



Minnesota Twins Daily Clips Wednesday, August 8, 2018

- Garver's HR all Mejia needs as Twins top Tribe. MLB.com (Bollinger) p.1
- Magill rejoins Twins after birth of son. MLB.com (Bollinger) p.2
- Here's a 2018 surprise for all 30 MLB teams. MLB.com (Justice) p.3
- Adalberto Mejia shines again before leaving because of injury in Twins' 3-2 victory at Cleveland. Star Tribune (Neal) p.3
- Twins don't think Adalberto Mejia's wrist injury is serious. Star Tribune (Neal) p.4
- Twins' Matt Magill likely returning from paternity list to a new role. Star Tribune (Neal) p.5
- Tuesday's Twins-Cleveland game recap. Star Tribune (Staff) p.6
- Twins-Indians game will be delayed by rain. Star Tribune (Neal) p.6
- Former college coach Dan Ramsay resigns as GCL Twins manager. Pioneer Press (Berardino) p.7
- Eddie Rosario's 4-hit night helps Twins to 3-2 win over Cleveland Indians. Pioneer Press (Berardino) p.9
- StaTuesday: Oliver Drake's record-breaking odyssey around MLB. Fox Sports North (Staff) p.10
- Twins bounce back to beat Indians 3-2. Fox Sports North (AP) p.11
- Wetmore's 5 thoughts: Twins questions that need answers the rest of the year. ESPN 1500 (Wetmore) p.12
- As Twins look to future, top prospects helping farm system shoot up the charts. The Athletic (Hayes) p.14

Garver's HR all Mejia needs as Twins top Tribe

Rhett Bollinger | MLB.com | August 8, 2018

CLEVELAND -- One of the more important things for the Twins over the next two months is to let their younger players develop and audition for bigger roles in 2019.

On Tuesday night at Progressive Field, that plan worked to perfection. Second-year left-hander Adalberto Mejia impressed yet again before coming out with a left wrist strain suffered on his final pitch, while rookie catcher Mitch Garver continued his strong second half with a three-run homer to lead the Twins to a 3-2 win over the Indians, after a rain delay of two hours and 10 minutes. Left fielder Eddie Rosario, who is in his fourth season but a year younger than Garver, also impressed, going 4-for-5 with two doubles.

"I think Mejia did a nice job," Twins manager Paul Molitor said. "He's shown some adeptness at being able to handle baserunners and pitch out of jams. He did it a couple times early, made some really good pitches. We had baserunners all night long. We didn't get a lot of big hits, but we got one that really counted."

Mejia, 25, matched his effort against the Indians from Wednesday, as he allowed one hit over five shutout innings for a second straight five-inning scoreless start against Cleveland. He walked one and struck out three, but left after 68 pitches because of the wrist strain, which the Twins hope is minor. Mejia, who improved to 2-0 with a 2.01 ERA and has a scoreless streak of 15 1/3 innings, will undergo further testing on Wednesday, but is confident it's not going to be a serious setback.

"I felt good obviously overall throughout the game, [and] the decision to take me out -- I was just being careful from my end," said Mejia through an interpreter. "And the team decided that was the best course of action. I got some treatment after I was taken out. Hopefully in five days, I'll be good to go."

Garver struck early against Indians right-hander Carlos Carrasco, launching a three-run blast to left in the second inning, after Logan Forsythe was hit by a pitch and Jake Cave singled. It was the sixth homer of the year for the 27-year-old backstop, who is hitting .298 with two homers, four doubles and 12 RBIs in 14 games since the All-Star break.

"It was mislocation," Garver said. "I was looking out over the plate. He threw me that first-pitch changeup and he hadn't thrown me a changeup all year. I was a little surprised by that. But I was looking fastball over and he missed location and I made him pay."

Rosario, 26, collected four hits against Carrasco, including a double in the seventh that knocked Carrasco from the game. But Rosario never scored, as the Twins went 1-for-6 with runners in scoring position.

After Mejia departed, the Twins turned to rookie lefty Gabriel Moya, who threw a scoreless sixth, getting through the top of Cleveland's order. The 23-year-old has a 3.12 ERA over his last eight appearances, dating back to July 1.

The Indians didn't score until the eighth, when Francisco Lindor hit a solo homer off Trevor Hildenberger. Hildenberger gave up a second run on a deep sacrifice fly to Leonys Martin, but the second-year setup man got out of the inning with a strikeout of Yonder Alonso.

Closer Fernando Rodney, one of a few veterans left after the non-waiver Trade Deadline because the Twins hold a \$4.5 million team option for next year, threw a scoreless ninth to get his 25th save of the year. The Indians had the tying run at second after a passed ball, but Rodney struck out Lindor looking to end the game.

"I thought the missed opportunities were going to make it at least somewhat exciting at the end," Molitor said. "But we were able to hold it down. It was a good response to last night."

SOUND SMART

Rosario is hitting .378 (28-for-74) at Progressive Field since the start of the 2016 season, which is the highest batting average of any player at the ballpark in that span.

HE SAID IT

"He's throwing a lot of strikes, and I think that's really helping him. He's pounding the zone with his fastball and his changeup is really improving. And I think both his breaking balls are also getting better. It's something we have been utilizing a lot. Just making his fastball better when he's throwing his offspeed for strikes." -- Garver, on Mejia

UP NEXT

Right-hander Jake Odorizzi (4-7, 4.60 ERA) will start for the Twins in the third game of the series on Wednesday at 6:10 p.m. CT. Odorizzi should be fresh, as his last start was shortened by rain. He gave up two runs over 3 1/3 innings against the Royals before the delay. The Indians will start right-hander Mike Clevinger (7-7, 3.48 ERA).

Magill rejoins Twins after birth of son

Rhett Bollinger | MLB.com | August 7, 2018

CLEVELAND -- Right-handed reliever Matt Magill rejoined the Twins on Tuesday after missing three games to attend the birth of his son, Maverick, on Saturday. To make room for him on the roster, fellow right-handed reliever Matt Belisle was placed on the 10-day disabled list with right knee chondromalacia, which is also known as runner's knee.

Magill, who was reinstated from the paternity list, left Minneapolis on Friday to arrive in time for the birth of his son in San Diego on Saturday. It was the first child for him and his wife, Melissa. He flew on a red-eye flight through Detroit to get to Cleveland, and he has enough adrenaline he doesn't feel tired.

"It went great," Magill said. "He's doing great and Mom is, too. It couldn't have gone any smoother."

Magill, 28, has been solid in relief for the Twins this season, posting a 3.86 ERA with 39 strikeouts and eight walks in 39 2/3 innings. But he's going to see a prominent role down the stretch after the Twins traded away both right-hander Ryan Pressly and left-hander Zach Duke. He's essentially going to take Pressly's former role, according to Twins manager Paul Molitor.

"I think it's time to see what he can do in those type of situations," Molitor said. "The trust has grown throughout the year. As we've lost some people, I've talked to him about using him in higher-leverage situations. He's a right-hander who hopefully gets us big outs, whether it's the sixth or seventh inning. Somewhere along the way."

Magill, who was signed as a Minor League free agent before the season, had previously pitched with the Dodgers in 2013 and the Reds in '16. He spent last season at the Padres' Triple-A affiliate, but was used mostly as a starter before converting full-time to relief this season. He's shown good velocity with his fastball averaging 94.4 mph, while he's mixed in more sliders to go with his curveball and occasional changeup.

"I think the way he's improved his breaking ball is what has elevated his effectiveness against both righties and lefties," Molitor said. "He had that cutter-slider early, but he's kind of added more depth. Basically, it's almost like two different breaking balls now and they seem to be playing better with the combination of velocity that he has."

Belisle, meanwhile, has dealt with this knee issue in the past and will rest his knee after feeling discomfort while pitching against the Indians on Monday. Belisle gave up four runs, including two homers, over two innings in the 10-0 loss. The 15-year veteran has made 19 appearances with the Twins, posting a 9.15 ERA.

"Just a little inflammation," Molitor said. "Gets that hot spot in the knee. I think the outing and the length last night added to the irritation. We talked about it some last night. We're just in a position where we can back you off for a little bit and get you feeling a little bit better so hopefully you finish the season strongly."

Larnach promoted

Outfielder Trevor Larnach, the No. 20 overall pick in this year's Draft, was promoted to Class A Cedar Rapids on Tuesday. Larnach, 21, hit .300/.405/.467 with two homers, four doubles and 15 RBIs in 17 games with Rookie-level Elizabethton. The Oregon State product is Minnesota's No. 6 prospect, according to MLB Pipeline.

Diaz undergoes successful surgery

First baseman Lewin Diaz, the club's No. 16 prospect per MLB Pipeline, underwent successful surgery on his right thumb. He's expected to be cleared to swing the bat in six to eight weeks. The 21-year-old was hitting .224/.255/.344 with six homers, 11 doubles, three triples and 35 RBIs in 79 games with Class A Advanced Fort Myers prior to the injury that saw him get placed on the Minor League disabled list with a right thumb fracture on July 24.

Here's a 2018 surprise for all 30 MLB teams

Richard Justice | MLB.com | August 8, 2018

This isn't about what we expected to happen. This is about the things that have surprised or stood out. Some of it is players. Some of it is teams. All in all, it's a reminder that baseball seasons never ever play out the way we think, and that's the beauty of the thing.

Here we go with 30 teams and 30 things we didn't see coming:

Twins -- Jake Cave was acquired from the Yankees late in Spring Training and has taken advantage of regular playing time in center field. Entering Tuesday, he was hitting .306 with seven doubles, two triples and two home runs since July 1.

Adalberto Mejia shines again before leaving because of injury in Twins' 3-2 victory at Cleveland

La Velle E. Neal III | Star Tribune | August 8, 2018

CLEVELAND – In two starts spanning seven days, Adalberto Mejia has shut out AL Central-leading Cleveland for 10 innings on two hits and one walk.

It represents a step forward for the young lefthander — as long as his injury is not too much of a step back.

Mejia left Tuesday night's rain-delayed game after five innings with a three-run lead, and a strained left wrist. But, up until his last pitch, he was aggressive and efficient.

Cleveland scored twice in the eighth, setting up a nail-biting finish. With the tying run on second, Fernando Rodney struck out Francisco Lindor looking early Wednesday morning as the Twins held on for a 3-2 victory, making Mejia's outing hold up.

The Twins hope Mejia can make his next start Sunday at Detroit and not miss any time because of the injury, suffered when he threw his 68th and last pitch of the fifth inning.

"My last pitch was a slider, and I felt like a shock in there," Mejia said. "The trainer checked me. It's just a little tension in my wrist."

The area is in the forearm but more toward the wrist than the elbow. Mejia underwent treatment afterward and felt better, so the Twins believe it is a minor issue. They won't know for sure until he throws a bullpen session later this week, but they didn't seem too worried after the game.

"He said the last pitch he threw kind of had a stinging effect in the lower left forearm, closer to the wrist, that radiated up to the elbow," manager Paul Molitor said. "There was some swelling in the area we kind of checked out. We think it's a mild strain. We're going to see how it reacts tomorrow, see if we can get it under control. I don't think we'll make any decision on his next start until we get a look at him tomorrow."

Mitch Garver provided all the Twins' scoring with a three-run homer in the second. Eddie Rosario tied a career high with four hits. And Rodney collected his 25th save.

Video (01:35): Twins catcher Mitch Garver worked well with Twins lefthander Adalberto Mejia in addition to hitting the game-winning three-run homer.

After waiting 2 hours, 10 minutes for storms to blow out of town, the rematch between Mejia and Indians righthander Carlos Carrasco began.

Mejia, who tossed five shutout innings last week vs. the Indians at Target Field, added five more scoreless innings against Cleveland on Tuesday. He even made it look easier the second time around, as he retired the last 12 batters he faced before leaving the game.

Carrasco was magnificent vs. the Twins last week, striking out 10 over 7⅓ shutout innings. But he gave up 10 hits over 6⅓ innings Tuesday — including a big blow in the second.

"We had baserunners all night long," Molitor said. "We didn't get a lot of big hits, but we got one that counted."

Logan Forsythe was hit by a pitch and Jake Cave singled to bring Garver up. Carrasco threw a pitch over the middle of the plate and Garver smashed it 411 feet and into the seats in left-center for a 3-0 Twins lead.

"I was looking fastball over [the plate], and he missed location," Garver said, "and I made him pay."

Trevor Hildenberger gave up a home run to Lindor and a sacrifice fly in the eighth as Cleveland got within 3-2. Yan Gomes led off the bottom of the ninth with an infield single, on a grounder to third Miguel Sano could not handle. Gomes went to second on a passed ball by Garver.

Lindor batted again with two outs. But Rodney fired a 2-2 fastball past him for strike three, and then shot his imaginary arrow into the Cleveland night.

Twins don't think Adalberto Mejia's wrist injury is serious **La Velle E. Neal III | Star Tribune | August 8, 2018**

Twins lefthander Adalberto Mejia looks to be trending upward after a pair five-inning shutout starts against Cleveland.

"He's throwing a lot of strikes, and I think that's really helping him," Twins catcher Mitch Garver said. "He's pounding the zone with his fastball and his change up is really improving. And I think both his breaking balls are also getting better. It's something we have been utilizing a lot. Just making his fastball better when he's throwing his off speed for strikes."

So the hope is that Mejia can make his next start on Sunday and not miss any time because of a left wrist strain suffered when he threw his last pitch of the fifth inning.

"My last pitch was a slider, and I felt like a shock in there," Mejia said. "The trainer checked me. It's just a little tension in my wrist."

The area is in the forearm but more toward the wrist than the elbow. Mejia underwent treatment afterward and felt better, so everyone feels it's a minor issue. They won't know for sure until he throws a bullpen session later this week, but they weren't too worried after the game.

"He said the last pitch he threw kind of had a stinging effect in the lower left forearm, closer to the wrist, that radiated up to the elbow," Twins manager Paul Molitor said. "There was some swelling in the area we kind of checked out. We think it's a mild strain. We're going to see how it reacts tomorrow, see if we can get it under control. I don't think we'll make any decision on his next start until we get a look at him tomorrow."

As of now, there are no plans for Mejia to have X-Rays or an MRI taken. It would not surprise me if they did as a precaution.

"It was lower forearm," Molitor said. "I don't really know the medical term for it. Not accustomed to seeing that in a pitcher, especially one pitch effect like that. Mejia said he's feeling a lot better postgame than he did right after it occurred. We'll give him a chance to respond tonight with treatment and see tomorrow."

After throwing 10 shutout innings over his last two starts - and retiring the final 12 batters he faced Tuesday - Mejia looks like he's getting on a roll. He worked quickly and attacked the strike zone on Tuesday, and you could see that his confidence is growing. He's far from the guy who

would give up a lot of foul balls then get frustrated for not putting away hitters.

Actually, that could have happened in the first inning Tuesday. Michael Brantley fouled off four pitches and pushed Mejia into an eight pitch encounter than ended with him being hit by a pitch to put two men on. But Mejia got a force out and two fly balls to get out of the inning.

I asked Garver if he could tell that Mejia's confidence is growing from how more quickly he's working.

"I think it's a little bit of that, a little bit of me and him being on the same page and I think he's starting to trust me little bit and we're not fighting to get on the same page," Garver said. "Just working together over the past few starts. Hopefully it will continue and we'll keep that pace up."

Nothing wrong with a pitcher and catcher gaining experience together - especially in a game in which the catcher's three-run homer was the game-winning hit.

Twins' Matt Magill likely returning from paternity list to a new role

La Velle E. Neal III | Star Tribune | August 8, 2018

CLEVELAND – Twins righthander Matt Magill has been reinstated from the paternity list and is about to take on two new responsibilities at once.

Magill rejoined the team Tuesday after spending a few days in San Diego with his wife, Melissa, for the birth of the couple's first child, a boy named Maverick.

"He's doing great. Mom's doing great," the first-time father said. "Everything went smooth."

Papa Magill admitted that he has not had much sleep the past few days, especially after taking a red-eye Tuesday morning to re-join the team. Manager Paul Molitor said he had no problems using him right away, although he was not called upon in the Twins' 3-2 victory over the Indians.

"I think being back here, being back with the guys at the ballpark and the environment of a major league stadium, I think you find a way to get it done," Molitor said.

Once Magill enters a game, it likely will be in a different role. He has mainly been used as a long reliever, going 2-2 with a 3.86 ERA. Partly out of merit and partly out of need, Molitor will use him in the sixth and seventh innings as he tries to build that bridge to the ninth inning.

Magill The Twins faced the Kansas City Royals in an MLB baseball game Tuesday night, July 10, 2018 at Target Field in Minneapolis.

That bridge has showed cracks and deformities lately since Ryan Pressly was dealt to Houston just over a week ago. Trevor Hildenberger likely will get the ball in the eighth inning, and Addison Reed will be used carefully as he looks to regain his form. Oliver Drake was recently claimed off waivers. Someone righthanded needs to step up, and Magill get his chance to.

"I think it's time to see what he can do in those type of situations," Molitor said. "We've seen it a little bit in the last couple of weeks, but that's probably going to continue."

Magill has a good fastball that's averaging 94.4 miles per hour. And he's made strides with his other pitches while learning how to get hitters out.

"I think the way he's improved his breaking ball is what has elevated his effectiveness against both righties and lefties," Molitor said. "He had that cutter-slider early, but he's kind of added more depth. Basically, it's almost like two different breaking balls now and they seem to be playing better with the combination of velocity that he has."

Belisle to DL

To make room for Magill, righthander Matt Belisle was put on the 10-day disabled list because of a sore right knee. Molitor said Belisle has been bothered by the knee in the past. And it flared up on him after pitching Monday.

The results weren't pretty, as he gave up four runs and two homers in a 10-0 loss. For the season, Belisle has a 7.71 ERA overall — 9.15 with the Twins.

"I think the outing and the length [Monday] added to the irritation," Molitor said. "We talked about it some last night. We're just in a position

where we can back you off for a little bit and get you feeling a little bit better.”

Larnach promoted

Outfielder Trevor Larnach, the Twins’ first-round pick in June, has been promoted from rookie league Elizabethton (Tennessee) to Class A Cedar Rapids.

In 17 games with the E-Town Twins, Larnach batted .300 with two home runs, 15 RBI, 10 walks and 11 strikeouts. Both home runs came over his past eight games, during which he batted .346.

The 20th overall pick of the draft out of Oregon State received a \$2.55 million signing bonus.

Bound for fall league

Class AA Chattanooga manager Tommy Watkins will manage in the Arizona Fall League this offseason, the league announced Tuesday. Watkins, who played briefly with the Twins in 2007 before turning to coaching, will manage the Salt River Rafters. The league, for some of the better prospects in the game, takes place in October and November.

Tuesday's Twins-Cleveland game recap
Staff Writer | Star Tribune | August 8, 2018

IMPACT PLAYER

Adalberto Mejia, Twins

The catcher’s three-run homer off Carlos Carrasco was all the offense the Twins got, but it turns out that was all they needed.

BY THE NUMBERS

12 Consecutive batters retired by Adalberto Mejia before the Twins lefthander had to leave because of a wrist injury, after only 68 pitches.

0.49 Mejia’s ERA in four appearances since being recalled from the minor leagues. He hasn’t given up a run in his past three outings.

22 Consecutive scoreless innings for Cleveland pitching against the Twins before Garver’s home run.

ON DECK

The Twins are 0-3 against the Indians when Jake Odorizzi has started against them.

Twins-Indians game will be delayed by rain
La Velle E. Neal III | Star Tribune | August 7, 2018

The tarp is out at Progressive Field.

Scattered showers are in the area, and the start of tonight's game between the Twins and Indians will be delayed.

It's unclear when first pitch will take place. It's hard to figure out weather patterns in this area,

Meanwhile, here are a couple minor league notes to consume:

Larnach promoted

Outfielder Trevor Larnach, the Twins first round pick in the June draft, has been promoted from rookie league Elizabethton (Tenn) to Class A Cedar Rapids.

In 17 games with the E-Town Twins, Larnach batted .300 with two home runs, 15 RBI, 10 walks and 11 strikeouts. Both home runs came over his

last eight games, during which he batted .346. The 20th overall pick of the draft out of Oregon State, Larnach received a \$2.55 million signing bonus.

He's not the first player from the Twins draft class to be promoted. Larnach actually is following in the footsteps of catcher Ryan Jeffers, who hit .422 in 28 games for E-Town before moving to Cedar Rapids. He's batting .327 through 13 games there.

Class AA Chattanooga manager Tommy Watkins will manage in the Arizona Fall League this offseason, the league announced on Tuesday. Watkins, who played briefly with the Twins in 2007 before turning to coaching in the organization, will manage the Salt River Rafters. The league, for some of the better prospects in the game, takes place in October and November. Rosters will be released in the coming weeks.

Twins

Joe Mauer, DH
Eddie Rosario, LF
Jorge Polanco, SS
Logan Morrison, 1B
Miguel Sano, 3B
Max Kepler, RF
Logan Forsythe, 2B
Jake Cave, CF
Mitch Garver, C

Adalberto Mejia, LHP

Indians

Francisco Lindor, SS
Michael Brantley, LF
Jose Ramirez, 3B
Edwin Encarnacion, DH
Brandon Guyer, RF
Yonder Alonso, 1B
Yan Gomes, C
Jason Kipnis, 2B
Rajai Davis, CF

Carlos Carrasco, RHP

Former college coach Dan Ramsay resigns as GCL Twins manager

Mike Berardino | Pioneer Press | August 7, 2018

CLEVELAND — Dan Ramsay enjoyed being part of the Twins organization so much that he and wife Lara recently named their third child Carew James Scott Ramsay.

Around the time of his son's arrival on July 29, however, the Twins' Gulf Coast League manager resigned his post for family reasons. Ramsay, who lives in Spokane, Wash., accepted a job as an area scout with the Arizona Diamondbacks in the Pacific Northwest.

“He did a great job for us in the GCL, and we allowed and encouraged him to pursue the opportunity for family reasons,” Twins director of minor league operations Jeremy Zoll said in a text message.

Matt Borgschulte, who had been a hitting coach for the GCL club, replaced Ramsay as manager after his last game on July 24. The first-place GCL team has gone 7-4 under Borgschulte after going 16-13 under Ramsay.

Twitter.com/@scout_ramsFormer Twins Gulf Coast League manager Dan Ramsay, pictured with newborn son Carew James Scott Ramsay, resigned to take a scouting position with the Arizona Diamondbacks.

“(Ramsay) went home for the birth of his newest child, as we allow all staff members to do, and then he was offered the job while he was still at home in Spokane,” Zoll said.

Ramsay was hired in December after spending the past nine seasons as head baseball coach at Division III Whitworth University, his alma mater. Under Ramsay, the Pirates went 183-181 and reached the NCAA Division III World Series in 2012 in Appleton, Wis.

Ramsay, who recently switched his Twitter handle from @skipper_rams to @scout_rams, has strong ties to the Pacific Northwest. GCL play began on June 18 and runs through Aug. 25.

Ramsay becomes the third minor-league manager in the Twins’ system to depart since the end of last season. Class A Fort Myers manager Doug Mientkiewicz was fired after five highly successful seasons in the system, and Double-A Chattanooga manager Jake Mauer left his post to spend more time with his young family as well.

ADVERTISING

In addition, Triple-A Rochester manager Mike Quade left his post after three seasons to become the Twins’ roving outfield instructor.

BELISLE TO DL

With Matt Magill returning from paternity leave, struggling reliever Matt Belisle was placed on the 10-day disabled list with chondromalacia (aka runner’s knee) in his right knee.

“It’s something he’s dealt with in the past,” Twins manager Paul Molitor said. “He gets a little hot spot in the knee.”

Belisle, 38, gave up four earned runs, including two home runs, in a two-inning stint in Monday’s 10-0 loss to the Indians. That pushed Belisle’s earned-run average to 9.15 in 19 outings since rejoining the Twins on June 12. He will remain with the team through the road trip.

MAGILL’S ROLE

Molitor said Magill will work in shorter, higher-leverage stints.

“I’m not looking for that length anymore,” the manager said. “I think it’s time to see what he can do in those situations.”

As for choosing Maverick William as his new son’s name, Magill said his wife Melissa “pretty much” picked the name, but not necessarily in homage to Tom Cruise’s “Top Gun” character, Pete “Maverick” Mitchell.

“I don’t know if it was really ‘Top Gun,’ ” Magill said. “It was just a name that we loved. It was something that we just both agreed on. She wanted something unique, and I wanted an ‘M’ name, so that’s how we came up with it.”

LYNN’S ROLL

Shortly after shutting out the Chicago White Sox through 7 1/3 innings on Monday night in his first start for the New York Yankees, Lance Lynn exchanged texts with Garvin Alston, his former pitching coach this season with the Twins.

“I just told him to keep on going,” said Alston, who watched parts of Lynn’s outing in his hotel room.

Lynn, whose ERA is down to 4.58, has struck out 14 and walked just one through 11 2/3 scoreless innings to open his Yankees career. After getting crushed at Wrigley Field on July 1, Lynn posted a 3.68 ERA in his final four starts for the Twins, who dealt him for Triple-A slugger Tyler Austin and rookie-level right-hander Luis Rijo.

The Twins also sent along half of the \$4 million that remained on Lynn’s \$12 million contract this season.

“He showed glimpses of it (with the Twins),” Alston said. “He threw extremely well (on Monday) and did some things we were working on here that he was actually getting better at it here. You could see it coming to fruition.”

BRIEFLY

Former Oregon State right fielder Trevor Larnach, drafted 20th overall in June, was promoted to Class A Cedar Rapids after hitting .300 with two homers and a .405 on-base percentage in 17 games for rookie-level Elizabethton. In 60 at-bats, Larnach had just 11 strikeouts against 10 walks.

Class A Fort Myers first baseman Lewin Diaz, 21, underwent surgery on his fractured right thumb and should return to swinging the bat in six to eight weeks. Diaz, signed at age 16 for \$1.5 million out of the Dominican Republic, hit .223 with six homers in 291 at-bats in his first crack at the Florida State League.

Double-A Chattanooga manager Tommy Watkins was named one of six managers for the Arizona Fall League this year. Watkins, who had a nine-game stint as a Twins infielder in 2007, has led the Lookouts to a 54-58 record in his first year managing at that level.

Eddie Rosario's 4-hit night helps Twins to 3-2 win over Cleveland Indians

Mike Berardino | Pioneer Press | August 7, 2018

CLEVELAND — As he sat at his Progressive Field locker a few hours before Tuesday night's rain-delayed game, Eddie Rosario looked up to see his name high on the list of American League hits leaders on a media member's cell phone.

Six players stood within five hits of the lead, with Houston's injured second baseman Jose Altuve setting the pace at 134 hits. Rosario, three hits back to start the night, nodded and smiled.

"I know," the Twins' left fielder said before banging out four more hits in the Twins' 3-2 win over the Cleveland Indians. "My father brings it up every day."

That would be Eddie Alberto Rosario, who shares his wiry frame and facial features along with an unmistakable energy. Eddie Manuel Rosario, his talented son, just wishes his father wouldn't worry so much about his statistics.

"I say to him, 'Don't tell me. I don't want to know. Just let me play my game,' " the younger Rosario said with a smile. "Would I like that? Sure. That would be great. But I don't want to think about it."

Rosario, clearly not lulled by the two-hour, 10-minute rain delay at the game's outset, passed the idle Altuve with a 4-for-4 salvo against Indians power righty Carlos Carrasco. It started with a 1-0 single up the middle on a 90-mph changeup in the first. Next came a one-out single to right on a 1-1 curve at 81 mph.

Of course, Rosario being Rosario, he tried to build on the momentum of Mitch Garver's three-run homer moments earlier only to get thrown out by a step as he tried to stretch for a double. Applying the tag was Indians shortstop Francisco Lindor, his fellow Puerto Rican who reached 133 hits on the year with a first-inning flare into short right field off Twins lefty Adalberto Mejia.

That would be the only hit off Mejia through five spotless frames. He was pulled at just 68 pitches with a strained left wrist, marking his second quick exit in as many starts.

Twins manager Paul Molitor said Mejia, after finishing his outing with a slider, described "a stinging effect in the lower left forearm, closer to the wrist, that radiated up to the elbow." Mejia noted the sensation was on his outer arm, which should alleviate concerns about a possible elbow ligament problem.

No MRI was planned after Mejia responded well to initial treatment.

Mejia was removed at 74 pitches last week at Target Field after five one-hit innings in a 2-0 loss to the Indians. In five career starts (23 1/3 innings) against the division leaders, Mejia has a 1.54 earned run average; in 99 1/3 innings against all other teams, he is 4-5 with a 4.72 ERA.

Lindor added his 28th homer in the eighth, giving him 134 hits. That's one shy of the new AL lead shared by Boston's J.D. Martinez and Rosario, who added a fourth-inning double off the base of the wall in center (0-2 curve) and a double in the seventh on an 0-1 cutter.

In 62 career games against the Twins' division rival, Rosario is hitting .342 with 15 homers and a combined on-base/slugging percentage of .985.

If he could face the Indians more than 19 times a year, he'd contend for the batting title every year. As it stands, he's bidding to become the first Twins hitter to lead the league in hits since Molitor enjoyed a 225-hit homecoming in 1996.

Rosario, on pace for 195 hits through 112 games, is trying to become just the third Twin since '96 with as many as 190 hits in a season. The other two won AL MVP awards that season: Justin Morneau (190) in 2006 and Joe Mauer (191) in 2009.

Just seven players in Twins history have reached 195 hits in a season (19 total times). Kirby Puckett did it seven times, Rod Carew four times and

Tony Oliva three times.

Garver's homer, his sixth, ended a stretch of 22 straight scoreless innings for the Twins against Indians pitching, dating to last Tuesday at Target Field. It also marked just the 10th three-run homer for the Twins this season; they have five grand slams, 34 two-run shots and 61 solo homers.

Fernando Rodney worked the ninth for his 25th save, giving him seven such seasons since the start of 2009. Just two other closers have seven or more 25-save seasons in the past decade: Craig Kimbrel and Kenley Jansen.

St. Tuesday: Oliver Drake's record-breaking odyssey around MLB **Staff Writer | Fox Sports North | August 7, 2018**

We really hope Oliver Drake has been renting this season.

He's had to keep a suitcase packed all year.

When the 31-year-old reliever suited up for the Minnesota Twins in the ninth inning of an 8-2 win Aug. 4, he made Major League Baseball history. Minnesota's white throwback jersey with the pinstripes and cursive "Twins" across the chest was Drake's fifth different uniform he's worn in 2018.

He's the first player to play for five big-league organizations in the same season since Harry Wheeler in 1884.

Wheeler was a pitcher, outfielder and first baseman who played 257 games from 1878-84. He suited up for five teams in 1884, playing for the St. Louis Browns of the American Association (a major league back then) and the Kansas City Cowboys, Chicago Browns, Pittsburgh Stogies and Baltimore Monumentals of the Union Association (the lone season of that league's existence).

Drake, unfortunately, has never pitched for a team dubbed the "Stogies," but he's toed the rubber for the Milwaukee Brewers, Cleveland Indians, Los Angeles Angels, Toronto Blue Jays and the Twins this season.

"I do have jerseys from all of them," Drake told MLB.com. "So the man cave will have a lot of jerseys. It'll be a heck of a story."

His odyssey across MLB began with a trade to Cleveland in early May. Here's a quick recap of Drake's busy year to date:

DATE	TEAM	TRANSACTION
May 2	Brewers	Designated for assignment
May 5	Brewers	Traded to Indians for cash
May 26	Indians	Designated for assignment
May 31	Angels	Claimed off waivers from Indians
June 16	Angels	Designated for assignment
June 19	Angels	Sent outright to Triple-A Salt Lake
July 6	Angels	Selected contract from Triple-A Salt Lake
July 23	Angels	Designated for assignment
July 26	Blue Jays	Claimed off waivers from Angels
July 30	Blue Jays	Designated for assignment
Aug. 3	Twins	Claimed off waivers from Blue Jays

Drake also tied a record for most American League teams played for in a season, four, which hadn't been done in over 60 years. Pitcher Ted Gray last did it in 1955, hurling (briefly) for the White Sox, Indians, Yankees and Orioles. Outfielder Paul Lehner (Athletics, White Sox, Browns and Indians) did it four years earlier while outfielder Frank Hueslman (White Sox, Tigers, Browns, Senators) was the first to, uh, accomplish the feat back in 1904.

Previously eight players in the modern era had appeared for four major-league teams; the last to do it was Oswaldo Arcia in 2016, with the Twins being one of his stops. The others were Willis Hudlin (1940), Mike Kilkenny (1972), Wes Covington (1961), Dave Kingman (1977), Dave Martinez (2000), Dan Miceli (2003) and Jose Bautista (2004). In addition, in 1884, George Strief played for four teams (but he probably got lost in the shadow of Wheeler).

Drake has spent most of his 2018 campaign with Milwaukee, recording 12 2/3 innings of work for the Brewers. His numbers don't exactly pop off the charts — a 7.31 ERA in 28 1/3 innings — but his career 9.9 K/9 shows promise out of the bullpen, which is why 17 percent of the league has requested his services in 2018.

TEAM	G	IP	R	H	K	BB	ERA	WHIP
Brewers	11	12 2/3	9	14	15	8	6.39	1.737
Indians	4	4 1/3	6	7	4	1	12.46	1.846
Angels	8	8 2/3	5	15	8	1	5.19	1.846
Blue Jays	2	1 2/3	3	4	2	0	0	16.20 2.400
Twins	1	1	0	0	1	0	0.00	0.000
TOTAL	26	28 1/3	23	40	30	10	7.31	1.765

Selected in the 43rd round by Baltimore out of the U.S. Naval Academy in 2008, Drake pitched his way through the minor leagues for eight seasons before making his MLB debut for the Orioles in 2015. He appeared in 30 games for Baltimore from 2015-17 before being sent to Milwaukee in exchange for cash April 14, 2017.

That was the first of many transactions in his years ahead.

With six teams on his MLB resume, Drake still has some work to do if he's going to match fellow pitchers Octavio Dotel and Edwin Jackson for the most teams played for all-time: 13.

Twins bounce back to beat Indians 3-2
Associated Press | Fox Sports North | August 8, 2018

CLEVELAND — Fernando Rodney struck out Francisco Lindor with the tying run on second base in the ninth inning after Adalberto Mejia pitched one-hit ball over five innings, and the Minnesota Twins beat the Cleveland Indians 3-2 on Tuesday night.

Lindor homered in the eighth but struck out looking on a 2-2 pitch as Rodney recorded his 325th career save — moving him into 17th place on the career list.

Yan Gomes led off the ninth and was credited with a hit after Miguel Sano bobbled his groundball behind third base. Sano recovered, but Gomes beat the throw. Jason Kipnis struck out and pinch-hitter Melky Cabrera flied out.

Gomes took second on Mitch Garver's passed ball, but Rodney closed out his 25th save this season.

A bloop single by Lindor in the first was the only hit off Mejia (2-0), making his fourth start and fifth appearance of the season. The left-hander retired the last 12 hitters he faced and was pulled after throwing 68 pitches with a strained left wrist.

Gabriel Moya relieved Mejia to begin the sixth. The injury was announced the following inning.

Minnesota's pitching rebounded from a 10-0 loss Monday. Cleveland managed only two hits through seven innings, but Lindor's homer and pinch-hitter Leonys Martin's sacrifice fly made it a one-run game.

Garver's homer in the second inning denied Carlos Carrasco (13-6) a chance to move into a tie for the AL lead in wins. The right-hander allowed three runs in 6 1/3 innings.

Eddie Rosario was 4 for 5 and is batting .355 (21 for 59) in 14 games against Cleveland this season.

Mejia dominated the Indians at Target Field last week, also pitching five scoreless innings and allowing one hit. He struggled against the first two hitters Tuesday before quickly settling in.

Lindor's popup fell in shallow right field. First baseman Joe Mauer raced out with his back to home plate and right fielder Max Kepler charged in, but the ball dropped between the two.

Mejia hit Michael Brantley with a pitch, but retired the next three hitters. Jose Ramirez hit into a forceout that moved Lindor to third, but

Encarnacion flied out to shallow right and Mejia caught Brandon Guyer's soft liner to the mound.

Mejia walked Yonder Alonso to lead off the second, but that was the last baserunner he allowed.

Garver's homer also ended stretch of 22 straight scoreless innings by Cleveland's pitching against Minnesota.

The start of the game was delayed by rain for 2 hours, 10 minutes.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Twins: RHP Matt Belisle (sore right knee) was placed on the 10-day disabled list and RHP Matt Magill was reinstated from the paternity list.

Indians: Gomes was in the lineup after missing three games with right knee tendinitis.

UP NEXT

RHP Jake Odorizzi (4-7, 4.60) starts for Minnesota on Wednesday against RHP Mike Clevinger (7-7, 3.48).

Wetmore's 5 thoughts: Twins questions that need answers the rest of the year

Derek Wetmore | ESPN 1500 | August 7, 2018

MINNEAPOLIS – A week ago when the Twins finished their veteran unloading at the non-waiver trade deadline, the casual observer of the team shifted focus and worry to the Vikings' offensive line. Byron Buxton's season was a lost cause; Miguel Sano was back but they were kinda-sorta done with him by that point, the story of his year was a demotion to Single-A Fort Myers for being out of shape and a strikeout machine.

There were some bright spots to this crowd, of course, but the predominant storyline was one that began with repeat postseason expectations and ended sometime in July with disappointment.

But for the Twins the final two months are not simply about playing out the string. It goes beyond audition time. This is learning time.

My personal opinion — despite the Indians currently running things in the American League Central and several great A.L. teams that should clog up the Wild Card race for years — is that the Twins can be competitive again in 2019.

With the immediate future in mind, here are 5 questions the Twins need to try to answer the rest of the way.

1. What will become of Byron Buxton?

Before we get into the critical analysis we should pause to say something that doesn't get said enough: You've got to feel for Buxton over his extensive injury history.

Here's a guy who could have used time and innings and plate appearances in the minors to really hone his craft. Instead he had large chunks of time wiped out by various injuries, seemingly at random, and he was rushed to the big leagues and asked to learn things on the fly. Then this year, after an apparent breakout last season, Buxton was back to struggling before migraine headaches forced him to the disabled list, where he broke his toe with a foul ball. He tried to play through it, couldn't really get the job done, was sent out again to heal and to work on his swing — and then got laid up by a wrist injury that now threatens to end his season prematurely.

Brutal.

And yet, buried in all that is the simple truth that at 24 years old and with several years in the big leagues, the Twins still can't say for certain whether Buxton represents a future all-star or fourth outfielder.

In what's looking like a lost season, Buxton is hitting .156/.183/.200 with only 4 extra-base hits in 94 trips to the plate. As an added cause for concern, Buxton swung at way more pitches outside of the strike zone and struggled in general to making contact this year.

I still believe that the breakout superstar player from last year is still in there somewhere. The challenge for Buxton and the Twins will be to rediscover that guy in time for a run in 2019.

2. Is Miguel Sano a good third baseman?

To get this out of the way: Miguel Sano looks like a different player this time around than he did before his moment-of-truth demotion to Single-A Fort Myers. He looks fitter, he's moving around better defensively, he's taking some tough pitches during what look like better plate appearances, and we've seen him bust it out of the batter's box on a couple of occasions when balls find gaps in the outfield.

Call it progress.

Since there isn't a long enough runway for us to trust the stats in his second stint, we have to rely a little bit on how he looks. Defensively, he's made some nice charge plays, some nice arm plays to his back hand, and he's fumbled at least one hot shot to his left and made some inaccurate throws to first base. I think it's been a mixed bag in the innings that I've seen from Sano, but that's a big step forward from a guy who earlier this season looked like a sure bet to be a DH.

Before the demotion: .203/.270/.405 with a 40.5% strikeout rate

In the 9 games since his return: .276/.382/.379 with a 35.3% strikeout rate

The jury is still out. But one important thing that will need to be settled is whether he can stick at third base. If he's a first baseman in 2019, the Twins need to find a third baseman and decide what they want to do with Joe Mauer and Logan Morrison.

3. Is Mitch Garver a big league catcher defensively?

I'll cut to the chase. I like Garver much more as a hitter than I do as a catcher. I haven't been impressed with his work behind the plate this year, and it's one of the reasons that I think Jason Castro's season-ending injury was a bigger blow than many people realize. Castro wasn't hitting, so I think Garver is an upgrade there, but I believe that he's got a ways to go before he's a slam-dunk starter in the Majors behind the plate.

After some early struggles offensively, he's hitting .259/.338/.396 on the year, good for a .320 Weighted On-Base Average. That's pretty much a league-average hitter, and for a catcher, that's really a good thing. Garver is an intriguing player for the future for that reason. Behind the dish, though, I've seen too many passed balls and not enough control of the running game at times. I don't know if we have enough information to call Garver a bad pitch framer or game caller, so we'll leave those questions unanswered for the moment.

With Jason Castro's knee getting repaired, the Twins say he'll be ready for 2019. Will he, though? And can he handle a full starter's load? And will he hit enough to welcome back with open arms his work behind the plate and with the pitching staff?

Those questions can't be answered this year, so Garver gets the attention. In my opinion, he should continue to get the majority of playing time behind the plate for the rest of the season.

4. Is Jorge Polanco the best bet at shortstop?

There's a lot to like about Jorge Polanco's bat. Last season he was one of a handful of hitters that propelled the Twins' MLB-best offense to the postseason, despite long odds around this time a year ago. After August 1, the switch-hitting shortstop batted .316/.377/.553. And after serving an 80-game steroid suspension, Polanco is batting .286/.365/.384 this year. So far the power isn't there but he's still getting on base and there are some other good signs.

Rather than diving too deep, let's get to the question at hand. Can Polanco be a good big league shortstop? If he can't be a first-division type of player, then maybe it makes sense to move him to second base following Brian Dozier's departure, and ask somebody else to play shortstop next year. If he can be that type of player, then the shortstop question is solved and the Twins will get to work to find a second baseman for next year – which figures to be a much simpler task, in my opinion.

When he was younger, Polanco didn't look like a great bet to be a shortstop. Not to my novice eyes, anyway. He doesn't have a great arm, and like a panicky quarterback in the pocket, Polanco seemed to cost himself by misjudging that invisible clock in his head. He'd rush throws and skip them in the dirt, or he'd wait a beat too long with a speedy runner and not get the routine out.

At this point I don't think anyone expects him to become rangy like Andrelton Simmons, but he seems to me to have cleaned up the simple plays, and that's a good sign. If that continues or even improves, the Twins might not have to go shortstop shopping this winter.

5. Is Joe Mauer going to be back?

The question that's been in everyone's head since at least last November is whether this will be the last season for Joe Mauer in a Twins uniform. Already solidified as one of the greatest Twins players of all time, some even see Mauer as worthy of Cooperstown. That might be a stretch depending on how the second act of his career is received by voters. And in any case it's a question for another day.

The first act of his career will ensure that his No. 7 is hung up on the limestone out in left field with the other Twins legends of years past. And the only question is how long it will be before that ceremony honoring his Twins career. Will that career extend in Minnesota? Will it extend with another team?

For his part, Mauer has said that he'd like to keep playing as long as he's productive. But he's stopped short of saying that he will not retire at the end of the season. It seems pretty clear that he's comfortable in Minnesota, and from there the question would be twofold: 1) Will he still be productive?; and 2) Could the Twins do better with the roster spot and salary?

Twins owner Jim Pohlad apparently told the Star Tribune's Sid Hartman that Mauer will be back next year if he and his family want that to happen. Well, if the owner and the player make the call without the input of the front office, that's that. But it would eliminate a lot of interesting baseball discussions and that would be too bad.

Mauer's hitting .273/.354/.364, with his customary low power output and good on-base skills. That's a decent batting line but it doesn't stand out at first base, even Mauer's terrific glove skills at the position. A recurrence of concussion symptoms this year cost him a trip to the disabled list, and it could cloud the outlook of his playing future.

So, the question to me is whether or not Mauer will return for another contract in Minnesota. In the meantime, the chase of Harmon Killebrew is on. Earlier this season, Mauer collected hit No. 2,000. He's reached base 3,021 times in his career, which is 51 shy of Killebrew in his Twins career. Mauer could get there this season.

As Twins look to future, top prospects helping farm system shoot up the charts

Dan Hayes | The Athletic | August 8, 2018

CLEVELAND — The major-league season may not be going swimmingly, but it has been an outstanding year for the Twins farm system. A banner night on Monday for Royce Lewis at Single-A Fort Myers and a promotion for Trevor Larnach is the latest round of good news.

Whether it's the breakout seasons of several of the team's top prospects or the addition of 11 more minor leaguers to the group, the Twins farm system has been very productive in 2018. Not only are the Twins pleased with what they have accomplished, but the organization has received rave reviews lately from industry analysts. The primary reason, of course, is the continued success of Lewis, outfielders Alex Kirilloff and Brent Rooker, and pitcher Brusdar Graterol, all of whom are a month from completing their first full professional seasons.

"They're having about as good of a year as you can have for a farm system," said MLB Pipeline.com senior writer Jim Callis. "Everything is clicking right now."

Where to begin?

It's hard not to point out what Lewis, selected with the first overall pick of the 2017 amateur draft, has accomplished. After putting together an impressive debut campaign, Lewis has excelled and likely exceeded even the loftiest of expectations in 2018. His worst OPS in any month this season was .747 in April at Single-A Cedar Rapids when he batted .316 and reached base at a .361 clip. Lewis worked around a couple of mid-summer mini-slumps and finished strong with the Kernels, producing a 1.042 OPS in his final 16 games before a promotion to Fort Myers. Lewis has eight multi-hit games in 21 at High A and has hit 12 homers overall this season, including two in Monday night's game in which he went 4-for-6 with five RBIs. Callis said the homer total is potentially more than most project Lewis to have and he has a better chance to stick at shortstop than initially believed. Lewis, who also has stolen 26 bases this season, is currently rated the No. 10 prospect in baseball by MLB Pipeline.

"We've had Royce in his first full season perform really nicely in Cedar Rapids and kick it into high gear right around the All-Star break and earning that promotion to the Miracle and continuing to do the things we believe he can," Twins farm director Jeremy Zoll said. "He's up to 26 steals on the season, 12 homers, controlling the strike zone really well. That's super exciting."

What Kirilloff has accomplished after missing the entirety of the 2017 season also rates high on the chart. With a little more than three weeks left in the season, Kirilloff is hitting a combined .348/.394/.584 with 16 home runs and 89 RBIs between Cedar Rapids and Fort Myers in 452 plate appearances. The 2016 first-rounder's production has even managed to catch the eye of Twins manager Paul Molitor, who noticed the difference in Kirilloff's physique from the time he was drafted to now.

"He kind of went through that body maturation the last couple of years," Molitor said last week. "He reminded me, a little different frame, but there was a period there where (Twins outfielder Max) Kepler sprouted."

There's also the growth of Graterol, whom the Twins are building up slowly and methodically, similar to how they treated Fernando Romero. Graterol, whose fastball reaches triple digits and has fantastic secondary pitches, too, has pitched so well he forced a promotion to Fort Myers. In a combined 73 1/3 innings, Graterol has 83 strikeouts with only 19 walks and a 3.07 ERA.

“You’re basically talking about a 19-year-old kid with frontline stuff who’s thrown a lot of strikes,” Callis said. “I know they’re trying to kind of monitor his innings and not push him too far. The Midwest League wasn’t a challenge at all.”

While the first two months of the season may have tested Rooker after an aggressive starting assignment at Double-A Chattanooga, he’s made it look easy the past two months.

Rooker had a .693 OPS on May 31. Since then, the team’s other first-rounder in 2017 (35th overall) is hitting .308/.397/.602 with 13 home runs and 43 RBIs in 257 plate appearances.

“(Royce) is a fast-moving guy,” Baseball America senior editor J.J. Cooper said. “He’s not a guy who should need five years in the minors. Rooker is coming off back-to-back great months at Double A. Kirilloff is not that far away. They have guys now, because of some good drafts and development and picking high.”

Larnach, the 20th pick of June’s draft, was promoted after Monday’s game from Rookie League Elizabethton to Cedar Rapids. The Oregon State product hit .300/.405/.467 with two homers and 15 RBIs in 74 plate appearances before the move. He’ll join catcher Ryan Jeffers, who was taken in the second round, for the Kernels’ playoff push. Jeffers has a combined 1.108 OPS between Cedar Rapids and Elizabethton in 186 plate appearances.

Combine all of that with last week’s trades — both Callis and Cooper think the Twins were among the non-waiver trade deadline winners — and you have a farm system that now easily ranks in the top 10 across the game. MLB Pipeline has the Twins currently rated sixth overall.

Alex Kirilloff

Alex Kirilloff is hitting a combined .348/.394/.584 with 16 home runs and 89 RBIs between Cedar Rapids and Fort Myers. (Credit: Cliff Welch/Icon Sportswire via Getty Images)

“This already was a good farm system,” Cooper said. “(Lewis, Kirilloff and Graterol) are elite prospects. ... They added a significant amount of depth across the board at a variety of different positions. It gives you couple of extra opportunities because obviously some of these guys aren’t going to work out.”

The Twins have had several setbacks too. Shortstop Wander Javier had season-ending shoulder surgery in May, first baseman Lewin Diaz has struggled at Fort Myers (.598 OPS in 310 plate appearances) and shortstop Nick Gordon has a .533 OPS since he was promoted to Triple-A Rochester.

But there have been other positive developments that would suggest it’s an overwhelmingly strong year for the system.

Left-hander Lewis Thorpe has 125 strikeouts in 103 innings and a 3.67 ERA at Chattanooga. Zoll also identified the development of Cedar Rapids pitcher Jordan Balazovic, Fort Myers lefty Jovani Moran and infielder Jose Miranda as positive steps. Balazovic, who has 67 strikeouts in 51 2/3 innings for the Kernels has continued to develop physically and throws a fastball that sits between 92-95 mph with an improved slider.

Moran has been a strikeout machine all season with 88 and 28 walks in 58 1/3 innings between the Miracle and Cedar Rapids. But since he was promoted, Moran, who is 21 and considered a fast mover, has 18 strikeouts and only one walk in 14 innings.

After a slow April, Miranda, who was just promoted to High A, is hitting .291/.340/.456 with 19 doubles and 12 homers in 374 plate appearances since.

“Coming into the year I think we were just outside a top-10 system according to most of the public ranks,” Zoll said recently. “I’ll have to regroup and do a scan once the dust has settled across the league. But it’s hard for me to not envision (the farm system) being pretty comfortably inside the top 10, something we’re really excited about top to bottom.”

Mejía leaves with wrist strain after five scoreless innings

The Twins received a scare in Tuesday night’s 3-2 victory over the Cleveland Indians when starting pitcher Adalberto Mejía exited with a left wrist strain after the fifth inning. Mejía had been outstanding to that point, retiring the last 12 hitters he faced. But on his 68th and final pitch, Mejía felt something in his wrist that ended his night.

Still, Molitor said Mejía was improved by postgame of the team’s ninth one-run victory in 27 tries and the team would hold off at least 24 hours before making a decision about his next start, which is scheduled for Sunday at Detroit.

“He said the last pitch he threw kind of had a stinging effect in the lower left forearm closer to the wrist that radiated up to the elbow,” Molitor said. “There was some swelling in the area we kind of checked out. We think it’s a mild strain. We’re going to see how it reacts (Wednesday), see

if we can get it under control. I don't think we'll make any decision on his next start until we get a look at him (Wednesday).

“Not accustomed to seeing that in a pitcher, especially a one pitch effect like that. Mejía said he's feeling a lot better postgame than he did right after it occurred. We'll give him a chance to respond with treatment.”

Mejía backed up last Wednesday's strong start against Cleveland with another five scoreless innings pitched. He attacked the zone consistently, throwing strikes on 42 of 68 pitches and walking one while hitting another. Mejía didn't get into much trouble, but made outstanding pitches when he did. He pitched out of a first-and-third, one-out jam in the first inning and stranded a runner in scoring position in the second inning.

“I felt like a shock in there,” Mejía said through an interpreter. “The trainer checked me. It's just a little tension in my wrist. I never felt that before. I felt good obviously overall throughout the game. The decision to take me out, I was just being careful from my end and the team decided that was the best course of action.

“Hopefully in five days I'll be good to go. ... I'm just concentrating during my bullpens and practicing my pitches. It's working out for me.

“I'm definitely working faster now. My main thing is just focusing on throwing strikes and working fast.”