



Minnesota Twins Daily Clips

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Last season all over? Staggering Twins must prove otherwise

By: John Shipley, Pioneer Press – 8/19/12

SEATTLE -- The Twins insist they're a different team from last year. Well, here's their chance to prove it.

After being swept in a three-game series by the Mariners, the 2012 Twins look an awful lot like the guys who finished 63-99 in 2011. An ugly, 5-1 loss Sunday, Aug. 19, at Safeco Field was Minnesota's ninth in 10 games and dropped the Twins 20 games under .500 for the first time this season.

Their 50-70 record is, in fact, three games worse than last year's 53-67 mark through 120 games.

"I like this group," manager Ron Gardenhire said. "They root for each other. Even to the end, they were rooting for each other."

Alas, more often than not such esprit de corps has failed to translate to victories. Last year's bunch was wounded, overmatched and apparently not particularly supportive. But as of right now, they weren't any worse than these guys.

"I think it spiraled a lot worse last year, but this is a different group when you look back at what happened last year," said Joe Mauer, one of several key players to finish 2011 on the disabled list. "It's a new group of guys; I mean, a lot of these guys don't even know what happened last year, so ..."

The Twins opened a 10-game road trip with some abysmal baseball, swept by the Mariners despite not seeing ace Felix Hernandez in the series. They were 3 for 28 with runners in scoring position and scored six runs combined. And while Scott Diamond and Samuel Deduno gave the Twins quality starts, Nick Blackburn was hit hard in Friday's loss.

The series laid bare much of what ails the Twins.

On Friday, struggling right-hander Nick Blackburn gave up five runs on 11 hits in a 5-3 loss.

A young bullpen was exposed in a 3-2, walk-off loss on Saturday.

On Sunday, rookie Matt Carson, playing in the majors for the first time since Sept. 29, 2010, played an out into a double to start the Mariners' three-run seventh and rookie Pedro Florimon, playing only his second big league series, flied out to leave the bases loaded in the sixth.

"We didn't deserve to win any of those games," Justin Morneau said.

Even Deduno, who gave the team a chance to win on Sunday, walked six batters in six innings. One of them, Dustin Ackley, scored the Mariners' first run on John Jaso's bases-loaded walk in the third, tying the game 1-1. The 29-year-old rookie has now walked 36 batters in 46 innings.

"I don't know what to say about the walks," he said. "Too many. Too many people, too many bodies. I have to be better."

When the Twins finished a 5-2 road trip through Boston and Cleveland on Aug. 8, they had baseball's best offense since the all-star break, 143 runs scored in 24 games, in which they went 13-11. Since then, they've scored 32 runs in 10 games, third-worst in baseball, and gone 1-9. They would have to go 13-29 the rest of the season to match last year's record, but the way they have played the past two weeks, that seems possible.

Still, the Twins insist they're better than that.

"Last year, everybody was so banged up; as we worked towards the end, it was completely different. It's a different feel this year," Morneau said. "Everybody's pulling for each other, everybody's still hoping everybody does well and going out there, getting our work in, and obviously, it's the dog days, the tough part of the season, but everybody's still busting their tails."

Morneau's 2011 season ended in mid-August with a concussion. Mauer contracted pneumonia and finished the season on the disabled list, as did Blackburn. And Scott Baker, the team's best starter, was limited to three innings of relief after Aug. 8.

That's not the case this season. Though the starting rotation was decimated early, it has found a sort of patchwork consistency since the all-star break. Morneau is playing his best baseball since 2010 and Mauer has returned to form, batting .317 in 111 games after being limited to 82 games last season. Home run and RBI leader Josh Willingham has been healthy all year.

"That's why I think it's so frustrating," Morneau said. "Last year was obviously different and we were missing a lot of pieces, but this year the team we have is pretty much the one we're running out there every day. I think that's what's so frustrating. You're putting the work in, and everybody's available, and you're not getting the results you want."

"We look up at those teams in front of us and we don't feel like those teams are better than us, and I think that's tough when you're looking up at Cleveland and Kansas City. Detroit and Chicago are obviously having good years, but we don't feel like we're too far off from them. Whether it's pitching or hitting or whatever it is, we need to do better."

Mariners 5, Twins 1: Blake Beavan completes Seattle sweep

By: John Shipley, Pioneer Press – 8/19/12

Blake Beavan held Minnesota to one run on seven hits and a walk, and Michael Saunders broke open a close game with a two-run homer in the seventh as Seattle completed a three-game sweep in front of 22,635 Sunday, Aug. 19, at Safeco Field.

Samuel Deduno (4-1) gave the Twins their second straight quality start, working around six walks to hold the Mariners to two runs on five hits over six innings, but picked up his first loss in eight major league starts. Right-hander Jeff Gray allowed three earned runs on a single, homer and two doubles in the seventh.

Beavan (8-7) entered the game with a 5.17 ERA in 18 starts but allowed only a run on Josh Willingham's double and Trevor Plouffe's sacrifice fly in the second. The Twins had the bases loaded with one out in the sixth but Matt Carson struck out and Pedro Florimon flied to center.

MEANING: The loss was Minnesota's ninth in 10 games and dropped the Twins 20 games under .500 for the first time since they finished the 2011 season 63-99.

ETC.: Ben Revere went 0 for 4 with a walk and is hitting .194 (7 for 36) since extending his career-high hitting streak to 21 games on Aug. 7.

UP NEXT: at Oakland, 9:05 p.m. Monday, FSN, KSTP-AM 1500

Minnesota Twins: Trevor Plouffe's play at third concerns Gardenhire

By: John Shipley, Pioneer Press – 8/19/12

SEATTLE -- Trevor Plouffe drove in his first run in a month on Sunday, Aug. 19, with a sacrifice fly in the second inning in the Twins series finale against the Mariners at Safeco Field.

Plouffe, second on the team with 19 home runs, has been scuffling offensively since returning from the disabled list (thumb) on Aug. 13, 1 for 20 in five games entering Sunday. But it wasn't Plouffe's offense that concerned manager Ron Gardenhire, it was his defense, particularly on two hot grounders that became hits in Saturday's 3-2 loss.

"I'm not worried about him taking his swings. I know he can hit. I know he can do some of those things, but I do worry about the ball going by him at third base -- with no movement," Gardenhire said. "That can't happen; you've got to catch the balls."

Brendan Ryan laced a rope past Plouffe for an RBI single in the third, and Justin Smoak reached on a leadoff double that glanced off Plouffe's glove in the fifth. According to his manager, Plouffe was slow to react on each play because he was standing too tall.

"He just didn't move for the ball. He's got to take a step," Gardenhire said. "He's just kind of reaching down for them; he's got to get lower. He's starting to stand up straight again and that's probably (because) you're scuffling a little bit at the plate, you're carrying it out there, you're thinking about that. I think he knows it. I'll talk to him -- again today."

Twins coaches had a similar complaint about Danny Valencia, who was the team's third baseman until being demoted to Class AAA Rochester in May and ultimately traded to the Boston Red Sox.

"You've got to bend over," Gardenhire said. "It's the same thing Danny Valencia was doing, standing straight up, and if you're an infielder, ground balls are normally on the ground. And if you're standing straight up, that's a long ways to get to them, especially on the hot corner. The balls are going right by him, and he's not really getting his glove down."

"You've got to get a little lower to the ground, and you've gotta move your feet a little bit because he didn't really move his feet on either one of them."

For Minnesota Twins' Jared Burton, meeting Pearl Jam hero 'as cool as I expected'

By: John Shipley, Pioneer Press – 8/19/12

SEATTLE -- Twins right-hander Jared Burton loves rock 'n' roll as much as he loves baseball, so getting the chance to meet Pearl Jam frontman Eddie Vedder on Saturday, Aug. 18, "was right up there with the coolest things ever," he said.

Vedder visited with Twins players and coaches on the field and in the clubhouse before Saturday's 3-2 loss to the Mariners at Safeco Field. He signed baseballs, took photos and exchanged memorabilia with players and declared the Twins his American League team, second to his hometown Chicago Cubs.

Twins television analyst and former major leaguer Ron Coomer, a friend of Vedder's through fantasy camps and mutual acquaintances, invited Vedder, who lives in Seattle with his wife and two girls and had just returned from a trip to Europe.

"Coomer said Eddie Vedder was coming, and I was like, 'Yeah, right,' " Burton said.

Burton is an accomplished guitarist who brings a guitar on the road. Pearl Jam is one of his favorite bands. In fact, he watched the band's documentary "20" on the flight from Minneapolis. Sometimes it's hard to meet your heroes, but Burton couldn't have been happier with the experience.

"I hold (Vedder) in a high place of respect," he said, "and he was as cool as I expected."

Minnesota Twins: Nick Blackburn's next start in question

By: John Shipley, Pioneer Press – 8/19/12

SEATTLE --Nick Blackburn is listed as the probable starter when the Twins wrap up a three-game series with Oakland on Wednesday, Aug. 22. But that won't necessarily be the case.

"We're discussing that," assistant general manager Rob Antony said Sunday, Aug. 19.

Blackburn, 4-9 with a 7.39 earned-run average, hasn't won a start since June 22 and is candid about his frustration after a 5-3 loss to the Mariners last Friday at Safeco Field. He gave up five earned runs on 11 hits, including home runs by John Jaso and Miguel Olivo.

"Make a couple bad pitches give up home runs, make good pitches give up hits," he said afterward. "I don't know. I don't even know where to start."

While this season is competitively finished -- the Twins started Sunday's game a season-worst 19 games under .500 -- the Twins need Blackburn to be competitive next season, when he'll make \$5.5 million in the final year of a \$14 million extension. So the Twins are wrestling with how to get Blackburn to finish on a high note, regain his confidence and head into spring training with a clear head.

Antony said he will talk with pitching coach Rick Anderson, who returned Sunday from a two-day absence for personal reasons, and GM Terry Ryan to discuss whether Blackburn should make his next start. He has options left, and the Twins could recall right-hander Liam Hendriks -- 9-3 with a 2.20 ERA in 16 starts with Class AAA Rochester -- or get their first major league look at Esmerling Vasquez, who is 5-1 with a 1.94 ERA in his last 10 starts for the Red Wings.

"We had some conversations this morning," Antony said. "We'll talk to Terry tomorrow and have some more conversations and figure out what we're going to do."

Minnesota Twins' Denard Span not close, but roster move unlikely

By: John Shipley, Pioneer Press – 8/19/12

SEATTLE -- Denard Span doesn't appear all that close to returning to the Twins lineup. Still, assistant general manager Rob Antony said, putting the center fielder on the 15-day disabled list isn't in the team's plans.

"The thing you don't want to do is you don't want to throw him on the DL and have him out for a guaranteed two weeks if he can be ready in a day or two," Antony said before the Twins' series finale Sunday, Aug. 19, at Seattle.

Span missed his sixth straight game since injuring his collar bone trying to make a sliding catch in a 7-3 loss to Tampa Bay Aug. 12. He told reporters Sunday he still can't swing without pain, which is concentrated in his upper chest and neck on his right side.

"I just need to get where I can swing without feeling anything. I haven't had anything like that yet," Span said. "Yesterday started off good and then it started bothering me. I feel like it's moving in a positive way, but it's starting to get a little frustrating, to be honest with you."

The Twins got right fielder Ben Revere back on Sunday; he had missed the previous two games after turning an ankle in a loss to Detroit on Wednesday. That gives the Twins four healthy outfielders: Revere, Josh Willingham, Darin Mastroianni and recent callup Matt Carson, who went 3 for 4 and threw out a runner at third in Saturday's 3-2 loss.

"If Revere's ankle was worse, then maybe you'd need to do something, but Benny's fine; he's ready to go," Antony said. "We've got four guys, and we also can put (Ryan) Doumit out there. We can move guys around."

The Twins had hoped Span would take live batting practice on Friday or Saturday but when asked if he is ready, he said, "No chance." If he were DL'd on Monday, retroactive to Aug. 13, he wouldn't be eligible to return until the Twins start a four-game series against Seattle on Aug.

27 at Target Field. In the meantime, the team could use his roster spot to bring up, say, outfielder/first baseman Chris Parmelee from Class AAA Rochester.

"It's not an urgency, a necessity-type of thing. You don't want to have a guy out, when he could come back and be ready, and then he's sitting around for three or four days when he could have been playing."

Series Preview: Twins at Oakland

By: Joe Christensen, Star Tribune – 8/19/12

THREE-GAME SERIES AT THE OAKLAND COLISEUM

Monday, 9:05 p.m. • FSN, 1500-AM

LHP Brian Duensing (2-8, 4.69 ERA) vs. RHP Brandon McCarthy (6-4, 2.68)

Tuesday, 9:05 p.m. • FSN, 1500-AM

RHP Cole De Vries (2-4, 5.04) vs. RHP Dan Straily (1-0, 3.18)

Wednesday, 2:35 p.m. • FSN, 1500-AM

RHP Nick Blackburn (4-9, 7.39) vs. LHP Tommy Milone (9-9, 3.96)

TWINS UPDATE

The Twins swept three games from Oakland in May, and the Athletics swept three games from the Twins in July, with both of those series at Target Field. ... Duensing is 1-2 with a 4.32 ERA in four starts since returning to the rotation, including losses in each of his past two games. ... De Vries is 0-2 with an 18.56 ERA in his past two starts. He went five shutout innings the first time he faced the A's but gave up seven runs in five innings the second time.

ATHLETICS UPDATE

Oakland swept Cleveland this weekend, moving 10 games above .500 again. ... Former Twins reliever Pat Neshek has a 1.35 ERA in seven appearances with the A's, even though his fastball has averaged just 82.7 miles per hour, according to FanGraphs.com. He was stuck in Class AAA for the Orioles before they traded him to Oakland. ... In nine career games against the Twins, McCarthy is 2-0 with a 2.43 ERA.

Twins' Span remains an injured observer

By: Joe Christensen, Star Tribune – 8/19/12

SEATTLE - The Twins continue to play shorthanded with Denard Span nursing a sore neck, and there's no end in sight.

Span hasn't played since Aug. 12, when he rolled onto his right shoulder trying to make a catch against Tampa Bay, injuring his clavicle and neck muscles. The Twins have been saying he's day-to-day ever since, but asked Sunday if he is been able to take batting practice, Span said, "No chance."

Span has been swinging in the batting cage but said the pain bothers him when he reaches to cover the outside half of the plate.

Still, the Twins are determined to keep Span, 28, off the disabled list. When Ben Revere returned from his right ankle injury Sunday, it only strengthened the team's resolve.

Assistant General Manager Rob Antony noted that even with Span injured, the Twins have five other players who play outfield: Revere, Josh Willingham, Darin Mastroianni, Ryan Doumit and Matt Carson.

"It leaves [manager Ron Gardenhire] one guy thin on the bench," Antony said. "But Span could pinch-run. He could go in there if we got into a bind. But I don't see the scenario where we'll be in a bind. Maybe the last two days when Revere was out, but we've gotten past that."

If Span were put on the 15-day DL retroactively, he would be eligible to return Aug. 28. Meanwhile, at Class AAA Rochester, Chris Parmelee is batting .352 with 16 home runs in 54 games.

"The thing you don't want to do is to throw [Span] on the DL and have him out for a guaranteed two weeks, if he can be ready in a day or two," Antony said.

Deduno's tightrope walk

Even by Samuel Deduno's standards, Sunday was a crazy game. He issued a season-high six walks and hit a batter, but still held Seattle to two runs over six innings.

"I have to be better," Deduno said after his first career loss. "That's too many [walks]."

Added Gardenhire: "It's not a good formula. It makes for long innings and standing around defensively. That can take your offense off the field, too, and get you out of whack. But to his credit, he bent a little bit but didn't break."

Deduno has walked 36 batters and hit two more in 46 innings over eight starts, yet he is 4-1 with a 3.33 ERA.

Plouffe's struggles

Trevor Plouffe is 1-for-22 since returning from the DL and on Saturday, he looked out of sorts on two plays at third base.

"He just didn't move for the ball," Gardenhire said. "... He's got to get lower. He's starting to stand up straight again, and that's probably -- you're scuffling a little bit at the plate, you're carrying it out there, you're thinking about that. I'll talk to him -- again.

"It's the same thing Danny Valencia was doing, standing straight up. Ground balls are normally on the ground, and if you're standing straight up, that's a long ways to get to them, especially on the hot corner."

Etc.

- Nick Blackburn is scheduled to start Wednesday at Oakland, but the Twins have been discussing alternatives such as sending him to Rochester, moving him to the bullpen or having him skip a start. "We had some conversations [Sunday] morning," Antony said. "We'll talk to [GM Terry Ryan] tomorrow and have some more conversations and figure out what we're going to do and talk to Blackie and then talk to [the media]."
- Pitching coach Rick Anderson returned after missing the first two games of the series to attend to a personal matter.

Twins Insider: It's winless in Seattle as bats remain silent

By: Joe Christensen, Star Tribune – 8/19/12

SEATTLE - The Twins fell to a season-worst 20 games under .500 on Sunday, and this is threatening to get ugly again -- as in, 2011 ugly. As in, get ready for a whole new discussion about avoiding 100 losses.

From the All-Star break through Aug. 7, they scored more runs (143) than any other team in the majors. Since then, the offense has all but disappeared, and they're having trouble masking their pitching problems.

On Sunday, the Mariners withstood six innings of Samuel Deduno's rope-a-dope punches and pulled away for a 5-1 victory at Safeco Field, completing a three-game sweep.

The Twins went 0-for-10 with runners in scoring position for the day and 3-for-38 for the series.

"A bad series here," manager Ron Gardenhire said. "We scored six runs in three days. That's not good enough. They pitched well, but we sure missed out on a lot of opportunities."

Since Aug. 8, the Twins are 1-9, and their offense ranks second-to-last in the majors over that stretch with 33 runs scored.

"We've got to try to figure it out when we get to Oakland [on Monday]," Joe Mauer said. "It's definitely not acceptable."

That's the scary part. The Athletics have one of the best pitching staffs in the majors, including Monday starter Brandon McCarthy, who is 6-2 with a 2.33 ERA in his past 10 outings.

After leaving Oakland, the Twins will fly to Texas for a four-game series against the two-time defending American League champions.

The Twins are 50-70. At this point last year, they were 53-67. Of course, the 2011 squad wobbled toward the finish with injuries to Mauer, Justin Morneau and Denard Span. They needed a walk-off victory on the season's final night to finish 63-99.

"Last year, everybody was so banged up as we worked towards the end, it was completely different," Morneau said. "It's a different feel this year. Obviously, it's the dog days, the tough part of the season, but everybody's still busting their tails. That's why it's so frustrating. Everybody's available, and you're not getting the results you want."

On Aug. 8, the Twins had a chance to sweep Cleveland, which would have pulled them even with the Indians for third place in the division. Now, the Twins are languishing in last place again.

"We look up at those teams in front of us, and we don't feel like those teams are better than us," Morneau said. "I think that's tough when you're looking up at Cleveland and Kansas City. Detroit and Chicago are obviously having good years, but we don't feel like we're too far off from them."

Sunday's loss could have been much worse, but Deduno (4-1) held the Mariners to two runs over six innings, despite walking six batters and hitting another.

Seattle scored three runs off Jeff Gray in the seventh, but he wouldn't have been in the game if the Twins could have converted more of their earlier scoring chances.

"I think one of the biggest things you see is how important Denard Span is in our lineup," Morneau said after the team fell to 1-5 with Span out because of a sore clavicle. "He's the guy setting the tone. Obviously, Ben Revere's capable of doing that job, but Denard's been our leadoff hitter for a while."

Span didn't appear close to returning Sunday, so the Twins try to turn things around without him. They are on pace to finish 67-95, and that could get worse before it gets better.

Saunders homers, breaks 2-for-42 slump against Twins

By: Staff, Associated Press – 8/19/12

SEATTLE - Michael Saunders is showing signs of snapping out of his terrible slump.

Saunders hit a two-run homer, Blake Beavan pitched into the sixth inning and the Seattle Mariners beat the Minnesota Twins 5-1 on Sunday for their fifth straight victory.

Seattle completed a three-game series sweep and has won 12 of 13 at Safeco Field. Minnesota lost its fifth in a row.

The Mariners held a slim 2-1 lead before Saunders drove a 1-0 pitch from Jeff Gray over the wall in right in the seventh. Dustin Ackley, who led off with a double, was aboard for Saunders' career-best 11th homer.

Saunders went 5 for 12 in the series against Minnesota to raise his August batting average to .155.

"I was certainly struggling there for a while," he said. "I was trying too hard, over-swinging, trying to do more than I was capable of doing. I just tried to back to ground zero."

Ground zero, for Saunders, is his refigured swing honed during the offseason. He came into the season with a .196 career average in three years with the Mariners but got off to a strong start in 2012. He was hitting as high as .282 in mid-June but has been on a steady decline since.

"Everyone goes through slumps now and then. Mine was too long," he said. "I felt like I needed to ease off the ease-o-meter."

He was mired in a 2-for-42 rut before the Twins came to town. Sunday's homer was his first since July 24.

"There were different mechanical issues I had to figure out and certainly a different mental approach I needed to figure out coming into this year," he said. "There are signs of success but there are also signs I need to keep going. I can't get complacent or content. The last couple weeks showed me that."

Mariners manager Eric Wedge said he is pleased with Saunders' season and added: "He's going to be better. He's a complete player. He helps us win so many different ways. I've been very pleased with him. He's just scratching the surface."

Beavan (8-7) also is showing some progress after a first-half demotion to the minors. Since being recalled from Triple-A Tacoma, he is 5-1 with a 3.74 ERA in six starts.

"It's so much easier when you throw good pitches," said Beavan, who allowed one run and seven hits in 5 1-3 innings against the Twins. "I'm just trying to make one pitch at a time and go from there."

Samuel Deduno (4-1) issued six walks in six innings for Minnesota, but limited Seattle to two runs and five hits.

Trevor Plouffe put the Twins in front with a sacrifice fly in the second inning, but the Mariners took advantage of Deduno's wildness to take the lead in the third.

Ackley reached on a leadoff walk and Saunders singled to center. Deduno then issued consecutive walks to Kyle Seager and John Jaso to force home a run. Jesus Montero bounced into a double play, allowing Saunders to score for a 2-1 lead.

Beavan said the Twins, known for patience and plate discipline, played into his hands.

"I'm not frustrated at all," he said. "I don't mind patient hitters. It's easier for me to get ahead. They fouled a lot of balls off today. They were patient but there were aggressive. I think a lot of guys change their approach when I face them."

The Twins were 0 for 10 with runners in scoring position, and manager Ron Gardenhire said: "They pitched well but we missed out on a lot of opportunities ... We got people out there and couldn't get anybody in."

The Twins finally chased Beavan in the sixth after one-out singles by Justin Morneau and Ryan Doumit. Carter Capps came in and walked Plouffe to load the bases, then struck out Matt Carson and retired Pedro Florimon to end the inning.

After Saunders' home run, the Mariners added one more in the seventh on Eric Thames' RBI double.

NOTES: Twins general manager Terry Ryan is touring the minor leagues to determine candidates for September callups. "We're going to bring guys up who deserve it, not just because guys are on the roster. We've had too much of that," manager Ron Gardenhire said. He said that pitching will be the priority. ... The Twins turned three double plays, adding to their major league lead of 148. ... The Twins were 3 for 28 with runners in scoring position for the series.

A's eye fifth straight victory as Twins hit Oakland

By: Jay Lee, MLB.com – 8/19/12

Making a charge in the postseason hunt with quite a bit of momentum, the Athletics will look to extend their four-game winning streak as they open a three-game series against the Twins on Monday night in Oakland.

Within grasp of one of the two American League Wild Card spots, the Athletics are coming off a three-game sweep of the Indians, while the Twins enter the series with just one win in their past 10 games, falling to last place in the AL.

Brandon McCarthy takes the mound for the Athletics in his third start since returning from the disabled list, still in search of his first win.

Despite an overall effective performance in his last start, McCarthy gave up back-to-back two-out doubles in the seventh inning, and departed having given up two runs in 7 2/3 innings as the A's lost, 3-2, to the Royals.

"These are the games that I think we've expected to win all year and been winning, and to give that up late like that is -- we need to do better than this," McCarthy said. "I'm not happy with myself, and there's a lot of things we could've done today to be better."

McCarthy's counterpart, Twins left-hander Brian Duensing, will also be overcoming a tough outing that resulted in a loss, an 8-4 setback against the Tigers in which he gave up five runs in six innings on eight hits.

Owner of a 2-8 record and a 4.69 ERA between the rotation and the bullpen, Duensing has especially struggled in the opening innings. In the first two innings of games, Duensing has a 9.56 ERA, which dwarfs his 3.47 ERA in all others.

"I don't know what the deal is with the first two innings," Duensing said. "It's kinda been like that for a little bit. That's been one of the frustrating parts. I feel like I'm really close to figuring it out, but I don't know if I'm too amped up coming out. The ball seems to be up in the zone."

Twins manager Ron Gardenhire said after his last start that Duensing struggles with overthrowing, and that he needs to focus on his pitches' movement and not their speed -- an assessment that Duensing agreed with.

"When I'm throwing 91, 92, 93 mph, things probably aren't going to go very well for me," Duensing said. "When I'm 88-90, the ball is sinking and the ball is down. The changeup is usually coming out of the hand pretty good, also. So it might be an indication that I'm amped up or rushing to the plate and trying to do too much. Once I can kind of control that, my outings seem to be pretty decent."

Athletics: Griffin, Anderson near returns

A.J. Griffin threw his second bullpen session on Sunday and could be headed towards a rehab assignment, A's manager Bob Melvin said before Sunday's game.

Griffin has been out since Aug. 4 with right shoulder tightness, and his progress coincides with that of Brett Anderson, whose rehab assignment ends on Monday and will be ready to return from Tommy John surgery.

"We haven't completely figured out that situation," Melvin said on Sunday. "We'll have to make a decision today."

Twins: Revere back in lineup

After being sidelined for two games with a sore right ankle, Ben Revere was back in the lineup for Sunday's game against the Mariners.

Revere went 0-for-4 with a walk in Sunday's 5-1 loss to the Mariners.

"We're in a little bit better situation now with Revere healthy," Twins assistant general manager Rob Antony said. "We've got him, we've got [Josh] Willingham, we've got [Darin] Mastroianni, we've got Carson, we've got guys."

Worth noting

- The A's are a season-high 10 games over .500, and their four-game winning streak comes after dropping three in a row. The Twins are now a seasons-worst 20 games below .500.

- The Twins haven't scored more than four runs in the past five games.

Twins can't rally, bullpen falters in finale

By: Rhet Bollinger, MLB.com – 8/19/12

SEATTLE -- After winning just seven games in August and six in September last year en route to a 99-loss season, the Twins are hoping a similar spiral won't be taking place this season.

But the Twins have been struggling recently, and it was more of the same on Sunday against the last-place Mariners in a 5-1 loss at Safeco Field. It gave Seattle its first three-game sweep over Minnesota at home since the 2001 season.

The Twins scored just six runs in the series. Sunday's loss dropped them to a season-worst 20 games under .500, at 50-70, and they have lost nine of 10 following an impressive stretch that saw them win nine of 12.

"A bad series here," Twins manager Ron Gardenhire said. "We scored six runs in three days. That's not good enough. They pitched well, but we sure missed out on a lot of opportunities."

Minnesota simply couldn't capitalize on their chances with runners in scoring position, going 0-for-10 on Sunday to go just 3-for-28 in those situations in the three-game sweep.

It was frustrating for the Twins, who had been swinging the bats well until their recent skid. They haven't scored more than five runs in any of their last five games, which were all losses.

"Obviously we didn't have a very good series here," Twins catcher Joe Mauer said. "It's definitely not acceptable. You have your ups and downs in a season, but obviously you don't want to keep going in the direction that we have this series. We've played good baseball. We know we can play good baseball. It's just being consistent with it."

Right-hander Samuel Deduno again had trouble with his control, walking six and hitting a batter in six innings, but he was able to limit the damage. He surrendered two runs on five hits to mark his fourth quality start in eight outings. Deduno, though, wasn't pleased with his outing due to all the free passes.

"I don't know what to say about the walks," Deduno said. "Too many. Too many people. Too many bodies. I have to be better. That's too many."

But to his credit, he's managed to remain effective despite all the walks -- he has a 3.33 ERA despite issuing 36 walks in 46 innings this year.

"For him, he's a good pitcher because his stuff is nasty," said Mariners right fielder Eric Thames. "His fastball moves this way, that way, this way, and it's tough to have an approach [against] a guy like that, that's effectively wild."

Deduno gave up the two runs in the third inning, when he walked four batters, including John Jaso with the bases loaded and nobody out. Jesus Montero brought home the other run on a double-play ground ball.

But Deduno's high-wire act wasn't enough, as the Twins failed to do much offensively against the Mariners.

Minnesota scored just once against right-hander Blake Beavan, on a sacrifice fly from Trevor Plouffe in the second to score Josh Willingham, who doubled to open the frame.

The Twins wasted several scoring chances, including in the sixth inning, when they loaded the bases with one out. Matt Carson struck out before Pedro Florimon flied out to end the inning and the potential threat.

The Mariners broke the game open in the seventh, scoring three runs against reliever Jeff Gray. Gray served up a two-run homer to Michael Saunders before giving up an RBI double to Thames.

It effectively ended any chance for a late comeback for the Twins, and it doesn't get any easier for them on the road trip, as they head to Oakland and Texas, and both of those teams are currently very much in the playoff picture.

"We got out-pitched, we got out-hit, so it's something where we need to be better," first baseman Justin Morneau said. "Our intensity needs to be better. Our focus or whatever you want to call it needs to be a little better. The start of a long stretch on the road, and this is the one we needed to come in and set the tone for the road trip. A team with a very similar record to ours, and we just needed to come in here -- we didn't get that done."

Revere returns to Twins' lineup on Sunday

By: Rhett Bollinger, MLB.com – 8/19/12

SEATTLE -- After missing two games with a sore right ankle, Ben Revere returned to the lineup against the Mariners on Sunday, starting in center field and batting leadoff.

Revere rolled his ankle stepping on first base while trying to beat out a throw on Wednesday, but felt much better on Sunday.

The Twins were being extra cautious with Revere, and called up outfielder Matt Carson for outfield depth on Friday.

"We're in a little bit better situation now with Revere healthy," Twins assistant general manager Rob Antony said. "We've got him, we've got [Josh] Willingham, we've got [Darin] Mastroianni, we've got Carson, we've got guys."

Span still ailing with sore shoulder

By: Rhett Bollinger, MLB.com – 8/19/12

SEATTLE -- Center fielder Denard Span is still bothered by soreness in his right shoulder, stemming from an awkward dive in center on Aug. 12, and missed his sixth straight game on Sunday against the Mariners.

Span has yet to take live batting practice, as he's been only taking swings off a tee and doing flip drills. He said his shoulder doesn't affect him when he throws, but that it still hurts when he's swinging the bat.

"I just need to get where I can swing without feeling anything," Span said. "I haven't had anything like that yet. Yesterday started off good, and then it started bothering me. I feel like it's moving in a positive way, but it's starting to get a little frustrating, to be honest with you."

The Twins remain hopeful he'll return to the lineup in the next few days, and are avoiding placing him on the 15-day disabled list because they feel he will be able to play before he'd be eligible to return if he was on the DL.

"It leaves [manager Ron] Gardenhire one guy thin on the bench, but Span could pinch-run," Twins assistant general manager Rob Antony said. "He could go in there if we got into a bind. But I don't see the scenario where we'll be in a bind. Maybe the last two days when [Ben] Revere was out we could've been in a bind. But we've gotten past that."

Carson, Florimon showing well since callup

By: Rhett Bollinger, MLB.com – 8/19/12

SEATTLE -- Twins manager Ron Gardenhire said Sunday that he has been impressed by recent callups, infielder Pedro Florimon and outfielder Matt Carson.

The two combined for five of Minnesota's nine hits in its 3-2 loss to Seattle on Saturday, and have been providing strong defense with Florimon at shortstop and Carson in right field.

"We'll kind of get a feel for them as we go along, but both of them have been impressive, to say the least," Gardenhire said. "They both have stepped right in, and I'm really not worried about them."

Florimon, who had his contract purchased on Tuesday, has looked smooth at shortstop and picked up his first hit with the Twins on a triple on Saturday.

"He's pretty confident," Gardenhire said. "He kind of quiets the whole position down out there. He's in control and has a good feel for the game. He's made some nice plays over his head. At the plate, I think you saw right-handed, which is pronounced as his best side, you saw him pretty aggressive with a better swing."

Carson, meanwhile, had a career-high three hits on Saturday, and also threw out a runner trying to advance from first to third on a single to right. He joined the Twins on Friday after leading Triple-A Rochester in both games played and RBIs.

"I like what I've seen and like what he can do," Gardenhire said. "We know he's a good defender. You saw him throw a guy out at third base with a pellet. He moves around smooth out there, and offensively, he's taken some swings."

Mackey: Scott Diamond has been good, but let's not get carried away

By: Phil Mackey, 1500ESPN.com – 8/19/12

Generally speaking, we tend to measure success for starting pitchers based on whether their ERA starts with a 3 and whether they came close to throwing 200 innings.

There are, obviously, many other factors that go into long-term success as a starting pitcher. Strikeouts, walks, home runs allowed and hits allowed all enter into the equation at some point, and for the sabermetric geeks (like myself), we tend to analyze groundball rates, defense-independent metrics and other items that help to weed out luck. I still refuse to acknowledge wins and losses as a valid measurement for pitcher success.

But if a starting pitcher finishes a season throwing close to 200 innings with an ERA that starts with a 3, it's fair to say he had a pretty solid season.

Per those guidelines -- or per any guidelines, really -- the Minnesota Twins have not had very many solid seasons from their starting pitchers lately.

Since Johan Santana was traded five seasons ago, only twice has a Twins starter posted an ERA below 4.00 while also throwing at least 175 innings. Those pitchers were Francisco Liriano and Carl Pavano in 2010, and both did it in 2010.

Think about that.

Those are some pretty modest guidelines -- 175 innings and a sub-4.00 ERA during a time when the average American League starter ERA was 4.21 last season and 4.26 in 2010.

Yet, in 2008, 2009 and 2011, no Twins starter could meet those guidelines.

Because of this starting pitching deprivation, it's easy to overreact and use the term "ace" when someone like Scott Diamond pitches well over an extended period.

In the American League Central, Chicago White Sox starters have accomplished the feat seven times over that same stretch (John Danks three times, Mark Buehrle three times, Gavin Floyd once). Detroit Tigers starters have done it seven times as well (Justin Verlander four times, and Max Scherzer, Edwin Jackson and Armando Galarraga each once).

Even the Kansas City Royals (Zack Greinke, Gil Meche) and Cleveland Indians (Cliff Lee, Fausto Carmona, Justin Masterson) have done it three times each over the past five years.

Los Angeles Angels and Tampa Bay Rays starters have each done it a combined 18 times.

Posting a 3-something ERA was a bit more difficult when hitters were bursting out of their elastic-sleeved jerseys in the late-1990's. But in 2012, there are 54 qualified starting pitchers in the major leagues with sub-4.00 ERAs and 17 with ERAs under 3.00.

It might as well be labeled as the second coming of the dead-ball era.

And considering 39 pitchers threw at least 200 innings last season, crossing the 175-frame threshold isn't asking much.

As bad as Twins starting pitchers have been over the past two seasons, Diamond has emerged as a reliable arm. Despite spending all of April at Triple-A Rochester, Diamond is on pace to flirt with that 175-inning mark, and it'd take a massive implosion for him not to post a sub-4.00 ERA.

Internally, the Twins did not expect the type of production Diamond has provided, especially considering his struggles in Triple-A last season. But any skepticism within the organization about the legitimacy of Diamond's early-season performance mostly wore off after he shut down the Reds in Cincinnati in late June and the Tigers in Detroit in early July.

Twins decision-makers don't view him as the staff ace of a playoff-caliber team. But in 19 starts, Diamond has completed at least six innings 17 times. His shortest outing is 5 1/3. At the very least, even if hitters figure him out to a certain extent, Diamond has proven to be a workhorse.

Fielding Independent Pitching (FIP) helps tell us what a pitcher's ERA is likely to be over the long haul. Diamond's 3.84 FIP and 3.68 xFIP both suggest his 2.95 ERA is likely to jump up a bit, because since 2008 -- among pitchers who have thrown at least 400 innings -- only Tim Hudson and Joe Saunders own ERAs that have outperformed their FIPs (or xFIPs) by more than a half a run.

But if the Twins have found a pitcher who can sustain a sub-4.00 ERA for 175-plus innings going forward, it's a step in the right direction.

For a mid-rotation starter. Not an ace.

Deduno continues his high-wire act, but Mariners get to Gray in 7th

By: Staff, Associated Press – 8/19/12

SEATTLE -- Michael Saunders homered, helping Blake Beavan and the Seattle Mariners beat the Minnesota Twins 5-1 Sunday for their fifth straight victory.

Seattle completed a three-game sweep and has won 12 of its last 13 at Safeco Field. Minnesota lost its fifth in a row.

Saunders' two-run shot was his career-high 11th homer. He connected in the seventh inning after Dustin Ackley doubled off reliever Jeff Gray, putting Seattle ahead 4-1.

Beavan (8-7) and Twins starter Samuel Deduno (4-1) came into the game as a sharp study in contrasts.

Deduno had issued 34 walks in 45 2-3 career innings, making the rookie right-hander the first pitcher to go unbeaten in seven starts while issuing at least 30 walks since Tampa Bay's Victor Zambrano in 2004.

Beavan entered as a master of control with just 28 walks in 199 2-3 career innings.

Walks factored in for both pitchers.

In the second, Beavan issued his only walk that set up the first run. After Josh Willingham's double, Justin Morneau walked on four pitches. Trevor Plouffe later hit a sacrifice fly.

Deduno couldn't find the strike zone in the third with four walks and it cost him two runs. Ackley opened with a walk, Saunders followed with single then Kyle Seager walked to load the bases with no outs.

Deduno then walked John Jaso to force in a run. Jesus Montero bounced into a double play, allowing Saunders to score from third for a 2-1 lead.

The Twins chased Beavan in the sixth after one-out singles by Morneau and Ryan Doumit. Hard-throwing Carter Capps entered and walked Plouffe to load the bases, then struck out Matt Carson and induced Pedro Florimon to fly out.

Beavan, who picked up his fifth victory in his last six decisions, allowed one run and seven hits in 5 1-3 innings.

Deduno worked six innings and walked six.

After Saunders' home run, the Mariners added one more in the seventh on Eric Thames' RBI double, his third hit.

Numbers game

36: Walks issued by Deduno this season.

30: Strikeouts by Deduno this season.

3-for-28: The Twins with runners in scoring position over the weekend.

Health report

OF Denard Span has now missed one full week with a sore shoulder, but the Twins have not made a DL move yet.

On deck

Monday: @ A's, 9:05 p.m. LHP Brian Duensing (2-8, 4.69) vs. RHP Brandon McCarthy (6-4, 2.68)

Tuesday: @ A's, 9:05 p.m. RHP Cole De Vries (2-4, 5.04) vs. RHP Dan Straily (1-0, 3.18)

Wednesday: @ A's, 2:35 p.m. RHP Nick Blackburn (4-9, 7.39) vs. LHP Tommy Milone (9-9, 4.03)

Twins swept by Mariners in Seattle

By: Staff, Associated Press – 8/19/12

SEATTLE (AP) -- Samuel Deduno has a sharp breaking ball and a lively fastball that can dart in different directions. The rookie right-hander is still working on his control.

Deduno issued a career-high six walks in the Minnesota Twins' 5-1 loss to the Seattle Mariners on Sunday, completing a three-game series sweep. He managed to last six innings and allowed just two runs and five hits, but the lack of control was costly.

"Sometimes I don't know what to say about the walks," Deduno said. "Too many people -- just too much. It's part of the game but I have to be better than that. I walk six people. That's too much."

Deduno (4-1) began the day with 34 walks in 45 2-3 career innings, making him the first pitcher to go unbeaten in seven starts while issuing at least 30 walks since Tampa Bay's Victor Zambrano in 2004.

"Deduno was Deduno," Twins manager Ron Gardenhire said. "A lot of walks and we're out there a long time playing defense. That never bodes well but he didn't break. He bent a little, getting himself in some messes but got out of it."

The Mariners held a slim 2-1 lead before Michael Saunders drove a 1-0 pitch from Jeff Gray over the wall in right in the seventh. Dustin Ackley, who led off with a double, was aboard for Saunders' career-best 11th homer.

Seattle (58-64) has won five straight to improve to 22-13 since the All-Star break. It has won 12 of 13 at Safeco Field.

The Mariners earned their first three-game home sweep against the Twins since July 27-29, 2001.

Blake Beavan (8-7) allowed one run and seven hits in 5 1-3 innings for Seattle. The right-hander struck out three and walked one while improving to 5-1 with a 3.74 ERA in his last seven starts.

Minnesota has lost five in a row.

Trevor Plouffe put the Twins in front with a sacrifice fly in the second inning, but the Mariners took advantage of Deduno's wildness to take the lead in the third.

Ackley reached on a leadoff walk and Saunders singled to center. Deduno then issued consecutive walks to Kyle Seager and John Jaso to force home a run. Jesus Montero bounced into a double play, allowing Saunders to score for a 2-1 lead.

"He's a good pitcher. His stuff is nasty," Mariners outfielder Eric Thames said. "His fastball is this way, that way, this way. It's tough to have an approach against a guy like that who is effectively wild."

Beavan said the Twins, known for patience and plate discipline, played into his hands.

"I'm not frustrated at all," he said. "I don't mind patient hitters. It's easier for me to get ahead. They fouled a lot of balls off today. They were patient but there were aggressive. I think a lot of guys change their approach when I face them."

The Twins were 0 for 10 with runners in scoring position Sunday and 3 for 28 in the series.

"This series here, we scored six runs, I think. Six run in three days is not good enough." Gardenhire said. "We are just not clicking, not getting our hits when we're supposed to and we are missing opportunities."

The Twins finally chased Beavan in the sixth after one-out singles by Justin Morneau and Ryan Doumit. Carter Capps came in and walked Plouffe to load the bases, then struck out Matt Carson and retired Pedro Florimon to end the inning.

After Saunders' home run, the Mariners added one more in the seventh on Thames' RBI double.

NOTES: Twins general manager Terry Ryan is touring the minor leagues to determine candidates for September callups. "We're going to bring guys up who deserve it, not just because guys are on the roster. We've had too much of that," Gardenhire said. He said that pitching will be the priority. ... The Twins turned three double plays, adding to their major league lead of 148. ... The Twins were 3 for 28 with runners in scoring position for the series.

Twins must pick up play to avoid 100 losses

By: Tyler Mason, FSNorth.com – 8/19/12

After the Minnesota Twins lost 99 games in 2011, it seemed unlikely that the club would approach 100 losses two years in a row.

But after this weekend's sweep at the hands of the Seattle Mariners, Minnesota is indeed in danger of losing 100 games in 2012. The Twins' 5-1 loss in Sunday's series finale dropped them to 50-70 on the season, 20 games under .500 for the first time all season.

One year ago, Minnesota was 53-67 through 120 games. That club went on to finish 10-32 in the final 42 games of the year.

To avoid 100 losses this season, the Twins must now go 13-29 in the final 42 games.

"We're just not clicking," Twins manager Ron Gardenhire said. "We're not getting our hits when we're supposed to. We're missing opportunities. Baseball is cyclical. ... Right now we're going through a stretch where we can't seem to get any runs in and we can't find out a way to get the big hit."

The Twins continue their West Coast road trip with three games against the surprising Oakland Athletics before heading to first-place Texas for a four-game series. For a team needing to dig itself out of a rut, Minnesota will have its hands full in the upcoming week.

"We've got our work cut out for us," Gardenhire said. "We've got to find a way to get on a roll here and start scoring some runs. Once we do that, it's a little more fun baseball."

Minnesota hasn't be able to pitch nor hit as of late, but for a Twins offense that has shown some promise this season, their bats have gone cold over the past week. Minnesota managed just six runs in three games against Seattle and struggled with runners in scoring position — the Twins were 0-for-10 as a team with RISP in Sunday's game. One day earlier, Minnesota's hitters were 2-for-12 with runners in scoring position during Saturday's 3-2 loss.

To gain any traction on offense, Minnesota will have to drive in runs in those situations.

"We missed plenty of opportunities," Gardenhire said. "We had people out there and couldn't drive anybody in."

Gibson continues to make progress: Twins pitching prospect Kyle Gibson, the team's first-round pick out of the University of Missouri in 2009, continues to make progress from Tommy John surgery he underwent last season. Gibson, 24, pitched four innings Sunday in a rehab start with Class-A Fort Myers. He allowed one earned run on three hits (including a solo home run) in four innings while striking out four.

"Had another fun night on the mound!" Gibson said after the start on his Twitter account (@kgib44) "Getting closer to throwing how I wanna be throwing and with more consistency! Slowly but surely!"

Gibson previously pitched in nine games (14 2/3 innings) for the Twins' Gulf Coast League team and one previous start with Fort Myers. He was ranked by Baseball America as the No. 34 prospect in baseball prior to the 2011 season.

Prior to suffering his arm injury last season, Gibson was 3-8 with a 4.81 ERA in 18 starts for Triple-A Rochester. He struck out 91 and walked 27 in 95 1/3 innings. If Gibson were healthy entering the 2012 season, he would have been a candidate to earn a spot in the Twins' rotation out of spring training. Instead, he's spent the entire year rehabbing. It remains to be seen where he will begin the 2013 season.

Twins, Red Wings extend partnership: The Twins announced on Friday that they have extended their partnership with the Rochester Red Wings, their Triple-A affiliate, through the 2014 season.

The Red Wings began serving as Minnesota's Triple-A affiliate in 2003. Prior to that, Rochester served that role for the Baltimore Orioles from 1961-2002. The Red Wings were also the Triple-A affiliate of the St. Louis Cardinals from 1928-60.

Deduno strong starter despite erratic control

By: Tyler Mason, FSNorth.com – 8/19/12

The last time Twins catcher Ryan Doumit was behind the plate for a start by Samuel Deduno, Doumit talked about the uncertainty with which each of Deduno's pitches approaches the plate.

Deduno's curveball often ends up in the dirt before bouncing into the chest of the catcher. His fastball has good movement on it as well and darts any which way. As a result, Doumit just sets up right behind the plate and lets Deduno's pitches do the work.

Like he had been in his previous seven starts with Minnesota, Deduno was effectively wild in Sunday's series finale against the Mariners, although he was hit with his first loss of the year in a 5-1 Seattle win. Deduno picked up a quality start by allowing just two runs in six innings of work.

During that time, though, he walked six batters while striking out just two.

"Deduno was Deduno," Twins manager Ron Gardenhire said. "A lot of walks, and we were out there a long time playing defense. ... But he didn't break. He bent a little bit, got himself into some messes, but he got out of them."

The six walks were a season high for Deduno, who walked five batters in each of his last two outings. Despite his wildness Sunday, Deduno was able to prevent the floodgates from completely opening, thanks to a trio of double plays turned behind him.

The biggest double play Deduno induced came in the third inning, after he walked in a run with the bases loaded. Yet after walking John Jason to bring home Dustin Ackley, Deduno got Jesus Montero to ground to shortstop for a 6-4-3 double play. A run scored on the play, but it limited the damage as Deduno escaped the inning with two runs -- the only two he allowed.

In that third inning, Deduno issued four walks. Instead of getting the hook, though, Minnesota allowed him to stay on the mound and clean up the mess.

"He's got good stuff, and that's how he's able to get away with the walks," said Mariners third baseman Kyle Seager, who walked twice and

got a hit against Deduno on Sunday. "He's got the real good sinker and a real good curveball. He's got good stuff. I was just fortunate to be able to walk a few times and get the one hit."

With a runner on third and one out in the first inning, Deduno got a ground ball double play to end the inning without allowing a run. Deduno's final double play of the game came in his sixth and final inning as Trayvon Robinson grounded to shortstop, allowing the Twins to turn two behind Deduno.

"He can make some pitches when he has to," Gardenhire said. "Living like that, with those guys out there like that and base on balls is eventually going to get to you. He worked his way through it somehow or another. I don't know how he did it. It's kind of amazing, to tell you the truth."

Through his eight starts, Deduno has now allowed 75 base runners, but just 24 percent of those runners (18) have come around to score. That percentage is the lowest among all Twins starters. But given his high walk totals, it's unlikely that Deduno can sustain that type of success long-term.

And Minnesota knows that.

"It'll eventually catch up to you," Gardenhire said. "There's going to be some big hits when you're walking people and putting them out there and it's going to eventually get you buried. But he seems to be able to make some pitches when he has to. ... But that's not a good formula walking all those people like that."

Because of the high walk totals, Deduno certainly doesn't fit the typical mold of a Twins pitcher; Minnesota prides itself on pitchers who can pound the strike zone consistently. But with eight starts under his belt, it's fair to ask the question: does Deduno deserve a shot at the starting rotation next year? Amid his erratic control, Deduno lowered his ERA to 3.33 after Sunday's start.

For a Twins team with many questions among its pitching staff, Deduno might end up being one answer.



TOP TWITTER POSTS TO @TWINS

[Erik Anderson@erianderson](#) Met Joe Mauer & [@Twins](#) Mgr Ron Gardenhire this wkend in Seattle. Both very nice guys. Gotta admit to being starstruck by 3x AL batting champ

[What's in a name?@sfgiantslove51](#) [@Twins](#) are in the bay area. Can't see them in person, but will tune in on the telly.

[this girl@mplsgirlproblems](#) Kisses for Carson! [@Twins](#)

[Honor Paige Hanstad@honorpaige](#) I paint my nails red and navy blue because I'm a [@Twins](#) fans.

[Hank@HankWalter](#) Lets go [@Twins](#).. [#ComeBackNation](#) [#TwinsNation](#)

[darrell knetsch@wildfan67](#) Summer winding down. We have one of top ballparks in [#MLB](#). Target Field [#thebullseye](#) & [@twins](#) offering [#100TixFor100K](#) followers. 315 away!