



Detroit Tigers Clips

Saturday, April 16, 2011

Detroit Free Press

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Detroit 8, Oakland 4 (10): Jim Leyland shows faith in Rick Porcello, who helps manager win 1,500th

April 16, 2011

By John Lowe / Detroit Free Press

OAKLAND, Calif. -- How does a manager last long enough to win 1,500 games?

He does so, in part, by showing the kind of audacious confidence that Jim Leyland showed in Rick Porcello in the sixth inning Friday night.

“Sometimes you don’t always manage for today,” Leyland said afterward, explaining why he showed that faith in Porcello. “Sometimes you manage for tomorrow. I thought it was important to leave him in there the way he was going, to get a little confidence going.”

In part because of that decision, a few hours later Leyland was celebrating that 1,500th win -- 8-4 in 10 innings, after Miguel Cabrera wiped out a 1-0 deficit with a leadoff homer in the ninth and the Tigers scored seven in the 10th.

In that Oakland sixth, the A’s led by a run when veteran left-handed threat Hideki Matsui came up with two out and a runner on third.

Right-handed-hitting Mark Ellis was on deck. Leyland went to the mound.

The safe move would have been for the right-handed Porcello to intentionally walk Matsui. Then Porcello -- or right-hander Al Albuquerque, who was warming up -- would go after Ellis.

But Leyland told Porcello to pitch to Matsui.

“I felt he deserved to be out there -- it was a 1-0 game,” Leyland said. “He’s one of our starters, and I think you’ve got to show him that confidence. I think it does wonders for you down the road sometimes.”

Leyland was asked how much that philosophy -- show confidence, manage sometimes for tomorrow -- has contributed to his longevity.

“I hope a lot,” said Leyland, 66. “I have a great deal of respect for the players. I always have, I always will.

“Like I said, I thought the kid (Porcello) deserved a shot to be out there. It was 1-0. If it was 4-0, it would have been different.

“That was a shot of confidence. The biggest thing about it -- what I really liked about it -- is that he executed what I asked him to do. He made tough pitches and he didn’t give in.”

Porcello fell behind Matsui 3-1, then got a called strike on a fastball. On 3-2, he fanned Matsui swinging on a 79 mph change-up.

That scenario became valuable when the Tigers still trailed, 1-0, entering the ninth. Cabrera tied the game with a leadoff homer. In the 10th, Brennan Boesch put the Tigers ahead with a two-run double.

Afterward, Leyland had an unopened bottle of champagne on his desk signed “the staff,” in commemoration of his 1,500th big-league win.

The only active manager with more wins is Leyland’s close friend, Tony La Russa. Down the coast in L.A. on Friday night, the Cardinals’ La Russa got his 2,645th career win, which ranks third all-time.

Leyland’s confidence in Porcello was especially impressive given how the final inning went in Porcello’s previous two starts this season:

April 4 at Baltimore: Porcello gave up four runs in the fifth, three on Brian Roberts’ homer.

April 10 vs. Kansas City: He gave up two runs in the fifth, which made five runs he’d allowed over his final three innings that day.

In each of those two games, Porcello allowed five runs in his five innings.

Daric Barton led off the Oakland sixth with a double, and he went to third on a groundout. With the infield in, Porcello got the second out by fanning cleanup man Josh Willingham with a 91 mph fastball -- his fastest pitch of the night.

“I’ve been battling my velocity,” Porcello said. “It’s not where I want to be. I’d like to be where I normally am -- 90 to 93.”

For most of this night, his fastball was 89-90.

“But my arm feels good and I feel healthy,” Porcello said. “I just have to pitch through it.

“When you’re not throwing as hard, you don’t have as much room for mistakes. I’ve got to keep my pitches down the entire game. I can’t take a pitch off or an at-bat off.

“I don’t want to make too big a deal out of velocity. It’s not an end-all, be-all. But I’m still a tick down.” Porcello’s night ended with the Matsui strikeout. He went six innings, allowed seven hits and threw 103 pitches. “Progress,” Porcello said.

He had a scoreless first inning Friday night only because of a brilliant play by Ramon Santiago. With one out and the bases loaded, Matsui hit a smash up the middle.

Santiago flagged the smash to his left. He ran over to second base for the force and then threw to first just in time for the inning-ending double play.

Porcello, as a sinkerball pitcher, counts on double plays. But no one could count on one on a ball hit that hard. Pitching coach Rick Knapp went to the mound just before Matsui’s at-bat in the first. Porcello had just walked Willingham -- the AL leader in striking out -- after getting ahead of him 1-2.

The second inning was calmer for Porcello. He allowed a one-out bloop single. Then Santiago went in the hole on Andy LaRoche’s grounder and started an inning-ending double play.

Santiago played in place of Jhonny Peralta at short because Peralta was 1-for-18 lifetime off A’s starter Brandon McCarthy.

With one out in the third, Coco Crisp pulled hard grounder just beyond the reach of Rhymes into right. Crisp stole second as Barton took strike three.

Then David DeJesus, who often bedeviled the Tigers while with Kansas City, did so for the first time with Oakland. On a 2-2 count with two out, DeJesus sent a fastball into center for an RBI single.

In the next inning, the fourth, Porcello did something he hadn’t done in his previous 13 innings this season: He threw a 1-2-3 inning.

It wasn’t as easy as 1-2-3 when Leyland decided to let Porcello face Matsui in the sixth. It was as hard as 1,500 wins. But Porcello helped take Leyland there.

Tigers notes, quotes from win over Athletics

April 16, 2011

By John Lowe / Detroit Free Press

AT OAKLAND-ALAMEDA COUNTY COLISEUM, OAKLAND, CALIF.

WHAT HAPPENED: Leading off the ninth, Miguel Cabrera wiped out Oakland's 1-0 lead with a homer to right-center off lefty closer Brian Fuentes. Then Brennan Boesch ripped Fuentes' 0-2 pitch for a tie-breaking, two-run double with one out in the 10th. The Tigers loaded the bases for Boesch on an error, an intentional walk prompted by another error, and then another walk. After Boesch's hit, the Tigers added five more runs.

STREAKING: The Tigers won their fourth straight to get to .500 (7-7).

LEYLAND'S MILESTONE: Jim Leyland got his 1,500th win as a big-league manager. He's 19th on the all-time list in victories.

VILLARREAL'S MILESTONE: The rookie right-hander got his first career win. He was charged with three runs in the 10th. Set-up man Joaquin Benoit closed the game.

PORCELLO PLUS: Rick Porcello turned in his first quality start of the season, going six innings and allowing one run. Shortstop Ramon Santiago might have saved everything by turning Hideki Matsui's bases-loaded smash in the first into an inning-ending double play.

NICE CHANGE: In each of his previous two starts this season, Porcello allowed five runs in a five-inning outing.

IMPRESSIVE FINISH: Porcello capped his outing with his most impressive pitching of the night. After a runner reached third with one out in the sixth, he struck out Josh Willingham and Hideki Matsui.

AA-PLUS DEBUT: Rookie right-hander Al Albuquerque made his big-league debut when he took over for the seventh inning. He went two scoreless innings, allowed one hit and one walk, fanned three.

HOMERLESS STREAK: The Tigers have gone eight games without allowing a homer – their longest such streak in one season since 1981. Tonight they can match their longest single-season homerless streak since the mid-1940s, according to Baseball-Reference.com.

SOUTH AND NORTH: Last April, when Fuentes was with the Angels, Cabrera hit a tying homer off him down in southern California.

THREE STARS: 1. Cabrera; 2. Boesch; 3. Albuquerque.

Hearing for Tigers 1B Miguel Cabrera case rescheduled

April 16, 2011

By Matt Helms / Detroit Free Press

A court hearing scheduled for Friday on Tigers first baseman Miguel Cabrera's arrest on suspicion of driving under the influence was postponed until June 10 in Ft. Pierce, Fla., officials said.

A combative Cabrera was arrested by a St. Lucie County Sheriff's deputy Feb. 16 in Ft. Pierce and charged with DUI and two misdemeanor counts of resisting an officer without violence. He refused a breath test, which could cost him his license for a year. He is currently allowed to drive for work-related activities.

Detroit 8, Oakland 4: Tigers scored seven in the 10th to beat A's

April 16, 2011

By Kirkland Crawford / Detroit Free Press

In the extra frame, Alex Avila reached on an error after hitting a ball through the legs of first baseman Daric Barton. Ramon Santiago then bunted Avila to second and Avila got to third after Brian Fuentes' pickoff throw to second bounced into centerfield.

Pinch-hitter Jhonny Peralta was then intentionally walked and Ryan Raburn drew a walk, setting the stage for Boesch, who knocked a double off the rightfield wall, driving in two runs.

Miguel Cabrera, who helped the Tigers get to an extra inning, was then intentionally walked, ending Fuentes' night. Brad Ziegler was brought in to face Victor Martinez, who lined a single into right to score Raburn. Casper Wells then grounded one to third baseman Andy LaRoche, who threw wildly to home as Boesch scored. The error allowed Cabrera to score, Martinez to reach third and Wells to get to second. Brandon Inge then grounded out to third, but Martinez scored on the play. Avila followed with an RBI double in his second at bat in the inning.

Brayan Villarreal (1-0) didn't exactly shut the A's down in the 10th to earn his first major league victory. He gave up singles to Kurt Suzuki, LaRoche and Cliff Pennington to start the inning. Leyland yanked him in favor of Joaquin Benoit. He forced Coco Crisp to ground into a fielder's choice at second base, driving in one run. Barton hit a pop foul to first, but David DeJesus lined a single to center to score two more. But Josh Willingham grounded into a fielder's choice to end the game.

Trailing 1-0, Cabrera led off the ninth with a home run to right-center off Fuentes (0-2), filling in as the A's closer in place of the injured Andrew Bailey.

Al Alburquerque, called up earlier this week from Triple-A Toledo, made his major league debut in the seventh. He struck out three and got six straight outs in the seventh and eighth. He gave up a leadoff walk in the ninth to Josh Willingham.

Daniel Schlereth entered the game to pitch to Hideki Matsui, who popped out to shallow centerfield. Jim Leyland went to the bullpen one more time to bring in Villarreal, who, on a full-count pitch, got Mark Ellis to line out to Santiago at short. Santiago then tagged Willingham, who was running on the pitch, to force a 10th inning.

The A's struck first in the third inning. With one out, Coco Crisp singled to right. He stole second as Barton struck out and scored on DeJesus' base hit to right-center.

Rick Porcello went six innings and gave up just one earned run on seven hits and a walk and struck out four. Brandon McCarthy shut the Tigers for 6 2/3 innings, allowing only six hits and a walk while striking out seven. He was lifted in the seventh after giving up a two-out single to Avila. Craig Breslow came on and got Santiago to pop out to right to end the inning. Grant Balfour got the Tigers out in order in the eighth.

Boesch had three hits and Martinez and Avila each had two. DeJesus had three hits and three RBIs for the A's and

All players on every team today wore No. 42 in honor of the 64th anniversary of Jackie Robinson's first game in the major leagues.

Former Tiger Reno Bertoia dies

April 16, 2011

By Detroit Free Press Staff / Detroit Free Press

Reno Bertoia, an infielder who played for the Detroit Tigers in 1953-58 and again in 1961, died this morning in Windsor, Ontario. He was 76.

Bertoia told the Free Press in 1987 that his fond memories of Detroit included Al Kaline, his first roommate. "We were just a couple of clean-cut kids learning about life," Bertoia said. "I had tremendous admiration for him. It was a great thrill being around in 1955, when he was the youngest player to win a batting title. He never changed. I felt lucky just to be around him."

Bertoia, who was born in Italy, grew up in Windsor and played sandlot ball in Detroit.

"Reno was a special person, and one of the nicest people to be around," Kaline said in a released statement.

"Reno and I were close friends and roommates when we broke into the big leagues our first couple of years. Even after he was traded, we remained friends through the years. I'll miss him, and my condolences go out to his family."

Visitation is at the Windsor Chapel Funeral Home, 1700 Tecumseh Road East, Windsor, from 7-9 p.m. Sunday and from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. Monday, with prayers at 7:30 p.m. Monday. His funeral is at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 350 Huron Church Road, Windsor.

Tigers steamroll A's in 10th as Jim Leyland gets 1,500th win

April 16, 2011

By Tom Gage / The Detroit News

Oakland, Calif. -- No matter when it happened, there would have been champagne on his desk and calls of congratulations coming in.

When you win your 1,500th game as a major-league manager, it's bound to be special.

And it was special for Jim Leyland on Friday night when the Tigers beat the Oakland Athletics 8-4 in 10 innings.

In typical fashion, though, even with five cigars on his desk and a bottle of Dom Perignon nearby, Leyland asked for a postgame pack of cigarettes.

Here he was, during one of his proudest moments in baseball, and he was grabbing for the Marlboros while talking about what won the game.

But it was apparent what it meant to him.

Leyland is the 19th manager with 1,500 wins -- and only the second active one to reach that level, his good friend Tony LaRussa being the other.

Leyland eyes glistened too much and too often not to be able to tell. After quite a game for the Tigers, it was quite a moment.

"It just means we're old," Leyland said. "But we're not going to talk about that. Good win, that's what you have to do -- win tough games on the road."

What won it?

You can point, of course, to the Tigers' seven-run 10th inning -- an uprising in which the bumbling A's made three errors.

You can also point to the booming leadoff home run Miguel Cabrera hit off closer Brian Fuentes in the ninth that tied the score at one.

Or you could look back at the play shortstop Ramon Santiago made on a ball Hideki Matsui smoked with the bases loaded in the first, turning it into a double play.

"Matsui hit a bullet," said Leyland. "Santiago's big, big play turned the game around."

And you'd be right on all three.

The play by Santiago helped to settle down starter Rick Porcello.

"A lot of times games can be won or lost in the first inning," said Porcello. "After the first, (my performance) wasn't great, but it was better. I just have to keep working."

But with three outs to go, it didn't look like the Tigers would win their fourth consecutive game. They're now 7-7 after a 3-7 start.

Cabrera is always a potential game-changer, though.

"We got the big blow from our star," said Leyland.

And once the game changed a little in the ninth, changed a lot in the 10th.

At one end of the experience spectrum, there was rookie right-hander Brayan Villarreal with his first major-league victory.

At the other end was Leyland with his 1,500th.

Neither Miller Huggins, Earl Weaver nor Whitey Herzog won 1,500 games. Leyland has.

"I'm very serious about this," he said. "It's all about the players and always will be. That's just the way I feel about it."

That's not how others felt about it, though.

Or else another call wouldn't have come in at that exact moment.

"I really appreciate your thoughts, thank you very much," Leyland said to the well-wishers at the other end.

And with a few more words, the call ended.

No doubt the phone would soon ring again. Managers don't reach milestones every night.

Around the horn

Aside from Cabrera's home run, the biggest hit of the game was Brennan Boesch's two-run double in the 10th on a 0-2 pitch from Fuentes.

"A huge hit off a tough left-hander," said Leyland.

... Former Tiger (1953-58, 1961-62) Reno Bertoia died on Friday. A native of Italy who moved to Windsor when he was 1, Bertoia was a longtime friend of Al Kaline , who had this to say, through a statement, about the former infielder's passing:

"Reno was a special person, and one of the nicest people to be around. Reno and I were close friends, and roommates when we broke into the big leagues our first couple of years. Even after he was traded (to the Washington Senators), we remained friends through the years. I'll miss him, and my condolences go out to his family."

Bertoia was 76. After his playing days, he was a teacher in the Windsor area for 30 years.

... Villarreal was the winning pitcher for getting the last two outs of the ninth, but he gave up three runs in the 10th.

"He should have learned a lesson tonight," Leyland said of the rookie. "You don't just throw it in there, get a strike and have the game be over. It doesn't work that way."

.. Al Alburquerque had an impressive major-league debut, working two scoreless innings.

Saturday's soup - the bigger hit?

April 16, 2011

By Tom Gage / The Detroit News

1. Miguel Cabrera's game-tying home run in the ninth or Brennan Boesch's tie-breaking two-run double on a 0-2 pitch in the 10th?

Without the first, the second doesn't get a chance to happen. Cabrera's HR gets my vote.

2. I'm such a chicken. Instead of saying I thought the Tigers would go 5-2 on this trip, I said they should go at least 4-3.

Which one, if either, is going to be right?

3. Currently 19th, can Jim Leyland move up on all-time list this year?

If the Tigers win 72 more games this season - to which you're probably saying "they better" - he'll pass Dick Williams and move into 18th place.

4. Charlie Maxwell - you just turned 84 (on April 8), but if you can get to Comerica Park, there's a manager who'd like to meet you.

"If there's one former Tiger I could meet," Leyland said before Friday night's game, "you know who it would be? Charlie "Paw Paw" Maxwell.

"Every time I'd listen to the radio on a Sunday, he'd hit a home run. That always stuck in my mind - and his name has never gotten out of my head."

5. Maybe the Greater Paw Paw Chamber of Commerce can help make it happen. After all, the chamber honored Maxwell with "Charlie Maxwell days" last August.

Miguel Cabrera ties it in 9th, Brennan Boesch puts Tigers ahead in 10th of win vs. Oakland

April 16, 2011

By Steve Kornacki / Booth Newspapers

OAKLAND, Calif. – Jim Leyland got his 1,500th managerial win on a night when rookie right-hander Brayan Villarreal got his first victory.

Seeing to it was Detroit Tigers outfielder Brennan Boesch, whose bases-loaded double off Brian Fuentes in the 10th inning scored a pair to put the Detroit Tigers ahead in a 8-4 win over the Oakland A's. The wheels came off the wagon for Oakland at that point with two more runs scoring on a throwing error by third baseman Andy LaRoche and seven crossing the plate that inning.

Two bottles of champagne and five big cigars rested on the manager's desk after his milestone win, which came 25 years and three days after his first one as manager of the Pittsburgh Pirates on April 12, 1986. He became the 19th to reach the milestone.

The only active manager with more victories is his good friend, St. Louis Cardinals manager Tony La Russa, who hired him as a third base coach with the Chicago White Sox in 1982. La Russa has 2,644 wins in his 33rd season to rank third all-time behind only Connie Mack and John McGraw.

"I wouldn't have gotten this win without the players here tonight and in the past," said Leyland. "It's always been about the players."

And in this win, starter Rick Porcello, Miguel Cabrera, Al Albuquerque and Ramon Santiago joined Boesch in making pivotal plays and contributions.

"Fifteen hundred wins," said Porcello, "he's been around. I have a ton of respect for him and I'm so honored to play for him. That's one thing I'll be able to tell my family – I played for Jim Leyland. That's pretty cool."

Leyland stayed with Porcello at a key point in the sixth inning, and he came through for his manager by retiring left-handed slugger Hideki Matsui.

Boesch, who played just down the road at Cal-Berkeley, showed plenty of emotion at second base, shouting and waving his arms after delivering the go-ahead blow. It was the exclamation point on his three-hit night.

"He got a big hit for us," Leyland said. "It came with two strikes off a tough left-hander."

Boesch said: "I saw the situation developing, and even though I got down in the count I was still confident."

The Tigers won for the fourth consecutive time and evened their record at 7-7.

Detroit loaded the bases in the 10th thanks to a fielding error by first baseman Daric Barton and a pair of walks after Santiago sacrificed Alex Avila into scoring position. Fuentes was charged with six runs and three were earned.

But there would not have been a 10th inning if not for Cabrera.

The Tigers' cleanup hitter was in one of those rare funks. He was 0-for-12 and hit into a double play in his previous at-bat. But with Detroit three outs away from losing, Cabrera was swinging for the fences against current Oakland closer Fuentes.

And he rose to the occasion, tying the game with a solo shot to right-center field that made him 4-for-7 (.571) against Fuentes with two homers and four RBIs. The other homer off Fuentes, then with the Los Angeles Angels, also tied the game.

"Ah, that was last year," Cabrera said. "That was a long time ago. I was just looking for a good pitch to hit. I had not had good at-bats before in the game. But you have got to feel every time that you are going to do it and have that confidence."

It was his fifth homer of the season.

The Oakland A's, getting 6 2/3 scoreless innings from Brandon McCarthy, a pitcher Detroit had some interest in signing this offseason, came close to handing the Tigers their second shutout in five days.

Cabrera's homer also took Porcello off the hook for what would've been a hard-luck loss.

Porcello, in serious need of turning around his bad fortune, got it together this time with six sharp innings.

And there also was good news for what has been a troubled bullpen. Albuquerque struck out three in his two-inning major league debut, allowing only a single to Kurt Suzuki and a leadoff walk in the ninth to Josh Willingham.

Porcello allowed one run on seven hits.

It was a big improvement over his first two starts of the season. He had the same line in losses to the Baltimore Orioles and Kansas City Royals: five innings, nine hits and five runs. A 9.00 ERA never looks good, but 6.19 is a step in the right direction.

He found his rhythm after a rough first inning that turned on one play.

Barton and David DeJesus got one-out singles, and Porcello walked Willingham on a full-count pitch. The bases were loaded and it looked as if Porcello's struggles were going to continue.

But shortstop Santiago, shading Hideki Matsui up the middle, moved to his left to come up with a wicked one-hopper. He sprinted to the bag for one out and fired to first to complete the double play.

"I went out and talked to Rick before Matsui batted," Santiago said. "I said, 'I think this is the right guy for your sinker. This is the right guy for a double play.'"

Porcello didn't walk another batter and got another double play in the second inning. His high-quality sinker was sinking again. Leyland also liked his slider and changeup in this outing.

DeJesus drove in the only run he allowed with a two-out single in the third inning, scoring Coco Crisp after he singled and stole second base.

Porcello's only other jam came in the sixth, when Barton hit a leadoff double. He moved to third on a ground out by DeJesus, but Porcello struck out Willingham for the second out. Leyland came out for a pointed message, and Porcello responded by getting Matsui to go down swinging on a full-count pitch.

He shouted for joy and pumped both arms simultaneous while leaving the mound.

Porcello put Detroit in position to make its comeback and pull out a memorable win.

Detroit Tigers slugger Magglio Ordonez about ready to return to lineup

April 16, 2011

By Steve Kornacki / Booth Newspapers

OAKLAND, Calif. -- Detroit Tigers right fielder Magglio Ordonez (ankle) was out of the starting lineup for the fourth consecutive game on Friday, but is likely to return for either today's or Sunday's game in Oakland. Tigers manager Jim Leyland has been careful not to push for his return in order to enhance the chances of him staying healthy and in the lineup on a regular basis.

Ordonez has been taking balls in the outfield and batting practice. The bounce is back in his step as well as the smile on his face.

"Yeah, I do feel good again," Ordonez said. "I'm ready to go."

He was asked how close he was to 100 percent.

"You don't get 100 percent any more," Ordonez, 37, said with a smile. "If I'm 85 to 90 percent, I'm ready to go."

Tigers' Jim Leyland: Brennan Boesch 'smells success and money' will all his hard work

April 16, 2011

By Steve Kornacki / Booth Newspapers

OAKLAND, Calif. -- Detroit Tigers outfielder Brennan Boesch has made plays defensively, hit well and hustled in every situation. Tigers manager Jim Leyland was asked about the 110-percent effort Boesch is putting forth.

"He's got a lot of energy," Leyland said, "and is blessed with leg speed. He gives you all he's got; all of our guys do.

"But Boesch smells success and money. In this game, they go hand in hand. With success comes money. Production in baseball brings you good money. He's hungry and wants to be a good big league player. And good big league players get paid -- there's nothing wrong with that."

Leyland's "smells success and money" comment was relayed to Boesch prior to Friday night's game.

"That's hilarious," Boesch said. "It's also awesome, but it makes me laugh. Skip's a beauty. I just try hard is all."

Boesch is making \$430,000 this season, and is barely above the major-league minimum. And he won't be able to improve that by qualifying for salary arbitration until after the 2012 season.

But he's hustling now even if a good pay day won't really come until 2013.

"There is so much failure in the game," Boesch said. "And for the best players, it's about taking pride in running hard to beat out a double play, breaking one up or finding a way to reach base."

Boesch recently reached base because he ran full speed toward first base after striking out. He put a bit of pressure on Kansas City Royals catcher Matt Treanor by doing that, and his wild throw allowed Boesch to reach base and score on a Miguel Cabrera homer.

"It's interesting because I remember Skip coming in and talking to the minor leaguers when I was in the minors in Lakeland (Fla.) during training camp," Boesch said. "He said, 'Hustling is not going to get you to the big leagues, but you are expected to give that kind of play when you get there.' "

Boesch is batting .282 with three doubles, one home run, seven RBIs and 10 runs scored. Nobody has scored more often than Boesch, and that's a reflection of production, speed, smarts and hustle.

Ordonez still out

Tigers right fielder Magglio Ordonez (ankle) was out of the starting lineup for the fourth consecutive game Friday, but is likely to return for either today's or Sunday's game in Oakland. Leyland has been careful not to push for Ordonez's return in order to enhance the chances of him staying healthy and in the lineup on a regular basis.

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"Yeah, I do feel good again," Ordonez said. "I'm ready to go."

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"You don't get 100 percent any more," Ordonez, 37, said with a smile. "If I'm 85 to 90 percent, I'm ready to go."

Short hops

-- Center fielder Austin Jackson (.184) was held out of the starting lineup for the second time this week in order to get a mental break and focus on working with hitting coach Lloyd McClendon. Jackson has been working on triggering his swing earlier by beginning his front foot quicker.

-- The 11 walks Detroit received Thursday night against Oakland were their most in a nine-inning game since getting 12 free passes April 26, 1996 at Tiger Stadium against the A's. Detroit won that one 14-5, but scored only three times in Thursday's shutout win.

WZAM: Tigers' Will Rhymes not concerned about his early-season offensive struggles

April 16, 2011

By James Schmehl / Booth Newspapers

Tigers second baseman Will Rhymes is hitting .216 with two runs and two RBIs in 10 games this season.

Tigers second baseman Will Rhymes isn't exactly pleased with his offensive production, but he's certainly not worried about it just yet.

Despite hitting .217 without any extra-base hits in 37 at-bats, Rhymes acknowledged Friday that his early struggles aren't a cause for concern.

"I feel like I've swung the bat pretty well -- I just haven't got a lot to show for it," Rhymes told WZAM-AM.

"If three or four of the ground balls are line drives that find holes, you probably wouldn't be asking me that question."

Rhymes said he worked with hitting coach Lloyd McClendon this past week and has since made an adjustment to his swing, but attributed most of his early-season struggles to a lack of confidence.

"As I get a couple hits, I'll get more confidence and it will build on itself and I'll be right where I want to be,"

Rhymes said. "I've seen some things in video that I've started to straighten out the last week and I felt the homestand I swung the bat well."

Rhymes went 6-for-19 in the club's season-opening homestand. He improved his batting average 105 points after hitting .111 in Detroit's first two series.

"When you have a small sample size, you can't be too hard on yourself," Rhymes said.

He hit .304 in 54 games last year and was one of only four Tigers players to hit .300 or better.

Listen to the entire interview as Rhymes addresses the club's starting pitching and their tendency to allow more home runs than usual early in the season.

"These guys are all veterans -- they know what they're doing," Rhymes said. "When you play in New York, you're going to give up some home runs. Right field can be a joke sometimes, depending on what the wind is doing."

Detroit Tigers slugger Miguel Cabrera's court hearing in Florida moved to June 10

April 16, 2011

By Steve Kornacki / Booth Newspapers

OAKLAND, Calif. – Detroit Tigers All-Star first baseman Miguel Cabrera's hearing with the 19th Judicial Circuit Court of Florida in Fort Pierce did not occur today, and was moved to 9 a.m. on June 10.

Cabrera was arrested on the night of Feb. 16 and charged with DUI and two misdemeanor counts of resisting an officer without violence. He also was cited for having an open container of alcohol in his 2005 Land Rover and was drinking Scotch from a bottle, according to a St. Lucie County Sheriff Office report.

Court prosecutor Gayle Braun said Cabrera's attorney, Michael Kessler, filed Thursday for a continuance and the court agreed to the request today. The right to a trial 90 days after the arrest was waived by the court.

“It was anti-climatic,” said Braun.

“Sure, they can file for another continuance at that time. We can object and demand a speedy trial, but that typically does not happen.”

Cabrera, playing in a four-game series in Oakland against the Athletics, was not required to be present at the hearing if represented by an attorney.

Braun discussed the maximum and minimum penalties Cabrera, who turns 28 on Monday, faces.

She said the maximum charge for resisting arrest is up to one year in the county jail and a \$1,000 fine, adding that there is no mandatory minimum sentence if found guilty. Time served is applied.

Braun said the DUI is a “hybrid charge” carrying a maximum six-month county jail stay and \$1,000 fine. The minimum sentence if found guilty is a \$500 fine, 50 hours of community service, one year of probation, a six-month suspended driving license, attendance in DUI school, speaking at a victim impact panel, 10-day vehicle impounding and court costs.

The citation, which Braun referred to as a traffic ticket, will be assessed at the end of his trial.

Cabrera was released from the St. Lucie County Jail on the morning of Feb. 17 on \$1,350 bond, and joined the club in spring training one week later in Lakeland, Fla.

He is batting .326 and is among the American League leaders with four home runs and 10 RBIs two weeks into the regular season.

Cabrera has not addressed legal matters upon advice of his attorney and agents, and the club has supported that stance.

Tigers rally for Leyland's 1,500th victory

April 16, 2011

By Rick Eymer / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- Miguel Cabrera stepped into the limelight at the appropriate moment on Friday night and delivered an award-winning performance.

"We were able to get the big blow from our star," Detroit manager Jim Leyland said. "You have to win tough games on the road, and that's what we did."

Cabrera breathed new life into Detroit's offense with a game-tying home run in the top of the ninth inning that eventually forced the game into extra innings.

Brennan Boesch, in a fine supporting role, took advantage with a two-run double in the top of the 10th as the Tigers rallied for seven runs to beat the Oakland Athletics, 8-4, on Friday night to hand Leyland his 1,500th career win as a manager.

"I was just looking for a good pitch to hit," Cabrera said. "I did not have good at bats before that. I was trying to make something happen."

Cabrera improved to 4-for-7, with two home runs and four RBI, against A's closer Brian Fuentes. He has 10 career home runs in 26 games against Oakland, and owns a .344 average against the A's.

Leyland, who became the 19th manager to achieve 1,500 wins, received a few congratulatory phone calls, two bottles of champagne and five cigars for his latest milestone.

"It just means I'm old," he said. "I don't like talking about that. I only got here because of the players who are here today and all the players I've managed over the years. It's always about the players."

Boesch had three hits on the night, as the Tigers won their fourth straight. Brayan Villarreal, who got the final two outs of the ninth, earned his first Major League victory.

Boesch, who played college ball at nearby California, was hitless in his first 14 at bats against the A's.

Rick Porcello delivered a sparkling pitching performance, allowing a run on seven hits over six innings. He walked one and struck out four in the most encouraging outing of the young season for him.

"It wasn't great, but it was better," Porcello said. "After the first inning, I just tried to settle down. My changeup was better. I threw more quality pitches with it and kept it down in the zone. It was a little more effective."

Porcello was born after Leyland had already accumulated 229 wins as a manager, but that didn't stop him from appreciating the moment.

"I'm going to be able to tell my children that I played for Jim Leyland," Porcello said. "He's been around a long time, and I have a ton of respect for him. I'm proud to be a part of it."

The series has highlighted two of the best young pitching staffs in baseball. Detroit's Al Alburquerque, making his Major League debut, became the latest addition. He tossed two scoreless innings.

"Alburquerque gets his feet wet and Villarreal gets his first win," Leyland said. "That's a good win."

Tiger pitchers have not allowed a home run over the last eight games, the team's longest streak since June of 1981.

Brandon McCarthy held the Tigers to six hits, two by Boesch, over his 6 2/3 innings of work. He walked one and struck out seven.

David DeJesus' two-out RBI single in the third was the only run Porcello allowed. He worked out of a couple of early jams and was dominant over his final three innings.

Brandon Inge's drive to right field with two runners on was the closest the Tigers came to scoring before Cabrera's blast cleared the wall in right-center.

Boesch singled to open the sixth, but was wiped out by a double play. All other Detroit hits came with two outs. Don Kelly doubled with two outs in the fourth, giving the Tigers a double in each of their first 14 games, the longest streak to open a season since 1970.

Leyland: Fitting to remember Robinson

April 16, 2011

By Rick Eymer / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- Count Detroit Tigers manager Jim Leyland among those who believe Jackie Robinson and his accomplishments should always be kept in the forefront of baseball's memory.

"You hope that his effect is recognized all the time," Leyland said before Friday night's game against the Oakland Athletics. "You hope people never lose sight of it."

Major League Baseball celebrated its eighth annual Jackie Robinson Day, marking the 64th anniversary of the day baseball's color barrier was broken.

MLB commemorated this year's special day with the launch of the new IAM42.com online campaign, multiple events and, once again, all players and on-field personnel wearing the No. 42. It is the same number Robinson wore for Brooklyn from 1947-56.

"It was one of the monumental moments in baseball," Leyland said. "It is certainly fitting that his number is retired in every ballpark."

Leyland said he has had the pleasure of meeting with Rachel Robinson, Jackie's wife and founder of the Jackie Robinson Foundation.

Coke talks wrestling

OAKLAND -- Tigers' left-hander Phil Coke was also a wrestler growing up in Tuolumne County, Calif., taking up the sport in grammar school and continuing through his days at Sonora (Calif.) High, the county seat.

He'd attend the county championship every year held at Columbia College.

So when he challenged a Tigers reporter to a match during an early Spring Training appearance, he was being serious.

"I had a two-inning start and didn't break a sweat," Coke said. "I didn't even get my adrenaline going. So I asked 'Want to wrestle?' He kept saying, 'No, no, no.' I said 'There's a soft sofa I can body slam you against.' It wouldn't have hurt at all."

Slumping Jackson gets a day off

OAKLAND -- Tigers outfielder Austin Jackson was hitless in four at bats on Thursday night and saw his season average dip to .184.

That called for early work at the Oakland Coliseum with hitting coach Lloyd McClendon on Friday.

Jackson is hitless in nine at bats since leading off Tuesday's game against the Texas Rangers with a triple.

"If he had a couple of hits, he would have been back in the lineup," Tigers' manager Jim Leyland said. "He struggled a little bit, and he worked with Lloyd on something today. We'll let him sit this one out and let it sink in."

Shortstop Jhonny Peralta was also given the night off, allowing Ramon Santiago to remain in the lineup after his multi-hit performance against the A's on Thursday.

Verlander, Braden to duel at Coliseum

April 16, 2011

By Doug Miller / MLB.com

The last time Dallas Braden pitched for the A's, he matched up against another pitcher who had thrown a perfect game in White Sox lefty Mark Buehrle.

When Braden toes the slab on Saturday, he'll face a top-flight pitcher who hasn't thrown a perfect game but does have a no-hitter on his resume.

That would be Tigers ace Justin Verlander, and when Detroit plays in the Oakland Coliseum at 6:05 p.m. PT on Saturday evening, both starting pitchers will be looking to repeat solid performances in their last outings -- while getting an elusive win.

For Verlander, the only thing that wasn't earned on April 11 against Texas was that victory. The righty uncorked one-hit stuff for the first six innings and went the distance for a complete game. The only problem was Texas starter Alexi Ogando, who dominated the Tigers in a 2-0 Rangers shutout.

"I don't think it's terribly disappointing for me. I think it's terribly disappointing for the team," Verlander said. "I think we tried to battle as much as we could. I think their guy threw the ball extremely well. Good pitching beats good hitting."

That was the case for Braden on the 11th, too. He matched Buehrle in Chicago, throwing three no-hit innings before giving up an infield single to Alex Rios with one out in the fourth. He said he was aware of the fact that he was participating in only the 21st game in big league history that matched two starters who had pitched perfect games, but he preferred to keep his focus on the catcher's mitt.

"I don't really ever try to let what the other guy's doing affect my game plan," Braden said. "I was just basically trying to match momentum."

Braden did just that, throwing 95 pitches while battling a mild case of quad tightness, and exiting after six having given up one run, five hits, two walks and recording seven strikeouts. He got a no-decision in a game the A's would later win.

He says he's ready to take on the challenge of facing Detroit and its premier slugger, Miguel Cabrera.

"Obviously, they've got their big gun over there, Cabrera," Braden said. "You don't want to let him hurt you. You try to take the game plan I've worked on this week so far and apply it. I've always said I'm not a guy who's trying to miss bats, just trying to miss barrels. If I can keep them at bay long enough or I can keep them off balance long enough, then I'm OK, that's what I'm going to do."

Tigers: Miggy mashes the West

Cabrera is hitting .349 (159-for-455) with 41 doubles, a triple, 28 home runs and 110 RBIs in 119 games against teams from the American League West. Among active players with at least 200 plate appearance against teams from the division, Cabrera is tops in batting average.

- Tigers pitchers have not allowed a home run in the last eight games. The eight-game streak is the longest by Tigers pitchers since not allowing a home run in eight consecutive games from June 3-11, 1981.
- Outfielder Magglio Ordonez (ankle) is expected back in the Detroit lineup either on Saturday or Sunday.

A's: No time for panic

The A's aren't hitting the ball as well as they'd like to be early in the season, but outfielder Conor Jackson said there's nothing to be overly worried about right now.

"It's early," he said. "It's hard to push the panic button on our offense now. I think hitting's a pretty contagious thing. A lot of teams I played on, you go in spurts, and that's just how the game is. Sometimes you have good months and sometimes you have bad months, so it's nothing I think we're too concerned about."

- The A's have committed seven errors in their past four games after going six consecutive games without an error. They opened the season by committing an Oakland-record nine errors over their first four games. Last year, the A's defense ranked fifth in the AL in fielding percentage (.984) and was charged with less than 100 errors (99) for the sixth time in the last seven years.
- Reliever Jerry Blevins has allowed one run or fewer in each of his six games this season, including four scoreless appearances (two earned runs in seven innings for a 2.57 ERA). But he has an 8.11 ERA in four career appearances against the Tigers.

Worth noting

Leyland enters tonight's game at Oakland with 1,500 wins during his Major League managerial career. On Friday, he became the 19th manager in Major League history to reach 1,500 victories. He's second among all active Major League managers, behind only the 2,644 earned by former A's and current St. Louis skipper Tony La Russa. ... The A's are 4-1 in day games and 2-7 at night. Last year, they went 35-21 (.625) during day games and 46-60 (.434) at night. The day record was the third-best in the American League and the night record was fourth worst.

Tigers' rally gives manager Leyland 1,500th win

April 16, 2011

By Janie McCauley / Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif.—Brennan Boesch hit a go-ahead two-run double with the bases loaded in the 10th inning and the Detroit Tigers rallied to beat the Oakland Athletics 8-4 on Friday night for manager Jim Leyland's 1,500th career win.

Miguel Cabrera hit a tying solo homer leading off the ninth against fill-in closer Brian Fuentes (0-2), who blew his first save in six chances and then loaded the bases with one out in the 10th.

The A's defense didn't help his cause, committing three errors in Detroit's seven-run 10th to raise their majors-leading total to 16. That includes seven in the last four games.

Leyland became the 19th major league manager to reach 1,500 wins, doing so on his first attempt.

Boesch finished with three hits for Detroit, which won its fourth straight.

Brayan Villarreal (1-0) recorded two outs in the ninth for the win.

Victor Martinez added an insurance run in the 10th with an RBI single, then two more runs came in on third baseman Andy LaRoche's wild throw home.

Fuentes, who has been Oakland's ninth-inning option in place of injured 2009 Rookie of the Year closer Andrew Bailey, was tagged for six runs, four earned.

The Tigers turned double plays in each of the first two innings and again in the ninth on the way to winning their fourth straight at the Coliseum.

A's starter Brandon McCarthy struck out seven in 6 2-3 shutout innings and walked only his second batter in three starts, but David

DeJesus' RBI single wasn't enough to hold up for the A's a night after being shut out for the first time on a three-hitter by Phil Coke and three relievers in a 3-0 Detroit win.

McCarthy showed again his value at the back end of a talented young rotation. He struck out seven or more for the seventh time in his career and first since May 13, 2009, for Texas against Seattle.

But the defense was awful.

A night after three of Oakland's four pitchers combined to allow a season-high 11 walks, six of those by Gio Gonzalez, McCarthy found the plate. Five of the six hits he allowed came with two outs, and he was able to keep the Tigers off balance before the bullpen fizzled. The A's are 1-4 at home so far.

McCarthy, who earned the A's No. 5 job in the rotation out of spring training after a tough competition, was in position to win back-to-back starts in the majors for the first time since September 2009.

Righty reliever Al Albuquerque made his major league debut for the Tigers in the seventh a day after being called up from Triple-A Toledo. He struck out three and allowed a single to Kurt Suzuki in his first two innings, then allowed Willingham's leadoff walk in the ninth.

Daniel Schlereth relieved and retired Hideki Matsui on a popup before Villarreal entered.

Matsui stranded five baserunners in his 0-for-4 night.

Don Kelly doubled with two outs in the fourth, the Tigers' 14th straight game with at least one double and their longest such streak to begin a season since also doing so in 14 in a row in 1970.

Detroit pitchers haven't allowed a home run in their last eight games, matching the club's longest such streak since an eight-game run June 3-11, 1981.

NOTES: Struggling leadoff hitter Austin Jackson was out of Detroit's starting lineup one night after going hitless in four at-bats while dropping his average to .184. The Tigers CF took extra batting practice. ... Tigers RHP Ryan Perry, out since April 5 with an infected eye, gave up three hits and two earned runs in 1 1-3 innings with one strikeout in a rehab outing for Triple-A Toledo. He threw 27 pitches, 20 for strikes and left after giving up consecutive one-out singles in the seventh. ... SS Jhonny Peralta also didn't start because of his 1-for-18 record against McCarthy. He pinch-hit in the 10th. ... Bailey (strained right forearm) is set to throw long toss Saturday followed by a side session Sunday. ... Oakland RHP Michael Wuertz (hamstring) will pitch one inning for Class-A Stockton on Saturday. ... Cabrera received a continuance for a routine court date in his DUI and resisting arrest case until June 10. Cabrera requested it and prosecutors agreed. Cabrera—who didn't need to be

in court but only represented by a lawyer—was arrested Feb. 16 in Ft. Pierce, Fla., and charged with DUI and resisting an officer.

Bertoia defied the odds

April 16, 2011

By Bob Duff / The Windsor Star

Searching for a fitting epitaph for Reno Bertoia doesn't take long.

He's the greatest baseball player that Windsor has ever produced.

It's that simple. Bertoia, who died Friday of cancer at the age of 76, played a decade in the show. The majority of the players to get there from this area were only around long enough for a cup of coffee.

"It's one thing to get to the major leagues but to stay there is extremely difficult," explained Joe Siddall, among the locals who followed Bertoia to the big leagues.

Bertoia carried our flag in the 1950s and was still in the show in the 1960s, when fellow locals John Upham and Pete Craig made the grade.

Bertoia, who batted .253 with 14 homers and 76 RBIs in 327 games as a Detroit Tiger, played 10 seasons in the majors from 1953-62, also suiting up for the Washington Senators, Minnesota Twins and Kansas City Athletics. He was an original Twin when the Senators relocated to the Twin Cities of Minneapolis/St. Paul in 1961.

The odds of a Canadian youngster making it as a major-league ballplayer are still quite long.

The odds of two making the grade from the same city are even greater.

"So what do you think the odds of two people living next door to each other making it are?" Bertoia asked me during a 1992 interview.

While those numbers would certainly seem astronomical, Bertoia and neighbour Hank Biasatti defied the odds and did just that.

Biasatti, 13 years Bertoia's senior, made it to the majors with the Philadelphia Athletics in 1949.

Bertoia, his next-door neighbour in the 1700 block of Hickory Road in east Windsor, broke into the big leagues with Detroit a few years later.

"He was my role model," Bertoia said of Biasatti, the only Canadian to play major league baseball and in the NBA.

Bertoia's family emigrated to Canada from Italy just before his second birthday, and he ended up playing baseball for legendary coach Rev.

Ronald Cullen at Assumption.

He was the first of Cullen's proteges to make the big leagues, followed by Upham and Siddall.

In the days before the Montreal Expos and later the Toronto Blue Jays brought big-league ball to Canada and created an explosion in the popularity of the sport within the country, the proximity of Essex County to Detroit made baseball one of the area's most popular sports.

It gave local ballplayers an edge over those from other regions of the country.

"In those days, Detroit was heavily scouted," Bertoia said.

"The Detroit Amateur Baseball Federation was one of the best sandlot leagues in the country.

"The competition level was really good. A lot of great players came out of there."

He was the best of the bunch.

Bertoia was inducted into the Windsor/Essex County Sports Hall of Fame in 1982, the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame in 1988 and the University of Windsor Alumni Sports Hall of Fame in 1988.

After baseball, Bertoia earned his degree from the University of Windsor, graduated from teachers' college and taught for three decades at Assumption.

"Windsor was home," Bertoia once explained.

When Siddall was offered a contract by the Expos while attending Central Michigan University on a football scholarship, he sought the counsel of Bertoia, his old history teacher.

Windsor never forgot the status that Bertoia brought to the city.

When the Tigers beat the New York Yankees in the 2006 playoffs, a neighbour left a bottle of wine on Bertoia's doorstep.

When the Tigers defeated Oakland to advance to the World Series that fall, someone left him a bottle of champagne. In local baseball circles, Bertoia was like a quality brand of bubbly.

The cream of the crop.

Windsor's Bertioia recalled as 'class act'

April 16, 2011

By Mary Caton / The Windsor Star

Former Detroit Tiger Reno Bertioia was remembered Friday as a Canadian baseball "pioneer" who forged a successful second career as a high school teacher.

Bertioia, 76, died at Windsor Regional Hospital Friday morning after a brief battle with lymphoma.

"Reno was a special person and one of the nicest people to be around," Tigers legend Al Kaline said in a statement. "Reno and I were close friends and roommates when we broke into the big leagues our first couple of years. Even after he was traded, we remained friends through the years. I'll miss him, and my condolences go out to his family."

News of Bertioia's death spread quickly through Windsor's sporting community.

"What a great Windsorite," said Jerry Brumpton, who worked with Bertioia as a trustee for the Windsor Essex County Sports Hall of Fame.

Bertioia played 10 years in the Major Leagues, eight of them with the Tigers. In the summer of 1957, he led the American League in batting for the first half of the season, statistically pushing aside the legendary Ted Williams in the process.

"He was a Canadian pioneer in the game," said Tom Valcke a Windsor native who knows Bertioia's career intimately as the president and CEO of the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame.

Bertioia was inducted into the Canadian hall in 1988.

"The guy led the major leagues in hitting," Valcke said. "He had a period where he dominated the game a halfcentury ago the way Joey Votto and Justin Morneau are today. Windsor baseball has many dimensions and Reno Bertioia will always remain at the peak of that pyramid."

Valcke was a former student from Bertioia's second career as a high school teacher.

"He was well-respected," Valcke said of the Assumption history teacher. "History was the last thing anybody cared about as kids but he found a way to make it interesting. He'd find one point and hammer on it rather than read through 30 pages of a book."

The Windsor/Essex County Sports Hall of Fame inducted him in 1982 and the University of Windsor hall welcomed him the same year as the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame.

"He was a class act," friend and fellow high school teacher Steve Vorkapich said. "I've idolized him since I was eight. I have such great respect for his career and what he accomplished and that was when there were only 16 major league teams."

Retired Windsor Star columnist Marty Gervais wrote a book about Bertioia's baseball career, simply called Reno.

Gervais would listen to Tigers games on the radio as a kid growing up in Windsor and then Bracebridge, and he was enthralled by the exploits of "the Windsor boy" the announcers talked about.

"He became a childhood hero of mine," said Gervais.

Years later, Gervais got to meet his hero when his daughter had a class of Bertioia's at Assumption. During parent/teacher interviews, he brought along some of Bertioia's old baseball cards hoping for an autograph. They developed a friendship and occasionally Bertioia would call Gervais and invite him to a game at Tiger Stadium and later Comerica Park.

"Going to a game with him was a remarkable experience," he said. "It was so interesting because he saw things I couldn't possibly see. He'd tell me the pitch before it was thrown."

Gervais recalled the time he left his seat to buy a Tigers' hat and incurred the mocking wrath of Bertioia for coming back with a bright orange model instead of the traditional navy blue. "He really got after me; it was hilarious," Gervais said. "I've never worn the hat since. It's in my closet."

Bertioia was born in Italy but moved to Windsor with his family as an infant. He grew up next door to another Windsor athlete who made it to the Major Leagues, Hank Biasatti. He attended Assumption College high school and was signed by the Tigers in 1953.

As he learned the ropes of professional baseball, he befriended another young Tiger in Kaline, a future Hall of Famer. They remained friends long after the their playing days ended.

"He was very proud of his career," said Beth Daly, his stepdaughter. "He was happy to share stories about it and he was a wonderful storyteller."

When the family was eager to distract Bertoia from the pain in his final days, they coaxed him to recall different baseball moments. He told them his favourite Opening Day was 1961 when the Tigers played at Yankee Stadium. He hit a home run and Detroit won 6-2.

His first at bat is a well-known bit of local lore because it came against Hall of Famer Satchel Paige. "He told us he swung once, he swung twice, he swung three times and he sat down," recalled Daly, who first knew her stepfather as her Assumption homeroom teacher.

"He was in many ways prouder of his teaching career," Daly said, "because he felt he impacted a lot of people's lives."

Bertoia taught 30 years for the Windsor Catholic school board. Former students approached him all the time to thank him, including a hospital nurse just a few days ago.

Bertoia is survived by his wife Joan Daly, three children and three stepchildren.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Windsor Chapel, 1700 Tecumseh Rd. E. Visitation is Sunday from 5 to 7 p.m. and Monday from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. The funeral mass will be Tuesday at 9: 30 a.m. at Assumption Church.

Last updated: Sat, April 16, 2011, 02:49 EDT

Friday, April 15, 2011

Team	Player	Transaction
Arizona Diamondbacks	Josh Collmenter	Called Up from Minors
Arizona Diamondbacks	Aaron Heilman	Placed on 15-Day DL, (Right shoulder tendinitis)
Boston Red Sox	Adrian Gonzalez	Signed, (2012-2018)(seven-year extension)
Cleveland Indians	Joe Smith	Removed From 15-Day DL, (Abdominal strain)
Cleveland Indians	Joe Smith	Recalled From Minors, Rehab Assignment
Detroit Tigers	Ryan Perry	Sent to Minors, For Rehabilitation
Houston Astros	Jose Valdez	Purchased From Minors
Houston Astros	Wilton Lopez	Placed on 15-Day DL, (Ulnar nerve irritation, right elbow)
Los Angeles Dodgers	Jon Garland	Removed From 15-Day DL, (Strained left oblique)
Los Angeles Dodgers	Jamie Hoffmann	Sent to Minors
Los Angeles Dodgers	Jon Garland	Recalled From Minors, Rehab Assignment
Minnesota Twins	Joe Mauer	Placed on 15-Day DL, (Bilateral leg weakness, viral infection)
Minnesota Twins	Steve Holm	Purchased From Minors
New York Mets	Ronny Paulino	Sent to Minors, For Rehabilitation
New York Yankees	Phil Hughes	Placed on 15-Day DL, (Right arm fatigue)
New York Yankees	Lance Pendleton	Purchased From Minors
Pittsburgh Pirates	Garrett Olson	Designated for Assignment
Pittsburgh Pirates	Joe Beimel	Purchased From Minors
San Francisco Giants	Darren Ford	Called Up from Minors
San Francisco Giants	Andres Torres	Placed on 15-Day DL, (Strained left Achilles)
Seattle Mariners	Franklin Gutierrez	Sent to Minors, For Rehabilitation
Texas Rangers	Colby Lewis	Placed on Bereavement/Family Medical Emergency List

Texas Rangers	Michael Kirkman	Called Up from Minors
Toronto Blue Jays	Luis Perez	Called Up from Minors
Toronto Blue Jays	Edwin Encarnacion	Placed on Bereavement/Family Medical Emergency List
Toronto Blue Jays	Mike McCoy	Called Up from Minors
Thursday, April 14, 2011		
Team	Player	Transaction
Boston Red Sox	Carlos Delgado	Retired
Cincinnati Reds	Fred Lewis	Sent to Minors, For Rehabilitation
Colorado Rockies	Aaron Cook	Transferred to 60-Day DL, (Fractured right hand)
Colorado Rockies	Greg Reynolds	Sent to Minors
Colorado Rockies	Alan Johnson	Purchased From Minors
Detroit Tigers	Alberto Alburquerque	Called Up from Minors
Florida Marlins	Oscar Salazar	Signed to a Minor League Contract
Kansas City Royals	Blake Wood	Called Up from Minors
Kansas City Royals	Robinson Tejeda	Placed on 15-Day DL, (Right shoulder inflammation)
Pittsburgh Pirates	Chris Snyder	Removed From 15-Day DL, (Lower back stiffness)
San Diego Padres	Kyle Blanks	Sent to Minors, For Rehabilitation