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### **Anderson's 2 HRs not enough as White Sox fall**

By Max Gelman / MLB.com / May 5, 2018

CHICAGO -- Mired in a 1-for-19 slump heading into Saturday, Tim Anderson broke out in a big way.

The young shortstop connected for his first two home runs at Guaranteed Rate Field this season, and his fifth and sixth long balls overall. Though Anderson's homers came too late for the White Sox to mount a comeback in an 8-4 loss to the Twins, Saturday seemed a natural progression, given Anderson's career-high contact rate.

"I'm seeing the ball," Anderson said. "I'm locking in, seeing what these pitchers are trying to do to me and taking some ABs from last year [that are] definitely helping me this year. I'm seeing the ball real well."

The at-bats that gave Anderson trouble last year likely would have carried over into following games. For example, Anderson struck out four times Thursday, a result that would have prolonged a slump in 2017.

But this time, Anderson, in his own words, refused to get inside his own head.

"I probably would have been down on myself," Anderson said. "It's baseball. You got to learn from it. I learned a lot from it last year. It's just a game. I just go out and have fun and when it's not going well, just continue to go."

Anderson's continued development has impressed manager Rick Renteria as the White Sox continue their rebuild. Though he won't hit two home runs every night, Renteria said, Anderson is "doing everything he can" to develop into a quality player.

"He continues to show you a lot of growth, a lot more maturity," Renteria said. "He's accepting each at-bat for what it is, each one is independent of each other and he continues to roll and continues to make the adjustments he needs to give himself a chance."

Though Miguel Gonzalez treated the White Sox to a stellar mariachi singing performance prior to Saturday night's game, he remained sidelined with a shoulder injury and is unable to treat the team to some innings.

The White Sox have now had to fill in for three of Gonzalez's starts, opting to piggyback relievers Chris Volstad and Hector Santiago. Both pitched well in their respective first starts, but when Santiago's turn came around again Saturday, he stumbled out of the gate.

Five of the first six Twins hitters reached base against the lefty, with three coming around to score. That prompted two first-inning mound visits, including one from pitching coach Don Cooper, giving Santiago time to breathe. He retired the next two batters to end the inning.

"I pulled a lot of fastballs, which is weird for me because usually if I miss then I'm missing up and away or up and in to a lefty," Santiago said. "So little different kind of scenario there, I was trying to figure out which way to go, trying to make that adjustment, and I just never figured that out."

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### **Moncada to DL with left hamstring tightness**

Second baseman not expected to miss more than 10 days; Rondon recalled; A. Garcia takes BP  
By Scott Merkin / MLB.com / May 5, 2018

CHICAGO -- Yoan Moncada was placed on the 10-day disabled list Saturday with tightness in his left hamstring after leaving early from two games he started this week. Infielder Jose Rondon, who will wear uniform No. 20, was recalled from Triple-A Charlotte to take his place.

Moncada has been bothered by myriad injuries of late, including a sore right foot from a foul ball hit during Wednesday's game in St. Louis and a sore left thumb. But it was the hamstring issue, first arising on April 21, which caused the switch-hitting second baseman to depart in the eighth inning Wednesday after sliding into third and in the fifth inning Friday against the Twins after jogging back to first on a routing Yolmer Sanchez flyout.

"It's more precautionary, especially because we did take one game where he had that spasm and took him out, gave him the next day off, and then it occurs again," said White Sox manager Rick Renteria of Moncada, who is hitting .263 with eight doubles, one triple, six home runs, 15 RBIs, 17 walks, four stolen bases and a .359 on-base percentage in 29 games this season. "Fortunately, they did do an MRI [and] it was clean, nothing there."

"We're just going to see if we can give him some time to strengthen, recover, see if we can get to the crux of what's going on. Maybe it's just an anomaly. And hopefully he'll be ready to go once he comes off this DL stint."

This MRI was the first one during Moncada's stretch of hamstring issues, which he described as frustrating on Friday, while adding that a period of rest definitely could help him. Moncada will miss the rest of this Twins series, two home games against the Pirates and next weekend against the Cubs at Wrigley Field, but the White Sox don't believe the injury will be recurring.

"He's 22 years old -- he's still growing, I think," Renteria said. "Obviously, a body type like that -- with the strength and muscle that he carries -- you might have, at times, a cause for concern, but I don't see that. I think it's just someone who's going to continue to develop his flexibility and strength and do the things that are necessary to make adjustments."

#### Rondon returns to the Majors

Rondon, 24, made a brief appearance with the Padres in 2016, hitting .120 with one RBI over 25 at-bats. The infielder hit .286 with four doubles, two triples, four home runs, 10 RBIs, seven walks, 15 runs scored and a .340 on-base percentage for Charlotte.

"I'm excited but I'm not as nervous as I was the first time," said Rondon through interpreter Billy Russo before lining out to third as a pinch-hitter in the ninth inning of Saturday's 8-4 loss, following a 12-pitch at-bat against Minnesota's Phil Hughes. "Right now, I know what to expect and what to do. The first time it was all new for me."

"I just want to take advantage of this opportunity to establish myself at this level. I just want to help this team in whatever capacity they need me to help them."

#### Injury updates

- Outfielder Avisail Garcia (strained right hamstring) took batting practice Saturday and said he felt a little better.
- Right-handed starter Miguel Gonzalez (rotator cuff inflammation), who turned in a rousing pregame singing performance on-field with a Mariachi band, has been throwing long toss and will throw his first bullpen Sunday.

"So I'm pretty excited about that," said Gonzalez, who will need a Minor League rehab assignment before returning. "After that, we'll see what the brass would want me to do."

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#### **Miguel Gonzalez celebrated Cinco de Mayo by performing with a mariachi band**

By Scott Merkin / MLB.com / May 5, 2018

Miguel Gonzalez's not some athlete who dabbles in music, as he proved pregame Saturday when he joined in on primary vocals with the Mariachi Heritage Foundation during White Sox batting practice. The veteran right-hander is an accomplished mariachi performer.

"I enjoyed it. I didn't think I was gonna get all inspired until I did. It was fun," Gonzalez said. "My dad sang, I listened to it when I was little, and I've been doing it ever since but never like practiced. I just enjoy it with the boys."

Gonzalez never took lessons and doesn't practice much currently, aside from singing at home in the shower. The Mariachi Heritage Foundation was warming up during BP for their Cinco de Mayo performance at Guaranteed Rate Field on Saturday night, earning applause from the White Sox players when they finished and encouragement to play more.

White Sox manager Rick Renteria then pushed Gonzalez mic-side, knowing his prowess. Gonzalez, who is on the disabled list with rotator cuff inflammation and is scheduled to throw a bullpen session Sunday, mesmerized teammates, media and team officials alike.

Renteria will join in next time according to a smiling Gonzalez. He added that performing the national anthem might reside on his bucket list before retirement.

"I was probably 10 years old when I realized I had a good voice," Gonzalez said. "The only thing I need to practice is like vocal stuff and when to enter and all that stuff."

"But it's, I mean, it takes time, but I know if I keep doing it I'll be able to be a little bit more with the mariachi instead of actually having to listen to it and then having to sing. But it's fun, and I enjoy it."

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### **Saturday's top prospect performers**

Faedo, Burrows lead Tigers' Minor League clubs to victory

By Mike Rosenbaum / MLB.com / May 5, 2018

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

A pair of Tigers pitching prospects took center stage, as Alex Faedo and Beau Burrows turned in strong outings for their respective teams.

Faedo, Detroit's No. 3 prospect (No. 57 overall), was unable to record his first professional win but was solid nonetheless, tossing 5 2/3 innings of one-run ball in a no-decision for Class A Advanced Lakeland. He allowed five hits, walked two and struck out a pair in the outing, throwing 55 of his 98 pitches for strikes as Lakeland fell to Daytona, 3-1.

Faedo lowered his ERA to 2.34 with the performance, and he's completed at least five innings in each of his six starts this season in the Florida State League, where he's currently tied for fourth in innings pitched (34 2/3). The 22-year-old right-hander has held opposing hitters to a .187 average in that span while compiling 27 strikeouts and six walks.

At the Double-A level, Burrows (Tigers' No. 4, No. 76 overall) worked six scoreless innings, allowing two hits and two walks while striking out five, to lead Erie past Altoona, 2-0, in Game 1 of a doubleheader.

It was the second scoreless outing of the season for the 21-year-old right-hander and his first since firing five innings of one-hit ball in his 2018 debut. Altogether, Burrows has pitched to a 2.81 ERA with a 1.17 WHIP and 23 strikeouts in 25 2/3 innings (five starts) this season in his return to the Eastern League.

The rest of the best performances from top prospects Saturday:

- No. 3 overall prospect Vladimir Guerrero Jr. (Blue Jays' No. 1) went 4-for-8 with three RBIs on the day as Double-A New Hampshire swept Binghamton in a doubleheader. The 19-year-old third baseman went 2-for-4 with a double in both contests, as he notched two RBIs and two runs in Game 1 before plating another run, his Eastern League-leading 30th RBI, in the nightcap. He's been on fire during his current 11-game hitting streak, raking at a .476 clip (20-for-42) with seven extra-base hits and 15 RBIs. Altogether, Vlad Jr. is slashing .398/.455/.624 through 24 games.

- No. 25 overall prospect Brendan McKay (Rays' No. 3) hit a three-run double and later connected on a two-run homer, his first of the season, to finish with a career-high five RBIs and help Class A Bowling Green outslug Burlington, 15-13, in 10 innings. McKay's big offensive performance comes one day after the two-way star tied a career high with nine strikeouts over 4 2/3 no-hit innings.

- No. 45 overall prospect Keston Hiura (Brewers' No. 1) scored the game-winning run on a wild pitch in the bottom of the 10th inning, capping a 3-for-5, two-double performance in Class A Advanced Carolina's walk-off win over Down East. After getting off to rocky start, the 21-year-old second baseman has boosted his average to .287 behind a .442 clip across his past 10 games, during which he has 19 hits and seven multi-hit performances.

- No. 91 overall prospect Tyler O'Neill (Cardinals' No. 4) went 3-for-4 with a solo home run, thought it wasn't enough to keep Triple-A Memphis from falling to Nashville, 4-2. The homer was the 22-year-old's seventh with the Redbirds as well as his first since returning from his first Major League stint.

- No. 93 overall prospect Austin Riley (Braves' No. 6) powered Double-A Mississippi to a win with a 2-for-4 performance that included his sixth home run and 10th double. It marked the third multi-hit performance in four games for the 21-year-old third baseman, who's hitting .333/.394/.677 in 27 games this season.
- No. 95 overall prospect Blake Rutherford (White Sox No. 7) came off the bench to connect on his first 2018 home run, a two-run shot in the eighth inning of Class A Advanced Winston-Salem's 6-2 win over Buies Creek. The 21-year-old outfielder extended his hitting streak to eight games in the process and owns a .352/.378/.495 batting line in 22 games this season.
- Astros' No. 22 prospect Jonathan Arauz and J.J. Matijevic (No. 25) combined for six hits, six RBIs and five runs from the top of the order in Class A Quad Cities' win over Lansing. Both players collected three hits including a home run and a double, as Matijevic, in his first game back from the disabled list, finished 3-for-4 with three runs out of the leadoff spot, while Arauz went 3-for-3 with five RBIs.
- After giving up three earned runs in consecutive starts, Braves' No. 10 prospect Joey Wentz returned to his usual ways, tossing six scoreless frames in his longest start of the year for Class A Advanced Florida. The 20-year-old southpaw allowed just two hits as he registered four strikeouts and three walks on 87 pitches (56 strikes). He's pitched to a 2.33 ERA in 27 innings this season while holding opposing hitters to a .200 average.
- Cardinals' No. 11 prospect Randy Arozarena responded to his demotion from Triple-A Memphis by going 2-for-5 with a home run, a double and a career-high five RBIs in Double-A Springfield's rout of Tulsa. The home run -- a grand slam -- was the first this season for the 23-year-old outfielder, who slashed .260/.368/.329 with five doubles and seven steals in 22 games with Memphis.
- Cubs' No. 3 prospect Oscar De La Cruz matched his career high with 10 strikeouts over 5 2/3 scoreless innings, leading Double-A Tennessee past Birmingham, 3-1. Throwing 101 pitches (64 strikes) in the outing, the 23-year-old righty allowed two hits and three walks.
- Red Sox's No. 25 prospect Chandler Shepherd picked up his first 2018 win for Triple-A Pawtucket thanks to his best outing of the season. Working seven scoreless frames, the 25-year-old right-hander scattered four hits, hit one batter and struck out five, all while throwing 62 of 72 pitches for strikes. A reliever nearly exclusively during his first four seasons, Shepherd has transitioned to the rotation this year to post a 5.33 ERA in five starts, with 26 strikeouts and eight walks in 25 1/3 innings.
- Twins' No. 16 prospect Zack Littell tossed six scoreless innings to record the win in his debut for Triple-A Rochester. He allowed more walks (four) than hits (two) in the outing while striking out six and throwing 57 of his 98 pitches for strikes. The 22-year-old right-hander was promoted to the International League from Double-A Chattanooga, where he had pitched to a 5.87 ERA but also posted 32 walks against seven walks in 23 innings (five starts).

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### **Tim Anderson's slump-busting two-homer game one of the many differences between 2017 and 2018 for White Sox shortstop**

By Vnnie Duber / NBC Sports Chicago / May 5, 2018

Tim Anderson's two-homer night probably wouldn't have happened in 2017.

Now, that goes without saying, really, considering Anderson has just two multi-homer games in his career, and they have both come this season. But that's beside the point.

The point is that Anderson, who scuffled through almost the entirety of last season, found himself in another funk coming into Saturday night's game against the visiting Minnesota Twins.

After getting off to a great start this season — he was batting .304 after the home opener — he was still the owner of a .280 batting average and a .330 on-base percentage after the first game of a

doubleheader a week ago in Kansas City. But the last week was tough, with Anderson 1-for-18 in his previous five games leading into Saturday.

Well, he broke out of that slump in a big way Saturday, going 3-for-4 with two home runs (his fifth and sixth of the season), a double, three runs scored and a pair of RBIs. His batting average jumped almost 20 points Saturday night alone.

But more importantly for Anderson, it was the kind of skid-snapping evening that might not have existed at all in 2017, a season he spent dealing with the emotional effects of his best friend's death and their negative impact on his on-field performance. He had plenty of stretches like this last year, but he rarely had a 10-total-base night to break out of them.

But it's a new year.

"Yeah, probably so," Anderson said when it was suggested that this was the type of game that wouldn't have happened a year ago. "I probably would have been down on myself. I probably would have been in my own head. It's about keep going and continue to play.

"It's baseball. You got to learn from it. I learned a lot from it last year. It's just a game. I just go out and have fun, and when it's not going well, just continue to go."

It's a new year and a new Anderson, who's focused on having fun playing the game, and those efforts have paid off in very apparent ways. Not only are his offensive numbers better, but he's been a force on the base paths, already at 10 stolen bases after swiping just 15 bags all of last season. His dancing off the bases has clearly gotten in opposing pitchers' heads, and his exuberance on the field has been so pronounced that it's already rubbed a pair of veterans — Justin Verlander and Salvador Perez — the wrong way.

But it's a great thing to see for the White Sox and their fans. This is an important year for Anderson, a "prove it" kind of year in which he needs to show he truly is the shortstop of the future for a team with a bright future and highly rated prospects on the way nearly everywhere on the diamond. Anderson has first dibs on that shortstop spot for seasons to come, but his performance and production will determine that more than a penciled-out depth chart.

So far, so good here in 2018. In 31 games, he's just five walks away from matching his 2017 total and just nine homers away from tying that mark, both established in 146 contests last season.

"He continues to show you a lot of growth, a lot more maturity," manager Rick Renteria said. "He's accepting each at-bat for what it is. Each one is independent of each other, and he continues to roll and continues to make the adjustments he needs to give himself a chance. He continues to improve, absolutely.

"Certainly, having the approaches he's having, the swings he puts on the baseball allow him to be able to do many things, whether it's drive the ball in the gap, hit the ball to right-center field, he's got the type of ability to manage the barrel and he works on it. If you watch him taking (batting practice), he really does work on going the other way, he works on turning on pitches he has to on the inner half of the plate.

"I think he's doing everything he can to put himself in as good a position as possible both on the offensive side and the defensive side. I think he continues to develop as a quality major league baseball player."

The White Sox lost again Saturday, with Hector Santiago walking six guys in his brief 3.1-inning start. But that's not the kind of thing that has much meaning for the long-term plans of this team. Anderson's performance does. And so that's what makes finding these silver linings more important than the actual wins themselves here in 2018.

Anderson is playing much better, and that has a far greater impact on the next White Sox championship chase than wherever Saturday's loss puts them in the standings this season.

"I'm seeing the ball. I'm locking in, seeing what these pitchers are trying to do to me and taking some ABs from last year definitely helping me this year," Anderson said. "I'm seeing the ball real well."

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### **Yoan Moncada heads to the disabled list with mission to rest up his ailing hamstring**

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

Yoan Moncada said Friday night that he might need three or four days to rest his ailing hamstring. He's getting 10.

The White Sox placed Moncada on the 10-day disabled list ahead of Saturday's game against the Minnesota Twins, hoping that a week and a half on the shelf will allow the young second baseman to get back to 100 percent after having to exit three different games with hamstring issues.

Friday's departure was the most recent, Moncada coming out of the game after taking a walk in the fifth inning. He left Wednesday's game in St. Louis after sliding into third base, and manager Rick Renteria gave him a day off Thursday. Moncada also exited a game against the Houston Astros last month after running to first on a ground ball.

And so obviously there are questions about whether this could come back, even after Moncada's stay on the DL is done.

"We're optimistic that it won't," Renteria said Saturday, "but I can't be assured of that. I think that, from all indications right now, there seems to be no issue with muscle tissue based on the MRI. Right now we're just trying to find out if we can continue to strengthen him up, let him relax.

"He is tight. And maybe that's just an issue of something that we're going to have to try to monitor and make sure his flexibility is improved upon. Sometimes it has to do more with exercises and things of that nature, so maybe we can find something that will put him in a position to comfortably move around the field and not experience that.

"He's never experienced it before. It's new to him. It's odd, but we're going to deal with it very cautiously and proceed that way. And I think that the organization's doing the right thing by putting him on the DL right now and allowing it to settle down."

This doesn't sound like any kind of serious thing, though any ailment that befalls Moncada will earn a decent amount of attention. He is, after all, the biggest star of the rebuilding effort, certainly among the players currently on the major league roster. This isn't his first trip to the big league DL. He spent time there at the end of August and beginning of September last season with a bruise on his shin. Moncada also had that scary moment last summer when he collided with Willy Garcia in the outfield and needed to leave the field on a cart.

There might be a tendency to worry about how a layoff could affect the development of Moncada. After all, this rebuilding season is as much about his development at the major league level than anything. And things certainly were going well of late. In his last 17 games, Moncada slashed .323/.405/.662 with five homers, 11 extra-base hits, nine walks, 12 RBIs and 11 runs scored.

But this particular trip to the disabled list doesn't seem like the kind that will throw any kind of wrench into Moncada's development.

"We're hoping it's a very short period of time off," Renteria said. "It doesn't bother him when he swings the bat. There are a lot of things that he's going to still be able to do in order to maintain his swing. So we're not too concerned about that right now. Again, it's a very short window that we're looking at allowing him to get back on track physically so that he's comfortable and he can go out there and do what he does."

The White Sox brought Jose Rondon up from Triple-A Charlotte to take Moncada's spot on the active roster. Rondon, an infielder who can play a number of different positions, was acquired from the San Diego Padres in January. He's having a nice offensive season at Charlotte, slashing .286/.340/.490 with four homers in 24 games.

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### **White Sox taking no chances with Yoan Moncada's ailing left hamstring**

By Chicago Tribune Staff / May 5, 2018

The White Sox are taking no chances with Yoan Moncada's health.

Moncada was placed on the 10-day disabled list Saturday, with the long-term view overriding his desire to be in the lineup after he left two games in a three-day period with tightness in his left hamstring.

Manager Rick Renteria said the move was "more precautionary" than anything but acknowledged that the long-term health of Moncada's legs is a significant issue.

Moncada, who had a .359 on-base percentage and four stolen bases, is viewed as a speed-power prospect with the potential to be a 20-20 man. An MRI on his hamstring Friday night showed no major damage.

"We want to make sure that we're guarded and that his legs are under the best condition possible," Renteria said. "When you see him, he busts his rear end all the time, he's hustling, he runs hard. We need to make sure that he's capable of doing it consistently over an extended period of time."

Jose Rondon was promoted from Triple-A Charlotte to replace Moncada. He was hitting .286 with four home runs and an .829 OPS in 24 games as the Knights' starting shortstop.

Leury Garcia started at second against the Twins, with Rondon available off the bench.

The pitching mariachi: Sox right-hander Miguel Gonzalez, currently sidelined with inflammation in his shoulder, highlighted Cinco de Mayo activities at Guaranteed Rate Field. He serenaded fans during batting practice with beautiful singing while accompanying a mariachi band.

Gonzalez hasn't had vocal lessons but has been singing since he was a boy.

"My dad sang, and I listened to it when I was little," he said. "I've been doing it ever since but never like practiced. I just enjoy it with the boys."

Gonzalez doesn't rule out pursuing a musical career after his baseball playing days are over.

"Maybe," he said. "I don't want to say something now and then later I won't be able to do it, but I definitely do enjoy it."

Gonzalez long-tossed in the outfield but isn't close to returning to the rotation. Renteria indicated he probably will need at least one rehab assignment when he's ready to pitch. He's 0-3 with a 12.41 ERA in three starts.

Saying thanks: Staff members and nurses from Rush ICU assisting Danny Farquhar in his recovery from the aneurysm he suffered April 20 were given tickets by the White Sox for Sunday's game. It's part of Nurses Appreciation Day.

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### **Tim Anderson and Jose Rondon provide some late excitement in White Sox's 8-4 loss**

By Phil Rogers / Chicago Tribune / May 5, 2018

More than three hours after the first pitch, and almost as long after the White Sox had fallen into the hole they couldn't escape, Jose Rondon made his first at-bat for his new team memorable.



He fouled off seven straight 2-2 pitches from Phil Hughes before lining a smash toward the left-field corner. Eduardo Escobar leaped to spear it for the second out in the ninth inning but two pitches later Tim Anderson drove a long home run to left, his second of the game.

“He tired him out for me,” Anderson said. “He had a great at-bat. I was able to catch one of (Hughes’) mistakes that he left up and drove it out of the ballpark.”

There wasn’t a lot of drama involved, as the White Sox still lost 8-4 for their sixth loss in the last seven games. But 52/3 scoreless innings from the bullpen behind losing pitcher Hector Santiago and Anderson’s home runs in the seventh and ninth innings took away some of the sting on a warm evening when 23,765 watched at Guaranteed Rate Field.

“Today, as much as we fell behind early, I still thought we played a pretty decent ballgame,” manager Rick Renteria said. “There was energy in the dugout. We weren’t able to overcome the deficit but we continued to play the game, and that’s what you need to do as a professional.”

This could have been an ugly evening for a rebuilding team that has the worst record in the major leagues at home (3-12) and is on pace to lose 115 games, nine more than it ever has lost in a season. But fans who stayed until the end left talking about the at-bat from Rondon, who was promoted after Yoan Moncada went on the disabled list Saturday, and Anderson’s return to form after a down 2017.

“It’s give and take,” Anderson said. “We ended on a good note tonight. Hopefully we can keep it going tomorrow. Pitchers have been pitching their butts off and we put up some good (at-bats). We just have to continue to play and keep having fun.”

Anderson is doing that again after a 2017 season marked by the death of his best friend and a disappointing season at the plate. He was 3-for-4 with a double and the two homers Saturday and is hitting .261 with six homers. His walk-strikeout ratio is improving, and he admits his approach is also.

Anderson saw the late homers off Hughes and Matt Magill as signs of his growth.

“I probably would have been down on myself (last year),” he said. “I would have been in my own head. It’s about just keep going, keep continuing to play.”

Everyone with the Sox organization knew they would take lumps this season, even if the talk in spring training was how the young talent was coming together under Renteria. The starting rotation has been the biggest source of concern, and Santiago’s 31/3-inning start didn’t lessen fans’ interest in getting Michael Kopech to the big leagues as soon as possible.

Santiago had neither good stuff nor command, allowing eight runs on six hits — including Eddie Rosario’s two-run homer — and six walks. He needed 89 pitches to get 10 outs, allowing the rotation ERA to jump from 5.34 to 5.68, challenging the Orioles for the highest in the major leagues.

Renteria indicated afterward that no one should look for Kopech or the rest of the pitching calvary any time soon.

“That determination will be made as everyone continues to develop, as the boxes are checked off, as they say,” he said. “I don’t think about that. I think about the guys we have here.”

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### **Walks send Hector Santiago, White Sox to loss**

By Brian Sandalow / Sun-Times / May 5, 2018

Even during left-hander Hector Santiago’s solid start to the season, walks were an issue. That problem surfaced again in the White Sox’ 8-4 loss Saturday.

Santiago walked six in 3, innings, and Twins left fielder Eddie Rosario had a home run, drove in five runs and fell a triple short of the cycle. The Sox have lost six of seven and dropped to a season-worst 13 games below .500 at 9-22.

Santiago's ERA went from 3.48 to 6.00. To go with the six walks, Santiago allowed eight runs and six hits. He had walked 10 in 20% innings coming in, and his lack of command didn't help against a team he pitched for from 2016 to 2017.

"I went back and looked at it: Velocity was there, which hasn't been that good in a while," Santiago said. "Probably felt too good."

Sox shortstop Tim Anderson had two home runs for the second time this season. His ninth-inning solo shot off Phil Hughes came after Jose Rondon's 12-pitch at-bat.

"He tired him out for me," Anderson said. "He had a great at-bat."

Singin' Miguel

Miguel Gonzalez's right arm isn't quite ready, but his vocal cords are a different story.

During batting practice, the Mariachi Heritage Foundation was rehearsing on the field for its pregame Cinco de Mayo performance. Manager Rick Renteria pulled Gonzalez, a noted singer, toward the group. Gonzalez then showed his stuff, performing with the group for a few minutes to the delight of the Sox, the other musicians and everyone within earshot.

"I didn't think I was gonna get all inspired, but I did," Gonzalez said. "It was fun."

Gonzalez, nicknamed "El Mariachi," joked that he only practices in the shower. And despite his obvious talent, he didn't want to commit to a post-playing singing career.

"I don't wanna say something, then later I won't be able to do it, but I definitely enjoy it," he said.

Gonzalez has been on the disabled list since April 23 (retroactive to April 19) with inflammation of his right rotator cuff. Gonzalez threw long toss and said Sunday would be his first bullpen session, which he was excited about. Renteria said a rehab assignment probably would be a necessity.

Feeling better

Catcher Wellington Castillo (abdomen) was back in the lineup after missing the last three games. Renteria said the pain in Castillo's groin had subsided.

"He felt good [Friday]," Renteria said. "He told me he was good to go, and we just decided to give him one more day. I was a little concerned that he went out there to catch between innings, and I thought, 'Well, OK, you really do want to get back out there,' so he did, and he survived that. He's doing well."

True appreciation

Sunday is Nurses Appreciation Day, and the Sox gave tickets to the ICU staff at Rush University Medical Center. The tickets went to staff and nurses providing care for reliever Danny Farquhar.

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### **White Sox put Yoan Moncada on 10-day disabled list**

By Briand Sandalow / Sun-Times / May 5, 2018

Second baseman Yoan Moncada has been a bright spot in an otherwise dreary season for the White Sox, but for at least the next 10 days, he'll be put on hold.

Before their 8-4 loss Saturday to the Twins, the Sox put Moncada on the disabled list because of tightness in his left hamstring and recalled infielder Jose Rondon from Class AAA Charlotte.

Moncada, who didn't play Thursday against the Twins, left Wednesday's game in St. Louis and Friday's against Minnesota, and the Sox decided to be careful with their prized asset.

Manager Rick Renteria said the team is optimistic the issue won't flare up later but can't be assured of that. There doesn't seem to be an issue with muscle tissue based on an MRI that came back clean. It would help, though, if Moncada developed more flexibility and strength to go with a body Renteria said has about 4 percent body fat.

"He's never experienced it before," Renteria said. "It's new to him. It's odd, but we're going to deal with it very cautiously and proceed that way.

"And I think that the organization's doing the right thing by putting him on the disabled list right now and allowing it to settle down."

The clean MRI was a relief.

"That's good for us," Renteria said. "And we're just going to see if we can give him some time to strengthen, recover, see if we can get to the crux of what's going on.

"Maybe it's just an anomaly, and hopefully he'll be ready to go once he comes off this stint on the DL."

Moncada, 22, is hitting .263 with six home runs and 15 RBI. His on-base percentage is a strong .359, and, according to Baseball Reference, he already has been worth 1.2 wins above replacement. His WAR last season was 1.7.

Renteria is hopeful that this setback won't hurt Moncada's momentum.

"We're hoping it's a very short period of time off," Renteria said. "It doesn't bother him when he swings the bat. There are a lot of things that he's going to still be able to do in order to maintain his swing. So we're not too concerned about that right now.

"It's a very short window that we're looking at to allow him to get back on track physically so that he's comfortable and he can go out there and do what he does."

Moncada's game is based on speed and athleticism. He has four stolen bases and is one of the most gifted athletes on the team, and the Sox don't want him to sacrifice any of those qualities.

"It's a part of who he is," Renteria said. "We want to make sure that we're guarded and that his legs are under the best condition possible. When you see him, he busts his rear end all the time. He's hustling, running hard. We need to make sure that he's capable of doing it consistently over an extended period of time."

Rondon, 24, played 24 games in Charlotte, hitting .286 with four home runs.

"I just want to take advantage of this opportunity to establish myself at this level," Rondon said, "and to just help this team in whatever capacity they need me to help them."

Right now, that means contributing while the Sox take extra caution with one of their most important pieces.

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### **Carson Fulmer allows four homers in White Sox' 6-4 loss to Twins**

By Chris Kuc / Sun-times / May 5, 2018

Just when it appeared that right-hander Carson Fulmer had turned the corner on a rough start to the season, the Twins broke out the big bats against him.

Fulmer allowed a career-high four home runs (all solo shots) — including three in the third inning — as Minnesota topped the White Sox 6-4 on Friday night at Guaranteed Rate Field.

The Sox fell for the fifth time in six games, and Fulmer, who had yielded two earned runs over his previous two starts, suffered the loss to drop to 2-2.

“I didn’t make the pitches I wanted to,” Fulmer said. “I just missed some spots, and when you miss some spots to a lineup like that, you’re going to pay for it.”

After the Sox jumped out to a 2-0 lead courtesy of a two-run blast by Jose Abreu, the Twins tied it in the second on Eduardo Escobar’s first homer of the game and Ryan LaMarre’s run-scoring single.

In the third, Brian Dozier (3-for-5), Escobar (3-for-4, three RBI) and Logan Morrison launched homers off Fulmer. The Sox clawed back to 5-4 on a run-scoring groundout by Abreu (3-for-4, three RBI) in the third and a homer in the fourth by Leury Garcia, but Escobar struck again with an RBI double in the fifth to complete the scoring.

The Sox had chances to tie or take the lead, but Matt Davidson ended the fifth and seventh innings by making outs with the bases loaded.

Fulmer lasted 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings and allowed five runs — four earned — and seven hits. Jose Berrios picked up the win for the Twins.

#### Hobbling

Second baseman Yoan Moncada left the game in the fifth inning with tightness in his left hamstring.

After drawing a one-out walk, Moncada went halfway to second base on a Yolmer Sanchez (three hits, two runs scored) flyout to center field and returned to first gingerly before leaving.

“I don’t think it’s anything serious, but it’s something that is there,” Moncada said. “I can’t play my game. I can’t play free because I feel it when I’m running.”

Moncada added that some time off might be in order to fully recover.

“With two, three, four days off, I will be able to get a rest and recuperate that area and then maybe I can come back 100 percent healthy,” he said.

#### Fry guy

The Sox recalled left-hander Jace Fry from Class AAA Charlotte and optioned right-hander Juan Minaya to the Knights.

Fry, 24, was 0-0 with a 1.35 ERA and 11 strikeouts in five appearances with Charlotte. Fry made 11 appearances with the Sox in 2017 and finished with a 10.80 ERA.

Fry said the ’17 stint helped his preparation for this season.

“Getting the feet wet and learning from last year, [I saw] I was maybe trying to do too much,” said Fry, who pitched a scoreless inning against the Twins. “[I’ll] just stay within myself, get ahead of hitters [and] execute.”

#### Farquhar update

Jake Odorizzi and Morrison of the Twins reportedly visited Sox reliever Danny Farquhar before the game. Farquhar remains hospitalized after suffering a ruptured brain aneurysm during an April 20 game at Guaranteed Rate Field.

"Danny's doing fine," manager Rick Renteria said. "We know things are moving along in a positive manner."

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### **Anderson lightens Chicago White Sox's loss to Twins**

By Scot Gregor / Daily Herald / May 5, 2018

Weather wise, it was a near perfect night for baseball.

And the crowd of 23,765 was decent for early May.

As for the actual game, it was pretty much Tim Anderson and not much else for the Chicago White Sox.

In an 8-4 loss to the Minnesota Twins, Anderson connected on a pair of home runs. The Sox's shortstop hit solo shots in the seventh and ninth innings, giving him 6 for the season.

"It's baseball, and you've got to learn from it," Anderson said. "I learned a lot from it last year. It's just a game. I just go out and have fun and when it's not going well, just continue to go."

Anderson, who also doubled leading off the fifth inning, is having a good time this year, and his carefree style already has angered veterans Justin Verlander and Salvador Perez.

"We have to continue to play and keep having fun," Anderson said.

Making his second start of the season, Hector Santiago lasted just 3⅓ innings and allowed 8 runs on 6 hits and 6 walks.

"I felt really good," he said. "Probably felt too good. I pulled a lot of fastballs, which is weird for me because usually if I miss then I'm missing up and away or up and in to a lefty. I was trying to figure out which way to go, trying to make that adjustment, and I just kind of never figured that out."

Moncada to DL:

A day after saying "I can't play my game" due to tightness in his left hamstring, White Sox second baseman Yoan Moncada landed on the 10-day disabled list Saturday.

Moncada was pulled from Friday night's game against the Twins with the nagging injury. He had an MRI that came back clean, according to manager Rick Renteria.

"Nothing there," Renteria said. "That's good for us. We're just going to see if we can give him some time to strengthen, recover, see if we can get to the crux of what's going on."

The Sox recalled Jose Rondon from Class AAA Charlotte to replace Moncada. The 22-year-old infielder was batting .286 with 4 home runs and 10 RBI in 24 games with the Knights.

Acquired from the Padres on Jan. 10 for cash considerations, Rondon played in eight games with San Diego in 2016 and was 3-for-25 (.120) with 1 RBI. He pinch hit in the ninth inning Saturday and lined out to third base in a 12 pitch at-bat.

"I'm excited, but I'm not as nervous as I was the first time," Rondon said. "I think right now I know what to expect and what to do. The first time it was all new for me."

Sing a song:

On the disabled list with rotator cuff inflammation, White Sox starting pitcher Miguel Gonzalez found a way to get on the field Saturday.

At the urging of manager Rick Renteria, Gonzalez celebrated Cinco de Mayo by singing with the Mariachi Heritage Foundation during a pregame soundcheck.

"I didn't know what I was doing," Gonzalez said. "I didn't want to do it at first, I was pretty shy about it. But after I got loose, after the first song, I was good to go. My dad sang. I listened when I was little, and I've been doing it ever since but never like practiced. I just enjoy it."

Show of thanks:

Sunday is Nurses Appreciation Day at Guaranteed Rate Field, and the Sox are providing tickets for Rush University Medical Center nurses and staff who have cared for relief pitcher Danny Farquhar.

During an April 20 game against the Houston Astros, Farquhar suffered a brain hemorrhage caused by a ruptured aneurysm. He had surgery the next day and still is recovering at Rush.

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### **Cooper sees nothing but positives from young Chicago White Sox starters**

By Scot Gregor / Daily Herald / May 5, 2018

Far more than any other sport, baseball is steeped in failure.

Average just 3 hits per 10 at-bats and there's a good chance you're an all-star.

Pitch 6 innings and give up 3 runs and you've earned a quality start.

Stressing the positives in a game brimming with negatives can be a daunting task, but few do it better than Chicago White Sox pitching coach Don Cooper.

Now in his 17th season on the job, the 62-year-old Cooper always has been in his pitching staff's corner.

But with three young starters -- Lucas Giolito, Reynaldo Lopez and Carson Fulmer -- competing in their first full major-league season, Cooper has become even more protective.

"I'm impatient with many things in life, in the real world," Cooper said. "If I'm patient anywhere it's here, pitching, because I know it doesn't happen right away all the time."

At various points through the first five weeks of the season, Cooper has read or heard about Giolito being a back of the rotation starter in the future, Lopez's inability to go deeper into games and Fulmer being a better fit as a relief pitcher.

He's not having any of it.

"I can point out Roger Clemens, Nolan Ryan and Randy Johnson, Hall of Fame guys that did not get it right away," Cooper said. "Shouldn't everybody else be afforded that patience?"

"Here, and sometimes I think it's the reporting and getting to people and getting to people who don't know, to a dark side, it gets negative. I'm far from that. It's so different from how I wake up, and how I go about my day.

"I'm looking at the good in everything. On the sideline, when they make a bad pitch on the sideline, I'm not thinking bad. It's more, 'That might be a good chase pitch for a righty, a good chase pitch for a lefty.' I'm thinking the exact opposite."

The positive approach has been appreciated by veteran White Sox starters from Mark Buehrle to Chris Sale in the past, and Cooper has carried it forward to Giolito (1-4, 7.03 ERA), Lopez (0-2, 2.43) and Fulmer (2-2, 5.02).

"He knows a lot," Lopez said through a translator. "He has a lot of experience. He tells me how to take advantage of my abilities and how to improve myself at this level. I feel very grateful to be working with him."

You would think a veteran pitching coach would want to be paired with a veteran pitching staff, but Cooper has been invigorated by all of the new young arms in the Sox's system.

Giolito, Lopez and Fulmer already have arrived, and Michael Kopech, Dane Dunning and Dylan Cease are in the next wave.

"One thing about spring training was we got to see all the kids we acquired," Cooper said. "We're getting stronger. We've got depth down there, and they need more time. You've got to water them, let them get some sun and see how they grow, like a plant.

"There's another draft coming up soon. So we're going to get stronger and we're getting there. It was nice to see the Ceases, Dunning and how he's doing, and Kopech, all of these guys. They're coming. Last year for me when we brought up the young guys, it was kind of refreshing. Because this is big.

"We've got to make sure we're doing everything we can for these guys to have the career they're looking to have, to reach their dreams and be as good as they can be, and put them on that path."

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### **Kopech, Basabe, Zavala taking early steps toward joining White Sox**

By Scot Gregor / Daily Herald / May 5, 2018

For now, they'll have to be content doing conference calls.

Down the road, Michael Kopech, Luis Alexander Basabe and Seby Zavala will be waiting for the call to join the Chicago White Sox.

The trio talked to reporters covering the Sox on Friday after being voted minor-league pitcher/players of the month for April.

The closest to making it to the majors -- by far -- Kopech won top pitchers honors after going 0-1 with a 2.14 ERA and 29 strikeouts in 21 innings over 4 April starts with Class AAA Charlotte.

The rocket-armed righty also took the mound on May 1, the day after his 22nd birthday, and allowed 3 runs in 6 innings to go with 6 strikeouts.

There is little doubt Kopech is ready to join the White Sox's starting rotation right now.

"I hate to sound like I'm beyond ready because that's not what I'm trying to say at all," Kopech said. "I do think there are things I need to polish. But I do feel like I've done a good job of that. Honestly, I feel like my changeup is here.

"I've thrown it more and more. I'm comfortable with it. I had more swings and misses on it last start than I probably have in my entire career combined. So, I'm comfortable with my secondary stuff right now."

Coupled with a fastball that regularly hits 100 mph, Kopech looks like a can't-miss star of the near future.

But his arrival could very well be delayed by "Super Two" concerns. Players typically need three years of major-league service time before they're eligible for salary arbitration.

Super Twos are arbitration eligible if they rank in the top 22 percent of players with the most service time between two and three years.

So, if the Sox want to save a year of arbitration on Kopech, they like wait until sometime next month to bring him to the majors.

As for Basabe and Zavala, they've made themselves easier to find on the White Sox's radar.

Acquired with Kopech and Yoan Moncada from the Red Sox in the Chris Sale trade, Basabe batted .313 with 7 doubles, 3 triples, 4 home runs and 17 RBI in 21 April games with low Class A Winston-Salem.

In 107 games with Winston-Salem last year, the 21-year-old outfielder batted .221 and had 5 homers while dealing with a left knee injury that cut his season short and required surgery.

Now fully recovered and 20 pounds heavier, Basabe is showing why he's viewed as a five-tool player.

"I've been feeling good," Basabe said through an interpreter. "I think my body is strong and has been responding the way that I want it to respond. A big key for me is to stay healthy."

Zavala has also had injury issues, highlighted by missing a year at San Diego State after having Tommy John surgery.

The 24-year-old catcher/designated hitter batted .315 with 6 home runs and 19 RBI in 22 April games with Double-A Birmingham.

"Those injuries, they were kind of just luck of the draw," said Zavala, the Sox's 12th-round draft pick in 2015. "It's just really rewarding knowing that all of the work I've put in is finally starting to show a little bit."

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Five observations: Is Tim Anderson's big night a sign of things to come?

By James Fegan / The Athletic / May 5, 2018

What can be said about this one?

Genuinely, the angle for Saturday night's deeply undramatic 8-4 loss to the Twins, which dropped the very-rebuilding White Sox to 9-22 on the young season, was a matter of debate in the press box.

On bad nights, the Sox viewing experience can be reduced to prospect watching for the "prospects" who have already arrived in the majors — focusing on the progress of young players who could be part of their core going forward. But with Yoán Moncada on the disabled list, Matt Davidson getting a night off and veteran spot starter Héctor Santiago wrecked by walk troubles, the main takeaway from Saturday's game is that Tim Anderson is out of his mini-slump, and there is another game Sunday.

"It was moving all over the place," Santiago said. "I mean, I tried to run it in to lefties and it was cutting down and away, try to go away to a lefty I was missing in, so I think just trying to make that adjustment on the mound and couldn't figure out. At some point we were just like 'All right, let's just try to throw right down the middle,' and here we set up down the middle, [Wilmington] Castillo said let's try to go after these guys and by that time it was already five or six walks deep."

1. White Sox starters continue to walk

A few strong outings from James Shields, Lucas Giolito and Carson Fulmer pulled the Sox's starting corps out of the scary depths of having more walks than strikeouts on the season, but Santiago's six free passes in 3 1/3 rocky innings dragged them back a bit. Sox starters have struck out 101 batters in 161 2/3 innings and have the lowest strikeout rate in baseball. They've allowed 88 walks and have the highest walk rate in baseball. Pitching coach Don Cooper is preaching a long view and patience for the pitching



staff, as he should. It will only take a few hot starts in a row for the young arms in August to make the past five weeks easily forgotten, but it certainly burns right now.

Santiago mentioned Saturday that his fastball's unpredictable movement makes him chase a sort of effective wildness, and the downside of that was visible Saturday.

"I felt really good," Santiago said. "The velocity, I went back and looked and the velocity was there, which hasn't been that good in a while. Probably felt too good, I pulled a lot of fastballs, which is weird for me because usually if I miss then I'm missing up and away or up and in to a lefty. So little different kind of scenario there, I was trying to figure out which way to go, trying to make that adjustment, and I just kinda never figured that out."

## 2. Tim Anderson's improvements start showing up

Anderson's steady drop in strikeouts and gains in contact rate — essentially the most important element of his offensive development — have been covered up by his error issues persisting, the 1-for-21 skid he was riding entering Saturday, and by getting yelled at repeatedly by Salvador Perez. A double to the right-center gap and a pair of thunderous home runs to left should signal that a correction is coming, and that his overall offensive line should soon reflect the real improvements he's made.

"I probably would have been down on myself, I probably would have been in my own head," Anderson said of how he would have handled a slow stretch last year. "It's baseball. You will run into a few home runs. You have to keep going. You can't get too high or get too low. Just like we've been playing. We ran into a little tough spot. But we are not going to get down."

## 3. Moncada will not singlehandedly win the Crosstown Cup

The White Sox clearly read the thousands of Moncada tweets you all sent saying "please DL him" and wasted no time giving him the 10-day break that should clear up his lingering left hamstring issue. An MRI of his leg was reportedly clean, but he will not be eligible to return until May 15, when the Sox begin a two-game series in Pittsburgh. Until then, our ongoing series of "James asks Yoán Moncada nerdy questions that he mostly shoots down," will be on hold.

## 4. Jace Fry pitched well

It came after the game was pretty much decided, but Jace Fry looked good. He threw two perfect innings, wiping out the lefties he faced with his hard cutter and providing a welcome respite in a game in which the Twins had 19 baserunners. Fry struggled after getting called up straight from Double-A last year, but he's still just 24, left-handed and throws 93 mph. He has a chance to get paid major league money to get lefties out on a regular basis.

## 5. ...

Blake Rutherford hit his first home run in Winston-Salem? Bernardo Flores threw seven strong innings? Eloy Jiménez had a pair of hits? There's not much more to take from this night. Move on from it. It has nothing more to offer.

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## **Miguel González shows off his mariachi skills on Cinco de Mayo**

By James Fegan / The Athletic / May 5, 2018

Injured White Sox starter Miguel González can sing mariachi. He did it in Baltimore, and he's sung publicly multiple times since coming to Chicago. "El Mariachi" is literally one of his nicknames, and mariachi music blares from the Guaranteed Rate Field speakers every time he walks in from the bullpen for one of his starts.

It was thus, natural to think of him when a group from the Mariachi Heritage Foundation was rehearsing behind home plate during White Sox batting practice in anticipation of their national anthem performance at Guaranteed Rate Field on Cinco de Mayo. But Sox manager Rick Renteria decided letting out a few “gritos” while he threw batting practice was not enough, so he dashed to the outfield to drag a confused González away from shagging fly balls and had him join the group behind home plate.

“I didn’t know what I was doing,” González said of being dragged by his manager. “I didn’t wanna do it at first, I was pretty shy about it, but then afterwards I got loose. After the first song I was good to go.”

Indeed he was, as he transformed teammates Yolmer Sánchez and Leury García into giddy spectators.

Despite his obvious talent and his relatively frequent performances around the clubhouse, González says he’s never had any sort of formal training. His father sang and he grew up listening to the music on a regular basis, but he says his practice routines these days are limited to singing in the shower.

“I was probably 10 years old when I realized I had a good voice,” González said. “The only thing I need to practice is like vocal stuff and when to enter and all that stuff. But it’s, I mean, it takes time, but I know if I keep doing it I’ll be able to be a little bit more with the mariachi instead of actually having to listen to it and then having to sing, but it’s fun. I enjoy it.”

Despite being on the disabled list for the second-straight season with shoulder inflammation, González, who will be 34 at the end of the month, has no intentions of retiring anytime soon. So for him, it’s too early to say whether he’s going to pursue a second career of singing, or hosting impromptu concerts on the Guaranteed Rate Field concourse. He does want to learn acoustic guitar so he can participate more in a proper mariachi band, however, and he is starting to wear down from all the constant prodding he gets from teammates about how he should perform the national anthem one day.

“A bunch of people tell me to do it,” González said. “I don’t know. I don’t know, maybe. Maybe one day. Before I retire I’ll probably do it, I’ll probably go out there and sing the national anthem for the whole, I guess, world to see, right? Mariachi style, yeah, that would be awesome.”

One thing is for certain, if Saturday’s situation ever repeats itself and Renteria drags him in to sing again, González is not going to let his manager slink away to the sidelines during the performance.

“Ricky’s gonna sing with me next time,” González said. “I’ll be singing with him, but he’s gonna definitely have to be out there for sure.”

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**‘Ahhh! I’m not a throwing a two-seamer!’ Talking fastballs with White Sox pitcher Héctor Santiago**  
By James Fegan / The Athletic / May 5, 2018

After Héctor Santiago’s start Sunday, which raised his ERA to 3.48 on the season, I asked him about his sinker, since according to Statcast, he threw it and his changeup almost exclusively.

It turns out Santiago doesn’t throw a sinker. I felt bad.

In advance of his home start against the Twins on Saturday, Santiago chatted about the four-seam fastball that’s powered his eight-year major league career, but was unpredictable and slow when he battled a back injury last season. He also explained why this pitch gets mistaken for a sinker.

James Fegan: Does the four-seamer just get sinking movement on it or does it vary?

Santiago: Yeah, I think that’s why it’s kind of like a different pitch. I get a lot of swings and misses on it because it kind of moves around a lot. You’re not the first person that said I throw a sinker, so I always try to clarify that. Like I said, it’s funny I looked up at the scoreboard and it saw “two-seam” too. It doesn’t bother me at all. It just gives me another pitch in my arsenal, so that people think I’m throwing sinkers. It’s

funny when people are like “Oh, you’re throwing two-seamers.” I’m like “Ahhh! I’m not throwing a two-seamer!”

It’s weird because sometimes it cuts, sometimes it rises. Especially when I’m throwing arm side, I get a little run on it. I’ve been known for effectively wild, you know? Sometimes it sucks because it’s hard to control and you never know if it’s going to cut or rise.

JF: So it’s unpredictable?

Santiago: Yeah a little unpredictable. I think that’s what kind of gives me a little edge on a lot of those swings and misses. Sometimes [fastballs are] more like straight in there and I got a little cut on some of them. It’ll start a ball and come back on the plate for a strike. It’ll get a little rise or tail up and away for a lot of swings and misses or popups.

JF: Does it do a certain thing a certain day sometimes and you can tell your catcher what it’s doing?

Santiago: No. I try to treat them the same way. Treat it like it’s a straight four-seam fastball, and if I’m throwing in, I’m trying to throw it in there and hope it doesn’t leak back over the plate. And if I’m trying to go away, I try to get it away and if it sinks or kind of sails up and away, I’m OK with that too because it’s got movement off the plate. The hardest one for me to make sure that I never miss is throwing in to a righty, or away to a lefty and it kinda sneaks back over the plate.

JF: Can you predict when that’s going to happen?

Santiago: No. No idea. Like I can’t predict the curveball; throw six good ones and then one that kind of hangs up there spinning. You can try to throw it in the same way, try to repeat as much as you can, be as consistent as you can and just hope for the best. Once it comes out of your hand, you can’t control it, but you try to put yourself in the best position to be able to execute that pitch every time.

JF: Have you ever toyed around with a sinker or two-seamer, or does the life on your four-seamer make it unnecessary?

Santiago: I’ve tried. It just doesn’t do what I want it to do. It doesn’t really sink. Either it’s cutting over the middle of the plate or it’s just staying flat and it’s a little less velocity, so I’m kind of putting myself in a situation where I’m not throwing that pitch with confidence, so I just kind of banged it. We talked about it the other day; trying some sinkers, front door to righties, or back door to lefties and we talked about trying to do it, trying to grave the ball a different kind of way. It’s been a work in progress for eight years.

We tried it the other day. We talked about it and yeah, maybe, but I forgot about it the last three days, so I haven’t really been doing it. It’s not something I want to commit to, start working on midseason, you know? Maybe in the offseason, if I want to maybe get back in the rotation again. Looking to next year, if that’s what they want, work on it. Coop [pitching coach Don Cooper] says it all the time to, “I don’t care if you’re going arm side or glove side. I don’t care if you’re going two or four-seam, as long as you get it there.” Miss over the plate, miss for something they can hit out the park.

JF: Does your four-seamer get the same kind of movement as a two-seamer, but faster, then?

Santiago: I don’t think my four-seamer drops like a two-seamer does. A lot of guys have a two-seamer that bottoms out and gets a lot of ground balls. My four-seamer doesn’t get ground balls, and if it does, I either beat them, they’re late, they jam themselves or they hit the top of the ball. It’s not something I think my ball is doing. I get, what, 60 percent fly balls, probably? Most of the time? And then 10 percent ground balls?

I think in my career I probably have like, 40 double plays. Maybe. That may be a lot. Because I’m not a ground ball guy. I’m saying my four-seam is completely different from a two-seam because two-seam

guys get ground balls. Mine very rarely gets a ground ball, unless I execute a perfect four-seam, down and away and they roll over on one or they're looking in or something like that.

JF: Do you try to do something to get ground balls or at this point, this is your game?

Santiago: There's sometimes where the guy gets on first and I'm like "I gotta get a double play right here." And that's when you get in trouble, putting yourself over the plate trying to execute or trying to make things happen. I think at this point in my career I'm kind of over it, like "All right, I'm going to have to probably get all three outs here, one-by-one." But that's who I am, that's who I've been my whole career. I try not to do that. I try to get maybe the differential in speed between fastball and changeup hopefully enough to where I can get that ground ball double play. But for the most part I'm sticking with it and if I get two strikes, I'm going for the punch, soft contact.

I'm not trying to create ground balls anymore. I wish I can. I wish there was something I could do to get on top of this ball or throw it downhill. I do that and I still get a fly ball. I execute pitches at the bottom of the zone, I still get a fly ball. I get guys on in front of changeups, I still get a fly ball. I don't know what it is, or there's just guys in the league who do it. [Jeff] Weaver was another guy who was a big fly ball guy, and he threw a two-seamer.

JF: Does that make you a guy who wishes you could pitch in more spacious parks, like in Anaheim where you had some of the best years of your career?

Santiago: In Anaheim, it was a big park and I still gave up 29 home runs. I played in Seattle, still had Houston which is a bandbox, Texas, but I still gave up top-five home runs pitching in all those ballparks. It was definitely fun where you thought you were pitching in a pitchers' ballpark and some of those balls got out and you're like "I don't know what pitchers' ballpark this is." Seattle was nice, it was kind of a bigger place. But for the most part I've been top in fly balls and top in home runs. This year I'm trying to not miss with those fastballs that come over the plate.

JF: Does the fastball play different in the bullpen? Do you air it out more, or are you just trying to stay stretched out anyway?

Santiago: No. The other day in my start I threw my hardest fastball of the year. It's kind of there when it is, and it's not there when it's not. The other day in my start I threw, think it was 94 mph one time and I haven't thrown that in the pen.

JF: When did your velocity come back over the offseason?

Santiago: I don't know. I found out that I got my velocity was back in spring training. I went the whole offseason not worried about it; just get loose, get ready, make sure I was healthy. Spring training, when I came in, I told Coop "I don't know where my velocity's at," and he was like "Yeah I don't know where it's at either. Just go out there and pitch." It's almost back to normal.

JF: How do you get yourself to stop worrying about that?

Santiago: I gave up on that a long time ago. There have been times where I've been 96 and the next day I've been 90 mph, and that's from start-to-start too. I have no idea. Just go out there and compete with whatever I have that day. If it's 90 mph that day, I throw 90 mph. If it's 95 mph that day, I throw 95 mph.

JF: It wasn't something that was bugging with the way the season ended last year?

Santiago: No, I was hurt. So I was happy I was able to throw. I wanted to know in the offseason, but what am I going to do? Call a scout and say "Hey, could you put a gun on me?" So I just worried about how I felt and facing hitters and say "Oh, that looked kind of good," or where I was at. I talked to the White Sox and I said I'll worry about it in spring training. If it's there, it's there. If it's not, I can't control it. My body felt

great so it was just a matter of feeling good and going out and pitching.

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### **Five observations: Carson Fulmer roughed up despite showing tools for success**

By James Fegan / The Athletic / May 5, 2018

For the second-straight night, the Twins looked primed to roll over the rebuilding White Sox in Chicago, only to let them hang around and have countless cracks at rallying.

For the first-straight night, they actually hung on, weathering two separate bases-loaded, two-out situations for Matt Davidson to beat the Sox 6-4.

Also for the second-straight night, the Sox (9-21) will have to help a young starter move on from a difficult outing, as Carson Fulmer was roughed up for four home runs in 3 2/3 innings.

“Today was a situation in which he had really good stuff but he wasn’t able to command it as well as he had the previous two starts,” manager Rick Renteria said. “He left a couple pitches that were obviously well struck. Four homers today. He did have a couple of base on balls. He ended up working, even when I left him out there to work in the fourth. He got through [Joe] Mauer and [Brian] Dozier, and I was expecting he’d be able to get through that.”

#### 1. The most important hammy on the South Side

Yoán Moncada’s status with the franchise is something between “cornerstone starting second baseman” and “the most important dude who ever lived.” With that in mind, perhaps the biggest issue of the night for the White Sox — beyond the fact that they’re winning games at a 30 percent clip — is that his tight left hamstring has taken him out of three games in less than a three-week span, and out of two of the last three games. Speaking of the number three, that’s how many times Moncada smashed his helmet on the bench. Whether it was out of pain or frustration, the White Sox will likely be cautious with their leadoff man.

“I think with two, three, four days off I will be able to get a rest and recuperate that area and then maybe I can come back 100 percent healthy,” Moncada said through team interpreter Billy Russo. “Right now, it’s tough for me to make any assumptions but that’s what I think with a few days off I will be able to play pain-free.”

#### 2. Not good, but not the disaster it might seem from Fulmer

Fulmer had a lot of success in his last two starts with an approach that seemed more worried about walking his way out of another outing than allowing a solo home run. On Friday night against Minnesota, he allowed three solo homers, and one more booming two-run shot from Eduardo Escobar — his first of two homers and 10 total bases on the night. Obviously that’s discouraging stuff. Fulmer missed his spots on a pair of fastballs (egregiously so on one of the Escobar homers) and hung a cutter to Logan Morrison.

“I didn’t make the pitches I wanted to,” Fulmer said. “I had better feel later on in the game, just missed some spots and when you miss some spots to a lineup like that you’re gonna definitely pay for it. I did a good job of getting ahead for the most part, but like I said, missed the spot when I wanted to make a pitch and to a talented lineup like that you’re gonna get hit around a little bit.”

But amid the command mistakes, he frequently hit 94-95 mph in the early innings and recorded a season-high six strikeouts thanks to an 88-89 mph cutter that was nasty when he got the right level of drop on it. No one wants to hear about Fulmer showing the tools for success after another bad result, but they were there still.

#### 3. The same Yolmer Sánchez conversation as always

Sánchez is not a superstar — well, not by pure statistical performance — and he might not be a building block or a surefire mainstay at third base for the rest of his life. But he can man any infield position, and after a three-hit night Friday, and a first month of the season that has seen his strikeout rate drop under 20 percent, his offensive gains from 2017 look sustainable. Amusingly, he drew four pickoff throws from Twins starter José Berríos after singling in the first inning, right before José Abreu launched a two-run homer to score him, and his hustle to turn a ball in the right-field corner into a triple in the third inning was immediately rewarded with an RBI groundout.

#### 4. Defensive miscues from players in reserve roles

Omar Narváez's league-leading sixth passed ball of the season turned into an unearned run against Fulmer in the second inning, and those mistakes don't pair well with Narváez's huge early spike in strikeout rate. His novelty has been that of a non-traditionally effective bat-first catcher, so slumping both behind and at the plate is not a great look with Kevan Smith OPS'ing .932 in Charlotte.

Daniel Palka misplayed a relatively routine fly ball from Mauer in the ninth and was slow getting Dozier's first-inning triple from the right-field corner. An offensive hot streak will cover up his defensive limitations for now, but if there are no first-base reps available for him down the road, it will not cover the lean periods.

#### 5. Six left on base for Matt Davidson

Davidson ended the night with a 160 wRC+ for the season and went 1-for-4 with a single, so there aren't many signs of cracks in the armor just yet. But the fact that he stranded the bases loaded twice in a two-run loss is a bit of fair warning that he's an intense "three true outcomes" guy who has had to put a ton of maintenance into his swing and approach. Hot and cold streaks will come throughout the year, but so far, the strong moments have clearly made it more than worth it.

"Well he had some opportunities today," Renteria said. "He's actually been doing very, very well for us. He had a couple situations in which he could've broken it open. But he tried to put together as good an at-bat as possible, he took good swings, he took good passes. Wasn't able to generate what we needed in terms of producing runs, but that's just baseball."

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