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Detroit Free Press

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Daily Transactions

Oakland 4, Detroit 0: Tigers blanked for first time in 2015

May 26, 2015

By Anthony Fenech/ Detroit Free Press

OAKLAND, Calif. – It passed through quickly, this quiet storm of scoring, and when it did, Shane Greene's parade had been rained on.

The Tigers right-hander was rolling on Monday afternoon, ripping through a left-handed laden Athletics lineup, and then the sixth inning rolled around.

And when the leadoff man reached on an infield single and the next man singled to left, Greene couldn't get the big outs in the big situations he had earlier in the game.

Four runs on five hits later – one of them another infield single, none of them hit exceptionally hard – Greene was gone, his early efforts merely a memory in the Tigers' 4-0 loss to the A's on Memorial Day at O.co Coliseum.

He said it five times and while he wasn't speaking for the Tigers' offense, he certainly could have been.

The Miguel Cabrera-less bunch was shut out for the first time this season. They totaled four hits. They grounded into three double plays.

"We didn't really mount much of an attack at all," manager Brad Ausmus said. "You don't score, you don't win."

Tyler Collins had two hits. Nick Castellanos and Anthony Gose each had one.

They posed no real threat to A's right-hander Jesse Hahn, who threw his first career shutout. Hahn struck out five and walked one.

He was matched by Greene early, before his game went up in smoke shortly after that lead-off single courtesy of a scoring decision in the sixth, when rookie Dixon Machado — making his major league debut — sailed a throw on the move wide of first base. Then Josh Reddick — one of A's manager Bob Melvin's six left-handers — singled to leftfield and after Stephen Vogt provided a pinch of relief by popping up to third base, the Oakland offense opened up.

"He was doing a good job," Ausmus said about Greene. "Really it was just that one inning that hurt him."

And it started with longtime Tiger nemesis Billy Butler, who singled home a run into the hole at shortstop with one out. On the play, Machado made a sliding stab but was late on the force out at second base.

"I thought that was the turning point," Ausmus said. "He jammed him a little too much. If it was hit harder, it's a double play and we're out of the inning."

Instead, there were still two on and one out and then Max Muncy doubled home a run into the right-centerfield gap, and then Mark Canha sacrificed home a run to centerfield, and then Sam Fuld doubled home a run to the right-centerfield wall to chase Greene.

He threw 5 2/3 innings, allowing four runs on eight hits. Five of the hits came in the sixth. He struck out four.

For a second consecutive day in which the top team in the American League Central lost, the Tigers failed to gain a game. They are in third place, three games behind the Royals and one behind the Twins.

"I think the frustration is that we're not winning," Ausmus said. "When we need a big inning offensively or we need a big inning defensively, it goes in the opposite direction."

The offense continues to be up-and-down. The starting pitching has started to shake. But Ausmus' thoughts on his team will not waver.

"I know this is a winning team," he said. "I'm not worried about that, but when you're not winning and you consider yourself a winning team, it's frustrating."

Tigers notes: Dixon Machado hits ground running in debut

May 26, 2015

By Anthony Fenech/ Detroit Free Press

OAKLAND, Calif. – He was inside a Walmart, buying a car seat for his baby when he got the call.

It was around 11:30 a.m. on Sunday and Dixon Machado was told to report to the major leagues.

"I was really, really excited," Machado said. "I started screaming about it."

The young Tigers shortstop will not be here for long. Likely a few days, before he is sent back to Triple-A Toledo in exchange for Thursday's starter, right-hander Buck Farmer.

But it didn't take him long to get his feet wet.

With Jose Iglesias sidelined because of a sore knee, Machado made the start at shortstop on Monday afternoon against the Athletics. He went 0-for-3.

"Yesterday I was more excited because I was like 'Wow, I'm here. I made it,' " Machado said before the game.

"Today I just try to control it a little bit because I'm going to play, so I can't be too anxious or excited."

And when he did play, he was surely anxious and excited. He made at least one rookie mistake, in the fifth inning, when he botched a double-play lob from Ian Kinsler.

In the sixth inning, he sailed a throw wide of first base on a softly hit ground ball that was ruled an infield single.

"When you have a young player, he's gotta learn somehow and there's going to be mistakes of inexperience," manager Brad Ausmus said.

Machado was in the middle of what Ausmus called the game's turning point, when Billy Butler hit a slow roller into the hole at shortstop with one out and a runner on first in the sixth inning.

Machado smothered it, but was too late on his sling to second base.

"I don't think anyone turns two there," Ausmus said. "Whether (Jose Iglesias) can get the guy at second or not, possibly, and sometimes with experience, you might not even try to get the guy at second, you might just get the guy at first."

But Machado is short on experience and will head back to the minor leagues to continue gaining it soon.

After opening eyes this spring, he is hitting .274 in 40 games with the Mud Hens this year.

"I've just been having fun playing every day," he said. "Triple-A is a little bit more experienced with pitchers, but I'm doing my routine on a regular basis so it's nothing too different."

■Rondon report: Bruce Rondon threw 10 pitches in his second rehab appearance on Sunday with the Mud Hens. He retired the side in order, throwing in the high-90 m.p.h. range, Ausmus said. He is scheduled to throw again today, take two days off and then throw in back-to-back games on Friday.

With 'cranky' right ankle, Tigers' Cabrera gets day off

May 26, 2015

By Anthony Fenech/ Detroit Free Press

OAKLAND, Calif. – Ian Kinsler had a question for Miguel Cabrera.

"Miggy," he asked on Monday morning inside the Tigers' clubhouse. "Are you off today?"

And with that, the month-long competition between Kinsler and Cabrera — over who would get the first day off — was declared done.

Cabrera received a day off in the series-opening loss to the Athletics.

His right ankle, manager Brad Ausmus said, had been "cranky" the past few days and after the cross-country flight to California, he was out of the starting lineup for the first time this season.

"Just give him a day mentally," Ausmus said. "It was a good time."

About the ankle, which was surgically repaired over the off-season, Ausmus said: "I don't think it affected him but it was a little cranky the last couple of days, so I picked this day."

Cabrera "absolutely" will be in tonight's lineup, Ausmus said.

Utilityman Hernan Perez made his first career start at first base in place of Cabrera.

"I'm not going to argue it," A's manager Bob Melvin cracked.

Cabrera has played at least 157 games in nine of his 12 full big league seasons. And as far as the winner — Kinsler — he will be getting an off day during the team's seven-game West Coast trip.

"Trust me," Ausmus said. "There's no good day to get Miggy out of the lineup, but you have to do it at some point."

Oakland 4, Detroit 0: Why the Tigers lost

May 26, 2015

By Anthony Fenech/ Detroit Free Press

At O.Co Coliseum, Oakland, Calif.

■**What happened:** The Tigers were shut out for the first time this season. Right-hander Shane Greene (4-3) was solid for the first five innings, then struggled in the sixth, allowing four runs on five hits. A's righty Jesse Hahn recorded his first career shutout. The Tigers totaled four hits. They stand in third place in the American League Central.

■**Starting off:** Greene allowed three hits through five scoreless innings and then lost grip of the game thanks to some lefties and some bad luck. An infield hit led off the inning and scored the first run, but RBI doubles by Max Muncy and Sam Fuld did just as much damage. "I have to be better," Greene said. He threw 52/3 innings, allowing four runs on eight hits. He struck out four and walked none.

■**At the plate:** For the fifth time this season, the Tigers grounded into three double plays. They have grounded into 51 double plays this season, most in the major leagues. They're on pace for 180, which would break the major league record of 174 set by the 1990 Red Sox. "It's frustrating," manager Brad Ausmus said. "There's not a lot you can do about it."

■**Rare air:** Hahn became the first A's pitcher to shut out the Tigers since Hazel Park native Bob Welch did it in 1988. Hahn (2-4) struck out five and walked one.

■**Injury update:** Ausmus said shortstop Jose Iglesias said he felt better Monday. Iglesias has missed two games with a left knee contusion.

■**Overheard:** "I gave up four runs," Greene said. "I need to be better."

■**Three stars:** 1. Hahn; 2. Billy Butler (2-4, RBI); 3. Fuld (1-4, RBI)

■**Up next:** Tonight vs. Oakland

Defense fails, but Greene accepts rap for Tigers' loss

May 26, 2015

By Lynn Henning/ The Detroit News

Oakland, Calif. — One glance at Shane Greene's postgame posture and you knew this conversation would be brief.

And it was.

Greene sat in front of his locker, head cradled in his hands, following Monday's game, in which the A's blitzed the Tigers, 4-0, at O.co Coliseum, and sacked the Tigers starter with his third loss of the season.

When he agreed a couple of minutes later to "talk" with the media, his words were confined to a few brief repeat sentences.

"I have to pitch better."

"I gave up four runs."

"I have to be better."

Greene was taking the fall, but he knew his defense, which was minus starting shortstop Jose Iglesias, had forced him Monday to get too many extra outs.

It was particularly tough in the A's four-run sixth. Marcus Semien's leadoff infield hit (Iglesias probably would have made the play), and Billy Butler's grounder into the hole that Machado couldn't turn into a force-out at second, were moments at least as big as the single to right by Josh Reddick and the double up the right-center field alley by Max Muncy, which were part of a four-hit, four-run burst.

It ended what otherwise had been a splendid stretch of pitching by Greene. He had only allowed three singles through five innings. Greene had been particularly tough in the fifth after a single, and Machado's bobble of an Ian Kinsler toss to the bag on what should have been a force-out, obliged Greene to strike out Eric Sogard and put away Billy Burns on a fly to left.

But he couldn't withstand the sixth.

And he didn't feel much like talking about it, not in any detail, afterward.

Machado's moans

This wasn't the way a rookie wanted his first big-league appearance to unfold.

Dixon Machado had a forgettable day, offensively and defensively, as he filled in at shortstop for Iglesias, who has missed back-to-back games with a bruised knee.

He was 0-for-3 against A's starter Jesse Hahn. And in the field, where a man of Machado's acknowledged talents would be expected to flourish, he had a head-shaker, as well.

Machado dropped an abrupt relay throw from Kinsler in the fifth for an error the Tigers were lucky to have shaken off. In the sixth, he could not throw out Semien on a ground ball Iglesias normally turns into an out. It was a similar story later in the sixth when Butler hit a ball into the hole for an infield single that Machado couldn't quite turn into a force-out at second.

"I feel bad about it," Machado said, speaking mostly of the dropped throw from Kinsler, but also about failing to throw out Semien.

"I feel like I can make that play every day. But I didn't.

"I know that won't happen again."

Ausmus said the botched relay, which came on a short, quick toss from Kinsler, was mostly due to unfamiliar timing. Two middle infielders had not previously played together.

Light lineup

On a Memorial Day known for rest and reflection, the Tigers followed suit, of sorts, as some high-profile regulars took a seat.

Miguel Cabrera got a day of rest because of an ankle that had been "a bit cranky" in Ausmus' words. Cabrera had surgery on the ankle last autumn and Ausmus said the day off was discussed a few days ago with Cabrera.

Normally a left-side infielder, Perez replaced Cabrera at first and did not make Tigers fans forget about Cabrera. He was 0-for-3 with a pair of strikeouts and is now batting .074 on the season.

J.D. Martinez was in the lineup's No. 3 slot, as designated hitter.

The other change was at shortstop, where Machado subbed for Iglesias.

Yoenis Cespedes batted in the cleanup slot, followed by Tyler Collins (right field), Nick Castellanos, James McCann, Perez and Machado.

"The truth is, there's no good day to get Miggy out of the lineup," Ausmus said, "but you have to do it."

Iglesias out

The day-to-day vigil continues. Iglesias is getting better, he said after Monday's game, but his bruised knee was still too stiff and sore to permit a starts.

Ausmus isn't sure when his hot-hitting shortstop (.333) will return, but the layoff, he said, will be brief.

Rondon dealing

Bruce Rondon pitched Sunday for the Mud Hens during his rehabilitation tour at Triple A Toledo.

And all went well during a 10-pitch, 1-2-3 inning.

"He was throwing 97, 98, which is more indication that his arm feels good," Ausmus said.

Rondon, a 24-year-old right-hander who could be of immense value in the Tigers' back-end bullpen, is getting closer to throwing his first regular-season, big league pitch since September of 2013.

Rondon had Tommy John surgery 14 months ago. And then when it looked as if he was ready to give Tigers relievers a steel-belted boost, he developed biceps tendinitis at the end of spring camp.

Rondon will throw again Wednesday, and if all goes well, back-to-back appearances will be prescribed this weekend.

Cabrera rests with 'cranky' ankle, Machado makes MLB debut

May 26, 2015

By Lynn Henning/ The Detroit News

Oakland, Calif. -- On a Memorial Day known for rest and reflection, the Tigers followed suit, of sorts, as some high-profile regulars took a seat for the Tigers-A's game (4:07 p.m.) at Oakland Coliseum.

Miguel Cabrera got a day of rest because of an ankle that has been "a bit cranky" in the words of Tigers manager Brad Ausmus. Cabrera had surgery on the ankle last autumn and Ausmus said the day of vacation was discussed a few days ago with Cabrera.

Cabrera had played in all 45 of the Tigers' games this season.

Normally a left-side infielder, Hernan Perez replaced Cabrera at first base. Perez played briefly at first in a game last month against the Yankees.

J.D. Martinez was in the lineup's No. 3 slot, as designated hitter, against A's right-handed starter Jesse Hahn. Another change was set for shortstop, where rookie Dixon Machado, summoned Sunday from Triple A Toledo, was to get his first big-league start in place of Jose Iglesias, who is still aching from a knee contusion.

Yoenis Cespedes was to bat in the cleanup slot, followed by Tyler Collins (right field), Nick Castellanos, James McCann, Perez and Machado.

Anthony Gose was to lead off and start in center field.

"The truth is, there's no good day to get Miggy out of the lineup," Ausmus said, "but you have to do it."

Perez has become a rarely used outfield/infield utility option for the Tigers, which gets to the heart of an ongoing roster problem.

"He's a much better hitter than he's shown," Ausmus said, "but he has to get at-bats. We've got to get him out of his funk (.083 batting average).

"He's used to playing. Unfortunately for Hernan, our lineup is pretty well set."

Shane Greene was to start for the Tigers, who are 26-19 and three games behind the first-place Royals.

Mensching: Tigers need Davis, but he has to earn playing time

May 26, 2015

By Kurt Mensching/ The Detroit News

Detroit -- Rajai Davis may not write out the Tigers' lineup every day, but what he does at the plate could sure make it easier for manager Brad Ausmus to put his name on it more often.

"It's a good problem to have," Ausmus said of finding lineup room for everyone, including left-handed hitting Anthony Gose and Tyler Collins.

Indeed it is, because Davis is a player the Tigers need to find room for as often as possible for what he does on the basepaths. But only if he earns it at the plate.

Davis' problem throughout his career has been hitting right-handed pitching. As a right-handed batter, you expect a bit of a difference.

Against lefties, he's a .300 hitter. Against righties, .250. Against lefties, he gets on base and has a little bit of power. Against righties, not so much of either.

So with an offseason trade for Gose, a left-handed batter who is having no problems finding his way on base, the Tigers found a way to limit Davis' liability to the batting order.

And when designated hitter Victor Martinez went on the disabled list, the Tigers doubled down with another left-handed bat in Collins, who has exclusively faced right-handed pitching since arriving and will likely continue to do so. That is, assuming he does better than the 2-for-13 start he's made in limited appearances, though.

All of that makes Davis' path to regular playing time an issue, but one that the 34-year-old doesn't let himself dwell on.

"We're here to win ballgames," Davis said. "It's not my decision. I don't make the lineup card. I just go out there and play when I'm called to play."

Davis showed a bit of everything Sunday. He legged out an infield single in his first at-bat against Astros right-hander Roberto Hernandez, diving headfirst into the bag to beat the throw, before scoring on a double by Bryan Holaday a batter later.

But he went 0-for in his next three at-bats, struggling to get the ball out of the infield, to finish the day 1-for-4. He's still not hitting for a lot of average, but he's finding his way on base anyway. And when you're the best baserunner on the team, sometimes those walks are going to turn into doubles, and that's going to turn into runs. Davis' on-base percentage of .338 against righties is up from a .297 career OBP and an even worse .290 in 2014, his first season in Detroit.

It's not a statistical fluke, either.

"Just making a conscious effort to swing at balls in the strike zone," Davis said of this year's difference.

Davis has offered at the lowest percentage of pitches outside of the strike zone in his career, 27 percent, according to PitchF/X data at Fangraphs. When he does swing at pitches outside the zone, he's making contact at a career-high 83 percent, up from a career-average of 64 percent.

As a result, he's seeing his most pitches per plate appearance since 2008.

"He's getting a little more patient," Ausmus said. "He's letting the ball travel a little more."

Davis' problem Sunday is that he wasn't that patient. In two of the at-bats, he grounded out on the first pitch once and grounded out on the second pitch another time. He saw 12 pitches all day.

That lack of patience did neither Davis nor the Tigers any favors, because they need him on the basepaths to get the most of his game.

What Davis has done so far there in 2015 speaks for itself. He's already stolen 11 bases in 12 attempts for a stellar 92-percent success rate, and he's taken an extra base on hits in nearly half of his opportunities, above the 39-percent league average.

Put it together and Davis ranks ninth in baseball -- third in the American League -- in Fangraphs' Base Running (BsR) stat, which attempts to measure all the positives and negatives a runner does. That includes stealing bases, advancing, avoiding double plays and the like.

A team that has consistently been among the worst baserunning teams in the league, and which still rates below average this year, can use the help anywhere it can get.

Davis may never be a great hitter against right-handers, but if he keeps finding ways to get on bases through other means, the Tigers should keep putting him in the lineup.

Analysis: Detroit Tigers' struggling offense continues to be haunted by rally-killing double plays

May 26, 2015

By James Schmehl/ MLive.com

OAKLAND -- There was talk prior to the 2015 season that the Detroit Tigers might have a shot at scoring more than 1,000 combined runs this year.

Ian Kinsler, Miguel Cabrera, Victor Martinez, J.D. Martinez, Yoenis Cespedes -- it seemed no other team in baseball had a lineup as deep or talented as the Tigers.

But that chatter has all but disappeared a quarter of the way through the season. Nowadays, talk has centered on whether the Tigers, who have scored two or fewer runs in 21 of their last 39 games, will even be able to crack 700 runs this year.

Right now, they're on pace to score 704.

So what gives?

How can a team that ranks first in the majors in on-base percentage (.345), and second in batting average (.281) and OPS (.773), have trouble scoring runs?

How can a team that has combined for the fifth-most extra-base hits in baseball and has drawn the fourth-most walks in the majors have trouble scoring runs?

A lot has to do with these numbers: Six, four and three. As in short to second to first.

"Right now, in the first two months of the season, we've have hit an abundance of double plays," manager Brad Ausmus said after Detroit's 4-0 loss to Oakland on Monday. "Actually, an over-abundance of double plays."

The Tigers have grounded into a major league-high 51 double plays this season -- eight more than any other team in baseball.

They grounded into three 6-4-3 double plays Monday, spoiling any momentum against the A's, who dealt the Tigers their first shutout of the 2015 season. And they're now on pace to ground into 180 double plays this year, which would break the major league record of 174, currently held by the 1990 Boston Red Sox.

So what gives? Why are the Tigers grounding into so many double plays? And more importantly, what can they do to not hit into so many rally killers?

"It happens," Tigers outfielder Tyler Collins said Monday. "Every year, something freaky is going to happen, and ours -- right now -- is hitting into double plays."

What Collins said is partially true. They're just running into bad luck. The Tigers are built to hit balls hard. They're also built to get on base, which they do at a better rate than any other team in baseball. Therefore, there's more opportunities for them hit into double plays.

Detroit's lineup is also heavy with right-handed sluggers -- such as Cabrera, Martinez and Cespedes -- who hit the ball hard. So they're going to hit into their fair share of double plays -- particularly when they face right-handed sinkerballers.

That proved to be the case Monday when A's starter Jesse Hahn induced 15 groundouts, including three of which Oakland turned for double plays.

"With our right-handed lineup, you get a sinkerballer, that's a recipe for double plays," Ausmus said.

But there are ways for the Tigers to try and prevent grounding into double plays. One suggestion: Be more aggressive on the basepaths.

The Tigers rank tied for first in the majors with 41 stolen bases this year. Rajai Davis, Anthony Gose, Jose Iglesias and Kinsler have combined for 31 stolen bases.

There's no denying that the Tigers are constantly on the move, but a team's success on the bases goes beyond just steals. The base-running edge comes not just from stolen bases, but from avoiding double plays and taking extra bases, whether scoring from first base or advancing from first to third on a hit.

The most relevant statistic to measure a team's success on the bases is a metric called Ultimate Baserunning Rating (UBR), which attempts to quantify baserunning contributions in the same way that Ultimate Zone Rating provides rough estimations of defensive value.

Despite leading the majors in stolen bases, the Tigers rank 25th in the majors in that category, entering Monday with a -2.7 UBR, according to Fangraphs.com. That indicates that Detroit's baserunning has been worth 2.7 fewer runs less than an average team's. And for a team comprised of speed and power, that's a problem. "There's really not a ton you can do about it," Ausmus said Monday when asked about what can be done to prevent grounding into so many double plays. "You can't just say to the guy, 'Hey, don't go up and hit into a double play.'"

But being more aggressive on the bases may be the answer.

Despite having one of the most potent offenses in the majors, the Tigers are having trouble scoring runs, largely because they've grounded into an inordinate amount of double plays. And it's a problem that's not going to correct itself.

The Tigers need to make an adjustment if they want to fix it. And holding out hope that their luck will eventually change isn't the answer.

A's 4, Tigers 0: Detroit dealt first shutout of season after managing just four hits in Oakland

May 26, 2015

By James Schmehl/MLive.com

OAKLAND -- No Miguel Cabrera. No runs for the Detroit Tigers.

Detroit has had trouble scoring runs all season. With Cabrera out of the lineup Monday for the first time this season, things only got worse for the Tigers, who were dealt their first shutout of 2015 in a 4-0 series-opening loss to the Oakland A's.

It marked the third straight loss for the Tigers, who managed just four hits against A's right-handed starter Jesse Hahn.

The Tigers (26-20) fell a game behind second-place Minnesota and remained three games behind first-place Kansas City in the American League Central. They've dropped six of their last nine.

With Cabrera watching from the dugout with a sore right ankle, the Tigers were helpless against Hahn. The A's pitcher allowed only seven runners to reach base, including three who reached on errors, en route to his first career complete game.

Tigers starter Shane Greene, who was 1-0 with a 1.40 ERA in his last three starts, matched zeros with Hahn for five innings before the wheels fell off in the sixth.

Tigers' lowlights

- After limiting the A's to just three base hits through five innings, Greene gave up back-to-back singles in the sixth. Then Billy Butler broke a scoreless tie with an infield single. Max Muncy followed with an RBI double and Mark Canha scored Butler with a sac fly before Sam Fuld chased Greene with another RBI double.
- The Tigers' first two batters reached base in the fifth inning, but Detroit walked away emptyhanded when Tigers rookie catcher James McCann batted into a double play and first baseman Hernan Perez grounded out to end the inning.
- The Tigers grounded into three double plays, extending their major league lead to 51. They are on pace to finish with 179, which would break the current major league record (174) held by the 1990 Boston Red Sox.
- The Tigers couldn't do anything at the plate against Hahn, who entered Monday with a 0-3 record and a 5.96 ERA over his last four starts. Hahn struck out five and pitched around three errors by his defense with ease.
- Making his big league debut, Detroit's Dixon Machado went 0 for 3 and was shaky at shortstop. Called up from Toledo on Sunday, Machado committed an error in the fifth and pulled Perez off first base with a throw that sailed wide in the sixth inning.
- Starting at first base in place of Cabrera, Perez went hitless in three at-bats with a pair of strikeouts to drop his batting average to .074.

Tigers' highlights

- Greene retired seven straight and 10 of his first 11 batters before Josh Reddick tripled to the wall in right field with one out in the fourth inning. Greene induced a groundout and lineout to strand Reddick at third base and keep his shutout intact.
- Tigers second baseman Ian Kinsler finished 0 for 4 with a strikeout. He's now 0 for his last 20 and is hitless in his last 21 plate appearances. His batting average dropped to .282. It was .318 on May 18.
- Greene worked out of a tight jam in the fifth inning after Machado couldn't cleanly field Kinsler's throw at second base, allowing runners on first and second to reach base safely. Greene responded by getting Eric Sogard to watch a called third strike before getting Billy Burns to fly out to center.
- Tigers reliever Blaine Hardy relieved Greene and worked 1 1/3 hitless innings. He walked one. Hardy hasn't allowed an earned run to score in his last 16 outings.

Game notes

- Tigers outfielder Yoenis Cespedes received a loud ovation from A's fans during his first at-bat in the second inning. It marked the first game back in Oakland for Cespedes since being traded away at last season's non-waiver trade deadline.

- Monday marked just the third time since 2011 that both Cabrera and Victor Martinez were not in the Tigers' starting lineup. Cabrera, who is riding a 12-game hitting streak, wasn't in the starting lineup for the first time this season.
- Oakland activated second baseman Ben Zobrist from the 15-day disabled list Monday and optioned outfielder Craig Gentry to the club's Triple-A affiliate. Zobrist had been sidelined since April 24 while recovering from a knee injury. He was available off the bench Monday and will be in the starting lineup Tuesday.

Detroit Tigers' Jose Iglesias expected to avoid DL; Bruce Rondon pitches perfect inning in Toledo

May 26, 2015

By James Schmehl/ MLive.com

OAKLAND -- On the disabled list since opening day with bicipital tendinitis, Tigers reliever Bruce Rondon pitched a perfect eighth inning Sunday night and picked up the win in his second rehab appearance for Triple-A Toledo.

Rondon retired the side in order, needing just 10 pitches -- six of which he threw for strikes. He twice touched 98 mph on the radar gun at Fifth Third Stadium, and threw a mix of sliders and changeups.

He reported no discomfort following his outing.

"He looked good," Ausmus said. "It's more indicative that his arm feels good than anything else. I'm not nearly as enamored with velocity as a lot of people are."

Rondon will travel with the Mud Hens on their 10-game road trip to Louisville and will pitch an inning Tuesday. He's scheduled to make back-to-back appearances on Friday and Saturday and will likely throw an extended outing a few days later.

Iglesias remains day to day

Tigers shortstop Jose Iglesias remains day to day with a left knee contusion, Ausmus said Tuesday. Iglesias suffered the knee injury Saturday after clipping knees with Houston Astros first baseman Chris Carter in the third inning.

Iglesias traveled with team to Oakland, but was held out of the starting lineup for a second straight day Monday. Ausmus didn't entirely rule out a potential stint on the 15-day disabled list for Iglesias, but said he'd be "shocked" if it was necessary.

Odds & ends

- Tigers second baseman Ian Kinsler is expected to receive a day off at some point during the team's West Coast trip. With Miguel Cabrera getting a day off Monday, Kinsler is the only Tigers player to have played in every game this year.
- Oakland activated second baseman Ben Zobrist from the 15-day disabled list Monday and optioned outfielder Craig Gentry to the club's Triple-A affiliate. Zobrist had been sidelined since April 24 while recovering from a knee injury. He was available off the bench Monday and will be in the starting lineup Tuesday.
- Tigers rookie shortstop Dixon Machado was informed on the team's charter plane late Sunday that he'd be making his big league debut Monday in Oakland. Said Ausmus: "I was debating whether to tell him. Because I figured if I told him, he might not be able to sleep. But in the end, I told him."

Detroit Tigers first baseman Miguel Cabrera's surgically repaired ankle acting 'cranky'

May 26, 2015

By James Schmehl/ MLive.com

OAKLAND -- Detroit Tigers manager Brad Ausmus has been looking for a spot to give Miguel Cabrera a day off.

He figured Monday was as good a day as any.

Ausmus said Cabrera felt slight discomfort in his surgically repaired right ankle following a lengthy flight from Detroit to Oakland late Sunday. As a result, he has decided to hold Cabrera out of the starting lineup for the first time this season.

"Trust me, there's no good day to get Miggy out of the lineup," Ausmus said Monday afternoon. "But you have to do it at some point."

Ausmus said Cabrera, who didn't take batting practice prior to Monday's game, has been dealing with a "cranky" ankle the past few days, which played a role in his decision to give him a day off.

Cabrera underwent surgery last October to remove bone spurs from his right ankle and repair a stress fracture to the navicular bone in his foot.

"Just give him a day mentally," said Ausmus when asked if he considered tabbing Cabrera as the designated hitter. "His ankle has been a little cranky the last few days, so it's a good time. Especially after the flight."

Ausmus said he wasn't overly concerned about the discomfort in Cabrera's ankle, and said he expects the nine-time All-Star to be back in the lineup Tuesday.

"I don't think it's affected him," Ausmus said. "But it's been a little cranky the last couple days, so we picked this day."

Cabrera has started all 45 games this season, and has hit .344 with 11 home runs and 32 RBIs. He enters Monday riding a 12-game hitting streak -- the longest by a Tigers player this season, and the second-longest active hitting streak in the AL.

Ausmus said Cabrera "probably" won't be used as a late-inning defensive replacement Monday, but said he'd be available to pinch-hit if needed.

With Cabrera held out of the lineup, super utility player Hernan Perez got the start at first base. It marked the fourth start this season for Perez, who has just two hits in 24 at-bats this season.

"The truth is, he hasn't played much," Ausmus said. "And we need to kind of get him going. We need to get him some at-bats. He's a much better hitter than he's shown."

Offense left looking for answers against A's

May 26, 2015

By Rick Eymer/ MLB.com

OAKLAND -- Miguel Cabrera was ready, a bat in his hands. The right situation never developed, so the Tigers' slugger never got a chance to hit with multiple runners on base.

The Tigers had trouble getting any baserunners against Athletics right-hander Jesse Hahn, who threw his first career shutout and complete game in a 4-0 victory, sending the Tigers to their third straight loss and sixth of nine overall.

"The frustrating part is not winning," Tigers' manager Brad Ausmus said. "When we need the big inning, offensively or defensively, it goes the opposite direction. I know this team is a winning team, and I'm not worried about it."

Still, after grounding into three more double plays for a Major-League most 51, the frustration may be in not being able to do anything about them.

"I can't tell a guy not to hit into a double play," Ausmus said. "They're up there trying to get a hit. When you get a sinkerball pitcher, that's a recipe for double plays. We're a good right-handed hitting team and we've hit into an overabundance of double plays these first two months."

Without Cabrera, who has a 12-game hitting streak, in the lineup, the Tigers found it difficult to produce a string of hits. Even with the A's defense contributing three errors, the Tigers only had one inning in which there was more than one runner on base for an at-bat.

Ian Kinsler, who has 18 multi-hit games this year, went 0-for-4 and is hitless in his last 20 at bats. Hernan Perez, who got the start at first in place of Cabrera, was 0-for-3 and is now 0-for-16 dating to April 27.

"Everybody will go through their struggles," Ausmus said. "[Kinsler] brings a lot of things to the table. I think that when he steps into the box, he'll get a hit despite what he's done lately."

It was a double play that the Tigers could not turn in the sixth that proved damaging.

The A's had two runners on with one out and Billy Butler at the plate. Shane Greene made a great pitch, jamming Butler, who grounded weakly toward shortstop Dixon Machado, making his Major League debut.

"I don't think anybody turns two on that," Ausmus said. "If Butler hits it to a different place, we turn two and get out of it."

Machado dove to stop the ball and could not get enough on his throw to second to beat Josh Reddick. It was the pivotal play of the game.

"I was trying to throw to second but the guy was too quick," Machado said. "I feel like I can make that play every time, but I didn't. I was not really nervous, I was excited to be out there."

The Tigers were shut out for the first time all season, though Ausmus said that was a little misleading.

"Sure you can say we weren't shut out until Memorial Day, but there were a lot of games we scored one or two runs," he said.

Tigers blanked by Hahn in series opener

May 26, 2015

By Rick Eymer and Lane Lee/ MLB.com

OAKLAND -- Right-hander Jesse Hahn pitched his first career shutout, allowing just four hits to guide the A's to their third straight win on Monday, a 4-0 shutout of the Tigers in the three-game series opener at the Coliseum.

"The way his sinker was going, it wasn't tough to call a game for him today," said A's catcher Stephen Vogt. "He, from inning No. 1, had his sinker going today, he was throwing it with conviction, with confidence. He was some kind of disgusting with his sinker."

A four-run sixth inning backed Hahn, highlighted by run-scoring doubles from Max Muncy and Sam Fuld. The A's sent eight men to the plate in the frame, beginning with Marcus Semien and Josh Reddick, who got things going with back-to-back singles.

Tigers starter Shane Greene was responsible for all four runs. The right-hander scattered eight hits over 5 2/3 innings, striking out four and walking none.

"I didn't stop the bleeding. I gave up four runs," Greene said. "I could have been better."

MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

Hahn dominates: Though his teammates didn't make it easy on him, committing three fielding errors, Hahn breezed through a career-high nine innings, getting three double plays along the way. The right-hander fanned five and walked one, earning just his second win in nine tries this season.

Third time's no charm: Greene was able to pitch around a couple of jams before losing out in the sixth. The A's had runners in scoring position with less than two outs in the fourth and fifth inning and did not score. The four runs he allowed were more than the three given up his previous 24 2/3 innings combined.

"He was doing a good job," Tigers manager Brad Ausmus said. "It was only that one inning. In fact, if Butler hits the ball harder, it's a double play and we're out of the inning. Instead it extends the inning."

WHAT'S NEXT

Tigers: Left-hander David Price, who starts Tuesday night at 10:05 p.m. ET at the Coliseum, has no-decisions in each of his last three starts, matching his career-high as a starter. That's OK with the Tigers, who have won eight of Price's nine starts this season.

Athletics: The A's will have right-hander Jesse Chavez on the mound for Tuesday's middle matchup with the Tigers at the Coliseum, with first pitch scheduled for 7:05 p.m. PT. Chavez is 1-4 with a 3.41 ERA in six starts this season..

With Iglesias injured, Machado makes debut

May 26, 2015

By Rick Eymer/ MLB.com

OAKLAND -- Tigers manager Brad Ausmus was not going to give Dixon Machado a chance to get nervous. He penciled him in as the starting shortstop for Monday's game against the Athletics.

Machado, making his Major League debut, was called up from Triple-A Toledo before Sunday's game against the Houston Astros when the Tigers placed left-hander Kyle Lobstein on the disabled list with a sore left shoulder.

The Tigers needed infield help as Jose Iglesias missed his second straight game with a contusion to his left knee.

The Tigers have also announced that Brad Farmer, currently with the Mud Hens, will make the start on Thursday against the Angels in Anaheim.

The Tigers have three days to evaluate Machado, the club's No. 10 prospect according to MLB.com, and determine the extent of Iglesias' injury before making a move to bring Farmer on board.

Machado was hitting .274 with a home run and 16 RBIs in 40 games with the Mud Hens.

Signed as an undrafted free agent in 2008, Machado spent 2014 between Class A Lakeland and Double-A Erie, where he hit .305 in 90 games.

In related news, Miguel Cabrera was given a routine day off, his first of the season.

Comerica opens doors for Wins for Warriors

May 26, 2015

By Alejandro Zuniga/ MLB.com

DETROIT -- Though the Tigers were on the road, the gates to Comerica Park opened Monday morning for a 9K run organized by Wins for Warriors, a foundation launched by Justin Verlander.

About 350 people, many of whom are veterans, participated in the Memorial Day run or a one-mile walk, both of which ended with a lap around the warning track to the backstop. Family and friends were encouraged to sit in the ballpark, where they cheered runners through their final stretch.

J.J. Tighe, CEO of the Michigan Fitness Foundation, said he worked with Verlander, Alisha Greenberg -- the director of Wins for Warriors -- and other sponsors for nearly a year to make the event happen.

"We talked about, 'Why don't we have something here in Detroit, a signature event focused on veterans and focused on our fallen heroes?'" said Tighe, whose organization endorses races across the state.

According to the event's website, the run raised more than \$43,000 to help support veterans. Greenberg called the inaugural race a success and said Wins for Warriors hopes to hold a 9K on or near Memorial Day each year.

"I think it went very well," she said, "We'd love to see it grow."

The 9K received attention from Team Red, White and Blue, a non-profit whose mission is to connect veterans through physical activity. Mark Helm was one of several runners who participated through the organization, and he carried a large American flag over his shoulder for the entirety of the course.

"When I heard about [Wins for Warriors], I thought, 'This is phenomenal,'" Helm, a veteran, said. "On Memorial Day, I consider it a privilege [to carry the flag]."

Greg Cooper, a lieutenant colonel in the Michigan Army National Guard, participated in the one-mile loop with a close friend.

"What a great event," Cooper said. "It's just amazing. The outpouring of support now for our veterans versus 20-30 years ago -- we appreciate it."

Price looks to even road series in Oakland

May 26, 2015

By Rick Eymer/ MLB.com

Tigers slugger Miguel Cabrera must be itching to get back into the starting lineup, especially against the Athletics.

Given a rare day off on Monday, Cabrera hopes to improve on his already impressive numbers against the A's in Tuesday night's contest, the second of a three-game series. Cabrera is hitting .337 in his career against the A's, with 17 home runs and 54 RBIs in 55 games.

He leads all active players with a .438 on-base percentage and a .663 slugging percentage against the A's. Left-hander David Price (3-1, 3.32) gets the start for the Tigers while Jesse Chavez (1-4, 2.89) takes the mound for the A's.

Chavez is 0-3 with a 9.90 ERA in nine appearances, including two starts, against the Tigers. He is 0-2 with a 4.34 ERA over his last three starts.

Price is 2-2 with a 3.69 ERA against the A's. Josh Phegley is the only current A's player with a home run against him. Price is 0-0 with a 4.12 ERA over his last three starts.

Things to know about this game:

- Tigers infielder Nick Castellanos has hit safely in 15 of his last 19 games. He had a nine-game hitting streak earlier in April.
- Chavez has not allowed a run in the first two innings and holds a 1.32 ERA from the sixth inning and beyond. He's given up two home runs in 43 2/3 innings.
- The A's activated Ben Zobrist from the DL before Monday's game. He's a .261 hitter against the Tigers, with six homers in 49 games against them.
- Left-handed reliever Sean Doolittle is expected to be activated before Tuesday's game. He is not expected to close right away and will be used in low-leverage spots early on.

Rondon looks better in second rehab outing

May 26, 2015

By Jason Beck/ MLB.com

TOLEDO, Ohio -- Right-hander Bruce Rondon pitched a quicker, cleaner inning Sunday night in his second rehab appearance for Triple-A Toledo. The Tigers reliever, working his way back from biceps tendinitis, retired the side in order for the Mud Hens in the eighth in just 10 pitches, six of them strikes.

Rondon hit 98 mph on the Fifth Third Stadium radar gun twice with his fastball, about the same as his previous outing Thursday. He mixed in more offspeed pitches this time, including some decent sliders, and he commanded the strike zone better.

"To me, he was much better [Sunday]," Mud Hens manager Larry Parrish said. "He had angle. And to me, he looked like two miles an hour slower, but much tougher to hit today. His delivery stayed together. He threw downhill, threw strikes, was down in the zone. If he threw like that all the time, he'll be successful at the next level."

Rondon used a 96-mph fastball to get a first-pitch flyout to the left-field warning track from former Major Leaguer Luke Scott. Kevin Nolan flied out to center on a 2-2 slider, then Ryan Schimpf grounded out to first base on a 2-1 slider, with Rondon running over to cover the bag.

Mud Hens pitching coach Mike Maroth, who coached Rondon at Class A Advanced Lakeland a few years ago, said Rondon settled in after having extra adrenaline his first time out Thursday.

"Much better this time," Maroth said. "Just not overthrowing the ball. Fastball had much better angle. He commanded his pitches better."

Rondon, who pitched with a 4-0 deficit, earned the win when the Mud Hens rallied for eight runs in the bottom of the inning.

Rondon, on the 15-day disabled list since Opening Day, left town with the Mud Hens for their 10-game road trip to Louisville, Indianapolis and Columbus. If he sticks to the current plan, he'll likely spend the entire trip with the club, pitching back-to-back outings of up to 20 pitches on Friday and Saturday before throwing an extended outing of 25-30 pitches, likely more than one inning, a few days later. If he completes that on schedule, he could be ready to rejoin the Tigers around the middle of next week.

Also traveling with the Mud Hens is right-hander Buck Farmer, who is scheduled to start for the Tigers on Thursday against the Angels. He's expected to fly west midweek and join the Tigers in Anaheim.

Tigers' offense continues to struggle in loss to A's

May 26, 2015

By Dave Hogg/ FOXSportsDetroit.com

The Tigers have dealt with several problems this season, including a series of key injuries to both hitters and the pitching staff.

But one of their biggest reasons that they are now in third place in the AL Central is that the offense has been significantly less than the sum of its parts. That issue showed up bigger than ever Monday afternoon against a bad Oakland team, as the Tigers hit into three double plays while being shut out for the first time all season. Oakland starter Jesse Hahn had never gone more than seven innings, but on a day that saw Hernan Perez and Dixon Machado in the lineup and Miguel Cabrera on the bench, he pitched a complete game. Detroit had four hits -- all singles -- and one walk.

"If you don't score, you don't win," Brad Ausmus said. "We're a right-handed lineup, and Hahn is tougher on righties, but we really didn't do much. Tip your cap to him, but we didn't mount of an attack."

According to some key stats, the Tigers have one of the best offenses in baseball. They lead the majors in on-base percentage, are third in slugging percentage and second in OPS, but are barely in the top 10 in the most important category -- runs scored.

A big reason for the shortfall is a seemingly endless string of rally-killing double plays. With the three on Monday, Detroit has grounded into 51 this season -- 10 more than any other team. They are on pace for 180, which would break the 1990 Boston Red Sox's major-league record of 174.

"It's frustrating, but there's not much you can do about it," Ausmus said. "You can't tell a guy not to hit into a double play, because they are already trying not to do that."

There's no way to exactly measure the impact of all the double plays, but there are ways to make an educated guess. By using sabermetric formulae, it is relatively simple to estimate how many runs the Tigers would be expected to score, given their on-base percentage, slugging percentage and success at stealing bases.

Using the Runs Created formula that Bill James developed in the 1980s, the Tigers should have 231 runs through 46 games, but they've actually only scored 200. Another 31 runs of offense would normally translate to about three more wins, which would put them in a first-place tie with the Royals.

Instead, they are in third, a game behind the surprising Twins, and wondering when things are going to change. "Baseball is a funny game, and you are going to have a lot of ups and downs over a long season," said James McCann. "We try not to dwell on those things, but we think that at the end of the year, we're going to look back and see the offense we expected to see."

Without Victor Martinez, the Tigers' offense is too heavily tilted toward right-handed hitting, allowing an endless stream of right-handed pitchers to pitch down and in. That results in grounders to the left side, meaning a long summer of 5-4-3 and 6-4-3 double plays.

Mature Machado gets first chance with Tigers

May 26, 2015

By Dana Wakiji/ FOXSportsDetroit.com

Dixon Machado won't be with the Tigers for long but he will get to play.

Machado was in the Memorial Day lineup in Oakland as Jose Iglesias recovered from a knee contusion he suffered in Saturday's game.

An X-ray and MRI revealed no structural damage in Iglesias' knee so he's not expected to be out long.

In spring training, Tigers manager Brad Ausmus and the front office people all said that there were two pleasant surprises, right-hander Angel Nesbitt and Machado.

"There's been some discussion amongst the coaching and front office people about who's been the biggest outsider, a name that you wouldn't really recognize or think of, and it's Dixon Machado, no question about it," said Alan Trammell, special assistant to president and general manager Dave Dombrowski. "He's opened up a lot of eyes and that's the kind of thing that's so wonderful about spring training."

Machado said he was happy to get so much playing time in spring games but he tried not to pay attention to any extra attention he got.

"Sometimes you start thinking, OK, I'm doing good, so I gotta do better. So you do worse," Machado said.

"When you try to do too much, you don't do good. I just hear about that and I just try to put it on the side."

In 17 spring games, Machado hit .333 with a double and three RBI.

He made the most of his time, acting like a sponge around Iglesias, Trammell and Omar Vizquel.

"For me, he's the best," Machado said of his fellow Venezuelan Vizquel.

During the spring, Vizquel said he enjoyed working with the young shortstop.

"Every little detail I try to see when he's fielding the ball, I try to tell him," Vizquel said. "I know that everybody got different styles. In the beginning he was rushing to the ball a little bit, he was attacking the ball too fast without reading it. Now he's reading the ground ball, he's trying to move his feet towards the ball."

Nesbitt broke camp with the team but Machado's way was blocked by the good health of Iglesias, who missed all of last season with stress fractures in both shins.

Machado, 23, maintained a good attitude when he was sent down.

In 40 games, Machado hit .274 with a .339 on-base percentage and .331 slugging percentage. He had six doubles, a home run, 16 RBI and five stolen bases.

Although Machado is very young, he's matured a lot in the nine months since he and his wife, Maria, welcomed their son, Diego.

"In comparison to 2013, this year I'm more mature as a person, as a ballplayer," Machado said. "I feel like we didn't plan that but it was the best thing that ever happened to me."

Machado said Diego has changed his life for the better.

"It's the best thing ever," Machado said. "I wake up every day and saw that face, laughing all day. That's the best feeling."

Machado said having Maria and Diego with him has helped him be a better player.

"When you get your family around you when you get here, you just focus on get better and play baseball," Machado said. "You don't think about, 'Oh, my God, they're over there, I gotta call them.' So you just do your thing. I think that was one of the things that helped me last year. They're with me so you don't worry about anything. You play, you play hard that day and when you get off the field, they're going to be waiting for you."

A's Jesse Hahn shuts out Tigers 4-0

May 26, 2015

By Jimmy Durkin/ Oakland Tribune

OAKLAND -- The A's season finally has some signs of looking up, and Monday provided gentle reminders of the better days.

Ken Korach's voice was back on the radio, Yoenis Cespedes roamed the Coliseum again, and the A's beat the Detroit Tigers 4-0 for their first three-game winning streak since August.

Utility man Ben Zobrist was activated from the disabled list before Monday's game, and All-Star closer Sean Doolittle will rejoin the team Tuesday to help bolster the bullpen. But for the first time all season, the A's didn't need their relievers.

Jesse Hahn pitched Oakland's first complete game of the year. It was the first of his professional career and came in dominant, shutout fashion.

"It's a great feeling," Hahn said. "I had so much adrenaline pumping through my veins in the ninth."

Hahn said he never even threw a complete game in college, so this was his first nine-inning effort.

"The ninth inning's been foreign to me, so it's good to actually feel it," he said.

The A's had won two games in a row only once this season before beginning this season-long three-game streak. All along, they've insisted they are playing better baseball than their record indicated.

"It's just like Bob always tells us, 'It's going to turn. It has to at some point,' " catcher Stephen Vogt said, referencing manager Bob Melvin. "Hopefully this is it. Hopefully we keep playing the way we have the last three days because that's the team we know we have."

If it's simply the little things that are needed to get the A's going, maybe Monday provided the perfect medicine. Korach, the team's lead radio play-by-play announcer, missed the first 46 games of the season while dealing with an injury to his artificial left knee. He's not back full time yet but did make his season debut in the radio booth, much to A's fans' delight.

Doolittle's 2015 debut could come Tuesday. Melvin said he'll be activated and available, although he won't immediately return to the closer role. The A's will slowly work him back into those chores.

Zobrist didn't play in his first game back from the disabled list, but he was activated less than four weeks after arthroscopic surgery on his left knee. Melvin expects him to start Tuesday's game.

For once, the A's finally seem to have some momentum on their side, even if they still own the American League's worst record.

"You're always trying to look to get some momentum," Melvin said. "We had trouble getting two in a row. It's awfully frustrating, and now to be able to get three in a row, against a real good offensive team, it certainly gives you a lot more confidence going into the next day."

Hahn was on top of his game all afternoon. He allowed four hits and one walk and struck out five. He induced three double plays, two of which came immediately after the A's committed an error. The third followed a wild pitch on a strikeout that allowed a runner to reach.

"That's what you're looking for," Melvin said. "That's what teammates are all about. You make an error as a pitcher, you point to him and say, 'I got you right here.' "

Vogt and Melvin both raved about Hahn's sinker, which allowed him to pitch aggressively and get hitters to put the ball in play for outs.

"He was some kind of disgusting today with his sinker," Vogt said.

Cespedes went 0 for 3 with a walk in his return to the Coliseum for the first time since the A's traded him to the Boston Red Sox at the July 31 trade deadline. He visited the A's clubhouse before the game and received several loud ovations before the game.

Like many fans, he questioned the moves general manager Billy Beane made over the offseason. Dating to the Cespedes trade, Beane dealt five All-Stars in less than four months. Josh Donaldson, Brandon Moss, Jeff Samardzija and Derek Norris were also traded.

"Don't they want to win a championship?" Cespedes said to reporters before the game through translator Jorge Ortiz.

Melvin said he enjoyed his pregame visit with Cespedes but deflected a question about the impact on the team since the trade, saying, "We have to move on."

Even with Monday's win, the A's are just 39-63 since trading Cespedes.

Ike Davis still hasn't resumed baseball activities following his May 14 placement on the disabled list with a strained left quadriceps.

Craig Gentry was sent to Triple-A Nashville to make room for Zobrist. He played in only one game after being recalled May 17 and went 0 for 3.

Hahn thrilled to close shutout in 'foreign' ninth

May 26, 2015

By Jane Lee/ MLB.com/ Oakland

OAKLAND -- Sitting at 99 pitches, Jesse Hahn trotted back out to the mound for the ninth inning at the Coliseum on Monday afternoon, readying to face the heart of the Tigers' lineup. The A's right-hander had a four-run lead in hand, but little room for error in the way of his first career shutout.

"If he walked the first guy of the inning, I was going to get him," said A's manager Bob Melvin. "Maybe the second guy."

Hahn made the decision easy. He got J.D. Martinez looking on strikes and induced a groundout from Yoenis Cespedes for two quick outs. Though Tyler Collins followed with a two-out single, Hahn remained at just 110 pitches. Only two more were needed to secure the 4-0 shutout, and when right fielder Josh Reddick clasped Tyler Collins' drive for the final out in his glove, "I haven't ever seen Jesse smile that big," said catcher Stephen Vogt.

"He, from inning No. 1, had his sinker going today," Vogt said. "He was throwing it with conviction, with confidence, both sides of the plate, you name it. He was some kind of disgusting with his sinker."

Hahn's four-hit shutout not only marked the first complete game of his career -- he had never completed more than seven innings in 20 prior starts -- but at any level, even college. It also happened to secure the 17-30 A's first three-game winning streak of the season.

"It's a great feeling," said Hahn, who struck out five and walked one. "The ninth inning's been foreign to me ... I had so much adrenalin pumping through my veins in the ninth."

Not once did Hahn shake off Vogt, who has known the right-hander since their days in Tampa's farm system. And not once was Hahn shaken by any mayhem behind him.

The error-prone A's committed three fielding miscues on the day, two by third baseman Max Muncy and one by shortstop Marcus Semien, yet Hahn navigated his way around each with ease, compiling three double plays along the way.

"That's what you're looking for. That's what teammates are all about," said A's manager Bob Melvin. "You make an error, and as a pitcher you point to them and say, 'I got you right here.' And, typically, after those, he put the ball on the ground and got two. That's how you get guys confident out there. All the way around, he was terrific."

Added Vogt: "He was calm, cool and collected all day. There were times I went out there just to make sure and right away he was just, 'Yeah, I'm good, let's go.' He was fun to catch today, fun to watch.

"Bob always tells us, 'It's going to turn, it has to at some point.' Hopefully, this is it. Hopefully, we keep playing the way we have the past three days because that's the team we know we have."

Rewind: Hahn goes distance to keep A's rolling

May 26, 2015

By Joe Stiglich/ CSNCalifornia.com

OAKLAND – Teammates have gotten to know Jesse Hahn as a cool customer on the mound and an even-keeled personality in the clubhouse.

He had a different demeanor going late in Monday's game.

The ninth inning has been uncharted territory for Hahn, a right-hander who took the mound Monday never having thrown a complete game. That included 64 outings as a professional, minors and majors combined, plus three years at Virginia Tech University.

Hahn was at 99 pitches as he began the ninth before a charged-up Coliseum crowd on Memorial Day, the A's leading the Detroit Tigers 4-0.

"I had so much adrenaline pumping through my veins," he said afterward.

Hahn closed out his first career complete game and shutout, retiring Nick Castellanos on a fly to right fielder Josh Reddick on his 112th pitch. That continued this mini-surge by the A's, who have won three games in a row on the strength of their young starting pitching.

Hahn, Sonny Gray and Kendall Graveman did not yield a single run over the past three games in 20 combined innings.

It seemed Hahn, 25, was still riding his adrenaline wave as he addressed reporters shortly after Monday's game. He kept breaking into a smile. His responses were short, like the moment hadn't fully struck him yet.

No doubt it registered fully with manager Bob Melvin and the rest of the A's front office. The A's believe the 6-foot-5 Hahn is capable of big things as a major league starter. They got their first tangible proof of that Monday, as he held the Tigers to four hits and a walk. Not a single Tiger advanced as far as third base.

"I think he realizes now he has good stuff," Melvin said of Hahn's season-long development. "He just needs to throw it over the plate, and that allows him to get deep in games. When he has that good sinker, he has the ability to do just what he did today."

Catcher Stephen Vogt has known Hahn since both were Rays' farmhands. Hahn was a sixth-round draft pick of Tampa Bay in 2010 who, because of Tommy John surgery, didn't even make his first minor league appearance until 2012. Vogt, five years older, was working his way up the ladder and trying to break through to the majors. "To see the look on his face when Reddick caught that ball," Vogt said. "I'm sure he was smiling a little bit bigger than me, but I couldn't stop smiling. I know how hard he works and I've known him a long time, so it's just really fun to watch him go out and throw the way he did and get his first complete game, especially on Memorial Day."

Hahn (2-4) pitched as deep as six innings just once over his first six starts this season. He's gone 6 1/3, 6 and 9, respectively, over his past three outings, never surrendering more than three earned runs. Hahn said he's worked hard with pitching coach Curt Young and bullpen coach Scott Emerson on fastball command, spotting it to both sides of the plate. He mixed in his curve ball effectively Monday and showed his changeup occasionally.

Most impressively, Hahn didn't let the roof cave when his teammates committed three errors behind him. That's been the season-long pattern -- the A's defense falters, and pitchers compound matters by giving up a big hit.

Twice after errors, Hahn coaxed double-play grounders to erase the extra base runner.

"Whenever you have an error, the last thing you want to see is the next pitch put in play and a run scores or something like that," said third baseman Max Muncy, who committed two of Oakland's errors. "Whenever your pitcher picks you up like that, it's great."

With the A's taking a cross-country flight home from Tampa on Sunday night, then playing an afternoon game Monday, Hahn chose a good time to pick up his bullpen too, giving the relievers a rare day off.

He had yet to even check his cell phone for messages as he finished addressing reporters after Monday's game. Surely the smile lasted most of the night.

"It's a great feeling," Hahn said. "The ninth inning's been foreign to me. So it's good to actually feel it."

LAST UPDATED: TUE, MAY 26, 2015, 01:38 EDT

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2015

TEAM	PLAYER	TRANSACTION
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[Milwaukee Brewers](#) [David Goforth](#) Called Up from Minors

[Milwaukee Brewers](#) [Wily Peralta](#) Placed on 15-Day DL, (Strained left oblique)

[Seattle Mariners](#) [Austin Jackson](#) Removed From 15-Day DL, (Sprained right ankle)

[Seattle Mariners](#) [Austin Jackson](#) Recalled From Minors, Rehab Assignment

MONDAY, MAY 25, 2015

TEAM	PLAYER	TRANSACTION
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[Atlanta Braves](#) [Joey Terdoslavich](#) Sent to Minors, For Rehabilitation

[Baltimore Orioles](#) [Brian Matusz](#) Suspension Announced By League, (eight games)

[Baltimore Orioles](#) [Ryan Flaherty](#) Sent to Minors, For Rehabilitation

[Cincinnati Reds](#) [Manny Parra](#) Removed From 15-Day DL, (Neck strain)

[Cincinnati Reds](#) [Devin Mesoraco](#) Placed on 15-Day DL, (Left hip strain)

[Kansas City Royals](#) [Danny Duffy](#) Placed on 15-Day DL, (Left biceps tendinitis)

[Kansas City Royals](#) [Alex Rios](#) Sent to Minors, For Rehabilitation

[Kansas City Royals](#) [Brandon Finnegan](#) Called Up from Minors

New York Mets	Danny Muno	Called Up from Minors
Oakland Athletics	Craig Gentry	Sent to Minors
Oakland Athletics	Ben Zobrist	Removed From 15-Day DL, (Medial meniscus tear, left knee)
Oakland Athletics	Ben Zobrist	Recalled From Minors, Rehab Assignment
Oakland Athletics	Joe Paterson	Signed to a Minor League Contract
Pittsburgh Pirates	Charlie Morton	Recalled From Minors, Rehab Assignment
Pittsburgh Pirates	Radhames Liz	Designated for Assignment
Pittsburgh Pirates	Charlie Morton	Removed From 15-Day DL, (Hip injury)
San Francisco Giants	Travis Ishikawa	Removed From 15-Day DL, (Lower back strain)
San Francisco Giants	Travis Ishikawa	Recalled From Minors, Rehab Assignment
San Francisco Giants	Travis Ishikawa	Designated for Assignment
Seattle Mariners	Danny Farquhar	Sent to Minors
Tampa Bay Rays	James Loney	Placed on 15-Day DL, (Broken finger)
Tampa Bay Rays	Tim Beckham	Called Up from Minors
Tampa Bay Rays	Jake Elmore	Called Up from Minors
Texas Rangers	Josh Hamilton	Recalled From Minors, Rehab Assignment
Texas Rangers	Josh Hamilton	Removed From 15-Day DL, (Recovery from right shoulder surgery)

[Texas Rangers](#) [Neftali Feliz](#) Placed on 15-Day DL, (Axillary abscess on right side)

[Toronto Blue Jays](#) [Jose Reyes](#) Removed From 15-Day DL, (Cracked left rib)

[Toronto Blue Jays](#) [Munenori Kawasaki](#) Sent to Minors

[Toronto Blue Jays](#) [Jose Reyes](#) Recalled From Minors, Rehab Assignment

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2015

TEAM	PLAYER	TRANSACTION
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[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