



WHITE SOX HEADLINES OF JUNE 6, 2018

"White Sox strike early, take nightcap vs. Twins"... Brian Hall, MLB.com

"Bullpen spoils Lopez's gem as Sox drop G1" ... Brian Hall, MLB.com

"Sox take 5 college hurlers on Day 2 of Draft"... Scott Merkin and Max Gelman, MLB.com

"Tuesday's top prospect performers" ... Manny Randhawa, MLB.com

"For one day, White Sox get a glimpse of what they hope Reynaldo Lopez and Lucas Giolito will bring in the future"... Dan Santaromita, NBC Sports Chicago

"Luis Robert finally coming to a White Sox affiliate near you — provided you live near Kannapolis"... Vinnie Duber, NBC Sports Chicago

"Reynaldo Lopez and Lucas Giolito put in solid performances as White Sox split doubleheader with Twins"... Phil Thompson, Chicago Tribune

"Steele Walker second among White Sox draft picks, first among notable names"... Phil Thompson, Chicago Tribune

"White Sox call up Triple-A catcher Kevan Smith"... Paul Sullivan, Chicago Tribune

"Reynaldo Lopez, Lucas Giolito strong as White Sox gain doubleheader split" ... Daryl Van Schouwen, Sun-Times

"Lopez's seven scoreless innings go to waste as Twins rally past White Sox" ... Daryl Van Schouwen, Sun-Times

"Healthy Carlos Rodon set to take command to next level for White Sox" ... Daryl Van Schouwen, Sun-Times

"White Sox select Konnor Pilkington with third-round pick in 2018 MLB Draft" ... Satchel Price, Sun-Times

"Chicago White Sox making the grade through first 10 rounds of draft" ... Scot Gregor, Daily Herald

"Geography trivia, caffeine and Atomic Balm: A long day in the Twins bullpen" ... Dan Hayes, The Athletic

"Five observations: White Sox bullpen salvages a split in doubleheader that should have been more" ... James Fegan, The Athletic

"White Sox wooed out of college comfort zone on Day 2 of draft" ... James Fegan, The Athletic

White Sox strike early, take nightcap vs. Twins

Abreu homers in 4-run first to back Giolito's bounce-back outing

By Brian Hall / MLB.com / June 5, 2018

MINNEAPOLIS -- Two young starting pitchers showed the future could be bright in Chicago as the White Sox split a traditional doubleheader in Minnesota on Tuesday.

Lucas Giolito had, perhaps, his best start of the season in the nightcap. Jose Abreu homered and Yolmer Sanchez had two hits and two RBIs in the second game with a 6-3 win against the Twins.

Giolito (4-6) tied a season low with two runs allowed in six innings. He gave up six hits and walked two while striking out one.

"I wasn't commanding my offspeed stuff early, kind of found that later in the game," Giolito said. "Just throwing the ball over the plate, letting them hit it and the defense was spectacular today ... just a day for me where everything kind of came together as far as the defense behind me and the offense supporting me."

Five Chicago relievers combined to allow one run in the final three innings, with Joakim Soria recording the final four outs for his fifth save in seven chances.

The White Sox scored four runs in the first while winning for the third time in five games after previously losing six of seven.

Giolito gave Chicago back-to-back strong starts in the doubleheader after Reynaldo Lopez pitched seven scoreless innings in the first game, which was part of the makeup for three postponed games due to snow during the teams' April series in Minnesota.

"These are two of our youngest guys and they continue to evolve in different ways," White Sox manager Rick Renteria said. "Lucas is really grinding right now and trying to find his way back to what he was as he finished the latter part of the season with us last year, and Lopez continues to grow and kind of refine, and is getting after it. Both of them being big pieces for us that continue to navigate a Major League game, which is not easy."

Giolito had allowed 12 runs in 7 1/3 innings over his previous two starts. He entered the game second-to-last in the Majors in ERA (7.53) and third-to-last in walks per nine innings (6.05), but the 23-year-old righthander was more under control on Tuesday.

Giolito's only two walks came to the first two batters in the third inning, and both came around to score. But Giolito stranded five baserunners combined in the second, third and fourth innings and retired seven of the final eight batters he faced.

He lowered his ERA to 7.08 in the process.

"The offense gave me a nice lead real early, so we just kind of took it and ran with it," Giolito said. "Kind of got out of sorts in the third inning, but was able to kind of bring it back and pound the strike zone, mix it up really well."

The Twins had runners on the corners with two outs in the ninth after Soria hit pinch-hitter Brian Dozier and surrendered a single to Robbie Grossman. But Soria got Eddie Rosario to ground out to end the threat.

MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

The White Sox jumped on Minnesota starter Zack Littell, who was making his Major League debut. Sanchez doubled with one out in the first inning and Abreu followed with his 10th homer of the season.

Newly recalled catcher Kevan Smith laced an RBI single to right field, scoring Tim Anderson, and Adam Engel finished the four-run inning with an RBI double.

"It's was good for them to bounce back because that's tough, and then you're doing it within 45, 50 minutes of the first one," Renteria said of starting strong in the second game after losing the first on a three-run homer in the eighth inning. "You got to put it to bed as quickly as possible and they did. They came out, they knew we had another game to play and they went out and did what they needed to do."

HE SAID IT

"He still continues to evolve. He's still a work in progress." -- Renteria, on Giolito

MITEL REPLAY OF THE DAY

Reliever Chris Volstad executed the second pickoff of a baserunner on the day for Chicago by nabbing Ehire Adrianza at second base during the seventh inning.

Adrianza was originally called safe after he was forced to dive back when Volstad spun and threw to second baseman Yoan Moncada. The replay showed Moncada got the tag down before Adrianza's hand reached the base.

UP NEXT

Hector Santiago (1-2, 5.10 ERA) will make his return to Target Field for the first time since signing with the White Sox in the offseason in a 7:10 p.m. CT start on Wednesday. The left-hander pitched for Minnesota from 2016-17. Santiago is 1-2 with a 6.59 ERA in six starts this season, including a loss to the Twins in Chicago on May 5 when he gave up eight earned runs in 3 1/3 innings. The Twins will send Jake Odorizzi (3-2, 4.14) to the mound.

Bullpen spoils Lopez's gem as Sox drop G1

By Brian Hall / MLB.com / June 5, 2018

MINNESOTA -- Reliever Nate Jones allowed four runs in the bottom of the eighth inning, spoiling a dazzling performance by starter Reynaldo Lopez as the White Sox fell to the Twins, 4-2, in the first game of Tuesday's traditional doubleheader at Target Field.

Lopez pitched seven scoreless innings with just one hit allowed.

Jones (2-2), who's recently worked as Chicago's closer, had his second blown save of the season with a walk and three hits, including Eduardo Escobar's go-ahead three-run homer to center field with two outs.

"I knew we were trying to set up in off the plate and [catcher Omar Narvaez] said he got back over the heart of the plate," White Sox manager Rick Renteria said. "He's just got a lot of area to hit."

Chicago lost for the sixth time in its past eight games. Tuesday's first game was a makeup from the April 13-15 series in Minnesota that saw three games postponed because of snow.

Jones, who entered the game with three straight saves and eight consecutive scoreless appearances, retired Ehire Adrianza and pinch-hitter Mitch Garver to start the eighth, but Brian Dozier reached on a hard-hit ball to third base that Yolmer Sanchez couldn't corral.

Eddie Rosario walked and Miguel Sano had an RBI single to put the Twins on the board. Escobar followed with his 11th homer of the season.

"Jonesy being one of our best, put him in that situation because we knew, potentially, it could open up and he's going to face the meat of their order," Renteria said. "He did and wasn't able to get out of it."

Yoan Moncada led off the game with his seventh homer of the year. Jose Abreu added an RBI double in the fifth to plate Moncada for the White Sox second run.

Lopez, who was coming off a loss at Cleveland in which he allowed seven earned runs in 2 2/3 innings, bounced back with one of his best outings in a breakout third season with Chicago. He allowed just one hit -- a ground-rule double to Escobar with two outs in the fourth inning -- and walked four batters to go with four strikeouts.

"All my pitches were working very good today," Lopez said through an interpreter. "I was commanding all of them. They were working good. It was a good game."

Lopez was the first White Sox starter to allow one hit in seven innings or more since Jose Quintana did so in eight innings on May 19, 2017, at Seattle.

MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

Moncada hit the second pitch of the game off Minnesota rookie right-hander Fernando Romero 433 feet to center field to tie the longest home run of his career.

Moncada hit another 433-foot homer on March 31 this season.

SOUND SMART

Chicago outfielder Daniel Palka ripped a first-inning double with a 118.4 mph exit velocity. It's the second-hardest batted ball in the Majors this season, according to Statcast™ and is the hardest-hit ball ever tracked by Statcast™ (since 2015) for a White Sox player.

HE SAID IT

"Win or lose, that's something I can't control. I can just control executing my pitches, and having command and control of my pitches. As a team, you always want to win. Losses are never easy to digest, but this is a game and you have to be ready for whatever the outcome is and you have to be ready every day to try and do your best. You can't lose your focus because maybe, one day, you didn't get the outcome you wanted. You have to keep your focus and your work and your preparation, and for me, it doesn't matter. The wins are important as a team. For me as a pitcher, what matters is just execute and do my job and give my team a chance to be in the game." -- Lopez, on the importance of pitching wins

UP NEXT

The quick turnaround for the traditional doubleheader will see right-hander Lucas Giolito (3-6, 7.53 ERA) start for Chicago against Minnesota right-hander Zack Littell (Major League debut). Giolito has lost his last two starts, allowing 12 earned runs in 7 1/3 innings.

Sox take 5 college hurlers on Day 2 of Draft

By Scott Merkin and Max Gelman / MLB.com / June 5, 2018

CHICAGO -- The White Sox Draft room exhibited some general excitement, bordering on giddiness, during the brief look into the group when picks were announced during Day 2 of the 2018 MLB Draft on Tuesday.

That upbeat demeanor tied into satisfaction coming from the 10 picks in total, but certainly was ignited by their first two picks made Monday night. In Oregon State infielder Nick Madrigal, taken No. 4 overall, the White Sox added what they believe is the best hitter and possibly the best player of the Draft.

In Oklahoma outfielder Steele Walker, selected in the second round with pick No. 46, the White Sox believe they picked up a second first-round talent without having a second first-round selection.

"It takes a little bit of pressure off early, just with the first pick you get the guy that you want. It sets the tone for the rest of the Draft," White Sox director of amateur scouting Nick Hostetler said during a Tuesday evening conference call. "You feel like you're one-for-one and you've got the player that you've been targeting.

"Then to have an opportunity to add Steele to that, it's just a situation where we felt the tools were so great, the talent was so great, and looking at reports here, we've got six first-round grades on him. To have that consensus over a scouting department and on a player and have an opportunity to add him in the second round, it's exciting.

"And I think the other thing too, the big thing, is they're both up-the-middle players," Hostetler said. "Starting off the Draft with two premium up-the-middle guys, for us that was a heck of a start and we were excited to add two there."

Here's a look at the rest of the White Sox picks following Madrigal and Walker on Day 2.

Round 3: LHP Konnor Pilkington, Mississippi State

Pilkington joins the White Sox as a three-year member of the Bulldogs' rotation. He became the team's ace as a sophomore despite being on the younger side (he doesn't turn 21 until September) and despite a dip in velocity this spring, he's still striking out hitters with regularity and walking fewer than he has all through college.

The left-hander is 6-foot-3 and profiles as a potential No. 3 or No. 4 innings-eating starter. Right now his changeup is more advanced than his slider, and he relies on the former more to get batters out. Pilkington's slider can look more like a curveball at times, but he could wind up with three above-average pitches.

"We are very, very excited to add a premium starter like this in the third round," Hostetler said. "Konnor is a guy that when we left last night we obviously realized he was still on the board and a guy a couple of our scouts had high. A couple of first-round numbers and a couple of high second-round numbers on."

Pilkington ranked 60th overall on MLB Pipeline's Top 200 when Chicago selected him at No. 81 overall. The slot value is \$726,700.

Round 4: SS Lency Delgado, Doral Academy (FL) HS

Delgado has size, 6-foot-3 and 210 pounds, and speed, running a 6.87 60-yard dash. As he's grown, he's maintained his athleticism and scouts love his natural feel for the game, especially on defense.

Though he might eventually move to third base, Delgado should be fine there given his plus arm strength and bat. Hostetler raved about Delgado's power potential.

"Our scout in Florida, Pepe Ortega, was just absolutely begging for this guy. Pepe has about 30 years of scouting and has found a lot of big leaguers, so when he screams and yells for a guy I listen," Hostetler said. "We've had a chance to see Lency over the last two years play, and the power is special. He's got some type of premium power from the right side."

The slot value is \$517,800 for No. 108 overall. Delgado is currently committed to Florida International.

Round 5: RHP Jonathan Stiever, Indiana

Stiever grew up near Milwaukee and was a first-team all-state pitcher in high school, though he wasn't drafted. He made a name for himself at Indiana, however, earning Friday night starter status during his sophomore and junior years.

The 88th prospect in MLB Pipeline's Top 200, Stiever throws a hard spike-curveball that he can manipulate, throwing it harder or slower when necessary. His fastball sits in the low 90s, but he has been recorded at 96 mph. Stiever also throws a changeup to keep lefties in check, but his breaking ball is his go-to offspeed pitch.

"This guy's got unbelievable pitchability," Hostetler said, adding that the White Sox were happy to see Stiever fall due to his smaller size. "He pounds the strike zone, premium stuff. We've got guys that believe his fastball's gonna play up to about 93-94, and we definitely look at him as a starter."

Stiever threw 100 1/3 innings for the Hoosiers this year, compiling a 3.41 ERA and striking out 97 while walking 32. The slot value for No. 138 overall is \$386,800.

Round 6: RHP Codi Heuer, Wichita State

Continuing the trend of college pitching, Heuer was taken in the sixth round. After spending his first two years with the Shockers as a reliever, he transitioned to Friday night starter in 2018.

Per MLB Pipeline, Heuer's arm action might be better suited for relief work. He generally throws his fastball anywhere from 92-96 mph, and while his slider is only average it's much improved. Heuer also throws a changeup, but so far his slider is his best offspeed pitch.

Heuer threw 79 1/3 innings in 16 games (15 starts) for Wichita State this year, pitching to a 4.31 ERA. He struck out 82 and walked 37. The slot value for No. 168 overall is \$290,200.

Round 7: OF Cabera Weaver, South Gwinnett (Ga.) HS

Weaver is long, lanky and fast. He's 6-foot-3 and only 150 pounds, but ran the fastest 60-yard dash times at a Perfect Game showcase at 6.27 seconds. That speed has translated into a solid defensive skill set, and he can also make accurate throws from the outfield.

Weaver is still growing and scouts believe his bat will catch up once he puts on more muscle. He still makes consistent line-drive contact but hasn't hit for much power yet.

"Huge ceiling. We think he's a pure center fielder that can really, really run. The bat is the tool that will need the most time and most work," Hostetler said. "The run tool is there, the defense is there, the arm is there.

"It's just the matter of getting the swing a little more consistency," he added. "This is a very high-ceiling player that if it clicks, he's an impact center fielder for a long time."

Weaver verbally committed to Georgia in 2016. The slot value for No. 198 overall is \$226,200.

Round 8: LHP Andrew Perez, South Florida

Aside from two starts his freshman year of college, Perez worked strictly as a reliever for the Bulls. This season he was stellar in 24 appearances (42 1/3 innings), pitching to a 2.34 ERA and striking out 50 while walking 12.

Perez throws his fastball in the high-80s, low-90s range, and can top out around 94 mph. He also throws a curveball, which is better than his changeup. The slot value for No. 228 overall is \$179,200.

Round 9: C Gunnar Troutwine, Wichita State

Troutwine, who likely caught all of Heuer's appearances, earned the starting catching role as a freshman and caught 179 games (170 starts) during his four years as a Shocker. He dealt with patellar tendinitis in 2017, but rebounded in a big way this season, hitting .302 and slugging .505.

Troutwine cut down on his strikeouts in 2018, whiffing only 38 times compared with 60 in his full sophomore season. He walked 34 times this year to go along with his 55 hits.

The catcher also gained some notoriety in his senior season, growing out a full beard, a la Justin Turner. Troutwine is also a redhead, and per the Wichita Eagle, he uses special conditioner for the beard and sometimes waxes his mustache "if I'm feeling fancy."

The slot value for No. 258 overall is \$153,200.

Round 10: LHP Bennett Sousa, Virginia

Sousa was drafted in the 34th round by the Nationals last year, but improved his stock enough to rise into the top 10 rounds. Like Perez, Sousa spent most of his college days pitching out the bullpen, and Hostetler views him as a potential left-handed specialist out of the 'pen.

"I've actually gotten a couple texts from other teams that really liked him, he was up to 93 in the ACC Tournament just last week," Hostetler said. "While we did save some money there and we have an opportunity to be flexible [Wednesday], we still got premium talent with Troutwine and Sousa."

Sousa struck out 61 hitters in 43 innings this season for the Cavaliers, good for a nearly 13.0 K/9 rate. He did walk 22 batters this season and factored into nine decisions out of 23 appearances.

The slot value for No. 288 overall is \$142,300.

Tuesday's top prospect performers

By Manny Randhawa / MLB.com / June 5, 2018

Here's MLB Pipeline's roundup of the top prospect performances in the Minor Leagues on Tuesday.

Twins' No. 1 prospect Royce Lewis, the No. 19 prospect in baseball -- had quite a 19th birthday, going 2-for-4 with his first career grand slam in Class A Cedar Rapids' 14-3 victory over Beloit. It was Lewis' fourth homer of the season, and third over the last 10 games. Overall, he's hitting .294/.343/.422 in 45 games.

Other top prospect performances on Tuesday:

- Astros' No. 30 prospect Josh James went seven innings in Triple-A Fresno's 1-0 win over Colorado Springs. The 25-year-old right-hander surrendered only three hits while walking one and striking out 13, a career high. He's struck out 42 over his last five outings (28 1/3 innings), and sports a 2.52 ERA in 11 appearances (nine starts) this season.

- Braves' No. 18 prospect William Contreras had a big night at the plate in Class A Rome's 11-6 loss to Asheville, going 2-for-4 with a pair of solo homers. The 20-year-old catcher is hitting .290/.376/.449 with five home runs in 38 games.

- Zack Brown, the Brewers' No. 23 prospect, gave up one earned run (three runs overall) on four hits, while walking one and striking out 11 in Double-A Biloxi's 6-3 victory over Pensacola. Brown, a 23-year-old right-hander, improved his season ERA to 2.65 over 12 starts this season. In the same game, Milwaukee's No. 20 prospect, left fielder Troy Stokes Jr., went 1-for-4 with his eighth homer of the season.

- Mariners' No. 25 prospect Oliver Jaskie tossed six frames in Class A Clinton's 3-0 win over Burlington. The 22-year-old left-hander scattered seven hits, walked three and struck out five to bounce back from a rough previous start. In 11 starts this season, he's posted a 5.65 ERA.

- Cole Irvin, the Phillies' No. 23 prospect, turned in his seventh start of two earned runs or fewer, limiting Gwinnett to a run on five hits over six innings during Triple-A Lehigh Valley's 4-3 victory. He walked two and struck out six, lowering his 2018 ERA to 2.62.

- Oneil Cruz, the Pirates' No. 13 prospect, went 2-for-4 with a double and an RBI in Class A West Virginia's 10-1 victory over Lexington. The 19-year-old shortstop is slashing .292/.358/.521 with eight home runs in 51 games.

- A pair of Rangers prospects in Bubba Thompson (No. 6) and Pedro Gonzalez (No. 9) starred in Class A Hickory's 11-10 walk-off victory over Kannapolis. Each had three hits from the leadoff and second spot in the lineup, respectively. Thompson went 3-for-5 with a triple, and Gonzalez was 3-for-4 with two doubles, a home run and a career-high 5 RBIs.

Thompson, a 19 year-old center fielder, is hitting .278/.337/.481 with two home runs and five steals in 20 games. Meanwhile, Gonzalez -- also a center fielder, but serving as the designated hitter in this game -- raised his batting average by 18 points with his big night, up to .243.

- Tigers' No. 11 prospect Mike Gerber doubled, homered and drove in four runs out of the leadoff spot during Triple-A Toledo's 8-7 walk-off victory over Buffalo. The 25-year-old center fielder upped his season average from .192 to .212 with the performance, and the homer was his fourth of the season in 24 games

- The White Sox saw their No. 14 and No. 18 prospects turn in strong performances. Spencer Adams yielded just an unearned run on six hits over seven innings in Double-A Birmingham's 2-1 loss to Jacksonville. The 22-year-old right-hander has tossed 15 consecutive innings without giving up an unearned run over his last two starts, lowering his season ERA from 6.42 to 4.88 in the process.

Meanwhile, Luis Gonzalez extended his hitting strerak to 17 games as he went 2-for-6 with a double and five RBIs out of the leadoff spot in Class A Kannapolis' loss to Hickory. In 47 games this season, he's hitting .327/.382/.546 with eight home runs and seven steals.

• Yankees' No. 13 prospect Jonathan Loaisiga tossed five strong innings in Double-A Trenton's 8-1 win over Richmond, giving up one run on one hit, walking none and striking out eight to lower his season ERA to 3.13.

For one day, White Sox get a glimpse of what they hope Reynaldo Lopez and Lucas Giolito will bring in the future

By Dan Sanarmoita / NBC Sports Chicago / June 5, 2018

Entering this year, Reynaldo Lopez and Lucas Giolito were two of the most important names on the roster as far as the long-term future of the White Sox was concerned.

Both had been up with the White Sox for some of 2017 and saw varying levels of success. Both were unproven young pitchers with the potential to be fixtures in the White Sox rotation for years to come.

If both young pitchers could prove to be staples of the White Sox rotation for years to come, that would be something valuable to come out of 2018, regardless of the team's record.

Lopez has been able to prove himself in 2018. By pitching seven shutout innings in Game 1 of Tuesday's doubleheader in Minnesota, Lopez tallied his seventh quality start in 12 outings. He was able to bounce back from his worst start of the season last time out and lowered his ERA is at 3.42.

The White Sox still didn't get him a win though. Lopez left with a 2-0 lead, but the Twins scored four in the eighth to take a decisive lead. Lopez is 1-4 on the season.

Meanwhile, Giolito has not proven anything. This season has been a disaster by most any definition. He has walked more batters (39) than he has struck out (31). This comes after he posted a 2.38 ERA in seven starts in his stint with the White Sox last season.

In the second game of the doubleheader, Giolito held the Twins to two runs in six innings. He only had one strikeout, but kept the walks down with two.

The White Sox gave him plenty of early run support and the bullpen held the lead this time to give the Sox, and Giolito, a 6-3 win. Giolito is 4-6 on the season after lowering his ERA to 7.08 on Tuesday. Despite an ERA more than four runs higher, Giolito has four times as many wins as Lopez.

Wins are not the primary goal for the 2018 White Sox, developing players and learning what they have in those players is probably the focus. With that in mind, Tuesday's two quality starts from the young right-handers gave the White Sox what they wanted to see from Lopez and Gioiito when they acquired the pair in the Adam Eaton trade. Will there be more of this to come?

Luis Robert finally coming to a White Sox affiliate near you — provided you live near Kannapolis

By Vinnie Duber / NBC Sports Chicago / June 5, 2018

Luis Robert's first taste of professional baseball in the United States is finally here, and it's coming with Class A Kannapolis.

Though the No. 3 prospect in the White Sox loaded farm system was initially expected to join up with Class A Winston-Salem — he technically was there while on the disabled list — the Dash have a logjam in the outfield with Blake Rutherford, Luis Alexander Basabe, Alex Call and Joel Booker all having nice seasons. Micker Adolfo is also an outfielder playing at Winston-Salem, though he's been limited to designated hitting while recovering from an elbow injury.

It means Robert, who's the No. 25 prospect in baseball, per MLB Pipeline, will head to Kannapolis, where he'll team in the outfield with another hot-hitting outfielder in Luis Gonzalez.

Robert has missed the last three months while recovering from a sprained ligament in his thumb suffered sliding into second base during a Cactus League game in spring training. He hit a home run in that game after suffering the injury, but the White Sox opted to put him on the shelf with no reason to rush his development at less than 100-percent health.

Robert is a very important piece of the team's rebuilding effort, signed to one of the biggest contracts ever for an international amateur last summer. He's still yet to play a game of minor league baseball in the U.S., however. His lone action since joining the White Sox organization came in 28 games in the Dominican Summer League, where he posted an impressive .310/.491/.536 slash line.

Reynaldo Lopez and Lucas Giolito put in solid performances as White Sox split doubleheader with Twins

By Phil Thompson / Chicago Tribune / June 5, 2018

The White Sox got solid pitching performances from two of their young cornerstones during a twin bill Tuesday at Target Field.

They squandered Reynaldo Lopez's gem in a 4-2 loss to the Twins but won the nightcap 6-3 behind Lucas Giolito to split the doubleheader.

"I feel really good about the fact that these are two of our youngest guys and they continue to evolve in different ways," manager Rick Renteria said. "Lucas is really grinding right now and trying to find his way back to what he was as he finished the latter part of last year. ... Both of them (are) being big pieces for us that continue to navigate a major league game, which is not easy."

Lopez allowed two or fewer earned runs for the ninth time in 12 starts this season. In eight of those outings he ended up with a loss or no decision.

In this case it was the latter, even though Lopez allowed one hit in seven shutout innings.

It all fell apart in the eighth, when Nate Jones allowed an RBI single to Miguel Sano and a three-run home run to Eduardo Escobar.

"Win or lose, that's something that I can't control," Lopez said. "As a team you always want to win. Losses are never easy to digest. But it's a game and you have to be ready for whatever the outcome is."

It was all Sox until that point, starting with Yoan Moncada's third leadoff home run of the season.

Jose Abreu drove in Moncada in the fifth to provide the other Sox run and bump his major-league lead in doubles to 22.

In the night game, the Sox jumped on Twins starter Zach Littell early.

Abreu launched a two-run shot on the first pitch he saw. Kevan Smith hit an RBI single in his first at-bat since he was recalled from Triple-A Charlotte, and Adam Engel's RBI double made it 4-0 before the Twins batted.

Giolito's rough spot came in the third, when he walked the first two batters and loaded the bases with a single. Miguel Sano's double-play grounder scored one run, and Escobar's double brought home another.

Giolito said Smith helped calm him during a mound visit and that the catcher usually finds a way to get him back on track when his mechanics are off.

"It was fun throwing to Smitty again," Giolito said. "Offense gave me a nice lead real early, so just kind of took it and ran with it. It kind of got out of sorts in the third inning, but I was able to bring it back and just

pound the strike zone, mix it up really well."Yolmer Sanchez's two-run double in the fourth pushed the Sox's advantage back to four at 6-2.

The Twins added a run in the eighth inning when Sox reliever Bruce Rondon came in to try to bail out Jace Fry, who put two on base. Rondon struck out Sano and gave up an RBI double to Escobar. The former Sox infielder's third double of the day pushed him past Abreu for the MLB lead, 23-22.

Two more relievers, Luis Avilan and Joakim Soria, were required to get out of the inning nursing a 6-3 lead that would hold up.

Even then it was drama till the end for the Sox. Soria retired the first two batters but hit Brian Dozier, who reached third on Robbie Grossman's single. But Soria got Eddie Rosario to ground out to earn the save, his fifth.

Steele Walker second among White Sox draft picks, first among notable names

By Phil Thompson / Chicago Tribune / June 5, 2018

The White Sox drafted Oklahoma outfielder Steele Walker in the second round because of his potential as a left-handed power hitter.

That ready-for-Hollywood name is just a bonus.

"It was between Sterling or Steele," Walker said Tuesday. "My mom, her dad was really good friends with a guy named Steele Simons."

It doesn't hurt that the 5-foot-11, 190-pound Texan is "rock solid."

"The name fit pretty well," he said. "So Steele it is."

The Sox went after hitting early in the draft with Oregon State shortstop Nick Madrigal in the first round and Walker in the second, but they addressed pitching often in the subsequent rounds on Day 2.

— In the third round they took Mississippi State left-hander Konnor Pilkington, who compiled a 2.65 ERA and struck out 12 in 17 innings for USA Baseball's collegiate national team last season.

— The Sox added high school shortstop Lency Delgado, a senior at Doral (Fla.) Academy, in the fourth round. He hit a team-high 13 home runs for the Firebirds and helped lead them to their first state appearance.

— Indiana right-hander Jonathan Stiever was the Sox's fifth-round choice. He led the Big Ten with 97 strikeouts in 101 1/3 innings.

— Sixth-round pick Codi Heuer, a right-handed pitcher, led Wichita State with 82 strikeouts and finished his junior year with a 6-5 record. He allowed four runs and struck out five in five innings in the Shockers' loss to Connecticut in the American Athletic Conference tournament last month.

— Perfectgame.org describes South Gwinnett (Ga.) outfielder Cabera Weaver, selected in the seventh round, as lanky with a "very fluid swing. The Georgia commit also is speedy.

— Eighth-round pick Andrew Perez, a left-hander from South Florida, held Hartford scoreless through four innings in an NCAA regional, preserving the Bulls' chance to win in the 11th.

— The Sox rounded out the day with Wichita State catcher Gunnar Troutwine (ninth) and Virginia left-hander Bennett Sousa (10th).

Davidson, Smith return: Designated hitter Matt Davidson (back spasms) returned to the lineup for the first time since May 22 in the second game of Tuesday's doubleheader against the Twins at Target Field. ... The Sox recalled catcher Kevan Smith from Triple-A Charlotte and added right-hander Juan Minaya for the doubleheader. Smith started the nightcap and drove in a run with a single in the first inning.

White Sox call up Triple-A catcher Kevan Smith

By Paul Sullivan / Chicago Tribune / June 5, 2018

The White Sox recalled catcher Kevan Smith from Triple-A Charlotte before Tuesday's doubleheader after optioning Alfredo Gonzalez to Charlotte on Monday.

Smith was on the disabled list when starting catcher Wellington Castillo was suspended 80 games for a violation of the league's joint drug agreement, forcing the Sox to bring up Gonzalez as the backup to Omar Narvaez.

Gonzalez went 1-for-9 in three games. Smith, who shared the job last year with Narvaez, was hitting .268 at Charlotte with four home runs and 16 RBIs in 30 games. He hit .283 for the Sox last year, a franchise record for rookie catchers, albeit in 276 at-bats.

The Sox also called up reliever Juan Minaya as the 26th man for the doubleheader. Minaya, who served as Sox closer after David Robertson was dealt last July, is 1-3 with a 4.64 ERA at Charlotte.

Reynaldo Lopez, Lucas Giolito strong as White Sox gain doubleheader split

By Daryl Van Schouwen / Sun-Times / June 5, 2018

MINNEAPOLIS — The White Sox came away from their doubleheader split Tuesday against the Twins with a “win-win” feeling after two good starts from their young starting pitchers.

Reynaldo Lopez allowed one hit in seven scoreless innings in a 4-2 loss in the opener, and Lucas Giolito — who has been fighting command issues — yielded two runs in six innings in a 6-3 victory in the nightcap. Both were acquired from the Nationals in the trade for outfielder Adam Eaton.

First came Lopez, who struck out four and walked four. The only hit he allowed was a double to Eduardo Escobar, who launched a go-ahead three-run home run against Nate Jones in the eighth.

Lopez was the first Sox starter to allow only one hit in seven innings or more since Jose Quintana did it last season against the Mariners.

“You want to win; losses are never easy to digest,” Lopez said. “The wins are important as a team. As a pitcher, my job is to execute and give my team a chance to win games.”

Giolito (4-6) wasn't as dominant. He scattered six hits and struck out only one, but his two walks showed improved control.

“I wasn't commanding my offspeed stuff early, kind of throwing the ball over the plate letting them hit it,” Giolito said.

The Sox gave him a four-run lead before he took the mound. Two runs scored on Jose Abreu's home run against Zach Littell, who was making his major-league debut.

“These are two of our youngest guys who are evolving in different ways,” manager Rick Renteria said. “Lucas is really grinding his way back to where he was late last year, and [Lopez] is growing and refining and getting after it. Both are big pieces for us.”

Sox draft five pitchers on Day 2

After taking two college hitters on the first day of the MLB Draft, the Sox selected five college pitchers in the third through 10th rounds on the second day.

The Sox chose Mississippi State left-hander Konnor Pilkington in the third round. Pilkington's numbers as a junior — 4.61 ERA, 97 strikeouts and 30 walks in 91 2/3 innings — paled by comparison to those in his first two seasons. Scouting director Nick Hostetler drew a comparison to prospect Alec Hansen, who dropped to the second round in 2016 after a disappointing junior season but got back on track in the Sox' system.

MLB Pipeline ranked Pilkington, who was taken 81st, as the 60th-best prospect in the draft.

"We were very excited to have the opportunity to take him and add a premium starter like this in the third round," Hostetler said.

The Sox selected Miami high school shortstop Lency Delgado in the fourth round before going back into the pitching pool for Indiana right-hander Jonathan Stiever and Wichita State right-hander Codi Heuer in the fifth and sixth. They chose left-handers Andrew Perez of South Florida and Bennett Sousa of Virginia in the ninth and 10th rounds.

This and that

Yoan Moncada hit his eighth homer leading off Game 1 and Jose Abreu his 10th in Game 2.

- Shortstop Tim Anderson, on wearing No. 42 in Game 1, a makeup of the game snowed out on Jackie Robinson Day on April 15: "Jackie Robinson paved the way for African-Americans. It's an honor to throw on that jersey and play for him. It's a special day."

- Prized outfield prospect Luis Robert (thumb) reported to Class A Kannapolis for his first action after extended spring training. He was 0-for-4 with a walk.

Lopez's seven scoreless innings go to waste as Twins rally past White Sox

By Daryl Van Schouwen / Sun-Times / June 5, 2018

MINNEAPOLIS — Reynaldo Lopez pitched seven scoreless innings of one-hit ball against the Twins Tuesday at Target Field, another promising start for the 24-year-old right-hander who looks like he could be a sturdy piece of White Sox starting rotations for years to come.

Unfortunately for Lopez and the White Sox, there was no celebrating an extraordinary job well done after the Twins rallied against right-hander Nate Jones for four runs in the eighth inning to claim a 4-2 victory in Game 1 of a doubleheader.

Lopez struck out four, walked four and allowed one hit, a double to former Sox Eduardo Escobar, who ruined everything in the eighth when he launched a three-run homer over the center field wall with two outs.

Jones (2-2) opened the eighth by retiring the first two batters he faced and got Brian Dozier to hit a sharp ground ball to third baseman Yolmer Sanchez' glove side. Sanchez couldn't field it, but he almost had Dozier at first anyway but first baseman Jose Abreu couldn't pick his low throw out of the dirt. Eddie Rosario walked and Miguel Sano doubled home Dozier before Escobar connected for his 11th homer of the season.

"Jonesy being one of our best, we put him in that situation because potentially it could open up and he would face the meat of their order and he did," manager Rick Renteria said. "He wasn't able to get out of it."

Yoan Moncada homered to lead off the game against right-hander Fernando Romero, and he singled, stole a base and scored on Abreu's 22nd double to account for the Sox' runs.

Lopez is the first White Sox starter to allow one hit in seven innings or more since Jose Quintana pitched eight innings of one-run ball, giving up one hit, on May 19, 2017 at the Seattle Mariners.

"I was able to command all my pitches," Lopez said through translator Billy Russo. "When I wanted to put my slider on the ground I was able to do it, and I was able to elevate my fastball. There were just like two or three pitches I didn't command, but the rest I was in control."

Lopez, who touched 96 and 97 mph with his fastball, lowered his ERA to 3.42 as the Sox (18-39) lost to open a four-game series and seven-game road trip that continues in Boston. The Sox are coming off a series win at home against the Brewers.

"You want to win. Losses are never easy to digest," Lopez said.

"You have to keep your focus, do your work and your preparation. For me, it doesn't matter: the wins are important as a team. As a pitcher, my job is to execute, do my job and give my team a chance to win games."

Healthy Carlos Rodon set to take command to next level for White Sox

By Daryl Van Schouwen / Sun-Times / June 5, 2018

MINNEAPOLIS — In three minor-league rehab starts at Class AAA Charlotte and one for Class A Kannapolis, left-hander Carlos Rodon walked five in 17 innings — while striking out 28. In the four outings, he allowed three runs.

"It's Triple-A, man," Rodon said, downplaying the nice numbers he posted during his prep work before a return to the majors after having arthroscopic surgery on his left shoulder in September.

But still. Throwing strikes is throwing strikes.

"I'm a strike-thrower now," he said with a grin. "Strike-thrower. Trying to be."

Known more for his mid- to upper-90s mph fastball and put-away slider than for pouring strikes, Rodon served notice that he's ready to return to the White Sox' rotation this weekend by locating well during those minor-league outings. After making his last rehab start Sunday, he joined the team in Minneapolis for a four-game series and is expected to be activated Friday or Saturday in Boston to face the Red Sox, although the Sox aren't saying when.

In any event, Rodon looks and feels ready. For what it's worth, his 2.5 walks per nine innings in four rehab games look a bit cleaner than his 3.9 rate during his major-league career. Rodon, the No. 3 overall pick in the 2014 draft whose career has been slowed by injuries, chalks it up to nothing more than being healthy.

"When you're hurt, it's hard to be consistent and repeat stuff," he said. "Not feeling anything, [the delivery is] pretty repeatable. I feel like I have more feeling with every pitch than I did before this."

How good is that?

"It's a good feeling," Rodon said. "It's a small sample size, but it's been awhile since I had this command — I've never really had this kind of command. Some glimpses of it in 2015 and '16, that's it."

Those are encouraging words for the Sox, who took an 18-38 record into their doubleheader Tuesday against the Twins. Rodon, 25, is under club control through 2021 and is viewed as a potential big piece of the Sox' rebuild — if he can stay healthy.

He allowed 13 hits and had a 1.53 ERA in his four rehab starts, and his next start will be a real deal in Boston, where his last one at Fenway Park on Aug. 4 was dubbed “a spectacular outing against a very good club” at the time by manager Rick Renteria. Rodon struck out 11, walked none and gave up two runs and six hits in 7²/₃ innings in a game the Sox would lose in 11.

“One of my better ones,” Rodon said. “It was a good outing.”

And emotional. Rodon said pitching deep enough into the game to hear “Sweet Caroline” gave him chills.

The Sox will need an extra starter Friday or Saturday with Reynaldo Lopez and Lucas Giolito starting in the twin bill against the Twins. Because Rodon is not activated yet and a roster move would be made to make room, Renteria wasn’t saying when Rodon would pitch.

“What?” he said with a trace of a smile when the question was asked. “We’ll see. We still have to work through rosters and things of that nature. He obviously threw well in his last outing. So we’ll continue to work on the schedule, and once we have it all set up in terms of what we have to do, we’ll let you know. I expect to see him, though.”

Rodon can’t wait to be seen. He looked around the visitors’ clubhouse at Target Field and said, “It feels good.”

“It’s different,” he said of the many new faces since last season. “Good group of guys. It’s good to be back.”

White Sox select Konnor Pilkington with third-round pick in 2018 MLB Draft

By Satchel Price / Sun-Times / June 5, 2018

The White Sox selected Mississippi State pitcher Konnor Pilkington with their third-round pick, No. 81 overall, in the 2018 MLB Draft on Tuesday. The left-hander is the first pitcher drafted by the club this year after its first two selections were used on college hitters.

Pilkington, 20, gives the White Sox a talented pitching prospect with a good frame (6-3, 225 pounds) and a track record of success at Mississippi State.

He’s younger than normal for a pitcher coming out of college, as he doesn’t turn 21 until September, and his fastball topped out at 96 in the past. However, it’s reportedly been sitting closer to 88-91 and topping out at 93 this spring, which may limit his upside at the big league level. The size and polish remain selling points.

“We were very excited to have the opportunity to take him and add a premium starter like this in the third round,” scouting director Nick Hostetler said.

MLB.com ranked Pilkington as the No. 60 overall prospect in the 2018 draft class, while Baseball America had the same overall ranking while placing him fourth among players from Mississippi. ESPN didn’t include him on its top 100 list, on the other hand.

The approximate slot value for the No. 81 pick is \$726,700. The White Sox will also need to sign Oregon State infielder Nick Madrigal, their first-round pick, and Oklahoma outfielder Steele Walker, their second-round pick.

Here are the Sox’ other picks from Tuesday:

Round 4: Lency Delgado, a 6-3, 210-pound high school shortstop from Doral Academy near Miami, Fla.

Round 5: Jonathan Stiever, right-handed pitcher, Indiana University. In 100 1/3 innings in 2018, the 6-1, 190-pounder posted a 3.41 ERA with 97 strikeouts and 32 walks.

Round 6: Cody Heuer, right-handed pitcher, Wichita State.

Round 7: Cabera Weaver, outfielder, South Gwinnett (Ga.) High School.

Round 8: Andrew Perez, left-handed pitcher, South Florida.

Round 9: Gunnar Troutwine, catcher, Wichita State.

Round 10: Bennett Sousa, left-handed pitcher, Virginia.

The draft concludes Wednesday.

Chicago White Sox making the grade through first 10 rounds of draft

By Scot Gregor / Daily Herald / June 5, 2018

This is an important draft for the Chicago White Sox.

Having traded most of their veteran players for prospects from the 2016 off-season through August of last year, and having spent a big chunk of their international pool money on outfielder Luis Robert, the Sox need this year's draft to continue stockpiling young talent.

The first 10 rounds are in the books, and the White Sox couldn't be happier with the early haul.

"We were really excited about the quality of players we got," said Nick Hostetler, the Sox's director of amateur scouting.

Oregon State infielder Nick Madrigal was the White Sox's first-round pick Monday, No. 4 overall. It's not a stretch to say the Sox instantly added their leadoff hitter of the future, perhaps as early as 2019.

"We got who we felt was the best baseball player in the draft this year," Hostetler said. "He is a high contact, high on-base guy; he plays with tremendous energy. The makeup is second to none. It's a leadership quality I have not seen in a player in a long time, both on the field and off the field.

"The way he goes about his business, his teammates idolize him. Tool-wise, he can play Gold Glove-caliber second base. We've seen him play shortstop. We're going to send him out as a shortstop, ultimately he'll probably get reps at both shortstop and second base, as well as some third at times to try to get him some experience there.

"That will be left up to (farm director) Chris Getz and his staff."

On the second round (No. 46 overall) Monday, the Sox drafted another collegiate star, Oklahomas outfielder Steele Walker. Even though he missed the final eight games of the season with an oblique injury, the left-handed hitter led the Sooners with a .352 batting average, 13 home runs and 53 RBI.

Baseball America had Walker going to the Astros on the first round as the No. 28 overall pick. The 5-foot-11, 190-pounder also was rated the third-best collegiate hitter in the draft, behind Madrigal and Florida third baseman Jonathan India.

"The junior season is extremely tough mentally, dealing with so much pressure, so many people analyzing you," Walker said on a conference call Tuesday. "It's not always easy, but I was able to free my mind up, free my swing up, let my ability just kind of shine forth.

"That's where the power came from, that's where the real production came from. In anything you do, there's always pressure. A free mind, a free spirit, that's the way I like to play."

Like every major-league team, the White Sox always are looking for quality pitching. On the third round Tuesday, they drafted Mississippi State left-hander Konnor Pilkington.

"He was a Friday night starter, and still is," Hostetler said. "They are still in the regional. They play Vanderbilt this upcoming week. He's a guy also that was teammates with (Steele) Walker and Nick Madrigal on Team USA. We really love the competitiveness and pitchability. The command is special. We feel it's a three-pitch mix, fastball, curve and change."

The Sox typically load up on college players early in the draft, but they picked a pair of high school players Tuesday.

On the fourth round, they drafted shortstop Lency Delgado out of Doral Academy in Miami. On the seventh round, they picked outfielder Cabera Weaver out of South Gwinnett H.S. in Georgia.

"A couple of high ceiling high school kids in Delgado and Weaver," Hostetler said. "We were very excited about adding those two players. Probably a little bit out of the norm for us with only one high school player signed in the last two years. We took two, and we are really excited about the ceiling there."

Geography trivia, caffeine and Atomic Balm: A long day in the Twins bullpen

By Dan Hayes / The Athletic / June 5, 2018

Addison Reed's only action throughout all of Tuesday's Twins-Chicago White Sox doubleheader was to spend time catching up with old friends.

Even though Twins pitchers recorded 54 outs on Tuesday, Reed received a much-needed day off. It just so happened that with his old team in town, Reed also had a chance to catch up on gossip with former teammates Hector Santiago and Nate Jones, among others. Asked about his late-game conversation with Santiago, Reed burst into laughter. He's seen enough long, rainy ugly doubleheaders over the course of his seven-year career to know that Tuesday's was too easy.

Sure, the Twins wanted to sweep the double dip and instead had to settle for a split.

The Twins won Game 1, 4-2, after Eduardo Escobar blasted a three-run homer in the eighth inning. They lost the nightcap, 6-3.

But all things considered, the Twins escaped from the twin bill relatively unscathed even though the bullpen was needed for nine innings. The long-relief efforts of Matt Magill, who pitched three scoreless innings in Game 2, and Tyler Duffey, who earned a Game 1 victory with two zeroes, provided the Twins with exactly what they needed on a day that could have been disastrous. Instead, the Twins stayed away from Reed, who's on pace to appear in 80 games, and Ryan Pressly, who's projected to make 88 appearances.

"(Duffey and Magill) both threw the ball well and it wasn't like they were thrown out there and eating up innings because they had to — they were pitching well and keeping us in the game," Reed said. "Going into it, I definitely thought I was going to get in there. It just worked out where the first game situation didn't come up and the second game went the way it did, which was kind of unfortunate. ... But arm feels good. I'll be ready to go and fresh for (Wednesday)."

Fresh is a word rarely used in association with 18 innings of baseball, particularly when a team has a pair of rookie starting pitchers going as the Twins did on Tuesday. While the Twins had Monday off, it didn't change the fact that Reed, Pressly, Trevor Hildenberger and Zach Duke are all among the American League-leaders in appearances. Pressly is third in the AL, Reed is tied for 15th and Duke and Hildenberger are tied for 20th with 27 appearances.

Nobody went into Tuesday's doubleheader with any restrictions. The Twins intended to use everyone if the situation called for it and several pitchers may have been used twice, Fernando Rodney and Hildenberger among the top candidates.

Yet Twins manager Paul Molitor and pitching coach Garvin Alston both said they intended to give starting pitchers Fernando Romero and Zack Littell a little more rope than normal given they had 18 innings worth of outs to fill — with the caveat that they were playing to win.

"You're aware that you have to get through two games," Molitor said. "If you have a chance to win the first game, you're going to play it pretty straight up in your decision making."

Said Alston: "It's going to be touch and go. We really have to pay attention and use our starters' pitches. Regardless of the situation, sometimes we've got to put a little extra trust in them (Tuesday)."

Staying fresh

Somehow the Twins and White Sox completed a pair of nine-inning games in a total of 6 hours, 32 minutes even with a 48-minute break in between games. The teams' incredible pace of play is the exception to the rule, however.

Doubleheaders can be especially cruel. Reed pitched in Game 1 of a July 13, 2013 doubleheader between the White Sox and Philadelphia Phillies that lasted 507 minutes (minus the break between contests but including a 41-minute rain delay at the end of the opener).

"It's hectic sometimes," White Sox bullpen catcher Mark Salas said. "It makes for a long day."

Both teams planned accordingly. Whereas on a normal day the Twins bullpen would have hit the field 3.5 hours before first pitch to play catch and warm up, on Tuesday they waited until 1:20 p.m., roughly 110 minutes before first pitch of the straight doubleheader. Players and Twins bullpen catcher Nate Dammann, who's in his 12th season in the role, were allowed to arrive later in case Tuesday's contests took them into the wee hours of the morning.

"You prepare for the first one, got to get everything loose like normal, and then try not to allow your body to stiffen up before the second one," Duke said. "You've got to try to stay in motion longer."

As is their custom, most of the Twins relievers headed to the bullpen about 10 minutes before first pitch. Rodney, Reed and Pressly waited until later to arrive, but the rest were in the outfield by the time Romero's second pitch resulted in a leadoff solo homer for Yoán Moncada.

After he struggled in his previous start at Kansas City, Romero looked as if he potentially could be in for another long day. His early innings were full of opponents' exit velocities of 100 mph or more. Daniel Palka's second-inning double registered a 118.4 mph exit velocity, the second-hardest hit ball of the season by any player in the majors, according to BaseballSavant.com.

Yet Molitor stuck to his plan and Romero began to work in and out of several potential trouble spots. Nobody stirred in the Twins' bullpen until the top of the fifth inning of Game 1 when Taylor Rogers and Duffey began to get loose. Pressly also started to jog if he were potentially needed.

Two of the three never were. Romero completed six innings and left with his team trailing 2-0. At that point, the Twins opted for Duffey to start the seventh over Magill, who had begun to run and stretch in the sixth.

Duffey responded with two scoreless frames, throwing strikes on 22 of 35 pitches. The effort allowed the Twins enough time to rally and take the lead on Escobar's three-run shot off Jones.

Hildenberger potentially would have pitched in Game 1, but the situation never arose. He merely played catch in the bullpen. But if he had pitched, Hildenberger — who said he hasn't pitched both games in a doubleheader since college — would have altered his postgame routine in order to be available for the nightcap.

"If I pitched in the first game I wouldn't do my normal postgame stuff where it's kind of shut down into recovery mode already," Hildenberger said. "I would just stay hot. ... It's not strange to go big gaps between getting hot. But you will have to do extra special recovery if you pitch in both games."

Rogers was the only Twins pitcher to warm up in the bullpen in both games on Tuesday. With the White Sox ahead 1-0 in the fifth inning, Rogers began to get loose at 4:13 p.m. The White Sox made it a two-run game on Jose Abreu's RBI double but Molitor stayed with Romero.

After Escobar's homer put the Twins ahead, Molitor pressed the button to ignite the Fernando Rodney Experience. At 5:38 p.m. Rodney entered to Lil John's 'Live the Night' and responded with a perfect ninth inning. Rodney needed only 16 pitches to convert his 11th straight save, which ended with a strikeout of Moncada.

Molitor was pleased with the shape of his bullpen after the opener and thought he could turn to Rodney, whom Alston said was capable because he's in great physical shape, in Game 2 if needed.

"(It's) good," Molitor said. "We'll see if Fernando wants the ball again, I have a feeling he might. But other than that, we're fine."

Break time

Dammann suggested he might eat a sandwich in between games. Duke said there's just enough time to grab a plate and alter the uniform if necessary. The veteran left-hander, who threw 11 pitches in a scoreless ninth inning in Game 2, also had a plan if he had to pitch in both games.

"Eat some food," Duke said. "Maybe re-stretch out a little bit and get back at it. Maybe change your undershirt or if your feet sweated a lot, maybe change some socks. Maybe just strap on some more Atomic Balm or Red Hot to keep everything warmed up instead of doing things to kind of shut it down for the day."

Another critical element is caffeine. A former major-league catcher, Salas said he has a cup of coffee in the second inning. Hildenberger also adheres to that theory and spoke with Pressly about their loading up on caffeine. At 7:18 p.m., Hildenberger and Rogers were seated atop the bullpen bench with a can of Red Bull in their hands.

"Kind of gets the adrenaline going," Hildenberger said. "Little caffeine. Little boost. I take a Red Bull every game and on doubleheaders you've got to double-Bull. Keep your routine the same. First game and the second game are equally important. I know it's a lot of caffeine, but it's part of it."

The mental game

Bullpen coach Eddie Guardado has pitched in his share of doubleheaders. He knows how unpleasant and trying they can be. One of the biggest hurdles for Guardado is keeping his pitchers locked in. Hildenberger says he tries to do so by looking for several right-handed batters in a row and guessing where he might slot into the game.

"Nobody really wants to play a doubleheader," Guardado said. "I stress (the mental part) every day no matter if you're going good, going bad. The mental part, that's what takes a toll on your body. You've got to stay focused as best you can and my job is to do that for these guys, doubleheader or not."

The Twins pitchers all mentioned that Guardado is an expert at keeping them focused. But they've also created their own way, and Duke said it usually involves geography.

"We do a lot of trivia," Hildenberger said. "Duke's question was what's the largest body of fresh water in the world?"

Rogers said he'd heard the question before and thought the answer was Lake Victoria. But since he'd heard Duke previously discuss it, Rogers opted to answer the Nile River. Hildenberger answered Victoria, which has a surface area of 26,600 square miles and is divided among Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. (For those playing at home, it's actually Lake Superior that's considered the largest body of freshwater by surface area, at over 31,000 square miles. Russia's Lake Baikal is the largest by volume.)

Magill — who first warmed up at 6:48 p.m. when Littell struggled early and eventually took the mound at 7:52 p.m. — wasn't as certain about his answer.

"I didn't guess," Magill said. "I had no idea. I was going to guess one of the Great Lakes, but I knew it was going to be wrong. That's why I kept my mouth shut."

You should've guessed, Magill!

Another trivia topic in the bullpen? The last 10 World Series winners and those series' most valuable players.

"Hildy was the best though because he knew the opponents and probably 50 percent of the MVPs," Rogers said. "That was very impressive."

"It's impossible to stay locked in the whole game. As a human being, you can't do it. You've just got to do something to keep it light. Especially when some of the 'pens around the league are kind of tight. You have to do something. Just mess around, test people's knowledge and goof off."

Magill, Duffey provide a big lift

Molitor couldn't stick with Littell any longer after he walked the first two batters of the fourth inning in Game 2. His rookie pitcher was struggling and the Twins didn't want to make him wear it in his major-league debut. Molitor also had a bullpen in fairly good shape given Duffey picked up two big innings in the opener.

He turned to Magill, who including Tuesday's contest, has pitched 20 2/3 innings this season and has a 1.31 ERA. While Magill didn't prevent Littell's runners from scoring, yielding a two-run double to Yolmer Sanchez, that was the only downside of a 40-pitch outing. Magill threw strikes on 29 pitches and provided the Twins with nine critical outs. He not only threw in the bullpen 64 minutes before he would enter the contest, Magill also stretched in between on a jungle gym-esque machine in the bullpen that has a platform for arm and leg stretches. Afterward, Magill did arm band work to stay fresh.

"I think being a starter in the past kind of helped with the mindset of seeing a guy the second time through the lineup," Magill said. "And being comfortable getting up, sitting, getting hot, sitting and then throwing again. My thought process was to eat as many innings with as little pitches just so I can throw longer."

Hildenberger said he plans to start a petition to earn Magill a trip to the All-Star Game. The right-hander's three-inning effort allowed Molitor and Co. to smoothly navigate the rest of the game. A little more than seven hours after he first played catch, Hildenberger entered and needed only eight pitches to retire the side in the seventh inning. Rogers followed with an 11-pitch effort in the eighth and Duke did the same in the ninth.

Though Alston would have loved to be in a position to use Reed or Pressly, he didn't have to strain his eyes to see the silver lining of two days off for his most-utilized arms.

"It's a win in that regard, without a doubt," Alston said. "Guys were able to go out and pitch well and pitch efficiently and keep us in a situation where we were down 6-2 and keep us there. Shoot, we had the tying run at the plate at the end of the game. That's a phenomenal job by the bullpen."

All told, the Twins bullpen provided nine scoreless innings on Tuesday. Twins relievers allowed four hits, walked one and struck out nine.

But not Reed, who has already thrown 461 pitches this season. He instead had a chance to catch up in both games with Jones and in the second contest with Santiago, who starts on Wednesday and couldn't stand being stuck in the clubhouse and dugout any longer. Santiago has mostly worked out of the bullpen this season and likes spending time with his bullpen mates. Reed said the talk revolved around family and was long overdue as he couldn't partake in April because he was sidelined with strep throat and the flu in the team's only meeting before the rest of the series was snowed out.

"Hector comes snaking down there," Reed said. "He's starting tomorrow, but he can't stay in one place for longer than two minutes. He said he was going crazy in the locker room and the dugout so he wanted to come down and say hello.

"It was good catching up with him and Nate."

Five observations: White Sox bullpen salvages a split in doubleheader that should have been more

By James Fegan / The Athletic / June 5, 2018

In some respects, the beginning of the White Sox's (19-39) trip to Minnesota was a success because they actually played baseball games and weren't snowbound in a deluge of arctic weather. In one day, the Sox played more games in Target Field than they did in their entire scheduled four-game set in April. In another respect, the beginning of the White Sox's trip to Minnesota was a success because they split their doubleheader with the Twins after entering the day with a .321 winning percentage.

But considering Nate Jones improbably imploded in the eighth inning of the opener, a 4-2 loss, and the Sox needed four relievers to escape the eighth inning of a nightcap in which Lucas Giolito provided a quality start and the offense jumped on first-time starter Zack Littell for six runs in a 6-3 win, it was all a bit more anxiety-inducing than needed.

1. Was Reynaldo López good, or just fortunate?

López's scoreless, seven-inning Game 1 start was his season in a nutshell. He threw extremely hard and flashed a dynamic slider. He ran through stretches in which he couldn't even put his hard fastball in the zone in four-straight tries, and he walked a discouragingly high number of batters (four). Despite his lively stuff and even a decent number of swinging strikes (11 in 106 pitches), he just didn't wrack up many punchouts (four, also). Yet he managed to avoid meaningful damage (one hit) and produced a performance that was incredibly useful for the individual game, but ended with a final line that didn't look particularly sustainable (7 IP, 1 H, 0 R, 4 BB, 4 K). But he looked good overpowering Miguel Sano and Eduardo Escobar to escape a mini jam in the sixth, the raw ability has looked more consistent throughout than any of the other young starters, and he has a 3.42 ERA, so he'll keep getting chances to be more steady.

2. Was Giolito good, or just fortunate?

He hit 93 mph a bit, he tried to use his curveball more, he did not get hit hard much — notable for a guy with an ERA over 7.00 — and he got reunited with Kevan Smith! At the same time, the missed bats, the strikeouts, the ability to consistently locate the curveball for stolen strikes early in the count did not seem to be there yet. He staved off any calls for his demotion by giving the Sox six strong innings and only really running into struggles in the third, but the corner has yet to be turned.

3. Joakim Soria looks good again

After going a month without getting a save opportunity, seemingly in response to his blown save and walk-off loss in St. Louis, Soria was the fourth reliever to enter a chaotic eighth inning, and was entrusted with delivering four outs to close out the nightcap. He's suddenly dropping down his arm angle James Shields-style, which is apparently serving to make his straight four-seamer untouchable. He lost a curve and plunked Brian Dozier to let the tying run come to bat in a three-run game in the ninth, but got six swinging strikes on 16 fastballs despite sitting around 92 mph.

4. Nate Jones does not look as good

With his atypical delivery, there have always been nights when Jones comes out and cannot hit his spots with his electric stuff, and he got two quick outs while protecting a 2-0 lead in the eighth inning of the opener before Yolmer Sánchez's misplay on a Dozier bouncer opened the door. But after a walk to Eddie Rosario, Jones' command faltered and Sano and Escobar were both able to barrel 98 mph down the pipe, and Escobar's go-ahead, three-run homer perpetuated what has thus far been the wildest and worst season of Jones' long and productive career. Relievers have erratic periods, but it's June now and Jones still does not look quite right.

5. End with good thoughts about Yoán Moncada

Moncada led off the doubleheader with a solo shot to center and reached base four times on the day. He's slowly cut a strikeout rate that was pushing 40 percent around the last time he was in Minneapolis and getting called into manager Rick Renteria's office for meetings down to 33.5 percent. He's not showstopping quite yet, and he's not as good as Ozzie Albies has been, but the improvement is clear and steady.

White Sox wooed out of college comfort zone on Day 2 of draft

By James Fegan / The Athletic / June 5, 2018

After back-to-back years of having to insist his first pick of the draft would not eventually have to move to first base, White Sox director of amateur scouting Nick Hostetler is pretty happy about having a pair of up-the-middle guys with No. 4 overall pick Nick Madrigal and No. 46 overall pick Steele Walker.

Madrigal is a starting second baseman at Oregon State and said to have Gold Glove potential there, but Hostetler insists he will spend time at short with the Sox organization, and Walker is pretty insistent on being a center fielder despite being moved to a corner by teammate Kyler Murray at Oklahoma.

"I see myself as a center fielder," Walker said during his introductory conference call Tuesday. "I think I can go get any ball and I have the athleticism and the speed and the savviness to play that position. That's where I'm most comfortable and I think that's where I think the White Sox see me as well."

Walker, who had former Sox scout Clay Overcash for an assistant coach, said he had heard a bit about the organization previously and added the Sox made "a good offer" earlier in the first round that let him know they were interested. A devout Christian, Walker credited playing "with a free spirit" for enabling his big offensive season despite the pressure of his draft year hanging over him, and says the name "Steele" comes from that of a pastor his maternal grandfather admired. Also, he apparently came out of the womb "rock solid, like big muscles," so the name stuck. The new market inefficiency is muscular babies.

While Walker was talking to the media, the White Sox picked eight more guys — including a pair of high schoolers — on Tuesday.

Third round, 81st overall, LHP Konnor Pilkington, Mississippi State

The 6-foot-3 Pilkington recorded a 4.61 ERA with 97 strikeouts and 30 walks in 91 2/3 innings his junior season, and he has a three-pitch mix (fastball, curve, changeup) which is not considered overwhelming. So no, he is not Alec Hansen, but he is sort of like Hansen in the sense that the Sox were intensely high on him, even considered him at fourth overall for stretches before his struggles in 2018. By that measure,

they're calling him a great value here, and not just because MLB Pipeline ranked him as the 60th-best prospect in the draft.

"The pitchability for us was key," Hostetler said. "Even the stuff, when it will fluctuate at times, he's still able to command the strike zone and that was key for us. There's some similarity there [to Hansen]."

"We really love, one, the competitiveness, the pitchability, the command is special."

Fourth round, 108th overall, SS Lency Delgado, Doral Academy (HS)

Delgado is listed at 6-foot-3, 210 pounds despite not having turned 19 years of age yet, so there's not much optimism even from Hostetler that he's going to stave off a move to third base. On the other hand, he tagged Delgado with a 70-grade throwing arm and "special" power potential, so it sounds like a third base profile anyway. Baseball America ranked him 367th in the draft field, adding a long swing and a tendency to chase while mirroring the plaudits Hostetler placed on him, but the White Sox were taken out of their typical college comfort zone by what they see as an especially high ceiling.

"Our scout in Florida, Pepe Ortega, was just absolutely begging for this guy," Hostetler said. "Pepe has about 30 years of scouting and has signed a lot of big leaguers so when he screams and yells for a guy I listen."

Fifth round, 138th overall, RHP Jonathan Stiever, Indiana

Stiever was ranked 88th in the field by MLB Pipeline and 125th by Baseball America. He recorded a 3.41 ERA in 100 1/3 innings with 97 strikeouts and 32 walks, though his numbers were hurt by getting routed by Texas A&M in his final start as a collegiate pitcher. Hostetler blames being at a cold-weather school and shorter stature for driving Stiever down in the draft, but after sending six different scouts to view him, Hostetler is confident in what they have.

"This guy's got unbelievable pitchability as well, pounds the strike zone, premium stuff," he said. "We've got guys who believe his fastball is going to play up to about 93-94 mph. We definitely look at him as a starter."

Sixth round, 168th overall, RHP Codi Heuer, Wichita State

Heuer is very tall (6-foot-5) and led his team in starts and innings while posting a 4.31 ERA with 82 strikeouts and 37 walks in 79 1/3 innings. He didn't garner top-end draft rankings from any scouting services, but Hostetler said the White Sox got to see him plenty, what with all the scouting of his teammate, Alec Bohm.

Seventh round, 198th overall, CF Cabera Weaver, South Gwinnett (HS)

Weaver is by all accounts an absurdly fast human being who can cover tons of ground and provide electrifying defense in center field, but the White Sox will have to completely develop his hit tool. In the later rounds, super athletes missing one key tool with a long time to develop seem like decent gambles, especially considering the pick involved the Sox voyaging out of their comfort zone and counting on their player development team to build out a raw high schooler.

"We're pretty excited about the fact that the run tool is there, the defense is there, he's got a little bit of pop in the bat, it's just the matter of getting the swing with a little bit more consistency," Hostetler said. "This is a very high-ceiling player where if it clicks, this is an impact center fielder for a long time."

Eighth round, 228th overall, LHP Andrew Perez, South Florida

Here's where the White Sox's love for, and dedication to scouting college relievers comes into play. Perez posted a 2.34 ERA with 50 strikeouts in 42 1/3 innings and served as South Florida's closer.

Ninth round, 258th overall, C Gunnar Troutwine, Wichita State

Obviously the name is incredible, and of course scouts at his games might have been stealing looks at Bohm, but adding Troutwine reunites Heuer with his college catcher. The Sox figure to save on bonus money with Troutwine, a college senior, but he did hit .302/.413/.505 this year.

"It does give us a little leeway," Hostetler said of the senior pick. "If anyone looks back at our previous drafts we kind of are a little telltale on what we're going to do at nine and 10. We've done this in the past where we save at nine and 10 and it gives us an opportunity to be somewhat flexible tomorrow to start the draft. We've already got our first target picked out for tomorrow in the 11th round and then we'll kind of look on from there about who we go after and are aggressive for at that point."

10th round, 288th overall, LHP Bennett Sousa, Virginia

Another college senior, and a reliever, Sousa figures to be an inexpensive sign, but Hostetler did seem pretty happy about his likely lefty specialist.

"I've actually gotten a couple texts from other teams that really liked him," Hostetler said. "He was up to 93 mph in the ACC tournament this past week."

Props to the rival team officials texting Hostetler thirsty for his 10th-round, college senior LOOGY.
