



**Minnesota Twins Daily Clips  
Thursday, September 13, 2018**

- Odorizzi dazzles Yanks with no-hit bid into 8th. MLB.com (Denney) p.1
- Mauer contemplating retirement after season. MLB.com (Miller) p.3
- Willians Astudillo's heroic run from first to home left him gasping for all the air. MLB.com (Monagan and Denney) p.3
- Sano plans to return to lineup this season. MLB.com (Denney) p.3
- Twins' Joe Mauer to consider retiring after season. Star Tribune (Neal) p.4
- Jake Odorizzi takes no-hitter into eighth inning, Twins beat Yankees 3-1 to take series. Star Tribune (Miller) p.5
- Postgame: Astudillo "wanted to show that chubby people also run". Star Tribune (Miller) p.6
- Wednesday's Twins-Yankees game recap. Star Tribune (Miller) p.7
- Twins-Kansas City series preview. Star Tribune (Miller) p.8
- Jake Odorizzi flirts with no-hitter in Twins' 3-1 victory over Yankees. Pioneer Press (Shipley) p.8
- Twins' Joe Mauer on weighing retirement: 'It's a tough decision.'. Pioneer Press (Shipley) p.9
- Twins' Miguel Sano vows to return this season and 'finish strong'. Pioneer Press (Shipley) p.10
- Zulgad: Jake's gem means that for one night at least pitch count isn't king. ESPN 1500 (Zulgad) p.11
- Report: Brian Dozier says he has been playing through knee injury since April. ESPN 1500 (Zulgad) p.12
- Last call? Joe Mauer will contemplate retirement during offseason. ESPN 1500 (Zulgad) p.13
- Odorizzi takes no-hitter into 8th as Twins beat Yankees. Fox Sports North (AP) p.14
- Mauer considers retirement as Twins face Royals. Fox Sports North (Sports Xchange) p.15
- Jake Odorizzi's No-Hitter Broken Up in Eighth Inning, Twins Beat Yankees. Sports Illustrated (West) p.16
- Jake Odorizzi loses no-hit bid against Yankees in eighth inning. NBC Sports (Baer) p.16
- Joe Mauer may retire after the season. NBC Sports (Calcaterra) p.16
- A near no-hitter for Jake Odorizzi and a strong show from Willians Astudillo. The Athletic (Hayes) p.17
- 'A tough decision': Joe Mauer to weigh retirement as Twins season winds down. The Athletic (Hayes) p.18

---

**Odorizzi dazzles Yanks with no-hit bid into 8<sup>th</sup>  
Jarrid Denney | MLB.com | September 13, 2018**

MINNEAPOLIS -- Jake Odorizzi didn't get the no-hitter he and Twins fans were hoping for, but he completed his longest outing of the year and blanked a potent Yankees offense for much of the night.

Odorizzi struck out five New York batters and received some dazzling defense behind him as the Twins topped New York, 3-1, to complete a series win on Wednesday at Target Field. He carried a no-hit bid through 7 1/3 innings before Greg Bird smacked a run-scoring double to end the right-hander's no-hit and shutout hopes with one swing.

Odorizzi said that if he had made it through a clean eighth, he most definitely would have asked Twins manager Paul Molitor for one more inning.

"Absolutely," Odorizzi said. "What's the difference between 120 and 140 [pitches]? Not much. You're going to be sore the next day anyway. There's not too many chances you get to do something that special. You'll never know how many it would have taken, but I appreciate what Moli was willing to do for me in letting me go out there."

The task of navigating through the Yankees' lineup was made all the more difficult by the fact that for most of the night, Odorizzi was throwing to a catcher he had never worked with in a game before. Starting backstop Mitch Garver was removed from the game and went through concussion tests after a foul ball drilled him in the facemask in the second inning.

Willians Astudillo, who had caught Odorizzi only during bullpen sessions, entered the game in the third and let his pitcher call the shots.

"I just kind of took over the game," Odorizzi said. "I was shaking [him off] a lot, but we'd never thrown to each other in a game. So I was just

calling my game out there. I told him, 'Don't take any offense to me shaking a ton, but I know these guys. I'm just going to throw what I feel. Don't take offense to me shaking and shaking, don't get upset with me.' He didn't, so it was good."

Wednesday marked the first time this season Odorizzi had recorded an out in the eighth inning, and he ended up throwing 120 pitches, 69 of which were strikes. The Yankees ran up his pitch count early, partially by fighting off his fastball; Odorizzi threw his four-seamer 51 times and New York batters fouled it off on 18 occasions. But he bought himself a bit of breathing room when he needed just seven pitches to retire the Yankees' Nos. 3-4-5 hitters in the seventh.

New York starter Luis Severino was excellent in his own right. The Yankees' ace gave up an infield single to Joe Mauer leading off the bottom of the first, but then retired the next 15 batters he faced. It wasn't until the sixth inning that Severino yielded a one-out single to Max Kepler, who then scored on Ehire Adrianza's double to the right-field corner.

"It was early in the game, and you can't help but hear about the struggles that [Severino] has had," Molitor said. "And then you look at his numbers for the year, and I think a lot of people would trade what they have for that type of performance. He was sharp. Velocity was there. Changeup was disappearing."

In the seventh, the Twins got to Yankees reliever David Robertson to tack on a few insurance runs. Astudillo poked a single up the middle to plate Jake Cave, who had reached on a two-out double, and make it 2-0. Kepler followed with a double that soared just out of the reach of a diving Aaron Hicks in the left-center-field gap to score Astudillo from first and make it 3-0.

Astudillo, who has become a favorite among baseball fans this season for his happy-go-lucky demeanor and unique ability to avoid striking out, was gasping for breath by the time he slid into home and received a warm welcome when he got back to the dugout.

"Man, I don't know. That was painful to watch that jaunt around the bases," Molitor said. "When they miss the dive, you think he's going to score fairly easily, and then you see Gregorius is going to have a chance. But his hit was big, to get that second run on the single up the middle."

#### GARVER LEAVES GAME

Minnesota trainers came out to check on Garver after the foul ball hit him in the facemask, and he stayed in the game long enough to finish the inning. But in the top of the third, Astudillo replaced Garver and finished out the game.

Twins officials announced during the game that Garver was removed for precautionary reasons and that initial tests did not indicate that he sustained a concussion.

"He took a shot," Molitor said. "Maybe in hindsight ... he said he wanted to try to finish the inning. He got his bell rung pretty good. The tests are looking good right now in terms of concussion symptoms. I think we feel pretty good about it, but you never know. We'll follow up again tomorrow and see how he progresses. But right now, we feel pretty good about him being OK."

Earlier this season, Garver took a bat to the side of the head from Manny Machado, but avoided a concussion.

#### YOU GOTTA SEE THIS

In the fifth inning, Odorizzi helped his own cause when he made a sliding play to gather a slow dribbler off the bat of Didi Gregorius and fired a throw to first against his body for the first out of the inning.

"It's something I wouldn't say I practice," Odorizzi said. "I've done it in a game a handful of times. Just try to take pride in being an athlete still. Pitchers get a bad rap from time to time, so you've got to put them back on the map every now and again. [Jose Berrios] does it, too. Sometimes it's a do-or-die play, that's all I had to do."

An inning earlier, Logan Forsythe made an outstanding diving play at second to rob Hicks of a hit.

#### HE SAID IT

"I just wanted to show that chubby people also run." -- Astudillo, on his dash from first base to home

#### UP NEXT

The Twins will hit the road and head to Kansas City for a four-game set with the Royals beginning at 7:15 p.m. CT on Thursday. Stephen Gonsalves will make his fifth career start for Minnesota and second straight against the Royals. He'll look for better results this time around after allowing five runs over just 2 1/3 innings on Friday. Heath Fillmyer will get the start for Kansas City at Kauffman Stadium.

**Mauer contemplating retirement after season**  
**Jarrid Denney | MLB.com | September 13, 2018**

MINNEAPOLIS -- Joe Mauer played the role of hero for the Twins on Tuesday and crushed the fifth grand slam of his career to lead Minnesota to a 10-5 win over the Yankees.

On Wednesday, the six-time All-Star and 2009 American League MVP told the Star Tribune's La Velle E. Neal that he is considering retiring after the season, but that he is going to take his time while deciding.

After Wednesday's 3-1 Twins win over the Yankees, Mauer further discussed his looming decision.

"I'm just planning on trying to win tomorrow night," Mauer said. "Try to enjoy the last couple of weeks of the season and just take a deep breath and go from there. I want to enjoy coming every day and competing, and taking time once the season ends and kind of go over the year like I normally would and go from there."

In his 15th career season, Mauer is slashing .274/.345/.375 with six home runs and 43 RBIs in 112 games.

In late May, he dove for a ball during a game vs. the Angels in Los Angeles and hit the back of his head. He suffered a cervical neck strain and began experiencing concussion-like symptoms.

"It's tough. It's a tough decision," Mauer said. "There are a lot of factors that will go into it. Right now is probably not the right time to decide either way. I want to make sure I'm 100 percent confident and be 100 percent behind it."

That incident left him sidelined for 25 games and the Twins handled the situation with care; Mauer suffered concussions earlier in his career that forced him to give up catching duties and become a full-time first baseman.

He acknowledged that there wasn't one incident during this season that caused him to start contemplating retirement.

"I don't know. I can't really pin down a certain point," Mauer said. "It's that time of the year where you get questions. We'll go from there."

**Willians Astudillo's heroic run from first to home left him gasping for all the air**  
**Matt Mongagan and Jarrid Denney | MLB.com | September 12, 2018**

Willians Astudillo is a 5-foot-9, 225-pound catcher. Teammates call him La Tortuga, or, The Turtle. You wouldn't think a man of that stature or name would be fleet of foot on the baseball diamond -- a dreamy ball of energy floating along the basepaths.

Well, if you were tuned into Wednesday's Yankees-Twins game, you saw how wrong you were:

@MLB

The absolute unit that could.

Look at that hair flowing backward -- the man's hair can't even keep up with the man! Of course, going first to home on a double can be exhausting. Once back in the dugout, Astudillo found a seat next to starting pitcher Jake Odorizzi (who, by the way, was pitching a no-hitter, but Astudillo didn't seem to care) and let out a long exhale:

Manager Paul Molitor talked to MLB.com correspondent Jarrid Denney about the epic run.

"Man, I don't know. That was painful to watch that jaunt around the bases. When they miss the dive, you think he's going to score fairly easily, and then you see Gregorius is going to have a chance. But his hit was big, to get that second run on the single up the middle."

While Astudillo simply did it for all the people like him out there.

"I just wanted to show that chubby people also run."

What a moment. What a player.

**Sano plans to return to lineup this season**  
**Jarrid Denney | MLB.com | September 12, 2018**

MINNEAPOLIS -- Miguel Sano didn't hesitate when asked if he will take the field again for the Twins this season.

"Yeah, a hundred percent," Sano said. "I want to finish strong. I've had a struggling year. I want to finish strong."

The All-Star third baseman has been sidelined since he suffered a lower left leg injury while sliding into second base and colliding with Astros shortstop Carlos Correa in Houston on Sept. 4. Sano left that game on a cart, but X-rays on his leg were negative and Twins manager Paul Molitor said earlier this week that he is hopeful Sano will play again this year.

Sano was working out on the field early Wednesday afternoon, taking swings, fielding grounders at third and running in the outfield to test his leg. When asked which area of the leg is still giving him trouble, he motioned to the inside of his knee.

A rod was inserted into Sano's left shin this past offseason to alleviate a stress reaction in his tibia, and he has spent much of this season working to regain strength in his lower body. When he was injured in Houston, he feared the worst and thought the prognosis would be much bleaker than just the bruising and swelling that he has been working back from.

"Yeah, I thought it was broken," Sano said. "When that happened, I didn't feel my ankle and my knee. I hit the base, and [Correa] put his knee in my ankle. I hit the base -- you're supposed to stand up with that one, but I missed it."

Sano said he will travel with the team to Kansas City for its four-game set with the Royals that begins Thursday, but he is unsure if he will play in that series.

"I don't know about when he'll play," Molitor said. "Our message is just to urge him to keep doing what they're asking him to do both in here and keep getting out to the field to see where you're at physically. Another decent day in terms of ground balls and swings, and he ran a little bit. But it's just not to a point where I feel like the risk has been removed ... and also, mentally, going through that was concerning to him. You get the pain that he did on that injured leg. We're just going to bring him along slowly and hopefully each day is progressive."

**Twins' Joe Mauer to consider retiring after season**  
**La Velle E. Neal III | Star Tribune | September 13, 2018**

Joe Mauer knows he has a decision to make: either return for a 16th season or end a well-decorated career in which he has become a local icon and one of the best Twins of all-time.

And that decision will not come during the next road trip, or the last homestand or immediately following the end of the season.

Mauer, 35, made it clear Wednesday that he will take his time after the season to consider a multitude of factors before deciding if he will continue playing in 2019.

"There's a lot that goes into it than just, 'Do you want to play?'" Mauer said before Wednesday's 3-1 victory over the Yankees at Target Field. "There's a lot of different dynamics that go into it. I owe it to myself and my family to sit down and think about those things.

"I have had some conversations with some people close to me and it's amazing. Getting little bits from different people that are helping me cultivate this [decision]. I still have a lot to think about. I still have people who I want to speak to.

"It's interesting. It's a big decision, and I want to make sure I'm 100 percent about it."

Mauer is batting .274 this season with six home runs and 43 RBI, far from the numbers that defined most of his career. He still has a .306 career average — the sixth highest among active players with at least 3,000 plate appearances — with an .827 on base plus slugging percentage.

**A tough season**

At the beginning of the year, it seemed to be a forgone conclusion that Mauer would play beyond 2018, which is the final year of his eight-year, \$184 million contract signed before the 2010 season. He was coming off his best offensive season since 2014, batting .305 with a .384 on-base percentage. He was healthy and he was on a team with high expectations after reaching the wild-card game in 2017. He indicated then that he wanted to keep playing if the Twins wanted him.

When Mauer was reminded of that Wednesday he replied: "Yeah, a lot can change in six months. Personally, professionally, physically."

What could lead Mauer to retire? His slip in production at the plate is one. The plight of the Twins — a roster makeover began at the trade deadline and will continue into the offseason — is another.

So is family. He and his wife, Maddie, are expecting their third child around Thanksgiving. Mauer spoke of how busy he has been helping get his

twin daughters ready for another school year.

The events of May 11 also will be considered. That's when Mauer, during a game in Anaheim, dived after a foul ball and hit the back of his head on the ground. A sore neck turned into a cervical strain with a concussion. Mauer ended up missing 25 games. A concussion forced him to move from behind the plate, where he seemed on track for a Hall of Fame career as a catcher, to first base following the 2013 season.

"I'm not a percentage type of guy, but it is definitely something I need to think about," Mauer said. "Today, I want to think about trying to beat those Yankees and trying to do the best I can from here on out. Then sit down and go through all the things that have happened to me this year.

"The concussion, third baby on the way. So we have a lot of things to go over. I want to do that and take a deep breath and try to think with a clear mind."

'100 percent supportive'

Although Mauer's numbers aren't as strong as they have been in the past, former teammate and close friend Justin Morneau looks at Mauer's .392 batting average with runners in scoring position and still sees someone with the focus and bat speed to help a team.

"As a friend, you want to be there to support him," Morneau said. "As a fan, I want to see him keep playing."

Chief Baseball Officer Derek Falvey and General Manager Thad Levine have not approached Mauer about his plans and will let him take as much time as he needs to make a decision.

"Everyone is 100 percent supportive of Joe's privacy in this matter," Levine said. "If he came with us with the question you posed, 'I'd like to play another season, what does that look like?' I think we're rolling up our sleeves and having a conversation with him."

Falvey added: "We've maintained an open dialogue with him about his future. Joe's earned the right to have that conversation at his own pace. He shared with us that he'd like to see how he feels after the season and gets a chance to digest everything with Maddie and his family. We fully support Joe in that approach."

On Tuesday, Mauer took a curtain call after blasting a 419-foot grand slam during a 10-5 victory over the Yankees. That's the second time in recent weeks he has done so following a big home run, as fans roared with approval.

As he nears his big decision, is he starting to take mental snapshots of those scenes, just in case?

"We've had some moments," Mauer said. "It's been a fun atmosphere there with the crowd. Regardless, this last homestand is going to be pretty emotional, when we come back. I'm already starting to feel a little bit like that.

"Not knowing either way, what direction I'm going. It's been a grind, a lot of things going on this year. And I'm just trying to enjoy it."

### **Jake Odorizzi takes no-hitter into eighth inning, Twins beat Yankees 3-1 to take series** **Phil Miller | Star Tribune | September 13, 2018**

Beating the Yankees is rare enough around here, and twice in a row is almost unheard of. It would take a near-perfect performance for that to happen, right?

Jake Odorizzi wasn't perfect. But he was close enough.

Odorizzi no-hit the Twins' biggest nemesis for 7 1/3 innings on Wednesday, using a confounding mix of split-fingers and 94-mile-per-hour fastballs to squelch the Yankees' powerful lineup while the Twins built a lead for him to protect. But after a one-out walk to Luke Voit in the eighth, Greg Bird spoiled Odorizzi's bid for history by slashing a first-pitch fastball to the warning track in front of the bullpens, a double that scored a run and ended Odorizzi's night.

Taylor Rogers and Trevor Hildenberger finished off the 3-1 victory, however, giving the Twins their first back-to-back wins over New York in one series since 2013.

"Just a good piece of hitting by [Bird]. Sometimes that's how it goes," Odorizzi said after his most suffocating performance with the Twins. "Just had that [no-hit] feeling tonight. Maybe sometimes down the road I'll get lucky."

There wasn't much luck to this one, though the Twins, Odorizzi included, did make a handful of athletic defensive plays behind him, including a diving catch by Robbie Grossman. But mostly, Odorizzi just fooled the Yankees, a team he'd faced 15 times before. "We've seen each other a lot

of times over the years, so it's a game of feeling each other out. What are they trying to do? What am I doing against them? Who's going to make the adjustment?" Odorizzi said. "I was trying to make pitches and try to get them to put the ball in play. And they just happened to be at somebody just about every time"

The real suspense, actually, didn't involve the quality of his pitches, but the quantity. After completing five innings, which included two walks and four 3-2 counts, Odorizzi had thrown 88 pitches, and manager Paul Molitor had relievers warming up. But Odorizzi retired the Yankees on 14 pitches in the sixth inning, and he needed just seven to record three outs in the seventh, bringing his total to 109. Odorizzi received a big cheer when he trotted to the mound to pitch the eighth.

"I told him, 'This is one of those rare nights when you get in this type of area, doing something magical,' " said Molitor, who left Odorizzi in for a career-high 120 pitches, and said he would have granted him the ninth inning, too, if the no-hitter was still intact. "The plays we made, combined with some relatively long fly balls that stayed in the park — it was just one of those nights where you thought the way things were going, he might just find a way to get it done."

Strangely, Odorizzi arguably was being outpitched for much of the night. Yankees ace Luis Severino allowed an infield single to Joe Mauer to lead off the first inning, quickly erased him on a double play, and proceeded to retire 15 consecutive Twins hitters. But in the sixth inning, Max Kepler broke the spell, and the Yankees' shift, with a line-drive single to left, and he scored the game's first run easily when Ehire Adrianza hooked a pitch into the right-field corner for a double.

An inning later, the Twins tagged Yankees reliever David Robertson for two more runs. Jake Cave started the rally with a one-out double, and scored on Willians Astudillo's single. When Kepler followed with a blast to deep left-center that Aaron Hicks dove for but couldn't quite reach, Astudillo chugged around the bases to give the Twins a three-run lead and turn all the focus to Odorizzi.

He opened the eighth by striking out Gary Sanchez on a splitter, and the announced crowd of 24,143 roared. He walked Voit on five pitches, and Odorizzi feared Molitor might lift him. Then he threw a two-seam fastball to Bird, and his shot at history — the Twins' seventh no-hitter, and first since Francisco Liriano in 2011 — was over.

"Threw him a two-seamer. I knew he was going to be swinging early, so I just wanted to get him to hit it off the end," Odorizzi said. "He got enough of it to put it out there. It stayed true, didn't slice, so he put it in the perfect spot. I think if I throw a four-seamer, he probably hits it in the seats."

Twins infielders gathered on the mound, joined by Molitor moments later. The ovation reached a crescendo as Odorizzi removed his cap and waved it to the fans in appreciation.

"It's been a tough year, there's no ifs ands or buts about it. So [it was] good to have one of these outings toward the end, feel the energy, show them kind of what I'm capable of doing," said Odorizzi, now 6-10 on the season. "It was a good culmination of a lot of things coming together and hearing the love."

### **Postgame: Astudillo "wanted to show that chubby people also run"**

**Phil Miller | Star Tribune | September 13, 2018**

Jake Odorizzi's no-hit bid was the dominant story in the Twins' 3-1 victory over New York on Wednesday, but there were other events worth noting:

Mitch Garver caught the first two innings, but was hit in the mask by a foul ball that shook him up.

"He took a shot. He said he wanted to try to finish the inning, but he got his bell rung pretty good," said Twins manager Paul Molitor, who replaced Garver with Willians Astudillo for the third inning. "The tests are looking good right now, in terms of concussion symptoms. We feel pretty good about it, but you never know. We'll follow up tomorrow and see how he progresses."

XXX

Astudillo walked into something he had never experienced before: A no-hitter. "Never in my life did I dream I was going to be doing that," he said through an interpreter. "All I did was go out there and give my best."

He sat in on Odorizzi's pregame meeting to go over the gameplan, so he felt ready, though he relied on Odorizzi to make most of the decisions about what pitch to throw. "Whatever he wanted. He was locating pitches. I just followed the steps and it worked out for awhile," said Astudillo, who had never caught Odorizzi outside of the bullpen.

"I just kind of took over the game. I was shaking [him off] a lot, but we'd never thrown to each other in a game," Odorizzi agreed. "So I was

just calling my game out there. I told him, ‘Don’t take any offense to me shaking a ton, but I know these guys. I’m just going to throw what I feel.’ He didn’t, so it was good.”

XXX

Astudillo will be remembered far more for his hitting — and especially his baserunning — than his catching in this one, however. The rookie cracked a two-out single in the seventh inning to score Jake Cave, his ninth RBI in just 18 games with the Twins. And when Max Kepler followed with a long drive to left-center that Aaron Hicks dove for, unsuccessfully, Astudillo raced around the bases, his long hair blowing in the wind after losing his helmet around second base.

“Man, I don’t know,” Molitor laughed at the play. “That was painful to watch that jaunt around the bases.”

OK, so he’s not Usain Bolt, but you have to give Astudillo credit for chugging along as fast as he could.

“I just wanted to show that chubby people also run,” he joked. “I saw the outfielder. It was going to be an uncomfortable play for him to make. And it was two outs, so I just hustled.”

XXX

Odorizzi wasn’t the only Twin to turn in an impressive pitching performance. After Bird broke up his no-hitter, Taylor Rogers came in to face Gleybar Torres, and Rogers blew him away on four pitches, the last a curveball that dove into the dirt as Torres flailed at it. It was Rogers’ 22nd consecutive scoreless appearance, a streak of 19 2/3 innings that dates back to July 30.

Then Trevor Hildenberger took over, and he struck out Andrew McCutchen to strand Bird and end the inning. In the ninth, Hildenberger gave up a one-out single to Miguel Andujar, bringing the tying run to the plate — with Giancarlo Stanton and Didi Gregorius coming up.

Not a problem. Stanton hit a hard liner that Max Kepler caught in right field practically without moving, and Gregorius grounded out to Joe Mauer to end the game.

“The game was a little too close for comfort at the end,” Molitor said. “Big-league save for Hildy [his sixth of the season] to come in after the no-hitter and all the emotion, and have to face that part of the lineup and get four outs.”

XXX

By taking the no-hitter so far, Odorizzi recorded an eighth-inning out for the first time this season, becoming just the third Twins starter to do so this year, after Jose Berrios and Kyle Gibson. He threw 120 pitches, which was eight more than any other game this year, and tied his career high set in 2016. (A remarkable accomplishment, considering he had thrown 88 pitches during the first five innings.)

Molitor, normally leery of extending a pitcher beyond about 110 pitches, said he was willing to allow Odorizzi to go as far as he wanted, even the ninth inning if the no-hitter was still intact. His nightmare scenario, he said, was if Odorizzi walked a couple of batters to further bloat his pitch count without allowing a hit. But it didn’t happen.

Odorizzi said he felt terrific as the game went on, especially after needing just 14 pitches in the sixth inning and only nine in the seventh. “I didn’t feel like my velocity dropped. My stuff stayed the same” in the late innings, he said. “I felt like I was in control of the game from start to finish. I never really felt like I had to come to them with much.”

So would he have asked to pitch the ninth, with a pitch count already in the 120s or more?

“Absolutely. What’s the difference between 120 and 140? Not much. You’re going to be sore the next day anyway,” Odorizzi said. “There’s not too many chances you get to do something special. We’ll never know how many it would have taken, but I appreciate what Mollie was willing to do for me in letting me go out there.”

**Wednesday's Twins-Yankees game recap**  
**Phil Miller | Star Tribune | September 13, 2018**

IMPACT PLAYER: Jake Odorizzi, Twins

Gave up two walks and no hits to the first 25 Yankees hitters he faced, but the 26th spoiled his bid for history on his career-high-tying 120th pitch.

BY THE NUMBERS

1958 The last year the Yankees had a single pitcher throw a no-hitter against them; Hoyt Wilhelm did it for Baltimore.

9 RBI by Willians Astudillo in his 18 games with the Twins.

2 Innings for Mitch Garver, who was removed after taking a foul ball to the face. He was replaced by Willians Astudillo.

### **Twins-Kansas City series preview**

**Phil Miller | Star Tribune | September 13, 2018**

#### **FOUR-GAME SERIES AT KAUFFMAN STADIUM**

Thursday, 7:15 p.m. • FSN, 830-AM: LHP Stephen Gonsalves (0-2, 11.68 ERA) vs. RHP Heath Fillmyer (2-1, 4.75)

Friday, 7:15 p.m. • FSN, 830-AM: RHP Jose Berrios (11-11, 3.83) vs. RHP Jorge Lopez (2-3, 4.40)

Saturday, 6:15 p.m. • FS1, 830-AM: RHP Chase De Jong (0-0, 0.00) vs. RHP Ian Kennedy (1-8, 4.92)

Sunday, 1:15 p.m. • FSN, 830-AM: RHP Kyle Gibson (7-13, 3.67) vs. RHP Jakob Junis (8-12, 4.28)

#### **TWINS UPDATE**

The Twins are 4-7 in September, three losses or Cleveland victories away from being eliminated from the AL Central (and postseason) race. ... This is the start of a three-city road trip, their final of the 2018 season. They are 24-47 in road games, having lost five in a row and eight of 10. They are 8-7 vs. the Royals but 1-5 at Kansas City. ... 3B Miguel Sano took batting practice and fielded ground balls Thursday, and said he can tell his sore left leg is improving. Sano hopes to play this weekend, but manager Paul Molitor said: "Our message is just to urge him to keep doing what [the training staff is] asking him to do." ... Joe Mauer's 248 career hits against the Royals tie him for second most ever against Kansas City; Rod Carew had 263, and Victor Martinez has matched Mauer's 248. Molitor is fourth with 242. ... De Jong gave up one hit and four walks to the Royals over four innings in his Twins debut Sunday.

#### **ROYALS UPDATE**

Kansas City is on pace to lose 107 games, which would be the most in team history. ... The Royals have scored 553 runs through 145 games, the fewest in the AL, and had given up 756, the fourth most. Their average of 3.81 runs per game would be their lowest since 1992. ... Their bullpen ERA of 5.16 is the AL's worst. ... They are 27-46 at home but have won eight of 11 at Kauffman Stadium, including seven in a row before their loss to the White Sox on Wednesday. ... 2B Whit Merrifield leads the AL with 35 stolen bases. ... Lopez pitched eight perfect innings Saturday in Target Field, before giving up a walk and a single in the ninth.

### **Jake Odorizzi flirts with no-hitter in Twins' 3-1 victory over Yankees**

**John Shipley | Pioneer Press | September 13, 2018**

Jake Odorizzi had been down this road before, but he'd never been this close. So, yes, with every out he recorded against the New York Yankees on Wednesday, he became more intensely aware that he was throwing a no-hitter.

Asked how seriously he was taking the challenge, the veteran right-hander said, "Pretty seriously."

So did the announced crowd of 24,134 at Target Field, which cheered each successive out with the alacrity they had been saving for a pennant chase that never materialized. Alas, neither did the no-hitter, but the Twins' 3-1 victory over their arch nemesis was reason to celebrate.

"It was a fun night at the park," manager Paul Molitor said. "I don't know how many people were here, but they got into it as the innings came and went and zeroes kept going up there."

Odorizzi put up zeroes into the eighth inning, allowing only two base-runners until he walked Luke Voit with one out and then surrendered his first hit of the game, a run-scoring double by first baseman Greg Bird that ended his night — but not the celebration.

As he walked off the field, Odorizzi received a long standing ovation from the partisan crowd.

"It's been a tough year, there's no ifs ands or buts about it," said Odorizzi, who brought a 5-10 record and 4.57 earned-run average into his 30th start of the season. "So good to have one of these outings toward the end, feel the energy, show them kind of what I'm capable of doing. ...



“It was just kind of a good culmination of a lot of things coming together and hearing the love.”

Yankees starter Luis Severino (17-8) was nearly step for step with Odorizzi but took the loss after surrendering just one run on four hits, including Joe Mauer’s leadoff single, and no walks in 5.2 innings. He struck out five.

Ehire Adrianza, Willians Astudillo and Max Kepler drove in runs for Minnesota, which won consecutive games for the first time since the Twins took four in a row from Aug. 14-18, and won a series from the Yankees for the first time since taking two of three July 17-19, 2017, in Minneapolis.

With Tampa Bay, he flirted with no-hitters against the Yankees and Twins, but this was the first time he’d made it into the eighth inning with one.

Facing a lineup that has combined for 162 home runs this season, Odorizzi (6-10) used a mix of fastball, slider, cutter and slow curve to keep a familiar foe off balance. Robbie Grossman, Jake Cave and Ehire Adrianza made big plays behind him until Bird put a long liner into the gap in left-center to end the no-hitter and shutout.

It was the 120th pitch for Odorizzi, matching a career high. He and Molitor had agreed that if he gave up a hit, the bullpen would finish up.

“We were on the same page the entire time,” Odorizzi. “He just kept checking on me, asked how I was doing. So we let it roll.”

With Bird on second and the tying run at the plate, Taylor Rogers and Trevor Hildenberger came on and struck out Gleyber Torres and Andrew McCutchen, respectively, to preserve the lead. Hildenberger came back to pitch the ninth and retired Aaron Hicks, Giancarlo Stanton and Didi Gregorius for his sixth save.

“Big-league save for Hildy to come in after the no-hitter and emotion, and have to face that part of the lineup and get four outs,” Molitor said.

The last Twins pitcher to throw a no-hitter was left-hander Francisco Liriano, who walked seven in a 1-0 victory over the White Sox in Chicago on May 3, 2011.

### **Twins’ Joe Mauer on weighing retirement: ‘It’s a tough decision.’**

**John Shipley | Pioneer Press | September 13, 2018**

The Twins finally beat the Yankees this week, twice in a row to win a three-game series against their arch nemesis at Target Field, and Joe Mauer was right in the middle of it.

Mauer went a combined 4 for 8 with two runs scored and four RBIs in 10-5 and 3-1 victories, his grand slam on Tuesday — a 419-foot shot to dead center — proving he still has much to give after 15 major league seasons.

As he took a rare curtain call after Tuesday’s blast, many had to wonder, “How do you give that up?”

Well, Mauer is thinking about it.

Playing in the final season of an eight-year deal that paid him \$23 million annually, Mauer has kept talk about his future to a minimum this season. But with the Twins down to 18 more games — and embarking on their final road trip of the season after Wednesday’s game — the St. Paul native addressed his impending decision at some length.

“I’m just planning on trying to win tomorrow night, to enjoy the last couple of weeks of the season and just take a deep breath and go from there,” he said after going 2 for 4 in the Twins’ victory Wednesday.

“I want to enjoy coming every day and competing and taking time once the season ends and kind of go over the year like I normally would and go from there.”

Mauer, who will turn 36 next April, has been the Twins’ starting catcher or first baseman since his first full major league season in 2005, and while he’s not quite the hitter who won three American League batting titles from 2006-09, he’s hitting a robust .274 with a .345 on-base percentage as the Twins’ leadoff hitter.

But he also suffered a concussion in May while trying to field a foul ball, another of several going back to his days as a three-sport athlete at Cretin-Derham Hall. Severe concussion symptoms led to Mauer’s decision to stop playing catcher after the 2013 season, and the father of twin girls — whose wife, Maddie, is expecting the couple’s third child in the fall — has acknowledged that his health is one of many factors he must contemplate.

“I just haven’t gotten to that point yet,” he told the Pioneer Press last month.

He reiterated that on Wednesday, and suggested he likely won’t have a decision until well after the team’s final game Sept. 30 against the Chicago White Sox at Target Field.

“I’ve got to go over everything,” he said. “But that’s the thing, (I) just have time to take a deep breath and evaluate things, and right now that’s a tough thing to do with our schedule and trying to compete every night.”

The Twins start a 10-game, 11-day road trip with the opener of a four-game series Thursday night in Kansas City.

Mauer is the only player in major league history to win three batting titles as a catcher, and he won the 2009 American League MVP Award after hitting .365 with 28 home runs, 96 RBIs and an astonishing .444 OBP.

Over the past several weeks, Mauer has joined some Twins legends in the heights of franchise record lists, passing the late Kirby Puckett to top the franchise career doubles list with No. 415 on July 21, and tying Tony Oliva for fourth on the franchise list with 597 extra-base hits on Tuesday.

He also has been a member of three division-winning teams and been to the postseason four times, mostly recently when the Twins earned the second American League wild-card spot last season. But he’s never been on the winning end of a playoff series.

This year’s team was gutted for prospects at the non-waiver trade deadline, and Mauer has acknowledged thinking about his chances of playing in a World Series. Twins chief baseball office Derek Falvey and general manager Thad Levine have said they will discuss a potential contract extension on Mauer’s schedule.

“It’s tough. It’s a tough decision,” Mauer said Wednesday. “There are a lot of factors that will go into it. Right now is probably not the right time to decide either way. I want to make sure I’m 100 percent confident and be 100 percent behind it.”

**Twins’ Miguel Sano vows to return this season and ‘finish strong’**  
**John Shipley | Pioneer Press | September 12, 2018**

Miguel Sano is determined to play again this season, and optimistic he will.

“A hundred percent,” he said. “I want to finish strong. I’ve had a struggling year (and) I want to finish strong.”

The Twins third baseman has been limited to 70 major-league games this season, spending nearly a month on the disabled list because of a hamstring injury, and nearly six weeks on a comprehensive rehab assignment in Fort Myers, Fla., designed to strengthen his core and lower body.

He hasn’t played since injuring his left leg while stealing second in a 5-2 loss at Houston on Sept. 4 but worked on batting, fielding and running for a second consecutive day before Wednesday night’s series finale against the New York Yankees at Target Field.

After Wednesday, the Twins will have 18 games remaining. Sano will travel with the team for a four-game series in Kansas City that starts Thursday, and even suggested he might be able to play against the Royals. Manager Paul Molitor isn’t quite ready to say that.

“Another decent day in terms of ground balls and swings and he ran a little bit,” Molitor said. “But it’s just not to a point where I feel like the risk (of aggravating the injury) has been removed.”

Sano said the pain remains below and behind the left knee, although X-rays and an MRI turned up negative. When he was carted off the field in Houston, he said, he thought he had broken his leg.

“I couldn’t feel my ankle and my knee,” he said.

Sano, 25, is hitting .202 with 13 home runs and 41 RBIs — and 111 strikeouts — after making the American League all-star team in 2017. That season, too, ended with an injury to his left leg, a stress reaction that required offseason surgery. The Twins hope his midseason conditioning program will help him become the player they want him to be, and the bar is high.

Last year at age 24, Sano hit .264 with 28 homers, 77 RBIs and an .859 OPS in 114 games, a big reason the Twins won the second American League wild card spot. But his injury put the kibosh on the offseason conditioning program the Twins wanted him to start.

Molitor said Wednesday he could even play some winter ball this year “in some small doses.”

“We’ll see, but obviously he understands that his responsibility gives him the best chance,” the manager said. “It’s going to be critical in how he approaches the next season.”

#### ‘OPENER’ END GAME?

With rosters expanded to 40 this month, the Twins have been experimenting with starting games with a reliever for an inning or two before bringing in the “primary pitcher.”

It worked on Tuesday, a 10-5 victory over the Yankees in which Tyler Duffey threw the first two innings before giving way to Kohl Stewart, who pitched 3.1 innings for his first major league victory.

But what is the end game? Can the practice become common in the way that, say, defensive shifts are now common? Tampa Bay has been “bullpenning” regularly since late May and has baseball’s fourth-best team earned-run average (3.65).

Molitor suggested making the opener a regular part of baseball would sell “short the value of guys that can go out there and be top-end rotation guys,” and added that the realities of a 25-man rotation with seven to eight relievers makes it a difficult proposition on a regular basis.

“You’re going to run a risk of burning a couple guys the first couple innings, and then you bring in your primary and he struggles, and then next thing you’re down to four or five relievers to try to get the last five innings of the game, and then it carries over to the next day,” he said.

“Here you got a little luxury of protection; that’s part of the reason we wait until September to see where we’re at. But that’s not how it works when you’re dealing with your normal length in your bullpen.”

#### BRIEFLY

Catcher Mitch Garver was removed from the game for precautionary reasons after taking a foul tip off his mask. Early tests indicated he did not suffer a concussion, the Twins said. “He got his bell rung pretty good,” Molitor said. “The tests are looking good right now in terms of concussion symptoms. It think we feel pretty good about it, but you never know. We’ll follow up again tomorrow.” ... Outfielder Eddie Rosario, battling a quad injury since Sunday, was back in the lineup as the designated hitter on Wednesday. He went 0 for 4 with a strikeout.

#### **Zulgad: Jake’s gem means that for one night at least pitch count isn’t king** **Judd Zulgad | ESPN 1500 | September 13, 2018**

There were numerous oddities on Wednesday night at Target Field.

A Major League Baseball game involving the Minnesota Twins and New York Yankees was played in a brisk 2 hour, 46 minutes. The Twins’ 3-1 victory gave them back-to-back wins against the Yankees for the first time since 2013. Catcher Willians Astudillo, whose time in the 40-yard dash could be measured by a sundial, scored from first base on a seventh-inning double by Max Kepler.

But none of these things was as surprising as the decision Twins manager Paul Molitor made regarding Jake Odorizzi. For one night, in what has been an extremely frustrating season for Odorizzi and the Twins, Molitor decided that his starter’s pitch count wouldn’t dictate when he removed him.

Like it or not, and many old-timers hate it, we have entered a period in baseball where pitch counts are often the most important thing. If a starter gets to 100 pitches, that means it’s only a matter of time before he’s removed and even if that individual has a no-hitter going it doesn’t matter. But as Odorizzi put together hitless inning after hitless inning and his pitch count grew, Molitor made an exception.

He would trust the righthander to tell him how he felt.

Odorizzi had walked Giancarlo Stanton to lead off the second inning, but he retired the next 10 batters before walking Gary Sanchez in the fifth. Odorizzi then got the next nine Yankees hitters and had a no-hitter through seven.

“It was a good kind of stress for me trying to negotiate with Jake in between innings,” Molitor said. “No one wants to see anybody get hurt but he’s a veteran. He said he felt great, and I knew he would be smart about going about trying to find ways to take it a pitch at a time and a hitter at a time. We were kind of doing that after six (innings) and he made it exciting.

“I told him, ‘This is one of those rare nights when you get into this type of area in terms of doing something that was magical.’ You just try to do the best you can and trust that he was going to make a good decision for himself and not get too caught up. Sometimes you have to (make the decision) for him, but I thought he was in a good place.”

That is how with the Twins up 3-0 after seven innings, Odorizzi came back out for the eighth. Sanchez struck out swinging before Luke Voit drew a walk. Still, Odorizzi remained in the game as his pitch count neared the (unthinkable) 120 mark.

“Anytime you’re over 100 or right at 100 after six, with that situation, it’s pretty much hitter to hitter,” Odorizzi said. “That’s what (Molitor) said to me. He asked how I was feeling and I felt really good. I said, ‘I’m good with going hitter to hitter,’ because I knew, obviously the pitch count, they don’t want to do anything to injure anybody. We were on the same page the entire time. He just kept checking on me, asked how I was doing, and we let it roll.”

That roll ended when Voit’s walk was followed by a run-scoring double by Greg Bird to left-center. There was nothing cheap about Bird’s hit. The Twins had made several nice defensive plays behind Odorizzi, even the pitcher got involved by making a sliding play on the grass to get an out, but Bird’s hit brought an end to Odorizzi’s outing.

He left after giving up one run, one hit, with three walks and five strikeouts in a season-high 7.1 innings. His final pitch count was at 120. It was Odorizzi’s 30th start of the season. He had lasted six or more innings only eight times before Wednesday.

“Just a hat tip to him,” Odorizzi said when asked about his emotions after Bird’s hit. “I threw him a two-seamer. I hadn’t thrown many. I knew he was going to be swinging early, so I just wanted to get him to hit it off the end. He got enough of it to put it out there. It stayed true, didn’t slice, so put it in the perfect spot. I think if I throw a four-seamer he probably hits it in the seats. Just a good piece of hitting by him. Sometimes that’s how it goes.”

As Odorizzi exited the game he received a loud ovation from the announced crowd of 24,143. Odorizzi was acquired early in spring training from Tampa Bay with the hope that he would give the Twins a boost at the top of their rotation. That hasn’t happened as he and the Twins have struggled.

“It’s been a tough year,” he said. “There are no ifs, ands, or buts about it. So it’s good to have one of these outings toward the end. Feel the energy, show them kind of what I’m capable of doing. Not, obviously, every time out, but it was just kind of a good culmination of a lot of things coming together and hearing the love.”

What if Odorizzi had retired Bird and gotten out of the eighth inning with the no-hitter intact? Would Molitor have allowed him to exceed, say, 140 pitches?

“Yes, I think where we were, and the fact that you saw there in the eighth inning he wasn’t throwing a ton of fastballs, he was trying to just somewhat trick them if you will to try and find ways to get outs,” Molitor said when asked if he could have been talked into letting Odorizzi pitch the ninth. “You look at the game and the plays that we made, combined with some relatively long fly balls that stayed in the park. It was just you thought the way things were going that he just might find a way to get it done. It just didn’t work out.”

Added Odorizzi: “What’s the difference between 120 and 140 (pitches?). Not much. You’re going to be sore the next day anyway. There’s not too many chances you get to do something that special. We’ll never know how many it would have taken, but I appreciate what Mollie was willing to do for me in letting me go out there.”

### **Report: Brian Dozier says he has been playing through knee injury since April** **Judd Zulgad | ESPN 1500 | September 12, 2018**

Despite struggling for much of the season, Brian Dozier attempted to dismiss any talk that he was playing hurt. Until now.

The second baseman, whom the Twins dealt to the Los Angeles Dodgers at the non-waiver trade deadline on July 31, told the Los Angeles Times last weekend that he has been playing through a knee injury since early in the season.

“It’s been a struggle,” Dozier said. “I’ve had a knee issue since the beginning of the year.”

Dozier, who hit .271 with 34 home runs last season for the Twins, was hitting .227 with 16 home runs and 52 RBIs in 104 games when he was traded to the Dodgers for second baseman Logan Forsythe and prospects Luke Raley (first base/outfield) and Devin Smeltzer (lefthanded pitcher).

Dozier got off to a good start with the Dodgers, hitting a home run in each of his first two games, but he was batting only .193 with four home runs and 16 RBIs in 35 games for Los Angeles entering Wednesday’s game against Cincinnati. Dozier went 0-for-1 as a pinch hitter in the Dodgers’ 8-1 victory.

Dozier’s injury, according to the Times, dates to April when he suffered a bone bruise on his right knee. Structural damage was ruled out after an MRI but the soreness remained and Dozier told the paper that the inability to swing freely has compromised his swing. “If one side of your leg is not working, find a way to use your other side,” he said. “That’s just my mentality.”

Despite the fact a trip to the 10-day disabled list could have given Dozier time to recover, he said neither the Twins nor the Dodgers had suggested

it. He also told the Times had no interest in going on the DL.

“That’s not me,” Dozier said. “I’ve never been on the DL. I hope to not ever be. My mentality has always been, you can still be productive if you’re not 100%. I’m still trying to find ways to be productive.”

Unfortunately for Dozier, he hasn’t been nearly as productive as the Twins or Dodgers hoped he would be in 2018.

### **Last call? Joe Mauer will contemplate retirement during offseason** **Judd Zulgad | ESPN 1500 | September 12, 2018**

The first indication that Joe Mauer might have been considering retirement came in the seventh inning of the Twins’ 5-4 victory over Detroit on Aug. 17 at Target Field.

Mauer belted a pinch-hit three-run homer to right field and pumped his fist as he rounded first base. He then took a curtain call after being urged to do so by his teammates. This was all very un-Mauer-like and the initial conclusion was that he was savoring the moment knowing his career might be winding down.

Mauer, however, hadn’t really elaborated on what he was thinking. That changed Wednesday when the 35-year-old told the Star Tribune that he will consider a multitude of factors before deciding if he will continue to play or retire following the 2018 season.

“There’s a lot that goes into it than just, ‘Do you want to play?’” Mauer told the paper. “There’s a lot of different dynamics that go into it. I owe it to myself and my family to sit down and think about those things.

“I have had some conversations with some people close to me and it’s amazing. Getting little bits from different people that are helping me cultivate this [decision]. I still have a lot to think about. I still have people who I want to speak to. It’s interesting. It’s a big decision, and I want to make sure I’m 100 percent about it.”

Mauer, a St. Paul native who was picked first-overall by the Twins in the 2001 draft, is in his 15th big-league season. Derek Falvey, the Twins’ chief baseball officer, made it clear during an appearance on 1500 ESPN at the Minnesota State Fair that the decision will be up to Mauer and would not come until after the season. Mauer told the Star Tribune the same thing, meaning the Twins’ regular-season finale on Sept. 30 against the White Sox at Target Field could be his final game.

The Twins television team of Dick Bremer, Justin Morneau and Roy Smalley had an interesting reaction when Mauer hit a grand slam on Tuesday in the Twins’ 10-5 victory over the Yankees at Target Field. Morneau, a former teammate and close friend of Mauer’s, talked like a guy who had an inkling that his buddy was giving serious thought to retirement.

It would make sense for Mauer to walk away.

One of the greatest-hitting catchers of all-time — Mauer won three batting titles playing the position — the veteran was moved to first base in 2014 because of concussion problems. When he made the move, Mauer had hit .323/.405/.468 in his first 10 seasons. He had won three batting titles, been named an American League All-Star six times and won the 2009 American League MVP award.

But in the past six years Mauer is batting .276/.358/.387. Mauer hit .305 last season (his first season at .300 since 2013) as the Twins surprised everyone by making the AL wild card game, but he entered Wednesday’s game against the Yankees hitting .272 with six home runs and 43 RBIs. He remains a career .306 hitter and his success while a catcher could earn him a spot in the Hall of Fame.

Mauer’s grand slam on Tuesday — he again followed it with a curtain call — ended a 1-for-23 drought and marked his first four RBIs in September.

Mauer has reasons to consider retirement that go beyond the fact he’s no longer close to being the hitter who won multiple batting titles. He is in the final season of an eight-year, \$23 million per season contract and would have to take an enormous pay cut on a short-term deal. Mauer also would be playing for a team that has had a disappointing season and will enter 2019 with limited expectations.

Mauer and his wife, Maddie, have twin daughters and are expecting their third child this offseason. There also is the fact that Mauer suffered another concussion in May while diving for a foul ball and missed 25 games. Mauer has turned himself into a very good first baseman, but does he want to run the risk of suffering another concussion in 2019?

“I’m not a percentage type of guy, but it is definitely something I need to think about,” Mauer told the Star Tribune. “Today, I want to think about trying to beat those Yankees and trying to do the best I can from here on out. Then sit down and go through all the things that have happened to me this year.

“The concussion, third baby on the way. So we have a lot of things to go over. I want to do that and take a deep breath and try to think with a clear mind.”

**Odorizzi takes no-hitter into 8th as Twins beat Yankees**  
**Associated Press | Fox Sports North | September 13, 2018**

MINNEAPOLIS — As he inched closer to a no-hitter, Jake Odorizzi was ready to throw 140 pitches if needed. He was nearing his career high against the New York Yankees, but was confident he could talk Minnesota Twins manager Paul Molitor into leaving him in for the ninth inning if it got to that point.

Odorizzi never made it that far.

His no-hit bid was broken up when Greg Bird laced a run-scoring double with one out in the eighth, and the Twins beat the Yankees 3-1 Wednesday night to take two of three from New York.

The Yankees' lead over Oakland for the top AL wild card was cut to one game as they completed a 4-5 trip.

A tiring Odorizzi walked Luke Voit before Bird lined the next pitch deep into the left-center gap. Odorizzi was immediately pulled and he tipped his cap to the crowd as he walked off to a standing ovation.

“It’s been a tough year. There’s no ifs ands or buts about it,” Odorizzi said. “So it’s good to have one of these outings toward the end, feel the energy, show them kind of what I’m capable of doing.”

Odorizzi (6-10) struck out five and walked three, matching his big league high of 120 pitches set while pitching for Tampa Bay against the Twins on June 3, 2016.

There was no hesitation on Molitor’s part as he went to take out his starter after Odorizzi finally allowed a hit in the eighth. Odorizzi needed just seven pitches to get through the seventh, but that brought his pitch count to 109 entering the eighth.

“It was a good kind of stress for me, trying to negotiate with Jake in between innings,” Molitor said. “No one wants to see anyone get hurt, but he’s a veteran. He said he felt great, and I know he would be smart about trying to find ways to take it a pitch at a time, a hitter at a time.”

Taylor Rogers relieved Odorizzi and promptly struck out Gleyber Torres before Trevor Hildenberger fanned Andrew McCutchen. Hildenberger finished for his sixth save.

Luis Severino (17-8) allowed one run and four hits in 5 2/3 innings, dropping to 3-6 in his last 11 starts. Severino unsuccessfully tried to persuade manager Aaron Boone to keep him in the game in the sixth.

“He wanted to stay in the game. I’m fine with my guys wanting to stay in the game,” Boone said. “He was very pitch efficient. Obviously it wasn’t a pitch count issue, it was just starting to get a little away and he’s in the fight right now. I respect the hell out of that.”

Severino permitted one hit in the first five innings, then gave up a one-out single to Max Kepler in the sixth followed by Ehire Adrianza’s go-ahead double.

Joe Mauer’s single put runners at the corners, Jorge Polanco struck out on a wild pitch that advanced Mauer, and David Robertson relieved and retired Eddie Rosario on a groundout.

“My confidence is always up,” said Severino, tagged with the loss in consecutive starts. “I’ve had some struggles but that’s nothing I can’t fix. So I was going to go give 110 percent and compete for my team.”

Minnesota opened a 3-0 lead in the seventh when Willians Astudillo hit an RBI single and scored on Kepler’s double.

Twins catcher Mitch Garver was removed after two innings. He took a foul tip to the mask in the second, and the team said initial tests did not indicate a concussion.

**TRAINER’S ROOM**

Yankees: All-Star closer Aroldis Chapman could return next week from nearly a month on the disabled list. Chapman has not pitched since Aug. 21 because of left knee tendinitis, which has bothered him throughout the season. The 30-year-old left-hander threw a bullpen Wednesday and

was to return to New York for treatment. Boone anticipates another bullpen session this weekend, then a return.

Twins: 3B Miguel Sano (left leg) said he hopes to play again before the end of the season. “I want to finish strong,” he said. Sano was hurt last week when he slid awkwardly into second base against Houston.

UP NEXT

Yankees: RHP Masahiro Tanaka is to start Friday against Toronto. Tanaka has won consecutive starts in September after going winless in August.

Twins: LHP Stephen Gonsalves will make his fifth big league start Thursday at Kansas City.

### **Mauer considers retirement as Twins face Royals** **The Sports Xchange | Fox Sports North | September 13, 2018**

Joe Mauer has been the face of the Minnesota Twins for most of the century.

Mauer, a native of St. Paul who attended Cretin-Derham Hall High School, was the No. 1 overall pick of the 2001 draft and made his big league debut three years later, quickly establishing himself as the hometown hero and one of the best players in baseball.

Now, though, at age 35, Mauer admits the end may be drawing near. Twenty-four hours after hitting his fifth career grand slam Tuesday, Mauer told the Minneapolis Star-Tribune that he’s considered retiring after this season — the last under an eight-year, \$184 million contract he signed after the 2010 season.

A .306 hitter over the course of a career that’s included six All-Star berths, three Gold Gloves and the 2009 AL MVP award, Mauer is batting .272 this season with six home runs and 43 RBIs. But he’s missed time this season with the third concussion of his career, and he and his wife are expecting their third child later this fall.

“There’s a lot that goes into it than just, ‘Do you want to play?’” Mauer told the newspaper. “There’s a lot of different dynamics that go into it. I owe it to myself and my family to sit down and think about those things.

“It’s interesting. It’s a big decision, and I want to make sure I’m 100 percent about it.”

That conversation, though, will have to wait. Mauer is hoping to finish out the season strong, starting Thursday night when the Twins open a four-game series at Kansas City.

“Not knowing either way, what direction I’m going. It’s been a grind, a lot of things going on this year,” Mauer said. “And I’m just trying to enjoy it.”

Stephen Gonsalves (0-2) gets the start for Minnesota in the series opener and another chance to make a good impression on the Twins coaching staff.

The 24-year-old rookie left-hander has an 11.68 ERA through four big league starts and couldn’t get out of the third inning his last time out, when the Royals tagged him for five runs over 2 1/3 innings Friday.

“Stephen’s still having trouble showing enough command with his pitches to give him a chance to be a little bit more successful,” Twins manager Paul Molitor said. “The extra baserunners and some mistakes — getting behind kind of caught up with him there, so we couldn’t go too long.”

Gonsalves was Minnesota’s No. 5 prospect when he was called up to the big leagues last month.

“I’ve been battling with my fastball,” Gonsalves said. “It’s just cutting on me and I’ve been inconsistent with it. I’ve been working with (pitching coach) Garvin (Alston) on something new every week. My mind has been more on mechanics than competing and I had that struggle early this year with my mechanics all out of whack. It’s kind of revolving back to that a little bit and I’m kind of searching for myself.”

Heath Fillmyer, Kansas City’s scheduled Thursday starter, struggled in his last outing, which came against Gonsalves and the Twins on Friday. Fillmyer (2-1, 4.75 ERA) lasted 2 1/3 innings and allowed six runs on six hits.

He has started two games against the Twins this season and is fortunate to be 0-0 after giving up nine runs and 11 hits over 5 1/3 innings.

**Jake Odorizzi's No-Hitter Broken Up in Eighth Inning, Twins Beat Yankees**  
**Jenna West | Sports Illustrated | September 12, 2018**

Starter Jake Odorizzi led the Twins to a 3–1 win over the Yankees Wednesday night with a strong no-hitter bid into the eighth inning.

Odorizzi had a no-hitter intact through seven innings at Target Field, but Greg Bird ended the bid with an RBI double to lead off the eighth.

The righty was going for the Twins' first no-no since 2011, walking three batters and striking out five on 120 pitches in 7.1 IP.

After running up a high pitch count early in the game, Odorizzi later retired the Yankees' Nos. 3–4–5 hitters in the seventh with just seven pitches.

Odorizzi entered Wednesday night's contest with a 4.57 ERA and 148 strikeouts in 29 games. The pitcher showcased his defensive skills on a sliding play on a grounder to retire Didi Gregorius in the fifth inning.

Aaron Hicks threatened to break up Odorizzi's no-hitter in the seventh, but Logan Forsythe recorded the out with a slick diving play at second base.

**Jake Odorizzi loses no-hit bid against Yankees in eighth inning**  
**Bill Baer | NBC Sports | September 12, 2018**

Update (10:30 PM ET): The Twins gave Odorizzi two more runs of support thanks to a two-run double from Max Kepler in the bottom of the seventh. In the eighth, Odorizzi started off by striking out Gary Sánchez. Greg Bird then followed up with an RBI double to the gap in left-center field, ending both the no-hit bid and the shutout. Manager Paul Molitor came out to the mound to take Odorizzi out after a valiant 120-pitch effort.

Twins starter Jake Odorizzi has held the Yankees hitless through his first seven innings of Wednesday night's start in Minnesota. The right-hander has walked two and struck out four on 109 pitches.

The Twins provided Odorizzi a lone run of support, which came in the bottom of the sixth on Ehire Adrianza's RBI double.

Odorizzi, 28, entered Wednesday's start with a 5-10 record, a 4.57 ERA, and a 148/61 K/BB ratio in 147 2/3 innings. The Yankees' offense is second-best in the American League, averaging 5.12 runs per game. That Odorizzi has no-hit them through seven innings thus far is remarkable in that regard.

The 2018 season has seen three no-hitters thus far from the Athletics' Sean Manaea (April 21) and the Mariners' James Paxton (May 8) as well as a combined no-hitter from the Dodgers (May 4). If Odorizzi is able to keep the Yankees hitless over the final two innings, he will become the first Twin to toss a no-hitter since Francisco Liriano on May 3, 2011 against the White Sox. The Yankees haven't been no-hit since a combined no-hit effort from the Astros on June 11, 2003.

**Joe Mauer may retire after the season**  
**Craig Calcaterra | NBC Sports | September 13, 2018**

The Minneapolis Star-Tribune reports that Twins first baseman Joe Mauer is considering retirement. He has not made up his mind one way or the other and won't until the offseason, but it's on his mind. Mauer:

“There's a lot that goes into it than just, ‘Do you want to play?’ . . . I owe it to myself and my family to sit down and think about those things . . . I have had some conversations with some people close to me and it's amazing . . . I still have a lot to think about. I still have people who I want to speak to.”

Mauer is in the final year of an eight-year, \$184 million contract he signed before the 2010 season, and which did not go into effect until the year after that. At the time he signed that deal Mauer was coming off of an MVP season in which he led the league in batting, on-base percentage and slugging while playing Gold Glove defense as a catcher and had two other batting titles — in 2006 and 2008 — under his belt. He continued playing at a superior level behind the plate in 2010, but just as the contract kicked in in 2011, fate changed the course of his seemingly sure-thing Hall of Fame trajectory.

The first problem was with his knees, which required surgery in the 2010-11 offseason and which continued to cause him complications into 2011, costing him half the season. That, combined with a bout of pneumonia led to 2011 being his worst season up to that point and caused some to begin to question that big deal he received.

Mauer rebounded in 2012, making the All-Star team and once again leading the league in on-base percentage while playing in 147 games. Things would only get worse after that, however. In August 2013 Mauer suffered a concussion on a foul tip that ended both his season and his career as a



catcher. Mauer would go on to suffer blurred vision and other concussion-related symptoms for years, substantially affecting his play.

Despite how serious concussions have proven to be for athletes, despite how a concussion had already derailed the career of teammate Joe Mauer, and despite the fact that the Twins themselves clearly acknowledged how serious Mauer's situation was by moving him to first base after the season, certain segments of the Minnesota press and fan base turned on Mauer. They called him "brittle" and overpaid. Some even doubted Mauer's symptoms. To this day, certain Twins fans think of Mauer's salary first and foremost when they consider him and don't seem to acknowledge just how good, and often great, a player Mauer has been in a Twins uniform.

Despite that, Mauer has continued to play and, at times, play quite well even if he's not what the Twins envisioned for the second half of his career when they signed him to that extension. His power has basically disappeared but he still gets on base at a respectable rate. He's no longer the sort of player whose team could go far if he is its best player, but he has the profile of a guy who, if he was not making \$23 million a year, might complement a winner quite nicely. The Yankees, for example, have a long and rich history of picking up high-OBP types with a ton of experience and character toward the end of their careers to help them push towards the World Series.

Whether that's the sort of thing Mauer is interested in doing at his age — he turns 36 early next season, has twin girls and a baby on the way — is an open question. The Twins, for their part, say they are willing to let Mauer take his time to figure out what he wants to do this offseason and have singled their willingness to bring him back at, obviously, a reduced salary. If he does want to play and the Twins don't bite, there are likely other teams who would bring him in on a short term deal.

It's all up to him, really. We'll just have to wait and see.

### **A near no-hitter for Jake Odorizzi and a strong show from Willians Astudillo** **Dan Hayes | The Athletic | September 13, 2018**

Jake Odorizzi hadn't recorded an out in the seventh inning this season until an Aug. 24 start. But manager Paul Molitor had few reservations about potentially giving the Twins pitcher a chance to close out a no-hit bid on Wednesday night if it were still in play even with a soaring pitch count.

Though he got close, Odorizzi finally yielded a hit in the eighth inning of a 3-1 Twins victory over the New York Yankees. He was removed after he surrendered a run-scoring double to Greg Bird with one out in the eighth, completing a season-high 7 1/3 innings. Molitor liked what he saw from his veteran right-hander enough to potentially trust him despite a pitch count that finished at 120.

"I told him, 'This is one of those rare nights when you get in this type of area,' in terms of doing something that was magical," Molitor said. "You just try to do the best you can and trust that he was going to make a good decision for himself and not get too caught up. Sometimes you have to do that for him, but I thought he was in a good place."

Despite keeping the Yankees hitless through five innings, Odorizzi had already thrown 88 pitches. The hit count might not have been zero if not for some dazzling defense. Ehire Adrianza made a tough play at third base against Andrew McCutchen to start the night. Logan Forsythe had a diving stop and perfect throw in the fourth inning. Robbie Grossman snagged a line drive in the fifth. And Odorizzi turned in a gem himself with a slide stop and perfect strike to first to retire Didi Gregorius.

From there, however, Odorizzi got economical. He needed only 14 pitches to get through the sixth inning and seven in the seventh. Odorizzi had no doubt in his mind he'd like to continue on in search of the no-hitter.

"Absolutely," Odorizzi said. "What's the difference between 120 and 140? Not much. You're going to be sore the next day anyway. There's not too many chances you get to do something that special. You'll never know how many it would have taken, but I appreciate what Mollie was willing to do for me in letting me go out there."

Molitor cited Odorizzi's late-inning pitch mix as a reason for comfort. While Odorizzi threw 51 fastballs in all, he also mixed in 34 sliders and 27 split-fingered fastballs.

Of the seven pitches Odorizzi threw in the seventh, three were fastballs, three were splitters and one was a curve. In the eighth, only one of Odorizzi's first 10 pitches was a fastball.

"Where we were, and the fact that you saw there in the eighth inning he wasn't throwing a ton of fastballs," Molitor said. "He was just trying to trick them, if you will, to try and find ways to get outs."

"I mean, you look at the game and the plays that we made, combined with some relatively long fly balls that stayed in the park, it was just one of those nights you thought the way things were going, he just might find a way to get it done. It just didn't work out."

Odorizzi finished the outing with an earned run allowed, three walks and five strikeouts with strikes on 69 of 120 pitches.

**Astudillo entertains after mid-game substitution**

As little as he has played, Willians Astudillo has been a constant source of entertainment this season, and his postgame interview on Wednesday didn't disappoint. The catcher-turned-center fielder/batter-who-swings-at-everything had a hell of a night after taking over for Mitch Garver in the second inning after Garver took a foul tip off his mask.

Not only did Astudillo — whose ninth-inning homer Sunday lifted the Twins to victory — handle Odorizzi's gem behind the plate, he provided two key moments in a seventh-inning rally that broke the game open. Astudillo singled to center off New York's David Robertson to drive in Jake Cave and give the Twins a 2-0 lead. After he saw Aaron Hicks' diving attempt for Max Kepler's opposite-field double come up empty, Astudillo turned on the afterburners and scored all the way from first base (if you haven't already seen the GIFs and videos of Astudillo rounding third, you need to stop what you're doing and watch).

"I just wanted to show that chubby people also run," Astudillo said through an interpreter. "I saw the outfielder. It was going to be an uncomfortable play for him to make. And it was two outs, so I just hustled."

Molitor also enjoyed watching Astudillo's race to the plate as well as what the rookie accomplished behind the plate in concert with Odorizzi.

"Man, I don't know," Molitor said of Astudillo's sprint. "That was painful to watch that jaunt around the bases. When they miss the dive, you think he's going to score fairly easily, and then you see Gregorius is going to have a chance. But his hit was big, to get that second run on the single up the middle.

"It would have been a rare combination, for catchers to combine on a no-hitter; I don't know how many times that's happened. But he did a nice job when Mitch came out, and the few games he's caught so far, he looks good back there."

Early tests indicate Garver was OK after the Twins removed him for precautionary reasons.

### **'A tough decision': Joe Mauer to weigh retirement as Twins season winds down** **Dan Hayes | The Athletic | September 12, 2018**

The news Wednesday that Joe Mauer will consider retirement at the season's end didn't come as a surprise to the Twins.

When the season ends in a little over two weeks, the Twins' front office will spend a month or so devising multiple offseason paths. One, of course, would operate under the assumption that Mauer is returning to the Twins for a 16th season. The other would prepare for the possibility that Mauer hangs up his cleats, a decision he told the Star Tribune's LaVelle E. Neal III he would contemplate before Wednesday's game.

But with Mauer's franchise-record, eight-year, \$184-million contract about to be complete, this is a possibility the Twins knew existed all along. With free agency not beginning until five days after the World Series concludes, Twins chief baseball officer Derek Falvey said the club has no set timeline established as Mauer ponders his future and whether or not he'll return for the 2019 season.

"Obviously, he's going to work through the consideration," Falvey said. "The thing I know about Joe is, he has a ton of respect for this organization, this team, the coaching staff, the players. The last thing Joe would ever want to do is hold up a team in terms of that. My expectation is Joe would be thoughtful around that and we'll just stay in touch. We haven't set any kind of timelines or otherwise around that. We're just going to make sure that we take the time to work through it. But at some point, you have to get along with your offseason plans and what way you're headed, one way or the other."

The timing of Mauer's admission he'll deliberate his future is only natural. There are 18 days left in the season and on Mauer's current contract. The Twins' first baseman also belted a grand slam in Tuesday night's game, which led to more speculation about Mauer's future during the televised broadcast.

While he's willing to suggest he's at least pondering stepping away, Mauer also knows now isn't the time to decide. The 35-year-old very much enjoys baseball and competing and the thrill of Tuesday's curtain call after smashing a 419-foot homer to center only heightens it.

But Mauer has other factors to weigh. His wife, Maddie, is due in November with the couple's third child (they don't know if it's a boy or a girl). There's also health to consider, a topic that became front and center when Mauer was placed on the disabled list with a neck injury and concussion-like symptoms on May 19. The injury prevented Mauer from joining the Twins at the ballpark for several days as he dealt with sensitivity to light and noise. He also was severely disappointed by the team's decision to trade several players in late July, describing it at the time as a "punch to the gut."

Everything has added up to Mauer at least suggesting he'll weigh his plans for 2019.

“I don’t know, I can’t really pin down a certain point,” Mauer said. “It’s that time of the year where you get questions.

“It’s tough. It’s a tough decision. There are a lot of factors that will go into it. Right now, is probably not the right time to decide either way. I want to make sure I’m 100 percent confident and be 100 percent behind it.”

The other half of the M&M Boys, Justin Morneau, understands why his former teammate would take time with the decision, especially when it comes to the health aspect. But Morneau also knows that if Mauer hangs it up, it isn’t because he’s finished as a player. Morneau cited Mauer’s numbers with runners in scoring position — he singled on Wednesday to raise his slash line to .400/.489/.613 with four homers and 40 RBIs in 92 plate appearances — as proof.

“It’s a personal decision for health and family and all the rest of it,” Morneau said. “When he gets in those big moments, those big situations, he still shows he can hit with anybody. Obviously, I’m more hopeful just because I like watching him play. But it’s a decision that doesn’t need to be made today and we’ll see after he gets to sit on it and think about it for a while what he comes up with.”

Falvey concurs with Morneau’s assessment of the skillset. The talent remains. He also believes another factor in the decision will be the direction of the team. However, Falvey indicated the Twins intend to try and compete again in 2019 even after they’ve traded a significant chunk of their veteran players in the past six weeks.

“Joe wants to be on a team where he’s competing, but I think he thinks that there’s a group here,” Falvey said. “We’ve never felt differently. We don’t see it differently. We’re going to continue to compete. Where things end up are where things end up, you can’t always control that. But I do think he’ll reflect on that and ultimately, it’s Joe’s call.

“He’s a professional at-bat still every time he steps into that box. He still plays good first base. This is just going to be more or less in many ways about where he’s at in his life. He’s earned that opportunity to make that decision.”

Mauer clearly wants to put off making that choice for now. If this is his final 2 1/2 weeks, Mauer doesn’t plan to waste a minute of it. And that’s why the St. Paul native will see this through and figure out what he’ll do after he has time to exhale.

“I’ve got to go over everything,” Mauer said. “But that’s the thing. Just have time to take a deep breath and evaluate things and right now that’s a tough thing to do with our schedule and trying to compete every night.

“I have fun every time I come here. I enjoy the game. I love the game. I’m going to enjoy these last couple weeks, for sure.”