hit .223 with eight home runs and 23 RBIs in his 34-game stint with the Yankees until being sent to Triple A on June 15. In 25 games at Scranton/Wilkes-Barre, he's hitting .247 with five home runs, nine doubles and 11 RBIs in 97 at-bats. He'll report to Triple-A Rochester.

Rijo, 19, is a righty currently at Single-A Staten Island. He's 4-1 with a 2.77 ERA in 39 innings this season combined between there, Single-A Tampa and rookie-level Pulaski. He was not ranked among the Yankees' top 30 prospects on MLB Pipeline.

The 24-year-old De Jong has started 21 games for Double-A Arkansas this season, with a 3.80 ERA, 89 strikeouts and 34 walks in 120 2/3 innings. Costello, 22, is hitting .266 with 16 home runs, 70 RBIs and 48 runs in 101 games for Class-A Clinton.

De Jong ranked as the No. 28 prospect in the Mariners' system, according to MLB Pipeline, which also classified his curveball as "his lone above-average pitch" and projected him as a "solid swingman or long reliever" at the major-league level. The 6-foot-4, 205-pounder was a 2012 second-round pick of the Blue Jays before being dealt to the Mariners in 2015.

Costello wasn't among the Mariners' top 30 prospects. The 6-2, 200-pounder was a 31st-round pick in 2017.