



## **Headlines of September 21, 2010**

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"Tight shoulder ends Floyd's start early" ... Eric Gilmore, MLB.com  
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"Pitching fits: Garcia working hard, Jenks absent" ... Brett Ballantini, CSNChicago.com  
"Beckham rushed back, Guillen breaks own rule" ... Brett Ballantini, CSNChicago.com  
"Bullpen woes mirror team struggles" ... Doug Padilla, ESPNChicago.com  
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"White Sox P Floyd done for season?" ... Mark J. Miller, Yahoo Sports  
"Dugout disruption: Managerial changes could set MLB record" ... Bob Nightengale, USA Today

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## ***White Sox lose Floyd, seventh straight game***

### **Pena turns in six stellar innings in relief of injured starter**

By Eric Gilmore

MLB.com

September 21, 2010

The White Sox lost in 11 innings Sunday night to Detroit and didn't arrive in the Bay Area until after 3 a.m. PT Monday. This was an exhausted team that got more deflating news in the first inning when right-hander Gavin Floyd left after only seven pitches because of tightness behind his throwing shoulder.

White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen said he doesn't yet know how serious Floyd's injury is but that he won't hesitate to shut him down for the rest of the season if that's what's called for.

The White Sox playoff hopes, once so real, could die Tuesday with a loss to Oakland combined with a Minnesota win over Cleveland.

"Very bad, very bad," Guillen said, describing his team's performance. "It was a late night last night. Today it was kind of flat. Today was kind of a lousy game. We had something going on on the bases, with two outs we strike out. If we have to make an excuse, hopefully that's an excuse for the way we played today."

Tony Pena replaced Floyd, facing a 2-2 count to leadoff hitter Rajai Davis, and pitched six shutout innings. Pena allowed six hits, all of them singles except Daric Barton's first-inning double. He struck out three, walked two and threw 97 pitches.

Pena was a bright spot in an otherwise dismal game for the White Sox, and Guillen hinted strongly that he'd move into the rotation if Floyd is sidelined.

"I'm going to be ready," Pena said.

Pena certainly isn't used to seeing action so early in games. He made 285 relief appearances before making his first and, to this point, only career Major League start on Aug. 21.

Pena made an emergency start in place of Edwin Jackson in the second game of a doubleheader against Kansas City. He lasted seven innings and gave up five hits -- all in a row in the fourth inning -- and four runs. He got no decision, but the White Sox won, 7-6.

Pena said he's open to the possibility of becoming a full-time starter next season.

"I'll go to the Dominican, play winter ball, get a couple starts there, a month and a half," he said. "We'll see next year."

The A's had baserunners on in five of the first six innings, but Pena kept pitching out of jams. In the bottom of the third, Pena struck out A's designated hitter Jack Cust with runners on first and third with two outs. In the fourth with runners on first and third with two outs, he got Cliff Pennington to fly out to right.

The White Sox got plenty of baserunners on against A's left-hander Gio Gonzalez, but they couldn't deliver the big hit. Gonzalez, a former White Sox farmhand, pitched six shutout innings, allowing just four hits.

"He's come a long ways," Guillen said of Gonzalez. "Gio always has confidence in himself. He's always wanted to be good. Even in high school. I think the difference now is he's obviously matured and he throws more strikes."

In the second inning, Chicago had runners on second and third with two outs, but Ramon Castro struck out to end the inning. Castro came up with two outs and the bases loaded in the fourth after Gonzalez walked three straight White Sox. Castro struck out, swinging at the first three offerings from a pitcher who had been struggling to throw a strike. He struck out again with a runner on second and two outs in the sixth.

The A's struck for three runs in the seventh -- only one of them earned -- off reliever Scott Linebrink, whose throwing error contributed to the rally.

A's rookie Chris Carter led off with a single to left, ending a career-opening 0-for-33 streak. Pennington laid down a sacrifice bunt, but Linebrink's throw to first drew second baseman Brent Lillibridge off the base. Then Davis beat out a bunt, loading the bases.

Barton brought one run home with a ground ball to Lillibridge, who threw to second for the force. Then with two outs, catcher Kurt Suzuki lined a two-run single to right, all but sealing the seventh straight White Sox loss.

"I'm disappointed by the losing streak because that losing streak has been big time," Guillen said. "The losing streak was bad timing for us."

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# *A's Cahill out to contain White Sox thief*

By Doug Miller

MLB.com

September 21, 2010

The White Sox and A's aren't among the top contenders for the postseason this year, but both have a host of players having successful seasons, and two will be showcased when the clubs meet Tuesday night in the second game of their series at Oakland Alameda Coliseum.

For the White Sox, it's been a memorable year of milestones for outfielder Juan Pierre, who has a chance to win the Major League stolen-base crown.

Pierre enters Tuesday's game with 58 stolen bases, giving him a six-steal lead over Houston's Michael Bourn for the big league lead. He also needs one steal to tie Scott Podsednik (59 in 2005) for second place on the club's all-time single-season list. Pierre also is one bag behind Patsy Donovan for 30th on the all-time list with 518.

Pierre is attempting to become the first White Sox player since Luis Aparicio (1961) to lead the Major Leagues in steals.

Meanwhile, the A's headline player Tuesday, Trevor Cahill, does his work from the mound and would have a huge chance at the American League Cy Young Award if his team were in first place.

The young starter, who is matched up against lefty Mark Buehrle of the White Sox, is shooting for his 17th win, and all of his wins have come since the beginning of May. In the Majors, only CC Sabathia of the Yankees and Jon Lester of the Red Sox have more wins since May 1.

Going into Tuesday, Cahill has the lowest opponents' batting average in the AL (.210), which is the lowest by an A's pitcher since Mike Norris had a mark of .209 in 1980. Cahill also ranks fourth in the AL in ERA (2.84) and fifth in opponents' slugging percentage (.324).

He's 10-2 with a 1.58 ERA and .190 opponents' batting average in 13 starts at home and is 0-1 with a 3.74 ERA in four career starts against Chicago.

## **White Sox: Manny needs to heat up**

New White Sox designated hitter Manny Ramirez is hitting .269 (14-for-52) with one home run and one RBI in 18 games with the White Sox. Thirteen of his 14 hits are singles. ... Buehrle needs 7 2/3 innings pitched to reach 200 innings for the 10th time in his career. He earned the win in his only start of 2010 at Oakland, giving up one run in a nine-inning effort. He's 4-12 with a 3.75 ERA in 25 career games against the A's and 1-6 with a 4.23 ERA in 13 games (11 starts) at the Coliseum.

## **A's: Pitching on a roll**

The A's have compiled a Major League-leading 3.07 ERA (179 earned runs in 524 1/3 innings) since the All-Star break after posting a 3.85 ERA before the break. They lead the AL in ERA, shutouts (15) and fewest extra-base hits allowed (363) and are tied for the lead in pickoffs (24). ... First baseman Daric Barton leads the Majors with 103 walks, and second baseman Mark Ellis is batting .406 (26-for-64) in September and leads the AL in hits this month.

## **Worth noting**

Twenty-three of Chicago's 27 runs allowed in its last four games have come in the seventh inning or later. The White Sox have lost a season-high seven games, and Sox starters are 0-8 with a 7.09 ERA in the last 15 games. ... The A's lead the Majors in steals since the All-Star break and have 140 for the season, which ranks third in the AL and the Majors. It's the most steals by an A's team since the 1992 club had 143.

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## ***Tight shoulder ends Floyd's start early***

By Eric Gilmore

MLB.com

September 21, 2010

OAKLAND -- White Sox right-hander Gavin Floyd was taken out of the game with tightness in the back of his right shoulder after throwing just seven pitches in the first inning Monday night against the A's.

Floyd left the game with a 2-2 count to leadoff hitter Rajai Davis. Tony Pena replaced Floyd and pitched six shutout innings in a 3-0 loss.

"After my past start, I felt a little sore, not normal soreness," Floyd said of his start Wednesday against Minnesota. "I had some treatment on it and felt like it was getting better. I felt like it was going away. Then again, I didn't really let it go, but it felt better.

"I went out there [in the bullpen] and started letting it go and spinning some curveballs. It just felt like it progressively got inflamed a little bit more and more. Sitting on the bench and then going back out there after the half-inning, it felt like it wasn't getting better. I felt it every pitch. It's kind of one of those things you pray it's nothing serious, which I don't think [it is], from what I feel. Just one of those things you don't want to get too serious."

Manager Ozzie Guillen said he won't take any chances with Floyd. If he's not "200 percent" healthy, he'll shut him down for the rest of the season.

"We have to wait to see how he feels tomorrow," Guillen said. "If it gets to the point I've got to shut it down, I will shut it down. There's no reason to risk this kid's career. ... There's no reason to take a chance at this moment."

If Floyd can't make his next start, then Pena "might" take his spot in the rotation, Guillen said.

Floyd is 3-0 with a 1.32 ERA lifetime against the A's, but he has been struggling recently. In his previous start, he allowed nine hits and six earned runs in 5 1/3 innings against the Twins. Before that, he gave up 13 hits and five earned runs against Detroit.

Last year, Floyd injured his left hip on Sept. 16 in a start against Seattle, leaving the game after three innings. He didn't pitch again that season, missing his final two scheduled starts.

### **Jenks to miss White Sox road trip**

OAKLAND -- Reliever Bobby Jenks remained in Chicago and will not join the White Sox on their six-game road trip against the A's and Angels, but manager Ozzie Guillen said he has not given up hope that Jenks will pitch again this season.

Jenks hasn't pitched since Sept. 4 when he saved both ends of a doubleheader against the Red Sox at Fenway Park. He's been sidelined with ulnar neuritis, which causes pain in his right forearm.

"The reason we didn't bring Bobby here is because I'm told the six, seven days we're going to be here, he's not going to throw," Guillen said.

"I hope when we get to Chicago he's going to throw at least one, two innings to finish this year. But I don't have any idea yet."

Jenks' future with the White Sox is in doubt, too. He's third-year arbitration eligible, and there's no guarantee the White Sox will tender him a contract. Guillen said he didn't know whether Jenks would be on the team next year.

"When Bobby's available to pitch, the bullpen is better," Guillen said. "I've been saying that all summer. But like I've said, I don't know what direction we're going to go. I don't know what we have in mind."

"Bobby's been great for this organization since he's been here. He's been good. Bringing him back or not, that's front office people's job. I don't have any idea what they're going to do. We haven't talked about it yet. We haven't had the meetings yet."

### **Beckham postpones BP test of hand**

OAKLAND -- Second baseman Gordon Beckham was out of the lineup for the fifth straight game Monday with a sore right hand, and he pushed back a scheduled batting practice session until Tuesday.

Neither the White Sox nor A's took batting practice on the field -- groundskeepers were busy working to get it back in shape for baseball after Sunday's football game between the Raiders and Rams. But Beckham decided to forgo a stint in the batting cage, too.

"Figure I'll get another day," Beckham said before the game. "I've got a couple issues. Obviously I've got where I got hit. Then I've got a little cut there. We're going to give it one more day then try to hit tomorrow."

Beckham has been battling a sore hand since Aug. 30 at Cleveland when he was hit by a pitch. Since then, he has developed a cut between his right thumb and index finger that he said was caused by a wrap he used to "keep the pressure off" his hand.

"It just kind of developed," Beckham said.

White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen said he expects Beckham to be back in the lineup soon, but he wants to see proof first that he's ready to play.

"Last time he did it -- 'I'm ready, I'm fine, I'm cool' -- he missed a few days because we believed he was fine, but he wasn't," Guillen said.

Beckham has hit .310 since the All-Star break and has raised his average to .252. But he has just three hits in his past 21 at-bats and has no homers and just one extra-base hit since his injury.

"I don't know how many at-bats I've had this month, but ... I've been pretty hurt in those at-bats, so in a way I gave them away," Beckham said. "I brought the average down a little bit. I'm just trying to get out there and play and help the team."

"If I can be out there, I'm going to do it. It's frustrating I got hit there. I've never been without the use of my hands. I think they're one of my best attributes. It's been difficult to get through this, but you've got to play through it sometimes."

Whatever happens the rest of the season, Beckham will go into the offseason knowing he rebounded from a rough first half of the season.

"Yeah, I came back," Beckham said. "I came back from a real tough time in my baseball career. It's always nice to show that you can respond and come back from it, even when you feel like there's no chance you can do it."

### **Worth noting**

Right-hander Freddy Garcia missed his scheduled start Saturday with a sore back, but White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen said he expects Garcia to pitch sometime on this six-game road trip against the A's and Angels. "I won't say I'm counting on him, but I feel pretty optimistic about having him on the mound before we [return] to Chicago," Guillen said. ... The White Sox lost to Detroit in 11 innings Sunday night and didn't arrive in the Bay Area until after 3 a.m. PT Monday. "I didn't get to bed before 4," second baseman Brent Lillibridge said before Monday's game. "It was a long day all together. The ESPN night game always throws you off, but we're OK. Everyone looks like they're alive and got enough sleep." ... Infielder Omar Vizquel is 43, but Guillen said that the way he keeps himself in shape he could play another one or two seasons. "Is he going to be here? I don't know," Guillen said. "He's been great for us."

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## *Walker up in air*

### **Hitting coach exhausted, denies decision on 2011 has been made**

By Joe Cowley

Chicago Sun-Times

September 21, 2010

OAKLAND, Calif. -- It's that time of year, when some believed truths are nothing more than rumors, and some rumors have a whole lot of truth to them.

It's a climate White Sox hitting coach Greg Walker has become familiar with over the last few seasons.

So it came as no surprise to him that there was talk brewing that he'd step down after the season, despite having a year left on his contract.

"No, every year I evaluate it at the end of the year," Walker said Monday when asked if he was calling it quits. "I've got a contract here next year. First of all, [manager] Ozzie [Guillen] has expressed that he wants me to come back, so that's an option. I always sit down with [chairman] Jerry [Reinsdorf] and see if he's happy with the way things are going. But, no, I haven't made any decisions one way or the other at all. There are so many rumors floating around right now."

Walker admitted that he was exhausted from this season, especially the beating he took in the court of fan opinion at the start of the season.

"It takes so much out of me physically and mentally these years, from the first day of spring training, pretty much like it does every guy in this room," Walker said. "That's why you don't make decisions this time of year. Everyone is frustrated because we didn't finish it off. All I know is I have a contract next year, and Ozzie wants me back. You have to sit down with your family and talk. There are a lot of things that go into it."

Since taking over the position in May 2003, Walker-coached offenses have put up historic franchise numbers, leading the major leagues in homers in 2006 and 2008.

When the team started slowly in April and May, he was once again under scrutiny.

Not that Walker was surprised.

"My skin has gotten very thick in that regard, but at times you wish that you would have built up a little more goodwill because we have done some pretty neat things here over the years," Walker said. "And I think at times -- I don't know if it's to sell tickets or what -- we've told people we were a little more talented than what we were in a

given year or maybe we just misjudged it. I know last year you looked up at a given time, and we had Chris Getz and Josh Fields hitting 1-2 a month into the season and Brian Anderson and Dewayne Wise [in the lineup]. Nothing against those guys, but they just weren't ready to handle those roles. ... I don't know if we were that good a team last year.

"This year, I felt like we were. For about three months, we were as good as it got. Most smart people could look at the numbers and see what happened, but the main thing that happened was the Minnesota Twins are really good, and they kicked our rear ends."

There are other factors involved in Walker's decision.

He isn't the only Sox rumor of the day. It's no secret that general manager Ken Williams and Guillen have as wide a disconnect as they've had in their seven-year relationship as GM and manager. What if Guillen is elsewhere after the season?

"I'll use common sense," Walker said. "I've always said I don't want to be here if they don't want me here. They've always expressed that they do want me here. Jerry just insists every year that I come back, and he might change his mind. I don't think so. Every year it's a decision to be made, and I don't make it during the season."

"If it's out there otherwise, it's not true. But I haven't told them that I was coming back, either. The year after we won the World Series I didn't know if I was coming back, so it's a year-to-year job."

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## ***Sore-armed Jenks stays home to get extra treatment***

Chicago Sun-Times

September 21, 2010

OAKLAND, Calif. -- Thanks to the game Sunday night being televised by ESPN and going 11 innings, the White Sox arrived in San Francisco early Monday.

They were a **Bobby Jenks** light on arrival.

Manager **Ozzie Guillen** said the closer stayed in Chicago so he could get extra treatment for the tightness in his pitching forearm that has sidelined him for two weeks.

"The reason we didn't bring Bobby here was because I thought the six or seven days we're going to be here, he's not going to throw," Guillen said. "[Trainer] **Hermie [Schneider]** knows better about what kind of rehab he's going to do. He's not going to throw on the mound for the next four to six days, so I didn't see why we [needed] to bring him here.

"I hope when we get to Chicago he can throw one or two innings to see if he can finish this year."

And what about next season?

Jenks made \$7.5 million in arbitration last year and has one more year of the process this offseason before he can become a free agent after the 2011 season. The Sox have been rumored to be shopping him the last two winters, and it would seem like his days finally are numbered.

"I don't know," Guillen said. "There's no doubt when Bobby's on the mound or available to pitch, our bullpen is better. ... I don't know what direction we're going to go. Bobby's been great for this organization. Bring him back or not, that's the front-office people's job."

"We haven't talked about it yet. I have to wait and have a clearer idea if we're going to have meetings to see what we have in mind."

### **New lineup, bad result**

Guillen went with a new-look lineup Monday against the A's, giving **Brent Lillibridge** the start at second and the leadoff spot, hitting **Alexei Ramirez** second and playing **Ramon Castro** and **Brent Morel**. Still missing was **Gordon Beckham** (sore right hand).

The switches failed to spark the Sox, who only had four hits and lost 3-0. **Scott Linebrink** (3-2) came on in relief in a scoreless game in the seventh and gave up all three runs.

### **Garcia likely to pitch**

Starter **Freddy Garcia** and his injured back are likely to pitch on this road trip, Guillen said before the game.

"I expect Freddy to pitch this trip," Guillen said. "I don't know where. I expect him to do it. He's going to throw in the pen.

"I don't say I count on him, but I feel optimistic about having him on the mound before we go to Chicago, and that's the way we look at it."

Garcia is 11-6 with a 4.88 ERA.

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## ***Sox recap***

Chicago Sun-Times

September 21, 2010

### **Thanks, Brad**

**Ozzie Guillen** had a present waiting for him when he arrived at the ballpark Monday. Actor **Brad Pitt** left Guillen an autographed baseball for Guillen to use for his charity.

### **Short outing**

**Gavin Floyd** didn't help a struggling rotation. He left the game against the A's after throwing only seven pitches with soreness in the back of his right shoulder.

### **Open arms**

Guillen is adamant that he's not responsible for roster decisions, but he said he would love to have **Omar Vizquel** back next season. The veteran is a free agent after this season.

### **SOX TRAGIC NUMBER: 2**

This represents the combination of Twins victories and Sox losses that will eliminate the Sox.

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## ***Floyd leaves early in Sox's 7th straight loss***

**Right-hander throws 7 pitches before exiting with tightness in shoulder**

By Mark Gonzales

Chicago Tribune

September 21, 2010

OAKLAND, Calif. — Gavin Floyd lasted only seven pitches Monday night, about two hours after manager Ozzie Guillen wondered whether Bobby Jenks would return and A.J. Pierzynski pondered his future after his late surge.

That was the state of the Sox as they moved closer to elimination in the American League Central.

Floyd left because of tightness behind his right shoulder after delivering a pitch in the bottom of the first to Rajai Davis.

Tony Pena relieved Floyd and matched left-hander Gio Gonzalez through six innings before Oakland scored three times off Scott Linebrink in the seventh to seize a 3-0 victory and hand the Sox their seventh consecutive loss and lower their tragic number to two for elimination in the Central.

Meanwhile, Jenks didn't accompany the Sox on their six-game trip that started Monday because the medical staff determined he wouldn't be available to pitch after missing the last two weeks because of ulnar neuritis in his right elbow.

Guillen hoped that Jenks could pitch one or two innings before the season ends on Oct.3 but wasn't sure about his future. Jenks will earn \$7.5 million this season. He has 27 saves and a 4.44 ERA while dealing with various injuries.

The Sox could try to trade the arbitration-eligible Jenks or non-tender him if they decide not to bring him back.

"Bobby's been great for this organization since he's been here," Guillen said. "Bring him back or not, that's the front office people's job. I don't have any idea what they're going to do. We haven't talked about it yet."

Pierzynski, 33, in the final year of his contract, has raised his batting average in the last 31 games from .231 to .272 and surpassed 1,000 innings caught for the ninth consecutive season.

"You have to ask them," Pierzynski replied when asked whether his late streak might help his chances of staying. "I have no idea."

But hitting coach Greg Walker sensed early that Pierzynski wasn't going to have an easy season.

"I felt deep down A.J. was going to have a hard time early in the year thinking this might be his last year," Walker said. "I thought it was going to make A.J. press, and I expressed it. And he fought it. He just couldn't give in. He just couldn't.

"He was trying and pressing. And finally, it got so bad he knew that he wasn't going to hit .330 with 30 home runs on his walk year, and we started winning and he was going to be a big part of it."

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## ***Pitt autograph to be a money ball for Guillen***

## Sox manager plans to auction off gift for his foundation

By Mark Gonzales

Chicago Tribune

September 20, 2010

OAKLAND — —

Ozzie Guillen found a unique gift Monday when he arrived at the visiting manager's office at the Oakland Coliseum.

With the help of visiting clubhouse attendant **Mike Thalbalum**, Guillen received an autographed baseball from actor Brad Pitt, who spent several weeks at the Coliseum filming his role as Oakland general manager **Billy Beane** for the movie "Moneyball."

"This guy can act, but I don't know if he can sign," Guillen quipped. "It (the autograph) looked funny."

But Guillen was otherwise delighted because he is planning to auction the ball for his foundation, which raises money for children's causes.

**Injury updates:** Second baseman **Gordon Beckham** said he would test his sore right hand Tuesday. Neither the Sox nor the Athletics took pregame batting practice because the field was still being converted to baseball after St. Louis and Oakland played an NFL game Sunday.

Guillen said he would give Beckham an extra day to recover after he feels ready.

"We've seen this kid swing the bat for almost two years," Guillen said. "His swing wasn't the same as it always is. I expect him to be back soon. But we got to wait to see how he feels."

Guillen also expects pitcher Freddy Garcia to start a game on this trip. Garcia moved back his bullpen session to Tuesday.

**Extra innings:** General manager **Ken Williams** plans to travel to Glendale, Ariz., this week as the Sox start Instructional League workouts Tuesday. Among the top prospects in the organization that will participate are pitchers **Jake Petricka**, **Addison Reed** and **Thomas Royse**; catchers **Michael Blanke**, **Josh Phegley** and **Miguel Gonzalez**; infielder **Jon Gilmore**; and outfielders **Jared Mitchell**, Brandon Short and **Trayce Thompson**. Instructional League games start Sept. 27 and run through Oct. 16.

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## *Remainder of Floyd's season in question*

By Mark Gonzales

Chicago Tribune

September 21, 2010

OAKLAND, Calif. - White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen said he won't let Gavin Floyd take his next start on Sunday unless he's "200 percent."

In that case, it looks like Floyd's season might have ended Monday night after he threw seven pitches and felt recurring tightness behind his right shoulder.

"I don't think it was anything serious, but it was sore," said Floyd, who said he felt the discomfort after his last start on Sept. 15 against Minnesota. "So I hope that I can pitch. But if not, I'll just get ready for next season."

Floyd has thrown 187 1/3 innings this season, but he had allowed 12 runs on 22 hits in his two previous starts.

"Last thing I want is to have this snowball and become even worse," Floyd said. "I don't know if anything is going to happen. I feel like it's just soreness. The last thing you want is it to be too bad so the worst-case scenario comes into play."

Said Guillen: "There's no reason to risk this kid's year and career with an injury and spend the off-season recovering."

If Floyd is shut down, Tony Pena would take his start Sunday against the Los Angeles Angels.

Pena, who pitched six scoreless innings, said he is going to pitch this winter in his native Dominican Republic as a starter.

As for the outcome, Guillen was more disappointed by the Sox's seventh consecutive loss than that their tragic number for elimination from the American League Central was reduced to two.

"That losing streak come at a bad time," Guillen said. As for the possibility of being eliminated, "I knew we did everything in our hands to not be eliminated," Guillen said. "(The losing streak) came at bad time for us."

The Sox also were limited to four hits while striking out seven times against former Sox prospect Gio Gonzalez, who displayed one of the best breaking pitchers by an AL left-hander.

"He's come a long way," Guillen said of Gonzalez, whom the Sox traded with outfielder Ryan Sweeney and Fautino De Los Santos for Nick Swisher before the 2008 season. "This kid threw a lot of strikes. This kid has a lot of confidence in himself. He's always going to be good. Since high school, he wants to be good, wants to be noticed. He wants people to talk about him."

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## ***Pierzynski unsure about return to White Sox***

By Mark Gonzales

Chicago Tribune

September 20, 2010

OAKLAND, Calif. - A.J. Pierzynski's latest hot streak has made his season respectable, at least from a statistical standpoint.

But it could be too late, although he and Boston's Victor Martinez appear to be the top free agent catchers on the market this winter.

"You have to ask them," Pierzynski replied Monday when asked whether his late streak might help his chances of staying. "I have no idea. I have no idea on that one."

Pierzynski, 33, in the final year of his contract, has raised his batting average in the past 31 games from .231 to .272, and he surpassed the 1,000-mark in innings caught for the ninth consecutive season.

"The numbers have come a long way," Pierzynski said. "If you had said a month ago I'd be where I'm at, I'd say no way but it's nice to see and prove people wrong and that I was getting old. So the numbers at the end of the year are going to be where the numbers are going to be. I just have to work and believe they'll be there."

But hitting coach Greg Walker sensed that Pierzynski was in for a battle dating back to spring training.

"I felt deep down A.J. was going to have a hard time early in the year thinking this might be his last year," Walker said. "I thought it was going to make A.J. press and I expressed it. And he fought it. He just couldn't give in. He just couldn't. He was trying, pressing, pressing, pressing. And finally, it got so bad he knew that he wasn't going to hit .330 with 30 home runs on his walk year, and we started winning and he was going to be a big part of it."

"A.J. is always going to hit. He's a very good hitter. Some times his approach hurts him. He swings at bad pitches, swings early in counts. There are a lot of things you can say about A.J.'s game, but the bottom line is he's going to hit .280 plus, drive in 50 to 70 runs and hit 10 to 15 home runs and be a clutch hitter for you. And if you get him in the playoffs or World Series, watch out. Because he's going to win games for you down the stretch. And he's a big-game player."

"I just felt early in the year, not because of money, it's about 'OK, this possibly could be my last year in Chicago, and this is my comfort zone and this is my home,' and I don't think he handled it well."

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## ***Jenks' future with White Sox in question?***

By Mark Gonzales

Chicago Tribune

September 20, 2010

OAKLAND, Calif. - White Sox closer Bobby Jenks, who hasn't pitched since Sept. 4, didn't accompany the team on its West Coast trip and stayed in the Chicago area to rehabilitate his right arm.

This further fuels the uncertainty on whether Jenks, who has pitched for the Sox since 2005, will return next season. He will earn \$7.5 million this season and is arbitration eligible but has been hindered by injuries and inconsistency. Jenks is currently sidelined because of ulnar neuritis.

Manager Ozzie Guillen wasn't sure if Jenks would return for the Sox in 2011.

"There's no doubt when Bobby's on the mound or available to pitch, our bullpen is better," Guillen said. "I keep saying that all summer. But like I say, I don't know what direction we're going to go, don't know what we have in mind. Bobby's been great for this organization since he's been here. He's been good."

"Bring him back or not, that's the front office people's job. I don't have any idea what they're going to do. We haven't talked about it yet. We haven't had any meetings yet. I have to wait and have a clearer idea if we're going to have the meetings to see what we have in mind."

General manager Ken Williams said last week he wasn't sure if the Sox would hold their traditional organizational meetings, since he already has met with groups of talent evaluators and could finish discussions with other staff members by the end of the regular season.

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## ***Floyd leaves early as A's keep Sox on skids***

By Scot Gregor

Daily Herald

September 21, 2010

Since chasing down the Twins and winning the AL Central is no longer possible, there is a new obvious question for the White Sox:

Are they going to be able to finish the season with enough healthy players to field a starting nine?

The Sox' injury list continued to increase during Monday night's game at Oakland.

Starter Gavin Floyd had to leave the game in the first inning with right shoulder tightness after throwing just 7 pitches. Tony Pena relieved Floyd and kept the reeling White Sox in the game through six innings.

Oakland, though, got a 2-run single from Kurt Suzuki in a 3-run seventh, and the A's won 3-0 to send the Sox to their seventh straight loss.

In addition to losing games in the standings to Minnesota, the Sox have been losing players to injury in droves.

Still scheduled to make 2 more starts this season, Floyd could be shut down since there is no reason to risk a more serious injury.

Another White Sox starter, Jake Peavy, has been done since for the season since July 6 with a detached latissimus dorsi muscle.

Freddy Garcia has some potential nerve damage in his lower back and his season might be over as well, although Sox manager Ozzie Guillen said the veteran right-hander might return to the mound on the six-game West Coast trip that moves to Anaheim over the weekend.

"I expect Freddy to pitch this road trip," Guillen told reporters. "I don't know where, but I expect him to do it. I feel pretty optimistic about having him on the mound before we go back to Chicago."

Why risk pitching Garcia? Eligible for free agency at the end of the season and hardly a lock to return to the White Sox in 2011, Garcia would like to show other interested teams the back injury is not serious.

Closer Bobby Jenks (elbow) is not even on the trip, and fellow relievers Matt Thornton (elbow) and J.J. Putz (knee) returned less than 100 percent after breaking down in August.

It has been a rough few weeks, but Guillen tried to stay upbeat even after the Sox lost six in a row before heading to Oakland.

"It's been weird," Guillen said. "All summer ... there's one thing I'm going to give to the team, they played very hard. I think they really, really went out there and busted their tails. We were in a bad situation for a long time and then we came out very good, we fought through it."

"The last homestand in Chicago was pretty bad. We didn't play bad; they played way better than we did. It doesn't matter how good you played or how bad you played, did you win or not? That's the way I look at it."

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***Looks like Jenks won't pitch again this season***

By Scot Gregor

Daily Herald

September 21, 2010

Has Bobby Jenks pitched his last game in a White Sox uniform?

With less than two weeks to go in the regular season, the answer appears to be yes.

Sidelined since Sept. 4 with ulnar neuritis after saving both games of a doubleheader at Boston, Jenks stayed back in Chicago when the Sox made their final road trip of the season that opened Monday night in Oakland.

"Bobby's home," White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen told reporters. "The six, seven days we're going to be here, he's not going to throw. I don't see why we have to bring him here. I hope when we get back to Chicago he can throw at least 1 inning, 2 innings to see if he can finish this year. But I don't have any idea yet."

Jenks has been sidelined with calf, back and elbow ailments this season, and the 29-year-old reliever has been erratic (1-3, 4.44 ERA, 4 blown saves) when he has been healthy enough to perform.

Eligible for arbitration at the end of the season, the Sox are likely to nontender Jenks, which would make him a free agent.

"I don't know," Guillen said. "There's no doubt when Bobby's available to pitch, the bullpen's better. I've been saying that all summer. But I don't know what direction we're going to go; I don't know what we have in mind.

"Bobby's been great for this organization since he's been here. He's been good. To bring him back or not, that's the front office people's job. We haven't talked about it yet."

**Still sitting:** Gordon Beckham took another seat on the bench Monday with a sore right hand, and the White Sox' second baseman doesn't figure to return until Wednesday at the earliest.

Beckham has 3 hits in his last 21 at-bats.

"As soon as he tells me he's ready to go, we'll give him another day," manager Ozzie Guillen said. "He's got to start hitting. I've seen this kid swing the bat for almost two years and the swing I saw wasn't the same."

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## ***Floyd exits early in White Sox seventh straight loss***

By Brett Ballantini

CSNChicago.com

September 21, 2010

OAKLAND – It was a game that had all the marks of a Little League makeup game, a March high school game forced inside a gymnasium due to snow, or, well; any recent vintage Chicago White Sox tilt.

The Oakland Athletics were the latest ballclub drawn into the South Siders' malaise, matching the visitors gaffe-for-gaffe before breaking through with a seventh-inning rally that erupted from a—no kidding—single, sacrifice bunt/error, bunt single and fielder's choice.

Daric Barton was the author of the phantom game-winning RBI in that seventh, and the A's would later fully anesthetize the Chisox by plating a couple of two-out runs on a Kurt Suzuki single in the frame. It put Oakland up by the eventual final score, 3-0.

For those fans at home who will be waiting for the Easter Bunny come April, Chicago's seventh straight loss coupled with another (what-new) Twins win drops Minnesota's magic number to clinch the A.L. Central to two.

From the White Sox standpoint, of utmost concern was an injury to starter Gavin Floyd that sidelined the starter just seven pitches into the game, as he battled Oakland leadoff hitter Rajai Davis.

"We have to wait and see how he feels tomorrow," Guillen offered as an initial prognosis. "There's no reason to risk this kid's year, or career. [If we have to] we'll keep fighting with the rest of the guys."

"I went out there and let it go, spinning some curveballs, and it felt progressively inflamed," Floyd said. "It felt like it wasn't getting better, and I felt it every pitch. I tried to fight through it, even through warm-ups, and felt like maybe it was going to get better, but it got progressively worse when I started throwing other [pitches]. When I get out there, and I get extension, that's when it bothers me."

Chicago's Tony Pena again delivered yeoman work on short notice, following his sterling start Aug. 21 vs. the Kansas City Royals with Monday night's six innings of six-hit, scoreless ball, striking out three and walking two.

"I was surprised," said Pena, who earned the win vs. the Royals but took a no-decision on Monday. "They told me I had to be ready because Floyd wasn't feeling good, get in the bullpen and you're going to have a chance to go in the game.

"In Kansas City, I got a chance to start and threw seven innings [for the win]. Tonight, I felt good. My arm feels good. I feel like I can do this."

"He was unbelievable," Guillen said. "He might take Gavin's spot. I'm not going to pitch Gavin unless he's 200 percent. I'm not taking the chance [of further injury]."

Oakland's pitching held the White Sox to just four hits and one extra-base knock, an Andruw Jones flyball that Chris Carter misplayed and Jones blasé into a double.

Chicago was 0-for-6 with runners in scoring position and left nine on base in the game, courtesy of free passes from A's hurlers. The assault was led by starter and ex-White Sox prospect Gio Gonzalez, who threw six innings of four-hit, shutout ball, striking out seven.

"He threw a lot of strikes," Guillen said. "He always had confidence in himself [and] wanted to be good, to be noticed. He's matured, and he throws more strikes. Today every time he got in trouble, he could throw breaking balls for strikes."

Chisox catcher Ramon Castro had a game of limited distinction, leaving five men on base with two outs (and six total) in the game en route to an 0-for-4, career-high three-strikeout night.

"Very bad," Guillen said of his team's offensive game. "When we got something going with two out, we struck out. I don't know if it was a late night last night, but today was kind of flat. If we have to make an excuse, then that's the excuse for the way we played today. Hopefully, tomorrow we get our emotions back."

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## ***Pitching fits: Garcia working hard, Jenks absent***

By Brett Ballantini

CSNChicago.com

September 20, 2010

OAKLAND – Something to watch down the stretch, White Sox fans, is the fate of two of the remaining three pitchers from the 2005 World Series-winning Chicago squad, Freddy Garcia and Bobby Jenks.

Garcia has been gradually recovering from back pain he's attempted to fight through since the beginning of September. Garcia pitched six innings in his two most recent, aborted starts, the first an eventual 6-4 win over the Cleveland Indians on Sept. 1 and the second a two-inning effort in a 11-6 loss at the Detroit Tigers on Sept. 7. In the process of recovery, Garcia has even received an epidural to relieve the discomfort in his back and aid the then still-alive White Sox playoff hopes.

Garcia has been a true, key cog on the White Sox this season, and is arguably the biggest surprise of the team in 2010. His numbers are nowhere near gaudy (4.88 ERA, and his first sub-2.00 K/BB—1.93—in a decade), but his 62 percent mark on quality starts is second-best among the team's four season-long starters, trailing John Danks by a wisp and leading Mark Buehrle and Gavin Floyd.

"I expect Freddy to pitch this trip," White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen said. "I don't know where. I expect him to [pitch again but] he's got to throw in the pen [first]. I won't say I'm counting on him, but I feel optimistic about having him on the mound before we [return] to Chicago."

Guillen has been awestruck by Garcia's season, and of late, the veteran starter's pain threshold. On the flip side, Guillen has been relatively dismissive of Jenks, subscribing to an outta-site, outta-mind philosophy with his wounded closer. Little changed in his comments on Monday in Oakland.

"Bobby's home," Guillen said, surprising his pregame media gathering with the news that Jenks had been left behind. "The six or seven days we're going to be here, he's not going to throw, so I don't see why we would bring him here. [White Sox trainer Herm Schneider] knows better about what rehab [Jenks is] going to do."

Jenks, on the other hand, seems to have packed his season in. I said it last week, and I'll repeat it, with a relatively poor season (just 27 saves, a career low, and a 4.44 ERA, a career high and Jenks's first-ever ERA worse than the league average) marked again by iffy conditioning, Jenks is almost certain to leave Chicago after the 2010 season.

The burly closer has been increasingly slowed by injuries and was already on his way out after making \$7.5 million this season and looking for a raise in 2011. But the strained forearm that will essentially erase his September has soured for good his future with the team.

While Jake Peavy is on this trip despite his best contribution to the team being antes to the pot on a bad poker night, Jenks is back in Chicago, purportedly to rehab his right arm in ways he could not on the trip with the team.

"When Bobby's on the mound or available to pitch, our bullpen is better," said Guillen, chanting again the mantra he's spun all summer. "But I don't know what direction we're going to go, don't know what we have in mind. Bobby's been great for this organization since he's been here."

If it turns out Jenks has tossed his last with the White Sox, he will go down as the team's second-best fireman of all-time, with 173 saves trailing only Bobby Thigpen's 201. And he will also have gone out on a high note, with badass doubleheader saves on Sept. 4 at the Red Sox.

"[Bringing Jenks back is] the front office people's job," Guillen said. "I don't have any idea what they're going to do. We haven't talked about it yet. We haven't had any meetings yet. I have to wait and have a clearer idea."

If that sounds like Guillen is hedging, he is. There's a clear idea of what the future holds, and that future has any number of options, from Sergio Santos to Chris Sale to J.J. Putz to Matt Thornton, taking a crack at filling Jenks's shoes for a fraction of the price. It would be overly dramatic to say Jenks's lost September is the final straw, but while Garcia is fighting like hell to get back on the mound to finish out the season, Jenks is packing up his locker.

It's not just moxie—or the lack of—that has separated the two pitchers as their time in Chicago winds short. Garcia's 2010 efforts have produced 1.4 WAR, which is by no means spectacular but downright stellar for the starter's \$1 million pricetag. Conversely, the only pitcher on the White Sox full-season roster worse than Jenks's 0.3 WAR is Tony



Pena's -0.6. As overpaid as Scott Linebrink is, he also boasts a 0.3 WAR for \$2.5 million less than Jenks.

"I hope when we get to Chicago, at least he can throw one or two innings to see if he can finish the year," Guillen said.

Guillen, while fully respecting the enormous role Jenks has played for the White Sox in his six seasons on the South Side, surely doesn't believe he will.

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## ***Beckham rushed back, Guillen breaks own rule***

By Brett Ballantini

CSNChicago.com

September 20, 2010

OAKLAND – Chicago White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen all but admitted he'd betrayed one of his iron-clad rules in rushing Gordon Beckham back from a hand injury two weekends ago at the Boston Red Sox.

"We believed he was fine [in Boston], but he wasn't," Guillen said of his prized second sacker. "We've seen this kid swing the bat for a year and a half [and] his swing [while injured] wasn't the same as it always is."

Beckham has struggled of late, going 3-21 in his last seven games after a resurgent second half that saw him raise his average from .205 to as high as .258 as recently as Sept. 5.

"He's got to start hitting. As soon as he's ready, we'll give him another day," Guillen said.

That comment reinforces one of his own seemingly unbendable rules: An injured player recovers and is declared ready to play, then sits one more day for good measure.

Beckham is hungry to get back whenever injured but all but admits he unknowingly returned too quickly, bruising his hand further while trying to swing at less than 100%.

It was in Detroit where Bacon finally admitted he was hurting the team by being unable to perform at 100%. During the Minnesota Twins series last week, Beckham was wearing a wrap on his hand in order to play, but went 1-7 in two starts. The sophomore has missed seven games in September after missing 16 in the first five months of the season.

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## ***Bullpen woes mirror team struggles***

By Doug Padilla

ESPNChicago.com

September 21, 2010

OAKLAND, Calif. -- It has all pretty much fallen apart now, but when it first started to turn in the second half it was a string of bad luck that befell the White Sox.

The White Sox are 30-33 in the second half, and have pretty much been dealing with bullpen injuries that entire time.

The unfortunate events first started with a sore lower back for Bobby Jenks on the 10-game road trip to open the second half. A month later it was both Matt Thornton (elbow inflammation) and J.J. Putz (knee tendinitis) going to the disabled list on the same day. Jenks is hurt again, this time with ulnar neuritis (a sore forearm).

"It throws the bullpen alignment in shambles a little bit," Matt Thornton said about injuries to key relievers. "We had a good going there where Sergio [Santos] would come in and finish an inning out for a starter and then J.J. [Putz] and myself would throw the seventh or eighth inning depending on the matchups and Bobby would be our closer. When you name somebody the closer everybody works to get him the ball. That's what we had going real well."

Consistency from the starting rotation also started to wane in the second half, adding additional strain to the bullpen.

"Everything revolves around our starting pitching, always," Thornton said. "When we were in the midst of our great run in June, July and the start of August, it was all starting pitching. Starting pitching and defense is going to win baseball games."

It was the bullpen that had to absorb all of the outs in Monday's game at Oakland, when starter Gavin Floyd had to leave while facing the leadoff hitter due to tightness in the back of his right shoulder. Tony Pena delivered sox scoreless innings, but Scott Linebrink gave up three runs (one earned) in one inning and the White Sox were left with a 3-0 defeat.

Where the first half was good times for the bullpen, things seemed to change after the All-Star break, especially with key relievers.

□ Santos had a 1.93 ERA in 28 innings in the first half and has a 4.71 mark in 21 innings of the second half. He had a .216 batting average against before the All-Star break and a .311 mark after it.

□ Thornton had a 4.08 strikeout-to-walk ratio in the first half and just a 3.29 ratio in the second half while watching his ERA jump from 2.70 to 3.86.

□ Putz had a .200 opponents' on-base percentage in the first half compared to a .354 mark in the second half. His strikeout-to-walk ratio also jumped from 6.67 to 3.00

□ Jenks gave up 14 earned runs over 32 2/3 innings in the first half. In just 20 innings in the second half he gave up 12 earned runs. Jenks, though, improved in some areas like his 2.79 strikeout-to-walk ratio compared to a 5.50 second-half mark. He also had 14 first-half walks compared to four after the break.

"You have ups and down in a year and everybody's going to have their bullpen struggle at different times of the season," Thornton said. "Very rarely do you have a team that's lights out from the beginning of the season to the end and we've had five really good months of baseball from the bullpen, quality pitching and done a good job or the most part. You're always going to have bad games here and there but consistently over the long haul we've done a pretty good job."

Indeed, the bullpen's 8.97 walks per nine innings would be a franchise record if the season ended today. That mark is the best in the American League. The White Sox relievers are also third in save percentage (73.6) as well as fifth in saves with 39. Their 3.90 ERA was sixth.

"I think the pieces we have a lot of teams would die to have," Thornton said. "With the addition of [Chris] Sale here in the last month and Sergio had a great year, J.J. had another solid year, Bobby was great when he was healthy. It's one of those things where you have a lot of great arms out there and a lot of teams where these guys would be closers for. It's one of those things where you hit a rough patch and get exposed a little bit."

## By the numbers

7: Consecutive defeats for the White Sox after Monday's 3-0 loss to the A's. It is the club's longest losing streak since losing seven consecutive April 28-May 5 2008.

"Very bad [play]. I don't know if it was a late night last night but today was kind of flat. Hopefully we change back to the [regular] emotions. Today was kind of a lousy game. I don't think we got anything done. We had something going on the bases with two outs and struck out. Meanwhile if we have to make an excuse, that's the excuse for the way we played today," - Guillen, after the team arrived at its Bay Area hotel at 4 a.m. Monday and was shut out by the A's later that night.

## Look ahead

White Sox left-hander Mark Buehrle (12-11, 4.16) will try for his second career victory at Oakland when he pitches there Tuesday. His first career victory in the A's home park came earlier this season. He is 1-6 at Oakland in his career with a 4.23 ERA in 13 games (11 starts). Buehrle needs 7 2/3 innings to reach 200 for the 10th time in his career.

Buehrle will be opposed by A's right-hander Trevor Cahill (16-7, 2.84), who has posted all of his victories since the start of May. As of Monday, Cahill was tied for sixth in the AL with his 16 victories. He is 10-2 at home this season with a 1.58 ERA in 13 starts.

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## *Guillen makes Brad Pitt connection*

By Doug Padilla

ESPNChicago.com

September 20, 2010

OAKLAND, Calif. -- Manager Ozzie Guillen is the proud owner of a Brad Pitt autographed baseball that he plans to auction off for his charity foundation.

When the White Sox were in Oakland earlier this season, film crews were preparing to shoot scenes from "Moneyball," starring Pitt. Guillen asked the visiting clubhouse attendant if he could get Pitt to sign a ball.

Guillen got his ball Monday, with what appeared to be Pitt's initials of "BP." In all honesty, it looked more like that symbol the musician Prince used to use for his moniker.

On a curious note, when scenes were shot in the press box, the A's beat reporters were wearing ties and fedoras. Looking at the actual group of local writers covering Monday's game there wasn't a tie or fedora in sight, although one writer was actually wearing a dress shirt.

Guess they really have turned "Moneyball" into a work of fiction.

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## *Beckham expected back soon*

By Doug Padilla

ESPNChicago.com

September 20, 2010

OAKLAND, Calif. – After arriving at their Bay Area hotel at 4 a.m. Monday morning, the White Sox called off batting practice before their game against the A's.

That also meant that Gordon Beckham didn't have a chance to test his sore right hand that was originally injured Aug. 30 when he was hit by a pitch at Cleveland.

Manager Ozzie Guillen wants Beckham to first test his hand by taking swings in batting practice. When he says he is ready, Guillen plans on giving Beckham one more day of rest after that before using him again.

It clearly sounded as if the White Sox fully intend to have Beckham take the field again before the season ends.

"We [saw] this kid swing the bat for a year and half, almost two years and his swing wasn't the same as it always is," Guillen said. "I expect him to be back soon. But we got to wait to see how he feels."

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## ***Gavin Floyd injures shoulder***

By Doug Padilla

September 21, 2010

OAKLAND, Calif. -- White Sox starter Gavin Floyd left Monday's game after seven pitches and could be lost for the season.

He was diagnosed with tightness in the back of his right shoulder, something that has bothered him since his start last week against the Twins. The injury isn't deemed to be serious, and the White Sox want to make sure it stays that way.

"I'm not going to go and pitch Gavin again unless he's 200 percent [healthy]," manager Ozzie Guillen said. "I'm not going to listen to him say, 'Oh, I feel OK.' Nah, I'm not taking that chance. If we take that chance, all of a sudden we regret it."

After a foul ball from Oakland leadoff hitter Rajai Davis, Floyd first received a visit from catcher Ramon Castro. Guillen and trainer Herm Schneider came to the mound soon after that, and Floyd walked off the field.

"It felt like it progressively got inflamed more and more," Floyd said. "It felt like it wasn't getting better. I felt it every pitch, and it's one of those things that you [hope] is nothing serious, which I don't think it is. It's one of those things you don't want to get too serious."

He was replaced by Tony Pena, who ended up throwing six scoreless innings. Guillen said that if Floyd missed any of his next two starts, Pena would likely take over his spot.

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## ***Jenks not on road trip***

By Doug Padilla

ESPNChicago.com

September 20, 2010

OAKLAND, Calif. -- Reliever Bobby Jenks, out with forearm soreness, did not make the trip to the West Coast.

The White Sox play three games at Oakland this week and three at Anaheim over the weekend.

"The reason we don't bring Bobby here because I thought the six-to-seven days we're going to be here, he's not going to throw," manager Ozzie Guillen said. "[Trainer Herm Schneider] knows better about what kind of rehab he's going to do. He's got to be in some place to do the stuff. He's not going to throw on the mound for the next four-to-six days, then I don't see why we got to bring him here."

Jenks hasn't been shut down for the season, though, and manager Ozzie Guillen hopes the right-hander will pitch on the final homestand of the season.

As for Jenks' future with the organization, that remains up in the air as well. Jenks is arbitration eligible for 2011, but the White Sox have the option of not tendering him a contract. He becomes a free agent in 2012.

"I don't know," Guillen said. "There's no doubt when Bobby's on the mound or available to pitch, our bullpen is better. I keep saying that all summer. But like I say, I don't know what direction we're going to go, don't know what we have in mind."

"Bobby's been great for this organization since he's been here. He's been good. Bring him back or not, that's the front office people's job. I don't have any idea what they're going to do. We haven't talked about it yet. We haven't had any meetings yet. I have to wait and have a clearer idea if we're going to have the meetings to see what we have in mind."

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## ***White Sox P Floyd done for season?***

By Mark J. Miller

Yahoo Sports

September 21, 2010

The Chicago White Sox have lost seven straight and are now 11 games back in the American League Central so things are pretty much done there for the season. One person in particular who may be finished there for the year is pitcher Gavin Floyd (notes), who left the game after seven pitches last night due to "recurring tightness behind his right shoulder."

The Chicago Tribune reports that Manager Ozzie Guillen won't let Floyd take his next start unless he's "200 percent."

"I don't think it was anything serious, but it was sore," Floyd told the paper. "So I hope that I can pitch. But if not, I'll just get ready for next season."

Floyd first felt the tightness after his last start on Sept. 15. He has gone 10-13 this season with a 4.08 ERA and 151 strikeouts.

"There's no reason to risk this kid's year and career with an injury and spend the off-season recovering," Guillen told the paper.

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## ***Dugout disruption: Managerial changes could set MLB record***

By Bob Nightengale

USA Today

September 20, 2010

It is approaching midnight, and the game has been over for nearly three hours. The visiting clubhouse at U.S. Cellular Field is empty except for attendants waiting to lock the doors.

Baltimore Orioles manager Buck Showalter, still in uniform and poking at a dinner that has turned cold, is in no rush to leave.

"People don't realize what a lonely job this can be," says Showalter, hired in July for his fourth major league managerial stint. "You do everything you can in your power to make it happen, to win, and be there as long as you can.

"But I'm not naive anymore. I've learned this is a business. All you've got to do is look around and see what's happening out there."

Indeed, the span between opening day 2010 and the presumed end of the managerial merry-go-round this winter might produce unprecedented upheaval.

The record for managerial changes in a calendar year is 13, produced in 1992 and 2003. This year, seven teams are switching managers (the Orioles have done it twice), a mark reached when the Los Angeles Dodgers announced Don Mattingly will take over for Joe Torre in October.

**DAILY PITCH:** Will Mets be enticing to Torre?

**MORE:** USA TODAY's analysis on where managers may land

At least two teams — and maybe as many as 16 — will hire new managers in the offseason, a number that will land on the higher end if several interim managers do not retain their positions.

"It's going to be a circus," Oakland Athletics general manager Billy Beane says.

There are 12 managers in the final year of their contract, including three who have World Series experience: Tony La Russa, St. Louis Cardinals; Dusty Baker, Cincinnati Reds; and Joe Girardi, New York Yankees.

Torre and the Chicago Cubs' Lou Piniella have resigned, Torre effective at season's end. Two have announced their retirement: Bobby Cox, Atlanta Braves; and Cito Gaston, Toronto Blue Jays.

Three could be fired: Jerry Manuel, New York Mets; John Russell, Pittsburgh Pirates; and Ken Macha, Milwaukee Brewers.

Four managers have been hired during the season but remain without a contract past October: Kirk Gibson, Arizona Diamondbacks; Mike Quade, Cubs; Daren Brown, Seattle Mariners; Edwin Rodriguez, Florida Marlins.

"It's a very unique and different environment this winter," says La Russa, who probably will decide within two weeks about his future. "I think it's really going to be interesting. You hear about who's going here, who's going there, (Joe) Torre is coming here. You don't know what's going to happen.

"I'm looking forward to seeing what will happen, just like everybody else."

**La Russa, Guillen could be key**

La Russa listens and writes down the possible openings on a piece of paper in the visiting manager's office in Atlanta. He has signed five contracts since coming to St. Louis in 1996. Maybe it's seven. He's lost count.

He doesn't know if he wants to come back or will be asked back, or if he'd entertain opportunities elsewhere.

"I don't see myself going somewhere else," La Russa, 65, says. "I think it's unfair to commit to some other place unless you're committing three to five years. If a guy is going year-to-year like I'm doing, how does that make sense?"

La Russa's uncertainty is significant, because he could be the centerpiece of a wild offseason.

Chicago White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen could start the domino effect. He has a home in Florida, is close to Marlins owner Jeffrey Loria and has yet to firmly express a commitment to stay in Chicago beyond this year.

Two weeks ago, Guillen privately informed several people within the organization that he might announce his resignation effective at the season's conclusion, according to three club officials with direct knowledge of the conversation who could not comment on the situation because it is ongoing.

Later, Guillen changed his mind. "I want people that want to be here," White Sox general manager Ken Williams says. "He was hired because of his passion for the White Sox. If he wants to go, he can. If he wants to see if there is another situation better than this, I won't stop him."

Guillen says: "My goal is to be here as long as I can. But this is a business. When you're not winning, everything is your fault."

"... When you hear about all of the openings, it's a great year to get fired."

Guillen's situation is one of many in which longstanding relationships might play a factor. Just as Guillen's strained relationship with Williams might lead to his exit, La Russa's friendship with White Sox Chairman Jerry Reinsdorf would make him a top choice to replace Guillen.

Reinsdorf still says the most regrettable decision in his baseball tenure was allowing La Russa to be fired during the 1986 season.

If La Russa left, it would leave the door open for Torre, 70, to return to St. Louis. Torre played six years and managed six years for the Cardinals. He was fired in 1995, and a year later he began one of the most successful runs in Yankees history, leading them to 12 consecutive playoff berths and four World Series titles.

"I don't know what I'm going to do yet," Torre said before announcing his resignation last week from the Dodgers. "I wouldn't say retirement, because I certainly need to do something, and I have the energy. I just don't know if I'll be managing. I'm not sure what is out there."

"You just don't pick and choose what you want to do."

### **Continuity elusive**

Cox's exit comes amid the upheaval. His 21-year reign with the Braves is the fourth-longest uninterrupted tenure with one club and might represent a bygone era.

"I don't think it will ever happen again," says former Braves general manager and current club President John Schuerholz, whose GM-manager relationship with Cox lasted 17 years. "The general manager and manager have to be on the same page. We had a lot of commonality in our thinking."

"It's just much more difficult to have that same continuity now. So much more impatience. Bobby and I never experienced that. We experienced support."

The longest-tenured manager/general manager tandem these days is seven years —Boston Red Sox manager Terry Francona and GM Theo Epstein, along with Guillen and Williams.

"I don't see it happening again," says Torre, remembering the days the Dodgers had two managers in a 42-year span. Mattingly becomes the seventh since Tommy Lasorda's retirement in 1996. "Unfortunately today, we are a very impatient society.

"I think there are a lot of owners who are very sensitive to what people write, what they talk about, and the manager has been the easiest guy to change."

Baker, in the final year of his three-year contract, has the Reds on the brink of their first postseason berth since 1995 and is a leading candidate for NL manager of the year. Yet, the Reds have offered him only a one-year contract extension at his 2010 \$3.5 million salary. Baker, who's managing his third team, has not signed the contract and remains in negotiations.

"Chicago hurt my reputation," says Baker, 61, who was fired after a 66-96 record in 2006, three years after the Cubs fell one win shy of the World Series. "But I never lost my confidence. If anything, I think I'm in my prime. Look at Joe (Torre). He just started winning at this age.

"I'm more determined than ever."

### **Scioscia, Angels the exception**

The only manager with a contract beyond 2013 is Mike Scioscia. He has managed the Los Angeles Angels since 2000 and has a contract through 2018, thanks to owner Arte Moreno's professed desire to retain Scioscia for as long as he wants to manage.

"That's the kind of stability every manager wants," says Macha, who awaits word on whether he'll be fired in two weeks. "It's just not there."

Don Wakamatsu looked untouchable in his rookie year as manager in 2009, leading the Mariners to 85 victories. It was a major league-best 24-game improvement. The feel-good story lasted four months into this season. He was fired, perceived to have lost control of his clubhouse.

"It's easier to fire the one guy than replace star players," La Russa says. "If you can establish that you have the right (manager), and he's supported by the front office and ownership, you have a big edge."

Texas Rangers manager Ron Washington, also in the final year of his contract, remembers nearly being fired amid a 7-16 start in 2008. Tom Hicks, the Rangers' former owner, made it no secret that he had had enough.

Washington, refusing to relent, asked for support from general manager Jon Daniels. He believed in his philosophy and that the team was improving. Most important, he believed in himself.

"I told him (Daniels), 'You don't see me shaking,' " Washington says. " 'Let me get this right. I can do this. But I need your support. If you want to fire me, fire me, but let me to do it my way.' "

Washington was retained, overcame a failed 2009 drug test when he admitted using cocaine, and today has the Rangers on the brink of their first division title since 1999.

"I always believed to be a good manager, you have to have a GM and owners that believe you are the manager to take them to the next level," Washington says. "You have to have a GM that believes in you and goes through the bad times with you.

"Well, I have that GM. There were a lot of vultures out there after my head. I'll be forever thankful."



The Rangers will give Washington a contract extension when the season ends, Daniels and President Nolan Ryan say. Washington takes them at their word. Yet, he also knows that job security can change in a hurry.

"If we reach the finish line," Washington said of winning the AL West title, "I'll get a contract.

"If we fail, I'll be fired. I'll be the one blamed, not the players. That's why we're seeing so many changes in managers. It's just part of the game now.

"You better live with it, because that ain't changing."

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