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Daily Transactions

Seidel: Tigers never know which Sanchez they'll get

May 25, 2015

By Jeff Seidel/ Detroit Free Press

Go ahead and scream at the top of your lungs: WHY IN THE WORLD DID HE LEAVE HIM IN? It's certainly a valid question and understandable. Why did Tigers manager Brad Ausmus leave Anibal Sanchez in the game Sunday afternoon in the sixth inning?

Why didn't Ausmus yank him?

Go ahead and scream again, if it makes you feel any better, because there was plenty to scream about after this game. Scream about that brain-freeze balk that scored a run, or the botched pickle, or the inability to win a game in which the Tigers scored eight runs. But the Tigers botched this game, 10-8, at Comerica Park, ending a disappointing home stand.

But let's go back to Sanchez, and the moment when everything turned. It was the sixth inning, two outs, two guys on. Sanchez was facing Preston Tucker, a pinch-hitter who had hit a pinch-hit home run Thursday. Sanchez had already thrown more than 110 pitches, and the Tigers held a 7-4 lead.

But Ausmus let Sanchez stay in the game. And after the game, Ausmus refused to second-guess himself, even as he was being second-guessed. "This is where we are, in this day and age, if it doesn't work, it was the wrong move," he said. "If it does work, then it was the right move. And, quite frankly, Sanchy, against lefties, with his change-up is very effective."

To be fair, Ausmus has a point. He has the statistics to back up his decision. Sanchez came into this game allowing a .234 batting average against left-handers compared with .293 against right-handers. And until that point, the vast majority of home runs that Sanchez has given up this year have been to right-handed batters (seven) compared with left-handers (three). Even the home run that Sanchez gave up earlier in the inning was to right-handed Evan Gattis.

Now, maybe you will argue that Sanchez was tired and was more susceptible to give up a bunch of runs at that point of the game, but that argument doesn't hold up either. So far this season, Sanchez has been effective with a high-pitch count. Before Sunday, he had exceeded the 100-pitch plateau five times, and he had never given up a run after throwing between 100 and 120 pitches.

Clearly, Ausmus liked the matchup of Sanchez against the left-handed-hitting Tucker. And the stats were in Sanchez's favor.

"He's actually better against lefties than he is against righties," Ausmus repeated.

So the stats supported the decision to keep him in the game. There was some logic to it, and Sanchez actually threw the pitch he wanted against Tucker. A low change-up. Then Tucker just blasted it out of the park, tying the game.

Which brings us to the real problem. Sanchez has given up 11 home runs this season, and that's a red flag that is blowing in the winds of trouble.

"Yeah, it's a little bit of a concern now," Ausmus acknowledged.

And so, the enigma of Sanchez continues.

He has turned into a strange mystery, a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde on the mound.

In this game, he struck out 11 batters, which is the good Sanchez.

But he also allowed seven earned runs, which is the bad Sanchez.

"His stuff is electric at times, as his strikeouts indicate," Ausmus said. "Then, he gets some balls up and they land in the seats."

In his three wins, Sanchez has given up four runs and no home runs.

In the seven other games, he has given up 38 runs, including 11 home runs. And the Tigers have lost six of them.

"Last outing, I was terrible," Sanchez said. "This outing, I was, too. I want to turn it around at some point."

What's wrong? Sanchez said that he is not hurt. "I'm healthy," he insisted. But he acknowledges he is frustrated. "It's a hard situation," he said. "Of course, I'm concerned, basically because the team lost. I don't feel good with the situation that I have now."

Clearly, this is not the same pitcher who pitched so brilliantly for the Tigers over the last two years. Something has changed. But nobody can figure out what's wrong. It's an unsolved mystery. And it's enough to make you want to scream in frustration.

Houston 10, Detroit 8: Sanchez, Tigers can't hold lead

May 25, 2015

By Carlos Monarrez/ Detroit Free Press

No one really had any answers for this one.

Not Brad Ausmus. Not Anibal Sanchez. Not any of the hitters who scored eight runs for the Tigers and still saw their team blow a four-run lead and lose to the Houston Astros, 10-8, before an announced crowd of 36,449 on Sunday at Comerica Park.

What started ugly for the Tigers ended ugly. Even if there was a glimpse of something good for a while — when Sanchez retired 14 of 16 batters — the shaky bullpen, a balk, a ball over Rajai Davis' head and a Keystone Cops-like botched rundown at second proved why the Tigers couldn't have nice things as they limped to a four-game series split with Houston and a 3-4 home stand showing.

"If we could have won yesterday, today I would have said it was a good home stand," Ausmus said. "I think it was a disappointing home stand, especially today. When we score eight runs, we need to win that game, period."

Sanchez struggled in his second straight outing. He gave up seven runs on eight hits over 5 2/3 innings. He allowed the first three batters he faced to score and allowed two home runs. But he also struck out 11 and retired 14 of 16 batters from the second through the fifth innings.

Ausmus visited Sanchez on the mound in the first inning to reassure him, and it seemed to work.

"It wasn't as bad as it seemed," Ausmus said of a couple of soft or well-placed hits. "I didn't want him to think things were unraveling."

And it worked.

"His fastball command got a lot better," Ausmus said. "He was pretty good with his fastball. I think his secondary pitches got better as he got deeper in the game."

Sanchez started mowing through the Astros' lineup and at one point he struck out six of seven batters.

"I think it's location," he said of the key. "Location was the key at that point. I think every pitch working good today."

The Tigers helped Sanchez by quickly taking the lead, scoring five runs of their own in the first inning off Roberto Hernandez. J.D. Martinez and Yoenis Cespedes had RBI singles, and Bryan Holaday's three-run double down into the leftfield corner put the Tigers ahead, 5-3.

The Tigers tacked on another run in both the fourth and fifth innings for a 7-3 lead. Andrew Romine scored on Anthony Gose's double in the fourth, and Cespedes crossed the plate in the fifth on Nick Castellanos' double. But in the sixth, the Astros struck back with four runs off Sanchez to even the score at 7. Evan Gattis led off with a solo home run, and even after Sanchez allowed two more runners on, Ausmus left him in to face left-hander Preston Tucker, who crushed a ball into the rightfield stands for a three-run homer.

Ausmus refused to second-guess his decision, noting that Sanchez is more effective against lefties than righties. Sanchez entered with lefties hitting .234 off him and righties .293 this season.

"No, I didn't, because he's actually better against lefties than he is against righties," Ausmus said.

"This is where we are, in this day and age, if it doesn't work, it was the wrong move. If it does work, then it was the right move. And, quite frankly, Sanchy against lefties, with his change-up, is very effective."

But Ausmus really had no answer for why Sanchez has struggled.

He admitted that giving up an 11th homer this season, when he allowed only four last year, was "a little bit of a concern now."

"Other than the results, no, not really," Ausmus said. "I can't say that there's a ton different."

Sanchez yielded to Alex Wilson, who didn't do much better. He allowed singles in the seventh to Marwin Gonzalez and Gattis, who scored on Jason Castro's single off Angel Nesbitt for a 9-7 lead.

Miguel Cabrera's one-out solo shot in the ninth almost made the many fans who hit the exits in the eighth sorry they left early. Almost.

"This one bothered me," Ausmus said.

"I thought we were a little sloppy, and as manager I'm partially to be blamed for that. But it disturbs me when we score eight runs and we lose.

"We shouldn't be losing with eight runs scored. It's as simple as that. So in that sense, I guess, it bothers me a little bit more."

Tigers put Lobstein on DL, Farmer to start Thursday

May 25, 2015

By Carlos Monarrez/ Detroit Free Press

The Detroit Tigers decided to address left-hander Kyle Lobstein's shoulder problem by placing him on the 15-day disabled list today and called up shortstop Dixon Machado.

General manager Dave Dombrowski announced the move and also said right-hander Buck Farmer (5-1, 2.98 ERA in Triple-A Toledo) would start Thursday's game at Anaheim, but a corresponding move would be made by Wednesday.

"It's something that's bothered him on and off," Dombrowski said of Lobstein's shoulder. "You've seen that he hasn't felt quite up to par; (he's) been able to pitch through it. But I can't tell you exactly when it's been hurting him or not."

Manager Brad Ausmus said Lobstein's shoulder has been a problem since the winter.

"I kind of, in the back of my mind, I thought something might be wrong," Ausmus said. "His velocity's been down almost all year. (Pitching coach Jeff Jones) and I talked to him this morning. He said that his shoulder bothered him a little during the winter when he started throwing, that it went away in spring training for a few weeks and that it came back. I don't know if it was toward the end of spring training or the beginning of the season. But he admitted that it hasn't been right."

"When you watch him, I feel like something's wrong. But he keeps going out there and doing OK, giving us a chance to win. But finally we just decided we need to (make a move)."

Shortly before Dombrowski's announcement, Ausmus said shortstop Jose Iglesias would be out of the lineup for today's game against the Houston Astros with swelling in his left knee. Iglesias is due to get an X-ray and an MRI.

But Dombrowski said Iglesias would miss only a day or two and that the move to bring up Machado — who is scheduled to be in Detroit for today's game and will make the West Coast trip — was not related to Iglesias.

"With Iglesias being down a day or two, we figured what would probably benefit us the most is just having an extra infielder available those days," Dombrowski said. "He's done very well for us. He's deserved of a promotion at this time. He's played well at Triple-A. And even if you talk about an outfielder, we don't really need an outfielder. So it really came down to what fits best for us at this time."

In 40 games with the Mud Hens, Machado is hitting .274 with 16 RBIs, one home run and five stolen bases.

"He's a good player," Ausmus said. "He's a very good shortstop. He's been hitting the heck out of the ball."

"He's a guy who was really thought of highly as a defensive player and questions marks in the bat. But over the last season and this season, he's shown that he can really hit. In spring training he really hit. He's a great kid. He works hard. It'll be good to have him up here for whatever amount of time he's here."

Farmer will be up with the Tigers since his rocky debut major-league last August, when he appeared in four games. He struggled in two starts, lasting only 1 1/3 innings his second time out and giving up seven earned at Minnesota. But he righted the ship in two relief appearances after that and been steady this season in nine appearances with Toledo.

"Well, Buck's throwing the ball real well at Triple-A for us," Dombrowski said. "I think he's 5-1 at this time. His stuff has been good, his fastball. Really, he continues to develop."

"Probably from an ideal perspective, you continue to let him develop. But his fastball's a mid-90s fastball with an above average change-up and a developing slider. He's been here before, he's got some experience. We look for him to come out here and pitch well for us."

Ausmus praised Lobstein's contributions as a fill-in replacement for Anibal Sanchez last year and for Justin Verlander this year.

"With the exception of two starts over the course of that time frame, I think we had a chance to win every game," Ausmus said. "And we won the division by one game last year, so it's tough to put a price tag on it." Ausmus said Lobstein's shoulder injury has been hard to consistently pin down, and his performances in eight starts (3-5, 4.34) has been good enough to keep him away from the DL.

"There had been complaints over previous weeks that there was a little bit of shoulder soreness, but no pain," Ausmus said. "Even yesterday he said he didn't have any pain during the course of the game. But he was sore after and he said really during his bullpen this week he felt fine as well. It's just a kind of lingering issue that doesn't want to go away, so we feel like rest might be the best thing."

Tigers' bullpen finally stumbles in loss to Astros

May 25, 2015

By Carlos Monarrez/ Detroit Free Press

On a day when everyone seemed to make a mistake for the Tigers, the bullpen certainly did its share in an uncommon display in Sunday's 10-8 loss to the Houston Astros.

The bullpen entered the game with a 1.22 earned-run average — best in the majors. It also had just worked 31/3 scoreless innings Saturday.

But Sunday, everyone stumbled. The bullpen allowed three runs, including two charged in the seventh inning to Alex Wilson that put the Astros up, 9-7.

Wilson worked two-thirds of an inning after relieving starter Anibal Sanchez. He left with one out and runners at first and second and was replaced by left-hander Tom Gorzelanny, who left after striking out left-handed hitter Colby Rasmus. Rookie Angel Nesbitt entered, walked Chris Carter and then gave up the winning hit on a two-run single to Jason Castro. Nesbitt also surrendered another run in the eighth.

Lobstein goes to DL, Farmer to pitch Thursday

"These guys aren't going to be perfect," manager Brad Ausmus said. "They're human. Nesbitt's a young kid.

He's a rookie. He looked a little bit nervous his first couple outings, but he's been darn good since then. But he wasn't going to be perfect. He hit a little bit of a speed bump, but it doesn't concern me."

Wilson said it was more of the Astros — who lead the majors with 29 wins — taking advantage of the slightest of openings.

"I think the only thing that really cost us was a two-out walk," he said. "I mean, other than that, as far as pitching goes later in the game, they're going to get hits. It's just a matter of how you manage them.

"I think that's the only thing you can really control is walking somebody, and unfortunately we snuck one of those guys in there tonight and it came back to get us."

Houston 10, Detroit 8: Why the Tigers lost

May 25, 2015

By Carlos Monarrez/ Detroit Free Press

At Comerica Park

What happened: Anibal Sanchez struggled early, then struggled late and the Tigers blew a 7-3 lead to lose their second straight to split their four-game series with Houston and finish their seven-game home stand 3-4. Miguel Cabrera extended his hitting streak to 12 games. He went 2-for-5 with a double and his 11th home run of the season. Bryan Holaday hit a three-run double.

The other side: Evan Gattis entered the game ice cold, going 1-for-12. But he caught fire and ended up a double shy of the cycle, going 3-for-4 with a home run and three RBIs. Preston Tucker's pinch-hit three-run homer in the sixth off Sanchez.

For starters: Sanchez allowed three runs in the first inning before he found his groove and better location. He retired 14 of 16 batters at one point and finished with 11 strikeouts — his most since he struck out 12 Aug. 3 against Colorado. But he sandwiched four strong innings with two bad ones in the first and sixth, when he allowed four more runs. He allowed seven runs on eight hits over 5 2/3 innings. Reliever Alex Wilson (1-1) worked 2/3 innings and took the loss.

Oh, that bullpen: The bullpen entered the game with a 1.22 earned-run average — best in the majors. It also had just worked 3 1/3 scoreless innings Saturday. But the pen allowed three runs Sunday, including two charged in the seventh inning to Alex Wilson that put the Astros up, 9-7. Angel Nesbitt struggled especially, allowing a key two-out walk to Chris Carter in the seventh and allowing another run in the eighth.

Al's all right: The shining exception to the bullpen's struggle Sunday was Al Alburquerque, who pitched an inning of scoreless relief in the ninth. He hasn't allowed a run in his past 10 appearances.

Up next: The Tigers head west for a six-game swing, starting a three-game set in Oakland tonight, followed by three game in Anaheim.

Three stars: 1. Gattis; 2. Tucker; 3. Cabrera.

Wojo: Tigers are a team that thrills and confounds

May 25, 2015

By Bob Wojnowski/ The Detroit News

Detroit — Sometimes they look awfully good. And sometimes they look awful. That's the cheap synopsis of the Tigers right now, and for a symbol of that synopsis, just look at the mound.

On a team of boggling extremes, Anibal Sanchez takes it to the extreme. If the Tigers hope to smooth out their ride, they first have to smooth out Sanchez and their starting pitching. This was a bizarre outing in a season of many, a 10-8 loss to the Astros that closed out a 3-4 homestand.

It went from sloppy to scintillating and back to sloppy, and at the key juncture, Sanchez's problems resurfaced. On this day, it became a problem for Brad Ausmus, who couldn't figure out which pitcher was on the mound at the fateful moment — good Sanchez or bad Sanchez — and guessed wrong.

Ausmus left Sanchez in for one more batter, trying to get through the sixth inning with a 7-4 lead. After allowing three runs in the first, Sanchez was brilliant, striking out 11, but he was tiring, giving up a home run and two singles in the sixth. And then, on his 115th pitch, he surrendered the tying three-run homer to pinch-hitter Preston Tucker, the slugging rookie who did the same thing to Joakim Soria in the series opener.

There was an audible gasp from the crowd of 36,449, followed by boos as Ausmus removed Sanchez. The lead was gone and the Astros pulled away against the Tigers bullpen. But this is not about one pitch or one decision. This is about a confusing team that alternately thrills and confounds.

All-or-nothing with Sanchez

It's hard to know which starter, or which bullpen guy, is trustworthy at any given moment. That's probably why Ausmus' frustration briefly flared as he defended his decision to leave Sanchez in.

"This is where we are in this day and age," Ausmus said. "If it doesn't work then it was the wrong move. If it does work, then it was the right move. Quite frankly, Sanchie against lefties with his change-up is very effective."

To be fair, the last eight outs Sanchez recorded were strikeouts, and he can be lethal against left-handers, who hit .234 against him. It was the right call if this was the Sanchez of previous seasons. It became the wrong call when Sanchez threw a changeup that didn't drop enough, and Tucker launched it.

It was another all-or-nothing outing for Sanchez, now 3-5 with a 6.12 ERA. Five days earlier, he allowed back-to-back-to-back home runs in an 8-1 loss to the Brewers. Before that, he was brilliant in a victory over the Twins. Before that, well, you get the point.

On an up-and-down team, nobody gets upper and downer more than Sanchez. He has given up a staggering 11 home runs, compared to four all of last season. He said he's healthy and he mostly liked the way he threw Sunday, but looked concerned and perplexed afterward.

"It's a hard situation, I never got in this situation before," Sanchez said. "But I'm not special. I'm a normal baseball player, I'm human. It's baseball, everything can change with one pitch, everything can change with one play, everything can change with just a little thing. I need to turn it around at some point. I need everybody to trust me."

Sanchez is a cool, savvy pro, so if there's a remedy, he'll find it. The problem is, he's not the only one prone to wild fluctuations. The starting pitching and offense take turns, and it's fairly remarkable the Tigers are 26-19 considering Alfredo Simon has been their most-dependable starter.

Trying to get whole again

This road trip to Oakland and Anaheim could be daunting, and also telling. Justin Verlander is scheduled to pitch in a simulated game Tuesday. Shortstop Jose Iglesias could miss time with a knee contusion and Victor Martinez is still out with knee soreness. The Tigers are trying to hold steady until they get whole again but it's getting more difficult, with the Royals scorching, and the Twins, White Sox and Indians heating up.

"I don't know if it's the most-disappointing loss, but this one bothered me," Ausmus said. "I know it's a good team. I don't like the way we played (Sunday) but I know it's a good team. You hope over 162 games, the fact that it's a good team bubbles to the surface."

It has bubbled up a few times, like during the 11-2 start, but it's fleeting. Yes it's baseball, and anomalies tend to fade over a long season, but the Tigers have posted some crazy numbers. For instance, their team batting average (.281) is 50 points higher than the Astros' .231. Yet Houston has scored more runs (202-200) mainly because it has slugged many more home runs (64-38).

There are other odd contradictions. Despite having speed and leading the AL in stolen bases, the Tigers lead the majors by a wide margin in hitting into double plays (48). Part of that is explainable — their slower runners hit the ball hard, and they generally have lots of guys on base. But how do you explain the Tigers scoring two or fewer runs in 20 games, most in the majors, and scoring eight or more runs 10 times, second-most in the majors?

How can they be explosive, and also anemic? Ausmus suggests it's the quirks of the game and that's generally correct, but it doesn't make it easier to endure. J.D. Martinez went through an 0-for-25 slump, but busted out with a thump. Ian Kinsler has been good all year, but is in an 0-for-16 stretch and hasn't hit a home run yet. And then there's Sanchez, perhaps the most-concerning puzzle of all.

"His stuff is electric at times, his strikeouts indicate that," Ausmus said. "Then he gets some balls up and they land in the seats. Other than the results, I can't really put my finger on one particular thing."

It's not easy figuring this team out. It gets easier if Sanchez can figure things ou

Houston bats too big for erratic Anibal Sanchez

May 25, 2015

By Chris McCosky/ The Detroit News

Detroit — This one bothered manager Brad Ausmus. He admitted as much after the game.

"I thought we were a little sloppy," he said, after the Astros beat the Tigers 10-8 to earn a split of the four-game series. "As the manager I am partly to blame for that. It disturbs me when we score eight runs and lose. We shouldn't be losing with eight runs scored. It's as simple as that.

"So in that sense, it bothers me a little bit more."

If sloppy play was bothersome, then the wildly erratic pitching by starter Anibal Sanchez has to be bewildering. The Astros scored the winning runs off the Tigers bullpen in the seventh and eighth innings, but it was Sanchez who first put the team behind 3-0 and then gave back a 7-3 lead.

"It's a hard situation," said Sanchez, who gave up two more home runs (11 now on the season). "I never have this situation before. But I am not special. I am not just a baseball player; I am a human...The main thing is to put my face up, believe in God and put all your effort into Him."

His performance Sunday was like a condensed version of what this entire season has been like for him. He alternated between being really bad and utterly brilliant, which is what he's been doing every other start.

He seemed discombobulated at the start. He gave up two fast runs on a triple by Evan Gattis. After walking the next hitter, he bluffed a pickoff throw to third base — an obvious balk — to allow Gattis to score.

Turns out catcher Bryan Holaday had flashed the wrong sign (a pick-third call instead of a pick-first).

Ausmus went out to the mound.

"The first single was a bloop and Gattis, his butt was in our dugout and reached out and hit a ball down the right field line," Ausmus said. "I tried to remind him it wasn't as bad as it seemed. I didn't want him to think things were unraveling."

Sanchez was a different pitcher after that. From the second inning through the fifth, he allowed two baserunners. He struck out the side in the fourth and fifth innings and posted a season-best 11 strikeouts on the day.

"I felt really good," Sanchez said, "except for the score."

The Tigers offense, meanwhile, scored seven runs off Astros starter Roberto Hernandez to take command of the game, 7-3.

But then came the sixth.

Gattis reached out and golfed a slider that was low off of the plate over the fence in left field. He struck out Colby Rasmus and Jason Castro around a single by Chris Carter.

With his pitch count over 100, he gave up a single to Jonathan Villar, which brought the tying run to the plate. Ausmus had right-hander Alex Wilson warm in the bullpen. He decided to give Sanchez one more hitter, because he figured, correctly, that the Astros would use left-handed hitting Preston Tucker to hit for right-handed hitting Jake Marisnick.

Tucker, whose home run off Joakim Soria tied the game in the ninth inning on Thursday, whacked Sanchez's 115th pitch of the game, a change-up, onto the BelleTire sign beyond the right field fence, a game-tying three-run homer.

Ausmus was asked if he thought he let Sanchez face one too many hitters?

"No, I don't," he said. "He is actually better against lefties than he is against righties."

Lefties hit Sanchez at a .234 clip this season, right-handers .293. Before Sunday, he had allowed three homers to lefties.

"This is where we are now in this day and age," Ausmus said. "If it doesn't work it was the wrong move. If it does work, it was the right move. Sanchez against lefties, with his change-up, is very effective."

The Astros scored twice in the seventh to take the lead. Wilson gave up two singles, but the kill shot came against Angel Nesbitt. He was summoned with two on and two outs. He walked Carter, a .171 hitter, to load the bases.

Then, on a 3-2 count, Castro drilled a two-run single to right field.

"These guys aren't going to be perfect," Ausmus said. "They are human. He's a young kid. He's a rookie. He wasn't going to be perfect. He's hit a speed bump but it doesn't concern me about him. He'll be fine if we need him tomorrow."

The Tigers provided plenty of offense, starting with a five-run first keyed by a three-run double by Holaday. Miguel Cabrera doubled and hit his 11th home run of the season in the ninth.

The Tigers, after a 3-4 home stand, head out on a seven-game road trip to Oakland and Anaheim.

"I know everyone wants to say, 'Could this build some momentum,' or, 'Is this a kick in the gut,'" Ausmus said.

"Listen, I can't tell the future, but I know it's a good team. I don't like the way we played today, but it's a good team.

"You hope over 162 games, the fact that it's a good team, bubbles to the surface." t.

Bizarre plays prove costly in Tigers loss

May 25, 2015

By Chris McCosky/ The Detroit News

Detroit — After giving up three runs in the first inning, the Tigers looked to have dug themselves a daunting early hole, given some of their offensive struggles in recent weeks.

That they scored five runs in the bottom half of the inning was the prologue to a series of uncanny plays that dotted an uncharacteristic 10-8 loss to the Astros on Sunday afternoon at Comerica Park.

In addition to the offensive outburst, the game featured several miscues and odd plays that help swing the outcome back and forth before the Astros were able to erase a four-run deficit in the sixth, take the lead in the seventh and score another run in the eighth.

After Evan Gattis' two-run triple in the first inning, Gattis scored the third run of the inning after Tigers starter Anibal Sanchez balked.

"That was a Bryan Holaday mistake," manager Brad Ausmus said. "He called for the throw to third and put the wrong sign down."

Following a walk to Colby Rasmus, Sanchez had runners on first and third and Holaday said he was trying to signal for a pick play at first, instead of at third.

But Sanchez said that play wasn't a big determiner for the outcome of the game.

"It's just one play. We messed up on the signs," said Sanchez, who had a season-high 11 strikeouts.

"That's not the thing that (messed up) everything in the whole game."

The Tigers bounced back in the first with five runs — the most they've scored in an inning this season — keyed by a critical hustle play by Rajai Davis. On the play, Davis grounded to first baseman Chris Carter, but Astros starter Roberto Hernandez didn't get a good break to cover first base and it was a race between the speedy Davis and Carter.

"We both realized at the same point that the pitcher was not going to get there and it was going to be a foot race between me and Carter," Davis said. "I guess I got him."

Davis slid in head first to avoid a tag — and was called safe.

The miscue was costly, as it could have ended the inning but instead loaded the bases for Holaday, who gave the Tigers a 5-3 lead with a bases-clearing double.

In the eighth, Marwin Gonzalez had an RBI single, scoring Preston Tucker, but on the throw to the plate, Holaday saw Gonzalez was stuck between first and second.

Holaday threw to second and on the relay back to first, Gonzalez broke for second and Holaday was left to cover the base.

Holaday couldn't handle the throw and Gonzalez was safe at second.

"It was an interesting play. We were in the shift and we had him in a rundown," Holaday said. "Nobody was there and I took off running and tried to get there.

"We almost got him but it didn't work out."

Ausmus wasn't frustrated as much about the miscues — but was more bothered by the fact that the Tigers scored so many runs and didn't capitalize on them.

"This one bothered me; I thought were a little sloppy and as a manager, I'm partially to blame for that," Ausmus said. "It disturbs me when we score eight runs and we lose; we shouldn't be losing with eight runs scored — it's as simple as that.

"In that sense, I guess it bothers me a little bit more."

Five Tigers prospects to keep an eye on

May 25, 2015

By Lynn Henning/ The Detroit News

For at least two reasons that have everything to do with winning baseball games, Tigers farm prospects are followed like any market commodity.

The roster in Detroit can always use help. And each July and offseason, Tigers front-office boss Dave Dombrowski loves having kids in the hatchery other teams and scouts find irresistible as he makes moves for more seasoned big-league help.

The question 40 games into 2015's minor-league season is how many of the above exist in a Detroit system chock full of fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-place teams, which is where you'll find Tigers teams residing at Triple A Toledo, Double A Erie, and either of two Single A stops, Lakeland and West Michigan.

It is a thinner crop than the norm, in great part because so many potential and active big-leaguers (Jake Thompson, Willy Adames, Corey Knebel, Eugenio Suarez, etc.) have been swapped for more mature talent in recent months.

But names and skills are in place at all four places. Based on conversations with those in charge, a few of the more noteworthy players and performers, who in time could be moving to Detroit or to another team, break down like this:

Steven Moya, Toledo outfielder: Moya is the most explosive hitter in the Tigers farm chain but ideally needed a full season with the Mud Hens before the Tigers could count on a 23-year-old left-handed hitter with his power package.

Then he got socked with plantar fasciitis and missed most of April. He's back and hitting near .300 (.289) in his last 10 games. Still, the Tigers have no idea if he'll be ready to help on Opening Day in 2016 or if he'll need even more time tuning up at Toledo. They'll have a better grip on that, they say, in the season's second half.

But they insist, with as much conviction as the team has ever viewed a prospect, that Moya will become more disciplined on his path to arriving as a game-breaking hitter and right fielder. The question is how soon. April's setback might have delayed the delivery date.

What the Tigers say, also with intensity, is that Moya's makeup and work ethic will conquer pitch-recognition and strike-zone criticisms outside appraisers have lavished upon him.

Ian Krol, Toledo reliever: Krol is making mincemeat of Triple A hitters. The Tigers shrug. That's what a kid (he turned 24 earlier this month) with Krol's palate of power pitches figures to do against batters at any minor-league level.

He needs to take a final step. Krol must polish his breaking pitch and make it the second weapon he needs beyond his top-floor fastball. It's getting closer. Once accomplished, which isn't a long-term process, the Tigers believe they'll have a high-horsepower left-handed reliever who does in the big leagues what he's now doing at Toledo.

Daniel Fields, Toledo outfielder: He started brilliantly, went rather cold, and now is back fighting to find the kind of week-to-week numbers that could make him of service for a team that soon will need outfielders.

As with Moya, his bosses will have a better handle later in the year. For now, Fields is healthy, which is progress. Hitting close to .300 on a steady basis is the mission.

Javier Betancourt, Lakeland second baseman: The Tigers envision in Betancourt a dandy everyday second baseman. He turned 20 on May 8 and has been hitting the ball harder since he shook off a spring thumb injury. The thumb injury, say those who have monitored him, is a terrific testament to why in their view he will be a Placido Polanco-style second baseman — steady minus any meaningful power. He played over the injury in gutsy fashion that told the Tigers: You can and will win with this guy in the lineup.

But that's a couple of years away.

Mike Gerber, outfielder, West Michigan: Every draft brings a surprise. The Tigers got one in Gerber, a 15th-round pick last year out of Creighton University, who has been hitting .350 or better for most of the spring. The left-handed bat is legitimate, say Tigers scouts. He almost certainly will be moving soon to Lakeland for some necessary summer drudgery in the Florida State League.

But the Tigers aren't rushing. A year ago he was playing college baseball in Nebraska. They only like the potential in a later-round pick, which is reminiscent of a bonus they got in 2012 when a second baseman named Devon Travis was nabbed in the draft's 13th round and eventually traded for the Tigers' current center fielder, Anthony Gose.

Tigers minor league report: Krol pitching for return

May 25, 2015

By Lynn Henning/ The Detroit News

TRIPLE A TOLEDO

17-25, 4th Place, International League West

Who's hot ...

Ian Krol, LH reliever: Krol soon should be reinforcing the Tigers bullpen. He hasn't allowed a run in nine games spanning 10.1innings. The breakdown: three hits, 11 strikeouts, five walks, 0.77 WHIP, .094 opposing batting average. Krol earlier this month turned 24.

Buck Farmer, RH starter: He was the obvious choice to replace Justin Verlander's rotation fill-in, Kyle Lobstein, when Lobstein went on the disabled list Sunday. Farmer probably has the best developed three-pitch package of any Tigers starting prospect. He is averaging almost a strikeout per inning (50 in 51.1), has allowed 41 hits and has walked 19. He is 6-4, 225, and was a fifth-round pick in 2013 (Georgia Tech).

And who's not ...

Xavier Avery, OF: He was carrying much of the Mud Hens offense for a spell, but is batting .171 in his last 10 games. Avery, 25, was signed as a minor-league free agent in November after a long haul with the Orioles.

DOUBLE A ERIE

16-26, 6th place Eastern League West

Who's hot ...

Dean Green, DH/1B: Green is looking more serious by the week. He's batting .308 in his last 10 games, .353 on the season, with four home runs, six doubles, and a .932 OPS (.428 on-base percentage, 17 walks in 32 games). He is 6-4, 255, and was an 11th-round pick in 2011 (Barry University).

Wynton Bernard, OF: Another guy you can't dismiss. Bernard, 24, and a right-handed batter, is hitting .395 in his last 10 games and .314 for the year. He is 6-2, 195, and was signed as a minor-league free agent in March of 2014. Had a previous life in the Padres organization.

And who's not ...

Edgar De La Rosa, RH reliever: It was supposed to have been a breakout season for De La Rosa, 24, who is a whopper of a mound presence at 6-8, 235. But he has been going south, way south: 15 unintentional walks in 16.2 innings to go with 21 hits, which is how you end up with a 7.56 ERA and 2.34 WHIP.

SINGLE A LAKELAND

21-22, 4th Place Florida State League North

Who's hot ...

Javier Betancourt, 2B: Beginning to happen for a 20-year-old (May 8) who is playing at a level above the chronological norm. Betancourt, who is batting .306 in his last 10 games, bats right-handed, stands 6-foot, weighs 180, and was signed out of Venezuela in 2011.

Curt Powell, 2B: .314 in his last 10 games and .318 for the year, with an .810 OPS. Powell is 24, bats right-handed, and was a 21st-round pick (Georgia) in 2013.

Dominic Ficociello, 1B: Making progress a couple of years after the Tigers drafted him in the 12th round (Arkansas). He's a switch-hitter, 23, and is knocking the ball at a .310 clip in his last 10 games, .306 for the season.

Paul Voelker, RH RP: Really a good spring for Voelker, 22, a 10th-round pick last June from Dallas Baptist. Has worked 15 games (23 innings) at West Michigan and Lakeland, to where he was promoted earlier this month. Has this to show: 1.96 ERA, 0.74 WHIP, 12 hits, 31 strikeouts, five walks. He's on the slighter side: 5-10, 185.

And who's not ...

Jonathan Maciel, RH starter: Eight starts and a 5.53 ERA, mostly due to 55 hits in 40.2 innings, with 19 strikeouts and 10 walks. He was an 18th-round pick in 2013 (Long Beach State).

SINGLE A WEST MICHIGAN

22-22, 5th Place Midwest League Eastern

Who's hot ...

Zac Shepherd, OF: Shepherd is only 19 and Tigers have liked his upside — a lot. In last 10 games, Shepherd, who is 6-3, 185, and bats right-handed, is hitting .382. On the season, is batting .276, with a .735 OPS. He's a native of Sydney, Australia, signed in 2012.

Gabe Speier, LH reliever: Tigers got him as part of the Rick Porcello trade with the Red Sox and he quietly has been doing nice work at West Michigan, spanning 12 games and 16 innings: 14 hits, 18 strikeouts, six walks. Speier turned 20 in April and was a 19th-round draft pick by the Red Sox in 2013.

And who's not ...

Josh Heddinger, RH reliever: Uncomfortable spring for Heddinger, a 14th-round pick in 2014 (Georgia Tech): 7.76 ERA in 11 games, with a menacing 2.21 WHIP, all due to 39 hits and 20 walks in 26.2 innings.

Lobstein to DL; Farmer will replace him in rotation

May 25, 2015

By Chris McCosky/ The Detroit News

Detroit – Tigers manager Brad Ausmus has felt for some time that left-hander Kyle Lobstein wasn't completely healthy. Confirmation of that came Sunday.

Lobstein was placed on the 15-day disabled list because of soreness in his left shoulder.

"In the back of my mind I felt something might be wrong," Ausmus said. "His velocity has been down all year ... but he kept going out there and doing OK, giving us a chance to win."

Lobstein had an MRI Sunday and he was pleased and relieved by the initial finding.

"Yeah, just inflammation in my shoulder," he said. "It's a relatively good prognosis for feeling discomfort in my shoulder. At this point, just trying to get the inflammation out."

It seems surgery will be avoided.

"It gives me a little bit of peace of mind knowing it's something we can take care of relatively quickly and easily," he said.

In the short-term, the Tigers recalled shortstop Dixon Machado from Toledo to replace Lobstein. But president and general manager Dave Dombrowski said that right-hander Buck Farmer would be recalled from Toledo and pitch in Lobstein's spot on Thursday in Anaheim.

"We figured with the way our club is situated, our bullpen is fully rested and Jose (Iglesias) will be out a day or two, what would benefit us the best is having another infielder available," Dombrowski said. "And Dixon has done very well at Triple-A and he's deserving of a promotion."

Dombrowski said another move will be made on Wednesday to activate Farmer. He wouldn't specify who would be sent back down, but unless the Iglesias injury is worse than expected, Machado is the likely candidate. Asked if the promotion of Machado impacts utility infielder Hernan Perez, Dombrowski said, "It doesn't affect him at all. Machado isn't going to come here and sit on the bench for a long period of time. That's not his situation. He needs to play at this point in his career."

Lobstein made his eighth start of the season Saturday and was uncharacteristically wild. He admitted afterward he didn't feel right, but his shoulder soreness goes back to last winter.

"Talking to Jonesy (pitching coach Jeff Jones), the shoulder started bothering him in the winter when he started throwing," Ausmus said. "It went away for a couple of weeks in spring training, then it came back toward the end of spring training or at the start of the season."

"He admitted it hasn't been right."

Farmer, one of the final cuts in spring training, is 5-1 with a 2.98 ERA at Toledo. He has struck out 50 in 51.1 innings and his WHIP is 1.17.

"Buck is throwing the ball very well," Dombrowski said. "He continues to develop. From an ideal perspective, you'd let him continue to develop. But his fastball is in the mid-90s, he has an above average change-up and a developing slider. Plus he's been here before. He's got some experience."

He was 1-1 in two starts and he also made two relief appearances with the Tigers last season.

This will be the first call-up to the big leagues for Machado, who accompanied the team on its flight to Oakland Sunday.

"He's a good player," Ausmus said. "He had a reputation as an outstanding defensive player, but he's shown us that he can hit the ball, as well. He's a good kid who works hard. It will be good to have him up here."

No structural damage to Jose Iglesias' knee

May 25, 2015

By Rod Beard/ The Detroit News

Detroit — Tigers shortstop Jose Iglesias did not suffer any structural damage to his left knee during Saturday's collision with Astros first baseman Chris Carter. However, the knee was still swollen on Sunday, and manager Brad Ausmus held him out of the series finale.

The Tigers open a three-game series Monday in Oakland, and Iglesias is expected to be a day-to-day lineup decision.

"Iglesias is not playing today," Ausmus said Sunday morning. "He's got just a contusion. There's no structural damage but there's some swelling, so he's down because of the swelling."

Iglesias was running to first in the third inning Saturday and his left knee collided with Carter's left knee near the bag, and both players were shaken up.

Both stayed in the game but Iglesias was removed in the fifth inning after laboring on his left leg while running.

Iglesias is second on the Tigers with a .333 batting average in 38 games.

The Tigers begin a six-game road trip Monday with three against the A's followed by four more against the Angels.

It's unclear when Iglesias could return to the lineup, but Ausmus is looking forward to getting his shortstop back soon.

"We don't expect it to be anything long-term," Ausmus said.

Andrew Romine started Sunday at shortstop.

5 things to watch: Are Oakland Athletics this bad? Can Detroit Tigers beat Angels in Anaheim?

May 25, 2015

By Chris Iott/MLive.com

Here are five things to watch this week regarding the Detroit Tigers:

Are the Oakland Athletics as bad as their record indicates?

At this time last season, fans in Oakland were expecting an American League Championship Series between the Athletics and the Tigers. But the A's struggled in the final two months of the season and missed the playoffs.

The roster was entirely revamped during the offseason, but the new mix of players has not resulted in many victories. The A's were one of three popular picks (along with the Angels and Mariners) to compete for the AL West Division title, but they have the worst record in the American League. They have a (terrible) 5-14 record at their (awful) home stadium.

Can the Tigers win a series at Angel Stadium of Anaheim?

The Tigers have won four consecutive AL Central Division titles. They should be happy that the Los Angeles Angels play in the West Division. During the past four seasons, the Tigers are 11-19 against the Angels, including a 2-11 record in Anaheim. Everyone is chasing the first-place Houston Astros in the West Division, but the Angels are one of the most talented teams in the division and certainly could end up on top. The Tigers went 1-3 in games in Anaheim last season after going winless there the previous two seasons. The Tigers start a four-game series against the Angels on Thursday.

Will Tigers fans be able to keep track of game times on the West Coast?

The main thing for Tigers fans to keep an eye on this week is the schedule. Not only are the Tigers on the West Coast for series against the Oakland Athletics and Los Angeles Angels, they have some seriously strange start times. They start the trip with a 4:05 p.m. game on Memorial Day and wrap it up with a Sunday night baseball game in Anaheim. If you are going to watch all the games, you're going to be a little sleepy thanks to four 10:05 p.m. starts this week. But check out the schedule ahead of time so you don't miss anything.

When will Bruce Rondon be ready to return to the Tigers?

Rondon threw two-thirds of an inning Thursday for Triple-A Toledo to start his rehabilitation assignment and pitched again Sunday for the Mud Hens. Tigers manager Brad Ausmus said Rondon will have to prove he can pitch on back-to-back days before he is able to join the Tigers after being on the disabled list all season due to right biceps tendinitis. Ausmus said Rondon is not scheduled to pitch Monday, which means the first chance he will have to pitch in consecutive games would be Tuesday and Wednesday. The Tigers would likely want to see how he feels the day after a back-to-back, so it's very likely that Rondon will not rejoin the Tigers during this week's West Coast trip. Still, it's worth keeping an eye on the situation to see how he fares during his rehab stint.

Can the bullpen continue to post solid numbers?

The bullpen has been an issue for some time for the Tigers and appeared to be a major weakness heading into the 2015 season. But a look at the numbers shows that it has been pretty good lately. Tigers relievers are 8-4 with a 2.82 ERA and a 1.16 WHIP this season. Despite his blown save Thursday, Joakim Soria has been one of the top closers in the game this season. Angel Nesbitt has provided some solid work and is being worked into more high-leverage situations. Alex Wilson and Blaine Hardy have been pleasant surprises since being promoted from Toledo. It would be a surprise if the Tigers finished the season with one of the best bullpens in the league, but it actually has been pretty good thus far. Will that continue? Stay tuned.

Dixon Machado unsure of playing time with Detroit Tigers, but happy to reach big leagues

May 25, 2015

By Aaron McMann/ MLive.com

DETROIT — Dixon Machado had a hunch that the call from the Detroit Tigers was coming soon.

The shortstop at Triple-A Toledo has made a rapid ascension up the Tigers' farm system in recent years and was putting up strong numbers early on with the Mud Hens.

Admittedly though, he never thought it would be this soon.

"I found out about 11:30 this morning," Machado said after the Tigers' 10-8 loss to the Houston Astros on Sunday. "I was Wal-Mart. I was trying to buy a car seat for my baby. I seen a missed call on my phone from the Tigers, so I said, 'OK, this might be the moment.'"

Sure enough it was the Tigers, and they needed him in Detroit immediately.

"They said to be up here by 1, so I was rushing packing and stuff," Machado said.

By 5 p.m. he was in uniform and packing for the Tigers' road trip this week out west. They begin a three-game road trip in Oakland Monday before moving on to play four against the Los Angeles Angels in Anaheim.

Machado's role remains to be seen with Jose Iglesias day-to-day with a left knee contusion, but team president Dave Dombrowski said Sunday that Machado wasn't be calling called up just to sit on the bench.

"I feel like I can play everywhere, but they just want me to play at short for the moment," Machado said. "But if they want me to play catcher or whatever, I don't care, I just want to play."

Machado's strength is his defense. Considered to have good range and speed at short, he played 40 games for the Mud Hens this season and posted a .971 fielding percentage and committed just five errors on 172 defensive chances.

His bat, the knock against him just a few years ago, has improved too. He credits Larry Herndon, the hitting coach last season in Lakeland, with helping him alter his stance.

Machado was called up to Double-A Erie six weeks into the 2014 season and landed in Toledo this year after impressing the Tigers coaching staff in spring training.

"I feel like everything started getting together, and it was basically about hitting," said Machado, who's hitting .274 this season in Toledo with 43 hits, second on the team. "It was about getting it together, I was getting results, I was happy. It was what, just a year and a half? It was pretty quick."

Machado doesn't know when, or even if, he'll see playing time this week, but he wants to stay with the team as long as possible.

The goal was to make it here, and now with a wife and nine-month-old son watching, he wants to make them proud, too.

"That's motivation," Machado said. "Because you sometimes you've got to worry about your family and you have to support for them. You want the best for your kid, your wife and everything.

"All of the work you do all of your life is just for this moment. It feels pretty good."

Kyle Lobstein's MRI results: Just inflammation for Detroit Tigers starting pitcher

May 25, 2015

By Chris Iott/ MLive.com

DETROIT — Kyle Lobstein can breathe easier now.

The MRI results on the Detroit Tigers starting pitcher's throwing arm came in Sunday and they confirmed what manager Brad Ausmus and trainers believed: it's just sore from inflammation.

Lobstein hinted at issues with his arm after Saturday's loss to the Houston Astros, an outing in which he allowed three runs on seven hits in 5 2/3 innings, and has said he's dealt with it off-and-on all season.

He was placed on the 15-day disabled list Sunday morning, general manager Dave Dombrowski announced, and Buck Farmer will start in his place on Thursday against the Los Angeles Angels.

"A bit of discomfort and tightness after the game yesterday," Lobstein said Sunday. "Then I woke up and it was still there. That's what prompted us to go ahead and do the MRI."

Results confirmed it was just inflammation in the back of his left throwing shoulder and said the next two weeks will be spent trying to get it out.

"When you're going into a situation like that, where there's uncertainty, it's definitely going to make you nervous," Lobstein said. "But the overall prognosis at this point is good. It gives me a little bit of peace of mind knowing it's something we can take care of relatively quickly and easily."

Lobstein has been a welcome replacement to the Tigers starting rotation, called up in April after Justin Verlander was shelved with his right triceps injury. He's 3-5 this season with a 4.34 ERA and 1.45 WHIP and started seven games last year with a 4.35 ERA.

"He was tremendous the last five weeks, replacing (Anibal Sanchez) last year and filling in for Verlander this year," Ausmus said. "With the exception of two starts during that timeframe, I think we had a chance to win every game. And we won the division by one game last year, so it's tough to put a price tag on him."

Said Lobstein: "No one likes being on the shelf, especially right now I feel like I've been working on some stuff and these last two starts felt like it was getting the ball rolling a little bit. I was wanting to have some consistency these next few starts, and obviously that puts a little bit of a hold on it. But at the same time, I'd be rather be pitching healthy and feel strong than going out there not really knowing how I'm going to feel that day."

Astros 10, Tigers 8: Anibal Sanchez allows seven runs; Detroit blows four-run lead in loss to Houston

May 25, 2015

By Chris Iott/MLive.com

DETROIT -- Anibal Sanchez got off to a rough start.

The way he finished was even worse.

Sanchez surrendered seven runs -- four in the sixth inning -- and the bullpen struggled Sunday afternoon as the Detroit Tigers blew a four-run lead in a 10-8 loss to the Houston Astros.

The Tigers, who held a 7-3 lead through five innings, settled for a split of their four-game series with the Astros after winning the first two games.

Miguel Cabrera homered and Bryan Holaday drove in three runs for the Tigers.

Sanchez struck out 11 and allowed seven earned runs in another puzzling outing. The Astros scored three runs in the first inning, but Sanchez got into a groove after that.

But that groove ended in the sixth inning. Evan Gattis led it off with a solo home run to make it 7-4. A few minutes later, pinch hitter Preston Tucker sent Sanchez to the clubhouse when he hit a three-run home run to tie the game with two outs in the inning.

The final eight outs Sanchez recorded in the game were on strikeouts.

The Astros rallied to break the 7-7 tie with a pair of runs against the Tigers bullpen in the seventh. The Astros put two on with one out against Alex Wilson before Tom Gorzelanny entered the game and struck out Colby Rasmus for the second out of the inning.

Tigers manager Brad Ausmus brought Angel Nesbitt in to face Chris Carter, who hits right-handed, but Nesbitt walked him. With the bases loaded and two outs, Jason Castro, a left-handed hitter, ripped a 3-2 pitch from Nesbitt into right field to drive in two runs. That gave the Astros a 9-7 lead.

Tigers' highlights

- After Ian Kinsler walked with one out in the first inning, Cabrera doubled just fair inside the bag at third base to extend his hitting streak to 12 games and to put runners at second and third. J.D. Martinez followed with a sacrifice fly to right field to cut Detroit's deficit to 3-1. Yoenis Cespedes then singled through the infield and into left field to make it 3-2.
- The Astros appeared to be out of the first inning with the lead intact when Rajai Davis hit a grounder to Carter at first base. But Carter decided to try to make the out at first unassisted and couldn't beat Davis there. That gave the Tigers new life with the bases loaded, and Holaday delivered with a bases-clearing double that gave the Tigers a 5-3 lead.
- Sanchez settled down after a nearly disastrous first inning. After the Astros took a 3-0 lead in the first, Sanchez retired 12 of the next 13 batters he faced. Sanchez struck out the side in order in the fourth inning, then struck out the side again while issuing one walk in the fifth. Both of the outs he recorded in the sixth were on strikeouts.
- The Tigers put together two-out rallies to score single runs in the fourth and fifth. Anthony Gose doubled home Andrew Romine to make it 6-3 in the fourth. Cespedes and Nick Castellanos had back-to-back two-out doubles in the fifth to make it 7-3.
- Cabrera hit a solo home run in the ninth inning.

Detroit Tigers' Jose Iglesias remains day to day after MRI, X-rays show no structural damage to knee

May 25, 2015

By Chris Iott/MLive.com

DETROIT -- Jose Iglesias is not in the starting lineup today. But he should be back very soon.

Detroit Tigers manager Brad Ausmus said Sunday morning that an MRI and X-rays showed no structural damage to the left knee of Iglesias, who suffered a knee contusion Saturday in a 3-2 loss to the Houston Astros. "He's got just a contusion," Ausmus said. "There's no structural damage, but there's some swelling, so he's down because of the swelling."

Iglesias suffered the injury in the third inning when he hit a dribbler down the first-base line that was fielded by Astros pitcher Lance McCullers. Iglesias ran all the way to first on the infield grass, then clipped knees with Astros first baseman Chris Carter as he ran through the bag at first base.

Iglesias reached base in the fifth inning and was replaced by pinch runner Hernan Perez after he advanced to second on a Houston error.

Andrew Romine will start at shortstop in place of Iglesias.

Iglesias is hitting .333 with six RBIs, seven stolen bases and an .811 OPS this season.

Tigers disappointed with 3-4 homestand

May 25, 2015

By Alejandro Zuniga/ MLB.com

DETROIT -- The Tigers' 10-8 loss to the Astros at Comerica Park on Sunday afternoon completed a 3-4 homestand, dropping them into third place in the American League Central.

After winning the first two of the four-game series against Houston, Detroit settled for a split, and Sunday's defeat seemed to frustrate manager Brad Ausmus more than others.

"This one bothered me," he said. "I thought we were sloppy, and, as manager, I'm partially to blame for that. It disturbs me when we score eight runs and we lose. We shouldn't be losing with eight runs scored, simple as that."

Despite having made solid defensive plays all series, the Tigers had a lapse in the eighth inning, when no one covered second base during a rundown. The mishap resulted in catcher Bryan Holaday attempting to apply the tag on Marwin Gonzalez as he dove safely into second.

Detroit also couldn't retire Gonzalez in the first inning, when he reached base on an infield hit to first base. Two batters later, Evan Gattis hit a two-run triple, the beginning of a difficult game for starter Anibal Sanchez.

The right-hander was pulled after 5 2/3 innings in a 7-7 game, and the Tigers' bullpen surrendered three more runs to spoil a solid offensive showing.

"I think it's a disappointing homestand -- especially today," said Ausmus, whose team dropped two of three to the Brewers before hosting Houston. "If we score eight runs, we need to win that game. Period."

The Astros continued to prove themselves while earning the split. Gattis and Preston Tucker, who both homered off Sanchez in the sixth inning on Sunday, did so on well-located offspeed pitches, and rookie right-hander Lance McCullers had a triple play turned behind him on Saturday that changed momentum.

That was of little comfort to the Tigers, though, who felt they had missed opportunities throughout the homestand. In Game 1 against the Brewers and Game 3 against the Astros, for instance, good pitching performances were paired with cold nights at the plate. Both games ended in 3-2 losses for Detroit.

"I'd say [the homestand] was disappointing, just because, with our team, we're capable of winning every game we play," said third baseman Nick Castellanos. "Obviously, that's not going to happen, but there's no excuse why we can't win a series against the Brewers, and then we should have won the series against Houston, but it just didn't work out."

The Tigers, who remain a season-high three games behind the division-leading Royals, continue with seven games on the road -- first in Oakland, then in Anaheim -- and an expectation from Ausmus that their talent will soon translate into consistent results.

"I think everybody in here feels we're a better team than what we did this homestand," said center fielder Anthony Gose, "and hopefully we can get on the road, and go to the West Coast, and hopefully string together a good streak of wins."

Late home runs spoil turnaround for Sanchez

May 25, 2015

By Jason Beck/ MLB.com

DETROIT -- Anibal Sanchez got a first-inning mound visit not from his pitching coach, but from his manager. That's how his Sunday afternoon was going after four Astros batters, three hits and two runs.

"I just tried to remind him ... it wasn't as bad as it seemed," Brad Ausmus said. "I didn't want him to think things were unraveling."

By the time Sanchez's afternoon was over, after 115 pitches and 5 2/3 innings, the question was whether Ausmus waited one batter too long.

"No, I didn't. This is where we are in this day and age," Ausmus said after Preston Tucker's game-tying home run helped send the Tigers to a 10-8 loss and a series split against the Astros. "If it doesn't work, then it was the wrong move. If it does work, it was the right move."

In between the damage, Sanchez looked like the front-line starter he has been in the past. The ending was a jarring reminder it remains a work in progress.

"I need to keep working hard," Sanchez said. "I never felt down. I've gone through a lot of things my whole career, and I'm still here. So I'm going to keep working hard."

Statistically, Sanchez's outing was a dichotomy. He struck out 11 of 27 Astros batters, but 10 of the other 16 reached base safely, and seven of them scored.

Virtually all the damage came on the bookends -- three runs in the opening inning, then four in the sixth. He retired 14 of 16 batters between a run-scoring balk in the first and Evan Gattis' home run leading off the sixth. The latter came on a Sanchez pitch that dropped out of the strike zone. Gattis golfed it out to left field to bring the Astros within a 7-4 score with the bottom half of their lineup coming up.

The batters that followed essentially alternated ground-ball singles and strikeouts, including a two-out hit through the right side from Jonathan Villar that brought up the ninth batter as the potential tying run, and brought Tucker up to pinch-hit for Jake Marisnick.

It was more a question of pitch count than matchup. Sanchez entered the day allowing a .234 average (26-for-111) and .707 OPS to left-handed hitters this season, compared with .293 (29-for-99) and .826 to righties.

Tucker, despite batting left-handed, had put up better numbers against left-handed pitchers than righties over the last year-and-a-half between three different organizational levels.

"Sanchie against lefties with his changeup is very effective," Ausmus said.

That was the pitch Sanchez threw on his 2-1 delivery. It was down, but not out of the strike zone.

"I tried to go soft and down," Sanchez said, "but I left it a little bit up, and that's why he put a good swing on it." It was the 11th home run Sanchez allowed over 60 1/3 innings this season. It's not a big total for all pitchers, but it's a big issue for him.

"It is," he said, "especially when you're working hard and try to put your best effort on the mound, keep the score the way it was before the homers in the sixth inning. Like I say in baseball, everything changes with one pitch."

Sanchez, bullpen shaky as Tigers drop finale

May 25, 2015

By Jason Beck and Chris Vanini/ MLB.com

DETROIT -- Preston Tucker's second game-tying homer in four days and Jason Castro's go-ahead two-run single powered six unanswered Astros runs off Anibal Sanchez and the Tigers' bullpen, salvaging a four-game series split for Houston with a 10-8 win in Sunday's finale at Comerica Park.

A game that began with a 36-minute, eight-run opening inning seemingly had settled down with the help of Sanchez, who struck out 11 of the 27 batters he faced. With a 7-3 lead in the sixth inning, however, Sanchez alternated hits and strikeouts -- including Evan Gattis' leadoff homer -- until Tucker pinch-hit for Jake Marisnick as the potential tying run and sent a drive deep to right.

"You never send somebody up there and tell them to homer," Astros manager A.J. Hinch said, "but that's clearly a situation where, if you're going to get one at-bat, with him up to bat -- it fell with Marisnick, who obviously is a threat in his own right, doubled earlier in the day -- but that matchup with Tuck was what we were waiting on."

Gattis' home run gave him 27 RBIs in the past 27 games, dating back to April 26.

The Astros' rally continued off Alex Wilson, who gave up a pair of singles in the seventh, and rookie Angel Nesbitt, whose two-out walk to Chris Carter to load the bases proved costly once Castro worked the count full and sent a ground ball through the right side. Gattis went 3-for-4 with three RBIs, falling a double shy of the cycle. Bryan Holaday paced Detroit with three RBIs on a bases-clearing double in the first inning.

"This one bothered me," said Tigers manager Brad Ausmus, whose team fell into third place in the American League Central with the loss and a Minnesota win over the White Sox. "I thought we were a little sloppy, and as a manager I'm partially to blame for that. But it disturbs me when we score eight runs and we lose."

MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

Sanchez sinks in sixth: Sanchez recovered from a rocky opening inning to retire 14 of 16 batters, nine of them by strikeout. Once Gattis golfed out his breaking ball for a homer leading off the sixth, however, the Astros got to Sanchez again, eventually bringing the tying run to the plate. Ausmus stuck with Sanchez at 111 pitches against Tucker, who made him pay. [More >](#)

"I tried to go soft and down, but I left it a little bit up," Sanchez said, "and that's why he put a good swing on it." **Hesitation costs Houston early:** With runners on first and second with two outs in the first, the Astros appeared set to get out of the inning when Detroit's Rajai Davis hit the ball to Astros first baseman Carter. But pitcher Roberto Hernandez didn't cover the base quick enough, and Davis slid in safely. A three-run double in the next at-bat gave the Tigers a 5-3 lead. It was the second game in a row that the Astros allowed an infield single on a ball hit to first base.

Castro comes through: With the bases loaded, two outs in the seventh and facing a full count, Astros catcher Castro singled to right field to score two runs and give the Astros a 9-7 lead. It marked six straight unanswered runs for Houston. The Astros lead the Majors with 81 runs scored in the seventh inning or later. [More >](#)

"We had hit into their shift a couple different times, but with the alignment of the baserunners, they couldn't overshift the way they normally do, and that went right into the area," Hinch said.

Nesbitt didn't have it: Nesbitt has looked solid in tight situations for Detroit this year, but he looked every bit a rookie Sunday. He entered to face Carter, who was 1-for-17 with two outs and runners in scoring position this year, and ended up walking him to bring up Castro, then gave up an add-on run on two singles in the eighth.

"Nesbitt's a young kid, he's a rookie," Ausmus said. "Looked a little bit nervous his first couple outings but he's been darn good since then. He wasn't gonna be perfect, and he hit a little bit of a speed bump, but it doesn't concern me about him. I think he'll be fine if we need him tomorrow."

QUOTABLE

"He dominated Triple-A. He didn't get here on accident. I'm just glad to see him get an opportunity up here, and glad to see he's making the most of it." -- Gattis, on Tucker

SOUND SMART WITH YOUR FRIENDS

Tucker's sixth-inning pinch-hit home run was his second of the series, making him the first player in Astros history with two pinch-hit home runs in a single series, according to Elias Sports Bureau. They're also the first two home runs of Tucker's career.

REPLAY REVIEW

Saturday's game saw a managerial challenge after the first pitch. Sunday's game saw one after the second batter. Houston's Marwin Gonzalez was initially called out at first after sliding in on a ground ball to first, but he was ruled safe after a challenge by Hinch and a one-minute review. Hinch has been successful on five of seven challenges this season.

WHAT'S NEXT

Astros: Houston heads to Baltimore for a three-game series. Dallas Keuchel will be on the mound looking to move to 7-0. He's the first Astros starter to begin a year 6-0 since Roger Clemens in 2004. Monday's opener begins at 1:35 p.m. ET.

Tigers: Detroit ventures west for a seven-day, seven-game California trek, starting with a Memorial Day matinee in Oakland. Shane Greene will pitch the series opener against the Athletics in a 4:05 p.m. ET start.

Lobstein to DL with sore shoulder; Machado recalled

May 25, 2015

By Alejandro Zuniga/ MLB.com

DETROIT -- Kyle Lobstein has been bothered by left shoulder soreness intermittently since the winter, and now it's landed the left-hander on the 15-day disabled list, Tigers general manager Dave Dombrowski announced Sunday morning.

In a corresponding move, shortstop Dixon Machado has been recalled from Triple-A Toledo. The 23-year-old is hitting .274 in 40 games with the Mud Hens. He's ranked as the Tigers' No. 10 prospect, according to MLB.com.

Buck Farmer will start in place of Lobstein on Thursday in Anaheim, Dombrowski said. Farmer, who is 5-1 with a 2.98 ERA with the Mud Hens, made four appearances -- two starts -- with the Tigers last year. The Tigers will have to make another roster move in the coming days to make space for Farmer, but Dombrowski declined to speculate what it might be.

Lobstein, who started Saturday against the Astros and was pulled after allowing three straight singles with two outs in the sixth inning, had an MRI on Sunday to determine the severity of his injury, and he said it revealed inflammation in his shoulder.

"When you're going into a situation like that, where there's uncertainty, it's definitely going to make you a little nervous," he said. "But the overall prognosis at this point is good. It gives me a little bit of peace of mind knowing it's something we can take care of relatively quickly and easily."

Manager Brad Ausmus said the left-hander's velocity had been down all season.

"In the back of my mind, I thought something might be wrong," Ausmus said.

The Tigers' decision to promote Machado comes a day after starting shortstop Jose Iglesias suffered a left knee contusion when he banged knees with Astros first baseman Chris Carter legging out an infield single. He initially stayed in the game, but was later pulled. An MRI and X-ray revealed no structural damage, but Dombrowski said the organization wanted the extra infield depth from Machado until Iglesias could return.

"With Iglesias being down a day or two, we figured what would benefit us the most is just having an extra infielder available," Dombrowski said. "[Machado] has done very well for us. He's deserving of a promotion at this time.

"... Machado's not going to come up here and sit on the bench for an extended period."

Farmer made a pair of starts last August for Detroit, with limited success. In his debut, he allowed four runs in five innings and earned the win. Ten days later, his start against Minnesota lasted just 1 1/3 innings, as the Twins shelled the right-hander for seven runs.

Farmer boasts a mid-90s fastball with an active changeup and what Dombrowski called a "developing" slider. "He's been here before," Dombrowski said. "He's got some experience, so we look forward to him to come out and pitch well for us."

Greene leads Tigers into opener vs. Hahn, A's

May 25, 2015

By Alejandro Zuniga/ MLB.com

The Athletics begin a seven-game homestand Monday afternoon by welcoming Shane Greene and the Tigers to Oakland.

Greene (4-2, 4.05 ERA) pitched 6 1/3 innings against Milwaukee in his last outing, limiting the Brewers to two runs on three hits. The right-hander has surrendered just three home runs this year, including one to Ryan Braun on Wednesday.

Jesse Hahn (1-4, 4.43 ERA), Oakland's probable starter, tossed six solid innings last Wednesday against the Astros. The right-hander allowed three runs while striking out six in a 6-1 loss. Hahn has never faced anyone on Detroit's roster.

Things to know about this game:

- Jose Iglesias, the Tigers' starting shortstop, is day to day with a left knee contusion he suffered Saturday. Andrew Romine started at the position Sunday, and the Tigers recalled their No. 10 prospect, Dixon Machado, from Triple-A Toledo to bolster their infield depth.
- The last time Detroit faced Oakland last June, the Tigers managed a three-game sweep at Comerica Park. In the first game, Rajai Davis hit a walk-off grand slam to give his team a 5-4 win. The two teams split their last series at the Coliseum, with Josh Donaldson delivering a walk-off home run for Oakland in the third game.
- Tigers first baseman Miguel Cabrera reached a 12-game hitting streak with a first-inning double on Sunday. It's his longest hitting streak since 2013.

Iglesias sits out due to left knee contusion

May 25, 2015

By Alejandro Zuniga/ MLB.com

DETROIT -- The Tigers received some good news following Saturday's 3-2 loss to the Astros, when an X-ray and MRI on shortstop Jose Iglesias' left knee revealed no structural damage, manager Brad Ausmus announced Sunday morning.

Iglesias was not in the Tigers' lineup for the series finale vs. the Astros -- Andrew Romine was filling in at shortstop -- and Iglesias remains day-to-day with a left knee contusion. However, Ausmus said he doesn't expect the injury to keep Iglesias out long-term.

The shortstop was hurt when he collided knee-to-knee with Houston first baseman Chris Carter while legging out an infield single in the third inning on Saturday. The shortstop remained in the game and scored on an Anthony Gose double. Iglesias singled again in the fifth inning, but he was pulled for pinch-runner Hernan Perez after looking visibly hobbled while taking second base on an error.

The Tigers on Monday will begin consecutive series in Oakland and Anaheim without a day off in between. Ausmus stressed the importance of having depth during the seven-game road trip.

"It's a long stretch on the road," Ausmus said. "Guys will probably need a day [to rest] as opposed to having a scheduled off day."

Sanchez continues to struggle in Tigers' disappointing loss to Astros

May 25, 2015

By Dave Hogg/ FOXSportsDetroit.com

DETROIT -- It's hard to pick one image to symbolize the Tigers' ugly loss to Houston on Sunday, but it can be narrowed down to two choices.

It could be Anibal Sanchez, bent over in frustration, as Preston Tucker's pinch-hit three-run homer bounced off the Belle Tire sign in right field, tying the game at 7.

Or it might be Bryan Holaday, sprinting as best he could in full catcher's gear, crashing into Marwin Gonzalez at second base but dropping the ball to end a horrendous bit of team defense.

Either way, by the end of the 10-8 loss, no one was happy.

"If we had won today, I guess this would have been a decent homestand," Brad Ausmus said. "But now it is a disappointing homestand, especially because of the way we lost today. This one bothered me, I thought we were a little sloppy and as a manager I'm partially to blame for that.

"But it disturbs me when we score eight runs and we lose."

Holaday wasn't to blame for the play at second base -- he had run out to try to help salvage a rundown when no one else was covering second -- but he made his own mistake in the first. With runners on the corners and one out, Holaday gave Sanchez the wrong sign. Instead of trying to pick Colby Rasmus off first, Sanchez turned to throw to third, only to see no one covering the bag. The result was a balk, giving the Astros a 3-0 lead.

"I was supposed to give him the sign for pick-one, and I signaled pick-3," Holaday said. "That's on me."

The Tigers scored five times in the bottom of the first, and led 7-3 going into the sixth, but Sanchez's bizarre season came apart again.

Evan Gattis started the inning by homering on a 1-1 pitch. Sanchez struck out two of the next three hitters, giving him 11 for the game, but Jonathan Villar singled to give the Astros two on with two out.

The Astros went with lefty pinch-hitter Preston Tucker, but Ausmus decided to stay with Sanchez, who had thrown 111 pitches.

"I like Sanchie against lefties, because of his changeup," Ausmus said. "This is where we are in this day and age is, if it doesn't work then it was the wrong move. If it does work, it was the right move."

It didn't work -- Tucker hit the second homer of his career, both coming in this series -- and then the bullpen gave up three more runs down the stretch.

The biggest concern, though, has to be Sanchez. Without Justin Verlander, Max Scherzer and Rick Porcello, Sanchez needs to be a solid second starter for the Tigers. But after ten starts, he's 3-5 with a 6.12 ERA.

In 2013-14, he was the toughest starter in baseball to homer against. He's already given up 11 this year, though, tied for second in the American League.

"If you see the replay, both home runs were down, really down on Gattis," he said. "I felt good today, even in the sixth inning. They both put good swings on the ball, and I can't be concerned about that."

But Sanchez understands that his pitching performance is one of the reasons that the Tigers are now in third place, three games behind Kansas City and percentage points behind the Twins.

"I've overcome a lot in my career, but I have never faced this situation before," Sanchez said. "I am not special. I am just a baseball player -- I am a human. I am keeping my face up and continuing to work.

"I want to do something to help this team win."

A's beat Rays 7-2 behind Sonny Gray and three home runs

May 25, 2015

By John Hickey/ Oakland Tribune

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. -- The A's are coming home with something they haven't brought to the Coliseum all season -- wins in consecutive games.

They're also welcoming home one of their old buddies. Yoenis Cespedes, now with the Detroit Tigers, will make his first Coliseum appearance Monday since he was traded to Boston in July.

"It will be nice to see him," A's manager Bob Melvin said after a 7-2 victory over Tampa Bay on Sunday. "But it would be nice to see him take a few days off, too."

Even nicer for Melvin and the A's will be seeing Sonny Gray, the winning pitcher Sunday, back on the mound in four days. Gray took a line drive off his right ankle in the fourth inning.

Oakland Athletics starting pitcher Sonny Gray delivers to the Tampa Bay Rays during the first inning of a baseball game Sunday, May 24, 2015, in St.

Oakland Athletics starting pitcher Sonny Gray delivers to the Tampa Bay Rays during the first inning of a baseball game Sunday, May 24, 2015, in St. Petersburg, Fla. (AP Photo/Chris O'Meara) (Chris O'Meara/AP)

"It looked bad from my angle," center fielder Billy Burns said. "Josh Reddick and me were in the outfield watching, and Josh said his ankle would have to be broken to come out."

Gray stayed in the game, pitched the fifth inning, too. X-rays later confirmed there was no break.

But with the A's this season, it's hard to not think the worst.

"I was having a lot of trouble landing," said Gray, who made it through five innings to qualify for the win, then turned a 5-0 lead over to the bullpen.

"I hated to come out, but it was the right thing to do. The thing is, I should be good to go my next start."

Gray raised his record to 5-2, and the A's raised theirs to 16-30, with an offensive onslaught that included home runs from Burns, Reddick and Mark Canha, the latter a three-run shot. Stephen Vogt added two sacrifice flies as the A's won consecutive games for only the second time this season.

Next up: playing better at home, where they stand 5-14. The past two homestands, the A's have lost five of six games.

That's especially unusual for Melvin and the A's. The past three seasons they have averaged 50 wins at home.

They are on pace for 21 this year. The club hasn't won fewer than 40 home games since 1998.

Monday won't be easy, playing a day game on the West Coast 24 hours after having played in the Eastern time zone. But back-to-back wins make everything better.

"This is our longest flight of the year," Vogt said as the A's left Tampa. "It will be a happy flight. Now we just have to do what we did here and do it at home, too."

Burns, who only hit right-handed until being converted to a switch-hitter after turning pro, had never hit a lefty homer in a game before leading off with a rocket into the right field seats. "I was surprised," he said. "The ball just took off off the barrel."

He had three hits and his average jumped from .289 to .309.

It was the sixth three-homer game of the season for the A's, Oakland having won four of the six.

Ben Zobrist is due to be activated Monday, a month after arthroscopic knee surgery. What the A's don't know yet is whether he will play second base or left field.

The A's had won back-to-back games just once before, against another first-place club, Houston, on April 13-14.

Brett Lawrie was out of the lineup for the second day in a row. He's having some back problems, issues that aren't helped much by the turf at Tropicana Field.

Cespedes is batting .289 with five homers and 24 RBIs for the Tigers. Last season, in 51 games with Boston after the trade, he batted .269 with five homers and 33 RBIs.

Eric O'Flaherty, on the disabled list with a strained left shoulder, is scheduled to throw a bullpen session Monday. If all goes well, he could head out on an injury rehabilitation assignment shortly thereafter.

Starter A.J. Griffin, on the road back from Tommy John surgery, is scheduled to throw a bullpen session Monday. No time has been set for him to begin a rehab assignment.

Starter Drew Pomeranz, who had a cortisone shot in his left shoulder after going on the disabled list a week ago, will throw on the side before Monday's game.

A's announcer Ken Korach is going to be at the Coliseum on Monday to meet with the A's medical staff about the slow progress he's making from the injury he suffered to the artificial left knee in the offseason. He may make it to the broadcast booth, but that's uncertain.

Gray takes shot off ankle; X-rays negative

May 25, 2015

By Troy Provost-Heron/ MLB.com/ Oakland

ST. PETERSBURG -- As Sonny Gray stood near his locker following the Athletics' 7-2 victory over the Rays on Sunday at Tropicana Field, there was a mix of disappointment and relief.

The right-hander was hit in the right ankle by a sharp grounder off the bat of Rays first baseman James Loney in the fourth inning, and he continued to finish off the fourth and fifth innings before being pulled at the start of the sixth.

Gray's X-rays came back negative, and both he and A's manager Bob Melvin believe that he will make his next start, which is slated to come Friday against the Yankees.

"It feels OK, not great," Gray said. "I don't think it will be something that will take more than a couple of days, with this treatment and stuff, and more than likely I should be ready to go."

The ill effects were not visibly apparent as Gray gathered himself and the ball to get Loney at first. He followed that up by striking out Logan Forsythe and fielding a ground ball by David DeJesus to strand Evan Longoria, who led off the inning with a single, at second.

Gray then came back and tossed a 1-2-3 inning in the fifth that included a strikeout of Asdrubal Cabrera, but A's pitching coach Curt Young could tell something was amiss.

Gray's scoreless start

Gray's scoreless start

5/24/15: Sonny Gray allows just four hits while striking out four over five scoreless innings of work against the Rays

"During the fourth, the adrenaline was still running pretty high, so I was able to get out of that one," Gray said.

"But sitting there after the fourth, it got really tight and really stiff, so when I went back for the fifth, I was telling Curt how I felt and how I wasn't able to push off like I wanted to, and he said he could tell from the side.

"He said it was probably better off to make the move, and unfortunately we had to."

With Gray off the mound, it was right-hander Dan Otero who was asked to come in and continue Oakland's blanking of the Rays' lineup, and he did just that, tossing two scoreless innings.

"Nobody expects Sonny to come out of the game, even when he gets hit by a ball like that, because he's as fierce a competitor as I've ever seen," Otero said. "When the phone rang, I was like, 'OK, something is up.' It happened to be my name, and I just had to go in there and eat up some innings.

"Starters are basically trying to pick [the bullpen] up the rest of the season, so when a guy goes down with a freak injury like that, you have to go in there and pick them up and pick the team up."

Before his departure, Gray (5-2) had pitched five shutout innings in just 67 pitches, allowing four hits while striking out four.

"[My stuff] was good," Gray said. "I felt really good out there, and that's why it was such a hard decision to not go back out there for the sixth, but it really wasn't worth it."

A's Gray exits game vs. Rays with right ankle contusion

May 25, 2015

By CSNCalifornia.com Staff/ CSNCalifornia

A's starter Sonny Gray left Sunday's game in Tampa with a right ankle contusion, the team announced.

The injury occurred during the bottom of the fourth inning when Gray was hit by a comebacker off the bat of Rays' first baseman James Loney.

The ball caromed off of Gray's ankle towards foul territory where A's first baseman Mark Canha picked it up and tagged Loney out.

Gray finished the inning and pitched the fifth, but was removed prior to the sixth inning. he gave up four hits and struck out four batters in five innings pitched. Dan Otero relieved him.

LAST UPDATED: MON, MAY 25, 2015, 01:36 EDT

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2015

TEAM	PLAYER	TRANSACTION
Baltimore Orioles	Chaz Roe	Purchased From Minors
Baltimore Orioles	Wesley Wright	Transferred to 60-Day DL, (Left shoulder inflammation)
Baltimore Orioles	T.J. McFarland	Sent to Minors
Boston Red Sox	Jeff Bianchi	Purchased From Minors
Boston Red Sox	Shane Victorino	Placed on 15-Day DL, (Left calf tightness)
Boston Red Sox	Anthony Varvaro	Placed on 15-Day DL, (Right flexor strain)
Cleveland Indians	Yan Gomes	Removed From 15-Day DL, (Right knee sprain)
Cleveland Indians	Yan Gomes	Recalled From Minors, Rehab Assignment
Detroit Tigers	Kyle Lobstein	Placed on 15-Day DL, (Left shoulder soreness)
Detroit Tigers	Dixon Machado	Called Up from Minors
Los Angeles Angels	Mike Morin	Placed on 15-Day DL, (Left oblique strain)
Los Angeles Angels	Cam Bedrosian	Called Up from Minors
Miami Marlins	Jeff Mathis	Sent to Minors, For Rehabilitation
New York Mets	Johnny Monell	Sent to Minors

[New York Yankees](#) [Brendan Ryan](#) Transferred to 60-Day DL, (Strained right calf)

[New York Yankees](#) [Jacob Lindgren](#) Purchased From Minors

[San Francisco Giants](#) [Casey McGehee](#) Designated for Assignment

[San Francisco Giants](#) [Hunter Strickland](#) Called Up from Minors

[Tampa Bay Rays](#) [C.J. Riefenhauser](#) Sent to Minors, For Rehabilitation

[Tampa Bay Rays](#) [Ryan Brett](#) Sent to Minors, For Rehabilitation

[Tampa Bay Rays](#) [Preston Guilmet](#) Sent to Minors

[Tampa Bay Rays](#) [Preston Guilmet](#) Called Up from Minors

[Texas Rangers](#) [Jared Burton](#) Signed to a Minor League Contract

[Washington Nationals](#) [Taylor Jordan](#) Called Up from Minors

[Washington Nationals](#) [A.J. Cole](#) Sent to Minors

[Washington Nationals](#) [Kila Ka'aihue](#) Released

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2015

TEAM	PLAYER	TRANSACTION
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Baltimore Orioles	Tyler Wilson	Sent to Minors
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Baltimore Orioles	Oliver Drake	Called Up from Minors
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Boston Red Sox	Heath Hembree	Called Up from Minors
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Boston Red Sox	Robbie Ross Jr.	Sent to Minors
Cleveland Indians	Brett Hayes	Sent to Minors
Colorado Rockies	David Hale	Return of 26th man
Colorado Rockies	Brooks Brown	Removed From 15-Day DL, (Right shoulder inflammation)
Colorado Rockies	Brooks Brown	Recalled From Minors, Rehab Assignment
Colorado Rockies	David Hale	Called Up from Minors, (recalled as 26th roster player)
Colorado Rockies	Ken Roberts	Placed on 15-Day DL, (Left elbow inflammation)
Los Angeles Dodgers	Yasmani Grandal	Placed on 7-Day DL, (Concussion)
Los Angeles Dodgers	Austin Barnes	Called Up from Minors
Los Angeles Dodgers	Mickey Storey	Signed to a Minor League Contract
Miami Marlins	Henderson Alvarez	Placed on 15-Day DL, (Right shoulder inflammation)
Miami Marlins	Andre Rienzo	Called Up from Minors
Miami Marlins	Mat Latos	Placed on 15-Day DL, (Left knee inflammation)
Miami Marlins	Vin Mazzaro	Purchased From Minors
Minnesota Twins	Casey Fien	Sent to Minors, For Rehabilitation
New York Yankees	Branden Pinder	Sent to Minors
Oakland Athletics	Coco Crisp	Placed on 15-Day DL, (Cervical strain)

[Oakland Athletics](#) [Kendall Graveman](#) Called Up from Minors

[San Diego Padres](#) [Eury De La Rosa](#) Acquired Off Waivers From from Dodgers, Los Angeles

[San Diego Padres](#) [Eury De La Rosa](#) Sent to Minors

[San Diego Padres](#) [Josh Johnson](#) Transferred to 60-Day DL, (Strained right elbow)

[San Francisco Giants](#) [Hunter Strickland](#) Return of 26th man

[San Francisco Giants](#) [Hunter Strickland](#) Called Up from Minors, (recalled as 26th roster player)

[Tampa Bay Rays](#) [Enny Romero](#) Called Up from Minors

[Tampa Bay Rays](#) [Enny Romero](#) Sent to Minors

FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2015

TEAM	PLAYER	TRANSACTION
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[Atlanta Braves](#) [Ian Thomas](#) Called Up from Minors

[Atlanta Braves](#) [Adonis Garcia](#) Sent to Minors

[Baltimore Orioles](#) [Rey Navarro](#) Sent to Minors

[Baltimore Orioles](#) [Bud Norris](#) Sent to Minors, For Rehabilitation

[Baltimore Orioles](#) [Everth Cabrera](#) Removed From 15-Day DL, (Left foot contusion)

[Baltimore Orioles](#) [Everth Cabrera](#) Recalled From Minors, Rehab Assignment

[Boston Red Sox](#) [Jackie Bradley Jr.](#) Sent to Minors

Boston Red Sox	Rusney Castillo	Called Up from Minors
Kansas City Royals	Joe Paterson	Released
Los Angeles Dodgers	Eric Surkamp	Traded From from White Sox, Chi. White Sox (for RHP Blake Smith)
Milwaukee Brewers	Will Smith	Suspension Announced By League, (eight games)
Minnesota Twins	Tim Stauffer	Removed From 15-Day DL, (Right intercostal strain)
Minnesota Twins	Brock Peterson	Released
Oakland Athletics	Andy Parrino	Purchased From Minors
Oakland Athletics	Edward Mujica	Placed on 15-Day DL, (Fractured right thumb)
San Francisco Giants	Jake Peavy	Sent to Minors, For Rehabilitation
Tampa Bay Rays	Tim Beckham	Sent to Minors
Texas Rangers	Kyle Blanks	Placed on 15-Day DL, (Cyst removal)
Texas Rangers	Kyuji Fujikawa	Released
Texas Rangers	Jake Smolinski	Called Up from Minors
Toronto Blue Jays	Devon Travis	Placed on 15-Day DL, (Left shoulder inflammation)
Toronto Blue Jays	Munenori Kawasaki	Purchased From Minors
Washington Nationals	Casey Janssen	Recalled From Minors, Rehab Assignment
Washington Nationals	Sammy Solis	Placed on 15-Day DL, (Left shoulder inflammation)

