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Little goes right for White Sox against A's

By Alex Espinoza / MLB.com

OAKLAND -- White Sox manager Robin Ventura didn't need much time with reporters on Tuesday night to explain what went wrong in his team's 11-0 loss to the A's at O.Co Coliseum.

In less than a minute, the skipper answered two questions and was finished discussing his team's forgettable evening, which saw the club lose for the fifth time in six games.

"We were just outplayed all the way around," Ventura said. "Offensively, defensively. One of those nights nothing went right."

In a matchup of two starting pitchers who have been thrust into their respective starting rotations recently, A's lefty Drew Pomeranz outdueled White Sox righty Scott Carroll. Behind Pomeranz's five shutout innings and a robust offensive effort, Oakland cruised to a blowout victory.

Carroll, making his fourth start since Chris Sale and Felipe Paulino went down with injuries in April, held his own for four frames but was undone by a hit parade in the fifth.

Oakland was already leading, 2-0, when Carroll surrendered a trio of doubles -- one each to John Jaso, Yoenis Cespedes and Derek Norris -- to put Chicago in a four-run hole. Then Josh Reddick broke the game open with a two-run shot to right field that bounced off the top of the fence.

"What's frustrating, though, is that it's with two outs and two strikes," Carroll said of Reddick's home run. "Things we can obviously work on and correct, but it's just kind of leaving me a little salty because I know I'm better than that. Deep in the count like that -- as good as a hitting team as they are -- you got to put them away and make quality pitches."

The A's were also able to push across runs in the first and third innings. Carroll finished five innings, allowing six earned runs on 11 hits and a walk while striking out one. The loss moved his record to 1-3 and his ERA jumped from 3.63 to 5.24.

While Ventura saw some quality flashes from Carroll early, things got out of hand in his final frame.

"There were spurts of it," Ventura said, "but, in the end, he stayed too much in the middle and he missed some spots. These guys are swinging."

Carroll said he still took away some positives from his outing, despite being knocked around for the second straight start. He gave up six runs over four innings against the Cubs last week.

"There's obviously stuff to build on. I did some good things," Carroll said. "Made some good pitches, but I didn't make enough when it counted and that's what it comes down to. Just got to do better next time."

Once Carroll left the game, Oakland kept pouring it on. Jed Lowrie hit an RBI double in the sixth against Frank Francisco before Brandon Moss drove him home with a no-doubt, two-run shot to right field, making the score 9-0. Moss made it 11-0 with another two-run homer in the eighth off of Matt Lindstrom, helping the A's match their season high with 17 hits.

"Those kind of nights are fun," Moss said. "Guys are going up there having good at-bats, grinding out good at-bats early. We ended up kinda running away with it there at the end."

All the while, the White Sox bats couldn't get anything going against Pomeranz and Oakland's stingy relief corps.

Pomeranz, who started the year in the A's bullpen, made his first start since being named to the Oakland rotation for a demoted Dan Straily. The 25-year-old lefty has impressed his new organization since being acquired from Colorado in the Brett Anderson trade this past offseason.

Pomeranz earned his spot by throwing five shutout innings in a doubleheader last week, and he did the same this time around. Despite being on a limited pitch count, Pomeranz struck out a career-high eight while allowing three hits and two walks. He needed just 82 pitches to get through his outing, lowering his ERA to 1.14 in 23 2/3 innings.

"There were pitches out of the zone, too, that we swung at," leadoff man Marcus Semien said after going 0-for-4 with four strikeouts. "He had a two-pitch mix and kept us off balance with that. He did a good job with his stuff."

Chicago (19-22) has lost five of six and will turn to righty Andre Rienzo in Wednesday's series finale, when the A's (25-15) will go for their fifth sweep of the season.

"As an offense, you don't want to get shut out, but it happens sometimes," Semien said. "It's about bouncing back the next day."

Abreu expected to get consecutive days off this week

By Alex Espinoza / Special to MLB.com

OAKLAND -- Slugging first baseman Jose Abreu has been relegated to designated hitter as he works through a left ankle injury. In order to give Abreu a bigger break, White Sox manager Robin Ventura said he plans on using Thursday's off-day to give Abreu consecutive days off.

"I don't know if we're going to do it either [Wednesday] or [Friday], we'll see how he goes through today," Ventura said before Tuesday's contest against the A's. "But I'm sure one of them he'll get [off]."

Chicago wraps up the series in Oakland on Wednesday before heading to Houston for a three-game set this weekend.

Abreu has been dealing with foot and ankle issues since Spring Training, but showed a noticeable limp while trying to run down to first base on Thursday against the Cubs. He's been the starting designated hitter in the five games since. The 27-year-old has started every contest this season except for April 17, when he made a pinch-hitting appearance.

"It's getting better," Ventura said. "There's nothing structurally or anything you're concerned about. But you just see him limp like that and it's just soreness getting out of there. It's getting better. I think that day off will probably help."

Abreu belted his Major League-leading 14th home run during Monday's ninth-inning comeback, which came up a run short. He took A's starter Jesse Chavez deep to right field for a solo shot on a line drive that got out of the park quickly.

"He has a lot of power," Ventura said. "You see him hit balls -- the way they come off the bat is just different than a lot of people. He has power to all fields. Any park you play in is reachable for him, anywhere. He puts it on the barrel and good stuff happens."

Eaton ready to start Minor League rehab assignment

OAKLAND -- Rehabbing outfielder Adam Eaton ran sprints and tested out his right hamstring before Tuesday's contest against the A's.

Starting Wednesday, he'll be jet-setting all over the country as he tries to get some game action with Triple-A Charlotte. His itinerary for the upcoming week is hectic to say the least.

"Should be fun," Eaton said. "Basically touching both sides of the United States in one fell swoop."

Eaton will work out at O.Co Coliseum on Wednesday morning and then travel to Durham, N.C., to play two games with the Knights on Thursday and Friday before taking a bus to Norfolk, Va., for four more innings on Saturday. If all goes according to plan, he'll join his White Sox teammates in Houston on Sunday -- the first day he's eligible to return from the 15-day disabled list -- for the series finale, before jumping on another plane to Kansas City as the road trip continues.

"Excited to get back Sunday," Eaton said. "It's no fun being on the dead list. ... It's definitely playable right now, and we'll find out more when we actually get to games. Once adrenaline gets going, you're pushing it a little bit further. I would say I'm ready to go."

Acquired in the offseason from Arizona, Eaton has taken up the team's starting center fielder and leadoff roles when healthy. In 25 games before his injury, Eaton was batting .276/.363/.378 with a homer, 14 RBIs, 11 walks and 16 strikeouts.

"It's kind of easy hitting on top of this order," Eaton said. "With [Jose] Abreu, [Paul] Konerko going against lefties and [Adam] Dunn going against righties. Some very, very good hitters with a lot of pop behind you. It's a fun lineup to be in."

Ninth-inning production leads the Majors

OAKLAND -- The White Sox scored three runs in the ninth inning on Monday night against some of Oakland's top bullpen arms, but still came up short in a 5-4 loss.

Jose Abreu started the rally against A's starter Jesse Chavez by hitting a solo shot to right, ending a streak of 10 straight retired batters by Chavez. Then the next three batters reached base against Jim Johnson and Sean Doolittle before Paul Konerko hit a sacrifice fly to make it 5-4.

Though they lost the game, the White Sox were able to extend their Major League lead in ninth-inning runs scored to 38, which is far ahead of the second-place A's (23). Chicago also is tied for second in ninth-inning batting average (.293) and second in on-base percentage (.391) during the frame.

The White Sox have already put together some memorable walk-off wins as part of their 10 comeback victories.

"One thing is to have the feeling that you're going to do it," manager Robin Ventura said, "and the other thing is having done it already a couple of times this year. You build momentum off of that."

The numbers stand in stark contrast to last season, when the White Sox batted just .228 with 45 runs scored during the ninth.

"It's definitely a different feel offensively compared to what we've seen in the past," Ventura said. "These guys are grinding stuff out and it'll happen every once in a while."

Lineup stacked with righties against A's left-hander

OAKLAND -- White Sox skipper Robin Ventura stacked his lineup against A's lefty Drew Pomeranz with eight righties and switch-hitting Leury Garcia on Tuesday night. Heading into the contest, Chicago was 5-5 against southpaw starters and 14-16 against righties.

Outfielder Alejandro De Aza was noticeably absent from the batting order as he continues to scuffle at the plate. Through Monday's action, De Aza's .180 batting average was the eighth lowest in MLB, while he had 36 strikeouts and nine walks in 39 games.

"He's just swinging and missing at a lot of stuff, working at-bats and such," Ventura said. "I think he just needs a day [off]."

The team's hottest hitter lately has been second baseman Gordon Beckham, who batted .343 (12-for-35) with a double, two homers and five RBIs during his eight-game hit streak entering play Tuesday. Ventura said Beckham has benefited from a stronger lineup in 2014 after he appeared to be pressing at times during his 2013 campaign.

"When other guys are contributing, it's easier to kind of stay in your lane and do what you do best," Ventura said. "That's what he's doing."

Third to first

- Once again on Monday night, the White Sox lineup featured a quartet of Cubans in Abreu, Dayan Viciedo, Alexei Ramirez and Adrian Nieto. According to A's Spanish radio broadcaster Amaury Pi-Gonzalez, the 2014 White Sox are the first team to start four Cubans in the same lineup since the 1969 Cleveland Indians, which featured Jose Cardenal, Joe Azcue, Zoilo Versalles and Luis Tiant.
- Before Tuesday night's contest in Oakland, A's slugger Yoenis Cespedes poked his head into the White Sox clubhouse before trading bats with Viciedo.

A's hope to pack winning streak for road trip

By Jane Lee / MLB.com

The A's will wrap up a 10-game homestand at the Coliseum on Wednesday with a matinee matchup against the White Sox featuring a pair of young hurlers.

Oakland lefty Tommy Milone, coming off his best outing of the season, will be opposed by White Sox right-hander Andre Rienzo for the three-game series finale.

Milone was brilliant in his last appearance on the mound, permitting the Nationals just two hits over eight scoreless innings and striking out seven along the way.

"I think you can make the argument that's the best I've seen him throw," said catcher Derek Norris. "He was very, very good."

"I don't think he missed a location. He was fantastic. You can't really say enough about the great job he did. He mixed speeds well, he worked quick, he got ahead, he stayed ahead. That was the biggest part about his success."

The lefty had allowed 10 earned runs in his previous 10 2/3 innings, but exited with eight completed innings for the first time since July 5, 2013, using a season-high 108 pitches. It was just the third time in his career he made it at least eight innings without giving up any runs.

Milone is 1-0 with a 1.93 ERA in two starts in Oakland compared with 0-3 with a 6.23 ERA in four starts on the road. Against Chicago, he's 1-0 with a 0.60 ERA in two career starts.

In contrast, Rienzo has never faced the A's, who have outscored their opponents 39-8 during a season-high six-game winning streak. But he's been doing his homework.

"I know they've got a tough team," said Rienzo. "It's a team where you want to pitch to contact. I'm just trying to do that so if they get a hit, they get a hit. If not, then I'll get an out. Something I'm working with [pitching coach] Don Cooper on is trying to pitch to contact. I'm not trying to change anything, just going to do what I have to do and make it happen."

It will mark Rienzo's sixth appearance of the season and his fifth start. He's 3-0 with a 4.76 ERA over his first four, most recently getting a win over the D-backs after allowing three runs on four hits with two walks and three strikeouts over 5 2/3 innings.

White Sox: Abreu may rest Wednesday

Home run leader Jose Abreu could sit out Wednesday's series finale against the A's as he tries to rest his left ankle, which has been giving him problems since Spring Training.

The problem flared up again Thursday in a contest against the Cubs, and manager Robin Ventura has used Abreu as a designated hitter in the five games since.

On Monday, Abreu left his mark during a ninth-inning rally when he belted a home run to right field, showing off his opposite-field power.

"That's just part of his makeup and how he goes about practicing and playing," Ventura said. "He can pull it, he can hit it the other way. You see him swing a lot, so it's not like he's taking a lot of pitches. He's trying to do some damage when he goes up there."

A's: Melvin sticking with closer committee

Oakland's closer situation remains unsettled, with manager Bob Melvin saying Tuesday he's not yet ready to stray from a matchup-driven closer-by-committee approach.

The A's had hoped Jim Johnson would be back in the ninth inning on a full-time basis by now, after he lost the closer's job less than two weeks into the season, but the right-hander has allowed six runs in his last four outings -- a stretch that follows 10 consecutive scoreless appearances.

"You're always searching for the best fit, to where you feel like you have someone that's going to be the guy that closes games for you, so that everybody leading up to that has an understanding of when guys are going to pitch," said Melvin. "We're just not there yet, unfortunately."

"Jim has really made some big strides for us, but we're just not all the way there with him yet. So it's still going to probably be a matchup-type situation."

Worth noting

- A's third baseman Josh Donaldson leads the American League in go-ahead RBIs (10) and home runs with runners on base (7).
- Lefty reliever Sean Doolittle has not walked a batter in 20 innings and has a streak of 32 consecutive innings without a walk dating back to last year.
- The White Sox lead the Majors with 38 runs in the ninth inning. Oakland is next in line with 23.

A's send White Sox to fourth straight loss

By Colleen Kane / Chicago Tribune

OAKLAND, Calif. -- In the manager's room off a quiet White Sox locker room Tuesday night, Robin Ventura had a short and not-so-sweet assessment of his team's 11-0 loss to the Athletics at O.co Coliseum.

"We just got outplayed all the way around tonight," Ventura said.

The Sox were out-hit 17-4 on the way to their fourth straight loss and second-largest margin of defeat this season.

Sox right-hander Scott Carroll took his third straight loss, and for the second straight game, he gave up six earned runs. Sox reliever Frank Francisco entered in the sixth inning and allowed three earned runs.

"One of those nights," Ventura said. "Nothing went right. Scotty probably in the middle of the zone too much and they swung it. They swung it all night against everybody."

The A's scored a run each in the first and fourth innings before breaking the game open in the fifth against Carroll. John Jaso led off with a double and Yoenis Cespedes and Derek Norris each hit RBI doubles. Josh Reddick followed with a two-run homer to right-center field for a 6-0 A's lead.

"I thought I made some pitches, but that fifth inning particularly I made some bad pitches deep in the count, which you can't do," Carroll said. "I left some pitches over the middle, and what's frustrating is it's two outs and two strikes. Things we can work on and correct but it's leaving me a little salty because I know I'm better than that."

Jed Lowrie hit a double in the sixth inning off Francisco, and Jaso scored on Moises Sierra's fielding error. After Sox center fielder Leury Garcia leaped above the center-field wall to rob Cespedes of a home run,

Brandon Moss hit a two-run homer to right field on Francisco's next pitch. He added another two-run homer in the eighth inning off Sox reliever Matt Lindstrom.

A's left-hander Drew Pomeranz, in his second start since transitioning to the rotation, gave up three hits, walked two and struck out eight in five innings.

"Myself, I just chased a lot of pitches up," Sox infielder Marcus Semien said. "Fastball up, the breaking ball. He did a good job of changing our eye level.

"There were pitches out of the zone too that we swung at. He had a two-pitch mix and kept us off-balance with that. He did a good job with his stuff."

Sierra's error wasn't the only poor outfield play for the Sox. Left fielder Dayan Viciedo misplayed Moss' RBI double to the wall in the first inning.

Prospects no added pressure for Gordon Beckham

White Sox 2nd baseman knows club has young players lurking in wings but says he just wants to play well and stick around

By [Colleen Kane](#) / Chicago Tribune

OAKLAND, Calif. — Gordon Beckham isn't oblivious to the glut of White Sox infield prospects that are sniffing around his job at second base.

He knows the Sox are developing other options, from Marcus Semien and Leury Garcia already with the team to Micah Johnson, who received a promotion to Triple-A Charlotte on Tuesday after leading the Southern League with a .329 batting average.

That doesn't mean Beckham feels more pressure this season to perform up to the expectations that have followed him since his stellar rookie season. In fact, Beckham said Tuesday the addition of players like first baseman Jose Abreu and outfielder Adam Eaton have helped ease that burden this year.

"Obviously we have some prospects, and that's great, but I actually feel less pressure than I did in years past," Beckham said. "There are some really young, good players on this team (now) as well, and the load is kind of spread apart. ... In years past it didn't feel like we had a lot of good, young talent (to share the load)."

Johnson, 23, could be a part of that young talent in the coming years. He needed just 37 games with Double-A Birmingham this season to earn his promotion, totaling nine doubles, three home runs, 18 runs scored, 16 RBIs and 10 stolen bases in that time. He continues to make strides, and with each one, the question looms larger about what that might mean for Beckham. The 27-year-old Beckham sees no benefit to worrying about it.

"I've done enough that if they don't want me here, then somebody else will want me," Beckham said. "I'm just going to play as good as I can, and hopefully they (will) want me for a while."

He has done well lately. After spending the early part of the season on the disabled list recovering from a strained left oblique muscle, Beckham entered Tuesday night's game against the Athletics at O.co Coliseum on an eight-game hitting streak, going 12-for-35 with five RBIs in that span.

Sox manager Robin Ventura said Beckham is "in a good spot" mentally in his approach and agreed the Sox's replenished offensive options have helped Beckham and many of his teammates stick to playing their games well rather than trying to do too much.

He also thinks Beckham has handled well the idea of lurking second-base prospects.

"Even when you hear whispers from the outside about guys who are doing well in the minor leagues, you still have to compete," Ventura said. "His mind has been pretty clear instead of feeling there's pressure (from) anybody behind him."

Beckham said Tuesday he has "no desire to leave" the Sox. He sees the potential of the rebuilding group, anchored by Abreu, who is the same age as Beckham, and he wants to be a part of it.

"It's headed in a great direction," Beckham said. "You can kind of see the light at the end of the tunnel, and that's a reason I want to be a part of it."

Extra innings: Abreu started again at designated hitter Tuesday night because of a sore left ankle. Ventura said Abreu likely will sit out a game either Wednesday or Friday so, coupled with the team's day off Thursday, he has two days in a row to rest. ... Ventura gave struggling outfielder Alejandro De Aza the day off. "He's swinging and missing a lot of stuff. Working at-bats and such, he just look like he needs a day," Ventura said. ... Left-hander Nelvin Fuentes, who signed with the Sox as a minor league free agent in the offseason, also was promoted to Charlotte with Johnson. He allowed two runs in 17 innings with Birmingham.

Moss, Reddick pound Carroll, bullpen in 11-0 White Sox loss

By Daryl Van Schouwen / Chicago Sun-Times

OAKLAND, Calif. — Brandon Moss hit two home runs, Josh Reddick also went deep and the Oakland A's had an easy time with Scott Carroll and the visiting White Sox in their 11-0 victory on Tuesday night.

The loss was the second in as many games on the first leg of a nine-game road trip for the Sox (19-22), who have lost four in a row. A's pitchers held the Sox to four singles.

Carroll (1-3, 5.24) got roughed up for 11 hits and six runs over five innings. It was the second bad outing for the 29-year-old minor-league lifer after two good starts. The A's got three of their four doubles against him in the four-run fifth, which also included a Reddick homer. Brandon Moss homered against Frank Francisco and Matt Lindstrom.

A's lefty Drew Pomeranz (3-1, 1.14 ERA) threw five easy innings for the A's, allowing three harmless singles.

"[Pomeranz] was pounding the strike zone," manager Robin Ventura said. We just couldn't hit and we got outplayed all the way around."

The Sox finish the series against the A's on Wednesday afternoon.

New faces bring new hope

By Daryl Van Schouwen / Chicago Sun-Times

OAKLAND, Calif. — The White Sox took an 11-0 beating Tuesday, lost their fourth game in a row and fell three games below .500, which is looking like too lofty a goal for a team that was 36 below last season. Don Cooper hates losing as much as the next pitching coach, but for him it's somewhat easier to endure this season.

"Losing still sucks, but this year is a whole different ballgame for me," Cooper said before the Sox and 29-year-old rookie Scott Carroll got clobbered by the Oakland A's. "Because even when we lose a ballgame, it's different. We're doing it with energy, life, grind, enthusiasm, fight, hustle. And we're younger."

Cooper has had his hands full overseeing a pitching staff operating with two-fifths of what he started with on Opening Day because of injuries (Chris Sale, Felipe Paulino) and ineffectiveness (Erik Johnson) and a bullpen that took three weeks to get situated. A long list of developing pitchers under his watch makes Cooper's job description different than what he's been accustomed to. The Sox almost always have been built to win during Cooper's 12-year career.

This one is being built to win in 2015 and beyond. In the meantime, Cooper is finding the work environment — in large part created by players who are not under Cooper's watch — better than last year.

"We were going through some development last season, and we were taking it on the chin every day," Cooper said. "It's more difficult having young guys and you're trying to get them experienced and better when you're taking it on the chin 99 times."

Carroll (1-3, 5.24 ERA) took one on the chin Tuesday, allowing six runs and 11 hits in five innings. It was the second bad outing for the 29-year-old minor-league lifer after two good starts. The A's got three of their four doubles against him in a four-run fifth, which also included a Josh Reddick homer. Brandon Moss homered against Frank Francisco and Matt Lindstrom.

A's lefty Drew Pomeranz (3-1, 1.14) threw five easy innings, allowing three harmless singles.

The Sox will be better equipped when they get Chris Sale back from the disabled list — perhaps to face the New York Yankees at the end of next week — as well as leadoff man Adam Eaton on Sunday.

"We've always competed for divisions and champions, and then things got stale," Cooper said. "We got older, slower and relied on the home run. But now with [hitting coach] Todd [Steverson] and the new guys ... [Jose] Abreu, this guy changes the whole ballgame. This guy got everybody excited in the clubhouse. What a great addition, and he's making this transition a whole lot nicer. And Eaton. He's life, he's energy, he's trouble for the opponent.

"It's kind of a new era for the White Sox."

NOTES:

Jose Abreu (sore left ankle) was the designated hitter for the fifth consecutive game Tuesday. He likely will sit out Wednesday or Friday, allowing for a two-day rest with a day off Thursday. "There's nothing structurally that you're concerned about," manager **Robin Ventura** said.

Abreu became the seventh player in major-league history to hit 14-plus homers in his first 40 career games when he homered in the ninth inning Monday.

◆ Second baseman **Micah Johnson**, who was leading the Southern League with a .329 average, was promoted to Class AAA Charlotte.

Johnson knocking at White Sox' door

By Scot Gregor / Daily Herald

The White Sox are obviously trying to win now, but they are still a team in transition looking for much better days down the road.

That's why it's more important than ever to pay attention to minor-league activity.

And there was a big move Tuesday, when top prospect Micah Johnson was promoted from Class AA Birmingham to AAA Charlotte.

You might remember Johnson from last season, when he led the minor leagues with 84 stolen bases while batting .312 with Class A Kannapolis, A Winston-Salem and AA Birmingham.

Johnson opened this season with Birmingham and was leading the Southern League with a .329 batting average when he was bumped up to Charlotte, putting the second baseman just one step away from the White Sox.

Speaking of the Sox, they lost 11-0 to the Athletics in Oakland on Tuesday night.

That leads us conveniently back to Johnson, because the A's scored their first run against starter Scott Carroll in the first inning when Yoenis Cespedes singled with two outs before Brandon Moss hit a deep flyball to left field.

Dayan Viciedo had room to make the catch, but he turned the wrong way and Moss wound up on second base with a run-scoring double.

The White Sox' outfield defense looked pretty good at the start of the season when Avisail Garcia was the right fielder, Adam Eaton was in center and Viciedo and Alejandro De Aza were splitting time in left.

But with Garcia out for the season with a shoulder injury and Eaton sidelined with a hamstring injury, the Sox have been burned by a lack of outfield depth and poor defensive play.

Looking into the future, Eaton is set in center, Garcia is set in right and, let's just say Viciedo slides over to designated hitter to replace Adam Dunn / Paul Konerko.

Let's also say Gordon Beckham stays healthy, produces and proves he is the White Sox' best option at second base.

Johnson is intent on forcing his way into the Sox' lineup, but he needs a position.

How about left field?

Johnson has played second base since being drafted on the ninth round out of Indiana in 2012, but the White Sox are always moving players around.

Beckham is a natural shortstop that broke in with the Sox as a third baseman before moving to second. Viciedo is a natural third baseman, but he also played first base before moving to the outfield.

With top outfield prospect Courtney Hawkins not expected to arrive until 2016 and Trayce Thompson on pace for a look in September of next season, the time seems right to see if Johnson can play the outfield.

17-year-old charged in death of White Sox vendor

Associated Press

Chicago police say they have charged a 17-year-old in the shooting death last month of a White Sox vendor.

Nicholas Ramirez was killed during the early morning hours of April 19. Chicago police said Tuesday that Ramirez was in a vehicle stopped at a light in the city's West Town neighborhood when it was rammed by another vehicle. A passenger in that vehicle got out and shot the 19-year-old Ramirez.

Ramirez attempted to drive away after being shot but lost control of his vehicle and crashed into a concrete median, where authorities found him dead.

Police say the occupants of the two vehicles were earlier involved in chase along a West Side street.

The teen charged wasn't identified by police because of his age.

Chris Sale set for rehab start

By Doug Padilla / ESPN Chicago

CHICAGO -- [Chris Sale](#) will return to the mound Thursday as he makes an injury-rehab start for Triple-A Charlotte at Durham.

Sale hasn't pitched since April 18 as he recovers from a flexor muscle strain in his left arm. His last outing was a 127-pitch effort against the [Boston Red Sox](#).

The 25-year-old left-hander opened the season with a 3-0 record and a 2.30 ERA over his first four starts.

It is expected to be the first of two injury-rehab starts for Sale, who might be ready to return to the White Sox for the May 23-25 series against the [New York Yankees](#) at U.S. Cellular Field.

Micah Johnson promoted to AAA Charlotte

By Doug Padilla / ESPN Chicago

The [Chicago White Sox](#) promoted highly-regarded second base prospect Micah Johnson to Triple-A Charlotte on Tuesday after the 23-year-old tore through the Double-A Southern League this season.

Johnson entered the season as the sixth-best prospect in the White Sox's system, according to Baseball America, and has shown he might be even better than that with his play at Birmingham. Johnson is leading the Southern League in hitting with a .329 batting average and in total hits with 48. The speedster also has 18 runs scored, nine doubles, 16 RBIs and 10 stolen bases.

Johnson was a ninth-round pick in the 2012 draft out of Indiana University, but has raised his stock ever since. He was solid on two Single-A levels last season before an August promotion to Double-A. In last season's Southern League playoffs, Johnson batted .368 with seven steals in 10 playoff games as the Barons won the championship.

Johnson's rapid ascent suggests that he could be a regular in the White Sox's major league lineup as early as next season. Current White Sox second baseman [Gordon Beckham](#) has one more season of arbitration-eligibility, but it's possible that the former first-round draft pick could be moved before the July 31 non-waiver trade deadline.

The White Sox are flush with second base prospects in Johnson and Carlos Sanchez, who now will have

to share time at Charlotte. Sanchez has played two games at shortstop this season and has 150 games of experience there in the minor leagues, but Johnson does not have any shortstop experience.

In addition to those two players, [Marcus Semien](#) and [Leury Garcia](#), both on the major league roster, can play second.

Also promoted to Charlotte on Tuesday was left-hander Nelvin Fuentes, who has a 1.06 ERA over 17 appearances at Birmingham and has not been scored upon in his last 16 trips to the mound. Fuentes, a former 16th-round draft pick of the [Minnesota Twins](#) in 2007, was signed by the White Sox in December as a minor-league free agent.

Moss, Reddick pace Oakland's rout of White Sox

By Dan Hayes / CSN Chicago

OAKLAND— The White Sox haven't had too many efforts like Tuesday's in 2014.

Awful might be a generous description.

Starting pitcher Scott Carroll struggled and his offense and defense didn't offer any help as the Oakland A's routed the White Sox 11-0 in front of 13,825 at O.co Coliseum.

Carroll allowed six earned runs as Brandon Moss homered twice and Josh Reddick also went deep for Oakland, which outhit the White Sox 17-4. The White Sox have lost four straight, including the first two games on a 10-game road trip.

"We were just outplayed all the way around, offensively, defensively," White Sox manager Robin Ventura said. "One of those nights. Nothing went right. Scotty probably in the middle of the zone too much and they swung it. They swung it all night against everybody."

The A's didn't immediately jump all over Carroll (1-3).

Oakland scored in the first inning on a Moss two-out, RBI double that left fielder Dayan Viciedo misplayed. Carroll then retired nine of the next 10 he faced into the fourth inning. But Reddick kept the fourth inning alive with a two-out single, and after a walk, Craig Gentry singled in a run to make it 2-0.

Oakland then took control in the fifth inning.

Doubles by John Jaso, Yoenis Cespedes and Derek Norris made it 4-0. Reddick, who has wowed the home crowd after changing his walkup music to Wham's "Careless Whisper," made loud noises with his bat when he launched a two-run shot to right-center to put the A's ahead by six.

Carroll allowed 11 hits and six earned runs over five innings.

"I thought I made some pitches but that fifth inning particularly I made some bad pitches deep in the count which you can't do," Carroll said. "I left some pitches over the middle and what's frustrating is it's two outs and two strikes. Things we can work on and correct, but it's leaving me a little salty because I know I'm better than that. Deep in the count as good a hitting team as they are you have to put them away and make quality pitches."

His counterpart, Drew Pomeranz, spent the better part of five innings blowing high fastballs by White Sox hitters. He struck out the side in the first and fifth innings, including rookie Marcus Semien with two on to end the latter.

The White Sox had only one batter reach second base all night as Pomeranz and three relievers combined on a four-hit shutout.

Pomeranz struck out eight over five innings and allowed three hits and two walks. Dan Otero, Fernando Abad and Joe Savery then set down 11 of the 12 batters they faced over the final four innings.

"I just chased a lot of pitches up," Semien said. "Fastball up, the breaking ball. He did a good job of changing our eye level. There were pitches out of the zone too that we swung at. He had a two-pitch mix and kept us off-balance with that. He did a good job with his stuff."

The White Sox didn't do any good aside from Leury Garcia's home run-saving catch in the sixth inning when he robbed Cespedes.

Afterward, Ventura was blunt about the performance.

"We just got outplayed all the way around tonight," Ventura said. "It's pretty simple."

Jose Abreu continues to thrive for White Sox despite sore ankle

By Dan Hayes / CSN Chicago

OAKLAND — Jose Abreu still has a sore ankle but his stat line might convince you otherwise.

Abreu has run with a noticeable limp for the better part of a week and will make his fifth straight game at designated hitter on Tuesday.

But the ankle hasn't slowed Abreu down much.

In the past four games, Abreu is 5-for-15 with two home runs and three RBIs.

On Monday, Abreu became only the seventh player in major league history to hit 14 round-trippers in his first 40 games.

Even though Abreu continues to play well, manager Robin Ventura said Tuesday he plans to rest the slugger one game on either side of the team's offday on Thursday.

"It's getting better," Ventura said. "There's nothing structurally that you're concerned about. You just see him limp like that, and it's just soreness that's getting out of there. It's getting better. I think that day off will probably help.

"We'll see how goes through (Tuesday), but I'm sure one of them he'll get."

Abreu's homer Monday traveled 396 feet to the bleachers in right field.

With it, he joins Wally Berger (1930), Wally Joyner (1986), Sam Horn (1987), Kevin Maas (1990), Albert Pujols (2001) and Mike Jacobs (2005) as the only players to hit 14 homers through the first 40 games of their careers.

"He has power to all fields," Ventura said. "Any park you play in, it's reachable for him anywhere in the park. If he puts it on the barrel, good stuff happens."

Other notes

— It's a natural with left-hander Drew Pomeranz on the mound for Oakland, but it sounds as if Alejandro De Aza would have been given the day off no matter what. De Aza, who misplayed a ball into a triple Sunday, is 0-for-9 in his last three games. He has a .190/.243/.314 slash line for the season.

"He needs a breather, so we're able to do it today with a lefty going," Ventura said. "He's swinging and missing a lot of stuff. Working at-bats and such. He just looks like he needs a day."

— With three more runs in the ninth inning on Monday, the White Sox are up to 38 in the final frame for the season, a total that leads the majors. Oakland is second with 23. The White Sox are already within seven runs of the 45 they scored in the ninth inning in 2013.

White Sox Beckham stays focused despite uncertain future

By Dan Hayes / CSN Chicago

OAKLAND — He has heard the chatter for months now and the rumors will only get louder now that Micah Johnson has arrived at Triple-A Charlotte.

Even though his future with the White Sox appears uncertain, Gordon Beckham can't afford to pay attention to the possibilities. The second baseman said Tuesday he's focused on baseball and not where he may end up. Beckham prefers to stay with the White Sox, who drafted him in the first round of the 2008 draft.

But with Johnson, Marcus Semien, Carlos Sanchez and Leury Garcia all talented, young and affordable, it's almost certain the White Sox are open to trading Beckham, who is earning \$4.175 million this season, to fill other needs.

"If we're consumed with 'what-ifs,' we're not going to be very good at our job," Beckham said. "It is what it is. It's out there.

"I can't worry about that stuff. It's not a worry. This is probably the least amount of pressure I've ever felt playing a baseball game. I'm not worried about my personal place. I've been here for a while. Some good, some bad. I feel comfortable in this locker room. I feel like I'm playing good baseball and having good at-bats. That's all I can do and then the rest is going to take care of itself no matter what I do."

The White Sox don't want to divulge what they plan to do with their loaded middle infield.

But it's clearly the area with the most depth in the organization. Asked about the plethora of prospects, general manager Rick Hahn said: "This is a good thing."

Johnson's development has been a great thing for the franchise.

A ninth-round pick in 2012, the White Sox felt like they drafted a first-round talent in Johnson, whose stock dropped because of an elbow injury that popped up again at the end of a strong 2013 campaign.

Johnson had surgery to repair the nerve issue and has been fantastic this season at Double-A Birmingham. He was promoted Tuesday after a .329/.414/.466 start with 13 extra-base hits and 16 RBIs in 170 plate appearances.

Along with the strong play of Semien in the majors, the White Sox are confident about their future up the middle. They're just as happy about the play of Sanchez, 22, who has a .282/.364/.344 line with 10 RBIs at Charlotte and plays multiple positions. And Garcia has proven to be a talented athlete who can play all over the diamond since he came over in the Alex Rios trade last August.

Whether the White Sox would ask any of the above players to move to the outfield remains to be seen. But one scout thinks if Johnson doesn't stick at second base he could eventually handle a move to center field.

Where all of this leaves Beckham only Hahn and the front office know.

One offseason report suggested the Toronto Blue Jays had interest in Beckham. The Blue Jays entered Tuesday 19-20 and within striking distance of first place in a winnable American League East.

The New York Yankees also are in need of infield help and there was **speculation in spring training** they might have interest in Beckham, too.

None of the distractions seem to have bothered Beckham, who has looked very comfortable the past two weeks as he gets further removed from an oblique strain that sidelined him for nearly a month. He entered Tuesday with a .296/.333/.444 slash line and two homers and six RBIs in his last 57 plate appearances.

"It's not always easy, but for him, he's a good player," White Sox manager Robin Ventura said. "He's a major league player. Even when you hear whispers that come from the outside about guys who are doing well in the minor leagues, you still have to go out and compete and do what you can do. He's done a good job of doing that. His mind has been pretty clear in just going out to play instead of feeling like there's a pressure of anybody behind him."

Beckham knows he can't be consumed by the future and remain effective. If he's not dedicated to his daily routine, he won't be good for any team, let alone the White Sox.

So while rumors are his reality, it does him no good to pay attention.

"Rick has got a plan and he's probably going to follow through with that plan whether it's now or whenever," Beckham said. "He's got an idea of what he wants in his head and I'm sure that'll come through at some point."

"I hope I'm here for a long time. But you never know and all I can do is go out and play my game and hope that's what they want here for a long time."

A's tenure prepped White Sox hitting coach Steverson well

By Dan Hayes / CSN Chicago

OAKLAND — It's all business on this trip but Todd Steverson knows how much he owes the Oakland A's for his current opportunity.

Before he became the White Sox hitting coach, Steverson spent 10 seasons in a variety of different roles with Oakland varying from the majors to the minors.

All of those experiences with players at different levels has Steverson confident he can work with anyone he comes across in the White Sox batting cage. So even though he's here to win Steverson admits he's a little nostalgic for his past.

"Lot of good memories," Steverson said. "It's weird watching the games from this side of the field. Seen a lot of players go through here. The front office is pretty much still intact. It's a really close-knit group, and it's good to have gone to a place that has the same type of thought process keeping their people with them a long time."

Steverson credits Oakland farm director Keith Lieppmann for giving him the experience needed to tackle his current job. Under Lieppmann, Steverson held a handful of titles including first-base coach in the big leagues to manager at Single-A, Double-A and Triple-A as well as serving as the minor-league hitting coordinator.

"He kept us really prepared to be prepared for the future and what may come up," Steverson said. "He made you look out of the box on a lot of things and really use your mind and figure out how to get things done and another way to skin the cat kind of thing. I was fortunate enough to play quite a few different roles with the A's and through those times I developed a lot of relationships, learned a lot of things and had a lot of experiences.

"It really helped it me to where I am now and really communicating with all the players and saying 'Been there, done that' or I know someone who's been there or how it was handled."

Several players Steverson worked with over his tenure are in the majors with Oakland, including Derek Norris, Eric Sogard, Daric Barton and John Jaso. But the A's player he has known longest is Coco Crisp, whom Steverson knows back to when the outfielder was a St. Louis Cardinals second baseman.

"I was an outfield guy and he came to me in Peoria, Ill. and worked with him to convert him from a second baseman to an outfielder," Steverson said. "He took to it pretty good. He was real determined so he worked at it every day — (batting practice) is still like that today. If you watch him, his work ethic is phenomenal."

White Sox, Giants team up for groundbreaking social media contest

CSN Staff

Social media is taking over the sports world, and the White Sox and Giants are proof.

The two MLB squads are teaming up in a groundbreaking contest to offer their respective fanbases a chance to win an all-expenses paid trip to the opposing city to catch a summer matchup between the teams.

Fans can enter to become their team's #SocialSeries correspondent by posting an Instagram or Twitter message that includes the #SocialSeries hashtag and the team handles - @WhiteSox, @SFGiants - explaining why they should be their team's social correspondent.

The two fans that win for each team will be allowed to bring a guest and take part in several exclusive activities like touring the ballpark and the city.

The Giants will hold their #SocialSeries contest from May 12 through May 31 for the June 17-18 series on the South Side of Chicago. The White Sox portion of the contest starts July 1 and ends July 20 for the August 12-13 series in San Francisco.

"As the first two MLB teams with public social media spaces, we thought the series is a great way to showcase the #SoxSocial Lounge and @Cafe, digitally connect our fan bases and offer the correspondents a unique, behind-the-scenes social experience," said Nicole Saunches, Chicago White Sox director of mass communications.
