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### **Giolito's hot stretch comes to halt vs. Tigers**

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

CHICAGO -- Lucas Giolito had four consecutive quality starts coming into Detroit's 8-3 victory over the White Sox on Tuesday night at Guaranteed Rate Field. The right-hander was fresh off possibly his best outing with Chicago, allowing one run on two hits over 6 1/3 innings while striking out eight against baseball's best offense from Boston.

That streak ended against Detroit.

Giolito started strong, striking out two during a nine-pitch perfect first. But he was gone by the end of the second, a frame during which the Tigers scored five and Giolito threw 41 pitches. Victor Martinez started that rally with an 11-pitch single as the leadoff hitter.

"They had some really good at-bats, and I just let the game speed up on me," said Giolito, who was pitching with a slight cold. "First at-bat of the [second] inning, it was like an 11-pitch base hit, another base hit after that and instead of kind of being within myself, slowing it down, I just kind of let it speed up. You do that at this level, you're going to have the kind of inning that I had in the second."

"After I saw him when we took him out, [I said], 'It's just one of those days,'" White Sox manager Rick Renteria said. "You just don't worry about it. Next guy comes in try to keep it down and try to keep us in

the ball game. For the most part, they did. We were just a little short. We scored three runs but weren't able to chip away and keep the runs coming."

For the night, Giolito allowed five runs (four earned) over 1 1/3 innings that tied a career low, while striking out three and walking two. He had four swinging strikes and topped out at 95.6 mph on his fastball, per Statcast™, but felt his stuff was good despite the overall results.

"Thinking back on the game, there's a few situations in the second inning I just didn't execute the pitch I needed to, especially with two strikes," Giolito said. "Pitch count got up, and I was out of the game.

"I feel like I'm throwing the ball well. I didn't feel like there were any issues as far as that during the game. Like I said before, just going a little too fast and the next thing you know it's like 40 pitches in the inning."

Chicago cut the deficit to 6-3 against Francisco Liriano in the fourth, with Yoan Moncada's single and Ryan Cordell's sacrifice fly driving in two of the three runs. Cordell was making his Major League debut.

But Mikie Mahtook delivered a two-run home run off of reliever Ryan Burr in the eighth to extend the Tigers' lead. Detroit's victory forged a third-place tie once again in the American League Central, with both teams holding 56-83 records.

Jeanmar Gomez set a career high as a reliever with five strikeouts over 1 2/3 scoreless innings.

#### SOUND SMART

The White Sox dropped to 1-7 against the Tigers at Guaranteed Rate Field this season.

#### HE SAID IT

"I just washed it off in the shower. Move on to the next one." -- Giolito, on quickly putting Tuesday's rough start out of his mind

#### UP NEXT

Right-hander Michael Kopech (1-0, 0.82 ERA) will make his fourth career start and third at home with a 7:10 p.m. CT first pitch Wednesday against the Tigers at Guaranteed Rate Field. Jordan Zimmermann (6-6, 4.22) starts for the Tigers. Each of Kopech's home starts has been rain-shortened: Two scoreless innings in his Major League debut on Aug. 21 vs. Minnesota and three scoreless innings on Aug. 31 vs. Boston. Rain is in the forecast again for Wednesday night.

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#### **Abreu could return to action by end of week**

By Scott Merkin / MLB.com / September 3, 2018

CHICAGO -- Jose Abreu has returned to the White Sox, happy and feeling good after undergoing surgery to relieve testicular torsion on Aug. 21.

Abreu hopes to return to action by the end of the week and was cleared to participate Tuesday in his second day of light activity. Abreu also was announced as the White Sox nominee for the Roberto Clemente Award, an honor in recognition of a player who best represents the game of baseball through extraordinary character, community involvement, philanthropy and positive contributions on and off the field.

This marks Abreu's third consecutive nomination for the award.

Already known as the consummate leader and mentor within the youth-filled White Sox clubhouse, Abreu does the same outside the baseball confines. He launched Abreu's Amigos with the help of the White Sox in 2015 in partnership with Easterseals Academy. The organization provides regular opportunities for students with special needs to develop social skills in a recreational setting through field trips to the ballpark.

Nearly 70 students have visited the ballpark through Abreu's program, with monthly visits scheduled for an additional 25 students in 2018. Abreu made a \$10,000 donation to kick off the program during a baseball clinic on the school's White Sox Field. He also held a pizza party for nearly 200 students and staff members this season.

"Those are the things that make you proud," said Abreu, through interpreter Billy Russo, of the Clemente Award honor. "To be recognized and honored as a representative of the team makes you feel honored. Even though the last two weeks have been difficult for me because of my physical things, getting that news is good.

"It puts you in a better mood and it motivates you, makes you feel good to know you're being recognized for your work. Not just on the field, but off the field, too. I just want to thank the White Sox organization because they gave me the opportunity to represent the team, to be the player and person that I am."

Abreu thanked the White Sox and his doctors among the people who helped him through his recovery. He's watched every game during the absence.

"I'm excited about the way the team is playing," Abreu said. "The guys are doing a good job. That's why I'm anxious to get back as and help the team, to help the young guys, and finish the season as strong as possible."

#### Fan taken for treatment after getting hit

A fan was struck in the face by a Jeimer Candelario foul ball during the ninth inning of Chicago's 8-3 loss to Detroit at Guaranteed Rate Field. The ball was pulled foul down the right-field line and hit a man sitting in the front row.

He was taken to Rush University Medical Center for treatment, per the White Sox, after receiving immediate attention at the field.

"I was trying to get a good look, but I was scared," Candelario said. "Hopefully everything is good. I think he was trying to get away from it, and he just moved back and the ball was like a two-seamer I think. But I know for sure it hit a way big part of the face. Hopefully he will be good. Nobody wants to get hit no matter where you're sitting. It's sad."

"That's why those nets are up. We have them in Detroit way down the line, and that's the reason why so that doesn't happen," Tigers manager Ron Gardenhire said. "I know people want foul balls, but this is a very fast game, and they hit the ball very hard. I think it hit a gentleman, hopefully he's OK. I know it got him pretty good from what they said, and that's the worst feeling in the world when you're sitting in the dugout and see it go in the stands."

#### Ruiz gets the call

The White Sox purchased the contract of right-handed pitcher Jose Ruiz from Double-A Birmingham and outrighted infielder Matt Skole to Triple-A Charlotte. Ruiz, 23, combined to go 3-1 with a 3.07 ERA, 16 saves, 77 strikeouts (11.8 per 9.0 IP), and a .188 opponents average over 43 appearances with Class A Winston-Salem and Birmingham this season. It was his first in the Chicago organization after being claimed off waivers from San Diego on Dec. 22, 2017.

Ruiz, a converted catcher, was packing to go home when he got the news.

"It has been my goal my whole career," said Ruiz through Russo. "I have been working really hard this season in the Minors just with that goal in mind, just to reach the Majors. Now that I'm here, I'm very excited."

Ruiz's fastball rates as his top pitch, but he also has focused on his slider and played around with a changeup.

Jimenez, Cease win monthly honor

Charlotte outfielder Eloy Jimenez and Birmingham right-hander Dylan Cease have been named the White Sox Minor League Player and Pitcher of the Month for August, as voted on by Chicago media.

Jimenez, the top-rated White Sox prospect and No. 3 prospect in baseball per MLB Pipeline, hit .359 with a .938 OPS, four home runs and 16 RBIs in August. He had a slash line of .371/.403/.629 with 10 homers, 29 RBIs and a 1.033 OPS over 43 games after the break.

Cease, the No. 44 prospect in baseball per MLB Pipeline, posted a 1-0 record with a 0.51 ERA over four August starts before the White Sox shut him down when he reached his innings limit. He struck out 29 and allowed six hits over 17 2/3 innings. Cease finished 3-0 with a 0.94 ERA and 71 strikeouts over his final nine starts, covering 47 2/3 innings.

"Fantastic season for Dylan. Could not be more pleased with his development," White Sox general manager Rick Hahn said. "He should enter next Spring Training feeling very good about what he accomplished and in a very good position to help us in the future."

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### **In My Words: Palka on rookie success**

By Daniel Palka / MLB.com / September 4, 2018

I'm mad it's September and there's only one month left in the season. People say to me, "It's almost the offseason," like that's a good thing. I'm like, "Shut up. I don't want to hear it." The offseason is not as good as being here, playing in the big leagues, playing for the White Sox.

I was excited when the White Sox picked me up. I felt like this is a great place to get my foot in the door and solidify who I am as a baseball player. Since they were a young team, I knew I could be myself. I didn't have to tiptoe around. I could fit in with these dudes.

At the end of April, I got called up and made my Major League debut. I didn't feel pressure. I took it as, "I'm going to do whatever the team needs me to do." That's how you stick here. This is what I've wanted all my life, so I'm not going to sit around and be scared when it happens. I felt like, "I don't care if I'm only in the big leagues for one day, I'm going to act like I always belonged here."

From a personal standpoint, it doesn't surprise me that I have had some success this year. I feel like it is even a little less than what I know I can do. I'm very confident in that aspect. My goal is to be a complete hitter. The RBIs and power numbers are great, but I don't want home runs with 200 strikeouts. The more I'm hitting, the more I'm scoring, the more they need me in the lineup.

It's hard to explain, but when you get here, you really realize who you are as a baseball player. Then you have to figure out what you've got to do to make the adjustments. You go on a hot streak, and you think, "I can hit anything they throw." Then I get a little aggressive, and I'm swinging at rosin bags. You have to pull yourself back in. I expect to be able to make the adjustments.

My walk-off homer to beat Cleveland, 1-0, on Aug. 10 was awesome. I had three strikeouts in the game when I came up in the ninth inning. I wasn't thinking, "I have three strikeouts. I could have four." It was more like, "I could end the game." The whole time running around the bases, I couldn't believe I hit that pitch. It was about 1 1/2 feet outside. I knew right away it was gone. It's something I'll never forget.

It's been a big year for me. I definitely know what I am zeroing in on. I have a plan. I've never had an offseason where I was thinking, "I'm not ready to play in the big leagues." The difference is now I know 100 percent what I need to do to succeed here.

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### **Jose Abreu reveals reason for DL stay, acknowledges he probably won't reach a fifth 25-homer, 100-RBI season**

By Vinnie Duber/ NBC Sports Chicago / September 4, 2018

Jose Abreu turned his season around and looked destined for a fifth straight 25-homer, 100-RBI campaign. But a freak injury will probably put that achievement out of reach for a guy who's been a model of consistency since arriving in the major leagues.

Tuesday, the White Sox first baseman informed reporters of the cause of his surgery and disabled-list stay: He's been sidelined since late last month while recovering from a procedure to relieve testicular torsion. And because of it, he's missed his team's improved play of late and the time necessary to amass the numbers folks have become so accustomed to seeing him put up on an annual basis.

"It was one of my testicles turned sideways and was strangled," he said through a team translator. "The doctor had to perform emergency surgery to save it. I never thought about it, but it was serious. The doctors they did a very good job and everything is good. They saved the testicle. I'm really glad and thankful like I said before for all the people who helped me and who were there for me. I feel very grateful right now."

Abreu, always the hard-worker who hates to miss time for any reason, also put out there that he hopes to be back playing by the end of this week. If that ends up happening, he'll have roughly three weeks to hit three home runs and drive in 22 runs to hit the incredible milestones he accomplished in each of his first four big league seasons.

Reaching those totals seems unlikely at this point, but Abreu is taking it in stride.

"Those are the things that you can't control. I would like to be able to reach those numbers, to keep posting those numbers, but unfortunately I probably won't be able to do it," he said. "But I'm just glad and thankful with god because I'm healthy and that's what's important, the most important."

"In my time here now, I want to play. In the meantime, I want to contribute helping the guys to try to finish the season as strong as possible. Even when I start playing again, I just want to help them. Maybe the numbers, the stats, won't be there, the ones that I want to get when the season started. But I will be able to help the team and help the young guys to finish the season strong."

While it's easy to focus on statistics, Abreu is likely more upset with the fact he hasn't been around for the White Sox playing noticeably better baseball of late. The team has won nine of the 14 games he's missed thanks to excellent starting pitching, a new-look bullpen and increased offensive production.

Abreu's happy about all that, of course, and he's lending his typical veteran support to the young players driving the team's improved play.

"I have watched every single game," he said. "I've been rooting for the team, I'm excited about the way the team is playing. The guys are doing a good job. That's why I'm anxious to get back as and help the team, to help the young guys and finish the season as strong as possible. We are playing very good baseball right now, and I'm just excited to be on the field again."

While Abreu failing to turn in a fifth straight 25-homer, 100-RBI season is a bummer for the player, the White Sox and fans, it's unlikely to impact how the team feels about him. Their fondness for him has been well documented, and his midseason turnaround is more likely to impact the decision on Abreu's future. After a prolonged slump, Abreu had a terrific month coming out of the All-Star break, slashing .330/.394/.652 with nine homers and 26 RBIs in 29 games before going on the DL.

Abreu is under team control through the 2019 season, and he's slated to hit free agency ahead of the 2020 campaign, or just when the White Sox figure to be transitioning from rebuilding mode to contention mode. Abreu, his consistent production and his valued off-the-field presence figure to be of great value to the next White Sox team that competes for a championship, despite his advancing age.

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**Jose Abreu says White Sox are 'blessed' to have Michael Kopech, adds: 'I wouldn't like to face him'**

By Vinnie Duber / NBC Sports Chicago / September 4, 2018

Michael Kopech's arrival on the South Side and the White Sox improved play coming at the same time doesn't seem to be a complete coincidence.

The White Sox didn't win Kopech's rain-shortened big league debut, but they've won nine of the 14 games they've played with him on the roster. A couple of his fellow starting pitchers have described him as a catalyst of sorts for that group's continued dominant performance of late. His promotion invigorated a fan base that's waited all season for some obvious signs of progress at the major league level.

So what does the current face of the franchise think of the club's newest star?

"We as a team are just blessed to have him with us," Jose Abreu said through a team translator Tuesday. "With all the talent he has and all the stuff he has shown on the field, that's one of the reasons for what we've all been saying in the last year or so, that we're going to be good in the future. It's because of players like him, the talent he has.

"In my case I'm just happy to have him on my team. I wouldn't like to face him. Right now my purpose is just to help him and the young guys finish strong and for him, to be on this team for next year, to be part of the rotation and one of our main guys."

Abreu hasn't played in a game since Kopech was called up, Kopech's debut lining up with the first game Abreu missed because of surgery to relieve testicular torsion. Abreu's recovery has kept him sidelined since, but the first baseman said he's watched every game, which includes all three of Kopech's starts.

Kopech hasn't logged a lot of innings — two of his three starts have been cut short by rain delays — but he has managed to impress. He's allowed just one run, struck out nine opposing batters and worked his way out of a few jams to rave reviews. Plus, his minor league track record (172 strikeouts in 2017, followed up with 155 in three fewer starts this season) and his status as the organization's top-ranked pitching prospect have expectations incredibly high.

If the White Sox opt to extend Abreu, who's slated to hit free agency after the 2019 season, then these two could end up as co-faces of the franchise once it segues from rebuilding mode to contention mode.

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### **Competition among intriguing young arms could help define roles in White Sox bullpen of the future**

By Vinnie Duber / NBC Sports Chicago / September 4, 2018

The White Sox bullpen of the future has been assembled rather quickly.

Summertime trades shipping veteran arms out of town and the annual expansion of rosters that happens this time of year has rapidly changed the look of the relief corps. It's gotten younger, and there's a heck of a lot more potential for these guys to form the group that Rick Renteria will call on when the White Sox eventually transition from rebuilding mode to contention mode.

Seven pitchers under the age of 26 now reside out in the White Sox bullpen, with the majority called up in recent weeks: Aaron Bummer, Ryan Burr, Caleb Frare, Jace Fry, Ian Hamilton, Jose Ruiz and Thyago Vieira. Most of those guys put up really good numbers in the minors this season, and as they get their opportunities here in the final month of the 2018 campaign, they conjure the idea of the White Sox potentially constructing a homegrown relief corps for the next roster that will compete for a championship.

"We have brought up some young men which we're looking at now who show good arm, good command of the zone. We're going to continue to find out more about them," Renteria said Tuesday. "Hopefully we are able to put a lot together from within our own system, from the young men that we have and they're growing into those roles, trusting that they have the stuff to do what they need to do in order to close out the back end of a ballgame.

"I think that the organization as a whole, Rick (Hahn) and the whole front office, has done a great job of the acquisitions and the drafting, so now we're starting to see some of these kids and they're pretty exciting to watch."

The numbers from the minor leagues have been eye-popping for some of these newcomers. Hamilton had a 1.74 ERA with Double-A Birmingham and Triple-A Charlotte. Burr had a 2.45 ERA with those two teams. Bummer had a 2.64 ERA at Charlotte. Frare, acquired in a July trade with the New York Yankees, had a 0.78 ERA between the two organizations. Ruiz, called up Tuesday, had a 3.07 ERA with Class A Winston-Salem and Birmingham. And Fry, who's been in the majors for most of the season, has a 2.38 ERA since the beginning of August.

Zack Burdi, who many fans and observers are predicting could be the team's closer of the future, remains on the comeback trail from Tommy John surgery and therefore hasn't reached the South Side yet. But the arrival of all these other relievers could signal the assemblage of much of the bullpen of the future.

It ought to have rebuild-loving White Sox fans feeling very good.

"It is something incredible," Ruiz said through a team translator Tuesday. "I've been playing with all of them in the minors, in Double-A, and I know the talent that they have. I think they're going to have a really good challenge and really good competition between us just to try to see who can do a better job. It's going to be something good for us to see who has the best stuff, in a good way. We all have very good stuff and we're all very talented."

Competition has been a theme for this group. Burr has used the phrase "competition breeds success" a few times since getting called up, and it's intriguing to think about what competition among these guys will yield.

Much like the starting staff has talked about the friendly competition going on there, competition in the 'pen could help Renteria and his staff define roles for the 2019 campaign. For a team that's operated without a closer since Joakim Soria was traded away before the July 31 deadline, finding some set roles at the end of games could be very beneficial. And competition between all these young arms is what could do just that.

"I'm hoping, amongst all the men we have here, if there is a defined role as a closer that we ultimately maybe have it come from within our system," Renteria said. "We've been debuting a lot of guys in that role this year, I think we've had nine guys close out games for us this year. I think we're in that stage now where we have an opportunity to see these guys work, see them work under different circumstances and see how they respond, see how they react.

"And hopefully amongst the group we find those leverage situation pitchers for us working from the sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth. That's what we're trying to find out.

"When you have depth in the organization and there's competition for roles in your position, you don't have time to let down. There's an edge that you have to develop in order to be able to compete. It's nice for us as an organization to be having the competition that they're having amongst each other, to show each other what they're capable of doing. That's really an important piece.

"That sense of urgency beyond just being here and competing against another club and trying to win a ballgame on a daily basis, but knowing that, 'Hey man, if I don't perform there's a chance somebody else is going to be able to do what I need to do.' That's a pretty important piece of the puzzle."

Speaking of puzzles, Renteria will have an interesting one to solve on a daily basis as all these young pitchers simultaneously audition for important roles in next season's relief corps. Fortunately he's got a lot of pieces to choose from, pieces that will be trying to one-up the guys around them. And if Burr's maxim

proves correct and competition does indeed breed success, then the White Sox bullpen of the future could wind up a strength of the team of the future.

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### **September roster battles key to White Sox future**

By Phil Thompson / Chicago Tribune / September 4, 2018

The White Sox's run of eight wins in the last 12 games has not only built confidence, it has created competition.

"When you have depth in the organization and there's competition for roles in your position, you don't have time to let down," manager Rick Renteria said. "There's an edge that you have to develop in order to be able to compete."

Adam Engel's defense has been stellar, but this week the Sox called up fellow centerfielder Ryan Cordell to give him a look.

The Sox have also thrown call-ups Ryan Burr and Jose Ruiz into mix of other young relievers such as Aaron Bummer, Thyago Vieira and Jace Fry.

"It is something incredible," Ruiz said. "I've been playing with all of them in the minors, in Double-A and I know the talent that they have. I think they're going to have ... really good competition between us just to try to see who can do a better job."

Ruiz didn't get into the mix of five relievers who mopped up Tuesday after Lucas Giolito lasted just 1 1/3 innings. Bummer and Burr each struck out two and gave up an earned run — Burr served up Mikie Mahtook's home run in the eighth. Vieira had a scoreless ninth despite giving up two singles.

Engel had an error when he double-clutched the ball on Dawel Lugo's two-run double. Cordell had a couple of shaky moments in right field, one in the second when he had trouble gathering a ricochet off the wall and again in the ninth when Victor Martinez's hard liner bounced off the heel of his glove.

But the Sox can live with a few miscues as they try to get a glimpse of each player's potential. They're also aware the players know the stakes in September.

"It's nice for us as an organization to be having the competition that they're having amongst each other, to show each other what they're capable of doing," Renteria said. "That's really an important piece. Sometimes you can just roll along and not worry about what's happening and not concern yourself too much.

"That sense of urgency beyond just being here and competing against another club and trying to win a ballgame on a daily basis, but knowing that, 'Hey man, if I don't perform there's a chance somebody else is going to be able to do what I need to do,' that's a pretty important piece of the puzzle."

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### **Tim Anderson's improved defense drawing raves among White Sox teammates**

By Phil Thompson / Chicago Tribune / September 4, 2018

Before Monday's game, Rick Hahn provided the perfect setup for Tim Anderson when the GM gave his assessment of the White Sox shortsop.

"Anderson (is) continuing to grow, especially defensively," Hahn said before the Sox's 4-2 win against the Tigers at Guaranteed Rate Field.

Anderson made good on those words in the fifth inning, when he made a backhand grab of Ronny Rodriguez's grounder, then, with his momentum taking him toward the third-base foul line, made a balletic, spinning throw to first for the out.



Last month center fielder Adam Engel, no defensive slouch himself, marveled at Anderson making “plays that I’ve never seen him make before.”

Third baseman Yolmer Sanchez, another fine fielder, had an up-close view of Anderson’s latest play — and most of his other ones.

“He plays with more confidence now,” Sanchez said. “I think since Day 1 when I saw him play for the first day he’s a natural shortstop. He can do any play at shortstop. He gets confident, he knows what he can do, so he just goes and does his thing.”

Sanchez has seen Anderson make similar highlight-reel plays since last season, but Sanchez said if there’s any difference lately it’s consistency. Entering Tuesday’s play, Anderson’s 15 errors were third-most among major-league shortstops, but he hadn’t made one since Aug. 8, with 22 error-free games since.

“I think when you play every day and you have experience, you can do different things,” Sanchez said. “I don’t know what other people (in baseball) think about TA, but he’s one of the best shortstops in the league. He’s got really good range. He can throw; he’s got a really good arm. Like I said, he can make any play at shortstop.”

Sanchez said it fuels competition when others, such as Engel, also make big plays in the field.

“When you got a top defensive play you want to do the same. Engel, he’s a Gold Glove in center field, no doubt. When you see your teammate make a play — really good defense — you want to do the same, help the team win games,” Sanchez said. “The defense wins a lot of games so we try to do our best.”

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**‘The doctors, they did a very good job ... They saved the testicle’: Jose Abreu reveals he needed emergency surgery for testicular torsion injury**

By Phil Thompson / Chicago Tribune / September 4, 2018

White Sox first baseman Jose Abreu revealed that the “lower abdomen/groin area” injury that sent him to the disabled list last month was testicular torsion, and he needed emergency surgery to save one of his testicles.

“It was one of my testicles turned sideways and was strangled. The doctor had to perform emergency surgery to save it,” Abreu said through an interpreter before Tuesday’s night game against the Tigers at Guaranteed Rate Field.

He added that doctors cleared him to resume physical activity Tuesday and estimated he would be healthy enough to play by the end of the week.

Abreu first reported pain when he arrived at the ballpark for an Aug. 21 home game against the Twins, and he was removed from the the lineup. The Sox announced at the time that Abreu required outpatient surgery for an unidentified issue with his “lower abdomen/groin area.”

According to mayoclinic.org, “Testicular torsion occurs when a testicle rotates, twisting the spermatic cord. The reduced blood flow causes sudden and often severe pain and swelling. ... If treated quickly, the testicle can usually be saved. But when blood flow has been cut off for too long, a testicle might become so badly damaged that it has to be removed.”

Abreu shared more details Tuesday about what he went through.

“I never thought about it, but it was serious,” he said. “The doctors, they did a very good job and everything is good. They saved the testicle. I’m really glad and thankful for all the people who helped me and who were there for me. I feel very grateful right now.”

“Those are the sort of things you never think about and then when that happens, you realize, oh, things happen. I’m just thankful everything is good.”

The Sox said Monday that Abreu was on track to return to game action in mid-September.

“Today is just my second day of light activity. Today is the first day that the doctors cleared me to do stuff,” Abreu said. “I started doing a little bit of cardio yesterday. And I did cardio today again. It’s going to be a day-by-day thing, probably by the end of the week I think I will be able to play. But it all depends on how I’m feeling every day.”

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### **Lucas Giolito KO’d in second as Tigers defeat White Sox**

By Daryl Van Schouwen / Chicago Sun Times / September 4, 2018

Right-hander Lucas Giolito’s encouraging run that had him soaring with confidence came to an abrupt halt in the White Sox’ 8-3 loss Tuesday to the Tigers at Guaranteed Rate Field.

Giolito, who was 3-0 with a 2.84 ERA and 27 strikeouts in his last four starts, had more of the same mojo going during a perfect first inning that featured strikeouts of Jim Adduci and Nicholas Castellanos. But Victor Martinez opened the second with an 11-pitch at-bat that he capped with a single, and the Tigers added three more hits — including two doubles — in a five-run inning.

When Giolito walked Jeimer Candelario with one out, manager Rick Renteria had seen enough and went to left-hander Hector Santiago. Giolito was charged with five runs (four earned) and four hits in 1 1/3 innings, tying a career low.

Giolito said he let the game speed up on him in the second.

“I felt really good going into the game; I thought my stuff was really good,” he said. “Just one of those cases where I let it get too quick for me there.”

Giolito (10-10, 5.85 ERA) is 3-6 with a 7.91 ERA in 14 home starts.

“I just washed it off in the shower,” he said. “Move on to the next one.”

The Sox scored three runs in the fourth against left-hander Francisco Liriano on RBI singles by Yoan Moncada and Adam Engel and a sacrifice fly by Ryan Cordell, who made his first major-league start in right field.

Reliever Jeanmar Gomez struck out five in 1 2/3 innings.

Another young arm to see

The Sox purchased the contract of right-hander Jose Ruiz from Class AA Birmingham, increasing their active roster to 30. To make room for Ruiz on the 40-man roster, the Sox outrighted first baseman Matt Skole to Class AAA Charlotte.

“He’s a young man that has a little flair,” manager Rick Renteria said of Ruiz, a converted catcher. “He’s a pretty excitable guy out there.”

Ruiz follows right-handers Ian Hamilton and Ryan Burr and left-hander Caleb Frare from Charlotte as recent bullpen arms getting their first looks in the majors.

Jimenez, Cease cited

Charlotte outfielder Eloy Jimenez and Birmingham right-hander Dylan Cease were named the Sox' minor-league player and pitcher of the month for August.

Jimenez, 21, batted .336/.376/.509/ with four home runs and 16 RBI in 28 games in August and September. Cease, 22, went 3-0 with a 0.94 ERA and 71 strikeouts in 47%<sup>o</sup> innings in his last nine starts.

Kopech night

Right-hander Michael Kopech is the Sox' scheduled starter for the series finale Wednesday. Rain abbreviated his first two home starts, and it's in the forecast again.

"It is supposed to rain," Renteria said. "Let's pray for a little dispensation and it kind of goes around us."

Ouch!

A fan in the first row between the visitors' dugout and right field was struck in the face with a foul ball off the bat of Candelario. The fan, who tried to catch the line drive, was bloodied but walked up to the main concourse under his own power before being taken to Rush University Medical Center.

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### **Jose Abreu eyes return for final weeks of White Sox' season**

By Daryl Van Schouwen / Chicago Sun Times / September 4, 2018

The odd thing about White Sox first baseman Jose Abreu's absence is that he hasn't really been missed.

Check that. Abreu is one of the most respected players in the Sox' clubhouse, as well as a team leader and their Clemente Award nominee as the player who best exemplifies sportsmanship, community involvement and contribution to his team. But since he has been sidelined after having surgery to repair a testicular torsion Aug. 21, the Sox are 9-6 after their 8-3 loss Tuesday to the Tigers.

Good pitching will do that for you.

The Sox are playing their best baseball of the season, in large part because of the starting pitching they've been getting the last couple of weeks. Through Monday, Sox pitchers had a 2.75 ERA — the best in the American League — in the last 11 games. Their starters were at 2.01 during that span, but the run of good pitching came to a halt when Lucas Giolito allowed five runs (four earned) in the second inning and was pulled after getting only four outs Tuesday.

The Sox also have been scoring runs. Through Monday, they had averaged 5.2 in their last 20 games by hitting .273 with 27 home runs and a .460 slugging percentage.

When he went down, Abreu (.272 average, 22 homers, 78 RBI, .491 slugging percentage) was swinging the bat well and putting a 17-for-108 slump going into the All-Star break behind him. He was hitting as though he might challenge the 25-homer, 100-RBI markers that put him in a class with Joe DiMaggio and Albert Pujols as the only three players to do that in each of their first four seasons.

"I would like to be able to reach those numbers, to keep posting those numbers," Abreu said through a translator. "Unfortunately, I probably won't be able to do it. But I'm just glad and thankful to God because I'm healthy, and that's what's important.

"Maybe the numbers and stats won't be there, the ones that I wanted to get when the season started. But I will be able to help the team and help the young guys to finish the season strong."

Abreu said the health issue blindsided him.

"Those are the sort of things you never think about, and then when that happens, you realize, 'Oh, things happen.' I'm just thankful everything is good.

“One of my testicles turned sideways and was strangled. The doctor had to perform emergency surgery to save it. I never thought about it, but it was serious. The doctors did a very good job, and everything is good. They saved the testicle. I’m very glad and thankful for all the people who were there for me. I feel very grateful.”

Abreu took part in cardio activity for a second consecutive day and was cleared for light activity, he said. Always one to play hurt, he said he thinks he can play this weekend. But manager Rick Renteria and general manager Rick Hahn have indicated another week or so is more likely.

“He probably wanted to play today,” Renteria said. “It is my job to make sure that once he does get out on the field, he is completely healed and capable of doing what is necessary for him to help us win a ballgame.”

Before he was able to get to the ballpark, Abreu watched every Sox game on TV. It drove him crazy because he couldn’t do anything to help the team from the couch.

Soon enough, however, he’ll be able to contribute again.

“I want to play,” Abreu said. “In the meantime, I want to contribute by helping the young guys to try to finish the season as strong as possible.”

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### **‘They saved the testicle’: José Abreu details the medical scare that took him out of action**

By James Fegan / The Athletic / September 4, 2018

The White Sox had a pretty good reason for keeping things vague on Aug. 21 when José Abreu’s situation evolved from being scratched from the lineup to undergoing surgery on his groin.

Speaking to the media for the first time since returning to the clubhouse on Monday, Abreu described suffering from an ailment best termed as “testicular torsion,” which required emergency surgery that he says was thankfully successful — avoiding any surgical removal, which is very much a possibility in these cases.

“I’m thankful for all the people who helped me, all the doctors and all the people in the hospital who helped me to get better,” Abreu said through team interpreter Billy Russo.

“It was one of my testicles turned sideways and was strangled. The doctor had to perform emergency surgery to save it. I never thought about it, but it was serious. The doctors, they did a very good job and everything is good. They saved the testicle.”

Such a terrifying incident obviously puts the end of any reasonable chance at Abreu’s pursuit of a fifth-straight 100-RBI season in a fair bit of perspective. Not that he’s not still pushing for a characteristically hyper-aggressive return timeline. After Rick Hahn said on Monday that Abreu could be expected to return in the middle of September, and Rick Renteria said he was probably five-to-seven days away from any baseball activity at all, Abreu wants to be a part of this weekend’s series against the Angels.

“Today is just my second day of light activity,” Abreu said. “Today is the first day that the doctors cleared me to do stuff. I started doing a little bit of cardio yesterday. And I did cardio today again. It’s going to be a day by day thing, probably by the end of the week I think I will be able to play. But it all depends on how I’m feeling every day.”

“He probably wanted to play today,” Renteria quipped. “He’s moving OK. I would be a little leery, any competitor is going to want to put himself out there to do what he’s got to do. It is my job to make sure that once he does get out on the field he is completely healed and capable of doing what is necessary for him to help us win a ballgame.”

Chilling out and recovering doesn't seem like a relaxing state for Abreu, who pridefully stated that he watched every single White Sox game while on the mend. He mostly lamented the feeling of being unable to help that permeates while watching games on TV, even though the team entered Tuesday night with a 9-5 record in his absence. He's big on everything White Sox all the time, so naturally, he's very, very big on Michael Kopech.

"We as a team are just blessed to have him with us," Abreu said. "With all the talent he has and all the stuff he has shown on the field, that's one of the reasons for what we've all been saying in the last year or so, that we're going to be good in the future. It's because of players like him. The talent he has. In my case I'm just happy to have him on my team. I wouldn't like to face him."

As the expanded, Eloy-free White Sox roster swells to 30, Abreu's secluded Cuban corner of the locker room has now been crowded with right-handed reliever José Ruiz, who was called up from Double-A to test the vitality of his stuff out of the bullpen before the team makes a decision on protecting him from the Rule 5 draft this November. Ruiz was converted from catching two years ago because he can touch upper-90s with his fastball, but was happy about the progress of his secondaries this season in Birmingham.

"I've been working a lot on the slider," Ruiz said through Russo. "That's been the most improved pitch from last year to this year. I've been playing around with the changeup just to mix my repertoire and my stuff. My best pitch is still the fastball."

Renteria said Ruiz "is a young man with a little flair."

There will be updates at The Athletic when it is determined what about Ruiz he was referring to..

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### **A whole new ballgame: White Sox's rookie pitchers adjusting to major league ball**

By James Fegan / The Athletic / September 4, 2018

MLB Statcast says new White Sox reliever Ryan Burr elicited a swinging strike on his slider for the first time in his brief big league career Tuesday night, during his fourth major league appearance. It says he had previously gotten a swing and miss on his curveball, an assertion that serves as a good illustration of the problem Burr is working his way through in the early going, as he does not throw a curveball.

"My problem has been it's just kind of popping out," Burr said of his slider. "Kind of looping in there instead of being the one I had in Double-A, Triple-A, pull down on the seam and it looks more like a fastball and kind of drops off the table a little bit."

Pulling down on the seam is the root of the matter and an issue that any recently promoted pitcher has to work through as they try to establish the same feel and comfort with all their pitches that got them called up in the first place. Because they're doing it with a different ball.

"The seam isn't as high as it is on the minor league ball, so you really have to find a way to grip it and pull it down," Burr said. "It's going to take a few more reps, a few more times out. But I feel better about it today than I did yesterday."

Burr has thrown strikes consistently in the majors and has four punchouts to his name, but a pair of homers have been hung on his career line in his 4 2/3 innings, as he has yet to operate at the height of his powers without the feel for his primary wipeout pitch.

His bullpen buddy Ian Hamilton sits a couple mph hotter on the radar gun, and hasn't so much as allowed a single baserunner in his two appearances, but the way he's been pitching this year, even just going without a strikeout in his debut inning was a sign something was up.

"I definitely notice it on my slider," Hamilton said. "You just have to get used to it. There's like no give to the leather. I kinda dug into the minor league balls."

Hamilton threw one slider in his debut on Aug. 31, a looping 90-mph offering — apparently such a thing is possible — that missed arm side and apparently didn't feel great, before falling back on 97-98 mph heat for the rest of the time, which he wound up commanding just fine.

"You just got to feel it out more," Hamilton said. "They're just a little bit different. So it's getting used to it. It's coming."

After some mid-season struggles to find the feel on his very unique slider grip (it stems from his early attempts to self-teach a changeup), Hamilton was in a groove with the pitch in his final month at Triple-A Charlotte. Before his second major league appearance, he clearly found it again.

So there's definitely a difference to navigate for pitchers, and for us to weigh as viewers of a wave of new pitcher debuts. But it's still a major league ball, so it's still ultimately better to work with. It just might take a while.

"The main difference that I've noticed, and I was talking about this when I got here, is it doesn't really seem like a different ball," Michael Kopech said. "You may have a ball in Triple-A that feels the exact same. But every ball here feels the same. Whereas in the minor leagues you may get one and the ball feels almost bigger than the one you were using to pitch before. Almost every ball feels the exact same here with an occasional difference in the size of the seams. It's very rare that you find a drastic difference in the balls."

As Kopech puts it, the consistency is such that when he hangs a pitch, or misses with his location, or has it slip out of his hands in the majors, there's no ambiguity for who is at fault. Once he gets used to it that is, which after just 11 innings over the course of three outings — and with more rain in the forecast Wednesday night — might take some more time.

"It's just pitch-to-pitch for me," Kopech said. "I'm feeling more consistent with my slider right now and I'm trying to find my curveball again. But for the most part I think having the same ball I'm throwing with the same consistency is going to make it easier to figure it out. There's an adjustment that needs to be made."

Kopech also hasn't gotten into his curveball or slider much so far. He hasn't gotten much further than one trip through the batting order in two of three outings and in turn, has used his fastball more than 70 percent of the time. He cautions that he's always going to be very reliant on his 96-mph nightmare throughout games, and is not going to increase his secondary usage just to improve the uncharacteristically low strikeout counts he has so far as someone who led the Southern League and the International League in strikeout rate the past two years.

"I'm not too worried about the strikeouts right now," Kopech said. "General rule of thumb is to just miss barrels. Right now I'm getting a lot of either weak popups or weak groundouts. I'm still getting outs, they just might not be strikeouts."