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## White Sox see no value in early panic

Scott Merkin / MLB.com | May 14, 2015

With a 14-17 record -- albeit one that includes consecutive series victories over the Tigers, Reds and Brewers -- the White Sox have left their fan base wanting more.

Six or seven victories in a row would serve as a solid start. But the fans also want a sense of urgency, maybe a little anger or at least some public hand-wringing.

After all, the 2015 White Sox were built to take this current reshaping program into contention, and quite frankly, they have fallen short to date. But in a season of 162 games, whether it's a popular sentiment or not, panic is not the answer for a team that believes it can contend.

"I'm not sure what our record is or how many games we played," said White Sox starter Chris Sale, who earned the win in Tuesday's 4-2 victory over the Brewers. "We are not winning or losing today or tomorrow or even the next day. Just keep coming in and plugging along and playing good baseball and picking each other up, and we'll see where it takes us."

"What I've tried to preach to guys individually," White Sox designated hitter Adam LaRoche said, "is that I've been on teams where you go into panic and, 'OK, we've got to get it done now,' and you look up in September, and trust me, you are 25 games out of first place. It just snowballs. We need to continue to do what we do individually and stick to what has gotten you there."

That philosophy for LaRoche means power hitters need to drive the ball, taking the potential strikeouts that come with big swings. On-base guys shouldn't try to hit balls into the upper deck.

Putting the full-court press on every day might work in other sports, but it's not the long road to travel in baseball.

"I've just never seen anything good come out of it," LaRoche said. "It's not what, a lot of times, coaches want to hear. It's not what fans want to hear."

"Just be patient. We just have to keep playing, relax and go have fun. That's not what you want to hear. They want to hear that sense of urgency: 'Hey, it's time.' We've got to grind this out."

"At the end, if it's not good enough, it's not good enough. As long as we give ourselves a shot, put ourselves in position

as much as possible, then if it ain't there, it ain't there."

White Sox manager Robin Ventura has begun to face pressure as a result of the uneven start to the season. In keeping with LaRoche's theme, Ventura also might be the right man to navigate through these choppy waters.

"Sometimes the worst things you can see out of a manager is a lot of times what the fans and the public want to see, which is snapping on the team, or losing it in the dugout," LaRoche said. "It's the same thing as us pressing, especially for young players.

"He's got a good feel for getting guys to understand that this is a long season. ... [There are] plenty of games left. He knows for his guys to produce, everybody needs to just stay the course and do what they do."

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## **White Sox option second baseman Johnson**

Scott Merkin / MLB.com | May 14, 2015

The White Sox optioned second baseman Micah Johnson to Triple-A Charlotte on Thursday, allowing switch-hitter Carlos Sanchez to join the team and assume the starting role starting with Friday's series opener in Oakland.

The 24-year-old Johnson -- the organization's No. 5 prospect, according to MLB.com -- won the job out of Spring Training and hit .270 with two doubles, three RBIs, eight runs scored, five walks and three stolen bases over 27 games. The left-handed-hitting rookie has worked hard since before Spring Training to improve defensively, but he has struggled with the glove to the tune of minus-8 Defensive Runs Saved, per Fangraphs.

Built to contend but struggling through 31 games, the White Sox have opted for a steadier defensive force in Sanchez, allowing Johnson to work through the kinks every day with the Knights.

"Obviously, from an offensive standpoint, he was contributing, but from a defensive standpoint, he wasn't quite as consistent, play to play, as we needed him to be at the big league level and as we expect him to be in the future," said White Sox general manager Rick Hahn of Johnson. "He also had a couple of questionable baserunning decisions, which I think is a part of being young and, much like the defensive side of things, will get ironed out with repetition.

"Carlos is going to bring a little bit more defensive consistency, solid baserunning. He'll be a tough out for us. He's going to help stabilize that position."

Hahn referenced Joe Crede and Aaron Rowand as players who returned to the Minors after spending an extended period in the Majors.

"Both Crede and Rowand went on to become, for lack of a better description, White Sox icons of the modern era," Hahn said. "There is no reason Micah can't follow suit. This is, we believe, a minor setback on the path to what we believe will be a successful big league career."

Sanchez broke camp with the team but has hit a robust .344 with two homers, 10 doubles and 17 RBIs over 29 games since returning to Charlotte. Hahn referred to the 22-year-old Sanchez as a relatively young player coming into his own, something the club expects to happen for Johnson.

Gordon Beckham and Emilio Bonifacio, who will continue to fill super-utility roles, can provide a respite for Sanchez if he needs a break or they offer a better matchup.

It was just two days ago when Hahn gave Johnson a vote of confidence, saying it's important to infuse homegrown talent to keep a team competitive on a yearly basis. Hahn said on Thursday that the move with Johnson "had been talked about for a while."

"I think you guys would understand that when asked about anybody on our active roster, we're not going to show all of our cards or reveal that we're going to make a change in the coming days," Hahn said. "While I'm sure Micah was disappointed with the ultimate decision, I don't think he didn't foresee it as a possibility, given some of the elements of the game that he knows he needs to get better at to have consistent success at the big league level."

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## **Coming trip will help White Sox find identity**

Scott Merkin / MLB.com | May 14, 2015

The question of when it is no longer "too early" for the White Sox amid a slow start has been asked often over the past six weeks.

General manager Rick Hahn has mentioned 60 games as the first barometer, but here's an even better initial checkpoint: Take a look at where the White Sox stand at the end of May.

After winning their third straight series with Wednesday night's 4-2 victory over the Brewers, the White Sox left for Oakland to face the A's, who own the worst record in the American League and won't have the benefit of starting ace Sonny Gray against Chicago. The White Sox will then begin a seven-game stretch against the Indians and Twins at home, where they are 10-5, during a week when Paul Konerko's jersey No. 14 will be retired.

The club will then go on the road trip of all road trips, an 11-game stretch that includes three against Toronto, a makeup doubleheader in Baltimore, three in Houston and three more in Arlington. Even if the White Sox are under .500 and five or six games back in the AL Central at the end of that run, on June 5, they should still have a fighting chance.

Manager Robin Ventura's crew just can't afford to get buried over the next two weeks -- not when the offense is starting to come alive as the weather turns. Not when top prospect Carlos Rodon has joined the rotation on essentially a full-time basis. Not when the team is playing its best baseball of the young season.

Not when it has July and August coming, including 32 games at home.

"The good thing about baseball is you play 162 games, so we have plenty of time to figure it out," White Sox closer David Robertson said.

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### **White Sox present second baseman Carlos Sanchez with huge opportunity**

Colleen Kane, Chicago Tribune  
May 15, 2015

The White Sox made a move intended to shore up their defense Thursday, optioning second baseman Micah Johnson to Triple-A Charlotte and calling up infielder Carlos Sanchez to take his place.

Sanchez will join the Sox in Oakland for the start of a three-game series against the Athletics on Friday and is expected to take over the role as the primary starting second baseman, general manager Rick Hahn said via conference call. Hahn expects infielders Emilio Bonifacio and Gordon Beckham to remain in their current utility roles, which include occasional play at second base.

Defense has been a major issue for the Sox, who entered Thursday ranked seventh in the majors with 25 errors, and Sox manager Robin Ventura and Hahn repeatedly have said it needs to be a point of emphasis for the 14-17 club.

The Sox are hoping Sanchez, 22, will represent an upgrade in the field over Johnson.

"Carlos is going to bring a little bit more defensive consistency, solid baserunning," Hahn said. "He'll be a tough out for us. He's going to help stabilize that position."

Sanchez, who played in 28 games last year for the Sox, was in competition with Johnson for the job in spring training and spent the first week with the team this year while pitcher Chris Sale was on the disabled list. After he was sent down, Sanchez had a big first month in Charlotte, hitting .344 with 10 doubles, two home runs, 17 RBIs and five stolen bases in 29 games.

The Sox were pleased with how Sanchez handled the demotion.

"He's still a relatively young player," Hahn said. "I think he's more coming into his own with the repetition at the minor-league level. ... He got beat out for his job, but as opposed to hanging his head, he went down and worked his tail off and obviously had a great amount of success."

According to MLB.com, the 24-year-old Johnson entered the year ranked as the Sox's fifth-best prospect, while Sanchez, 23 on June 29, was ranked No. 10.

Hahn called the move a "minor setback" for Johnson, who hit .270 with two doubles, three RBIs, eight runs scored, five walks and 17 strikeouts over 27 games this season. Known for his speed, he was 3-for-5 on stolen-base attempts but also made some baserunning blunders.

The major concern with Johnson from the start was his defense, and while the Sox said he was improving while putting in a lot of pregame work with Ventura and other coaches, he still was shaky at times. He committed three errors and is ranked 23rd among qualifying major-league second basemen with minus-8 defensive runs saved, according to FanGraphs.

Johnson sat out Wednesday's victory over the Brewers as Ventura went with a more defensively sound lineup that started Bonifacio at second base, Beckham at third and Adam LaRoche at first.

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### **Up next: White Sox at Athletics**

Chicago Tribune  
May 14, 2015

Season series: White Sox 4-3 in 2014.

Friday: 9:05 p.m., CSN.

LH Carlos Rodon (1-0, 2.92) vs. RH Jesse Hahn (1-3, 4.73).

Saturday: 8:05 p.m., WGN-9.

LH John Danks (1-3, 5.12) vs. RH Jesse Chavez (1-3, 2.56).

Sunday: 3:05 p.m., CSN.

RH Jeff Samardzija (2-2, 4.80) vs. LH Scott Kazmir (2-1, 2.78).

#### cComments

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Who's hot: Adam LaRoche has reached base safely in his last 11 games, hitting .333. Alexei Ramirez is batting .355 during an eight-game hitting streak, with two home runs and six RBIs. Stephen Vogt is hitting .323 with five home runs and 14 RBIs over his last 10 games.

Who's not: Melky Cabrera is hitting .138 with two RBIs over his last seven games. Samardzija gave up seven runs — five earned — in six innings in his last start. Coco Crisp is 1-for-28 this season after coming off the disabled list for his first game May 6. A's shortstop Marcus Semien has 11 errors in 36 games.

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### **Thriving in new role for White Sox, Gordon Beckham will stay put**

Daryl Van Schouwen, Chicago Sun-Times  
May 14, 2015

It's working. So maybe the White Sox don't fix what ain't broke.

Gordon Beckham has been very good in his role as occasional starter, late-inning defensive replacement and pinch-hitter. He has respectable .262/.333/.452 slash line numbers (average, on-base, slugging), is 2-for-6 as a pinch-hitter and hasn't made an error playing in 25 of the Sox' 31 games including nine starts at third base. He has appeared in two games at second base and one at shortstop, where he was scheduled to start a scrubbed game Baltimore because of the postponement there for security reasons, at shortstop.

Does Beckham, 28, want to play more? Of course he does.

"Any competitor wants to be on the field as much as they possibly can," he said with a grin. "I like to play."

Should he?

For a team that ranks 14th in defense in the American League, a case could be made. He's better defensively at third than left-handed hitting Conor Gillaspie (five errors) and has been given starts against right-handed pitchers. He would have been better at second than rookie Micah Johnson (three), who got sent down to AAA Charlotte Thursday. But in a starter's role at second base in seasons past, Beckham's offense lagged, and the Sox finally traded him and his .221 average to the Los Angeles Angels. There, in much the same role he's playing now, he was much better. Good enough for general manager Rick Hahn to bring him back to do the same thing in Chicago.

And it's working.

"It's fun," said Beckham, who had a walkoff single against Reds flamethrower Aroldis Chapman on Sunday. "This is the role I've been given so I'm going to do the best I can in that role," Beckham said.

Carlos Sanchez will be the everyday second baseman starting Friday when the Sox open a three-game series in Oakland. Sanchez is considered a better defender than Johnson, can play multiple infield positions and is hitting .344. He was named International League player of the week twice this season.

His promotion was due. A fielding infield of Gillaspie, Alexei Ramirez, Johnson and Jose Abreu from third to first has been far from a team strength. Ramirez has made five errors and Abreu two, and the errors throughout the infield tell only part of the defensive shortcomings.

Pitchers perform with more confidence knowing defenders have their backs, and Chris Sale's two consecutive bad starts – in which pitching coach Don Cooper said the lefty tried striking hitters out with strike one — suggest the defensive issues are getting in the pitchers' heads.

With Beckham, Ramirez, Emilio Bonifacio and former Gold Glove first baseman Adam LaRoche manning the infield against the Brewers Wednesday, the Sox played an errorless game behind Jose Quintana and won 4-2.

"We're playing a little bit better," Beckham said of the Sox, who have won three consecutive series. "The focus is to win the series and we've been doing that. So there's not more emphasis on anything, just showing up every day, trying to win a game and win a series. It's simple stuff.

"We've had a lot of weird moments in the early part of the season. You talk about going to Baltimore and not playing two games because of what is going on there. And there were rainouts. We've had a lot of off days. It's just been an extremely weird way to start a season. I don't know any other way to explain it, and honestly we haven't been able to get into a rhythm."

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## **White Sox to replace Micah Johnson with Carlos Sanchez**

Daryl Van Schouwen, Chicago Sun-Times  
May 14, 2015

Calling up Carlos Sanchez and demoting Micah Johnson Thursday seemed like a no-brainer. Unable to endure Johnson's problematic defense any longer as he learned on the job, the White Sox optioned the rookie to Class AAA Charlotte and brought up Carlos Sanchez to be the team's new everyday second baseman.

The Sox (14-17) knew Sanchez could out-field Johnson when the pair competed for the Opening Day job during spring training, but Johnson's decent bat, 84 minor league stolen bases in 2013 and disruptive potential on the bases were too good to pass up. When his defense and baserunning mistakes surfaced over the first 31 games, general manager Rick Hahn pulled the plug.

Johnson, 24, was hitting .270 with two doubles, three RBI, eight runs scored, five walks and three stolen bases.

"Obviously from an offensive standpoint, he was contributing but from a defensive standpoint, he wasn't quite as consistent play to play as we needed him to be at the big league level and as we expect him to be in the future," Hahn said. "He also had a couple of questionable base-running decisions, which I think is a part of being young and things, much like the defensive side of things, will get ironed out with repetition."

When Sanchez, a switch-hitter who batted .250 when called up late last season, broke out to a .344 start at Charlotte – he was twice named International League player of the week – the Sox could hold him back no longer. Unlike Johnson, Sanchez can play shortstop and third base, too.

"We see in Carlos a little more defensive consistency, solid baserunning and being a tough out for us," Hahn said. "He can help stabilize that position."

Johnson's three errors didn't tell the whole story of a lacking defensive package. Fangraphs rates him near the bottom of major league second basemen in defensive runs saved. And it didn't help that players around him have also struggled on a team that ranks 14th in the American League.

Sanchez, who three errors at Charlotte but none in the last 24 games, has two homers and five stolen bases in 29 games. He made the Opening Day roster, but only for a short while as left-hander Chris Sale waited a few days to come off the disabled list.

"We do like the fact that he is a kid that got an extended taste last year and that at the start of the year he got beat out for his job, but as opposed to hanging his head, he went down and worked his tail off and obviously had a great amount of success," Hahn said.

Hahn knows Johnson is disappointed but doesn't believe he was surprised, "given some of the elements of his game."

"We still think has a very bright future and that he's going to have a long, successful career," said Hahn, who drew a parallel to temporary setbacks of 2005 World Series team members Joe Crede and Aaron Rowand.

"There are just some elements of his game we want him to work on at the minor league level," Hahn said.

Emilio Bonifacio, who started in place of Johnson in the Sox'4-2 win in Milwaukee Wednesday, will stay in his infield/outfield utility role, and Gordon Beckham, last season's starter at second base, will stay in his as a part-time third baseman, backup middle infielder and pinch-hitter. There are those who have been calling for Beckham to return to second or play more third base where he has started nine games. But his role stays the same, Hahn said.

"It's fun. This is the role I've been given so I'm going to do the best I can in that role," Beckham said.

NOTE: Broadcaster Steve Stone has the weekend in Oakland off and will be replaced in the broadcast booth by Aaron Rowand.

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## **White Sox finally playing closer to potential**

Doug Padilla, ESPNChicago.com  
May 14, 2015

Six weeks into the season, the Chicago White Sox are finally showing the identity they expected to have all along: Power, strong starting pitching and a capable bullpen.

It's far too early to call this team cured of its early-season woes, especially since the defense still seems to be feeling its way around in the dark, but in their first road series victory of the season, the White Sox showed a confidence not often seen during a lackluster April.

Avisail Garcia and Adam LaRoche hit first-inning home runs, Jose Quintana showed his appreciation for a rare early lead by dominating most of the night and while the bullpen looked a bit wobbly, it did the job behind David Robertson's seventh save. The White Sox used the early lead to land a 4-2 victory over the Milwaukee Brewers.

"The last two series have been really good for us," Robertson said. "We've had a good atmosphere in the dugout, the guys have been playing really hard, the offense is coming through, the pitching's doing well. We're just playing a lot better brand of baseball now."

Robertson was one of the few members of the White Sox who were performing well early. Now he is enjoying the shared success.

One of the biggest turnarounds has been with the offense, that was dead last in home runs in all of baseball not that long ago. Now the White Sox have hit 10 home runs in their past eight games, and Wednesday's first-inning power display came with Jose Abreu getting the day off.

"Yeah, everything's coming together," Garcia said. "We had a bad road [trip] maybe a week ago, so we have to keep working and hopefully everybody stays healthy."

After the White Sox were steamrolled by the Twins on the last road trip, losing all four games at Minnesota, it would have been hard to predict the current run of three consecutive series victories against the Detroit Tigers, Cincinnati Reds and now the Brewers.

A big test awaits, though, as the White Sox get a day off Thursday followed by a three-game series at Oakland beginning Friday. The White Sox have won just once in their last eight games at Oakland.

But when the series against the A's begins, the White Sox will roll out rookie Carlos Rodon as the club works the rookie left-hander into the rotation. If Rodon can follow the success that Chris Sale and Quintana showed this week in Milwaukee, they are poised to build some serious momentum.

"It's definitely a big pickup," Robertson said of solid starts from Sale and Quintana. "The bullpen will always take extra days when they can get them. It's very helpful when both of those guys go very deep in a ballgame. Hopefully that continues and the bullpen gets back on track where all the roles are defined."

Following Rodon in Oakland are John Danks, who pitched well his last time out against the Reds, and Jeff Samardzija, who will be facing the team he played for in the second half of last season. While the starting rotation was terrible on the last road trip, Sale and Quintana have set the standard so far on this voyage out of town.

"For Chris to get the first one [Tuesday] and Q coming back and almost going eight [innings], it is important," manager Robin Ventura said. "It's important to kind of get that mindset out there for those guys. I know that's what they want and it's good to get close to that."

Despite the recent run of success (six victories in the past nine games), the White Sox are still three games under .500 at 14-17. It's probably not a good sign that the last two victories are the first time the White Sox have won consecutive games on the road this year.

The key now is to repeat the successful formula the White Sox figured to have all along. Two victories ever three games will get the White Sox healthy in a hurry.

"Yeah, the good thing about baseball is you play 162 games," Robertson said. "We have plenty of time to figure it out."

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## **White Sox hand 2B to Carlos Sanchez, demote Micah Johnson**

Doug Padilla, ESPNChicago.com  
May 14, 2015

In a move made with club's disappointing team defense in mind, Chicago White Sox rookie second baseman Micah Johnson was demoted to Triple-A Charlotte on Thursday.

White Sox general manager Rick Hahn said Thursday that Carlos Sanchez will be recalled from Triple-A Charlotte on Friday before a three-game series at Oakland and will take over as the team's everyday second baseman.

"There are just some elements of his game that we want him to work on consistently at the minor-league level and get ironed out prior to having him back in Chicago," Hahn said about Johnson, who won the second base job over Sanchez out of spring training.

"Obviously from an offensive standpoint, he was contributing, but from a defensive standpoint, he wasn't quite as consistent, play to play, as we needed him to be at the big-league level and as we expect him to be in the future," Hahn added.

Hahn also mentioned some base-running blunders Johnson committed.

Johnson started 25 of the White Sox's 31 games at second base but did not start Wednesday night at Milwaukee. Johnson isn't the only White Sox player struggling on defense, but he did have some issues in the first two games of the series against the Brewers.

Offensively, Johnson had been able to contribute with a .270 batting average and a .333 on-base percentage, to go along with a team-leading three steals, while hitting mostly out of the No. 9 spot in the lineup.

Sanchez, though, rates as a plus defender at second and has not committed an error in his last 24 games at Triple-A Charlotte. He has just three errors all season, and two of those came in the same game.

"Carlos is going to bring a little bit more defensive consistency and solid base running," Hahn said. "He'll be a tough out for us. He's going to help stabilize that position."

The White Sox also have Gordon Beckham and Emilio Bonifacio who could play second base, but both will remain in their utility roles. Bonifacio started at second base Wednesday, while Beckham has been used to shore up the defense at third base on occasion, especially in the late innings.

Sanchez made the Opening Day roster but was sent down to Charlotte April 11. He actually had a better offensive spring than Johnson but did not get the nod at second base for Opening Day. Since going to Charlotte, Sanchez batted .344 in 29 games with a .368 on-base percentage and a .466 slugging percentage.

Sanchez played in 28 games with the White Sox last season, nearly all of them after Beckham was traded to the Los Angeles Angels in August. He batted .250 with a .269 on-base percentage, including five doubles among his 25 hits.

"He's still a relatively young player," Hahn said of Sanchez. "I think he's more coming into his own with the repetition at the minor-league level. We do like the fact that he is a kid that got an extended taste last year and that at the start of the year he got beat out for his job, but as opposed to hanging his head, he went down and worked his tail off and obviously had a great amount of success."

Johnson will continue to get playing time at second base when he gets to Charlotte, as opposed to learning a new position or developing into a utility-type player.

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### **Preview: White Sox head to West Coast to face A's on CSN**

CSN Chicago  
May 14, 2015

The White Sox take on the Oakland Athletics on Friday, and you can catch all the action on Comcast SportsNet. Coverage begins with White Sox Pregame Live at 8:30 p.m. Then catch first pitch with Hawk Harrelson and former White Sox outfielder Aaron Rowand, who is filling in for Steve Stone this weekend. Be sure to stick around after the final out to get analysis and player reaction on White Sox Postgame Live.

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### **White Sox reverse course, send Micah Johnson to Triple-A**

Dan Hayes, CSN Chicago  
May 14, 2015

In a surprising reversal, the White Sox have sent Micah Johnson to Triple-A Charlotte on Thursday.



The club, which is off today after it won the second of three games in Milwaukee on Wednesday night, announced the move two days after saying they would stay patient with their rookie second baseman despite his early struggles. Fellow rookie Carlos Sanchez, 22, is expected to join the team Friday on the road when it begins a three-game series against the Oakland A's.

While Johnson has fared well at the plate, his defensive play and base running isn't at the level the White Sox want.

"Obviously from an offensive standpoint, (Johnson) was contributing," general manager Rick Hahn said. "But from a defensive standpoint, he wasn't quite as consistent play-to-play as we needed him to be at the big league level and as we expect him to be in the future. He also had a couple of questionable baserunning decisions, which I think is a part of being young and things, much like the defensive side of things, will get ironed out with repetition."

On Tuesday, Hahn gave Johnson, who has a .270/.333/.297 slash line in 83 plate appearances, a public vote of confidence, noting the club needs to produce its own talent on an annual basis to sustain success.

But in that night's game, Johnson, who is last among 23 qualified second basemen with minus-8 Defensive Runs Saved, according to fangraphs.com, dropped a pickoff throw. He also ran into an out at third base, the third time he has run into one this season along with a pickoff and two times caught stealing in five tries. Tuesday's performance came on the heels of a play Monday where Johnson and shortstop Alexei Ramirez didn't convert what appeared to be an easy double play, which cost Jeff Samardzija an extra run in a 10-7 loss.

"We're not going to show all our cards, or reveal that we're going to make a change in the coming days," Hahn said. "I don't think that's real productive to maximize a player's performance. At the same time, we have consistent conversations with our players about where they sit and what we're expecting. And while I'm sure Micah was disappointed with the ultimate decision, I don't think he was surprised that it was a possibility or didn't foresee it as a possibility."

Though Johnson entered spring training as the favorite to win the starting job, Sanchez made himself a strong option as he produced a .425/.489/.425 slash line with six RBIs in 45 plate appearances. The performance was good enough to earn Sanchez a spot on the Opening Day roster.

Sanchez, who is thought of as a glove-first infielder, has proven he's a capable defender during his short time in the majors. He also carried over his hot start at the plate to Charlotte, where he hit 344/.368/.466 with two homers and 17 RBIs and was twice named the International League player of the week.

Sanchez, who already has 107 major league plate appearances is expected to take over as the starting second baseman while Gordon Beckham and Emilio Bonifacio stay in their utility roles, Hahn said.

"Carlos is going to bring a little bit more defensive consistency," Hahn said. "Solid base running. He'll be a tough out for us. He's going to help stabilize that position."

"We do like the fact that he is a kid that got an extended taste last year and that at the start of the year he got beat out for his job, but as opposed to hanging his head, he went down and worked his tail off and obviously had a great amount of success."

Hahn believes Johnson, 24, is capable of success in the majors. He compared the move to the demotions of Aaron Rowand and Joe Crede and said Johnson just needs more repetition.

"We still think (Johnson) has a very bright future and he's going to have a long and successful big league career," Hahn said. "There are just some elements of his game that we want him to work on consistently at the minor league level and get ironed out prior to having him back in Chicago."

This is an interesting development, given what Hahn said Tuesday:

"There's a balance. It's important for us to build something sustainable to introduce our own young talent on a pretty much annual basis. The Braves did that on that long run of theirs, every year adding a homegrown piece that became a mainstay to their core as it evolved. That's where we want to get to. We anticipate and hope we're going to follow a model like that and have our own homegrown talent integrated in. At no point do we expect those guys to carry the load, so to speak. So our expectations for Micah and Carlos now in the rotation is on Day 1, you have to show up and you're

responsible for this. It's a matter of performing up to their ability and showing progress and our ability to project out that they're going to be the type of player their capable of being and they're best served doing that at the big league level.

"It is a good problem to have. We'd much rather have options, especially at premium positions and Carlos is doing a great job. If and when the need arises in Chicago, we know that Carlos at the very least will provide quality defense and be a tough out. There's some elements of Micah's game you can't replicate. The pressure he puts on a defense in the way he's able to disrupt a pitcher's rhythm which helps the hitters behind him when he's on base. Which is why he's here now and he's the right guy."

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### **White Sox option 2B Micah Johnson to Triple-A**

J.J. Stankevitz, CSN Chicago  
May 14, 2015

The White Sox optioned Opening Day second baseman Micah Johnson to Triple-A on Thursday after the 24-year-old hit .270/.330/.297 over 27 games in April and May.

A corresponding move will be made prior to Friday's series opener against Oakland, though it's likely the club will recall Carlos Sanchez from Triple-A Charlotte. Sanchez has won two International League Player of the Week awards since being optioned to Charlotte April 11 and has a .344/.368/.466 slash line over 29 Triple-A games this year.

Offensively, Johnson appeared to be rounding into form over his last 10 starts, hitting .310/.375/.345 with a stolen base while largely hitting at the bottom of the White Sox order. Defensively, though, Johnson didn't rate as well as his minus-8 defensive runs saved (via FanGraphs) ranked last among 23 qualified second basemen.

Emilio Bonifacio started two games at second base last weekend against Cincinnati and again Wednesday in Milwaukee.

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### **White Sox Demote 2B Micah Johnson To Triple-A**

CBS Chicago  
May 14, 2015

The White Sox have optioned second baseman Micah Johnson to Triple-A Charlotte, they announced Thursday. Chicago will make a corresponding move before Friday's game at Oakland. It's expected to be the call-up of second baseman Carlos Sanchez, who is hitting .344 at Triple-A.

Johnson made the White Sox roster out of spring training and is hitting .270 with no homers, three RBIs, eight runs and a .333 on-base percentage in 27 games this season.

Johnson entered the season rated as the fourth-best prospect in Chicago's organization, per Baseball America.

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