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Twins load up on catchers, RHPs in Draft

Jarrid Denney | MLB.com | June 6, 2018

MINNEAPOLIS -- The Twins stuck to their strategy of taking the best player available with each pick Wednesday as they completed their 2018 class on the third and final day of the 2018 MLB Draft.

Minnesota has yet to reach agreements with any of their 39 selections, and will wait until the end of the collegiate season to negotiate with those still in postseason play. But head scouting director Sean Johnson said Minnesota is reasonably expecting to sign at least 32 of the players it selected over the last three days.

"We feel confident that we'll sign the guys from the first 10 rounds," Johnson said.

Minnesota ended Day 3 with a large cluster of right-handed pitchers and college catchers. While Johnson said the club wasn't stockpiling on either position by design, he acknowledged that the Twins selected a large crop of backstops because they feel they have the personnel on their developmental staff to help those players.

"That's one thing we thought about a lot in the Draft the last few days," Johnson said. "We haven't had a catching coordinator in many years, and now we do. Tanner Swanson, who has already cleaned up a lot of our guys in the Minor Leagues. ... Pretty much everybody has taken a step forward in their pitch-catching and receiving. So Tanner's doing a great job."

Minnesota took 15 right-handed pitchers and just five left-handers. Johnson said this wasn't by design, either, and that the Twins were simply drafting the best arm with each pick. He said that the club does a pitching assessment on each prospect and evaluates a player they would consider drafting from a risk standpoint.

"Regi Grace is one of the same guys from that standpoint," Johnson said of Minnesota's 10th-round pick. "He's got a delivery foundation that we

want to see in pitchers, and that kind of gave us some confidence to take those guys. ... We have a few checkpoints that we think are historically important. We're still going to make mistakes on that, but we're trying to hedge our bets a little more. That's another thing [chief baseball officer Derek Falvey] brought over from Cleveland."

Cal State Northridge duo will begin pro careers together

Two years ago, this day seemed impossible to Trevor Casanova. The Cal State Northridge catcher, who was taken by the Twins in the 13th round with the 394th overall pick on Wednesday, was working in a furniture warehouse, ready to walk away from baseball and convinced that the steadiness of a regular job was what he needed.

In the summer of 2015, Casanova had just finished his freshman year at Lane Community College in Eugene, Oregon, and decided a move back home to California was a better fit.

"I just didn't really like it in Oregon, to be honest," Casanova said. "It was rainy, it was cold. I just wanted to come back down to California. If I'm playing at the juco level, I wanted to play at home because then there's more exposure. I decided to come back."

But the move home wasn't the immediate solution he thought it would be. At the time, giving up the game he loved seemed like the quickest fix.

"Once I came back home, I don't know what happened," Casanova said. "I wanted to move out of my house and get a job and go live on my own. So I ended up quitting baseball because I wasn't getting paid going to school. I went and worked a nine-to-five.

For a little over half a year, Casanova dropped baseball entirely and afternoons in the batting cage gave way to days at the warehouse of Jerome's Furniture in Southwest Los Angeles. That time was enough to make him believe that he had more to give to the game.

"It was tough, the same day over and over again," Casanova said. "I mean, I knew there was a future with baseball, so I decided to come back and see what I could make with it."

Casanova enrolled at El Camino College, where he posted eye-popping stats against stiff competition. His ability to hit the ball to all fields from the left side of the plate helped him soar up Draft boards, and the Mariners took him in the 14th round of the 2014 Draft. He opted instead to head to Cal State Northridge with hopes of further improving his Draft stock.

"[Casanova] will definitely stick at catcher," Johnson said. "He actually came to a pre-Draft workout. He's got a solid-average arm and he's one of the top hitters in the Big West."

Casanova slashed .345/.405/.480 this season for the Matadors and was named a Johnny Bench Award semifinalist while leading the Big West in doubles.

The day got even better for him and the Matadors on Wednesday when the Twins double-dipped on Cal State Northridge catchers and took Albee Weiss, who hit .290/.324/.592 and led the conference with 20 homers. Weiss was the starting backstop for the Matadors in 2017, but spent most of the 2018 season in the outfield. Johnson said there is a possibility that Weiss sticks at catcher, but he could also end up at first base or a corner-outfield spot.

Casanova has played multiple positions throughout his collegiate career and only began catching full time once he got to El Camino. Weiss eliminated any possibility of a competition for the starting catcher spot this season when he elected to move to the outfield in order to help the team. Now, the power-hitting duo has become nearly inseparable, adopting the moniker "The Bash Brothers" with Weiss hitting behind Casanova in the lineup and sitting behind him on the bus on each road trip.

They hope that journey will continue through the Twins farm system.

"It's a dream come true," Weiss said. "Any time you can have one of your best friends out there to play ball with you. Starting a new journey like this, I'm very fortunate to have one of my great friends out there with me. It's a little added bonus to all this.

Mistakes sink Twins in loss to White Sox **Rhett Bollinger | MLB.com | June 6, 2018**

MINNEAPOLIS -- It was the kind of sloppy game the Twins would rather forget, as a baserunning blunder cost them a run in the second, a wild pitch brought home the tying run in the sixth and the offense mostly scuffled in a 5-2 loss to the White Sox on Wednesday night at Target Field.

Twins manager Paul Molitor wasn't pleased with his team's effort, as he noted the club could be in the midst of a three-game losing streak against Chicago if it weren't for Eduardo Escobar's go-ahead homer in the eighth inning of Tuesday's Game 1 win.

"I try to be positive most times, but that's just not good baseball," Molitor said. "They've outplayed us. We talked about it, they've run aggressively, they've made more plays defensively. We had one good inning, in the first game yesterday."

The Twins had a 2-1 lead going into the sixth, but right-hander Jake Odorizzi gave up back-to-back singles to open the inning, including a softly hit infield single from Jose Abreu that Ehire Adrianza couldn't handle at shortstop. Reliever Ryan Pressly tried to limit the damage, but after striking out Matt Davidson, gave up a single to load the bases.

A wild pitch on an 0-2 slider tied the game before Tim Anderson gave the White Sox the lead with a two-run single, going to second on the throw. Anderson stole third and scored on a well-executed suicide squeeze from Adam Engel, who was ruled out at first before it was overturned via replay.

"We didn't keep the force in order on the base hit," Molitor said. "And we let a guy steal third who's led their team in stolen-base attempts at third base the last two years."

The four-run outburst was enough for the White Sox, as the Twins had trouble against former Minnesota lefty Hector Santiago, who entered with a 5.10 ERA. Santiago went five innings, allowing two runs on six hits and three walks with two strikeouts.

"We helped him," Molitor said. "He gave us opportunities. He's going to compete, I know him well enough to know that. But we had him 70 pitches after three innings, we made him work, we just didn't take advantage in that inning in particular to put a crooked number up."

The Twins got on the board in the second after Robbie Grossman singled and Mitch Garver doubled to open the frame. Adrianza followed with an RBI double off the base of the center-field wall, but Garver had a bad read on the play and was held at third. It turned out to be critical, as Garver was later caught in a rundown between third and home on a comebacker from Brian Dozier and Minnesota was unable to score again in the second.

"Not a good read," Molitor said. "Those are huge runs early."

After the White Sox tied the game on a two-out RBI single from Anderson in the fourth, the Twins took the lead in the bottom of the inning on Ryan LaMarre's RBI single to score Adrianza, who doubled with two outs.

The Twins put two runners on with two outs in the seventh, but lefty reliever Jace Fry struck out Max Kepler to end the potential rally. Reliever Trevor Hildenberger was forced to wriggle out of a bases-loaded jam in the top of the eighth after left fielder Eddie Rosario dropped a fly ball at the warning track with one out.

"I thought we had been playing pretty good recently, but it seems like there's that one game that puts a wrench into things," Odorizzi said. "So we need to scrap back and win the next game. We just have to be able to win series; I think that's what it boils down to."

MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

Twins can't turn two: As the ball left Abreu's bat on an 0-2 slider, Odorizzi figured it was going to be an easy 6-4-3 double play. But with Adrianza shifted a few steps to his right, he couldn't make a play on the slow roller, allowing Abreu to reach, which knocked Odorizzi from the game and set up the four-run inning.

"The ball gets hit on the ground and I automatically thought it was a double play," Odorizzi said. "I threw the pitch that I wanted, got the result that I wanted; we just weren't in the right spot for that perfect situation. It's frustrating. I didn't know we were shifted so far in the hole."

SOUND SMART

After the Twins scored at least seven runs in four straight games and five of their last six entering the series, White Sox starters have held them in check through the first three games. Reynaldo Lopez, Lucas Giolito and Santiago have combined to allow four runs in 18 innings (2.00 ERA) against the Twins.

HE SAID IT

"Today was much more frustrating than the last one, just because I felt like I was in control for the most part of the game and it got away there in the sixth inning. I thought my stuff was considerably better just from a pure feel point than it was against the Indians." -- Odorizzi, who gave up seven runs over 3 2/3 innings in his previous start against Cleveland, and was charged with three runs in five-plus innings on Wednesday

MITEL REPLAY OF THE DAY

The Twins won their lone challenge in the sixth on the overturned call with Engel. But the damage was done, as it brought home the fourth run of

the inning.

UP NEXT

Jose Berrios will start the series finale against the White Sox on Thursday at 12:10 p.m. CT at Target Field. Berrios (6-5, 3.86 ERA) has been pitching better recently, posting a 2.83 ERA over his last four starts. He's 2-0 with a 2.77 ERA against the White Sox this season. Chicago will counter with veteran right-hander James Shields (1-6, 4.48 ERA).

Hector Santiago, White Sox hand Twins a second consecutive loss

Phil Miller | Star Tribune | June 7, 2018

Paul Molitor is as even-tempered as a manager can be. He's not a tantrum-thrower. But his angry eyes and his clipped tone after the Twins' mistake-filled 5-2 loss to the White Sox on Wednesday revealed the truth more than any bombastic tirade could: He's upset at how his team is playing.

"They've outplayed us," Molitor said of the last-place White Sox, who have taken two of three games this week. "They've run aggressively, they've made more plays defensively. We had one good inning, in the first game yesterday."

That about sums up an ugly night in which Hector Santiago — yes, that Hector Santiago — gave up two singles, four doubles and three walks in just five innings, and somehow still earned the victory when the Twins turned all that offense into a paltry two runs.

"Well, we helped him," Molitor pointed out. "He gave us opportunities. He's going to compete, I know him well enough to know that. We made him work, we just didn't take advantage."

The loss dropped the Twins five games out in the AL Central, and 9 1/2 games out of a wild-card spot.

Two mental mistakes stood out in this one, though Molitor was careful to note that those "two big plays [were] not the only things that kept us back."

The first came in the second inning, when Robbie Grossman led off with a single, and Mitch Garver doubled him to third. Ehire Adrianza followed by crushing a Santiago fastball off the center field wall — but Garver, believing the ball might be caught despite how shallow center fielder Adam Engel was playing, loitered around second base until it bounced off the fence, too late to score.

"Not a good read," Molitor grumbled. "Second day in a row that we didn't score on a double from second base."

Making matters worse, he had to hold his position on a ground out to third, than was caught in a rundown when Santiago snagged Brian Dozier's one-hopper to the mound. "Situational hitting, you get a couple of ground balls but don't score," Molitor said. "Those are huge runs early. A chance maybe to knock a pitcher out of the game."

The other critical play cost Jake Odorizzi a chance to pitch deeper into the game, and eventually tagged him with a hard-luck loss. Odorizzi allowed a leadoff single to Yolmer Sanchez in the sixth inning, but seemed to snuff that threat when Jose Abreu reached for a two-strike slider well out of the strike zone and poked it toward shortstop.

One problem: Adrianza was shifted deep into the hole at short. By the time he reached the ball, the double play was no longer possible, and Adrianza simply held the ball. With Odorizzi at 99 pitches at that point, Molitor removed him from the game, and the inning blew up into a four-run uprising that would up sticking the Twins with a second straight loss.

"I automatically thought it was a double play. It's a soft-hit ball right toward the shortstop, and we were shifted in the hole," Odorizzi said. "In that situation, there just has to be a double play. It changes everything from that point on, obviously."

Video (02:24): Twins righthander Jake Odorizzi says he was frustrated that a double play grounded produced no outs in a critical moment during Wednesday's 5-2 loss to Chicago.

Odorizzi took part of the blame, saying he should be more aware if the shift is that extreme, and try to pitch to it. But Molitor shared his frustration that the play ignited the White Sox.

"You would think he would get an out on that ball. I don't know if he peeked, or wasn't sure if he wanted to go to second or first," the manager said. "I know live, it looked like a ball we should have got an out on."

Instead, Ryan Pressly gave up back-to-back singles, threw a wild pitch to score another run, and didn't keep Tim Anderson from stealing third, setting up a terrific squeeze bunt by Engel. Game over.

There were more mistakes, including a dropped fly ball by Eddie Rosario, and a throw to the wrong base to allow runners to move up.

"I try to be positive most times," Molitor said, "but that's just not good baseball."

Postgame: Pitch count, extreme shift added to Jake Odorizzi's frustration

Phil Miller | Star Tribune | June 7, 2018

Some extras from a night that left the Twins frustrated:

The Twins know Hector Santiago can be hit, and they know they can do the hitting against him. But on Wednesday, more than a year since his last victory in Target Field, the former Twins lefthander and current Chicago reclamation project reminded his old team that he's a master of muddling through.

Santiago, allowed to walk away after last season's 5.63-ERA debacle, pitched five messy, imperfect innings, but departed with his first victory at his old home park since May 3, 2017.

The White Sox pitcher, whose Twins career ended last July when he couldn't throw his fastball harder than the mid-80s, seemed to take no extra pride in beating his old team.

"They beat the crap out of me last time in Chicago, so it was nice to come back here and get a win against them," Santiago said. "It's all in good fun out there. You're competing, and between the lines, you don't care who you're facing. You kind of want to get them out and you don't mind throwing the ball up and in."

He even greeted Brian Dozier, whose locker was directly across from his in the Twins clubhouse, with a sidearm fastball.

"Dozier is like, 'Is that the first time you've done that?'" Santiago said. "I was like, 'Yeah, you're the first person I threw a sidearm to.' You have some good fun. But you're still competing and trying to beat them."

XXX

While Santiago earned the win, Jake Odorizzi bounced back from last weekend's eight-run debacle against the Indians with a pretty good outing. Odorizzi seemed like his usual self — meaning, extraordinarily effective. For awhile.

The Twins' righthander retired the first eight White Sox batters in order, and 11 of the first 12, but ran into trouble with a two-out walk in the fourth inning. Back-to-back singles by Kevan Smith and Tim Anderson turned the walk into a run.

But Odorizzi's pitch count, a problem all season, kept rising rapidly. "In the fourth inning, I went 3-2 on four guys in a row, and that really drives it up," the righthander said. "Today was much more frustrating than the last one, just because I felt like I was in control for the most part, and it got away. I thought my stuff was considerably better, just from a pure feel standpoint than it was against the Indians."

In the sixth inning, when the White Sox led off with consecutive singles by Yolmer Sanchez and Jose Abreu, his count hit 99 and his night was done. It marked the fourth straight start that Odorizzi has pitched five innings or fewer, and the 17th consecutive start, including all 13 with the Twins, that he has not recorded an out in the seventh inning.

XXX

Odorizzi sounded frustrated, too, that Abreu's single on an 0-2 slider was a single, and not a double play, or at least an out. But Ehire Adrianza was shifted far into the hole, ran a long way to field it, and held the ball.

"With two strikes, a lot of guys kind of focus on [hitting] back up the middle. So I threw the pitch that I wanted, got the result that I wanted," Odorizzi said. "It's frustrating. I didn't know we were shifted so far in the hole. As pitchers, we probably have a responsibility to, if we see that, make an adjustment on our own. So I can partially take the blame for it; I didn't know he was shaded that far to the left."

Still, Odorizzi said, he feels like he did his job. “Double plays are a pitcher’s best friend for a reason, especially in big situations like that. Doing it all over again, I’d make the same pitch and hope for the right result,” he said. “If we’re playing two steps to the left, it’s a much easier play to at least get an out, not even two.”

XXX

Miguel Sano took three pitches for a strikeout in the first inning, hit into a double play in the third inning, and flew out and struck out again in his last two at-bats. That brings his June total to 2-for-18 (.111) with nine strikeouts.

“He seems to be having a hard time recognizing pitches,” Molitor said. “The chase on sliders, we’ve seen repetitively. I know he was out there early, trying to clean things up and stay on the ball and use the other side of the field. ... If you’re not picking up pitches and swinging at strikes, that makes it really difficult.”

Signs points to Twins not signing drafted Heritage Christian Academy standout Seth Halvorsen
Phil Miller | Star Tribune | June 7, 2018

Now that the MLB amateur draft is over, with the Twins choosing 17 pitchers and 13 position players Wednesday, the process of signing them begins. The Twins are confident they’ll sign all nine players taken in the first 10 rounds, director of scouting Sean Johnson said, and roughly 33 of their 39 draftees overall.

But Seth Halvorsen, a Plymouth resident who plans to attend Missouri, isn’t one of them. “He’s probably a tough sign. We’ll have to come up with some money that we may or may not have later in the summer,” Johnson said of Halvorsen, a shortstop and righthanded pitcher at Heritage Christian Academy taken by the Twins in the 30th round.

The two-positions future is a likely sticking point. “He’s a talented two-way kid. We like him as a pitcher, long-term,” Johnson said. “But I know he has ambitions to be a hitter, to do both things.”

The 2018 draft was the most analytics-driven process the Twins have ever undertaken, with in-person scouting reports catalogued in the team’s new database and combined with sophisticated TrackMan radar measurements, plus video analysis to find players with characteristics the Twins prioritize. Their first choice on Wednesday, 11th-rounder Michael Helman, a second baseman at Texas A&M, was one such pick.

“That was from our analytics team. We merged some visuals from his performance” with scouting reports, Johnson said, “and we were glad to get him to lead off the day.”

Similarly, the Twins chose Anthony Hoopii-Tuionetoa, a high school pitcher from Maui, in the 17th round, even though they hadn’t heavily scouted him. “We had a few shots of video. And we have a pitching assessment that we take from a risk standpoint” that Derek Falvey instituted when he was appointed chief baseball officer, Johnson said. “So we threw him through our shredder last night and saw some things we liked in his delivery. [Tenth-rounder] Regi Grace is one of the same guys from that standpoint — he’s got a delivery foundation that we want to see in pitchers, and that kind of gave us some confidence to take those guys.”

One player they didn’t take: Oregon State lefthander Luke Heimlich, convicted of molesting his niece when he was 15, who went undrafted. “We made a decision as an organization to not select him,” Johnson said.

Proceed with caution

The unusual nature of Joe Mauer’s condition — the occasional recurrence of concussion-related symptoms, such as sensitivity to light or balance issues — has called for an especially cautious handling of his return to action. And it might make a minor league rehab assignment necessary, Twins manager Paul Molitor said, to insure that taking part in a game, as opposed to all the workouts he’s been doing, doesn’t trigger them again.

“Of all the things he’s tried to introduce himself to, in terms of stimulus and environment, playing a nine-inning game will be different than anything he’s done up to this point,” Molitor said. “So it would make sense to have [a rehab stint] as an option, to make sure that we don’t go backward.”

Mauer took batting practice and fielded grounders with his teammates Wednesday, and outwardly appears close to being ready to play. But “I’m just very cautious about getting too far out” on planning his return, Molitor said.

Etc.

- Logan Morrison first felt soreness in his lower back in the late innings of Sunday’s game, and it got a little worse Monday. “And then [Tuesday], everything locked up,” he said, so much that he couldn’t rotate his torso without pain and he wasn’t available for the doubleheader. But treatment on Tuesday and Wednesday has dissipated the stiffness, he said, and he was able to field ground balls and take batting practice. “I’ve had back tightness before, but I don’t know if [it was] to this degree,” he said.

“I don’t think playing nine innings is the best thing for him [Wednesday],” Molitor said. “He might be available in some capacity, with the idea of hopefully being back in the starting lineup [Thursday].”

- “The pain reduction has been slow” in Byron Buxton’s fractured left big toe, Molitor said, so the Twins are backing up his rehab schedule even more. “[It’s] probably another three days or so before we even start considering baseball activity,” Molitor said.

Thirteen Minnesotans taken on third day of MLB draft
Staff Writer | Star Tribune | June 7, 2018

Ryan Tapani, the son of former Twins pitcher Kevin Tapani, was taken Wednesday by the Washington Nationals in the 21st round of baseball's amateur draft.

Tapani pitched last season for Creighton after spending two years at St. Olaf in Northfield. He played high school baseball at Providence Academy.

Others with Minnesota connections taken on the draft's final day include:

Gus Varland of Concordia University was taken in the 14th round by Oakland. Varland, a junior pitcher, had a 7-3 record and 3.27 ERA for the Golden Bears. He played for North St. Paul High School.

Jacob Rhinesmith of Western Kentucky was taken in the 18th round by Washington. The All-Conference USA outfielder played high school baseball at Shakopee.

Dalton Roach of Minnesota State Mankato was taken in the 21st round by Houston. Roach was 8-2 with a 3.30 ERA and 86 strikeouts in 71 innings for the Mavericks this season. He is from Eau Claire.

Kellen Rholl of Angelo State was taken in the 25th round by Cleveland. Rholl, a relief pitcher, played high school baseball at Mounds View.

Zach Seipel of Minnesota-Crookston was taken in the 27th round by Atlanta. Seipel was a catcher at Eagan before being converted to a pitcher at UMC.

Gophers infielder Micah Coffey was drafted in the 30th round, No. 888, by the White Sox and Heritage Christian Academy's Seth Halvorsen was drafted 16 picks later by the Twins. Halvorsen, a senior, is a righthanded pitcher for the Eagles who hit 96 mph during an all-star event last August.

In the 35th round, Miami selected Gophers senior righthander Jackson Rose.

Blaine graduate Tyler Reichenborn, an outfielder now of Iowa Western Community College, was also taken in the 35th round by the Dodgers. The Brewers selected North Iowa Area Community College lefty Brandon Williamson, who played high school at Martin County West, in the 36th round.

Milwaukee also selected Rosemount senior righthander Aiden Maldonado in the 38th round with pick No. 1,145 - six picks after the Rangers took Gophers pitcher Reggie Meyer.

Others with Minnesota connections, including Jordan Kozicky of the Gophers, were not selected

Terrin Vavra, the Gophers' All-America shortstop, was taken in the third round by Colorado. Luke Becker, an infielder from Fairmont who played at Kentucky, was taken in the ninth round by San Diego.

Paul Molitor praises job John Anderson does for Gophers baseball
Sid Hartman | Star Tribune | June 7, 2018

Last Saturday, with the Twins in the midst of winning three of four games against Cleveland at Target Field, manager Paul Molitor was in a hurry to finish postgame interviews so he could go to Siebert Field to watch his former teammate and close friend of 44 years, John Anderson, manage the Gophers against UCLA in an NCAA baseball regional tournament.

The Gophers beat the Bruins then and again on Sunday to advance to their first super regional since 1977, when Molitor was a first-team All-America shortstop and hit .325 as a junior. Anderson was named the team MVP as a student manager after his playing career was cut short because of an arm injury.

That Gophers squad was the last to reach the College World Series. This weekend in Corvallis, if the Gophers can defeat Oregon State — the No. 1-ranked team in the country, according to d1baseball.com — in a best-of-three series, they will return.

When the Gophers and Twins played during spring training, Molitor said Anderson told him he thought the Gophers would have a good team this season, with some stellar young players.

“John talked to me early down in Florida about how he had some really talented young pitchers that were freshmen that could develop,” Molitor said. “He thought his core of players were going to be guys that not only worked hard but do the little things that helped them win: play defense, run the bases, learn how to situational hit. When I watched them [Saturday], that’s what they did. They caught the ball really well, they were aggressive on the bases and they put the ball in play.”

Molitor also mentioned the great home-field advantage the Gophers enjoyed last weekend. He was a crucial fundraiser, along with Anderson, for the major renovation of Siebert Field.

“I think playing at home was a big plus,” he said. “I think that’s what John envisioned the new Siebert Field to be like, when he went through all of the work that he did to make sure it was completed. The atmosphere was great, saw a lot of people through many generations of Gophers baseball. As far as the team, you could tell they had the mentality that they weren’t going to be denied.”

Iron Ranger, city kid

Molitor recalled the start of his relationship with Anderson at the university.

“John came in as a pitcher from Up North on the Iron Range and I was a city kid,” he said. “We hit it off in the beginning. John was a hard worker who didn’t get much of a chance to play college baseball, but made contributions by helping out any way he could. I have been a tremendous supporter of what he has done with the program. He’s not only concerned about putting a good product on the field, but he’s certainly taking care of those young men that have come through, a tremendous graduation rate.

“The relationship that he has with his players through the many decades speaks about the character that John has. I couldn’t be more happy that this season has turned out the way it has with him having a chance to advance to the super regional, winning both the [Big Ten] conference and the tournament. ... I just have a lot of respect for him, and I wish him well this weekend.”

Molitor praised Anderson for continuing to help the Gophers at the end of his playing career.

“John wanted to find a way to stay connected to the team without actually being a player,” he said. “I think they ended up terming it ‘student manager.’ I think it was in ’77 when the players voted John our most valuable player, even though he wasn’t on the field, because he did so much to help our team. He certainly was part of the morale and everything that went into having a successful season.”

What did Anderson do?

“He was one of those guys who did a little bit of everything,” Molitor said. “I saw him take care of the fields. I saw him help run errands for players. Being a guy who always had an encouraging word for everybody. He did whatever he could to try to make everybody on that team better.”

Patient teacher

Molitor was asked about Anderson’s ability to instruct, on and off the field.

“I think that his track record proves that he is a great teacher,” Molitor said. “Not only making guys better players, but if you speak to a lot of people that played for John and have gone on to be successful in other avenues in life, they’ll point to the direction and guidance that John gave

them in their time at the university.

“He’s a very patient man. I think he tries to find the best in anybody he comes across. He tries to highlight building on things you’re good at as opposed to dwelling on things that are negative. He just has a very positive outlook each and every day about trying to serve the guys that he’s had a chance to coach at the university.”

Molitor said this year also provided a great send-off for assistant head coach Rob Fornasiere, who has worked with Anderson since joining the program in 1985 and will retire at the end of this season.

“Rob is ... going out on a high note,” Molitor said. “He wasn’t there when I was there, but I have gotten to know him really well over the past 30 years. He has been John’s right-hand man. He takes care of a lot of the logistics of practice and making sure things are organized. Very knowledgeable about the game, and similarly to John, he has had the kids’ best interest at heart over everything else.”

Finding Fredrickson

Fornasiere recruited Patrick Fredrickson, the Big Ten Pitcher and Freshman of the Year, who also was named the National Freshman Pitcher of the Year on Wednesday by Collegiate Baseball.

Fredrickson, a 6-6 righthander, is from Gig Harbor, Wash., about 40 miles southwest of Seattle.

He was ranked the No. 4 prospect in Washington as a senior and earned All-State honors but wasn’t heavily recruited, so he sent a video and e-mail to the Gophers staff.

Fornasiere watched him pitch three times in July of 2016 before Fredrickson visited the U. He signed with the Gophers that November.

The other top starter for the Gophers this year is Reggie Meyer, who has an 8-3 record and a 2.62 ERA in 16 starts and has pitched a team-high 103 innings.

Meyer and Fredrickson led the Gophers staff to a 3.04 team ERA, the eighth-best mark in the nation, and they’ll play important roles if the Gophers are to upset Oregon State this weekend.

Meanwhile, Meyer’s older brother, Ben Meyer — a former Gophers pitcher himself — was called up by the Miami Marlins on Wednesday and will most likely pitch out of the bullpen.

Wednesday's Twins-White Sox game recap **Phil Miller | Star Tribune | June 7, 2018**

GAME RECAP

IMPACT PLAYER

Tim Anderson, Chicago

Drove in three runs with a couple of hits, and manufactured another with a stolen base

BY THE NUMBERS

17 Consecutive games, including all 13 with the Twins, in which Jake Odorizzi has not recorded a seventh-inning out

13 Months since Hector Santiago’s last Target Field victory, on May 3, 2017

24 Doubles by Eduardo Escobar this season, more than any other MLB player

Hector Santiago back at Target Field a year after final Twins start
Phil Miller | Star Tribune | June 6, 2018

Hector Santiago will be back on the Target Field mound tonight for the first time in more than a year, since May 31, 2017. That wasn't a good performance, and truthfully, Santiago didn't have many good ones last season, at least not after mid-May, which is why he was allowed to walk away at season's end.

This season, after signing with the White Sox over the winter, hasn't been great either, but Santiago did show signs of being a useful member of the bullpen, getting a half-dozen stints of two innings or more in April. His ERA as a reliever, in fact, is 3.10.

But injuries have forced the veteran lefthander back into the rotation, and the extra exposure hasn't been good; his ERA in six starts is 6.59. Still, Twins manager Paul Molitor is wary.

"He knows what he's doing out there. There are times when his command can be a little elusive, and you can create some opportunities if you're patient enough to make him throw it over," Molitor said. "He knows us well. It's just a matter of being on the right side of the execution tonight."

Santiago allowed eight runs in 3 1/3 innings when the Twins were in Chicago one month ago.

Meanwhile, Jake Odorizzi has been rather up-and-down himself, and the Twins have lost three of his last four starts. He's coming off his worst start of the season, when he allowed eight runs over 3 2/3 innings against Cleveland, and would like to get back on track.

Miguel Sano will be in the lineup at first base, but he's been dropped to fifth in the batting order in order to bunch hotter hitters — Eddie Rosario and Eduardo Escobar in particular — higher in the order. Sano is 2-or-14 with seven strikeouts in June.

"We all can see that he's going through a little bit of a rough time [with regards to] pitch recognition and some of the chase factors," Molitor said. "I'm not afraid to try different combinations."

For one more day, those combinations don't include Logan Morrison, though the designated hitter and first baseman said he is much better today. Morrison's lower back grew stiff late in Sunday's game, and on Monday and Tuesday, he couldn't pivot his body without pain. But some stretching and soft-tissue massage has helped the pain dissipate, and it doesn't appear he will go on the disabled list.

"I don't think playing nine innings is the best thing for him today," Molitor said. "He might be available in some capacity, with the idea of hopefully being back in the starting lineup tomorrow."

Here are the lineups for the third game of the four-game series:

WHITE SOX

Moncada 2B
Sanchez 3B
Abreu 1B
Davidson DH
Smith C
Anderson SS
Engel CF
Tilson LF
Thompson RF

Santiago LHP

TWINS

Dozier 2B
Rosario LF
Escobar 3B
Kepler RF
Sano 1B

Grossman DH
Garver C
Adrianza SS
LaMarre CF

Odorini RHP

After ugly loss to last-place Chicago, usually positive Paul Molitor says, “That’s just not good baseball.”
John Shipley | Pioneer Press | June 6, 2018

This one hurt.

After making up three games in the American League Central by taking three of four from Cleveland over the weekend, the Minnesota Twins played perhaps their worst game of the season in a 5-2 loss to last-place Chicago on Wednesday.

Catcher Mitch Garver failed to score from second on Ehire Adrianza’s double in the second inning, and shortstop Adrianza couldn’t turn a potential double-play ball into at least one out in the sixth as the Twins fell to 1-2 against the White Sox in a four-game series that wraps of Thursday with a 12:10 p.m. first pitch.

“I try to be positive most times,” manager Paul Molitor said, “but that’s just not good baseball.”

White Sox shortstop Tim Anderson drove in three runs, and former Twins starter Hector Santiago (2-2) walked a tightrope for the victory. The teams split a double-header on Tuesday, two days after Eddie Rosario’s walk-off homer gave the Twins three out of four against the Indians and pulled them to within 3.5 of first place.

“They’ve outplayed us,” Molitor said of the White Sox. “We talked about it. They’ve run aggressively, they’ve made more plays defensively. We had one good inning, in the first game yesterday.”

On Wednesday, it unraveled for the Twins in the sixth inning with Odorizzi holding a 2-1 lead and appearing in control of the White Sox, who already had struck out seven times.

Yolmer Sanchez started the inning with a single to center, but Odorizzi got next batter Jose Abreu to ground softly up the middle for a potential double-play ball. Shortstop Ehire Adrianza, ranging far to his left, stopped the ball behind the second base bag but failed to secure the grounder and flip it to a waiting Brian Dozier for at least one out.

“I’m not sure of a double play, because of the lack of speed on the ball, but you would think he would get an out on that ball,” Molitor said. “I don’t know if he peeked, or wasn’t sure if he wanted to go to second or first. I haven’t had a chance to look at it. I know live, it looked like a ball we should have got an out on. He made a good pitch 0-2 and hit it off the end of the bat.”

Abreu had swung and missed on a slider wide in the dirt to fall 0-2, and Odorizzi followed with the same pitch, a little higher but rather outside. Without the force in order, Odorizzi was pulled with runners on first and second and none out.

“It’s a soft-hit ball right toward the shortstop, and we were shifted in the hole,” Odorizzi said. “In that situation there, it just has to be a double play. You made the pitch ... it changes everything from that point on, obviously — you know, a chance to get through 6, Pressly stays down there (in the bullpen).”

Hard-throwing right-hander Ryan Pressly came on to strike out Matt Davidson for the first out, but Kevan Smith singled to load the bases and Sanchez scored on a wild pitch that Pressly bounced in front of the plate, and Anderson followed with a two-run single up the middle.

To add insult to injury, Anderson took second on an ill-advised throw to the plate and stole third without a play before scoring on Adam Engel’s sacrifice bunt for a 5-2 lead. After that, four Chicago relievers allowed two hits, two walks and struck out eight Twins batters.

Odorizzi was charged with three earned runs on six hits and a walk for the Twins, who appeared to have bounced back from a 1-6 road trip with their series victory over Cleveland but overall have now lost eight of their past 12 games. In the eighth inning, Eddie Rosario let a long fly ball glance off his glove in left field, a two-base error that put runners at second and third with one out but reliever Trevor Hildenberger wriggled out

of it.

“I thought we’d been playing pretty good recently,” Odorizzi said. “It just seems like there’s that one game that kind of throws a wrench into things and we’ll have to scrap back and win the next game, lose, go back and forth, play .500 after that.”

That won’t do if the Twins want to get back to the postseason after winning the second AL wild card last season. They’re in a winnable division, but the East is playing well enough to grab both wild cards this season.

The Twins are treading water without regular first baseman Joe Mauer (concussion symptoms), center fielder Byron Buxton and last year’s ace, Ervin Santana, who has yet to pitch because of surgery Feb. 6 to repair a knuckle on his right hand. After the road trip, Molitor gathered his team on the field before a game and asked them to re-focus on the basics.

“You don’t wave a magic wand,” he said. “I think you bring attention to those things in the hope that the focus picks up and guys understand their responsibilities in different areas of the game. But, you’d like to think you could do better in a lot of those things that cause us to lose that game tonight.”

Twins mulling rehab assignment for Joe Mauer
John Shipley | Pioneer Press | June 6, 2018

Joe Mauer’s steady recovery from concussion symptoms took a positive step on Wednesday when the Twins first baseman went through the team’s entire pregame routine at Target Field.

Mauer went took infield practice and joined the team for batting practice before a 7:10 first pitch against the White Sox.

“Another good day,” he said.

ADVERTISING

Mauer hasn’t played since May 18 but traced the neck and head injuries that put him on the 10-day disabled list to a dive for a foul ball in a 5-4 victory against the Angels in Anaheim. He’s been working with teammates since they returned from a six-game road trip on May 31.

There is no timetable for Mauer’s return, and it appears likely he will make a rehab assignment with a minor league affiliate before returning to the majors.

“I think that’s possible,” manager Paul Molitor said. “Of all the things that he’s tried to introduce himself to, in terms of stimulus and environment, playing a nine-inning game will be different than anything he’s done up to this point. So, I think it would make a lot of sense to have that as an option, to make sure that we don’t go backwards in some form.”

But, Molitor added, that might not be close.

“We obviously have some things that we are looking at hoping to get him back here, but it’s literally we have to see how today goes, and if it does, maybe another conversation can take place about when that might happen,” he said.

Mauer is batting .283 with a .404 on-base percentage in 38 games. He has one homer and 11 RBIs.

BACKING OFF

The Twins are backing off on Byron Buxton's rehab from a broke great toe on his left foot, injured when he fouled a pitch off it while on a rehab assignment for migraines in late April.

Team doctors evaluated the center fielder on Tuesday.

"The pain reduction has been slow," Molitor said, "so we're going to add on some days there, probably another three days or so, before we even start considering baseball activity."

Buxton has played in 28 games this season, batting .156 (14 for 90) with only three walks. He was placed on the 10-day disabled list on May 30.

DRAFT COMPLETE

The Twins completed their 2018 entry draft Wednesday by selecting 30 players in Rounds 11-30, including right-handed pitcher Seth Halverson of Plymouth, taken with in the 30th round with the 904th overall pick.

Halverson, a 6-foot-1 right-hander attended Heritage Christian High School and is committed to the University of Missouri. "He's probably a tough sign at this point," Twins director of amateur scouting Sean Johnson said.

The Twins did not have Oregon State left-hander Luke Heimlich on their draft board. The senior, who in 2012 pleaded guilty to a sexually molesting a young niece as a teenager, went undrafted for the second straight season.

"We made the decision as an organization to not select him," Johnson said.

BRIEFLY

Miguel Sano was moved to fifth in the lineup on Wednesday. Since returning from the disabled list (hamstring) on May 25, Sano is hitting .200 (9 for 45) with 19 strikeouts and four walks. He has homered twice and driven in 11 runs. "I think we all can see that he's going through a little bit of a rough time of pitch recognition and some of the chase factors, things going on," Molitor said.

First baseman/DH Logan Morrison was available off the bench a day after missing a double-header because of stiffness in his back. Molitor said he hopes to have him back in the lineup for Thursday's series finale against the White Sox. "I've had some back tightness (before)," Morrison said. "I don't know that it was to this degree, but not only is it getting better, it's getting much better." Sano took Morrison's place at first base.

Chicago's four-run sixth inning too much for Twins
Associated Press | Fox Sports North | June 7, 2018

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Tim Anderson had two hits and drove in two runs and Hector Santiago earned the victory against his former team as the Chicago White Sox beat the Minnesota Twins 5-2 on Wednesday night.

Santiago (2-2), who pitched for Minnesota the past two seasons, fared much better than he did in his first appearance against his ex-teammates. The Twins knocked him around for eight runs in 3 1/3 innings on May 5 in his second start of the season.

But on Wednesday, Santiago allowed just two runs on six hits in five innings pitched. And after giving up five home runs combined in his last two starts, the left-hander was able to keep the ball in the park against Minnesota.

Four relievers combined to shut down the Twins the rest of the way. Joakim Soria pitched a scoreless ninth to earn his sixth save of the season.

Ehire Adrianza doubled twice, scored a run and drove in another for the Twins.

The Twins got on the board with a run in the second but missed a chance for a much bigger inning. Robbie Grossman led off with a single and moved to third on Mitch Garver's double. Adrianza followed with a towering drive off the wall in center field. He ended up with a double, but Garver was tagging on the play and only advanced one base.

Santiago then retired the next two batters on sharp grounders that didn't allow Garver to score, and got red-hot Eddie Rosario to fly out to end the inning.

Twins starter Jake Odorizzi (3-3) labored through five innings before he was knocked out after giving up two hits to start the sixth. He left with a 2-1 lead but took the loss when both runners came around to score.

The big blow in the four-run sixth was Anderson's two-run single off reliever Ryan Pressly. Another run scored on a wild pitch, and the final run came home on a perfectly executed suicide squeeze bunt by Adam Engel.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Twins: 1B Logan Morrison (back) came off the bench to pinch hit in the ninth inning after missing Tuesday's doubleheader with a stiff back.

UP NEXT

White Sox: RHP James Shields (1-6, 4.48 ERA) will take the mound in the series finale Thursday afternoon. Shields no-hit the Twins for 6 1/3 innings but received a no-decision on May 6 in Chicago. He's pitched at least seven innings in each of his last four starts.

Twins: RHP Jose Berrios (6-5, 3.86) is already 2-0 against the White Sox this year. He struck out 11 Chicago batters over seven shutout innings in a 4-0 win at Target Field on April 12.

Escobar rakes in Twins' doubleheader
Staff Writer | Fox Sports North | June 6, 2018

Eduardo Escobar, Twins infielder (↑ UP)

Someone, somewhere is calculating the amount of free advertising Escobar is giving Fogo de Chao, the infielder's favorite restaurant he credits in interviews after every big game. "Mighty Mouse" went 5-for-8 with five RBI in Tuesday's doubleheader at Target Field, bringing his totals last week (since May 30) to a wild .428 with four homers, five doubles and 13 RBI. Put up the Esky statue already, Fogo.

Fernando Rodney, Twins closer (↑ UP)

Rodney allowed seven runs in his first eight appearances (6 2/3 innings) with the Twins. Since then? Opponents have managed one run in his last 14 appearances (14 1/3 innings). His 13 saves are tied for sixth in the American League.

Minnesota Twins 2018 MLB draft pick capsules
Staff Writer | Fox Sports North | June 6, 2018

A complete listing of the Minnesota Twins' 2018 MLB draft picks with a capsule summary of each.

Round 1, No. 20 — OF Trevor Larnach, Oregon State: A junior, Larnach has helped lead the Beavers to the 2018 Super Regionals in the NCAA tournament. ... This season he's batting .327 with 13 doubles, 17 home runs and 65 RBI. ... In 2017, Larnach was named all-Pac-12 honorable mention after hitting .303 with 16 doubles, three homers and 48 RBI. ... Ranked as 26th best prospect by MLB.com and No. 27 by Baseball America. ... Selected in the 40th round of the 2015 draft by San Diego. ... Bats left-handed.

Round 2, No. 59 — C Ryan Jeffers, UNC Wilmington: This past season as a junior hit .327 with 22 doubles, 16 home runs and 59 RBI. ... Led the CAA in doubles, home runs, on-base percentage (.460) and slugging percentage (.635). ... Tabbed an all-CAA selection in each of his three years, including a first-team selection in both 2017 and '18. ... Hit .327 with 27 home runs in 125 games at UNC Wilmington. ... The 295th-ranked prospect by Baseball America.

Round 4, No. 214 — CF DaShawn Keirse, Utah: Named to first team of all-Pac-12 team and all-defensive team for three straight years. ... Led Pac-12 with 23 doubles in 2018 and was third in the conference in batting average (.386), fourth in triples (5), seventh in slugging percentage (.609) and eighth in on-base percentage (.440). ... Had a .334 career batting average at Utah. ... Ranked as 82nd-best prospect by Baseball America and No. 144 by MLB.com. ... Left-handed hitter.

Round 5, No. 154 — RHP Cole Sands, Florida State: Started 14 games for Florida State in 2018 as a junior and had a .208 opponent batting average, 4.54 ERA and 88 strikeouts in 75.1 innings. ... Ranked as No. 74 prospect by Baseball America and No. 116 by MLB.com. ... 22nd-round pick of Houston in 2015.

Round 6, No. 184 — SS Charles Mack, Williamsville (N.Y.) HS: Hit .551 with a .685 on-base percentage, .959 slugging percentage, four home runs and 20 RBI as a senior. ... Named Gatorade's New York player of the year. ... Hit .383 as a junior when he played shortstop. ... Ranked the 118th-best prospect by Baseball America and No. 133 by MLB.com. ... Played varsity baseball for six years. ... Left-handed hitter. ... Signed to play for Clemson.

Round 7, No. 214 — RHP Josh Winder, Virginia Military Institute: Made 14 starts for VMI in 2018 with a .297 OBA, 5.40 ERA and 91 strikeouts and only 19 walks in 85 innings. ... Named second team all-SoCon in 2017 after posting a 3.59 ERA. ... Ranked as No. 233 prospect by Baseball America.

Round 8, No. 244 — C Chris Williams, Clemson: In senior year hit .281/.401/.562 with 18 home runs and team-high 72 RBI. ... Named third team all-ACC as a first baseman in 2018. ... Hit .261 with a .572 slugging percentage, 14 HR and 51 RBI as a junior. ... Drafted in 31st round by Tampa Bay in 2017.

Round 9, No. 274 — CF Willie Joe Garry Jr., Pascagoula (Miss.) HS: As a senior hit .432 with three home runs. ... Named 2018 Rawlings-Perfect Game honorable mention All-American. ... Was coached in youth baseball league by former Twins outfielder Matt Lawton ... Committed to play for Pearl River Community College. ... Left-handed hitter.

Round 10, No. 304 — RHP Regi Grace, Madison Central (Miss.) HS: Went 7-2 with a 1.31 ERA with just 10 walks and 98 strikeouts in 64 innings as a senior. ... Named both an all-state pitcher and outfielder ... No. 491-ranked prospect by Baseball America. ... Named 2018 Rawlings-Perfect Game honorable mention All-American.

Round 11, No. 334 — 2B Michael Helman, Texas A&M: As a junior in 2018, hit .369 with 17 doubles, six home runs, 61 runs, 28 RBI and 12 stolen bases. ... Named second-team All-SEC. ... Played first two years at Hutchinson Community College. ... In 2017 was named the 2017 National Junior College Athletic Association player of the year.

Round 12, No. 364 — RHP Jon Olsen, UCLA: Missed a month of the 2018 season after taking a line drive off his head in March. ... Made six starts for the Bruins, posting a 2.20 ERA and .200 OBA with 28 strikeouts in 28 2/3 innings. ... As a junior in 2017, was 7-1 with a 2.86 ERA and .201 OBA in 85 innings.

Round 13, No. 394 — C Trevor Casanova, Cal State Northridge: Semifinalist for Johnny Bench Award. ... Batted .345 with a .405 on-base percentage and .480 slugging percentage as a junior in 2018. ... Led Big West with 18 doubles and was second in hits with 77. ... Drafted in 14th round by Seattle in 2017.

Round 14, No. 424 — OF Erick Rivera, Escuela Superior Urbana: Rawlings-Perfect Game third-team All-American. ... Won't turn 18 until November. ... Ranked as No. 290 prospect by Baseball America. ... Bats left-handed.

Round 15, No. 454 — 1B/P Kody Funderburk, Dallas Baptist U.: In lone year at Dallas Baptist, hit .304/.429/.584 with 19 doubles, 13 home runs, 44 runs and 48 RBI. ... Also pitched in 15 games (14 starts) with a 6.84 ERA, .282 OBA and 53 strikeouts in 50 innings. ... Listed at 6-foot-4, 237 pounds. ... Played for Mesa Community College from 2016-17. ... Named NJCAA Division II first-team All-American in 2017.

Round 16, No. 484 — RHP Anthony Hoopii-Tuionetoa, Baldwin (Hawaii) HS: 2018 was his first year as a pitcher in high school. ... Also played center field and was named Honolulu Star-Advertiser's position player of the year. ... Had a 0.00 ERA in Maui Interscholastic League games.

Round 17, No. 514 — LHP Erik Cha, Cal State Fullerton: Pitched just 9.1 innings this past season, allowing five runs (four earned) on eight hits with two walks and five strikeouts. ... In 2017 had a 4.85 ERA in 26 innings. ... Redshirted in 2016.

Round 18, No. 544 — RHP Andrew Cabezas, Miami (Fla.): Pitched in 19 games with 10 starts as a junior in 2018 with a 3.95 ERA, .198 OBA and 79 strikeouts in 75 innings. ... Began year as a reliever before moving into starting rotation. ... As a sophomore in 2017, appeared in 35 games, all in relief, with a 2.15 ERA, .221 OBA and 80 strikeouts in 62.2 innings.

Round 19, No. 574 — RHP Austin Schulfer, UW-Milwaukee: In senior year made 14 starts with a 2.96 ERA and .218 OBA. ... Broke school record for strikeouts in a game with 13 then set it again with 15. ... Made 13 starts as a junior, posting a 3.72 ERA.

Round 20, No. 604 — RHP Seth Pinkerton, Hartford: As a junior in 2018, had a 2.06 ERA and .187 OBA in 35 innings of relief. ... Is Hartford's career leader in saves with 15.

Round 21, No. 634 — 1B Gabe Snyder, Wright State: Won the Horizon League triple crown, leading the conference in batting average (.359), home runs (15) and RBI (73). ... Wright State's all-time leader in home runs with 44. ... Left-handed hitter.

Round 22, No. 664 — RHP Jacob Blank, Augustana: Helped lead Augustana to Division II World Series title. ... Made 13 starts as a senior with a 1.98 ERA, .199 OBA and 11 walks and 88 strikeouts in 72.2 innings. ... As a junior won several pitcher of the year awards, including national Division II, after posting an 0.78 ERA and .169 OBA over 69 innings (with 86 strikeouts).

Round 23, No. 794 — C Albee Weiss, Cal State Northridge: Drafted as a catcher but played outfield as a senior. ... Finished fourth in nation in home runs (20) and 25th in total bases (141). ... Led Big West in homers, total bases, slugging percentage (.592) and RBI (61). ... Also batted .290. ... Named first-team all-Big West.

Round 24, No. 724 — 3B Michael Davis, Texas Tech: In senior year, hit .290/.385/.531 with 17 doubles, 11 home runs, 47 runs and 50 RBI in 55 games. ... Played mainly second base as a junior. ... Bats left-handed.

Round 25, No. 754 — C LaRon Smith, Foothills Composite (Alberta, Canada): Committed to Indian Hills Community College.

Round 26, No. 784 — RHP Brian Rapp, Boston College: Made 12 starts as a senior, posting a 3.57 ERA and .193 OBA with 74 strikeouts in 70.2 innings.

Round 27, No. 814 — IF Hunter Lee, High Point: In 2018, batted .338/.460/.531 with 15 doubles, eight home runs, 49 runs and 44 RBI. ... Had a 28-game hitting streak during senior season. ... Bats left-handed.

Round 28, No. 844 — C Austin Hale, Stetson: Known for defensive game and was named preseason ASUM defensive player of the year. ... Has helped Stetson to appearance in NCAA tournament Super Regionals. ... Captain in both 2017 and '18.

Round 29, No. 874 — LHP J.T. Perez, Cincinnati: Made 14 starts as a senior, going 6-3 with a 2.68 ERA and .240 OBA. ... In 2017, had a 4.42 ERA and .266 OBA. ... As a sophomore, threw three complete games and had a 2.97 ERA in 91 innings.

Round 30, No. 904 — RHP Seth Halvorsen, Heritage Christian (Minn.) Academy: Minnesota's Gatorade player of the year. ... As a senior allowed just 11 hits in 33 innings and had a 1.22 ERA with 54 strikeouts. ... Also batted .395. ... Rawlings-Perfect Game first-team All-American. ... Ranked as No. 162 prospect by MLB.com and No. 221 by Baseball America.

Round 31, No. 934 — LHP Zach Neff, Mississippi State: A grad transfer. ... Had a 3.46 ERA and .284 OBA in lone year with the Bulldogs. ... Pitched first three years at Austin Peay.

Round 32, No. 964 — OF Ryan Holgate, Davis Senior (Calif.) HS: Bats left-handed. ... Committed to Arizona.

Round 33, No. 994 — LHP Denny Bentley, Howard College: Went 5-5 in 13 starts in 2018 with a 7.24 ERA.

Round 34, No. 1024 — RHP Dylan Stowell, California Baptist: In 14 games (12 starts) as a senior posted a 2.47 ERA and .246 OBA. ... Struck out 95 in 83.2 innings. ... Redshirted in 2017. ... Was named pitcher of the year in NCAA Division II West Region in 2016. ... As a junior had a 1.52 ERA and .235 OBA.

Round 35, No. 1054 — RHP Tanner Howell, Dixie State: Pitched in 18 games as a senior, sporting a 3-2 record and six saves. ... Had a 4.20 ERA and 39 strikeouts in 45 innings.

Round 36, No. 1084 — CF Zac Taylor, Illinois: As a junior in 2018, hit .226/.332/.429. Had 12 doubles, 10 home runs, 10 stolen bases and 37 RBI. ... Played first two years at Houston before transferring and having to sit out 2017 season.

Round 37, No. 1114 — RF Luke Ritter, Wichita State: In 2018 as a junior hit .341/.420/.484. ... Had 12 doubles, six home runs, 56 runs and 31 RBI. ... Was hit by a pitch 10 times and has 20 HBP in three years.

Round 38, No. 1144 — RHP Dylan Thomas, Hawaii: Appeared in 26 games in his sophomore season. ... Had a 1.85 ERA, .200 OBA and 43 strikeouts with just four walks in 39 innings. ... Notched 14 saves, tying Hawaii's single-season record. ... Named Big West freshman pitcher of the year in 2017 when he had a 2.01 ERA and nine saves. ... Baseball America ranked him as its No. 497 prospect.

Round 39, No. 1174 — RHP Bryce Collins, Hart (Calif.) HS: Threw a no-hitter with 14 strikeouts in April. ... Committed to Arizona.

Round 40, No. 1204 — SS Tyler Webb, Memphis: Batted .274/.348/.396 with 19 doubles and seven steals as a senior. ... Hit .305/.389/.474 with 16 doubles and six home runs as a junior. ... Spent first two years at Galveston College.

Santiago beats former team as White Sox top Twins

Associated Press | ESPN | June 7, 2018

MINNEAPOLIS -- Hector Santiago got out of a big jam. Then he got out of his former home ballpark with a victory.

Tim Anderson had two hits and drove in two runs and Santiago earned the win against his former team as the Chicago White Sox beat the Minnesota Twins 5-2 on Wednesday night.

ADVERTISEMENT

Santiago (2-2), who pitched for Minnesota the past two seasons, allowed just two runs on six hits in five innings pitched. And after giving up five home runs combined in his last two starts, the left-hander was able to keep the ball in the park against Minnesota.

Santiago also gave the White Sox big lift when he held the Twins to just one run in an inning that began with a single and two doubles.

Robbie Grossman led off the second inning with a base hit and moved to third on Mitch Garver's double. Ehire Adrianza followed with a towering drive off the wall in center field. He ended up with a double, but Garver got a bad read on the ball and only advanced one base.

Still, the Twins were threatening with two runners in scoring position and no outs.

"Second and third with nobody out, my mindset was just, 'Get a sac fly right here and keep it right here,'" Santiago said.

But he did better than that. Ryan LaMarre hit a sharp grounder to third base that didn't allow the runners to advance. Then Brian Dozier hit a one-hopper up the middle that Santiago stabbed. Garver was retired in a rundown, and then Santiago got red-hot Eddie Rosario to fly out to end the inning.

"Situational hitting," said a frustrated Twins manager Paul Molitor. "You get a couple of ground balls but don't score. Those are huge runs early. A chance maybe to knock a pitcher out of the game. . We had him 70 pitches after three innings. We made him work. We just didn't take advantage in that inning in particular to put a crooked number up."

Twins starter Jake Odorizzi (3-3) labored through five innings before a bad break led to a big White Sox rally in the sixth. Yolmer Sanchez led off with a single, but Jose Abreu fell behind 0-2 before tapping a grounder just to the left of second base.

Unfortunately for the Twins, shortstop Adrianza was shifted far over toward third base, playing Abreu to pull. He scrambled to his left and tried to make a play, but the ball kicked out of his glove and both runners were safe. Abreu was credited with a single, and Odorizzi was left scratching his head about the defensive alignment behind him.

"I automatically thought it was a double play," Odorizzi said. "When you're playing that far over, it's a tough play for him to run over and just try to get an out, not even turn a double play. I think it's just something that really can't happen in that situation. We have to be able to turn a double play when you have a double play situation."

Four relievers combined to shut down the Twins after Santiago's departure. Joakim Soria pitched a scoreless ninth to earn his sixth save of the season.

OLD FRIENDS

Santiago fared much better than he did in his first appearance against his ex-teammates. The Twins knocked him around for eight runs in 3 1/3 innings on May 5 in his second start of the season.

"They beat the crap out of me last time in Chicago, so it was nice to come back here and get a win against them," Santiago said. "It's fun facing those guys, being out there and having a good time. I dropped down and threw some sidearm pitches today. Dozier's like, 'Is that the first time you've done that?' I was like, 'Yeah, you're the first person I threw a sidearm too.' You have some good fun."

OUTPLAYED

The Twins had a four-run eighth inning in the first game of the series, but they've scored just four runs total in the other 26 innings. Bad base running, physical and mental errors in the field, and fruitless at-bats have left the Twins sputtering against the last-place White Sox.

"I try to be positive most times, but that's just not good baseball," said Molitor, whose team had just taken three straight from first-place Cleveland. "They've outplayed us. We talked about it, they've run aggressively, they've made more plays defensively. We had one good inning, in the first game (Tuesday)."

TRAINER'S ROOM

Twins: 1B Logan Morrison (back) came off the bench to pinch hit in the ninth inning after missing Tuesday's doubleheader with a stiff back.

UP NEXT

White Sox: RHP James Shields (1-6, 4.48 ERA) will take the mound in the series finale Thursday afternoon. Shields no-hit the Twins for 6 1/3 innings but received a no-decision on May 6 in Chicago. He's pitched at least seven innings in each of his last four starts.

Twins: RHP Jose Berrios (6-5, 3.86) is already 2-0 against the White Sox this year. He struck out 11 Chicago batters over seven shutout innings in a 4-0 win at Target Field on April 12.

A sloppy game the Twins deserved to lose: 'That's just not good baseball'

Derek Wetmore | ESPN 1500 | June 6, 2018

MINNEAPOLIS — The Twins played a sloppy game Wednesday and lost. In the mind of the team's manager shortly after the 5-2 loss had ended, the diagnosis was pretty simple.

"They outplayed us," Paul Molitor said.

The White Sox were not flawless Tuesday. The Twins were a very far cry from flawless. The Twins fell to 6 games below .500 with the loss. And

they certainly didn't look like a team that knew it needed to gain ground in the standings against a bad White Sox team starting Hector Santiago on the mound. Chicago, by the way, took advantage of the Twins' lapses and improved to 20-39 with the win.

"I try to be positive most times but that's just not good baseball," Molitor said.

"They've outplayed us. They've run aggressively, they've made more plays defensively. We had one good inning — in the first game [Tuesday]," Molitor said.

One good inning out of 27 won't get the job done. Not for a Twins team that has plenty to overcome in the standings if they want another crack at meaningful October baseball.

Here's a quick and non-exhaustive list of what went wrong for the Twins:

—A play that should be made

In the 6th inning Jake Odorizzi got Jose Abreu to ground a ball to shortstop in a double play situation. Abreu was in an 0-2 count and he made relatively weak contact on the grounder. Odorizzi was not the only person in the stadium thinking "double play" when he hit it.

"The ball gets hit on the ground and I automatically thought it was a double play," Odorizzi said. "I mean, it's a soft-hit ball right towards the shortstop and we were shifted in the hole. So in that situation right there that has to be a double play.

"You make the pitch — it changes everything from that point on, obviously. ... That really can't happen in that situation; we have to be able to turn a double play when we have a double play situation," he said.

The official scorer ruled it a base hit. From my perspective, it's a play that you expect a big league shortstop to make. At least get one out. Instead, all runners were safe, the Twins went to the bullpen and 4 runs score in the inning.

"I'm not sure about a double play," Molitor said, "because of the lack of speed on the ball. But you would think he'd get an out on that ball. I don't know if he peeked or if he wasn't sure if he wanted to go to second or first. ... Live, it looked like a ball that we should have got an out on. [Odorizzi] made a good pitch 0-2 and [Abreu] hit it off the end of the bat."

There's no need to go to deep on the ball the Eddie Rosario dropped on the warning track — only because Chicago didn't score any runs in the 8th inning. So it turns out it was harmless compared with some of the team's other shortcomings Tuesday.

—A passed ball/wild pitch.

The first run of that back-breaker 6th inning scored when Ryan Pressly uncorked a wild pitch. It looked to me like a ball you'd like your catcher to block, rather than let it get all the way to the backstop and usher a run across the plate.

—Watch him run.

Later, Tim Anderson stole third base on Pressly and Garver on a ball in the dirt.

As Molitor pointed out, "we let a guy steal third who has led their team in stolen base attempts the last two years."

Anderson scored on a suicide squeeze attempt, on which fill-in first baseman Miguel Sano only barely made the out at first base.

—The Twins should have scored more runs.

We'll leave aside picking apart individual offensive performances — although Miguel Sano's day at the plate really stood out Tuesday.

In the second inning, Mitch Garver didn't score from second base on a double — on a ball hit over everybody's head with nobody out.

"Not a good read," Molitor said. "Second day in a row that we didn't score on a double from second base. ... Those are huge runs early. Chance maybe to knock a pitcher out of the game, all those type of things."

Then Garver got caught too far off the third base bag on a ground ball to the pitcher. Hector Santiago gloved it, looked Garver back to the base, and launched a rundown that would cut down Garver on the base paths before he could get to home plate.

—

This collection of errors led to a game against the White Sox that, frankly, the Twins deserved to lose.

It comes less than a week after the Twins met as a team to discuss being better at the little things in a game. Little things turn into big things. And over the course of a season the difference between executing and not executing amounts to a lot of runs and real wins and losses.

“You don’t wave a magic wand,” Molitor said, when asked about the meeting. “I think you bring attention to those things in hopes that the focus picks up and guys understand their responsibilities in different areas of the game.

“You’d like to think you can do better in a lot of those things that caused us to lose that game tonight,” he said.

Zulgad: The Big Liability: Miguel Sano’s woes make him detriment in Twins’ lineup

Judd Zulgad | ESPN 1500 | June 6, 2018

MINNEAPOLIS — The Twins’ decision to put Byron Buxton on the 10-day disabled list last month was followed by an attempt to let everyone know how much pain the center fielder had been dealing with as he tried to play through a broken big toe.

This appeared to be the Twins’ way of excusing Buxton’s feeble attempts at the plate by acknowledging the team had no business putting him on the field. While there is little doubt the throbbing in Buxton’s toe caused him problems, there were many familiar issues that have been seen before during the other prolonged slumps in his three-plus big-league seasons.

Nonetheless, the Twins were able to come up with a convenient way to get Buxton out of the lineup. They eventually will attempt to get his bat back during a minor-league rehab assignment.

But if that fire has been put out, another has emerged.

Miguel Sano has rivaled Buxton for looking lost at the plate since returning from a 24-game absence caused by a hamstring injury. It’s not as if Sano was going great before he was sidelined in late April.

Sano was hitting .213/.289/.450 with five home runs, 14 runs batted in, nine walks and 36 strikeouts in 20 games and 80 at-bats when he went out. Sano returned to the lineup on May 25 in Seattle with the hope being he could provide some pop for a lineup that needed it.

Sano has given the Twins nothing.

He entered Minnesota’s 5-2 loss to the White Sox on Wednesday night at Target Field, hitting .200/.265/.400 with two home runs, 11 RBIs, four walks and a mind-boggling 19 strikeouts in 45 at-bats and 11 games since coming off the DL.

He then struck out looking with runners on first and second in his first at-bat in the opening inning Wednesday. That was followed by a double-play grounder to shortstop in the third inning in which Sano could have been timed with a sundial, a fly to right to open the sixth inning and a strikeout on a terrible swing taken at an 89-mile-per hour slider from Chicago righthander Nate Jones.

On the season, Sano is hitting .202/.273/.419 with seven home runs, 25 RBIs and 57 strikeouts in 129 at-bats.

It’s gotten so bad that last Friday the Cleveland Indians elected to intentionally walk Eddie Rosario twice in order to pitch to a guy who hit 25 and 28 home runs, respectively, the past two seasons. Sano doubled the first time to drive in two runs but flied to right the second time Rosario was told to take first. That’s how little the Indians thought of Sano.

“I can only say that he seems to be really having a hard time recognizing pitches,” manager Paul Molitor said after the Twins’ second consecutive loss to the woeful White Sox. “The chase on the sliders, we’ve seen repetitively. I know he was out early trying to work and clean things up and try to start staying on the ball and use the other side of the field.

“All those type of things. Tonight, he took three pitches the first at-bat and then kind of got started too early, didn’t recognize the changeup, and hit into a double play. He’s just trying to fight through it. But if you’re not picking up pitches and not swinging at strikes that’s what makes it really difficult.”

Sano’s weight issues have been well documented, although the Twins continue to list him at 260 pounds when he appears far closer to 300. Sano also has spent the majority of the time since his return at first base instead of third.

This is in part because Joe Mauer has been sidelined by concussion-like symptoms — Logan Morrison did not start for a second consecutive day Wednesday because of a back issue, but he was able to pinch-hit — and because Eduardo Escobar is playing like a guy who deserves to be at third base on a daily basis.

The reality is that if Sano is going to continue to play at his current weight he is going to have to be a first baseman or designated hitter. Having him DH is a scary thought, considering his weight almost certainly would balloon well over 300 pounds, if he spent no time in the field.

Of course, having Sano in the DH role, or in the lineup at all, would be and is currently useless. The perplexing thing is that when Sano made his major-league debut with the Twins in July 2015, he was a guy who often took a solid approach with his at-bats. Sano showed patience and made pitchers work.

He looks like a different player now, often approaching his at-bats as if he's in a home run hitting contest. The Twins' brass has to be concerned about Sano as they are about Buxton, although in Buxton's case at least you know he cares.

So what's the answer?

Sano has two option years left and could be sent to Triple-A Rochester. The issue is that this would be done with the hope of motivating Sano and getting him to work at his craft. Right now it appears he has little interest. Sano has essentially hit rock bottom as a player and yet nothing changes.

He needs to rethink his approach at the plate and he needs to take his weight seriously, if he wants to come close to fulfilling the potential he once showed. It would be in his best interest to do so considering the massive payday he'll be passing up if he continues down this current path.

For now, it's up to the Twins to figure out what to do. Morrison should be back on Thursday and Mauer also is expected to return at some point soon. This will present Molitor with options that don't include Sano's name being in the lineup.

Sadly, right now that appears to be the best option.

The opt-out date that could turn out to matter for the Twins

Derek Wetmore | ESPN 1500 | June 6, 2018

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Twins recently signed free agent catcher Cameron Rupp to a minor league deal. That deal included a July 15 opt-out date, according to Darren Wolfson, a regular contributor at 1500ESPN.

That's important because the Twins will be without starting catcher Jason Castro for the rest of the 2018 season. And right now their catching looks like it could use a boost.

To date, Twins catchers have combined to hit .183/.258/.294. That's a .246 Weighted On-Based Average. That's well below the league norm for the position, and in fact, only one American League team has gotten worse offensive production from their catchers than the Twins. (Yes, some of that is Castro's batting line dragging down the average, but so far Mitch Garver and Bobby Wilson aren't hitting much, either.)

Veteran backup Bobby Wilson has been lauded for his development in the areas of leadership and game calling. The Twins liked Garver so much as a hitter in the minor leagues that they moved him around positions to add flexibility in the corner outfield and at first base.

This is not a personal attack. It's just that what the Twins have gotten out of their catchers so far this year hasn't been good enough. And now the burden must be on the front office to improve the situation.

That's where Rupp comes in. In 2016 and 2017 combined, Rupp hit .237/.301/.434 with 30 home runs in 750 plate appearances with the Phillies. They gave him a raise in arbitration this winter, only to cut him in the final days of spring training. He latched on with the Rangers, where he reported to Triple-A and hit a strong .274/.346/.540 before opting out of his minor league deal and signing with the Twins as a free agent.

I don't know enough about Rupp's defensive side — the name of the game for catchers, in my opinion — to make any definitive claims there. The guess from this corner is that he must not be very good in that aspect, or else he wouldn't have had to fight to make a club and later earn a promotion. Not with a reasonable batting line in a league that always seems to need more catching.

Now, that July 15 opt-out could come into play because the Twins basically have 5 weeks to decide if Rupp would improve their club at the position.

If not, I think the Twins will either have to get more out of the Garver-Wilson tandem, or they'll have to explore trade options elsewhere. With a lineup that's currently missing its starting centerfielder, first baseman, DH and shortstop, the Twins ought to fight for everything they can get behind the plate.

Will the Twins re-bet on their 2018 season like the Mariners did?

Derek Wetmore | ESPN 1500 | June 6, 2018

MINNEAPOLIS — The Twins and Mariners both saved several million dollars off their team payroll — in different ways — during the season. The Mariners already have taken the savings and placed a bet on their 2018 season. The Twins, as of this writing, haven't exactly done that yet.

Should they?

I should say before we get too far here: These situations are different. The Mariners, as we'll discuss, "saved" payroll cost for this year, and then spent that cushion on upgrading this year's roster. Simple swap. Just add prospects. No mess. The Twins technically saved money on next year's roster, so it's not an apples-to-apples comparison. But it's not my money so let's continue.

When Robinson Cano was suspended without pay, the Mariners were off the hook for roughly \$11.7 million in salary commitments. Ten days later the M's traded for Alex Colome and Denard Span, fortifying their bullpen and starting outfield more than two months before the non-waiver trade deadline. Those two guys reportedly had about \$11.2 million left on their contracts for this season, and the Rays also reportedly sent \$4.75 million to Seattle to complete the trade. (The Mariners sent two pitching prospects to the Rays, so the money was likely a way of ensuring a better prospect return for the Colome/Span package rather than a standard salary dump.)

As of this writing, Colome is the setup guy for the Mariners and Span is the starting left fielder. Seattle (38-22) currently leads the American League West. Even if the defending champion Astros pass them at some point, the Mariners are in good position in what figures to be a crowded Wild Card race in the A.L.

The point is this: The Mariners were dealt a blow with the Cano suspension, and they acted aggressively to make the best of their circumstance.

Here's where the Twins come in. They recently traded veteran Phil Hughes and as part of the deal the Padres sent a low-level minor league catcher and agreed to pay a reported \$7.25 million of what was left of Hughes' salary.

We can read this one of two ways:

The Twins should feel comfortable spending a few million bucks to bet on this year's team. That payroll flexibility would be coming at a good time for a team that is currently missing its starting catcher, shortstop, first baseman, DH and centerfielder. OR
The Twins were willing to send out a top-100 draft pick in order to maximize payroll flexibility next season. The Twins are in as good of shape as just about any team when it comes to spending capability next year. After setting a franchise record with their opening day payroll this year (about \$128.7 million, per Baseball Prospectus), the Twins have less than \$32 million that's already spoken for in 2019. That would include several buyouts and no arbitration raises, so it's not a very accurate picture. The point is just that after selling the draft pick and Hughes' contract, the Twins could stand to clear almost \$100 million off the books from this year to next year — if they wanted to. That would put the Twins in a terrific position to be aggressive this winter. That's a story for another day. The Mariners have already been relatively aggressive during this season.

So the question today is this: Will the Twins do anything to address a ballclub with holes that nonetheless remains in the hunt in the A.L. Central?

'Just not good baseball': Once again, Twins can't get out of their own way

Dan Hayes | The Athletic | June 7, 2018

The can't-get-out-of-their-own-way Twins reappeared on Wednesday night.

Suddenly, all the good vibes and positive momentum gained from a series victory over the Cleveland Indians have started to disappear yet again.

The Twins made way too many mistakes yet again whether on the bases, in the field, at the plate or on the mound. All of their maladies added up to a disappointing 5-2 loss to the Chicago White Sox, a rebuilding team the Twins are expected to beat. Instead of trending upward back toward .500, the Twins dropped back to six games under (26-32).

“I try to be positive most times, but that’s just not good baseball,” manager Paul Molitor said.

Twins fans have ironically used the club’s “This Is How We Baseball” slogan whenever they play a poor game this season. Clearly, the fan base has had too many occasions upon which to mockingly use the phrase against the Twins, and Molitor’s patience for such displays has begun to be tested.

From the outset, the Twins couldn’t execute.

Dropped down in the lineup, a slumping Miguel Sanó continues to have issues seeing pitches. The slugger hasn’t been able to hold up on off-speed pitches away and in the first inning he took three consecutive pitches for called strikes to strand a pair of runners. Sanó also was fooled by a first-pitch Hector Santiago changeup in the third inning and grounded into an inning-ending double play. He later swung and missed at a 3-2 Nate Jones slider in the dirt to start the eighth inning.

The Twins also made a mess on the bases in the second inning.

Mitch Garver didn’t score from second base on Ehire Adrianza’s RBI line-drive double to deep center field. That play was compounded two batters later when Santiago snagged Brian Dozier’s comebacker and caught Garver leaning too far off third base. Rather than take an early two-run lead, the Twins had to settle for one.

“Second day in a row that we didn’t score on a double from second base,” Molitor said. “And then situational hitting, you get a couple of ground balls, but don’t score. Those are huge runs early. A chance maybe to knock a pitcher out of the game, all those type things.”

Other aspects frustrated Molitor, who last Thursday and Friday addressed his team about the minute details and how costly they can be. Molitor was particularly bothered by Tim Anderson’s steal of third base during a poorly played sixth inning in which the Twins surrendered the lead for good.

Starting pitcher Jake Odorizzi thought he had a double play after he yielded a leadoff single to Yolmer Sánchez. But Adrianza was shifted deep in the hole and couldn’t field Jose Abreu’s grounder cleanly. Ryan Pressly took over and after striking out Matt Davidson allowed a single to Kevan Smith to load the bases, then got ahead of Anderson in the count 0-2 with a pair of fastballs. But Pressly bounced a slider and Garver couldn’t block the game-tying wild pitch. Anderson then evened the count before looping a 2-2 curveball into left-center field for a two-run go-ahead single.

Two innings later, left fielder Eddie Rosario turned a routine fly ball into a two-base error, though Trevor Hildenberger managed to work around it.

“It’s just seems like there’s that one game that kind of throws a wrench into things and we’ll have to scrap back and win the next game, lose, go back and forth, play .500 after that,” Odorizzi said. “We just have to be able to win series — that’s really what it boils down to. If you can’t string together a long winning streak you just have to take — two out of three, three out of four, whatever it may be. It may not be pretty, but it gets the job done when it comes to September.”

If the Twins routinely continue to produce these types of contests, this current 25-man roster won’t be here in September. With several key free agents and other viable assets on short-term deals, the Twins are made to be disassembled. Dozier said afterward that the Twins continue to fight and stay afloat. Just how much longer they’ll be afforded that opportunity, however, remains to be seen.

“There has definitely been more cold streaks than hot streaks,” Dozier said. “When this team gets going and gets everyone clicking I think you’ll see us put together a really good stretch. That stretch has yet to come.”