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**Rangers fall as division lead dwindles to one game
Lineup limited by Twins to two solo homers in rubber match
By Master Tesfatsion / MLB.com | 9/1/2013 6:19 PM ET**

ARLINGTON -- The Rangers' lead in the American League West was cut in half Sunday in a rocky start to the final month of the regular season. Texas squandered an opportunity to maintain its two-game cushion over the A's by dropping the rubber match to the Twins, 4-2, at Rangers Ballpark.

Texas now holds a one-game lead against Oakland before the two teams meet for a three-game series Monday, as the A's defeated the Rays, 5-1. The Rangers lost ground to the A's in their two losses to Minnesota over the last three days. Texas has lost its last three series to the Mariners, White Sox and now the Twins, all teams below .500 and virtually out of the playoff chase.

"It was a frustrating series," Ian Kinsler said. "We didn't do what we wanted to do. That's it. It's over with and time to move on."

The Rangers scored six runs for just the third time this season in a series of three games or more at Rangers Ballpark. Prior to this season, that feat happened just six times in the first 19 seasons at Rangers Ballpark.

"I wish I could explain it," Rangers manager Ron Washington said of the offensive inconsistencies. "I think this series here, you've got to explain it by how the Minnesota Twins pitched."

Mitch Moreland provided the only run off starter Kevin Correia on an opposite-field home run in the third to give the Rangers a 1-0 lead. Texas collected just five hits in seven innings off Correia, who earned his second win in as many starts against the Rangers this season.

"This series hadn't gone like we thought it would, but that's part of the game," Moreland said. "You're going to have your ups-and-downs. We're going to come back tomorrow and try to win the opener."

Travis Blackley didn't get past the fifth inning in his third start with Texas. Jurickson Profar's throwing error on a possible double play allowed a runner to advance to second with one out. The Twins scored three runs in the inning after the error, starting with Josmil Pinto's RBI double, his first big league hit, to tie the game at 1.

The southpaw left the game after an RBI single to Alex Presley to give the Twins a 3-1 lead. Blackley lasted just 4 1/3 innings allowing three runs on eight hits.

"I just kept trying to stick to the game plan, trying to get them to hit it and it fell their way," Blackley said. "I'm more so disappointed I couldn't go deeper. They made me work today, and it was pretty tough conditions. It just kind of fell their way."

The bullpen held the Twins to just a run for the rest of the game on a poor decision from Kinsler, who tried to make a tough throw to first with two outs in the eighth, but he allowed a runner to score from second. Neftali Feliz relieved Blackley and threw 1 2/3 scoreless innings in his return from Tommy John surgery.

"I felt really comfortable on the mound today," Feliz said. "I tried to use every pitch and get a good result. I'm happy to be in the bullpen, to help the team to win and help the team to the playoffs this year."

A.J. Pierzynski started a rally in the eighth on a pinch-hit solo home run to right field that trimmed the deficit to 4-2. The inning ended on Kinsler's groundout to shortstop with Leonys Martin at third base. The Rangers were 0-for-5 with runners in scoring position.

"You can't score 15 runs every game," Kinsler said. "That's not how this game works. You have to be on top of your game every day. This league is not easy, so you have to be prepared to play good baseball every day."

Texas will now travel to Oakland with first place in the American League West on the line. The Rangers are 8-5 against the A's and have won three of the last four series. Monday marks the first of six games between the two teams in September.

"There's no crystal ball with what's going to happen, but you try to win the game tomorrow and see what happens after that," Pierzynski said. "Tomorrow is the biggest game of the year, then every day after that continues to be the same."

Rangers add seven as rosters expand

By Master Tesfatsion / MLB.com | 9/1/2013 8:36 P.M. ET

ARLINGTON -- The Rangers activated seven players Sunday as rosters expanded, and they plan to bring more players later on in the final month of the season.

Lance Berkman and Nick Tepesch were reinstated from the 15-day disabled list, Michael Kirkman and Neftali Feliz returned from the 60-day disabled list, Cory Burns and Robinson Chirinos were recalled from Triple-A Round Rock and Jim Adduci's contract was purchased from Triple-A Round Rock.

To make room on their 40-man roster, the Rangers designated Joe Benson for assignment and unconditionally released Justin Miller.

Rangers manager Ron Washington said before Sunday's game that he would use Berkman in a pinch-hit situation against the Twins. He's been on the disabled list since July 7 with left hip inflammation. Tepesch will start out of the bullpen after recovering from right elbow inflammation, and he is a possible starter, though he didn't throw more than 59 pitches in a rehab start.

"You've got to be ready to pitch when you're called upon," Tepesch said of his bullpen role. "It's a little like having a plan set out when you're going to pitch every day."

Feliz recovered from Tommy John surgery on his right elbow on Aug. 1, 2012. He threw 10 2/3 scoreless innings over eight rehab outings in the Arizona Rookie League and Round Rock. Kirkman returned as he dealt with a form of skin cancer during the season. He was placed on the disabled list on June 7 with a recurrence of cutaneous lymphoma. Kirkman went 2-3 with a 6.98 ERA over six games (five starts) with Round Rock on his rehab assignment.

Washington said the team plans to add more players soon. Ross Wolf is likely to return after he was optioned to Round Rock before the series against the Twins to make room for Joseph Ortiz. Engel Beltre could be another possible option for Texas.

Adduci makes long-awaited big league debut

ARLINGTON -- After 10 years and 889 games in the Minors, Jim Adduci finally got his chance. The outfielder made his Major League debut Sunday against the Twins in left field, and Adduci didn't waste any time collecting his first Major League hit.

He swung on the first pitch from Kevin Correia and hit a grounder up the middle of the infield for a single with two outs in the second.

"A couple of the guys I've talked to said you only see one first pitch," Adduci said. "I was just looking in the zone and was able to put it in play and get a hit."

The outfielder finished 1-for-2 with a walk before Craig Gentry pinch-hit for Adduci in the ninth. Adduci hit sixth for the Rangers, who purchased his contract from Triple-A Round Rock on Sunday.

"That was a really special moment for me," Adduci said. "I waited a long time for that. For that moment right there, that was something I'll never forget."

Adduci, 28, has hit .298 with 16 home runs and 65 RBIs for Round Rock this season. He played well in August, batting .383 with a .465 on-base percentage. Adduci is 17-of-41 with two home runs and eight RBIs in his last 10 games.

"I just wanted to get him in there right away," Rangers manager Ron Washington said. "With [David] Murphy struggling a little bit and him swinging the bat well, I just wanted to take advantage of it and get him in early. We certainly will need what he has to offer."

Adduci has stolen 32 bases this season and can play all three positions in the outfield. He signed a Minor League deal with the Rangers last offseason after spending nine years in the Marlins and Cubs farm organizations.

"You just don't know what's going to happen in this game," Adduci said. "It could be injuries or anything like that. You just keep moving forward and give effort."

His called wife and his father, Jim, once he heard the Rangers purchased his contract. His father spent four seasons in the Majors as an outfielder and first baseman for the Cardinals, Brewers and Phillies.

"It's just the belief when you were a kid, and you just want to accomplish the goal. When you set your sights on something, sometimes there's things that don't go your way and you've got to keep pushing," Adduci said.

Adduci was born in British Columbia but attended high school in the Chicago-area, and he became just the fourth Canadian-born position player to appear for the Rangers.

Andrus sits with stiff lower back

ARLINGTON -- Elvis Andrus said his lower back was stiff Sunday, but he hopes to play sometime in the upcoming A's series.

He left Saturday's game in the first inning with back spasms while running from first to third. Andrus slowed down halfway to third base and left the game after the play. He said he tweaked his back on Friday, but it got worse after he ran the bases. Andrus has dealt with back issues throughout the season, but mostly in his upper back.

"I'm going to rush it as much as I can, but I want to be healthy out there," Andrus said. "I haven't been 100 percent since the second game of the season. At least 80 percent would work."

Andrus said he feels the injury when he reaches down, but not when he's hitting. He got Sunday off, but Rangers manager Ron Washington said he planned to give Andrus a day off even before the injury.

"We're not worried about the importance of the series [against the A's], we're worried about the importance of the players that we have to play in that series," Washington said. "If Elvis is not ready to play, Elvis is not ready to play. We're not going to dig a hole and hide. We have missed a lot of players, and we continue to move forward. It's not going to change."

Andrus hit .303 with 11 steals, 18 runs and 20 RBIs in August to become the first player in franchise history to reach those numbers in a month in those three categories. Mike Trout was the only player to produce such stats since the start of last season.

Worth noting

- Adrian Beltre, the American League Player of the Month for July, hit .381 with five home runs and 21 RBIs in August. It's Beltre's highest batting average in his career for any month.
- Joey Gallo has 40 home runs with Class A Hickory, one shy of tying the Rangers' farm record. He's the first teenager with 40 or more home runs since Dick Simpson in 1962.
- The Rangers have scored two runs in four of their last seven games. They're 3-6 in the last nine games when scoring fewer than two runs after they started the season 3-33.

Rangers visit A's with division lead on the line Holland starts for first-place Texas against Oakland's Straily By Zack Meisel / MLB.com | 9/1/2013 3:36 PM ET

The A's got a hold of the top American League Wild Card spot. Now they have their sights set on the AL West crown.

The Rangers are clinging to a one-game lead over the A's in the division. The teams will meet for a three-game set in Oakland beginning Monday.

"Every game has implications now," A's manager Bob Melvin said. "It doesn't matter who we're playing. You come down to less than 30 games, each game is as important as the next. Now certainly when you're playing the Rangers, who are ahead of us in the division, you're always looking to hopefully move up and do well within your division.

"To me, it's pretty exhausting to look at all the Wild Card implications right now. I think any team's goal and focus is to win their division so you don't have to deal with that one-game playoff."

The A's swept Texas to close the 2012 regular season. The three wins vaulted Oakland to the division title and forced the Rangers to the Wild Card one-game playoff, which Texas dropped to Baltimore.

This year, the Rangers are 8-5 against the A's.

"Each series is different," said Texas skipper Ron Washington. "We certainly still have to go up there and play our best baseball. If we don't play our best baseball, and they play their best baseball, they could beat us. The only thing we're going to worry about is going up there and making sure we play our game. If we play our game, I'll take it. I don't care who we're playing."

Derek Holland (9-6, 3.00 ERA) will toe the rubber in Oakland for the third time this season. He is 1-0 with a 2.63 ERA against the A's this season and is 7-1 with a 2.85 ERA in 14 road starts.

"It's not going to change. We do have the lead right now. We just have got to keep playing our game," Holland said. "I'm not going to put any pressure on myself or treat the game any different. We've got to take on Oakland for a reason and take some ground, but I've got to do my job and pitch pretty much like I did last time."

Dan Straily (7-7, 4.41 ERA) is slated to take the hill for Oakland.

Rangers: Holland motivated

Holland posted a 1-0 record and 2.18 ERA in five August starts. The southpaw submitted a quality start each time out.

"Consistency is the big thing," Holland said. "I've been able to locate a lot better both with the offspeed and the fastball, and just getting ahead of hitters and attacking has been the big thing."

Last season, Holland logged a 4.67 ERA, and he was saddled with the loss on the final day of the regular season.

"It's been a big year for me," Holland said. "I was motivated by last year. I was disappointed with my end of the year last year, so I want to make sure I needed to do what I should be doing to meet my expectations."

A's: Crisp sizzling

- Coco Crisp batted .304 in 21 games in August and he started September with a leadoff home run on Sunday. The long ball marked his 16th of the season, which ties a career high. He has six home runs in his last 11 games.

- Josh Reddick said he hopes he will be ready to play as soon as he is eligible to return from the disabled list on Sept. 10. Reddick is battling a right wrist injury similar to the one Crisp sustained to his left wrist earlier this season. Reddick and Crisp both received cortisone shots.

"Hopefully they put in mine what they put in Coco's, and I can go out there and do what he's doing," Reddick said.

Worth noting

- Straily is 1-1 with a 5.63 ERA in three outings against Texas this season.

- The A's have not had a month with a losing record since May 2012.

FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

Twins frustrate Rangers again, take series

Posted Sunday, Sep. 01, 2013

By Drew Davison

ARLINGTON — This isn't the type of series the Texas Rangers expected after their road sweep of Seattle in which they knocked around Felix Hernandez in the finale.

After all, the Minnesota Twins were coming to town and had lost six of their past seven. The Twins' first two starters entered with 5-plus ERAs. and Sunday's starter Kevin Correia had only one win in his past seven starts.

Numbers, though, don't always tell the story.

The Rangers' bats, as they've been prone to do all season, went silent over the weekend, and Correia and the Twins polished off a 4-2 victory in the series finale to leave Rangers Ballpark by taking two of three.

The Rangers combined to score six runs over the series, and went 1 for 15 with runners in scoring position. The lone hit in those situations came from Leonys Martin, who delivered a walk-off single Saturday.

"It was a frustrating series," second baseman Ian Kinsler said. "We didn't do what we wanted to do and that's it. It's over with and time to move on."

The Rangers next move on to Oakland for a pivotal series against the A's, and will open it with a one-game lead in the American League West. It shouldn't be hard to forget about the Twins' series that ended with a dud.

It started off not too badly for the Rangers. Mitch Moreland led off the third inning with a solo homer and 1-0 lead, and Travis Blackley opened with four scoreless innings.

But Blackley ran into trouble and bad luck in the fifth.

Chris Colabello led off with a single, and Blackley appeared to induce a double-play grounder by Clete Thomas. An errant throw to first by Jurickson Profar, however, produced only one out and allowed Thomas to reach second.

A sliding Colabello made contact with Profar during the throw, but Profar said: "That's no excuse. I should make a good throw. I should make that play."

Josmil Pinto then drove in Thomas with a double to left, and Pinto scored on an unconventional ground-rule double by Doug Bernier, who saw his pop-up fall inside the right-field line and bounce into the stands.

Alex Presley followed with a soft liner to left that scored Bernier, and ended Blackley's day after 81 pitches.

"I kept trying to stick to the game plan, trying to get them to hit it, and it kind of fell their way," Blackley said. "Just more disappointed that I couldn't go deeper. They made me work pretty good today."

Neftali Feliz entered to make his 2013 debut, got out of the fifth and worked a scoreless sixth in one of the Rangers' few highlights of the day. Feliz said it felt "great" to be back on the mound, and is looking forward to helping the team down the stretch.

The Twins, meanwhile, went on to extend their lead to 4-1 in the eighth. Presley scored on an infield single by Josh Willingham as Kinsler tried to make a play, but his throw to first was late and wide of the bag.

The Rangers' offense couldn't overcome that deficit.

Correia, who shut out the Rangers over eight innings on April 28, continued his dominance against them. The Rangers had a few chances, but failed to capitalize.

After Moreland homered to start the third, Geovany Soto doubled and moved to third on a groundout by Martin. But Profar struck out swinging and Kinsler popped out to end the threat. A few more opportunities were ruined by double plays in the fourth and seventh.

Correia exited after the seventh, and pinch-hitter A.J. Pierzynski had a one-out solo homer in the eighth to make it a 4-2 game. Martin followed with a single, but that inning ended on groundouts by Profar and Kinsler.

How to explain the offensive struggles in the series?

"I wish I could explain it," manager Ron Washington said. "This series here you've just got to explain it by how the Minnesota Twins pitched. They pitched well against us."

Rangers notes: Elvis Andrus will miss opener at Oakland

Posted Sunday, Sep. 01, 2013
By Drew Davison

ARLINGTON — Elvis Andrus sat out Sunday, and will be out again Monday when the Texas Rangers open a pivotal three-game series against the A's in Oakland.

Andrus is dealing with lower back tightness, which forced him out of Saturday's game in the first inning. Andrus said it doesn't bother him when he swings, but he feels it running and bending over.

Andrus woke up stiff Sunday morning and hoped that treatment throughout the day would help him. But a postgame flight to the Bay Area wouldn't help matters, and manager Ron Washington said he expected to sit Andrus again Monday..

Asked if he could be ready for the Oakland series, Andrus said: "I don't know. I'm going to rush it as much as I can, but I want to be healthy out there. I haven't been 100 percent since the second day of the season, but at least I've been 80 percent."

Andrus has dealt with back issues before, and said he isn't too concerned about it. It might keep him out a few games, but it is not expected to sideline him for an extended period of time.

But the Rangers will be patient with Andrus, a key piece to the team. He has had an up-and-down season at the plate, but turned it around in August, batting .303 with 16 RBIs in 27 games.

"We're not worried about the importance of a series, we're worried about the importance of the players who have to play in that series," Washington said. "We want Elvis, but it's whenever he's ready to go."

Jurickson Profar filled in at shortstop and batted second for Andrus on Sunday.

Adduci realizes dream

Jim Adduci didn't have to wait long to make his big league debut. The career minor leaguer saw his name in Ron Washington's lineup card, batting sixth and playing left field.

Adduci, 28, was a 42nd-round pick by the Marlins in 2003 and had spent the past 10 seasons in the minor leagues —889 games before reaching the big leagues.

"It's been totally worth it," said Adduci, who singled in his first at-bat in the majors. "It's just a belief when you're a kid and you want to accomplish a goal. When you set your sights on something, sometimes there's some stuff that doesn't go your way. You've got to keep pushing and that's kind of how I felt."

Adduci had his contract purchased from Triple A Round Rock after batting .298 with 24 doubles, 16 home runs, 65 RBIs and 32 stolen bases this season. He batted .383 in August for the Express.

Adduci was one of seven players added as rosters expanded Sunday.

Lance Berkman, Nick Tepesch, Michael Kirkman and Neftali Feliz were activated off the disabled list, and Cory Burns and Robinson Chirinos were recalled from Round Rock.

The Rangers cleared two spots on the 40-man roster by releasing right-hander Justin Miller and designating outfielder Joe Benson for assignment.

Facing Oakland

The Rangers went 8-11 against the A's last season. This year, they are 8-5 and have won six of the last seven meetings against their division rival.

In fact, the Rangers have played significantly better within their division compared with last year. They went 27-30 against division foes in 2012; this year they are 44-16, the best intradivision record in baseball.

"If we play our game, I'll take it," Ron Washington said. "I don't care who we're playing."

Starter Derek Holland looks to continue that trend Monday when he starts the series opener against the A's. He has gone 1-0 with a 2.63 ERA in two starts against the A's this season, both at O.co Coliseum.

"We do have the lead in the division right now, and we just have to go out and play our game," Holland said. "I'm not going to put any more pressure on myself or treat the game different. Just pitch like I did last time."

Briefly

- Ron Washington said the Rangers would add a couple more players once Round Rock's season ends on Monday. Ross Wolf, who spent the majority of the season as the team's long man, will return, and the team could also add another position player.
- Nick Tepesch on going to a bullpen role: "It's not really different other than I've just got to be ready to pitch when I'm called upon."
- Rangers infield prospect Joey Gallo had two home runs Saturday, which gives him 40 for the season. He's the first teenager with 40 or more homers since Dick Simpson hit 42 with Class C San Jose in the Cal League in 1962. Gallo is also one homer shy of the Rangers' farm record of 41 set by Triple A Spokane's Tom Robson in 1974.

DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Fraley: Rangers show signs of last year's collapse ahead of crucial series

By GERRY FRALEY

Published: 01 September 2013 10:01 PM

ARLINGTON — The Rangers tip-toe into that dangerous place again.

They open a three-game series at Oakland on Monday afternoon with their lead in the American League West dangling by a thread and their inconsistent offense on the fritz again. Sound familiar?

A year ago, the Rangers took a two-game lead into Oakland and lost the final three regular-season games. The lead is down to one game after a 4-2 loss to Minnesota on Sunday at Rangers Ballpark in Arlington, but there is not the same sense of finality.

The Rangers will have 23 more games after this series. That includes three games at home against the Athletics on Sept. 13-15.

"It's not do-or-die," manager Ron Washington said. "It doesn't matter what happens, nothing will be settled. Yes, you want to go in there and play well. And I think we will. We'll be ready to play."

For that to happen, the offense must find itself again. Two is becoming the official number for this offense, as in two runs per game.

In the last 10 days, the Rangers pounded a pair of All-Star starters, Chris Sale of the Chicago White Sox and Seattle's Felix Hernandez, only to go silent.

After beating Sale, the Rangers lost the next two games to the last-place White Sox, scoring only two runs in each game.

After roasting Hernandez for a career-high nine runs on Wednesday, the Rangers scored only two runs in each of the three games against the Twins and lost the series to a sub-.500 club. The Twins used a pair of starters with ERAs of more than 5.00, right-handers Liam Hendriks and Mike Pelfrey.

"We didn't swing the bat the way we can," Adrian Beltre said. "The bottom line is we didn't execute. We know that we are better than what we showed the last few games. Hopefully, [Monday] will start better offense and more consistent baseball."

Washington said: "I wish I could explain it" when asked what has caused the offensive inconsistencies. Here are two theories:

The Revenge of Josh Hamilton: During his time with the Rangers, Hamilton had well-chronicled problems during day games. Hamilton is gone, but the Rangers are going through the day-game blues.

Even with the explosion against Hernandez, the Rangers are averaging only 3.57 runs in day games. Only Houston, at 3.05 runs, has done worse.

This is more than a small sample. The Rangers have played 37 day games, going 18-19. The two series against Oakland will include four day games.

Leonys Martin is wearing down: Even with a game-winning hit Saturday, this has been a tough stretch for Martin. In his last nine games, Martin is hitting .139 with a .238 on-base percentage. If the lead-off hitter is not getting on base, the offense will go through fits and starts.

"I'm not 100 percent now," Martin said of his swing. "I know I have to get better. I will."

The offensive struggles increase the Rangers' dependency upon pitching.

The Rangers' starters against Oakland — left-handers Derek Holland and Martin Perez and right-hander Yu Darvish — are a combined 10-5 with a 3.25 ERA since the All-Star break. The Rangers bullpen continues at a high pace while Oakland's bullpen has hit a rough spot. The Athletics have six blown saves in the last 12 chances and a bullpen ERA of 4.88 in the last 23 games.

If anyone should be haunted by the memories of last year's collapse, it is Holland, who will start the opener. He appeared in relief in game No. 162 and took the loss as the victim of a dropped fly ball by Hamilton.

"I'm not going to put any pressure on myself or treat the game any differently," Holland said. "We got beat last year. That's just how it is. We've moved past that. We're ready to write a new chapter."

The prelude has been remarkably similar.

Fraley: Neftali Feliz shows no signs of rust in return to MLB

By Gerry Fraley

7:21 pm on September 1, 2013

Right-hander Neftali Feliz showed no signs of rust or nervousness in his first major-league appearance since May 18, 2012.

Feliz entered in the fifth inning with the Rangers trailing 3-1 and retired four of the five batters he faced. He threw 18 strikes in 26 pitches.

"I wasn't worried," said Feliz, returning from Tommy John surgery. "I just wanted to go out and use all my pitches and show I'm all right."

Feliz showed the velocity that had been absent during an injury-rehabilitation assignment, getting the fastball up to 95 mph. He also showed a sharp slider, getting two strikeouts with the pitch.

"He looked comfortable," Washington said. "All we can do is build off it."

Ron Washington wants to see what Jim Adduci has to add

By Gerry Fraley

7:18 pm on September 1, 2013

Jim Adduci had a memorable day of firsts.

On his first day in the major leagues, Adduci made his first start, in left field, and got his first hit, a single against Twins' right-hander Kevin Correia.

"A lot of hard works has gone into it," said Adduci, who played at Triple-A Round Rock in his 11th minor-league season. "All the ups and downs that happened were worth it."

Washington used Adduci in place of the slumping David Murphy, hitting .167 for his last 36 at-bats. Washington plans on returning Murphy to the lineup Monday against Oakland right-hander Dan Straily.

"We'll see what he can add," Washington said of Adduci. "Just be a part of it. No one is asking him to do anything special."

As Rangers head west to Oakland, Elvis Andrus' status still uncertain

By Gerry Fraley

7:16 pm on September 1, 2013

ARLINGTON — The Rangers will open a vital series at Oakland unsure about the status of shortstop Elvis Andrus.

Andrus on Sunday reported continued stiffness in his lower back, and he will not play in Monday's series opener, according to manager Ron Washington. The condition forced Andrus out of Saturday's game after running the bases during the first inning.

"I want to rush it as much as I can," Andrus said. "I haven't been 100 percent since the second day of the season. At least 80 percent will work. I'll wake up and see how it is."

Andrus said he can swing the bat with minimal discomfort but feels pain when he goes down and reaches for an object, such as a ground ball. He was concerned about what effect the lengthy flight to the San Francisco Bay area would have on his back.

"It won't help," Andrus said. "I'll probably stay on the floor."

Washington said the importance of the series will not influence whether Andrus plays.

"We want Elvis whenever he's ready to go," Washington said.

Jurickson Profar replaced Andrus at shortstop and had a throwing error on a potential double-play grounder that opened the way to Minnesota's three-run fifth inning in the 4-2 loss. Profar said he rushed the throw, causing it to sail.

ESPN DALLAS

Rangers won't rush Elvis Andrus

Updated: September 1, 2013, 11:35 PM ET

By Todd Wills

ARLINGTON, Texas -- The Texas Rangers won't rush shortstop Elvis Andrus back for this week's showdown series against Oakland, even with one game separating the teams in the American League West standings.

Rangers manager Ron Washington said after Sunday's 4-2 loss to Minnesota that he doesn't expect Andrus to play in Monday's series opener at second-place Oakland.

More Texas Rangers coverage

For more news, notes and analysis of the Rangers, check out ESPN Dallas' Rangers Report. [Blog](#)

Andrus, who didn't play Sunday, said after the game that his lower back, which he labeled as stiff earlier in the day, was about the same.

"I'm going to rush it as much as I can but I want to be healthy out there," Andrus said. "I haven't been 100 percent since the second day of the season but at least I've been 80 percent."

Andrus said he feels OK swinging a bat, but when he has to go down for a ground ball, that's when the pain pops up.

"It's not that bad, it's happened before to me," Andrus said. "I know what I have to do to get it better."

Andrus has been a catalyst for the Rangers in the No. 2 spot in the lineup since the All-Star break, batting .314 and scoring 25 runs and driving in 18 for 40 games.

But manager Ron Washington isn't going to push his shortstop even with the pivotal series against the A's.

"We're not worried about the importance of the series," Washington said. "We're worried the importance of the players who have to play in that series. If Elvis is not ready to play, Elvis is not ready to play. We're not going to dig a hole and hide. We've missed a lot of players and we continue to move forward and it's not going to change. We want Elvis, but whenever he's ready."

With Andrus out, it likely means that Jurickson Profar will be back at shortstop on Monday.

Profar was 0-for-4 in Sunday's game and was unable to turn a key double play in the fifth inning. Profar's defense has been more than solid this season.

Rapid Reaction: Twins 4, Rangers 2

September 1, 2013

By Todd Wills | ESPNDallas.com

ARLINGTON, Texas -- The Rangers played shaky defense and again didn't do much on offense as they lost a series to the lowly Minnesota Twins with a 4-2 loss on Sunday afternoon.

Profar mistake costly: The Rangers led 1-0 in the top of the fifth and were on the verge of the second out in the inning when shortstop Jurickson Profar, playing for the injured Elvis Andrus, failed to complete a routine double play. That opened up the inning for the Twins against Rangers starter Travis Blackley. Rookie catcher Josmil Pinto had a RBI double to tie the game at one. Doug Bernier followed with a bloop double down the right-field line to give the Twins a 2-1 lead. Alex Presley added to the Rangers' misery in the inning with an RBI single on a bloop over Profar's head into left field to make it 3-1.

Feliz dazzles in return: The best part of Sunday's game was the return of Neftali Feliz, who pitched in a major league game for the first time since May 18, 2012. Feliz, who is 13 months removed from Tommy John surgery, didn't allow a run in 1⅓ innings. He did get hit in the leg by a line drive back up the middle and stayed in the game.

Moreland homers: Mitch Moreland gave the Rangers a 1-0 lead in the third inning with his 21st home run of the season, a towering shot that carried over the left-field fence. It was Moreland's fourth home run in his past nine games.

Adduci debuts: Outfielder Jim Adduci collected his first major league hit on the first pitch he saw in the bottom of the second. The 28-year-old Adduci had a single to left field. He also drew a walk. Adduci had played in 889 minor league games before finally appearing in the big leagues on Sunday.

Rally folds: The Rangers' best threat came in the seventh inning when, with one out, Alex Rios had a single and Adduci walked. But Jeff Baker, given the chance to bat against a right-hander, bounced into a double play to end the inning. Baker has 10 hits in 49 at-bats against righties this season.

Pierzynski homers: A.J. Pierzynski came on as a pinch hitter in the eighth inning and belted a one-out home run to cut the Twins' lead to 4-2 and briefly provide a jolt to 36,549 fans suffering through a scorching hot day at Rangers Ballpark. But a rally fizzled after Leonys Martin ripped a single following Pierzynski's homer. Profar grounded out to first base and Ian Kinsler bounced out to shortstop. Profar and Kinsler combined to go 0-for-8 on the day.

Giving away runs: Kinsler made a brutal mistake in the top of the eighth. With a runner at second and two outs, Josh Willingham hit a bouncer back up the middle. Kinsler did a good job of getting to the ground ball but should have held the ball to keep Presley at third base. Instead, Kinsler made an errant throw to first that pulled Moreland off the bag and allowed Presley to score for a 4-1 lead.

Up next: The Rangers begin a key three-game series at Oakland on Monday. The pitching matchups are: Monday, left-hander Derek Holland (9-6, 3.00 ERA) versus right-hander Dan Straily (7-7, 4.41); Tuesday, left-hander Martin Perez (8-3, 3.58) versus right-hander Bartolo Colon (14-5, 2.94); and Wednesday, right-hander Yu Darvish (12-6, 2.73) versus right-hander Jarrod Parker (10-6, 3.59).

Rangers offense leaving no room for error

September 1, 2013

By Todd Wills | ESPNDallas.com

ARLINGTON, Texas -- The Rangers left themselves no room for error during a weekend series against the Minnesota Twins and lost two out of three games.

That can't be repeated starting Monday against the Oakland A's.

Headed into the next biggest series on the schedule -- Monday-Wednesday at second-place Oakland -- the Rangers fumbled away two games to a Twins team 18 games under .500, the latest a 4-2 loss on a scorching Sunday afternoon in Arlington.

The Rangers lost two games in the standings to the A's over the weekend, which trims their lead in the American League West to one game. Oakland swept playoff contender Tampa Bay over the weekend and has won six of its past seven games.

The race is heating up again.

The Rangers gave away runs and didn't score many in Sunday's loss. A botched double-play ball and an ill-advised throw led directly to all of the Twins' runs.

Meanwhile, the offense did nothing. Mitch Moreland hit a home run early. A.J. Pierzynski belted one late. That was it.

While it's disappointing the Rangers' usually reliable glove work had an off day, it's more aggravating that an offense that scored 12 runs on Wednesday against Seattle -- nine of them off Felix Hernandez -- managed six runs in three games against the Twins.

"It really doesn't matter if you score one run," second baseman Ian Kinsler said. "You have to be better offensively."

The bats fell flat against Minnesota starters Liam Hendriks, Mike Pelfrey and Kevin Correia. The Rangers were 0-for-11 with runners in scoring position and left only 10 men on base in the two losses. They had one hit with runners in scoring position in the series and, thankfully for them, that was Leonys Martin's walk-off single for Saturday's 2-1 win.

The Rangers didn't have many chances and didn't produce when they did.

"It was a frustrating series," Pierzynski said. "We didn't do what we wanted to do."

That included two critical defensive mishaps on Sunday. Travis Blackley had four shutout innings headed to the top of the fifth despite putting on the leadoff batter in all but one inning. Twins first baseman Chris Colabello started the fifth inning with a single, but Blackley didn't have the same luck.

Clete Thomas followed by hitting a sharp ground ball to second base, a routine double play. Only Jurickson Profar made a poor throw on the turn, which allowed Thomas to go to second base. The Twins followed with three hits -- two of them bloop -- to take a 3-1 lead.

Profar hit his chest with his hand following the poor throw as he looked at first baseman Moreland, taking responsibility.

"When he got ready to throw, he got nipped," manager Ron Washington said of contact with Colabello as Profar made his throw.

The Rangers gave away another run in the top of the eighth when Kinsler fielded a grounder behind second base. With Twins center fielder Alex Presley moving from second to third, Kinsler, who didn't appear to have a play at first, should have held the ball.

Instead, he made an errant throw that allowed Presley to score easily for a 4-1 lead.

The Rangers continued a strange season at home. They are 6-5 on their past two homestands. They have 39 wins at Rangers Ballpark and 40 on the road.

Maybe that will help them regain their momentum Monday night in Oakland. In many ways, the season starts now for the Rangers and A's.

"We'll try to win [Monday night] and take it from there," Pierzynski said. "Tomorrow is the biggest game of the year, and every game after that continues to be the same."

Buzz: Adduci finally gets his chance

September 1, 2013

By Todd Wills | ESPNDallas.com

ARLINGTON, Texas -- Rangers manager Ron Washington didn't waste any time getting 28-year-old outfielder Jim Adduci his major league debut, putting him in the starting lineup on Sunday, batting him sixth and playing him in left field in place of the slumping David Murphy.

Even with the Twins starting a right-hander, Kevin Correia, and Adduci being a right-handed hitter.

"I just wanted to get him in there right away," Washington said, "With Murphy struggling a little bit and they say he's swinging the bat well. I just wanted to take advantage of it."

Adduci can play all three outfielder positions and first base. He batted .415 with two home runs and eight RBIs in his last 10 games for Triple-A Round Rock. He has 32 stolen bases, so he'll add to the Rangers' threat and willingness to run.

Adduci, whose father Jim played briefly in the major leagues, played for 10 seasons in the minor leagues before finally getting his chance Sunday against the Rangers.

"It's been totally worth it," Adduci said. "I accomplished all of my goals."

Expanded rosters: The Rangers officially added seven players on Sunday as major league rosters expanded. Lance Berkman, Nick Tepesch, Michael Kirkman and Neftali Feliz all came off the disabled list. Cory Burns and Robinson Chirinos were recalled from Triple-A Round Rock. And Adduci's contract was purchased from Round Rock.

Kirkman, Feliz and Adduci all had to be added to the 40-man roster. Needing two spots with 39 players on the 40-man roster, the Rangers released pitcher Justin Miller and designated outfielder Joe Benson for assignment.

Gallo's power season: Low-A Hickory's Joey Gallo hit two more home runs to give him 40 for the season on Saturday night, making him the first teenager since Dick Simpson with a 40-plus homer season in the minor leagues. The 18-year-old Simpson hit 42 home runs in the Cal League in 1962.

The 19-year-old Gallo is one homer shy of the Rangers' farm record held by Triple-A Spokane's Tom Robson, who hit 41 long balls in 1974.

Short hops: Washington said DH Lance Berkman will have a pinch-hitting opportunity on Sunday. Berkman, who has been out with hip and knee issues, hasn't played in a game since July 6 ... The Rangers are expected to add more players when Round Rock's season is over on Monday. Pitchers Ross Wolf and Wilmer Font and outfielder Engel Beltre are the likely additions.

FOX SPORTS SOUTHWEST

Rangers head to big series vs. Oakland after tough series

ANTHONY ANDRO |

Published: Sunday, September 01, 2013, 5:35pm

ARLINGTON, Texas -- The Texas Rangers will head to Oakland for their three-game series Monday with a one-game lead the American League West and very little momentum.

The lowly Minnesota Twins took care of that with a 4-2 win Sunday.

Minnesota, which is 17 games under .500 and started a Sunday lineup with five players with 13 RBI or less and no one hitting better than .244, beat the Rangers for the second time in three days and took the season series.

The Rangers totaled six runs in the three-game series against a Minnesota staff that came into the game with the 10th best ERA in the American League.

Sunday's game was a head scratcher all around for a Texas team that will head to Oakland with its smallest lead since Aug. 19.

Texas got no production from the top of its order as the Leonys Martin, Jurickson Profar and Ian Kinsler combined to go 1 for 12 as the Rangers had nothing for Kevin Correia.

And even though the Rangers got a couple of sterling defensive plays from Jurickson Profar and Ian Kinsler, both also had plays that helped lead to Minnesota runs.

The offense and defense, plus the tough-luck pitching of Travis Blackley put an ugly end to a tough series for Texas.

Texas manager Ron Washington believes the play of the Twins had a lot to do with the struggles of the Rangers.

"I wish you could explain it," Washington said. "I think this series here you have to explain it by the way the Minnesota Twins pitched. They pitched well against us."

Well enough Sunday to the Rangers hitless with runners in scoring position at 0 for 5. Texas stranded a runner at third with one out in the third while leading 1-0. They had few opportunities after that as the only Texas runs came on solo homers from Mitch Moreland (third inning) and A.J. Pierzynski (eighth inning).

"He (Correia) threw a good game," Moreland said. "You've got to tip your hat. He used both sides of the plate and kept us off balanced. We really didn't create a whole lot of opportunities. I think we're good. Over the last month or so we've played pretty good ball. This series hasn't gone like we thought it would, but that's part of the game."

The fifth inning was part of the game too unfortunately for Blackley. Staked to a 1-0 lead, he allowed a leadoff single to Chris Colabello. Clete Thomas hit what should have been a double-play ball but Profar's throw to first was wild and Thomas ended up at second. Back-to-back doubles followed and the 1-0 lead was a 2-1 deficit. Alex Presley then made it a 3-1 game with a single.

That was enough offense for Minnesota and also ended the day for Blackley, who threw a season high 81 pitches to get 13 outs.

"I just kept trying to stick to the game plan and kept trying to get them to hit it and it fell their way," Blackley said. "I'm just disappointed I couldn't go deeper. They made me work pretty good today. It was pretty tough conditions. It just fell their way."

The Rangers will head to Oakland with a bullpen boost as Neftali Feliz, who hadn't pitched for Texas since last May, made his return to the mound 13 months after having Tommy John surgery.

Feliz, who came on for Blackley in the fifth, struck out two and allowed just one single in his 1 2/3 innings.

"I felt great," said Feliz, whose fastball hit 96 on the stadium scoreboard. "I tried to throw my ball down and keep my pitches down and I had a good result. I wasn't nervous. I was comfortable to be on the mound and to try and help the team win. I tried to use every pitch and get a good result."

Rangers give Adduci start after 10 years in minors

ANTHONY ANDRO |

Published: Sunday, September 01, 2013, 12:54pm

ARLINGTON, Texas -- The Texas Rangers aren't wasting time in getting September call-up Jim Adduci involved.

Adduci, a career minor leaguer, will make his big-league debut for Texas today as he's batting sixth and playing left field. Adduci, 28, has been playing in the minors since 2004 but earned his call-up after hitting .298 for Round Rock with 24 doubles, 16 home runs, 65 RBI and 32 stolen bases.

Texas manager Ron Washington said he wanted to get Adduci in a game and with regular left fielder David Murphy struggling, Sunday was the best choice.

"It was a little bit of a surprise but it's about having fun," Adduci said. "It's the same game that I've played for a long time. I'm going to go out there, enjoy myself and contribute to winning."

Adduci's father Jim spent part of four seasons in the majors and the younger Jim Adduci kept grinding after a 10-year career in the minors.

"It's just a belief when you're a kid and you want to accomplish a goal," Adduci said. "When you set your sights on something, sometimes there's some stuff that doesn't go your way. You've got to keep pushing and that's kind of how I felt."

Adduci was one of seven additions to the Texas roster Sunday.

Texas activated designated hitter Lance Berkman, right-hander Nick Tepesch, left-hander Michael Kirkman and right-hander Neftali Feliz from the disabled list. They also added catcher Robinson Chirinos and right-hander Cory Burns from Round Rock.

To clear 40-man spots, the Rangers released minor league right-hander Justin Miller and designated minor leaguer Joe Benson for assignment.

Rangers' Andrus sits day after exiting game

ANTHONY ANDRO

Published: Sunday, September 01, 2013, 12:58pm

ARLINGTON, Texas -- Texas shortstop Elvis Andrus was out of the lineup Sunday one night after exiting the game with tightness in his lower back.

Andrus left in the first inning Saturday after running from first to third. He said his back doesn't hurt when he swings but he feels it running and when he tries to bend over.

He said after Sunday's 4-2 loss that he back was feeling better.

"I want to healthy out there," Andrus said. "I haven't been 100 percent since the second game of the season. At least at 80 percent that works."

Texas manager Ron Washington is playing it safe with Andrus. He said he doesn't expect him to play in Monday's game against Oakland but it hopeful he'll be ready to go Tuesday.

Andrus, who watched Sunday's game with ice on his back while wearing a hoodie in the sweltering heat, is focusing on his rehab.

"I don't think it's that bad," Andrus said. "I know what I have to do. The main thing is going to be trying to get it strong in that part of my body. That way I won't have to worry."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kevin Correia pitches Twins to win over Rangers

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas -- Good thing for the AL West-leading Texas Rangers that they won't have to face Kevin Correia any more down the stretch.

They can't beat the Minnesota Twins right-hander.

More Texas Rangers coverage

For more news, notes and analysis of the Rangers, check out ESPN Dallas' Rangers Report. Blog

Correia pitched seven strong innings Sunday as the Twins won 4-2 to clinch their first series victory at Texas in four years.

"He mixed it up well," said Mitch Moreland, whose 21st homer leading off the third was the only run off Correia. "Used both sides of the plate, kept us off balance, and we didn't really create a whole lot of opportunities."

After throwing eight scoreless innings in a home victory over the Rangers in April, Correia (9-10) scattered five hits on a steamy day in Texas. He got 14 outs on the ground, including a pair of double plays.

Correia has won all three of his career starts against the Rangers, with an ERA of 1.61.

In a brief stay at home, the Rangers lost two of three while scoring exactly two runs in all three games. Texas plays its next six games on the West Coast, starting Monday with the opener of an important three-game series in Oakland.

Even though the Rangers finished August with an AL-best 20-7 record, they lost their September opener and have only a one-game division lead over the A's. Oakland wrapped up a three-game sweep against Tampa Bay with a 5-1 victory Sunday.

"We're not looking for help from anybody. We played these three games against the Minnesota Twins with the intention on winning," Rangers manager Ron Washington said. "I'm not concerned with what Oakland is doing right now. We'll face Oakland on Monday when we get there, and we'll play it and when we finish, we'll leave."

A.J. Pierzynski also homered for the Rangers in the finale against the Twins, with a pinch-hit shot in the eighth.

Texas starter Travis Blackley (2-2) was gone after giving up three consecutive run-scoring hits with one out in the fifth.

Josmil Pinto, the catcher making his major league debut a day after being called up from Triple-A Rochester, had an RBI double before Doug Bernier's ground-rule double, a ball that bounced just fair down the right-field line and then went into the seats.

Alex Presley, acquired from Pittsburgh when the Twins traded Justin Morneau on Saturday, followed with an RBI single that made it 3-1.

Glen Perkins, the second Twins reliever, pitched a perfect ninth with two strikeouts for his 32nd save in 35 chances. He saved both Minnesota wins in the series.

The Twins didn't let Correia go back out for the eighth because he was cramping in his ribs on a day when the temperature was 99 degrees at first pitch and rose to triple digits.

"I could have gone back out, but the coaches wouldn't let me," Correia said. "You can't say anything if you want to go back out there."

Neftali Feliz pitched 1 2/3 scoreless innings with two strikeouts in his first appearance for the Rangers since sustaining a torn elbow ligament in May 2012 that required Tommy John surgery. Feliz was the closer for the Rangers during consecutive World Series appearances in 2010 and 2011 before moving into the rotation and going 3-1 in seven starts last year. He is returning as a reliever.

"He threw all his pitches. He looked comfortable," Washington said. "All we can do is build off it."

Feliz got a nice ovation when he ran from the bullpen to the mound and then got two outs while facing one batter. Presley was thrown out trying to steal before Darin Mastroianni took a called third strike.

Mastroianni was thrown out trying to score in the first inning after a deke by second baseman Ian Kinsler when Brian Dozier doubled.

Running toward second, Mastroianni slid into the bag when Kinsler acted as he was turning a double play. But the ball was in left-center field. Mastroianni got up and started running again, but couldn't beat Kinsler's relay throw from center fielder Leonys Martin to catcher Geovany Soto, who blocked the plate from the sliding runner.

It was Martin's 12th outfield assist this season, the most for a Texas player since Ruben Sierra's 15 in 1991.

Game notes

Rangers SS Elvis Andrus was feeling better but didn't play a day after coming out of Saturday night's game with tightness in his lower back. Washington said he likely wouldn't play Andrus on Monday. ... Jim Adduci, among seven players added to the Rangers' roster on Sunday, made his major league debut after 10 minor league seasons in three organizations. He started in left field and singled in his first big league at-bat. ... The Twins added only Presley on the first day rosters could expand. Their top farm team is still in playoff contention. ... Left-hander Derek Holland (9-6, 3.00 ERA) starts the series against the A's, who are scheduled to throw righty Dan Straily (7-7, 4.41).

AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN

Storm Chasers stifle Express American-Statesman staff

The Omaha Storm Chasers' pitching staff limited Round Rock to five hits and one run Sunday night to beat the Express 6-1 in Omaha, Neb.

The Express have lost seven of the past 10 games and will play the final game of the season Monday afternoon in Omaha.

Round Rock starter Scott Richmond gave up five runs — including a three-run, inside-the-park home run by Paulo Orlando — through the first three innings. Omaha added a run in the sixth on Manny Pina's RBI double, which put runners on second and third with one out. Richmond was replaced by Ross Wolf, who got back-to-back groundouts to escape the jam.

Omaha's Chris Dwyer held the Express to two hits through six scoreless innings, but Eli Whiteside's double drove in Greg Miclat in the seventh. Dwyer was pulled after giving up the run, and relievers Donnie Joseph and Zach Jackson closed it out for Omaha.

MYRTLE BEACH SUN

Pelicans walk off on error against Carolina By Max McKinnon

MYRTLE BEACH — After a difficult two weeks, Myrtle Beach is finding its way just in time for the playoffs.

The Pelicans jumped out to a five-run lead in the first inning and Myrtle Beach pitching held on to defeat the Carolina Mudcats 9-3 on Sunday at TicketReturn.com Field at Pelicans Ballpark.

"Yeah, we had a tough time on the road," Pelicans left fielder Trever Adams said. "But now we're getting into a rhythm right before the playoffs. Hopefully we can continue this throughout the playoffs and make a run for it."

Adams started the big first inning as he drove in Odubel Herrera on a sacrifice fly for Myrtle Beach's first run. Royce Bolinger hit an RBI single, Joe Maloney hit an RBI groundout and Hanser Alberto had a two-run double to give the Pelicans a 5-0 advantage.

Myrtle Beach added two more runs in the bottom of the second inning after Adams drove in Herrera on a single and Bolinger drove in Jorge Alfaro on a sac fly to give the Pelicans a five-run advantage after giving up two runs in the top half.

Neither team could push across another run until the eighth inning, when Adams hit an RBI single, and Drew Robinson scored after Bolinger grounded into a double play to give the Pelicans a six-run advantage.

"We got into some hitter's counts tonight," Myrtle Beach skipper Jason Wood said. "As a team we drew seven walks and all-in-all it was an outstanding performance offensively. We got key hits when we needed to, just a good overall performance we needed."

Adams finished with three RBIs and Alberto and Maloney each finished with two RBIs. The Pelicans were 6-for-14 with runners in scoring position and left 10 men on base. Five Myrtle Beach players (Herrera, Adams, Bolinger, Alberto and Deglan) finished with two hits, while Robinson finished with four hits.

"I guess I did pretty well at the plate," Adams said. "I was just seeing the ball well and it worked out."

Pelicans starter Nick McBride didn't last very long as he logged only two innings after allowing two earned runs on four hits while striking out three.

"He was only going to go 45 pitches tonight," Wood said. "We're saving him for the bullpen during the playoffs."

Michael Zouzalik and Josh McElwee each tossed three innings out of the bullpen. Zouzalik picked up the win after he allowed one earned run on three hits and one walk while striking out three. McElwee allowed no runs on one hit and one walk and also struck out three.

“Three solid innings from each of those guys tonight,” Wood said. “That’s something we really needed out of those two. It was nice to see them get ahead with strikes tonight. Between the two, they only had one walk. They made these guys put the ball in play and we played good defense behind them.”

Myrtle Beach will take on the Mudcats in the season finale starting at 7:05 p.m. Monday at TicketReturn.com Field and knuckleballer Kevin Pucetas is expected to make the start for the Pelicans.

“I’d like to see Pucetas make a quality start for us [Monday],” Wood said. “Hopefully we can keep these bats going and take that right into the playoffs.”

SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Spokane Indians eliminated from playoff chase The Spokesman-Review

EVERETT — The Spokane Indians’ quest to reach the postseason ended Sunday with a loss at Everett and a Vancouver victory over Tri-City at Pasco.

A three-run eighth inning, which included a two-run homer, lifted the AquaSox to a 3-2 win over Spokane Sunday afternoon. That clinched the second-half Northwest League North Division title for Everett, which also won the first half.

The Indians still had a chance to stay in the playoff race until the Canadians beat the Dust Devils 2-1 Sunday night. That result ensured the Canadians the playoff berth opposite the AquaSox since Spokane could do no better than tie the Canadians in the overall standings, which ended up determining the second playoff berth. The Canadians held the tiebreaker.

The Indians finish their season today at Everett.

The Indians had a 2-0 lead on Sunday before Everett rallied.

Spokane starter Eric Brooks pitched six no-hit innings, walking two while striking out 11.

With a 1-0 lead, Abel De Los Santos relieved and gave up two hits but escaped without giving up any runs.

That wasn’t the case the next inning.

Trailing 2-0, Phillips Castillo doubled to open the Everett eighth and went to third on a one-out wild pitch. A ground out then scored Castillo. Following a walk, John Straka (2-2) came into relieve and pinch-hitter Chantz Mack slugged a two-run homer to center field.

Evan Van Hoosier had three hits and Jordan Akins a homer for Spokane.