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Still with Twins, Gibson goes 6 solid in defeat **Rhett Bollinger | MLB.com | August 1, 2018**

MINNEAPOLIS -- Despite trading Eduardo Escobar, Ryan Pressly, Zach Duke, Lance Lynn and Brian Dozier before Tuesday's non-waiver Trade Deadline, the Twins held onto right-hander Kyle Gibson, who they believe can be part of their success in the near future, remaining under team control through next season.

Gibson was mostly solid against the Indians, allowing three runs over six innings, but it wasn't enough in a 6-2 loss on Tuesday at Target Field. Gibson, who fell to 5-8 with a 3.47 ERA, attracted interest on the trade market, but the Twins ultimately decided not to deal Gibson or closer Fernando Rodney before the Deadline.

"When I signed here in 2009, we were coming off a pretty good decade there and I wanted to be a part of a playoff team, and I wanted to be a part of a playoff atmosphere," Gibson said. "I think that's what this front office is working toward, and I'd love to be a part of it. There's something about the Trade Deadline that kind of makes you think about this and that. I'm happy to be here, and I'm happy to be with this group of guys."

Gibson ran into trouble early, loading the bases with nobody out in the second, before getting Michael Brantley to ground into an run-scoring double play. Jose Ramirez, who homered twice on Monday, followed with an RBI double to give the Indians the lead. Ramirez bit the Twins again in the fifth with a two-out RBI single off Gibson to score Greg Allen, who reached on a single.

Gibson, though, got out of a jam and finished with a 1-2-3 sixth inning that included two strikeouts to give him six on the night. He threw 98 pitches, but the Twins were being cautious after his impressive eight-inning effort at Fenway Park.

"Coming off 120 [pitches], even with the possible extra day of rest, you keep the person's season, future, all those things in mind," Twins manager Paul Molitor said. "I know he wanted to go back out there, but I thought it was the right thing."

The offense, which is missing Escobar and Dozier for the rest of the season, was mostly quiet against Cleveland right-hander Trevor Bauer. Minnesota scored in the second on a sacrifice fly from Jake Cave to score Miguel Sano, who opened the inning with a hard-hit double into the left-center-field gap. The Twins didn't get a hit again until a sixth-inning home run from Logan Morrison, who could be a candidate to be placed on waivers in August and traded if he heats up.

"Bauer, he's got stuff," Molitor said. "I thought we battled, made him work. Pitches were somewhat of an issue for him as we got into the later innings. Morrison's home run gave us some life, but we couldn't hold them there at the end."

Reliever Matt Belisle gave up two Indians insurance runs in the seventh, loading the bases with two outs and allowing a two-run single to Edwin Encarnacion.

"Belisle had some misfortune with some balls that weren't squared up," Molitor said. "Just hit in the right spot."

MAY MAKES SEASON DEBUT

Right-handed reliever Trevor May, who was called up from Triple-A Rochester before the game, made his first Major League appearance since Sept. 11, 2016, as he underwent Tommy John surgery in March 2017. May showed good velocity, with his fastball hitting as high as 95.6 mph, and he had good control of his slider and curveball. But May gave up hits to Francisco Lindor and Ramirez, allowing a run on a groundout from Encarnacion.

"I got the feeling it was like a debut again because it had been a while, but it passed pretty quick," May said. "I was just making sure I was bearing down and hitting some spots. Making some pitches. You get their top of their lineup, which is good as anybody in the league, and those are the guys you want to face."

SOUND SMART

Over the last calendar year, Gibson has a 3.49 ERA with 191 strikeouts, 68 walks and 21 homers allowed in 198 1/3 innings (33 starts).

HE SAID IT

"I think that's three of the four teammates I've had my entire career have been traded away. That's tough. Barely got here in time to say, 'see you later,' to him. I saw that it happened and tried to jet over here as quick as I could. It's a tough day. Baseball's a business and the front office is doing their best to set this organization up for a couple years down the road, and make us as good as possible. I haven't broken the news to my daughter yet. She might be really disappointed. That will probably be the hardest conversation of the day." -- Gibson on losing Dozier, who was his teammate since his rookie season in '13

UP NEXT

Left-hander Adalberto Mejia, who is replacing Lance Lynn in the rotation after Lynn was traded to the Yankees on Monday, will get the start in the series finale on Wednesday at 12:10 p.m. CT. Mejia (1-0, 3.65 ERA) threw scoreless innings in relief on Sunday against the Red Sox, so he's expected to be held to a pitch-count limit. Right-hander Carlos Carrasco (12-5, 3.89 ERA) starts for Cleveland. The game can be seen exclusively on Facebook.

Twins deal Dozier to LA for Forsythe, prospects

Rhett Bollinger | MLB.com | July 1, 2018

MINNEAPOLIS -- The Twins made their fifth and final deal before Tuesday's non-waiver Trade Deadline, sending second baseman Brian Dozier to the Dodgers for veteran second baseman Logan Forsythe and prospects Devin Smeltzer and Luke Raley.

Dozier, perhaps the club's most popular player over the last five seasons, had become one of the faces of the franchise, along with Joe Mauer, after developing into a power-hitting All-Star second baseman and a clubhouse leader. But he will become a free agent after the season, and the Twins weren't going to re-sign him, so they decided to move him to the Dodgers, who had been linked to Dozier before the '17 season.

"It's a very difficult day on a lot of fronts," Twins chief baseball officer Derek Falvey said. "Brian has been a meaningful part of this franchise. This an opportunity for him to go to a winning ballclub that was in the World Series last year and with their roster is looking to maybe finish it off this time. We just felt like for us as an organization, this was the right time to make this decision. We were able to acquire some talent we feel can help us build toward a championship future."

Dozier joins Eduardo Escobar (D-backs), Ryan Pressly (Astros), Zach Duke (Mariners) and Lance Lynn (Yankees) as those traded by Minnesota prior to the Trade Deadline, bringing back 11 prospects and Forsythe. Pressly was under contract through next year, but the rest were all going to

be free agents after the season. The Twins hung onto closer Fernando Rodney, as they have a \$4.25 million club option on him for next season, and right-hander Kyle Gibson, who remains under team control through next year.

"It's been tough," said Mauer, who was never asked to waive his no-trade clause. "We've lost some really good people, some really good players and really close friends. It's disappointing on a lot of levels. But I understand. It's a business, and I don't like to say that, but it really is when things like this happen. But I try not to worry about things I can't control. "

Dozier, an eighth-round Draft pick in 2009, was a success story in Minnesota, winning the organization's Minor League Player of the Year Award in 2012 before unexpectedly becoming a power hitter in the Majors and a fan favorite. He participated in the Home Run Derby in '14, was an All-Star in '15, hit a career-high 42 homers in '16 and won a Gold Glove Award in '17. He had expressed interest in signing an extension prior to this season, but the front office never approached him or his agent about a potential new contract.

"I think the reality of it always stings a little bit more than as you think about it potentially going down," Twins manager Paul Molitor said about Dozier. "Kind of like with Esco, you've got a guy who's just meant a lot to this organization. He's been here since '09, I believe when we drafted him, and just been an integral part of what the Twins have been about here at least the last handful of years."

Raley, 23, is the headliner for the Twins, as he ranked as the Dodgers' No. 19 prospect, per MLB Pipeline. The left-handed-hitting first baseman/outfielder is having a solid year at Double-A Tulsa, hitting .275/.345/.477 with 17 homers, 17 doubles and 53 RBIs in 93 games. He's expected to move into an outfield role with Double-A Chattanooga.

"I think he's really developed into that power, the last year-plus," Falvey said. "He's somebody we think going to Double-A is not unlike a Brent Rooker. He really gives us a chance to add some power to our lineup."

Smeltzer, 22, has posted a 4.73 ERA with 67 strikeouts and 19 walks in 83 2/3 innings at Double-A. He had been starting early in the season but moved to relief in July.

Forsythe, 31, was included in the deal because he's making the same salary as Dozier this season (\$9 million) and the Dodgers wanted to avoid going over the luxury tax. He also gives the Twins a veteran infielder for the second half, but he's hitting .207/.270/.290 with two homers and 13 RBIs in 70 games this season. He's expected to join the roster on Wednesday.

"He's going to get plenty of chances to play, I would imagine, in the short term," Molitor said. "I'll have an opportunity to get a chance to look at some different people in different roles."

While Forsythe couldn't join the roster in time for Tuesday's game, reliever Trevor May was called up from Triple-A Rochester to take the place of Duke. It marked May's return to the Majors after undergoing Tommy John surgery in March 2017. He had a 4.00 ERA with 25 strikeouts and 16 walks in 27 innings at Triple-A Rochester.

"It's been a long road for me, just personally, and it doesn't always work out this way," May said. "So it's good to get the opportunity again. I made a pact with myself to get out of my own way, and I'm going to give myself every opportunity to earn a spot and keep it for a long, long time."

Trevor May returns to Twins after long absence

Staff Report | MLB.com | July 31, 2018

The Twins recalled right-handed pitcher Trevor May from Triple-A Rochester on Tuesday, making his return to the big leagues after missing the entire 2017 season recovering from Tommy John surgery.

May appeared in 13 games (four of them starts) for the Red Wings, going 0-4 with a 4.00 ERA, 16 walks and 25 strikeouts.

May was diagnosed with a torn ulnar collateral ligament in March 2017. He pitched parts of three seasons for the Twins from 2014-16, going 13-17 with a 5.14 ERA, 65 walks and 214 strikeouts in 102 games (25 of them starts).

May takes the 25-man roster spot vacated by right-hander Lance Lynn, who was traded to the Yankees on Monday.

Twins trade Brian Dozier to Dodgers

La Velle E. Neal III | Star Tribune | August 1, 2018

Brian Dozier was drafted by the Twins, developed by the Twins, thrived with the Twins and went to the playoffs with the Twins.

But with an expiring contract on a team with a losing record, he knew his time in Minnesota was coming to an end.

The Twins sent Dozier to the Los Angeles Dodgers less than an hour before the trade deadline Tuesday, capping a whirlwind five days in which Twins Chief Baseball Officer Derek Falvey and General Manager Thad Levine traded five key players.

“There were a lot of emotions going through my mind — Derek and Thad called me in and we had a nice conversation,” Dozier said by phone from the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport, where he was set to board a plane for Los Angeles to get to the Dodgers’ game against Milwaukee. “The past few days, I kind of expected it to happen. But when the time actually came, that’s when the emotions started coming in, because I didn’t know what to think of beforehand.”

“There are sad emotions of saying goodbye ... but there’s another emotion is that it’s exciting. Sometimes change is good. Going to a first-place team, which can be exciting.”

Dozier was an All-Star and a Gold Glove Award winner during his seven seasons with the Twins, and hit 42 home runs two seasons ago, a record for an American League second baseman.

“One thing I didn’t accomplish, going back to the postseason with the Twins,” said Dozier, who plans to deliver a personal message to Twins fans in the coming days. “That’s upsetting and disappointing for myself.”

The Twins traded Eduardo Escobar, Ryan Pressly, Zach Duke and Lance Lynn in recent days, receiving a total of nine prospects, but Falvey knew dealing Dozier would touch nerves all over Twins Territory.

“He’s been a meaningful part of this franchise, and I think this was a real opportunity for him to go to a club right now that, the Dodgers played in the World Series last year and have a chance, they feel like with their roster, to get right back there and maybe finish it off this time around,” Falvey said. “This was the right time to make that decision and acquire some real talent that will help us continue to build to what we hope is a championship future.”

Raley, 23, rated as the Dodgers’ 19th-best prospect, is batting .275 at Class AA Tulsa with 17 home runs and 53 RBI in 93 games.

“He’s really developed into that power the last year-plus,” Falvey said. “He’s somebody we think going to Double-A is not unlike a Brent Rooker. He really gives us a chance to add some power to our lineup.”

Smeltzer, 22, went 5-5 with a 4.73 ERA in 23 games (14 starts) for Tulsa. He was drafted in the fifth round in 2016 out of Florida Gulf Coast University. New Twins farm director Jeremy Zoll came over from the Dodgers organization and is familiar with both.

Forsythe, 31, is batting .207 with two home runs and 13 RBI in 70 games while playing second, third and one game at first. Forsythe and Dozier each are making \$9 million this season, which helps the Dodgers in their quest to avoid a luxury tax.

The Dodgers traded for Forsythe before the 2017 season when they could not pry Dozier away from the Twins. Los Angeles finally got its man on Tuesday.

“And you have to think of that when you are traded,” Dozier said, “and one team in this case, the Dodgers, really wanted me and have for a couple of years. It’s an exciting feeling.”

Forsythe will play, but Ehire Adrianza started at second on Tuesday and will get looks there as well. Once rosters can expand on Sept. 1, top prospect Nick Gordon, a former first-round pick, should play there as well.

Dozier hugged teammates and encouraged them to keep fighting, because the unexpected can happen. But the clubhouse had a different look on Tuesday as Matt Belisle was moved into Duke’s spot and Jorge Polanco dressed between where Dozier and Escobar held court.

And more moves could happen before the Aug. 31 deadline, provided that players clear waivers. Ervin Santana and Fernando Rodney could be targets by then, although the Twins have expressed interest in bringing Rodney back next season. They could be more goodbye hugs in a couple of weeks.

“I was thinking about it today, you know,” first baseman Joe Mauer said. “I spend more time with these guys than I do my family. So we lost a couple brothers today. But we’ll figure it out. The game doesn’t slow down or stop for anybody.”

Trevor May finds a personal victory in Twins' 6-2 loss to Cleveland
La Velle E. Neal III | Star Tribune | August 1, 2018

Trevor May said there were some parts of his outing on Tuesday that reminded him of his major league debut. That’s seems reasonable, since it’s

like his career is starting all over again.

May had to control his adrenaline against the Indians, misfiring at times but able to return to throwing strikes.

But while the Twins lost 6-2 to Cleveland on Tuesday, it was a victory for May, who went 683 days between major league appearances.

He thought about his rehab and what it took to come back from Tommy John surgery on March 22, 2017. Adrenaline was pumping. But he reared back for his first pitch since Sept. 11, 2016 — and dropped a 77-mile-per-hour curve for a strike to Francisco Lindor.

“I tried to look around a little bit and say, ‘Hey, pat yourself on the back a little bit.’ But to be honest, that hasn’t been in the forefront of my mind,” he said. “That this is my first time back. I just want to do the job. I want to do the job over and over and over again and help this team win because that’s what I’m here for.”

Winning wasn’t happening Tuesday, as Trevor Bauer held the Twins to two runs — one a solo home run by Logan Morrison — over 6½ innings as he improved to 10-6.

Cleveland scored twice in the third and once in the fifth against Twins righthander Kyle Gibson, then added two more against reliever Matt Belisle in the seventh to take control of the game.

So May, who was called up on Tuesday, was sent out for the ninth. He topped out at 95 mph with his fastball and threw a few nice curveballs. His best work came after Lindor’s leadoff single when he fell behind Michael Brantley 2-0 before fighting back to strike him out. He did give up a run when Lindor beat a throw from Ehire Adrianza with the infield in.

“Being through it and going through it, it’s a long road back and I can only imagine the excitement he felt to get back to this level of competition,” said Gibson, who had Tommy John surgery in 2011. “He’s been working hard in Triple-A and worked hard in rehab for over a year. Man, just super excited for him to get back here and get an inning under his belt.”

Buxton has setback

Twins outfielder Byron Buxton, whose season has been marred by a migraine, broken toe, strained wrist and a sickly batting average, is likely headed to the disabled list again.

Buxton, on the comeback from a wrist injury suffered July 13, left during the second game of a doubleheader against Class AAA Scranton-Wilkes Barre with an apparent aggravation of the injury.

“That wrist that we thought was healed has resurfaced,” Twins manager Paul Molitor said. “It wasn’t until he took a couple of awkward swings in the game where it started to flare up.”

Buxton underwent an MRI exam on Tuesday that came back negative. Molitor expects Buxton to be placed back on the DL.

Facebook broadcast

Wednesday’s game between the Twins and Indians can be viewed only on the Facebook video site, called Facebook Watch.

Scott Braun will handle play-by-play of the game, which will be produced by the MLB Network, while former Twin Glen Perkins and former Indian Jody Gerut will provide commentary and take turns answering questions from viewers during the game.

Etc.

The Twins and Class AAA Rochester are expected to announce Wednesday an extension of the player development contract between the organizations. Rochester has been the Twins’ Class AAA affiliate for 16 seasons.

In the case of the Vikings and Twins, the star treatment gives, and it takes away
Chip Scoggins | Star Tribune | July 31, 2018

One local franchise invited a cornerstone player to unpack his bags and stay awhile. Another team across town pushed a cornerstone player out the door.

One team is trying to maximize its opportunity to win a championship. The other team is engaged in a substantial roster reconstruction.

Dueling emotions greeted two significant developments within hours of each other on Tuesday: Vikings receiver Stefon Diggs signing a long-term extension and Twins second baseman Brian Dozier being traded to the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Vikings fans had reason to celebrate. Twins fans better hope Falvine's plan doesn't belly-flop.

If evaluated by an emoji, one move gets a thumb's-up, the other a frown.

The Vikings locked up another core player by signing Diggs to a five-year, \$72 million extension. General Manager Rick Spielman and salary cap magician Rob Brzezinski continued to maneuver deftly around financial parameters in order to keep a valuable piece from reaching free agency.

The organization's ability to retain star players who are in their prime while also handing quarterback Kirk Cousins a historic \$84 million contract serves as a case study in savvy cap management.

Linebacker Anthony Barr's contract situation remains unresolved on the team's checklist. It's unclear if Diggs' deal will affect Barr's extension talks, but there might be enough money left in the coffers.

If this was an either/or choice, the Vikings picked the right option. Keeping Diggs became imperative once the team signed Cousins.

Diggs and Adam Thielen give the Vikings perhaps the best wide receiver duo in the NFL. The organization invested heavily in Cousins, and his signing brought instant Super Bowl-or-bust expectations. Surrounding Cousins with as much talent as possible gives him the best chance of being successful. It's just common sense.

One counterargument is that elite quarterbacks can elevate any receiver. Maybe, but give me a sure thing every time. Diggs is a sure thing. If he can avoid injuries, his production should only increase with stability at quarterback and offensive coordinator.

"I believe we have something special with the players that we have and the pieces that we added," Diggs said. "Hopefully we can make this last for a long time."

The Twins are operating with a different focus, as was made evident by their fire sale of veterans leading up to the final move, cutting ties with Dozier in exchange for two more prospects and veteran second baseman Logan Forsythe.

A disappointing season compelled new baseball bosses Derek Falvey and Thad Levine to shed veterans with expiring contracts in favor of stockpiling prospects.

Their plan is strategic, but moving a player with Dozier's history and popularity inevitably invites criticism, especially in a situation like this with the front office essentially writing off the rest of this season.

Dozier has had a subpar season, no doubt. And his future with team appeared tenuous once the front office didn't approach him about a contract extension this past offseason. But his struggles this season shouldn't overshadow or diminish all that he brought to the organization.

He developed into an All-Star and one of the best power-hitting second basemen in the game. He won a Gold Glove. And he's durable, on pace to play 150 games for the fifth consecutive season. Nobody ever questioned his desire or effort.

Off the field, Dozier took his leadership role and voice of the clubhouse as important duty. He probably irked management with his outspokenness on occasion, but he made himself accountable, never dodged questions and voiced his opinion on issues that matter.

He had flaws as a player, of course. He remains an inconsistent hitter, and it became concerning when he didn't produce one of his typical hot streaks this season.

The Twins faced a deadline on Dozier with free agency looming. The front office clearly preferred to turn second base over to top prospect Nick Gordon rather than give Dozier a lucrative contract.

What's unknown is whether Dozier had any intention of staying beyond this season. Maybe he wanted a change of scenery, too.

An interesting juxtaposition of circumstances happened Tuesday evening. Dozier prepared to board a flight to Los Angeles to meet his new team as Diggs held a news conference to discuss his long-term contract.

Neither scene was all that surprising.

Thoughts on Brian Dozier going to Hollywood
La Velle E. Neal III | Star Tribune | August 1, 2018

Logan Forsythe is taking a red-eye from the left coast tonight and will be at Target Field and available on Wednesday when the Twins wrap up a three-game series against the Indians.

That surely has Twins fans excited.

The initial feedback I've received from fans is, why? Well, it's more like, WHY!!!!

Forsythe, a veteran handyman, is part of a three player package the Twins received for Brian Dozier on Wednesday. The Twins also received two prospects. One is outfielder Luke Raley, who has 17 home runs for Class AA Tulsa. The other is lefthander Devin Smeltzer, who is 5-5, 4.73 at Tulsa and could end up as a reliever.

Raley was rated as the Dodgers 19th best prospect in a solid farm system. I just checked MLB Pipeline, and Raley already is ranked 19th there. Interesting.

It's easy to see why Forsythe is part of the deal. He's making \$9 million, the same as Dozier. So the salaries cancel out for a L.A.. team that is worried about hitting the luxury tax ceiling.

"The big picture aspect of the discussion with the Dodgers just a roster fit and we had a fit for Logan here in the short term," Twins majordomo Derek Falvey said. "He's someone who has had a lot of success in the big leagues. He's been a great clubhouse guy. We've heard a lot of good things about him. (Bench coach) Derek Shelton, in particular, knows him well from some time in Tampa with him, and this just felt like, as we worked through negotiations, it was the right fit in the deal."

But why can't the Twins get more then when they are essentially agreeing to take on the remainder of Forsythe's salary? I do wonder if the Twins slow played their Dozier hand and missed out on a better deal. The teams that could have used second base help - like Arizona, Milwaukee and Boston (Boston did take a look at Dozier) - addressed their issues. The Brewers are going to try Travis Shaw at second and Jonathan Schoop at short. Wow.

But these deals are rarely talent for talent. Dozier is a two-month rental who is underperforming - by his standards - by batting .224 with 16 home runs. There have been no signs that he's about to go off on his second half tear yet. Maybe being in a pennant race will bring it out. But it's hard to cash in on a rental who's not Manny Machado.

Raley and Smeltzer join a flock of nine other prospects the Twins landed in trades of Dozier, Eduardo Escobar, Ryan Pressly, Zach Duke and Lance Lynn. The Twins, to their credit, did not straddle. They decided to use what they had to add to their farm system and see who grows into major leaguers. There's no problem with that.

Of the 11 prospects they have received, RHP Jorge Alcala (11), OF Gabriel Maciel (17), Raley (19) and RHP Jhoan Duran (23) were placed in the Twins top 30. Duran debuted on Tuesday at Class A Cedar Rapids and threw seven no-hit innings with one walk and eight strikeouts.

Twins fans should be a little upset because this season has crashed into a ditch. But the club could be a factor next season, when they will have plenty of payroll flexibility and a returning young core that should be ticked off about this year.

Twins put Papa John's back in promotional lineup; Lynx ties to chain remain suspended
Paul Walsh | Star Tribune | August 1, 2018

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

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

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

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

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

The Minnesota Lynx also suspended promotions with Papa John’s and that suspension remains in force, a team spokesman said Tuesday.

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

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

Tuesday's Twins-Cleveland game recap
La Velle E. Neal III | Star Tribune | July 31, 2018

GAME RECAP

Impact player

Jose Ramirez, Cleveland

The third baseman went 3-for-4 with a double and two RBI.

BY THE NUMBERS

5 Hits for Ramirez in the first two games of this series.

77 In miles per hour, the speed of Trevor May’s first pitch in the majors since September 2016, a curveball.

ON DECK

Righthander Carlos Carrasco, Cleveland’s starter Wednesday, has won his past four decisions but is 0-2 with a 7.50 ERA in two outings against the Twins this season.

Brian Dozier’s message to Kyle Gibson: ‘Hey, don’t let these guys quit’
Mike Berardino | Pioneer Press | July 31, 2018

Playing hours after two-time reigning team MVP Brian Dozier was traded to the Los Angeles Dodgers, the Twins fell flat.

Logan Morrison’s solo homer in the sixth was one of their few offensive highlights as they fell 6-2 to the Cleveland Indians. Not even a team meeting before the game could keep Trevor Bauer and two relievers from holding the Twins to six hits.

Right-hander Kyle Gibson, whose name had been bandied about in the days leading up to Tuesday’s non-waiver trade deadline, still posted his 13th quality start in 22 starts. He scattered five hits and struck out six but was lifted after six innings and 98 pitches.

“Anybody who’s giving up on us, I think, is making a mistake,” Gibson said. “I don’t think anybody in here is going to give up. We owe it to ourselves. We owe it to the guys who got traded away. That was the one thing Dozier told me: ‘Hey, don’t let these guys quit.’ He knows nobody’s going to.”

Last time out at Fenway Park, Gibson used a career-high 120 pitches to beat the majors’ best team, the Boston Red Sox. This time he gave up a pair of third-inning rockets off the wall, including a run-scoring double by Jose Ramirez.

Ramirez added a flare single for another RBI in the fifth that came on a 3-0 green light.

Edwin Encarnacion added a two-run, two-out single off former Indians reliever Matt Belisle in the seventh.

The Twins got on the board first when Miguel Sano opened the second with his second double in as many nights and came around to score on Jake Cave’s sacrifice fly. Morrison has 14 homers and is now 6 for 17 (.353) career against Bauer.

Playing their first game without Dozier on their 40-man roster since May 6, 2012, the Twins fell to 7-4 this year against the division-leading

Indians. They also fell nine games out of first place with eight more games between the teams scheduled for August.

“I know it’s a good team over there, but we play them pretty well,” Gibson said. “We’ve got a schedule, I think, that allows us to compete this year. We lost a couple key pieces, no doubt. It doesn’t make it easier. But we’re still really confident. For us to come in here and just cash in, I don’t think anybody wants to do that and I don’t think anybody’s going to do that.”

Right-hander Trevor May, making his first big-league appearance since Sept. 11, 2016, gave up two hits and a run in the ninth. May touched 95 mph in his return from Tommy John surgery on March 11, 2017.

Twins hold onto Fernando Rodney at non-waiver trade deadline

Mike Berardino | Pioneer Press | July 31, 2018

In a surprise move, the Twins opted not to trade 41-year-old closer Fernando Rodney before Tuesday’s non-waiver trade deadline.

A market glutted with late-inning relievers led to Rodney, who has worn nine different major league uniforms in his 16-year career, staying put.

“I’m not surprised,” Rodney said. “They tried to find a way to build the team. That’s why they made those moves, I think. And with the pieces we have here, we’re going to continue to play hard and have fun.”

Now 22 for 28 in save chances, Rodney reached the first \$300,000 threshold of his bonuses with his 35th game finished on Monday night, but there are four more of those at five-game increments, totaling \$1.2 million in additional bonuses.

“It’s something you don’t have control over,” Rodney said of the trade deadline. “If something happens, you have to keep going and keep playing baseball.”

The Twins hold a \$4.25 million option on Rodney for 2019 that carries a \$250,000 buyout. Rodney’s 2018 contract also has \$1.39 million remaining, a figure that will decrease each day during the August waiver trading period.

“I’d love to stay here,” Rodney said. “I think it’s a good young team with a lot of talent. At any moment, any hour, one season this can be the surprise team that wins the division.”

Rodney said he definitely plans to pitch next season.

“I feel like I can pitch one more year as strong as I feel right now,” he said after hitting 97 mph with his fastball multiple times in a scoreless inning on Monday night.

Over the weekend in Boston, Rodney passed former teammate Jose Mesa for second-most saves by a Dominican-born closer. He needs eight more saves to pass Francisco Cordero for the top spot.

Rodney could still be moved in August, but unless he clears waivers the Twins could only talk trade with the team awarded his claim.

BUXTON HURT

Byron Buxton’s left wrist barked at him again Monday night at Triple-A Rochester, causing him to be removed from the game after three at-bats. He appeared headed back to the disabled list for the second time in July.

“That wrist that we thought was healed has resurfaced,” Twins manager Paul Molitor said. “It wasn’t until he took a couple of awkward swings in the game where it started to flare up.”

A precautionary MRI showed “nothing significant” beyond inflammation, Molitor said after Tuesday’s game. The Twins likely will get a second reading of the results just to make sure as they “proceed somewhat cautiously,” Molitor added.

Because Buxton is on option, he is not accruing major-league service time while at Triple-A. If he isn’t recalled this season, he would fall 13 days shy of reaching three full years’ worth of service time. That could delay his free agency until after the 2022 season.

MAY RECALLED

To take the roster spot of Lance Lynn, traded to the Yankees on Monday, the Twins recalled right-hander Trevor May from Rochester.

May, who underwent Tommy John surgery in March 2017, posted a 3.60 earned-run average in 30 minor-league innings this season. Now 28, he made five starts among his 14 outings, including serving as the opener on July 22.

May, who will be out of minor-league options next spring, has made one start in the majors since July 1, 2015. That came in mid-August of that same season, when he did strong work out of the Twins' bullpen, which is where he will reside for now.

Molitor said May would likely see multiple-inning stints out of the bullpen but added his role is somewhat undefined for now.

BRIEFLY

Right-hander Aaron Slegers, on the disabled list since July 10 with shoulder inflammation, will throw his second simulated bullpen on Wednesday before likely heading out on a rehab assignment. Slegers threw two sets of 20 pitches in the bullpen on Monday and will increase that to three sets of 15 pitches on Wednesday.

'A very difficult day' — Twins trade Brian Dozier to Dodgers at deadline

Mike Berardino | Pioneer Press | July 31, 2018

Brian Dozier will get a chance to wear Dodger Blue after all.

With less than an hour to go before Tuesday afternoon's non-waiver trade deadline, the Twins sent their all-star second baseman to the Los Angeles Dodgers. The Dodgers, who lost in Game 7 of last year's World Series, will take on all \$3 million that remains on Dozier's expiring contract this season, according to a person with direct knowledge.

That's because the Twins will take back second baseman Logan Forsythe in the deal. Forsythe, plagued by injuries throughout his two seasons with the Dodgers, is making an identical \$9 million to Dozier's contract this season and is headed for free agency as well.

"A very difficult day on a lot of fronts," Twins chief baseball officer Derek Falvey said. "Brian has been a meaningful part of this franchise. In Brian's case, I hope he feels like we put him in a position where he gets a chance to go try to do something that is very special."

Two offseasons ago, coming off a record-setting season, Dozier, 31, was dangled in trade talks by the newly hired front office. The Dodgers seemed his likeliest destination in December 2016 but the deal never came to fruition as the Twins held out for more value.

That Jan. 23, the Dodgers moved on from Dozier and acquired Forsythe instead from the Tampa Bay Rays for Triple-A right-hander Jose DeLeon, who subsequently underwent Tommy John surgery.

"Brian's brand here in Minnesota, I don't know if you can get much better than that," Twins manager Paul Molitor said. "Everything that he's done for the community and the way he's played the game, he's set a great example for our young guys throughout. You're going to miss a guy like that."

Falvey said there were no last-ditch talks on a contraction extension for Dozier.

Twins first baseman Joe Mauer, who said he was never approached about waiving his no-trade clause, spoke for an emotional clubhouse that had suffered deep losses in recent days.

"It's tough to have those conversations because we have so much history," Mauer said. "I told (Dozier), at the end of the day I have so much respect for him and his family. I'm always a Brian Dozier fan."

In 70 games, Forsythe is hitting just .207 with a .270 on-base percentage. He spent a month on the disabled list during the first half with right shoulder fatigue; the Twins are hoping he will arrive in time to be available for Wednesday's noon game against the Cleveland Indians.

Utility man Ehire Adrianza, who had just 34 career starts at second base, will see time on that side of the bag along with Forsythe. By September the Twins figure to give a look to 22-year-old Nick Gordon, who was drafted as a shortstop but who had made six starts at second over his past 18 games.

According to a person familiar with the deal, the Dodgers insisted on Forsythe being included in order to stay under the competitive balance tax threshold after acquiring former Orioles shortstop Manny Machado at the all-star break.

The Twins also get Double-A first baseman/outfielder Luke Raley, rated the 19th-best prospect in a deep Dodgers system by MLB.com's Prospect Pipeline. Raley, 23, joins 2017 draftee Brent Rooker at that level to give the Twins two potential impact bats with similar profiles.

The third piece is Double-A lefty reliever Devin Smeltzer, 22. Smeltzer, who has a 4.73 earned run average in 84 innings, is a deceptive sidewinder whose nine-inning strikeout rate is 9.1 for his career.

Drafted as a senior shortstop out of Southern Miss University in the eighth round in 2009, Dozier received just \$30,000 as a signing bonus yet

vastly outperformed the low expectations that met him upon his entrance into pro ball. By 2012 he had become the Twins' regular shortstop, but a disappointing first half and defensive struggles led to his transition to second base after the season

Back in the majors to start 2013, Dozier continued a progression that saw him increase his home run total in four straight seasons, capped by a 42-homer year in 2016 in which he broke Alfonso Soriano's 14-year-old record for most homers by an American League second baseman.

Back with the Twins to open 2017, Dozier hit 34 homers and won his first Rawlings Gold Glove Award as he led the Twins to their first postseason appearance in seven years. Offseason talks on a contract extension went nowhere, and Dozier struggled through his worst offensive season since his rookie year despite missing just one game.

The Twins also had the option of keeping Dozier through season's end and making a qualifying offer — expected to be in the range of \$18 million — in November. Had Dozier accepted, they would have had him had under contract in 2019 for a little less than the \$20 million he made over the previous four seasons.

Had Dozier rejected the qualifying offer, the Twins would have received a compensatory pick of around No. 75 overall next June or, should Dozier sign elsewhere for at least \$50 million, a pick right after the first round. Picks 31 through 35 carried a signing slot of between \$2 million and \$2.2 million in 2017.

In their first five deals in a sell-off that began on July 27 with the trade of infielder Eduardo Escobar to the Arizona Diamondbacks, the Twins have now netted 12 total pieces, with Forsythe, first baseman/outfielder Tyler Austin (ex-Yankees) and right-hander Chase De Jong (ex-Mariners) the only ones with prior experience in the majors.

Wetmore: Did the Twins make the right call to trade Brian Dozier?

Derek Wetmore | ESPN 1500 | July 31, 2018

MINNEAPOLIS — The Twins on Tuesday finally followed through on trading Brian Dozier to the Los Angeles Dodgers, only about 20 months after it was one of baseball's most popular winter trade rumors.

That's to say nothing of the multiple years worth of work that it took Dozier to get to this point in his career. Before the Gold Glove, before the All-Star Game and before the Home Run Derby. Even back before that chilly Minnesota winter when a roving instructor named Paul Molitor worked with Dozier on the fundamentals of his defensive transition from shortstop to second base. Or the now-famous round of golf when a hitting coach named Tom Brunansky took Dozier to the links and asked him to use the lower half of his body to drive a golf ball as far as he possibly could.

Surely there were others along the way that were instrumental to his success. And don't go too far down that list before taking a moment to remember that Dozier himself deserves a heap of credit.

With Dozier reaching the end of his team-friendly contract — and Minnesota having already traded four other veterans in the past week — it was clear Dozier could be on the move. The question in my mind all week was whether the Twins would decide a trade return would exceed the value of their other options with Dozier.

Put simply: Would you rather have a prospect in hand or a potential draft pick (and slot money) down the road?

Let's start with the return.

The Twins got Major Leaguer and second baseman Logan Forsythe back in the trade with the Dodgers. He'll stand in at second base on occasion, but in a down year it's a safe bet that he'll split some time with utility guy Ehire Adrianza. Forsythe, like Dozier, is a free agent at the end of the season, and the trade doesn't mean he's the guy in Minnesota for the long haul.

The Twins also added outfield prospect Luke Raley, whom MLB.com rated 19th in the Dodgers' farm system, and left-handed pitcher Devin Smeltzer.

Logan Forsythe
Luke Raley
Devin Smeltzer

So that's the package of players that you have to weigh against these other options that Minnesota had.

1. They could have kept Dozier for the final two months and then offered him the Qualifying Offer — a one-year deal worth a predetermined amount. Last season that was \$17.4 million, and all 9 players that received the offer turned it down. (Former Twins pitcher Lance Lynn is

probably among those who wish that he hadn't.)

Would you be good with Dozier for one more year at about \$18 million?

The other two paths involve keeping Dozier and then watching him turn down that one-year offer.

2. If Dozier turned down the QO and signed for MORE than \$50 million guaranteed this winter, the Twins would have been given a compensatory draft pick immediately following the first round of next summer's draft.

Or...

3. If Dozier turned down the QO and signed for LESS than \$50 million guaranteed this winter, the Twins would have been given a compensatory draft pick just before the third round of next summer's draft. If you're looking for a comparison, the pick in this case would likely be in the 75-80 range of the draft, and that's where the Twins took high school pitcher Blayne Enlow last summer, although that involved some creative money moving with slot bonuses.

I don't think that I would turn down the Qualifying Offer if I was Dozier. But the other thing that's worth noting is that I'm not Brian Dozier. So the Twins would have had to have been OK with that outcome, paying Dozier roughly \$18 million for one season after what looks right now like his worst season since he became a star for the Twins. Dozier batted .224/.305/.402 with 16 home runs and 65 runs scored before the trade sent him to play his home games in Southern California.

If he did say no thank you to their offer, I'm not too sure if Dozier will get that \$50 million this winter, given the market.

So if you're the Twins, which would you rather have?

Package A: 2 months of Dozier, the chance to pay him about \$18 million for one more year, and then a (likely) third-round pick — plus the roughly \$800,000 in slot value that comes along with that pick.

Or...

Package B: 2 months of Forsythe, two prospects including one that MLB.com ranked in L.A.'s top-20 and no draft pick?

Twins went shopping and found some prospects to dream on **Derek Wetmore | ESPN 1500 | July 31, 2018**

MINNEAPOLIS — The Twins on Tuesday completed their fifth of five trades ahead of the MLB non-waiver trade deadline. All five deals sent out veterans, and in four of the cases, those players would become free agents in about two months anyway. (Only Ryan Pressly was technically under team control for another season.)

Prospects across the baseball landscape inhabit a range of potential outcomes. Some have the talent to one day become Hall of Famers, and others would become an average-ish everyday starter if they hit the peak of their ability. Some are just about a sure thing to be a contributor in the near future, while others have a lottery-ticket chance to even get one call from the big league club saying, 'You're up.'

Here it's helpful to remember last summer when then-new Twins Chief Baseball Officer Derek Falvey was talking about his team's draft class as a "portfolio" of draft prospects. Some guys have the proverbial "high ceiling" with a low probability of reaching that peak outcome. Others were perhaps a safer play with less range in their expected outcomes.

You'll forgive Falvey, the Economics major, for talking about portfolios again. This time it's in regard to the type of prospect the Twins targeted at this trade deadline.

Once it became clear that the Twins would be sellers, they had to have conversations with rival clubs and make decisions about whether to play it safe or shoot for the moon. They had assets worth dealing. Did they want to invest in early-stage startups or purchase government-backed bonds with their capital? Every investment portfolio makes at least some attempt to balance risk and return.

The trade deadline for the Minnesota Twins apparently was no different. We'll have more on the prospects and the future in time. Today, the story is that the Twins took a couple safe bets and also sought out the high-risk, high-reward arms.

"When we look at deadline returns and we're investing in prospect acquisition, we're taking a portfolio approach," Falvey explained Tuesday. "A blended approach."

“We felt like in different trades we acquired maybe lower ceiling, higher floor types that fit the upper levels and have a chance to help us along the way. That’s not to say those guys couldn’t exceed our expectations. But I think in some cases we probably did invest in a little higher risk, higher reward, guys with real elite premium stuff.”

The Twins added 11 prospects and Logan Forsythe in exchange for the 5 veterans that they sent packing this week. There are some position players among them, but a few names that stood out to me were 3 pitchers: Jhoan Duran (Diamondbacks), Luis Rijo (Yankees) and Jorge Alcala (Astros). None of them represent a sure thing, of course. That’s not how the pitching prospect lottery works.

Falvey said he thinks that the Twins added some high-upside position players (Gilberto Celestino is likely on that list). He also said they added some relief talent and potential starters down the road.

-Duran, 20, has a 4.27 ERA in 71 2/3 innings in A-ball this year. He’s struck out 79 batters and walked 29.

-Rijo, 19, has a 2.77 ERA and 32:3 strikeout-to-walk ratio in 39 combined innings across three low levels of the minor leagues.

-Alcala, 23, has a fastball that boasts 100 mph velocity. That’s a start, but he’ll likely need to refine his command and his secondary pitches he’s going to really pay off that talent with MLB results.

So there’s some uncertainty in these and other prospects that the Twins acquired. Those prospects with “real elite premium stuff” though? That’s the type of prospect fans often get excited about. Take Brusdar Graterol, as one example. He’s more exciting to a lot of Twins fans because there’s a lot of uncertainty — variance — surrounding what he could one day become. He might lean into the front end of a Major League rotation. For all we know right now he might never surface in the big leagues. That’s a wide disparity! Someone like Nick Gordon, on the other hand, seems to be a good bet to be a big leaguer. Star or average starter or bench guy or something else, that part remains to be seen. His range of outcomes, though, seems like it’s narrower than Graterol’s. There’s value in that relative certainty, although it’s admittedly not as exciting.

You need some of those in your portfolio, or you risk going broke. But if you’re a mid-pack payroll team like the Twins, you probably also want to take some moonshots.

“Sometimes those things don’t go exactly the way you expect. But to get a good 25-man [roster] and to build the kind of depth you need ... you had to invest in a blended approach,” Falvey said.

Falvey was asked Tuesday if the Twins targeted pitching in particular this July. To paraphrase his response, he said that teams never can have too much pitching and that, yes, the Twins wanted a look at some “upside pitching.”

“Guys with real ceiling,” Falvey said. “Ultimately, we feel like we got that. We got some real power arms back that we feel can creep to the top of the rotation. ... When we found opportunities with different clubs — whether it’s Jorge Alcala or Jhoan Duran, others — those are guys with real stuff, ceiling and a chance to impact our future in the not too distant future.”

Reports: Twins trade Brian Dozier to the Dodgers **Derek Wetmore | ESPN 1500 | August 1, 2018**

It took more than a year-and-half, but it’s finally close to becoming reality.

Brian Dozier is a Dodger.

@jcrasnick

Brian Dozier has been traded to the #Dodgers. Deal is done. @Ken_Rosenthal reported close.

Multiple outlets are reporting the move, Dozier to the Dodgers in a trade that sneaks in less than an hour before MLB’s non-waiver trade deadline.

Dozier to the Dodgers was the hot rumor last winter. At that time, the price was rumored to be pitching prospect Jose De Leon and maybe another fringe prospect. Instead, L.A. traded De Leon to the Rays for second baseman Logan Forsythe.

Now, the Dodgers are one of the World Series favorites, having traded a bunch of prospects to the Orioles for Manny Machado. And if Dozier is next, he joins a team with a legitimate chance to win it all in Southern California.

Dozier also joins a growing list of Twins players dealt before Tuesday’s deadline to make trades without waivers. If the deal is finalized, the popular second baseman joins Lance Lynn, Ryan Pressly, Eduardo Escobar and Zach Duke as Twins players traded in the past week.

Here’s what the Twins are getting for Dozier, according to Joel Sherman.

@Joelsherman1

#Twins are getting forsythe, Smeltzer and Raley for Dozier

Forsythe is a pending free agent. Luke Raley is rated No. 19 in the Dodgers' farm system, according to MLB.com.

Trevor May gets the call from the Twins after Lance Lynn trade frees up a roster spot

Derek Wetmore | ESPN 1500 | July 31, 2018

Trevor May is back in the big leagues.

The long journey back from Tommy John surgery will reach its conclusion soon at Target Field, as the Twins announced Tuesday that May will take the 25-man roster spot cleared when the club traded Lance Lynn to the Yankees.

Tuesday also marks the non-waiver trade deadline in MLB.

May has been used out of the bullpen for Triple-A Rochester, after he had been stretched out as a starter following the recovery from his elbow ligament surgery. He missed the entire 2017 season after he had his surgery during spring training that year.

May has been bounced around throughout his young career, but the flashes he showed out of the bullpen in 2016 make him an awfully intriguing arm in my book.

This year for Triple-A Rochester, May has a 4.00 ERA in 27 innings (4 starts and 9 relief outings). He's also run a 25:16 strikeout-to-walk ratio, which underscores the point that the Twins would like to see improved command from May overall.

His 2016 numbers in the Majors might not jump off the page initially. He pitched 42 2/3 innings with a 5.27 ERA. But his strikeout rate and some context help make the case that May can be a weapon for Minnesota's pitching staff. See, one of the big questions in May's career to date has been his durability. And that summer May had a back issue that I believe affected his performance. If we play with the numbers a little bit and remove a brutal stretch of 5 outings in which May recorded just 10 outs and gave up 10 earned runs, here's what his 2016 numbers would look like:

3.43 ERA

34% strikeout rate

9.8% walk rate

3 home runs allowed in 39 1/3 innings

He's got a mid-90's fastball with a mix of 4 pitches, and he could start or relieve. Long story short: Don't sleep on Trevor May.

Encarnacion, Ramirez lead Indians past Twins, 6-2

Associated Press | Fox Sports North | July 31, 2018

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) Trevor Bauer is his own toughest critic – even when victorious.

The Cleveland right-hander had some choice words to describe his performance Tuesday against Minnesota. Though Bauer struggled by his standards, he pitched deep enough to help the Indians beat the Twins by a 6-2 final.

"A frustrating outing personally, but things to build on," Bauer said. "Obviously the team won, so that's the ultimate goal every time I go out there and pitch."

Cleveland extended its lead in the American League Central to nine games over the Twins, who traded second baseman Brian Dozier to the Dodgers on Tuesday in the latest move that signaled another lost season for Minnesota.

It was an uncharacteristic outing for Bauer, who walked more batters (4) than he struck out (3) for the first time all season. The three strikeouts matched a season low and snapped a streak of 12 straight outings with at least seven strikeouts.

Bauer managed to pitch into the seventh inning but eventually gave way to reliever Brad Hand after allowing two runs on four hits in 6 1/3 innings.

"You look up in the fifth inning and he had one hit, but he had been out of the stretch every inning because he just wasn't commanding," said Indians manager Terry Francona. "He fights and claws and doesn't give in and got himself a win, and we got a win out of it."

One day after hitting a pair of homers against the Twins, Ramirez's bat stayed hot at Target Field. He drove in a run with a double in the third inning and added an RBI single in the fifth as part of a three-hit night.

Twins right-hander Kyle Gibson gave up three runs on five hits in six innings to earn his second loss in his last three starts.

"A couple of breaks here and there, a couple tough pitches that they put in play and put them in the right spots," Gibson said. "Guys battled and hopefully we'll come out and get the series tomorrow."

Miguel Sano doubled in the second inning and eventually scored the game's first run on a sacrifice fly by Jake Cave. The Twins didn't get another hit until Logan Morrison's solo homer off Bauer in the sixth cut Cleveland's lead to 3-2.

Greg Allen had a three-hit game and scored three of Cleveland's runs as the No. 9 hitter. It was Allen's second game back since being recalled from Triple-A Columbus.

Encarnacion's two-out bloop to right scored a pair in the seventh to give the Indians a 5-2 cushion. He added an RBI on a fielder's choice in the ninth inning. Encarnacion now has 76 RBI on the year, two behind Ramirez for the team lead.

"Our offensive numbers this year are pretty ridiculous across the board," Bauer said. "Especially Edwin. He loves hitting here."

MAY RETURNS TO THE TWINS

Minnesota right-hander Trevor May is back in the major leagues for the first time since 2016. He missed all of 2017 following Tommy John surgery on his right elbow and pitched for Triple-A Rochester this year before officially being recalled Tuesday by the Twins.

May was both a starter and a reliever for Minnesota in 2014 and 2015 but pitched exclusively out of the bullpen in 2016. He made four starts and nine relief appearances this season for Rochester before getting recalled.

"I think we all know that I have that versatility, and we talk about that quite a bit," May said Tuesday. "At the moment, I like just getting the ball and letting it rip. I think that I have the mentality to take the ball at the end of the game and close the door."

May made his season debut in the ninth inning, allowing one run on two hits.

TRAINERS ROOM

Indians: RHP Josh Tomlin (right hamstring) threw two 15-pitch innings in a simulated game Tuesday and will pitch Friday for Triple-A Columbus in a rehab start, manager Terry Francona said Tuesday. Tomlin will throw two innings in his rehab outing.

Twins: CF Byron Buxton, currently playing for Triple-A Rochester, reagravated his injured wrist Monday and will be evaluated further. Twins manager Paul Molitor said it's likely Buxton will land on the minor league disabled list.

UP NEXT

Indians: RHP Carlos Carrasco starts the series finale for Cleveland, having won four of his last five starts.

Twins: LHP Adalberto Mejia is making just his third start of the year for the Twins, all of which have been since June 30.

Twins recall RHP Trevor May **Staff Report | Fox Sports North | July 31, 2018**

Trevor May is back.

The Minnesota Twins recalled the 28-year-old right-hander from Triple-A Rochester on Tuesday after trading starter Lance Lynn to the New York Yankees on Monday.

May has been on the shelf since undergoing Tommy John surgery last spring, and hasn't pitched for the Twins since 2016. He has a 5.14 ERA and a 1.429 WHIP in 102 career major-league appearances, all with the Twins.

May has a 4.00 ERA and a 1.481 WHIP in 13 appearances (4 starts) for Rochester this season, registering 25 strikeouts and 16 walks in 27 innings.

Who Were the Biggest Winners and Losers of the 2018 MLB Trade Deadline?

Jon Taylor | Sports Illustrated | July 31, 2018

The trade deadline has come and gone, and with it, a busy day of moves both big and small. From Chris Archer heading to Pittsburgh to some sellers emptying the cupboard, Tuesday brought plenty to figure out. So let's take a look at both deadline day and the month leading up to it, and see which teams won or lost.

Winner: Sellers

Both Baltimore and Minnesota were the biggest movers of the deadline. The O's dealt away nearly a quarter of their roster, saying goodbye to Manny Machado, Schoop, Gausman, Zach Britton, Brad Brach and Darren O'Day all in the last two weeks. In exchange: over a dozen prospects (most of them very good), a lot of international signing money and a payroll reduction of over \$30 million going forward. There are no half-measures in deadline selling, and while the Orioles are going to continue to stink on ice for the rest of 2018, they did what they had to do to try to build a better tomorrow.

The same applies to the Twins, who chucked pending free agents like someone cleaning out a smelly fridge. Tuesday saw the trade of longtime star Brian Dozier to the Dodgers, closing out a week that saw Minnesota deal away him, Eduardo Escobar, Lance Lynn and Zach Duke. For that group, the Twins got plenty of high-upside prospects, and more could be coming if they can get anyone to bite on Ervin Santana, Logan Morrison or Fernando Rodney in August.

It sucks to watch teams openly give up, and it shouldn't be encouraged. But if your season's lost, you have to rip that Band-Aid off all the way and all at once. The O's and Twins did just that, and they did it well.

Dodgers continue to go all-in with trade for Brian Dozier

Chris Kwik | Yahoo! Sports | July 31, 2018

The Los Angeles Dodgers are determined to make up for last year's failure in the World Series. The team continued to go all-in at the trade deadline, picking up second baseman Brian Dozier from the Minnesota Twins, according to Jerry Crasnick of ESPN.

In return for Dozier, the Twins will receive Logan Forsythe, pitcher Devin Smeltzer and outfielder Luke Raley, according to Joel Sherman of the New York Post.

The 31-year-old Dozier is hitting .224/.305/.402, with 16 home runs, over 462 plate appearances in 2018. While Dozier's numbers are down, the former All-Star gives the Dodgers an upgrade in the infield and allows the team to remain under the luxury tax moving forward.

What does the Brian Dozier trade do for the Dodgers?

It gives them a solid player at second base. While Max Muncy has broken out in 2018, there's no guarantee that will continue in the second half. Since the All-Star Game, Muncy has hit .195 in 11 games. That's a small sample, but it highlights the fear of relying on a surprising breakout like Muncy the entire year. The magic could run out at any time.

Dozier is predictable and established at second. While he hasn't been a high average hitter, he can provide solid pop at the position. He also has years of experience at second base. Muncy hasn't played much at that position, so the Dodgers may have taken defense into consideration with the move.

The deal also confirms the Dodgers are trying their best to deliver a World Series in 2018. Dozier didn't have to be a priority for them, but he makes the team better. Combine him with Manny Machado, and it's clear the Dodgers want to get over last year's disappointment of losing Game 7 to the Houston Astros. Just after acquiring Dozier, the team also announced a deal for reliever John Axford, according to Mark Feinsand of MLB.com.

All three of those players will be free agents at the end of the season, so the Dodgers' focus is definitely short-term right now.

What does the Brian Dozier trade do for the Twins?

Bringing in Logan Forsythe was just a matter of offsetting the cost for the Dodgers. The real value in the deal for Minnesota is Raley and Smeltzer. The two aren't huge names, though. Raley rated at the Dodgers' No. 26 prospect coming into the season according to Baseball America. He's hit .275/.345/.477 in 2018. Smeltzer did not rank among the team's top-30 prospects according to BA. He's posted a 4.73 ERA over 83 2/3 innings.

The Twins were going to lose Dozier to free agency at the end of the season anyway, so at least the team got something for him before he left.

Twins trade Brian Dozier to the Dodgers
Craig Calcaterra | NBC Sports | July 31, 2018

The Los Angeles Dodgers have acquired Brian Dozier from the Twins. Jerry Crasnick of ESPN confirmed the deal following multiple reports of it as it was going down. No word yet on the return back to Minnesota.

Given that the Dodgers already have a number of infielders it's possible that Logan Forsythe could be headed to the Twins, as Ken Rosenthal speculates. As it is, he's seeing little playing time. Dozier, of course, provides a clear upgrade over both Forsyth and the soon-to-retire Chase Utley. UPDATE: Yep, it is confirmed that the Twins will receive Forsythe, right-hander Devin Smeltzer, and outfielder Luke Raley.

Dozier is hitting .224/.305/.402 with 16 homers on the year. That's a considerable falloff from what he's done over the past several seasons, but perhaps a change of scenery will snap him back into form. And, as said, he's a better option for the Dodgers than what they have now even if he stays his current course.

Despite all their trade-deadline moves, Twins didn't sacrifice their future
Dan Hayes | The Athletic | August 1, 2018

They may have ripped apart the 2018 roster, but the Twins didn't sacrifice much of their immediate future in the process.

The Twins completed their mini-tear down on Tuesday afternoon, about an hour before the non-waiver trade deadline, by sending fan-favorite Brian Dozier to the Los Angeles Dodgers for Logan Forsythe and two minor-leaguers. The trade was the fifth the Twins had made in a span of four days, a series of moves in which they jettisoned five current major leaguers off their 25-man roster. The deals netted the Twins 11 minor-leaguers, including five among their top 30 prospects, according to MLB Pipeline.com.

Despite drawing significant trade interest for starting pitcher Kyle Gibson, the Twins mostly kept their young core intact by making trades involving impending free agents. Only one of the five players dealt, Ryan Pressly, was under team control beyond the 2018 season. While nothing has been determined for 2019, and much of it could ride on the performances of Miguel Sanó and Byron Buxton the rest of the season, the Twins' actions this week hardly suggest a full rebuild is on the horizon.

"We've talked a lot about the core and building around this team," chief baseball officer Derek Falvey said. "Clearly, this year to date has not gone as expected. We all need to look in the mirror for that. You see guys like Eddie Rosario and Jose Berríos take steps up. Max Kepler has continued to improve. We need some other guys to join that group. I think about guys like Kyle Gibson, who has taken a big step over the last year. We have a number of guys in that clubhouse in there who are under control for the future, whether it's next year or beyond, they're going to be a big part of what we're trying to build here. I still feel good about that group of players."

This hasn't been a warm and fuzzy period within the Twins clubhouse.

Dozier's trade was the latest blow delivered to the team's midsection since Friday. What began with a punch to the gut when Eduardo Escobar was traded to Arizona extended into a series of body blows landed one after the other.

Every Twins player had an idea this is how things might transpire once the front office ripped the Band-Aid off and traded Escobar. But realizing it ahead of time didn't make it any easier for players and the managerial staff to handle.

"The reality of it always stings a little bit more than as you think about it potentially going down," manager Paul Molitor said. "Kind of like with Escobar, you've got a guy who's just meant a lot to this organization ... an integral part of what the Twins have been about here at least the last handful of years.

"It's tough to see him walk out the door."

Whereas 96 hours ago the Twins hoped for a little more time to make up ground on the Cleveland Indians, now they're faced with the reality that the front office is looking ahead to next season. Suddenly, a season that began with postseason aspirations and a team-record \$128.7 million payroll has been cast aside with 56 games left on the schedule.

And not just that, but in Escobar, Dozier, Pressly, Zach Duke and Lance Lynn, Twins players have been stripped of some of their favorite personalities.

"It's been tough," first baseman Joe Mauer said. "We've lost some really good people, some really good players, and really close friends. And it doesn't feel good.

"Right now, it's still kind of new. It's tough.

“It’s very disappointing. Obviously, spring training is a totally different feel than what it is right now and we had high expectations for this team and a lot of those guys aren’t here.”

Social media also hasn’t been too kind with regard to the team’s recent activities. Fans have been disappointed to see the trades of Escobar and Dozier, who was exchanged for Forsythe, outfielder Luke Raley — the No. 19-rated player in the Dodgers farm system — and left-handed pitcher Devin Smeltzer.

Raley is the fifth player among the 11 acquired to slot into the Twins’ top-30 prospect list, according to MLB Pipeline.com. He’s now the No. 19 prospect in the Twins’ system.

Right-handed pitcher Jorge Alcala (No. 11), outfielder Gilberto Celestino (14), outfielder Gabriel Maciel (17) and righty Jhoan Duran (23) all were acquired this week too.

“It has been super exciting,” player development director Jeremy Zoll said. “When you start looking all the way through across the affiliates and you can see the depth that it has built out. Some of the weaker spots we might have had feel like the tide has risen. Adding five guys that are going to slide into the middle of our top 30 is pretty exciting and always something that when you’re working in the development spaces gets you motivated and inspired.”

The Twins did pretty well overall, given the cards they had to play going into the deadline.

Had they hung onto any of their impending free agents and not re-signed them this offseason, the Twins wouldn’t have received any compensation unless they offered the player a qualifying offer, which comes at the cost of roughly one year for \$18 million.

Only Dozier, who is in the midst of the worst season of his career, potentially would have received a qualifying offer from the Twins.

While relief pitching always sells at the trade deadline, trading position players hasn’t been an easy proposition the past two years.

Last July, Detroit traded J.D. Martinez — who received a \$110-million contract this offseason and was in the midst of a career year — for two prospects who are projected as 45 overall on the 20-80 scouting scale (50 is an average player) and another who isn’t listed on the team’s current top-30 list. At the time, Martinez was hitting .305/.388/.630 with 16 home runs.

Front offices around the league have had difficulty getting fair compensation for rental position players, and this month was particularly hard to navigate. Boston’s Dave Dombrowski noted back in June that teams were trying to line up deals then with the expectation that it would be a buyer’s market.

While none of the players the Twins acquired currently project to higher than 50 on the scouting scale, they got loads of bodies all across the portfolio. Some players have a higher upside with more risk while others have less risk and lower ceilings. Overall, Falvey and general manager Thad Levine are pleased with the fruits of their four-day blitz.

“I don’t think about it necessarily in win-lose,” Falvey said. “I just think about it — did we invest and make the right decisions for our future? I think we did. We ultimately made some difficult decisions, some hard choices to trade away players that we think would help us in the next few months or a great deal of talent that would help us in the future. I feel good about that.”

Gibson: Twins don’t intend to quit

Gibson said Twins players held a meeting before Tuesday’s 6-2 loss to the Indians and resolved to continue battling to the end. The Twins were locked in a one-run struggle before Cleveland pulled away late. The Indians scored two runs in the seventh and another in the ninth after Gibson had exited.

Gibson allowed three earned runs and five hits with three walks and six strikeouts in six innings. He preferred to stay in later but Molitor thought better of it after Gibson threw a career-high 120 pitches in his previous start at Boston.

“I’m happy to be with this group of guys,” Gibson said. “We got a lot of baseball left, 56 games left. We had a meeting before the day and I know that’s a good team over there, but we’ve played them pretty well and we got a schedule that I think allows us to compete this year. We lost a couple key pieces, no doubt. It doesn’t make it easier, but we’re still really confident. We’ve got a good team that we’re going to run out there every single day and guys that are going to play hard. Anybody who’s giving up on us, I think, is making a mistake and nobody in here’s going to give up either.”

Zoll’s insight into Dodgers farm system a factor in Dozier trade

The two years Zoll spent working in the Dodgers front office prior to joining the Twins paid off when it came to Tuesday’s Dozier deal. Zoll, who

is in his first year as the team's farm director, worked for Los Angeles from 2016-17.

Though 23-year-old starting pitcher Devin Smeltzer doesn't appear on any prospect lists, two rival analysts thought the Twins did well to acquire the 2016 fifth-round pick. One cited his plus changeup and the spin rate of his slider. Another thought Smeltzer's major-league ceiling is better in the bullpen than in the rotation.

"You felt you could shed a little bit of extra light on a few things, from a makeup perspective, a work-ethic perspective and some potentially extenuating circumstances when we were digging deep on some guys," Zoll said. "It always helps when you have that insight, but it's a small drop in the bucket for a comprehensive process.

"The more information you have, the more of an informed decision you can make. When you're making trades, it feels like you never quite have perfect information. ... The more we can make it as complete of a picture on our end, the better off we'll be."

Said Falvey: "You just get makeup information from people. We talked about getting championship-quality players. Not just talent. But what they can do in the clubhouse. Leaders. How they operate. We feel a number of these players have real upside not just in talent but as leaders."

Bowden: Grading all 30 MLB teams on their deadline moves

Jim Bowden | The Athletic | August 1, 2018

Minnesota Twins | Grade: A-

Traded RHP Ryan Pressly to Astros for RHP Jorge Alcala and OF Gilberto Celestino.

Traded INF Eduardo Escobar to Diamondbacks for RHP Jhoan Duran, OF Ernie De LA Trinidad and OF Gabriel Masiel.

Traded LHP Zach Duke to Mariners for RHP Chase De Jong and 1B/3B Ryan Costello.

Traded RHP Lance Lynn to Yankees for 1B Tyler Austin and RHP Luis Rijo.

Acquired OF Jeremy Hazelbaker from Rays for cash considerations.

Acquired 1B Chris Carter from Angels for cash considerations.

The Twins did an exceptional job in acquiring 10 legitimate prospects at the deadline for players who were either on their free-agent walk years or were set-up relievers. The ability to get both quantity and quality in their four key trades with Houston, Arizona, Seattle and New York bodes well for their farm system and proves once again that the Twins baseball leadership is in great hands with chief baseball officer Derek Falvey and GM Thad Levine.

Twins trade Brian Dozier to Dodgers in deadline-beating deal

Zack Pierce | The Athletic | July 31, 2018

The Twins on Tuesday traded second baseman Brian Dozier to the Dodgers in a deadline-beating deal Tuesday that will give Los Angeles a major boost in its pennant race and mark the end of a whirlwind of trade activity for Minnesota in a disappointing season.

Dozier is having one of his worst years at the plate, hitting just .224/.305/.402, but has 16 home runs, 21 doubles and 52 RBIs. He hit 42 and 34 homers, respectively, in 2016 and 2017. He'll be a free agent at the end of this season.

The Athletic's Ken Rosenthal and Dan Hayes first reported the deal was close to completion. The team announced the trade later Tuesday.

Dozier is the fifth player to leave the Twins since Friday, when third baseman Eduardo Escobar was traded to the Diamondbacks and relief pitcher Ryan Pressly went to the Astros. On Monday, Minnesota sent starter Lance Lynn to the Yankees and reliever Zach Duke to the Mariners.

In exchange for Dozier, the Twins receive infielder Logan Forsythe, Double-A pitcher Devin Smeltzer and Double-A outfielder Luke Raley.

Dozier's addition will address a weak spot for the Dodgers, who entered Tuesday's play just 1/2 game up on the Diamondbacks and one game ahead of the Rockies in a hotly contested three-team race for the National League West crown.

Forsythe is hitting a dismal .207/.270/.290 in 211 plate appearances, but his \$9 million contract expires after this season, giving the Twins flexibility.

The left-handed-hitting Raley is the No. 19-rated prospect in the Dodgers system, according to MLB Pipeline. The 6-3, 220-pounder is hitting .275/.345/.477 with 17 home runs and 53 RBIs in 93 games for Tulsa. MLB Pipeline's scouting report says the 23-year-old "handles left-handers and right-handers equally well but could use some more patience at the plate."

Smeltzer, not ranked in the Dodgers' top 30, is 5-5 with a 4.73 ERA, 67 strikeouts and 19 walks in 83.2 innings pitched for Tulsa. The 22-year-old was a fifth-round draft pick in 2016.

The Dodgers, meanwhile, add a former All-Star with pop at the plate to an already-strong lineup in a wide-open season in the National League. Los Angeles is just three games behind the Chicago Cubs for the league's best record but also one game away from slipping out of the playoff picture. The top seven teams are separated by a total of four games.

The total haul from the Twins' deals: 11 minor-league prospects — including first baseman/outfielder Tyler Austin, who is currently in Triple-A but has 85 major-league games to his credit over the past three seasons with the Yankees — and Forsythe.

The trades have undoubtedly added depth to the Twins' farm system. Four of the five players acquired in Friday's deals — right-handed pitcher Jorge Alcala (No. 11), outfielder Gilberto Celestino (No. 14), outfielder Gabriel Maciel (No. 17) and right-handed pitcher Jhoan Duran (No. 22) — slotted into the top 30 in the Twins' system in MLB Pipeline's rankings. Raley could slot in there as well.