



### **WHITE SOX HEADLINES OF AUGUST 12, 2018**

"Shields quality again, White Sox lack runs in loss" ... Scott Merkin, MLB.com

"Thome honored in White Sox ceremony" ... Scott Merkin, MLB.com

"Sanchez switches up walk-off celebration"... Scott Merkin, MLB.com

"Saturday's top prospect performers"... William Boor, MLB.com

"Jim Thome on brain trust of White Sox rebuild: 'They genuinely, passionately want to bring a championship here'"... Vinnie Duber, NBC Sports Chicago

"Michael Kopech's string of dominant starts continues at Triple-A" ... Vinnie Duber, NBC Sports Chicago

"After Yolmer Sanchez's latest Gatorade-shower celebration, everyone at Guaranteed Rate Field should be on high alert" ... Vinnie Duber, NBC Sports Chicago

"'Jim Thome, future major-league manager? 'Maybe soon, you never know' ... Phil Thompson, Chicago Tribune

"James Shields after falling to 4-14: 'It's been a frustrating season, there's no doubt about it'" ... Phil Thompson, Chicago Tribune

"James Shields yields back-to-back homers, gets little support in 3-1 loss to Indians" ... Phil Thompson, Chicago Tribune

"White Sox draft pick Matt Klug keeps finding positives after tragic losses" ... Phil Thompson, Chicago Tribune

"Truce between rival gang factions leads to Pullman playground built amid a newfound peace" ... Tess Weinberg, Chicago Tribune

"'Frustrating season' continues for Shields, White Sox" ... Tom Musick, Sun-Times

"Jim Thome wants to create new memories with White Sox" ... Tom Musick, Sun-Times

"Chicago White Sox honor Hall of Famer Jim Thome" ... Scot Gregor, Daily Herald

"Palka, Chicago White Sox come up short" ... Scot Gregor, Daily Herald

"Carlos Rodón doesn't have all the stuff working, just all the confidence and results" ... James Fegan, The Athletic

"Yolmer Sánchez is keeping things fun like only he can" ... James Fegan, The Athletic

"Carlos Rodón doesn't have all the stuff working, just all the confidence and results" ... James Fegan, The Athletic

"'Beisbol' Exhibit Highlights African American And Hispanic Ballplayers" ... Ryan Baker, CBS Chicago

---

### **Shields quality again, White Sox lack runs in loss**

*Moncada provides lone run with solo HR; Thome honored pregame*

By Scott Merkin / MLB.com / August 11, 2018

CHICAGO -- James Shields entered Saturday's 3-1 loss to the Indians with a 3.64 ERA in 14 home starts this season and a 2.85 ERA over his last 10 home starts.

The White Sox right-hander did nothing to hurt those numbers with his performance against the American League Central leaders on Jim Thome Day, as he allowed two earned runs on seven hits over seven innings. Shields has nine quality starts in his last 11 trips to the mound at Guaranteed Rate Field and has worked at least six innings in 18 of his last 21 starts, but his record still dipped to 4-14 overall.

[View Full Game Coverage](#)

"It's been a frustrating season, there's no doubt about it," said Shields, who needed 94 pitches to get through seven but slipped to 0-4 over his last five starts. "I'm just going to go out there and keep throwing, trying to throw quality starts and go as deep as I can in the game, give us a chance to win."

There was almost no offensive support for Shields, whose 3.86 run support average ranks 11th lowest in the AL. Yoan Moncada's 15th home run came with one out in the third to give the White Sox a 1-0 lead against Cleveland starter Trevor Bauer, but that long ball represented all the White Sox would get against the Cy Young candidate.

Moncada's home run was his first since Aug. 1, against Kansas City. It was second hit in two games after being dropped to the eighth slot in the lineup.

"When you are batting in the bottom part of the lineup, you have more chances to see how the pitcher is throwing," said Moncada through interpreter Billy Russo. "You can identify their pitches, and then, in that aspect, it's beneficial. I just simply went to that at-bat to swing the bat. I found a good pitch to hit."

Cleveland didn't score over the first 13 innings of the series against the White Sox but brought home an unearned run in the fifth on Greg Allen's single. Back-to-back homers from Michael Brantley and Jose Ramirez in the sixth gave the Indians their victory margin. Bauer struck out eight and yielded two hits over 6 1/3 innings before exiting with an injury.

"[On the] flip side, Bauer's been pitching really well this year. He's a tough one to beat," Shields said. "You can't give up two home runs in one inning and expect to win a ballgame like that."

On a night when the White Sox honored Thome and his Hall of Fame induction pregame, it only seemed natural for the White Sox to win on a walk-off. After all, Thome is the all-time big league leader in walk-off homers.

Daniel Palka, who won the game with a ninth inning blast Friday, came close to tying the contest against a full-count Cody Allen offering in the ninth. But his 396-foot drive with a 99.9 mph exit velocity per Statcast™ was caught by Greg Allen steps shy of the center field wall.

"It came off his bat hot," said White Sox manager Rick Renteria of Palka's blast. "I thought maybe it beat him on the barrel just a little bit. I think he felt like he got enough. Again, a big moment, a big at-bat. Worked back from two strikes, got a pitch where he can handle it and put a really good swing on it. He continues, in those moments, to show you that he's got an intent to do something significant."

"From the dugout, we thought it had a good chance," Moncada said. "But unfortunately, the wind wasn't blowing to center field. There wasn't any wind blowing today. Then, it was kind of disappointing."

#### MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

A loss of control: The hardest hit White Sox ball after Moncada's home run knocked Bauer out of the game in the seventh, as Jose Abreu's line drive appeared to catch Bauer's right ankle. Abreu was out at first, then reliever Brad Hand replaced Bauer and threw his first nine pitches out of the strike zone to put the tying runs on base. Hand found the zone again, striking out Omar Narvaez and Tim Anderson to keep the White Sox from scoring.

#### SOUND SMART

The White Sox have scored three runs or fewer in each of their last five games.

#### HE SAID IT

"I'd like to win more ballgames here, that's about it. Just going to go out there every five days, try to throw quality starts and give my team a chance to win. Hopefully, win ballgames."-- Shields, on his recent run of home excellence.

#### UP NEXT

Dylan Covey (4-8, 5.58 ERA) is scheduled to make his 16th start of the season on Sunday afternoon vs. the Indians at Guaranteed Rate Field with a 1:10 p.m. CT first pitch. Carlos Carrasco (13-6, 3.69) will start for the Indians. Covey will try to rebound after going 1-7 with an 8.24 ERA, a .294 opponents average and 1.74 WHIP over his last nine starts.

---

### **Thome honored in White Sox ceremony**

*Hall of Famer and Illinois native spent four seasons in Chicago*

By Scott Merkin / MLB.com / August 11, 2018

CHICAGO - Here was Jim Thome at his best, which for Thome is his norm.

The 2018 Hall of Fame classmate was introduced to a thunderous ovation during a pregame ceremony at Guaranteed Rate Field on Saturday, honoring one of the game's greats. But Thome started his remarks by choosing to recognize the equally loud round of applause given to Mark Buehrle, his friend and former teammate in attendance.

[View Full Game Coverage](#)

As great of a player as Thome was, he was and is a better person.

"This is so special," said Thome of Saturday's night honor, including a Thome bobblehead giveaway. "This is my family, this is where I work, this is where we live. I think you all know my relationship with [White Sox board chairman Jerry Reinsdorf]. This is really special.

"It's all very cool, but maybe when it's all done, you sit back and you go, 'Wow. This really happened over the last month and a half.'"

Cleveland, the White Sox opponent on Saturday, will honor Thome next weekend at Progressive Field. He hit 337 of his 612 homers for the Indians, not to mention picking up 937 of his 1,699 RBIs, 1,008 of his 1,747 walks and 18 of his career 19 stolen bases. The Twins also will honor Thome this summer.

Thome launched 134 homers over four seasons with the White Sox, including his 500th in walkoff fashion against the Angels on Sept. 16, 2007, and his mammoth homer to beat the Twins, 1-0, in the Blackout game of 2008 to put the White Sox into the postseason as American League Central champs. Thome's presence continues to strongly resonate within the White Sox fan base.

Maybe it's the fact that Thome now is part of the front office, working as a special assistant to general manager Rick Hahn and forming a special bond with Reinsdorf.

"You would have a tough time trying to find a better boss than Jerry Reinsdorf," Thome said in his speech on Saturday. "I don't know if you ever imagine what's going to happen in the game. That's why I'm always very open to things.

"When I retired, I didn't envision coming back as quick as I did. For me, it was a lot about the respect I have for Jerry, to be honest. And the fact we live here. Buddy [Bell] was here, and being around Rick and [executive vice president Kenny Williams], and the motivation I think is big. So that drove me down from this side, to try to be a part of a championship, just not as a player anymore, but now in the front office."

Then again, Thome seems to click with any and every part of baseball.

His daughter, Lila, performed another rousing rendition of the national anthem on Saturday, just as she did prior to her dad's Hall of Fame enshrinement in Cooperstown. His wife, Andrea, his father, Chuck, and his son, Landon, also were in attendance, as were Buehrle, Hahn, Williams, Reinsdorf, White Sox head athletic trainer Herm Schneider and White Sox Minor League hitting coordinator Mike Gellinger, who worked with Thome at the Major League level.

A special ATV with a picture of Thome's batting stance on the side was given to Thome, along with a specially designed baseball bat. Thome spoke for 10 minutes before the festivities culminated with him throwing out a ceremonial first pitch to his son in a true baseball moment.

Thome coaches his son's baseball team, but joked how he'll hear Landon's friends talk more about Aaron Judge or Jose Abreu than him as a player. He also works with the players in the White Sox system, giving words of advice for the young individuals fighting their way through the rebuild.

"Trust the journey, trust the everyday process of the roller-coaster ride. There's going to be highs. There's going to be lows," Thome said he tells the players. "Me and [Paul] Konerko used to talk about this: It's a basket.

"You've got a basket, and you put things in that basket -- whether it's what you do individually, whether it's what you do as a team -- and ultimately, we're all in this together. But things you do individually will add up as a team if you're a good teammate. You should put things in the basket, and once the season's almost done, you look up and go, 'You know what? That basket helped us win.'"

---

### **Sanchez switches up walk-off celebration**

By Scott Merkin / MLB.com / August 11, 2018

CHICAGO -- It was Carlos Rodon who threw eight scoreless innings Friday night, Jace Fry who escaped a ninth-inning jam and Daniel Palka who hit the walkoff home run during a 1-0 White Sox victory over the American League Central-leading Indians.

But it was Yolmer Sanchez and third base coach Nick Capra who drew the most day after attention.

[View Full Game Coverage](#)

Sanchez, who has previously dumped Gatorade on himself during walkoff celebrations, changed his routine this time by dousing Capra instead. Capra was caught completely by surprise, focused on Palka coming into third base.

"I had no idea. He snuck up on me," Capra said. "He ambushed me from behind. He got me pretty good. It's all in fun. It was a blast."

When asked why he chose Capra in this moment, Sanchez smiled and said, "Because I thought it was funny." Fair enough.

"He said, 'You got me good.' But he was laughing," Sanchez said. "I always say I want to enjoy every second I spend here, and that's what I try to do, especially when we win games."

"That's how he is. He's so creative," Capra said. "He thinks up something different every day. He has grown a lot, and he's a blast to have around. He's a great teammate. He's great for the coaches. He's very coachable on the field. The personality is unbelievable. I love him to death."

Sanchez wouldn't reveal who his next Gatorade target would be, but he said players, coaches and even media were all possibilities. White Sox manager Rick Renteria enjoyed the moment, but quickly added he stays in the dugout to let the players celebrate and stay out of Sanchez's range.

Third to first

- The team still hasn't decided if utility player Leury Garcia will need a Minor League rehab assignment before returning from the disabled list. The switch-hitter was sidelined by a left hamstring strain on Aug. 6.

"We don't have to make a decision today," Renteria said. "But we can certainly have an idea once we get through this weekend without putting him on a timetable."

- According to STATS, Friday marked the White Sox first-ever walk-off homer in a 1-0 victory and the second in franchise history in a scoreless game. Don Buford was the first to accomplish the feat when he hit a walk-off grand slam off Cleveland's Orlando Pena on Sept. 14, 1967.

---

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

By William Boor / MLB.com / August 11, 2018

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

White Sox fans are anxious to see Eloy Jimenez and Michael Kopech in the Majors, and the organization's top two prospects gave fans a glimpse of what they're capable of as they led Triple-A Charlotte to an 8-0 win over Rochester.

Jimenez (White Sox No. 1, No. 3 overall) went 2-for-5 with a homer, while Kopech (White Sox No. 2, No. 13 overall) struck out nine over seven scoreless innings.

After hitting a two-run homer in the third, Jimenez has 20 homers on the season (a career high) and has gone deep four times in the past nine games. Overall, he's hitting .365/.409/.683 in 33 games since being promoted from Double-A Birmingham, where he hit .317 in 53 contests.

On the mound, Kopech was dominant. The hard-throwing right-hander has given up two earned runs or fewer in six straight starts after spinning his latest gem.

Kopech got into a bit of trouble in the first as he hit a batter and then gave up a hit, but he escaped the inning and then struck out the side in the second. From there, he cruised through the rest of the game.

The strikeouts and the zero in the runs column certainly stand out, but Kopech has struggled with command at points this year so it's especially notable that he threw 69 of his 96 pitches for strikes and didn't issue a walk.

Other top prospect performances from Saturday's action:

- No. 1 overall prospect Vladimir Guerrero Jr. (Blue Jays' No. 1) went deep for the fourth time in as many games as he launched a solo homer in the fourth inning for Triple-A Buffalo. Guerrero, who finished 2-for-4, has multiple hits in five of his past six games and is hitting .441 through 11 games at the Triple-A level. Overall, he's hitting .406 through 76 games this year.

- No. 43 overall prospect Austin Riley (Braves' No. 4) hit his first homer since July 7 as part of a 3-for-4 performance for Triple-A Gwinnett. Riley, who is 7-for-9 over the past two days, hit a solo homer in the fifth and also added a double.

- No. 95 overall prospect Shane Baz (Pirates' No. 4) extended his scoreless streak to 9 2/3 innings with his second straight scoreless start for Rookie-level Bristol. Baz, whom the Pirates selected in the first-round of the 2017 Draft, struck out six and gave up three hits over five innings.

- Cubs No. 12 prospect Keegan Thompson's recent run of dominance continued with six scoreless innings for Double-A Tennessee. The right-hander threw 60 of his 94 pitches for strikes, gave up three hits and struck out three. Since getting lit up for eight runs in three innings on June 23, Thompson has allowed two earned runs or fewer in eight straight starts.

- Marlins No. 29 prospect Austin Dean's second two-homer game of the year continued his recent hot streak for Triple-A New Orleans. After going 3-for-4 with a pair of homers, Dean is 10-for-14 (.714) with three homers and six RBIs over his past four games.

- Mets No. 6 prospect David Peterson cruised through one of his best starts of the season for Class A Advanced St. Lucie. The 22-year-old lefty needed just 72 pitches (47 strikes) to navigate his way through six scoreless frames. Peterson yielded just one hit, struck out nine and also retired 13 in a row at one point.
- Orioles No. 27 prospect Alex Wells nearly put together a repeat performance after throwing seven scoreless innings in his last start for Class A Advanced Frederick. Wells did give up a run, but that was all as he worked seven innings for the fourth time this season. The lefty threw 66 of his 90 pitches for strikes, didn't issue a walk and racked up seven strikeouts.
- Pirates No. 30 prospect Deon Stafford set a career high with six RBIs as part of a huge 3-for-5 performance for Class A West Virginia. The 22-year-old, a fifth-round pick from the 2017 Draft, did all his damage late in the game as he came through with a two-run double in the eighth and put the game out of reach with a grand slam in the ninth.
- Rangers No. 5 prospect Hans Crouse fired six innings of one-run ball in his debut with Class A Hickory. After going 5-1 with a 2.37 ERA through eight starts with Class A Short Season Spokane, Crouse, a second-round pick from 2017, surrendered three hits, walked two and struck out three.
- Twins prospects Trevor Larnach (No. 6) and Gabriel Masiel (No. 17) combined for a trio of homers to help lead Class A Cedar Rapids to a win. Larnach, the Twins' first-round pick this year, went 2-for-5 with a homer, his third of the season and his first since joining the Kernels. Masiel, whom the Twins acquired in July, had a huge night at the plate, going 4-for-5 with a pair of homers. The two-homer game was the first of Masiel's career and it comes as a bit of a shock considering he had hit just four homers in the first 190 games of his career.
- Yankees No. 11 prospect Garrett Whitlock picked up the win and was nearly unhittable over five inning for Class A Advanced Tampa. Taking over in the fifth after the start by Yankees No. 4 prospect Albert Abreu, who was activated from the DL prior to the game, Whitlock spun five innings of one-hit ball. The 22-year-old only walked one as he threw 44 of his 70 pitches for strikes and struck out eight.

---

**Jim Thome on brain trust of White Sox rebuild: 'They genuinely, passionately want to bring a championship here'**

By Vinnie Duber / NBC Sports Chicago / August 11, 2018

On an August night in this future-facing season, the White Sox momentarily took a look to the past.

Jim Thome, the Land of Lincoln native who spent four seasons on the South Side and immediately became a fan favorite, was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame earlier this summer, and the White Sox honored him before Saturday's game against the Cleveland Indians, the team whose cap Thome is sporting on his Hall of Fame plaque.

As fun as it was for fans to get to see the team celebrate one of the all-time greats — they lined up for his bobblehead and gave him a standing ovation during the pregame ceremony — Thome is also a part of this rebuilding effort on the South Side. It's a process designed to return the White Sox to the postseason for the first time since Thome's days. It was he, of course, who hit the home run in the Blackout Game that clinched the team's most recent playoff berth a decade ago.

Thome is a special assistant to general manager Rick Hahn and had nothing but great things to say about the team's brain trust of Hahn, team president Kenny Williams and chairman Jerry Reinsdorf. Most notably, he commended their drive to bring a winner to Chicago, a process that fans are seeing play out before their eyes on a nightly basis throughout all levels of the organization.

Thome, as part of his role, imparts bits of wisdom about hitting to the organization's young players. His 612 career home runs and new status as one of the game's immortals should be ample credentials for the guys who are planned to one day make up the next White Sox team to contend for a championship.

"I look forward to getting back and getting out on the road and seeing our young, great prospects," Thome said. "I'm going to Instructional League, I look forward to that, that's always one of the highlights. The draft is another one of my highlights.

"And just honestly sitting around with Kenny and Rick and Jerry and discussing the moves and things that this organization is going to (do to) go forward. To be a part of that is very special. They've given me the opportunity to be around the game in that capacity, which I've got to say is very fun. I really have enjoyed it.

"Being around Rick and Kenny, the motivation to win is big. So that drove me now from this side, to try to be a part of a championship, just not as a player anymore, but now in the front office.

"Kenny's great at scouting. Rick has a great demeanor. I think Rick is very well suited for his job. I think one of his biggest strengths is he's a great listener. ... He's got a great personality. Top to bottom, I think our organization has a lot of those guys. They genuinely, passionately want to bring a championship here. I hope we're all together to do that soon."

White Sox fans, and the team as well, are hoping that the next Thome — and the next Konerko, Pierzynski, Buehrle, Dye, et cetera — is among the wave of highly touted prospects about to wash ashore on the South Side. And in addition to the production that would bring, they hope the connection to this organization and to this fan base is just as strong as Thome's.

"This is so special," he said of being honored Saturday. "This is my family, this is where I work, this is where we live. I think you all know my relationship with Mr. Reinsdorf. This is really special."

---

### **Michael Kopech's string of dominant starts continues at Triple-A**

By Vinnie Duber / NBC Sports Chicago / August 11, 2018

This isn't likely to calm the clamor of White Sox fans demanding that Michael Kopech get the call to the big leagues.

The White Sox top-ranked pitching prospect was again excellent Saturday night, tossing seven scoreless innings and striking out nine hitters for Triple-A Charlotte.

It extended a fabulous string of starts dating back to mid July. Over his last six starts, Kopech has a 1.89 ERA, with just eight earned runs allowed and 50 strikeouts in 38 innings.

Oh, and this:

Kopech has dramatically changed his season in these last six outings. After his 17th start of the year back on July 5, he had a 4.70 ERA and 56 walks on the campaign. After Saturday's start, that ERA is down to 3.81 and he's added just four walks to his season total in his last six games.

The question from fans and onlookers, of course, will continue to be whether this is enough to get Kopech to the South Side.

All along, general manager Rick Hahn has said that there are things the team is looking for that don't show up in box scores, and unless you're a part of the White Sox front office, there's no way to know exactly what those things are.

Here's Hahn from July 27:

"The most important thing is that they're in a position to have long-term success for us, that they're in a position to succeed not just survive. So yes, while you can look at a stat line or you can look at a box score and say, 'This guy looks like he's doing well, looks like he's ready,' our checklist that we want these guys

to answer is a little more lengthy than that. And not until they've answered all those questions we have for them at the minor league level will we promote them."

At this point, we'll know that Kopech has accomplished everything the White Sox want him to accomplish at the Triple-A level when they announce that he's joining the major league roster. Until then, more patience is required from a fan base hungry to see the fruits of the rebuild.

Oh, and by the way, Eloy Jimenez also homered in the very same game Saturday night.

---

### **After Yolmer Sanchez's latest Gatorade-shower celebration, everyone at Guaranteed Rate Field should be on high alert**

By Vinnie Duber / NBC Sports Chicago / August 11, 2018

Player. Coach. Media member. Fan. Vendor. Parking attendant.

It doesn't matter what you do at Guaranteed Rate Field, you should be on the lookout for a certain Gatorade-toting third baseman.

Yolmer Sanchez has gotten plenty of attention for his celebrations when the White Sox have won in walk-off fashion this season, though until Friday, the most notable victim of his Gatorade dumping was himself.

Well, Sanchez upped his game Friday. After Daniel Palka hit a game-winning, walk-off homer in the bottom of the ninth to beat the Cleveland Indians, Sanchez hauled his Gatorade tub out to third base, where he would, it was assumed, drench Palka as he rounded the base and headed home.

Instead, Sanchez unleashed sports-drink fury on third-base coach Nick Capra, another outside-the-box subject of a celebratory shower.

Why, Yolmer?

"Because I thought it was funny."

OK, well argued.

"I had no idea. He snuck up on me. He ambushed me from behind. He got me pretty good," Capra told reporters Saturday. "It was a little surprising. Those Gatorade baths are for the players, not the coaches. But it was fun. That's how he is. He's so creative. He thinks up something different every day. It creates a lot of fun in the clubhouse. Another good laugh to have when you win a ballgame, we want to have fun and that's all part of it."

Sanchez's creativity is already formulating his next act, and unsurprisingly he won't reveal who the target is going to be, though he confirmed no one is off limits.

"You have to wait," Sanchez said. "It's about having fun. Every win is special so try to do something fun."

It's doubtful Vegas is putting odds on who will be next, but our very own Chuck Garfien seems like a leading candidate, given his proximity to the White Sox dugout during home games. And manager Rick Renteria is all aboard the "Yolmer soaks a media member" train.

"I think we've got to graduate to the next phase, which is getting one of you guys," Renteria said Saturday.

"I think we'll keep that in mind when you guys are rushing out there to cover us, maybe allow you to enjoy some of the celebration."

But maybe the leader of Ricky's boys should get a celebratory shower when his boys refuse to quit?



"If you notice, I stay in the dugout and let them celebrate out there," he said.

All right, Yolmer. We'll wait and see. Chuck, in the meantime, might want to invest in some rain gear.

---

### **Jim Thome, future major-league manager? 'Maybe soon, you never know'**

By Phil Thompson / Chicago Tribune / August 11, 2018

White Sox great Jim Thome was too busy Saturday enjoying the accolades during a theme night in his honor to think long and hard about his future, but he did entertain the thought of becoming a major-league manager one day.

"Maybe soon, you never know," Thome, 47, said. "I don't want to ever say never, but I love where I'm at right now."

Before their 3-1 loss to the Indians at Guaranteed Rate Field, the Sox honored Thome for his recent induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame. In a pregame ceremony, he gave a speech flanked by family and former coaches and teammates, including Mark Buehrle.

And the Sox celebrated his accomplishment with a Thome bobblehead giveaway and presented the avid deer hunter with an off-roader as a gift. His daughter, Lila, sang the national anthem, as she did at his Hall induction last month in Cooperstown, N.Y.

"It's just a dream," Thome said. "How would you ever imagine that? I'm very proud and it's something that's very special."

Thome splits time these days between serving as a special assistant to Sox general manager Rick Hahn and his duties as an MLB Network analyst.

"The network has given me the opportunity to ... be around the game, break the game down, teach young kids maybe a little bit about hitting or going into Studio 42 and giving advice," he said.

Indians first base coach Sandy Alomar Jr., Thome's teammate in Cleveland for 10 years and again with the Sox for part of the 2006 season, considers Thome a great managerial candidate. Thome expressed appreciation and said his friend is near the front of the line.

"He's probably one of the top candidates that deserves to get a chance," Thome said. "He's like a brother to me. My first roommate in the big leagues, actually. He was a true leader in the '90s for us. I appreciate that comment but I'll throw that right back at him and say he's probably very deserving himself."

For now, Thome is focused on learning from Hahn and Ken Williams, the Sox's executive vice president, in the job he has held since 2013 following a 22-year major-league career.

"I'm a good listener. I listen a lot," Thome said. "Kenny's great at scouting. Rick has a great demeanor. One of his biggest strengths is he's a great listener."

Thome admits he's not as well-versed on the analytics that define today's game.

"I'm trying to learn the analytical because that wasn't talked about in our (era) in the 90s," he said. "We didn't talk about exit velocity. We practiced what maybe launch angle was, we just never spoke it. ... If you hit a ball, whatever the highest exit velocity is, or you hit one a little bit under that, if it goes out of the ballpark, it's still out of the ballpark.

"It's mastering the craft of your swing and not so much the statistical part. That's what I'm trying to learn. And to be honest, (I) respect a lot of these guys that are working hard to give that information to try to help us win."

Thome said he spent roughly three months on and off writing his Hall of Fame induction speech, making some tweaks in June. "Obviously, when you have an author as a wife, that helps," he said about Andrea Thome, a romance novelist.

Thome's due to get the red-carpet treatment from the Indians and Twins on Aug. 18 and 25, respectively.

---

### **James Shields after falling to 4-14: 'It's been a frustrating season, there's no doubt about it'**

By Phil Thompson / Chicago Tribune / August 11, 2018

James Shields' two most common themes from this season played out once again Saturday in a 3-1 loss to the Indians: a lack of run support — 3.86 per game, 11th lowest among American League starters — and his penchant for giving up the long ball — in Saturday's case, back-to-back homers.

In the sixth inning, Michael Brantley hit a Shields curve over the right-field wall. The next batter, Jose Ramirez, tattooed a Shields fastball 424 feet to right-center for his 34th home run. Shields dropped to 4-14 after his seven-inning outing.

"It's been a frustrating season, there's no doubt about it," Shields said. "I'm just going to go out there and keep throwing, trying to throw quality starts and go as deep as I can in the game, give us a chance to win."  
...

"You can't give up two home runs in one inning and expect to win."

Clutch gene? Designated hitter Daniel Palka seems to have a knack for hitting high-pressure home runs and nearly pulled it off again Saturday. Friday's walk-off home-run hero launched a screecher to center with a man on first and the Sox trailing 3-1 in the ninth, but Greg Allen gloved it at the wall.

"It came off his bad hot," manager Rick Renteria said. "I thought maybe it beat him on the barrel just a little bit. ... He continues in those moments to show you that he's got an intent to do something significant."

The rookie's homer Friday gave him 18 this season, second on the team to Jose Abreu's 20. Renteria marveled at Palka's fearlessness at the plate.

"He's aggressive. He trusts what he's capable of doing," Renteria said. "If he gets a pitch that he can handle and he puts the type of swing that he puts on it, we know he's got a chance to hit it out of the ballpark."

---

### **Home run might help Yoan Moncada shake post-break slump**

By Phil Thompson / Chicago Tribune / August 11, 2018

Before Yoan Moncada's third-inning home run Saturday during a 3-1 loss to the Indians, he seemed as nonchalant about dropping to eighth in the batting order as he was about the encouraging double he hit a night earlier.

Speaking in the clubhouse through an interpreter, the second baseman said he changed nothing about his approach. A day earlier Rick Renteria said taking Moncada out of the leadoff spot wasn't about pressure, though the manager's explanation for the move sounded like he was trying to take pressure off his young slugger.

Whether the new spot has made a difference in Moncada's mind, something has been working for him lately.

He entered Saturday's game hitting .132 with only two home runs since the All-Star break. Then in his first at-bat, he zeroed in on Trevor Bauer's belt-high fastball and launched it 409 feet to right field for his 15th home run of the season.

Moncada has hit safely in three straight games, his first such streak since July 6-8.

"I think that's just another slot in the lineup," he said. "It doesn't make any difference."

Moncada did concede he's now able to see how pitchers attack the hitters ahead of him.

"When you are batting in the bottom part of the lineup, you have more chances to see how the pitcher is throwing," he said. "You can identify their pitches, and then in that aspect, it's beneficial."

Renteria said he has noticed a change in Moncada's plate discipline the last two games.

On Saturday, Moncada fouled off a pitch to run the count to 2-2 and then laid off a knuckle curve out of the zone, setting up his blast off Bauer's 3-2 pitch.

"What we've been talking about is trying to get him in a position in which his mind is, even with two strikes, to be aggressive in the zone ... but put the brake on when pitches are out of the zone," Renteria said. "We don't want him chasing, we don't want him down or above."

"It's his approach and mindset. He's going to have to chip away at it. He's understanding that it's a process."

Moncada acknowledged he has keyed in on 2-2 counts of late.

"It's just a work in progress," he said. "I know that I need to keep working to improve in that aspect."

---

### **James Shields yields back-to-back homers, gets little support in 3-1 loss to Indians**

By Phil Thompson / Chicago Tribune / August 11, 2018

Yoan Moncada homered for the first time since Aug. 1 during his first at-bat Saturday night but was overshadowed by back-to-back home runs James Shields yielded to the Indians during a 3-1 loss at Guaranteed Rate Field.

Shields' two most common themes from this season played out once again: a lack of run support — 3.86 per game, 11th-lowest among American League starters — and his penchant for giving up the long ball.

Shields plugged through the first three innings with little incident. But in the fifth, catcher Omar Narvaez' throwing error at second turned into the Indians' first run when Greg Allen's RBI single scored Roberto Perez from third.

In the sixth, Shields' curveball appeared to float on him, and Michael Brantley jacked it to right field. Facing Jose Ramirez next, he hung a fastball, and Ramirez tattooed it 424 feet to right-center for his 34th homer.

Shields dropped to 4-14 after his seven-inning outing.

There was at least one positive.

Moncada entered Saturday's game hitting .132 with just two homers since the All-Star break. In his first at-bat, he zeroed in on Trevor Bauer's belt-high fastball and launched it 409 feet to right field for his 15th home run.

Moncada has hit safely in three straight games, his first such streak since July 6-8.

---

### **White Sox draft pick Matt Klug keeps finding positives after tragic losses**

By Phil Thompson / Chicago Tribune / August 11, 2018

Life has been something of a whirlwind for Matt Klug since the White Sox drafted him in June.

The Brookwood High School (Snellville, Ga.) backup outfielder gained national acclaim for his poise after losing both parents and his best friend over a two-year span. Since the draft, he received a statewide positive athlete award and met childhood idol Freddie Freeman and other Atlanta Braves

And Friday he met Sox players, threw out the ceremonial first pitch and sat in the TV booth with Jason Benetti and Steve Stone during his first visit to Guaranteed Rate Field — his first trip to Chicago, in fact.

Still, his mind shifted to friend Sammy Swaneey, who died unexpectedly from a brain tumor in November 2015

“I knew he would just love all this,” Klug, 18, said with a smile. “He’s probably jealous, honestly.”

Naturally, both parents would’ve been proud to see him in his No. 18 Sox jersey.

“My dad, baseball was our bond,” Klug said. “Always watched the games, went to games. Honestly, my mom, she was the least ‘sporty.’ I know she’s the most proud of me. She was always super there for me and super caring and just wanted the best for me all the time.”

His mother died of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and emphysema in November 2016, and his father died from cancer a year later.

“It goes to show you how special life is,” Klug said. “You need to treat people good and just love everyone. Tell people you love them because somebody could get sick, you could get in a car wreck — you never know. You need to appreciate every day.”

Sox scout Kevin Burrell, who joined Klug in the clubhouse Friday, said, “He’s been through a lot, but just a good young man, a solid-character young man.”

Burrell was scouting Klug’s Brookwood teammate Will Banfield, whom the Marlins later drafted, when the school’s coach told him about Klug.

Nick Hostetler, the Sox director of amateur scouting, also heard about the story and discussed it with Burrell. “I sent him a text back and said, ‘Are you thinking the same thing that I’m thinking?’ and he said, ‘Yes,’ ” Burrell said.

The Sox surprised Klug by drafting him in the 38th round.

“It was a very emotional moment, needless to say,” Burrell said. “It was just a situation where we saw that story and it was one of those feel-good stories. We just felt we wanted to try to do something to impact his life.”

After Klug’s red-carpet treatment at Guaranteed Rate Field, his baseball life comes to a close. He won’t play for North Georgia, where he’ll study business beginning later this month.

But that’s OK with him.

“Just to know my name was called and I’m in the books is really special,” Klug said.

---

### **Truce between rival gang factions leads to Pullman playground built amid a newfound peace**

By Tessa Weinberg / Chicago Tribune / August 11, 2018

A young boy in an oversized T-shirt that hung to his knees struggled to lift the shovel of mulch that was almost as tall as he was.

Around him, music blared on the muggy Friday in Pullman on the Far South Side as volunteers and community residents worked together to build a playground between two brick houses on South Corliss Avenue.

Orange slides were hoisted up and tiles painted to spell “Peace begins with a smile” as part of a collaboration among a variety of groups, including Chicago CRED, KaBOOM! and the Chicago White Sox.

But the playground’s foundation was really laid nearly a year ago when Sherman Scullark, a member of the Risky Road gang faction, rang Detective Vivian Williams’ doorbell.

Williams, who has lived in the neighborhood for 32 years — and has spent 23 of them working as a Chicago police officer — was shocked when Scullark came to her.

“I could see in his face that he needed to talk about something. And when I opened the door he said, ‘Officer Williams, I’m just tired. I’m tired,’ ” Williams said.

Scullark was tired of the violence. The conflict between Risky Road and the Maniac Fours faction had been going on since Scullark was a young boy.

And it marred the community. Kids didn’t play outside. They knew not to go to the basketball courts or the gas station — both hotspots for shootings when rival gang members found each other across the 107th Street dividing line.

So Scullark asked Williams, who’s known as the neighborhood mom, to set up a meeting between the rival gangs. Williams agreed but needed approval from the district commander.

The next day, Williams got it. But Scullark beat her to it. He had already orchestrated a truce agreement.

He had approached his rivals on their block and let them know he wasn’t carrying a firearm. Then he told them how he felt. It turned out some of them felt the same.

They agreed to put down the guns, and the neighborhood has been more peaceful ever since.

“I said, ‘You didn’t even give me 24 hours?’ ” Williams said. “He said, ‘Now can you introduce me to Arne Duncan?’ ”

Duncan, the former education secretary under Barack Obama and former Chicago Public Schools CEO, is the driving force behind the organization Chicago Creating Real Economic Destiny, known as Chicago CRED.

Duncan, a managing partner of Chicago CRED and the Emerson Collective, believes the solution to Chicago’s gun violence doesn’t start with the police, but with the men doing the shooting.

Founded by Laurene Powell Jobs, Steve Jobs’ widow, the Emerson Collective is a philanthropy that pursues various social justice initiatives in areas like immigration, education, the environment and more.

“No one’s winning now. The police aren’t winning. Guys in the street aren’t winning,” Duncan said of the city’s shootings.

By supplying them with a job, pay, opportunities to earn their GED and emotional support, the organization aims to curb violence. Founded in 2016, the program serves about 100 men in the Roseland, North Lawndale, West Garfield Park and Englewood neighborhoods.

“We can’t just arrest our way out of it. We can’t incarcerate our way out of it. We have to give guys a pathway,” Duncan said.

Like Bryant King, a Pullman native who's been involved with Chicago CRED since May. Taking a break from lifting bags of concrete, King described how the program has helped him realize his passion for landscaping. Now he's working with the group to start his own business.

"You can change," King said. "The violence can stop. And we're an example right now."

But the program can't shield everyone from violence. One CRED participant was shot and killed a few months ago, Duncan said. And another recently left the intensive care unit after he was shot multiple times and had a kidney removed, said Craig Nash, who was his life coach while he was in the program.

"You worry about the guys," Nash said. "You hear something on the news (and think), 'Is everybody OK?'"

But the violence was far from Pullman as Kimari Harrington, 9, pressed her hand covered in pink paint to a tile for the Pullman Peace Playground.

Harrington and her mother, Kim Richardson, are moving to the block from Auburn Gresham and feel like the playground, which was built using neighborhood kids' designs, is perfect.

"When you're a part of something, you don't want to tear it down," Richardson said.

Scullark and his crew have tried to be a part of the community in their own way. They used to pay people with money raised from illegal activities to clean up the local park or cut elders' grass.

Now, through CRED, they're getting paid to professionally take on the neighborhood's landscaping.

"We're doing it the right way now," Scullark said.

---

### **'Frustrating season' continues for Shields, White Sox**

By Tom Musick / Sun-Times / August 11, 2018

Right-hander James Shields is familiar with the drill.

He pitches deep into a game, receives little run support and ends up with a loss.

The pattern proved true again Saturday as Shields had his 15th quality start but fell to 4-14. The White Sox had only three hits in a 3-1 loss to the Indians that evened the series at one game apiece.

Shields allowed three runs (two earned) and seven hits in seven innings. He walked none and struck out four.

"He did a nice job," manager Rick Renteria said. "He continues to impress everybody in terms of how he's able to eat up innings and outs and minimize damage. I'll repeat, I truly do not believe that his record reflects how he's pitched."

Two mistakes proved to be the difference. The game was tied at 1 in the sixth inning when Shields served up back-to-back home runs to Michael Brantley and Jose Ramirez.

Shields, 36, is winless in his last five starts.

"It's been a frustrating season," Shields said. "There's no doubt about it. I'm just going to keep trying to throw quality starts and go as deep as I can in the game and give us a chance to win."

"Flip side, [Indians starter Trevor] Bauer has been pitching really well this year. He's a tough one to beat. You can't give up two home runs in one inning and expect to win a ballgame like that."

Finding success

Yoan Moncada provided a rare bright spot at the plate for the Sox when he took Bauer deep in the third inning.

Moncada batted in the eighth spot for the second consecutive game. He worked a full count before pulling an inside pitch down the right-field line for his 15th homer.

"When you're batting in the bottom part of the lineup, you have more chances to see how the pitcher is throwing," Moncada said. "You can identify their pitches, so in that aspect, it's beneficial."

Moncada is 2-for-5 with a double, a homer and an RBI since moving down in the order. He said he has focused on improving his two-strike approach to cut down on strikeouts.

"It's just a work in progress," he said. "I know that I need to keep working."

Who's next?

If Yolmer Sanchez ever gets bored with baseball, he might have a future in comedy.

Coaches and players still were laughing a day after Sanchez sneaked behind third-base coach Nick Capra and dunked Gatorade on his head during Daniel Palka's walk-off home-run trot. That followed Sanchez's previous walk-off celebration when he stood in front of home plate and poured Gatorade on himself while Trayce Thompson rounded the bases.

Sanchez said anyone is fair game for his next act.

"I always say I want to enjoy every second I spend here," Sanchez said. "That's what I try to do, especially when we win games."

---

### **Jim Thome wants to create new memories with White Sox**

By Tom Musick / Sun-Times / August 11, 2018

As a player, Jim Thome was awestruck whenever a Hall of Famer entered the clubhouse.

The kid from Peoria might look up and see Bob Feller with the Indians or Harmon Killebrew with the Twins.

"When a Hall of Famer walks into a room, to be honest, I always remembered like it stops a minute," Thome said.

Two weeks after his Hall of Fame induction, Thome has become one of those baseball immortals. White Sox players stood at the top step of the dugout and leaned over the railing to hear him speak before the game Saturday.

The Sox celebrated "Jim Thome Day" with an on-field ceremony that featured members of the team's top brass alongside former teammate Mark Buehrle and Thome's family. Thome's daughter, Lila, sang the national anthem, and Thome thanked everyone from chairman Jerry Reinsdorf to the groundskeepers during a lengthy speech.

There were gifts, too, as the Sox presented Thome with an oversized bat and a camouflage four-wheeler with "HOF 18" prominently displayed on the windshield. The festivities delayed the start of the game by 16 minutes, but nobody in the crowd of 28,061 seemed to mind.

Thome has enjoyed his whirlwind summer, but he looks forward to calmer days ahead when he can focus more on his role as special assistant to Sox general manager Rick Hahn. He plans to work with the club's young players and is scheduled to attend instructional league for additional hands-on lessons.

"The draft is another one of my highlights," Thome said. "And just, honestly, sitting around with Kenny [Williams] and Rick and Jerry and discussing the moves and things that this organization is going to [make] going forward, to be a part of that is very special. They've given me the opportunity to be around the game in that capacity, which I've got to say is very fun."

As a young player, Thome would keep quiet and study the veterans. He follows the same approach now as he watches Reinsdorf, Williams and Hahn map the organization's future.

"I listen a lot," Thome said. "Kenny's great at scouting. Rick has a great demeanor. I think Rick is very well suited for his job. I think one of his biggest strengths is he's a great listener. He'll get the information, and then he's got a great personality."

"Top to bottom, I think our organization has a lot of those guys. They genuinely want to bring a championship here. I hope we're all together to do that soon."

Even after retirement, Thome has room to improve. He wants to adapt to the game's new-school analytics.

"That wasn't talked about in our [era] in the '90s," Thome said. "We didn't talk about exit velocity. We practiced what my launch angle was; we just never spoke it. . . . That's what I'm trying to learn now."

Thome did not rule out managing one day but likes his current role. Regardless, he always will give advice to younger players eager to hear from a Hall of Famer.

"Trust the journey, trust the everyday process of the roller-coaster ride," Thome said. "There's going to be highs. There's going to be lows. Me and [Paul] Konerko used to talk about this: It's a basket. You've got a basket, and you put things in that basket, whether it's what you do individually, whether it's what you do as a team, and ultimately we're all in this together."

"But things you do individually will add up as a team if you're a good teammate. You should put things in the basket, and once the season's almost done, you look up and go, 'You know what? That basket helped us win.'"

---

### **Chicago White Sox honor Hall of Famer Jim Thome**

By Scot Gregor / Daily Herald / August 11, 2018

Manager Rick Renteria likes to say the Chicago White Sox learn from playing quality teams like the New York Yankees and Cleveland Indians, whom they faced in back-to-back series on their current homestand.

The rebuilding Sox got another lesson Saturday night, when new Hall of Famer Jim Thome was honored before their game against the Indians.

Thome's former White Sox teammate Mark Buehrle, who ranks sixth in franchise history with 161 wins, also was part of the on-field pregame ceremony.

"These are guys that have shown you, in their time at the major-league level, how elite they were," Renteria said. "It's important for everybody to understand that they were a huge impact to this organization as a whole and a huge impact to the game of baseball in general."

"It's nice to be able to have them around and talk to these guys. They certainly appreciate everything they had and the opportunities that were given to them and that they earned as they continued to battle through their careers. It's something for these guys to take note of and use and appreciate and be thankful that we have guys that are willing to come around and share their experiences and thoughts."

Thome has been busy for weeks, and he is still trying to completely grasp the significance of being inducted, on the first ballot, into the Hall of Fame two weeks ago.



While he spent the majority of his career with Cleveland, Thome played for the Sox from 2006-09 and hit 134 of his 612 career home runs with them.

"I look forward to tonight," Thome said before being honored at Guaranteed Rate Field. "This is so special. This is my family, this is where I work, this is where we live. I think you all know my relationship with Mr. (Jerry) Reinsdorf. This is really special.

"Next weekend's going to be in Cleveland, which will be incredibly special there. And then Minnesota, we look forward to Minnesota, that journey we went through at that time.

"It's all very cool, but maybe when it's all done you sit back and you go, 'Wow. This really happened over the last month and a half.'"

Thome played for the Indians, Phillies, White Sox, Dodgers, Twins and Orioles over his 22-year career.

Since July 2, 2013, the Peoria native and Burr Ridge resident has been a special assistant with the Sox.

"I look forward to getting back in town and seeing our young, great prospects," Thome said. "I'm going to Instructional League, I look forward to that, that's always one of the highlights.

"The draft is another one of my highlights. And just sitting with Kenny (Williams) and Rick (Hahn) and Jerry and discussing all the things and how this organization is going to go forward, to be a part of that is very special.

"They've given me the opportunity to be around the game in that capacity, which I've got to say is very fun. I really have enjoyed it."

---

### **Palka, Chicago White Sox come up short**

By Scot Gregor / Daily Herald / August 11, 2018

The Chicago White Sox had the right hitter in the right place at the right time.

Trailing the Cleveland Indians 3-1 with one on and one out in the ninth inning Saturday night at Guaranteed Rate Field, Daniel Palka came to the plate

The night before, Palka homered leading off the ninth to lift the Sox to a 1-0 win.

On Saturday, the powerful left-hander connected on a 3-2 pitch from Indians reliever Cody Allen.

"A big moment, a big at-bat," manager Rick Renteria said. "It came off his bat hot. I think he felt like he caught it."

Unfortunately for Palka, his drive sailed to the deepest part of the park and landed in center fielder Greg Allen's glove in front of the wall.

Cleveland hung on for a 3-1 victory, as White Sox starter James Shields (4-14) pitched well in another loss.

"It's been a frustrating season, there's no doubt about it," Shields said after allowing 3 runs on 7 hits in 7 innings. "Just continue going out there every five days, try to go as deep as I can and give my team a chance to win."

The Sox's run came in the third inning, when Yoan Moncada homered off Cleveland starter Trevor Bauer.

In the seventh, Bauer had to exit the game after being hit on the right ankle by Jose Abreu's line drive.

Kopecch watch:

He might not join the White Sox until next April to delay his major-league service time, but like Class AAA Charlotte teammate Eloy Jimenez, Michael Kopecch continues to prove he's ready for the next step.

In Saturday night's start against Rochester, Kopecch allowed 5 hits over 7 scoreless innings. The 22-year-old righty had 9 strikeouts and didn't issue any walks.

Over his last 6 starts, Kopecch has a 1.89 ERA and 50 strikeouts in 38 innings.

Splash down:

When the White Sox win in walk-off fashion, keep an eye on Yolmer Sanchez.

When Trayce Thompson hit a game-winning home run against the Minnesota Twins on May 3, Sanchez dumped a bucket of ice water on his own head.

On Friday night, when Daniel Palka snapped a scoreless tie against Cleveland with a home run leading off the bottom of the ninth, Sanchez doused third-base coach Nick Capra.

"It's about having fun," Sanchez said. "Every win is special, so try to do something fun."

As Palka rounded third base, being drenched was the last thing on Capra's mind.

"It was a little surprising," Capra said. "Those Gatorade baths are for the players, not the coaches. But it was fun. That's how (Sanchez) he is. He thinks up something different every day. It creates a lot of fun in the clubhouse."

---

### **Yolmer Sánchez is keeping things fun like only he can**

By James Fegan / The Athletic / August 11, 2018

It had been three months since the last White Sox walk-off victory, and Trayce Thompson, who launched a solo shot to left off Addison Reed to make the Sox winners on May 3, has long since been designated for assignment. In that time, Yolmer Sánchez had apparently been plotting.

Also during that time, Sánchez's celebration of that event has become a bit of a meme. The image of him dunking a Gatorade bucket full of ice water over his own head while an amused Thompson chucked a batting helmet at Sánchez's gut in response to this absurdity has become a widely shared GIF and image. A picture of Sánchez mid-dunk has been a common image on T-shirts worn by Sánchez's young son as he bounces around the tunnel outside the clubhouse after games, it's being given away to fans on Aug. 30, and of course, he wears it himself.

It's usually accompanied by the caption "Keep it fun," which is Sánchez's personal motto in recognition of his long grind to becoming a major league regular, and is a coping mechanism for another losing season and the 26-year-old's own personal second-half slump at the plate. Still, he gave hints that at the next opportunity a dizzying walk-off celebration provides, he would have something different.

"I was thinking about this last night, startup bands start in the garage and do their tune-ups," third base coach Nick Capra said. "I think he thinks about this stuff at night in his apartment what he's going to do the next day. It's hilarious."

It turns out what Sánchez was thinking was Capra, who in the delirious wake of Daniel Palka's walk-off flick into the left-field seats Friday for a 1-0 victory over division-leading Cleveland, was one of the only men on the field who had yet to abandon his post. He stood still in his position near the third-base bag ready to shake Palka's hand as he rounded, only to feel a plunge of icy wetness as Sánchez dumped a tub of cold orange Gatorade on his back.

"I thought it was funny," Sánchez said when asked why he targeted Capra, before batting off any concern about revenge.

"I don't think so, no. If he does something, I do something better."

The concern is not a cycle of revenge, but by coming perilously close to racing onto the field with a Gatorade bucket during the middle of the game, Sánchez has proven himself fundamentally unpredictable. Palka himself admitted he did not quite know what to anticipate as he saw Sánchez racing toward the field while he was rounding third, and Sánchez himself stoked the belief that everyone should keep their head on a swivel.

"You guys have to be careful," Sánchez said. "Have to watch out. It's about having fun. And enjoy the moment."

That list obviously seems to include the new media, as Sánchez shot a particularly devilishly grin toward Chuck Garfien, who is frequently saddled with the responsibility of postgame interviews on the field. But less exposed and more reserved members of the coaching staff would seem to be higher-value targets, to the point where Rick Renteria has seemingly already plotted out preventive measures.

"If you notice, I stay in the dugout and let them celebrate out there," Renteria said. "They are the ones that need to enjoy it. They're the ones doing all the hard work and battling. We just enjoy living vicariously through them, just like any parent would for their children."

In Sánchez's 10 years with the organization — a tenure that began when he was 16 years old in the Dominican Summer League — the White Sox have seen him mature to a real degree. Thompson claimed earlier in the season that Sánchez's personality has been the same since they were teammates in Kannapolis, only it used to be that he couldn't speak a word of English. But Capra, who oversaw him as a player development director, wouldn't have necessarily predicted this behavior at the outset. It has sort of come up slowly, like Sánchez sneaking behind him.

"I think he's always been a really positive, happy person," Capra said. "It's grown with him along with his career. He's grown a lot and he's a blast to have around. He's a great teammate. He's great for the coaches. He's very coachable on the field. The personality is unbelievable. I love him to death."

---

### **Carlos Rodón doesn't have all the stuff working, just all the confidence and results**

By James Fegan / The Athletic / August 11, 2018

As one of the foremost Carlos Rodón experts and advocates, Omar Narváez was not falling over himself with astonishment about his battery mate taking a no-hit bid into the sixth inning in Anaheim last month.

"I think he's got more than that," Narváez said. "Just got to keep working. He's growing up."

What he has more of, isn't necessarily "stuff."

Rodón got up to 97.4 mph by the end of his eight scoreless innings in a 1-0 Daniel Palka-powered victory over division-leading Cleveland on Friday. That's the exact same max velocity he had in Anaheim — albeit via the same slow build he's exhibited all year, which often sees him sitting 89-90 mph early on. It's not intentional, like vintage Justin Verlander, but Rodón has learned to manage his velocity and wade through the initial innings.

Despite being known as an elite stuff guy coming out of the draft and the minors, the relatively mundane eight punchouts in 7 2/3 innings in Anaheim remains a season-high, and his five-strikeout Friday night was more of the same. Rodon's 19.9 percent strikeout rate for the season would put him right below Kyle Hendricks, in the bottom third of the league if he had enough qualified innings. But Rodon has shown enough flashes to wade through jams while delivering heavy workloads (6 1/3 innings per start) of what is now elite run prevention (2.69 ERA).

"I feel pretty good," Rodón said, hinting at a more contact-oriented approach. "I might not have all my stuff, but it's working. Just throwing it up over the dish and letting the defense do the work for me. We got through some games and I've been fortunate. Just trying to eat innings and go deep in the game for the boys. That mentality has been working out."

What Rodón has more of, Narváez would argue, is composure. And by not giving into frustration, he shows a presence of mind that he used both to navigate a two-walk first inning, including that leadoff walk to Francisco Lindor, and to know when to mete out his best stuff. As much as he's learned to deal with not having top velocity in the initial couple innings, Rodon has the ability to ramp up his velocity on command by the end of a game, as he did to jam José Ramírez into a fly out to end the eighth.

"The biggest thing is he's just been calmed down during the whole game," Narváez said. "When he gets frustrated is when he loses his pitches. He's been able to calm down and come back."

Rodón says that steadiness comes from being healthy, or more specifically knowing that he's healthy. While 42 2/3 innings over his last six starts, with 644 pitches thrown over that time might sound like a lot, for Rodón it's what he always planned to be able to provide when he could trust his arm.

"Just the confidence is there," Rodón said. "Just feel like you belong and you get your shoulder fixed and you know there's no issue, nothing wrong. There's no doubt in your mind when you go out and I step on the mound that I'm healthy and I'm coming to compete. It's a big thing for anyone in this game to have that confidence when you step on the field, to say, 'I can play with you guys.'"

Is this sustainable? Surely the struggles of the White Sox rotation have provided enough assurances that eight innings of scoreless ball are not something easily stumbled upon. Two entries in Rodón's six-start run of dominance, which have rekindled the "ace" conversation, have seen him navigate around marked control problems and emerge with a quality start to show for it, where others likely would falter. Maybe it will take a night like he had in Texas, where everything is going wrong and he needs to ramp up his stuff the whole night to pitch out of it to test his new approach, and maybe even then that will only prove that bad nights happen even during what has a chance to be his best season.

This isn't a journeyman pitcher who is coming in and pitching to soft contact and racking up innings, it's Carlos Rodón—a third overall pick who touches high-90s from the left side with an elite slider. It's someone who the Sox have been waiting to assert his hold on the top of the rotation, and are prepared to give him every opportunity to prove the time is now.

"We sent him out there in the eighth, this was his game pretty much," manager Rick Renteria said. "We ended up starting to think about helping him out, but pretty much he ended up taking control of the landscape today and doing what he wanted to do against a pretty good team."

Better yet, the Sox feel like Rodón has more than that in the tank.

---

### **'Beisbol' Exhibit Highlights African American And Hispanic Ballplayers**

By Ryan Baker / CBS Chicago / August 11, 2018

CHICAGO (CBS) — CBS 2 got a sneak peek at some "beisbol" history coming to the South Side.

The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum has a traveling exhibit highlighting the connection between African American baseball history and Hispanic cultures.

A key figure of the artifacts is Sox great Minnie Minoso, the first black Cuban in the major leagues. Minoso's wife Sharon and son Charlie were touched by the display.

“Seeing that he still left his mark, not just here at the ballpark, but here in Chicago, throughout the baseball community, the African American, the Latino and the Afro-Latino communities as well,” said Charlie Rice-Minoso. “He might be gone physically but certainly not forgotten.”

“He was the literal bridge that took us from the era of segregation into the era of integration,” said Adrian Burgos, Jr., historian and editor-in-chief of “La Vida Beisbol.”

“And one of the things that makes Minnie’s contribution to baseball history, even his performance on the field all the more outstanding is that he had to deal with what it meant to be a black man, an Afro-Latino from Cuba, while being an awesome All-Star all the time.”

The Negro Leagues “Beisbol” exhibit will be on display at the Chicago Sports Depot, located near gate five at Guaranteed Rate Field starting Friday through September 26th.

---