



Behind wild relief, White Sox drop fifth in a row

Santiago struggles with location in 10th as A's wait out a win

By Willie Bans / Special to MLB.com

OAKLAND -- At the Coliseum, a pitcher like Hector Santiago, who works fast and talks faster, stands out. Things move a little slower here.

The A's, who lead the Majors with 240 walks, will wait ... and wait.

The A's will wait even until the 10th inning, like they did Saturday afternoon, after Santiago had already issued four walks over 1 2/3 innings. They'll wait even if there are two outs and the bases loaded. They'll wait ... and wait ...

Until a guy like Josh Reddick, who was on the disabled list for more than three weeks until Friday's series opener, is up to bat. Reddick took a first-pitch fastball for a strike, waited on a curveball in the dirt, held off of two sinkers out of the zone, and on a 3-1 count, he waited again.

Standing straight with the bat resting on his left shoulder, Reddick took a slider that was high and inside, walking to end the game and hand the White Sox a 4-3 loss.

Welcome to Oakland.

"There were a few pitches that I thought definitely in that situation right there are other people out there that would probably swing at that," Santiago said, his words wanting to leave as fast as he probably did. "And they just kind of stood there, like, 'You can throw me a strike if you can,' you know? It's definitely tough because I feel like some of those pitches would be swung at in a different game."

The White Sox lost their fifth consecutive game, falling in front of 26,646 and dropping to 24-29. On Sunday they will try to avoid a three-game sweep to the A's, who moved to 33-24.

White Sox pitchers had stranded 18 runners before Reddick's walk-off walk. Santiago (1-4) stranded three of those runners when he entered the ninth with the game 3-3 and worked into and out of a bases-loaded jam. In the 10th, he allowed a one-out double to Chris Young, intentionally walked Yoenis Cespedes and got Brandon Moss on a lineout. But Reddick was worked into a favorable situation.

"The way he pitched [Eric] Sogard [in the ninth] and Moss, he threw a lot of fastballs, so that's why I was just sitting on something over the plate and trying to nibble," Reddick said. "On 3-1, I was taking the whole time.

"I didn't want to get too big and pop something up or run it over because we didn't need something hard and far. We needed a run either way, whether it was a walk or a bloop single."

The White Sox tied the game in the seventh on Alejandro De Aza's two-out single to center. It was the first time in the series that the White Sox bats really stung the A's, and it came against an unlikely pitcher, Sean Doolittle, who had been dominant this season.

"We were grinding out at-bats, doing stuff offensively, fighting our way back," manager Robin Ventura said. "I think there was progress. There's a silver lining to it, but again, you're here to win games. It's just one of those games where you get into a high-wire act as far as getting guys on and being a little erratic."

The White Sox managed six hits, one run and no walks off Oakland starter Dan Straily, who struck out eight in his six innings. Reliever Jerry Blevins (4-0) picked up the win by getting the final out in the top of the 10th.

Although White Sox starter Jose Quintana threw 50 pitches in the first two innings, he stayed in until Jed Lowrie's one-out double in the sixth. Quintana allowed three runs, 10 hits and three walks while striking out four.

The White Sox misfired a bit in the fifth inning. With Josh Donaldson on first, Quintana stumbled during his delivery to Nate Freiman, and Donaldson advanced to second on the balk. Then Freiman blasted a triple to left-center, bouncing it off the wall as center fielder De Aza struggled to locate the ball. It was an adventurous way to allow a run, and it left the White Sox with a 3-1 deficit.

The White Sox scored their first run on Adam Dunn's two-out single in the second inning, which cut the deficit to 2-1.

The runs Quintana allowed in each of the first two innings were scored by the A's player who led off the frame with a hit.

On Sunday, the White Sox will try to snap out of their slump in the series finale. As much they want it, they must not hurry, because the A's will surely be ready -- and waiting.

Beckham swinging hot bat on Triple-A rehab stint

By Willie Bans / Special to MLB.com

OAKLAND -- This was the series Gordon Beckham, the Opening Day second baseman, was possibly going to return from the disabled list. Instead, while the White Sox were opening a series in Oakland on Friday night, Beckham was hitting the game winner for Triple-A Charlotte.

The demand is there for Beckham's return to the White Sox. The timetable?

"In the next week, if not sooner," manager Robin Ventura said before Saturday's afternoon game against the A's.

Beckham, on the DL since April 10, appears to be doing fine with his surgically repaired left hand. He's 11-of-32 with two doubles and four RBIs in his rehab stint.

Ventura could hardly hold back a smile while discussing Beckham's return to the offensively challenged White Sox.

"It's up to him, really -- we'll welcome him any time," Ventura said. "It's just, when's the right time, does he feel he's ready to come up and ready to play? .. I let him know that I'm ready for him whenever he thinks he's ready.

"But you don't want a guy coming back off of what he's done and not be 100 percent ready to go. We don't want it to be a, 'I think I'm ready.'"

Konerko likely out Sunday to rest stiff neck

OAKLAND -- Designated hitter Paul Konerko woke up Saturday with a stiff neck and it only got worse as the day progressed.

He went 0-for-2 with two strikeouts before giving way to pinch-hitter Casper Wells in the sixth inning.

Konerko said the area around his lower right neck and trapezoid "bunched up" too much for him to keep his hands on the bat on a down-and-away pitch or turn on a fastball down the middle.

White Sox manager Robin Ventura said Konerko will likely rest for Sunday's series finale against the Oakland A's.

Konerko said he has had neck problems before in his career and that he decided to err on the side of caution Saturday.

"I've played enough to know that if you go out there all the time, you hold your breath and you have good games, you have bad games, whatever," he said. "Sometimes you know it's not pain or anything, it's about restriction. What you can get to, what you can't get to."

Ventura recalls Draft selection 25 years later

OAKLAND -- On June 1, 1988, Robin Ventura was a star at Oklahoma State University, and he received a phone call that made his dream come true.

The California kid had been drafted 10th overall by the Chicago White Sox.

Twenty-five years ago to the day, Ventura shared what he remembered.

"Back then, there was no Internet, so someone had to get a hold of you, which wasn't always so easy in Stillwater, Oklahoma," he said Saturday. "I think I found out in the afternoon at some point that I was drafted. I was from California and didn't know much about the White Sox. It was just one of those things where someone calls you up and says, 'Hey, you've been drafted by the White Sox.' ... 'All right.'"

"Nothing happened for a while because I played on the Olympic team and signed after that. It ended up being good, I'm glad it happened. Back then it was, 'Hey, by the way ...' There was no fanfare or anything like that."

Worth noting

- Conor Gillaspie provided one of the five hits the White Sox mustered against Bartolo Colon on Friday. His 1-of-3 performance at the plate did not go unnoticed by manager Robin Ventura.

"With what Bart was doing, his approach, [Gillaspie] wasn't trying to do too much," Ventura said. "That's part of where you get in a little trouble with Bart is you're thinking you're going to get that first strike. He doesn't necessarily throw that first strike as hard as he can. He kind of locates it and puts a little sink on it, so if you're overaggressive, you're going to beat it down. [Gillaspie] was pretty patient and just made sure he got the one he wanted, stayed through the middle. He didn't get a bunch of hits, but the approach and the contact, that's what you're looking for."

Entering Saturday's action, Gillaspie ranked first among American League rookies in hits (40) and third in on-base percentage (.342).

- Jesse Crain extended his career-high scoreless streak to 20 1/3 innings after tossing a scoreless eighth Saturday. On a full count, Crain got A's slugger Yoenis Cespedes to strike out swinging with runners on second and third to end the inning.

White Sox turn to rested Sale for finale at Oakland

Chicago lefty riding scoreless streak; A's seeking series sweep

By Ethan Asofsky / MLB.com

Chris Sale should be well rested for his start in Oakland on Sunday.

As a precaution, the White Sox left-hander was scratched from his start on May 22 with a mild case of tendinitis in his left shoulder. He then had his Tuesday start in the Crosstown Cup postponed after three innings and 37 pitches.

The Cubs scored two runs off Sale before Mother Nature halted the game and erased the statistics. That means Sale heads into Sunday's start still carrying a 16 2/3 scoreless-innings streak after he dominated the Angels in back-to-back starts on May 12 and 17.

The White Sox need their ace to stop the bleeding following two straight losses to start the series against the A's, matching their season-high skid at five games.

"I've been on a team where it was worse than this," White Sox manager Robin Ventura said. "I think when a guy looks at this and thinks, 'It can't get any worse,' it can always get worse. You can run off 10 in a row like this if you aren't careful. That's one of the crazy things about this game. There are so many games. It's every day. You have to have the mental discipline to be able to just put yesterday behind you and look at today optimistically with some sort of offensive production."

While Chicago is struggling, the A's have been on a hot streak heading into June. With their 10-inning 4-3 win on Saturday, Oakland has won eight of its last nine and 13 of its last 15 to move to a season-high nine games over .500.

Sale will oppose Oakland starter Jarrod Parker, who struggled to start the season after piecing together one of the better rookie campaigns in the Majors in 2012. Since starting the season 0-4 with an 8.10 ERA, Parker has rebounded with an ERA under 4.00 in his past six starts. The right-hander did his part during Oakland's emotional Bay Bridge Series with San Francisco, when he allowed two runs over seven innings on Tuesday.

But Parker didn't grow up watching the intense rivalry between Oakland and San Francisco. He was a White Sox fan in Fort Wayne, Ind., and on Sunday he will be tasked with keeping Chicago in its losing ways and giving Sale little time to rest in the dugout.

A's: Balfour still perfect

Closer Grant Balfour has converted 12-of-12 save opportunities this season and still has a streak of 30 consecutive saves dating back to April 29, 2012. The 35-year-old right-hander has averaged more than 10 strikeouts per nine innings.

Hunter Pence's ninth-inning home run for the Giants on Tuesday was the first run Balfour had allowed since April 28.

White Sox: Crain continues impressive streak

Oakland had runners on second and third in the eighth inning on Saturday, but reliever Jesse Crain struck out Yoenis Cespedes to end the inning and preserve his career-high scoreless-innings streak. Crain has been untouchable for the better part of this season, allowing a run on April 11 and 12 but no more in 28 appearances this season.

Worth noting

- Twenty-one of Chicago's last 27 games have been decided by three runs or less.
- White Sox rehabbing second baseman Gordon Beckham picked up a game-winning RBI single in the bottom of the ninth for Triple-A Charlotte on Friday.
- Oakland pinch-hitters are 5-for-53 (.094) on the season.

Sox's Konerko (neck) likely out for Sunday's game

White Sox's Paul Konerko on leaving Saturday's game with a stiff neck.

By Mark Gonzales / Chicago Tribune

Paul Konerko perfectly summed up his fortunes after leaving Saturday's game in the sixth inning because of neck stiffness that probably will sideline him for Sunday's series finale against the A's.

"It's all part of the fun," Konerko said sarcastically after pain hampered his swing and put a dent in his progress.

Konerko was batting .400 over his last seven games before striking out twice against A's starter **Dan Straily**.

"I've missed sliders when I'm 100 percent healthy, but I knew what I couldn't do," said Konerko, who said the soreness surfaced when he woke up Saturday. "If I had a fastball down the middle, I knew I couldn't take a good swing at it. From my second at-bat, it was getting worse."

"Sometimes it's not about pain; it's about restriction, what you can get to. It was going to be tough to keep two hands on the bat."

Before Konerko's injury, manager **Robin Ventura** already had planned to start backup outfielder **Dewayne Wise** and perhaps **Casper Wells**, who took over the designated hitter duties for Konerko and went 0-for-2.

Beckham's beckoning: There is plenty of hope surrounding the return of second baseman **Gordon Beckham** even though Ventura said before the Sox's six-game trip that Beckham probably wouldn't be back until June 6 when the Sox return to U.S. Cellular Field.

Beckham, who had an RBI single Saturday night against Rochester in his third game on a minor league rehabilitation assignment for Triple-A Charlotte after missing a week because of soreness in his left hand, isn't scheduled to start Sunday as a planned move.

"He'll talk to (general manager) **Rick Hahn**, but you don't want him coming back unless he's 100 percent," said Ventura, mindful that Beckham's rehab was suspended for a week because of soreness.

As Beckham gets closer to returning, Ventura said he will talk to Hahn about the corresponding move to make room for him on the 25-man roster.

Playing time has been scarce for infielder **Tyler Greene** and outfielder Wells in the last 10 days.

Poised Parker: A's pitcher **Jarrod Parker**, who will face his favorite boyhood team Sunday, is 3-2 while limiting opponents to a .221 batting average over his last six starts after starting 0-4 with an 8.10 ERA in his first five outings.

"It has been a combination of a lot of adjustments — mechanical, health and mindset," said Parker, who won 13 games as a rookie in 2012. "There was just a lot of stuff going on that wasn't right, and now it's starting to turn around.

"There's so much film, research and stats that you have to make the adjustments and stay ahead of the curves. I knew I had to stay ahead."

Extra innings: Reliever **Jesse Crain** set a career high with 20¹/₃ scoreless innings and 22 consecutive scoreless outings after striking out **Yoenis Cespedes** with runners at second and third to end the eighth. ... Second baseman **Jeff Keppinger** made a diving stop to rob **Nate Freiman** of a hit in the seventh and collected two hits to raise batting average to .386 over his last 13 games.

Wildness fatal to Sox in 4-3 loss to A's

Santiago walks in winning run in 10th; Quintana gives up 3 runs on 10 hits and 3 walks

By Mark Gonzales / Chicago Tribune

OAKLAND, Calif. — Manager Robin Ventura actually saw a silver lining Saturday in the White Sox's otherwise torturous 4-3 loss to the A's that extended their losing streak to five games.

The positive signs Ventura saw were that the Sox's usually dormant offense rallied from a 3-1 deficit and that the pitching staff performed a high-wire act that stranded 18 baserunners until Hector Santiago walked in the winning run in the 10th inning.

But the actual silver lining, which might be the Sox's last temporary ray of hope before Gordon Beckham returns, is that left-handed ace Chris Sale will be summoned Sunday to stop the Sox's skid that reached more agonizing proportions.

For the eighth time in their last 10 games, the Sox scored three runs or fewer. Jose Quintana mirrored Santiago's battles with three walks, as well as 10 hits, and was pulled after 104 pitches in only 51/3 innings.

That's why Sale's start Sunday will take on greater meaning for the Sox.

And Sale (5-2), who owns a 23-inning scoreless streak and is 10-0 lifetime against the American League West, is aware of the A's penchant for frustrating opposing pitchers with their patience. That was evident against Santiago.

"It seems like they're swinging a lot," Sale said of the A's, against whom he's 2-0 lifetime, including 1-0 with 16 strikeouts in 14 2/3 innings last season. "And right when you think they're swinging a lot, they're very patient. That's why they have the success they do."

Santiago witnessed that in the ninth and 10th innings. He worked out of a bases-loaded, no-out jam in the ninth when he got Derek Norris to ground into a double play and struck out Eric Sogard. But in the 10th, he issued an intentional walk to Yoenis Cespedes before walking Josh Donaldson to load the bases. Josh Reddick then walked with no intention of swinging at a 3-1 count to end the game.

"There were a few pitches that I thought definitely in that situation other teams are swinging, and they just stood there like 'Here, throw me a strike if you can,'" Santiago said. "It's definitely tough because I felt like those pitches definitely get someone out in a different game."

But Reddick had a good read on Santiago.

"He threw a lot of fastballs, so that's what I was sitting on, something over the plate, and he tried to nibble," said Reddick, who pushed a bunt past Santiago for a single to load the bases in the ninth. "On 3-1, I was taking the whole time. I figured I was so comfortable in the box. I felt great and saw him well before. I felt like if I got to 3-2, I'd be comfortable anyway."

Whispers: Sosa record safe

Cubs slugger hit homers in 45 major league ballparks and Beltre has at least 1 in 39 with 4 missing from his collection

By Phil Rogers /Chicago Tribune

Sammy Sosa homered in 45 big-league stadiums and is in no danger of losing that record soon. The Rangers' **Adrian Beltre** leads active players with homers in 39 ballparks. There are only four current parks in which he hasn't homered and no new stadiums in the pipeline. ...

Jered Weaver threw six strong innings against the Dodgers in his return, and his fastball had its usual late life, although averaging a modest 87 mph. ...

Marlins utility player **Ed Lucas** (Dartmouth grad with a sociology and economics major) became the fourth Ivy Leaguer to play in the big leagues this season, joining **Craig Breslow** (Yale), **Ryan Lavernway** (Yale) and **Will Venable** (Princeton). ...

One reason Pirates manager **Clint Hurdle** is riding relievers **Jason Grilli** and **Mark Melancon** so hard — 24 of their first 34 victories were by two runs or one run, including all three over the Tigers last week and a run of 10 straight overall. Their last lopsided win was May 16. Grilli is the eighth reliever since 1969 to have 20-plus saves on June 1, with the Reds' **Danny Graves** the latest in 2004. He saved 41 games that year and then made only 53 more career appearances. ...

Hurdle believes **Vin Mazzaro**, **Bryan Morris** and **Tony Watson** will help him ease off of Melancon as the season goes on. ...

Blame **Evan Gattis** for the Braves dumping third baseman **Juan Francisco**, who has generated a lot of trade interest. The Braves are keeping three catchers so **Fredi Gonzalez** can bring Gattis off the bench and keep **Gerald Laird** around as the primary backup to catcher **Brian McCann**. ...

The Phillies are enjoying a nice reward for sticking with left fielder **Dominic Brown**, whose 15 home runs have come because he's more selective at the plate. ...

Marlins Park remains a very tough place to hit home runs. Research showed that seven of the Marlins' first 19 road home runs would not have gone out at their home park. ...

You have to love the enthusiasm of 42-year-old **Jason Giambi**, who got himself thrown out trying to steal third base last week. "It's like the old saying, 'Don't think, kid, you're hurting the club,' " said Giambi, who gave himself the green light for his first stolen-base try since 2010. Giambi entered the weekend hitting .185 overall but .412 with runners in scoring position, fitting nicely on the Indians' bench. ...

Colby Lewis' recovery from a torn flexor tendon in his elbow is going slowly, making it more likely the Rangers will be in the market for midseason rotation help. ...

Don't even think about voting for **Jean Segura** for rookie of the year. The Brewers burned up his eligibility with 166 plate appearances last season, 36 more than the rookie cutoff. ...

When 20-year-old **Jurickson Profar** homered Monday, he became the youngest player to hit a leadoff homer since 18-year-old **Lou Klimchok** in 1958. The Rangers hope he goes on to surpass Klimchok's total of 13 career home runs. ...

Like the Cardinals, the Rays just keep finding and producing eye-popping pitchers. **Alex Colome**, the latest, was impressive in beating the Marlins in his big-league debut. He's the nephew of former Devil Ray **Jesus Colome**.

Ventura celebrates 25th anniversary of Sox's selection

By Mark Gonzales / Chicago Tribune

OAKLAND -- Manager Robin Ventura chuckled when informed that Saturday marks the 25th anniversary of his selection by the Chicago White Sox in the amateur draft.

"Back then there was no Internet, so somebody had to get a hold of you, which always wasn't so easy in Stillwater, Okla.," Ventura recalled. "I think I found out in the afternoon at some point. I was from California and didn't know anything about the White Sox."

Ventura was the 10th overall selection in the draft but just finished his junior season at OSU and couldn't sign until he completed playing for the United States in the 1988 Olympics.

"I'm glad it happened," Ventura said of the sequence. "But back then you get a 'hey, by the way.' There was no fanfare or anything like that."

Ventura did remember his first trip to the old Comiskey Park.

"It was the same day Coach (Mike) Ditka had a heart attack," Ventura said. "So (former Chicago Tribune baseball columnist) Jerome Holtzman was the only that stayed for the interview."

"Everyone peeled off to get the update on Ditka."

Robin Ventura remains upbeat as skid grows after 4-3 loss in 10 to A's

By Daryl Van Schouwen / Chicago Sun-Times

OAKLAND, Calif. — In times such as these, you think back to when Robin Ventura turned down a contract extension offer during spring training and wonder if he is glad he did so.

A late-season fade notwithstanding, Ventura's first year as a manager was a success. The Sox held first place for 117 days, and Ventura finished third in American League Manager of the Year voting as a rookie.

He hasn't been able to lift his team out of the pit it tumbled into during mid-September, and the more this run of bad baseball continues the more Ventura will be scrutinized — especially after the Blackhawks are done and columnists and sports talkers search for subjects to weigh in on.

Ventura knows this, and as bad as things are, he still likes his job, has no regrets about getting back into baseball and is prepared to have his feet held to the fire.

"Absolutely," Ventura said Saturday, before the Sox lost their fifth game in a row, this one 4-3 to the Oakland A's on a walk with the bases loaded in the 10th inning. "This won't be the last [slump]. You hope it's the worst one but every time in my career somebody gives the old 'it can't get worse than this' you know that it can get a lot worse."

Ventura said he slept well Friday night after Dylan Axelrod's gem of a start was wasted because of a five-hit display by a Sox offense that Ventura said "stinks."

"He's not lying," right fielder Alex Rios said. "We're not doing what we're supposed to do."

By the time his head hit the pillow Friday night he was over it. He slept well. After Saturday's tough loss, Ventura complimented his team on its fight, coming back from a 3-1 deficit.

What else could he say?

"You do everything you can when you get here [to the ballpark] to turn it around," Ventura said. "When I get home I'm not going to make my wife and kids pay for it. I did that for a while as a player and she straightened that out with a 'Can I talk to you for a second?' "

Ventura replays game decisions on his way home or to the team hotel on the road. He will second-guess himself and think about ways to manage better.

"Oh yeah," he said. "That I do, but during the day. And on the way home. But once I get home, I'm out."

If the losses keep mounting, Ventura knows he'll have to look himself in the mirror. He already is.

"Absolutely, absolutely," he said. "I get that. But I know the work that goes into what the coaches are doing and what you're accountable to, I get all that. But after that ... there's only so far you can go."

And to think things can get worse.

"It can always get worse. You can run off 10 [losses] in a row like this if you aren't careful," Ventura said. "That's one of the crazy things about the game. There's so many games. It's every day. You have to have the mental discipline to put yesterday behind you and look at today optimistically with some sort of offensive production.

"It's gotta happen. The more you sit around and think it's not going to happen, you run into stretches where it gets longer. Last year we had a stretch where it didn't go well, but eventually we got out of it. You just don't want to go down the road of feeling sorry for yourself, or thinking you're not going to get out of it because then it will be 10 or 15 games."

Stiff neck puts status of Paul Konerko in doubt

By Daryl Van Schouwen / Chicago Sun-Times

OAKLAND, Calif. — Two Saturdays ago in Anaheim, Adam Dunn finally showed signs of finding his swing. A low back issue crept up out of nowhere, and he hasn't been right since.

It was Paul Konerko's turn for a snakebite Saturday. He came to the park hitting .400 over his last seven games to raise his average to .243, but he also brought with him a stiff neck. It worsened, and the result was two non-competitive strikeouts against A's starter Dan Straily.

"Yeah, it's all part of the fun," Konerko said.

The sarcasm hung there in a Sox clubhouse quieted by a fifth consecutive defeat. Konerko likely won't be available Sunday to help the Sox break the skid.

"I'll try to get out there as quick as I can because I was seeing the ball pretty good and feeling pretty good," he said. "I just knew before my first at-bat I was in a little trouble and it just go worse. I knew this isn't competitive here."

Walking it off

Hector Santiago escaped one bases-loaded jam with no outs in the ninth. Doing it again with one out an inning later would have beaten astronomical odds. It didn't happen, as Santiago (1-3) walked Brandon Moss with one out on a 3-1 pitch.

"Walking people isn't a good situation especially right there in that part of the game," said Santiago, who walked five (two intentionally) in 12/3 innings.

The A's had 16 hits and left 18 runners on. And the Sox still lost.

"We're grinding out at-bats and do stuff offensively, fighting your way back," manager Robin Ventura said. "There was progress. There's a silver lining to it. But you're here to win games. Hector is going on a high-wire act as far as getting guys on and being a little erratic."

OK with switch

Alejandro De Aza went 2-for-5 with a two-run, tying single in the seventh, hitting like a guy who doesn't want to be dropped from the leadoff spot he likes and that he's held since last year. But if that happens, De Aza said he's fine it.

"I don't mind hitting any place in the order, one through nine," said De Aza, who is batting .250 with 14 walks.

Ventura said that Dewayne Wise and Casper Wells might be in the lineup Sunday, so if De Aza sits it could be a good time for Alexei Ramirez to get a look at the top.

All together now

Alex Rios broke out of a 2-for-23 rut with two hits and a walk.

"It's tough when we're struggling as a group," Rios said. "If the group is doing good and you're not, it's easier for you to manage that situation and cope with it because the team is doing well and you just have to be patient and wait for it to click."

This and that

Jesse Crain (0.72 ERA) pitched a scoreless eighth, stretching his career-high streak to 20 1/3 innings. He set a career high with his 22nd consecutive scoreless appearance.

◆ Jeff Keppinger (2-for-4) is 17-for-44 (.386) in his last 13 games.

A's edge White Sox on bases-loaded walk in 10th

By Associated Press / Daily Herald

OAKLAND, Calif. — Hector Santiago walked Josh Reddick with the bases loaded and two outs in the 10th inning to force in the winning run and lift the Oakland Athletics over the Chicago White Sox 4-3 on Saturday.

The A's had 16 hits and failed to score after loading the bases with no outs in the ninth before scoring the game-winner off Santiago (1-4).

Chris Young, who had two hits, started the rally with a one-out double. After Yoenis Cespedes was intentionally walked, Josh Donaldson drew a free pass from Santiago to load the bases. Brandon Moss then lined out to second before Reddick walked on five pitches.

Jed Lowrie matched his career high of four hits for the A's, who have won seven straight at home and 13 of 15 overall.

Jerry Blevins (4-0) retired one batter to get the win after Oakland manager Bob Melvin emptied his bullpen following a stellar effort by starter Dan Straily.

Straily struck out eight in six innings and left with a 3-1 lead before Chicago scored two runs in the seventh to tie it.

Alejandro De Aza had two hits and two RBIs for the White Sox, who have lost five straight.

Reddick, who came off the disabled list on Friday, had two hits before drawing the first game-ending walk of his career.

Cespedes doubled in Lowrie in the first, then Young snapped an 0-for-19 streak with an RBI single in the second to put the A's up 2-0.

After De Aza doubled and scored on Adam Dunn's single in the third, Oakland made it 3-1 when Donaldson hit a one-out single and scored on Nate Freiman's triple in the fifth. It came after Chicago starter Jose Quintana was called for a balk when he stumbled off the mound and dropped the ball during his windup.

Quintana left after giving up a one-out double to Lowrie in the sixth. The left-hander walked three and struck out four.

The White Sox, shut out a day earlier by 40-year-old Bartolo Colon, couldn't get much going against Straily but broke through against the A's bullpen in the seventh.

Jeff Keppinger singled off reliever Sean Doolittle and took third on Hector Gimenez's double. De Aza followed with a sharp two-run single to drive in both runs and tie the game at 3-all.

Donaldson reached on an infield single leading off the ninth against Nate Jones. Santiago relieved Jones and walked Moss, then gave up a bunt single to Reddick. Santiago got Derek Norris to ground into a 6-2-3 double play, then later fanned Eric Sogard to end the jam.

It was a rough day all around for the slumping White Sox.

Designated hitter Paul Konerko struck out twice before leaving the game with a stiff neck. Shortstop Alexei Ramirez also appeared to injure his lower back after bumping into left fielder Dayan Viciedo chasing down a popup by Cespedes also in the sixth but stayed in the game.

NOTES: Quintana, who tied for second in the AL with 15 no-decisions in 2012, already has six this season. ... Chicago LHP Chris Sale (5-2) takes a 23-inning scoreless streak into Sunday's series finale. ... Oakland RHP Jarrod Parker (3-6) will make just his second career start against the White Sox.

Sox waste comeback as Santiago struggles

By Eric Gilmore, Special to ESPNChicago.com

OAKLAND, Calif. -- Chicago White Sox manager Robin Ventura called it a "high-wire" act, and after defying the odds in the ninth inning, reliever Hector Santiago slipped and fell in the bottom of the 10th Saturday against the Oakland A's.

There are no nets in baseball, and Santiago took the loss after walking Josh Reddick with the bases loaded, forcing Chris Young home from third to give the A's a 4-3 walk-off win.

The White Sox had rallied from a 3-1 deficit to pull even with two runs in the seventh, but they wasted that comeback and suffered their fifth straight loss, matching their season high.

Santiago walked Josh Reddick with the bases loaded to give the A's a 4-3 walk-off win and hand the White Sox their fifth straight loss.

"With us coming back and tying it up, it was big for us," Santiago said. "I felt like we haven't done that a lot this year. We finally battled back. We tried to keep us in the game to be able to scratch another one together and get us another run, be able to get (closer Addison) Reed in there and shut it down. It's a good sign for us that we could battle back right there late in the game and tie it up."

But in the bottom of the 10th, Santiago gave up a one-out double to Young. Then after intentionally walking Yoenis Cespedes, Santiago unintentionally walked Josh Donaldson on five pitches, loading the bases.

A's first baseman Nate Freiman lined out to second baseman Jeff Keppinger, who made a diving catch for the second out.

Santiago got ahead of Reddick with a first-pitch fastball for a called strike. That was the last strike he threw. He threw a curve in the dirt, then three sinkers out of the zone, giving the A's their fourth walk-off win of the season.

Santiago said he had trouble gripping the baseballs, a complaint that a number of visiting pitchers have made at the O.co Coliseum.

"I think I changed probably 15 balls," Santiago said. "I just couldn't get a grip on the ball. Those balls weren't as sticky or as grippy as you want them to be. It was almost like a cue ball trying to throw it up there."

Santiago was actually fortunate to survive the ninth inning. After Donaldson led off with an infield single off Nate Jones, Santiago entered the game. He got ahead of Brandon Moss 0-2 but wound up walking him. Then Reddick pushed a bunt past Santiago for a base hit, loading the bases.

With the infield in, Santiago got Derek Norris to hit a ground ball to shortstop Alexei Ramirez. Ramirez threw home to force out Donaldson, and catcher Hector Gimenez threw to first for the double play. Santiago then walked pinch hitter Coco Crisp intentionally, reloading the bases. He fell behind Eric Sogard 2-0 before fanning him on three straight pitches.

"That ninth inning was crazy," Santiago said. "That bunt, I felt it was right in front of me and all of a sudden it just took off and I just missed it. ... Bases loaded, nobody out. We're like, 'Here we go, we can still do this. We got good defense, we're playing great defense right now. Just make your pitches and try to get out of it.'

"And then Alexei made that play and Hector throws him out. It gets you pumped and you want the next guy so bad. I fell behind then I kind of just went, 'OK here we go, one pitch at a time,' and got out of that one. I got myself in a jam in the 10th and couldn't get out of it."

Rapid Reaction: Athletics 4, White Sox 3

By Eric Gilmore | Special to ESPNChicago.com

OAKLAND, Calif. -- The Chicago White Sox suffered their second straight loss Saturday afternoon to the Oakland Athletics, and their fifth straight overall, falling 4-3 in 10 innings.

How it happened: The White Sox battled back from a 3-1 deficit, but lost in the bottom of the 10th when reliever Hector Santiago walked Josh Reddick with two outs and the bases loaded, forcing home Chris Young, who had doubled. Trailing 3-1 entering the top of the seventh inning, the White Sox looked headed for another dismal loss, but they made things interesting. They scored twice in the inning off A's left-handed reliever Sean Doolittle. No. 8 hitter Jeff Keppinger ripped a one-out single and No. 9 hitter Hector Gimenez doubled him to third. Alejandro De Aza brought them both home with a single to center. The A's put runners on second and third with two outs in the eighth against reliever Jesse Crane, but Crane struck out the dangerous Yoenis Cespedes, who swung and missed a 94 mph fastball on a 3-2 count. Crane set career highs with his 22nd consecutive scoreless game and 20 1/3 consecutive scoreless innings. Santiago survived a bases-loaded jam with no outs in the ninth. Derek Norris grounded into a double play -- shortstop Alexei Ramirez to Gimenez to first baseman Adam Dunn. Then after intentionally walking Coco Crisp to reload the bases and falling behind Eric Sogard 2-0, Santiago struck out Sogard on three straight pitches. White Sox left-hander Jose Quintana allowed three runs on 10 hits over 5 1/3 innings. The A's made him work with their patient approach at the plate, and he threw 104 pitches, just 64 for strikes, before giving way to reliever Matt Lindstrom.

What it means: The White Sox's fifth straight loss matches their longest skid of the season. They also lost for the sixth straight time on the road and face four more games -- one at Oakland and three at Seattle -- on this six-game trip before returning to Chicago. The White Sox fell 5 1/2 games behind Detroit in the American League Central and 1 1/2 behind second place Cleveland. Minnesota pulled into a tie for third with the White Sox at 24-29.

Outside the box: Konerko had to leave the game in the top of the sixth with a stiff neck, giving way to pinch hitter Casper Wells. Konerko came into Saturday's game hitting .333 with a home run and five RBIs in his previous 11 games, but he went 0-for-2 with two strikeouts, chasing outside pitches both times on strike three. Konerko wasn't the only White Sox hitter feeling some pain. De Aza was shaken up after running into the wall chasing Nate Freiman's triple in the fifth. Then in the sixth, shortstop Alexei Ramirez was hit from behind by De Aza while catching a pop fly. Ramirez, in obvious pain, hit the turf face-first. He walked off the field slower, escorted by a trainer, but stayed in the game.

Off beat: The White Sox and A's will face each other seven times this season, all within a span of 10 days. After completing their three-game series Sunday at Oakland, the White Sox and A's will meet again June 6 at U.S. Cellular Field for the first of four games in Chicago. The White Sox are 140-137 all-time at home against the A's and 128-154 at Oakland.

Up next: The White Sox will send left-hander Chris Sale (5-2, 2.53 ERA) to the mound Sunday afternoon in the finale of their three-game series with the A's. Right-hander Jarrod Parker (3-6, 5.40) will start for Oakland.

Beckham takes another step toward return

By Eric Gilmore | Special to ESPNChicago.com

OAKLAND, Calif. -- Second baseman Gordon Beckham had a walk-off single Friday night during his rehab assignment with the Triple-A Charlotte Knights and remained on track for a return to the big leagues.

Chicago White Sox manager Robin Ventura said Saturday he expected Beckham to be activated from the disabled list "in the next week if not sooner." He said he'll talk to general manager Rick Hahn on Saturday night and map out plans for a corresponding roster move for when Beckham is activated.

Beckham played only seven games this season before landing on the disabled list because of a fractured left wrist that required surgery. He appeared close to a return a week ago before soreness in his left wrist forced him to rest from May 25-29. But he went 3-for-5 with a double and an RBI and two runs scored Thursday night against Toledo and went 1-for-5 Friday night with an RBI against Rochester.

"It went good," Ventura said of Beckham's rehab game Friday night. "Everything's positive. Again, that's one of those, how long is long enough? I don't know. He's kind of in charge of when he's ready to come off. It's not one of those things where he's going to hurt it or do anything to damage anything. I think his first thing was the initial reaction to playing and having it be sore. Now he's had it checked out and everything's good. Now it's just [pain] tolerance for getting it back in shape. It's up to him. We will welcome him any time."

Beckham hit .316 before being injured. With the White Sox struggling to hit, Ventura could use all the offensive help he can get.

"I've let him know that I'm ready for him whenever he thinks he's ready," Ventura said. "He'll talk with Rick and make sure that it's the right time, when he feels completely ready."

Rookie Gillaspie enjoying solid start

By Eric Gilmore, Special to ESPNChicago.com

OAKLAND, Calif. -- In his first at-bat Friday night against Oakland A's right-hander Bartolo Colon, Chicago White Sox rookie third baseman Conor Gillaspie lined a single to center field in the second inning.

Gillaspie hit the ball hard again in the fifth, flying out to center field, and again in seventh, grounding a

shot up the middle that A's second baseman Eric Sogard gloved and turned into a double play.

"He probably had the best at-bats," White Sox manager Robin Ventura said Saturday of Gillaspie. "I think what Bart was doing and his approach, (Gillaspie) wasn't trying to do too much. I think that's probably where you get into a little bit of trouble with Bart. You're thinking you're going to hit that first strike he's going to throw. He doesn't necessarily throw that first strike as hard as he can. He kind of locates it, puts a little sink on, so if you're overaggressive you're going to beat it into the ground. He was pretty patient with him, Conor was, and just made sure he got the one he wanted and stayed through the middle. He didn't get a bunch of hits, but the approach and contact is what you're looking for."

The White Sox got only five hits, all singles, against Colon, who shut them out.

"Sometimes it's kind of hard for me to really judge myself," Gillaspie said of his at-bats against Colon. "A lot of these guys have been in the league for so long. I can't say they just throw it in there for me to hit, but I'm probably not seeing the same pitches that (Adam) Dunn and (Paul) Konerko are seeing. As far as last night goes, that's a tough guy to face for right-handers. I don't care who you are. That guy's ball moves as much as anybody I've ever seen.

"I just try to have good at-bats every time. It's not always going to happen. There's games where you don't have good at-bats. There's games where you have good at-bats and they just throw good pitches and you just walk back to the dugout. Every day's a new day. Obviously I think I had a little bit of an advantage just being left-handed. Regardless of how good a hitter anybody is, when you're left-handed it's a little easier to see a guy like that with so much movement. Do my best every day."

The White Sox acquired Gillaspie from the San Francisco Giants in a trade on Feb. 22, 2013, for pitcher Jeff Sotnick. He appeared in just 29 career games for the Giants and hit .205, going 9-for-44 with one home run and four RBIs. This year with the White Sox, Gillaspie is hitting .284 (40-for-141) in 47 games with two home runs and eight RBIs.

"Some days I'm pretty pleased, and some days I'm not at all," Gillaspie said. "I guess that's about how everybody is. I've been really working on strengthening the mental side of this game, which I've been just piss-poor at for four or five years, especially when I was out here with San Francisco. Mentally I couldn't do it. Everybody says that mental's a big part of it. It really is. That's a weakness for me, so I really worked hard at being patient and not getting frustrated and just turning the page after every at- at and trying to get them next time."

Easier said than done?

"It is. It's next to impossible some days," Gillaspie said.

Ventura said he's "not really" surprised by Gillaspie's solid start to the season.

"I think early in spring training just watching him go about his business, he has a pretty simple swing," Ventura said. "There's not a lot of movement. It doesn't change very much. It's a pretty direct approach. Again, you could sit there and say, 'Now we're going to go to the next level.' We're just letting him play because there's nothing wrong with what he's doing. I guess I'm a little sensitive about guys, and having

seen it over the years, 'Now we're going to take you to the next level.' Well, now it goes in the opposite direction. So let him do what he's good at, let him get confidence with that and go from there. I think defensively he's been improving since we've got him."

Offensive woes have taken hold of Sox

By Eric Gilmore | Special to ESPNChicago.com

OAKLAND, Calif. -- To Chicago White Sox manager Robin Ventura, something didn't smell right Friday night at the O.co Coliseum when his team was shut out 3-0 by 40-year-old Oakland Athletics right-hander Bartolo Colon.

"Yeah, it stinks," Ventura said.

Ventura was talking about his slumbering offense.

"It needs to get better," he said. "If you're not scoring runs, it looks a lot worse. It just needs to get better. I don't think it's approach. When you go over offensive stuff and give them information, it's sound stuff. It's just a stretch that stinks."

The White Sox opened a three-game series against the A's after losing three straight to the Chicago Cubs. They scored a combined six runs against the Cubs before being shut out Friday for the second time in four games.

Entering the game, the White Sox were hitting .243 as a team, next to last in the American League. Now they're hitting .238.

As has happened so often this season, the White Sox wasted a strong pitching effort. Right-hander Dylan Axelrod blanked the A's for seven innings on two hits before giving up a run in the eighth on back-to-back doubles by John Jaso and Josh Reddick.

"It seems like it's kind of been a theme this year," White Sox designated hitter Adam Dunn said. "Our pitching's kept us in pretty much every ballgame except a few all year, and we're just not able to get anything going offensively. ... But we've got to find a way to get on base somehow, some way, and start creating things."

The White Sox had five singles off Colon, who won his second straight start since turning 40 on May 24. Not a single White Sox baserunner got past first. Alejandro De Aza lined an opposite-field single to left to lead off the game, but Colon got Alexei Ramirez to hit into a double play.

Conor Gillaspie lined a single in the third, Dunn reached on an infield single in the fourth, Jeff Keppinger had an infield single in the fifth and Paul Konerko hit a sharp single in the seventh. That was it for the White Sox attack.

"That's what he's been doing his whole career," Dunn said of Colon. "He's got two different types of

fastballs. His sinker, it's one of the best in the game. When it moves like that it's tough. It's tough to get the ball in the air. He did what he's done his whole career."

Ventura gave credit where it was due.

"He's a smart pitcher," Ventura said. "If you're trying to be patient and work him, he's a strike-thrower. He gets ahead early. He has more of a medicine ball-type sinker. Guys just couldn't get underneath it and do anything with it. Even when you get a hit there's not much to it.

"The way we're swinging it offensively might have helped him out a little bit, but he's still a good pitcher and pitched a great game. I just think, right now, especially after the last three games ... a pitcher can't give up a run just the way we're playing offensively."

Sox lose on bases-loaded walk in 10th

By Dan Hayes / CSNChicago.com

OAKLAND, Calif. -- The White Sox tempted fate too often on Saturday afternoon.

Josh Reddick made sure the Oakland Athletics' fourth plate appearances with the bases-loaded counted as he drew a base on balls in the 10th inning to force in the winning run against Hector Santiago.

Reddick's walkoff walk ended a frustrating day for the A's, who downed the White Sox 4-3 in front of 26,646 at the Oakland Coliseum even though they stranded 18 base runners. The loss was fifth straight for the White Sox, who also had to remove slugger Paul Konerko from the game with a neck injury. Konerko is listed as day-to-day but White Sox manager Robin Ventura doesn't expect him to play Sunday.

"Walking people isn't a good situation especially right there in that part of the game," Santiago said.

The A's had stranded 15 runners on base through nine innings.

But Oakland didn't waste another chance after Chris Young had a one-out double to start the 10th-inning rally off Santiago (1-4). Santiago intentionally walked Yoenis Cespedes and followed with a walk of Josh Donaldson to load the bases. Jeff Keppinger's diving grab kept the White Sox alive, but not for long.

Santiago got a first-pitch strike against Reddick but then issued four straight balls for the game-winner. The White Sox had earlier rallied back from a 3-1 deficit and forced the game to extra innings.

"There's a silver lining to it," Ventura said. "But you're here to win games."

The White Sox showed signs of life Saturday but couldn't pull ahead.

After he and Konerko struck out with runners on second and third to end the first inning, Adam Dunn came through with a two-out RBI single in the third to get the White Sox on the board.

A's starter Dan Straily then settled down to retired 11 of the next 12 batters he faced. But Keppinger and Hector Gimenez singled and doubled and Alejandro De Aza followed with a two-run single in the seventh off reliever Sean Doolittle to tie the game.

"We're grinding out at-bats and do stuff offensively, fight your way back," Ventura said. "I think there was progress."

The A's bullpen and the loss of Konerko stunted the White Sox growth, however.

Konerko struck out twice before Casper Wells replaced him in the sixth inning.

Konerko said he's not sure when he'll return but doesn't expect to be sideline for a significant period of time.

"Not worried that it's a major thing, I was just bunched up," Konerko said. "It was more difficult to keep it on track as far as taking a swing. At that point I said let's get it out of here and get it on track."

Aside from Doolittle, Oakland's relievers retired eight of the last nine Sox hitters they faced.

White Sox pitchers had few stretches as clean as that of the A's bullpen.

Starter Jose Quintana was anything but sharp over 5 1/3 innings. Even so, he only allowed three runs despite putting 13 men on base.

The A's scored a run in the first off Quintana on Cespedes' RBI double and added another in the second on Young's two-out RBI single. But it wasn't until the fifth inning when Nate Freiman tripled in a run that the A's scored again.

Jesse Crain increased his streak of appearances without yielding a run to a career-high 22 but not without a fight.

Young doubled with two outs to put runners on second and third for Cespedes. Crain fell behind Cespedes in the count but struck him out with a 94-mph fastball.

An inning later, Santiago worked his way out of two bases-loaded jams to send the game to extra innings. Santiago got a 6-2-5 double play off the bat of Derek Norris and after he reloaded the bases with an intentional walk of Coco Crisp, he struck out Eric Sogard to preserve the 3-all tie.

"It's tough," Santiago said. "(Our offense) making a comeback there and we're trying to do everything we can to keep up in the game to see if they can scratch another one across."

Konerko expected to miss Sunday's game with stiff neck

By Dan Hayes / CSNChicago.com

OAKLAND, Calif. -- White Sox designated hitter Paul Konerko is expected to miss Sunday's game after he left Saturday with a stiff neck.

Konerko, who is second in franchise history with 420 home runs, said he woke up in pain and determined after two at-bats he wasn't in good enough shape to play any longer. The White Sox slugger, who has a .240 average with five homers and 21 RBIs, went 0-for-2 with a pair of strikeouts.

Konerko, who has 13 hits in his last 41 at-bats and five RBIs, admitted he's a little disappointed by the timing of the injury.

"It's all part of the fun," Konerko said. "I'll try to get out there as quick as I can because I was seeing the ball pretty good and feeling pretty good. I just knew before my first at-bat I was in a little trouble and it just got worse. I knew this isn't competitive."

Konerko said he woke up in pain but felt better after batting practice. But by the time he reached the batter's box he knew he wasn't right. He also doesn't expect to be out of the lineup for a long period.

"Not worried that it's a major thing, I was just bunched up," Konerko said. "It was more difficult to keep it on track as far as taking a swing. At that point I said let's get it out of here and get it on track."

As Sox slump, Ventura urges hitters to stay strong

By Dan Hayes / CSNChicago.com

OAKLAND, Calif. -- The White Sox realize they're at a possible tipping point when it comes to in which direction they head this season.

A day after they became the first team to be shut out by a 40-year-old pitcher in nearly six years -- their fourth loss in a row -- the White Sox have begun to take stock of their offense.

With 52 games played, they're beginning to realize they can't continue to say it's early in the season and that, in reality, they're closer to a you-are-what-you-are state.

When asked Saturday morning about the performance put on by Oakland pitcher Bartolo Colon a night earlier, second baseman Jeff Keppinger asked how long the team can continue to deflect by noting how good the opposing pitcher performed. The White Sox aren't disputing Colon's five-hit shutout -- they know he pitched well. They have just begun to wonder aloud how much part they have played in those outstanding performances.

"How many times are you going to say (it was) how he pitched or how you approached it and went about it as an offense?" White Sox manager Robin Ventura said. "That's always a question that's there. You have to find a way to make it tougher."

Ventura has done his best to not sugarcoat anything in the wake of the White Sox struggles. He sees a pitching staff that has worked overtime to keep the White Sox competitive. Of their 52 games, 40 have been decided by three runs or fewer.

As bad as things have been for the White Sox, who have averaged 3.5 runs per game, Ventura knows it can get worse.

In 1991, a team that won 87 games lost nine in a row in mid-August as the offense slumped. The White Sox were shut out four times in nine games and scored 23 times total, 15 of which came in two of those nine games. The White Sox went from trailing the A's by 3 1/2 games on Aug. 18 to nine out by Aug. 28.

Ventura said it's important for his hitters to stay strong mentally or the White Sox can find themselves in much worse shape.

"It can always get worse," Ventura said. "You can run off 10 in a row like this if you aren't careful. ... You have to have the mental discipline to be able to put yesterday behind you and look at today optimistically with some sort of offensive production. It's gotta happen. The more you sit around and think it's not going to happen, you run into stretches where it gets longer. Last year you might have had a stretch where it

didn't go well, but eventually you got out of it. You just don't want to go down the road of one, feeling sorry for yourself, or thinking you're not going to get out of it because then it will 10 or 15 games."

White Sox notes: Beckham's return will be welcomed

By Dan Hayes / CSNChicago.com

OAKLAND, Calif. -- Robin Ventura has laid out the welcome mat for second baseman Gordon Beckham.

Beckham, who is rehabbing a sore left wrist at Triple-A Charlotte, is ready from a baseball standpoint, Ventura said. But more important is that Beckham has to feel he can handle the day-in, day-out rigors and have confidence in the wrist. Beckham had a broken hamate bone removed in an April 16 surgery and progressed well until he experienced soreness and was sidelined a week. Beckham is 4-for-10 with a double, two runs and two RBIs since he returned to Charlotte's lineup on Thursday.

Ventura thinks Beckham will be back "in a week, if not sooner."

"He's kind of in charge of when he's ready to come off," Ventura said. "He's not going to hurt it, damage or jeopardize. His first thing was the initial reaction to being sore. We will welcome him any time. ... It's different up here. I have let him know we're ready for him when he's ready. He'll talk to Rick (Hahn), but you don't want him coming back unless he's 100 percent."

Draft day memories

Ventura was informed Saturday was the 25th anniversary of the White Sox selection of him in the amateur draft. The White Sox used the 10th overall pick of the 1988 draft to select Ventura out of Oklahoma State. Because he played for Team USA that summer, Ventura didn't immediately sign with the White Sox.

His biggest memory from the entire process actually occurred after he made his first trip to Comiskey Park in November 1988.

"Back then there was no Internet so somebody had to get a hold of you, which always wasn't so easy in Stillwater, Okla.," Ventura said. "I think I found out in the afternoon at some point. I was from California and didn't know anything about the White Sox. ... It ended up being good. I'm glad it happened. But back then you get a 'Hey, by the way.' There was no fanfare or anything like that. I do remember the first time I ever went to Comiskey was the same day Coach Ditka had a heart attack. Everybody peeled off to go get the update on Ditka."

Sale solid

White Sox starter Chris Sale said late Friday he felt good after a bullpen earlier in the day. Sale is set to start Sunday's series finale against the Oakland A's. After he missed a previous start with mild tendonitis in his left shoulder, Sale returned to the rotation on Tuesday only to have his outing cut short by rain. Sale allowed two earned runs over three innings in a 39-pitch effort. The A's will oppose Sale with Jarrod Parker on Sunday.
