

Kluber, 12-run outburst help Tribe beat Royals

By Jeffrey Flanagan and August Fagerstrom / MLB.com | July 29th, 2015 + 97 COMMENTS

CLEVELAND -- The Indians unleashed a week of pent-up offensive frustration upon the Kansas City Royals with a season-high 18 hits and four home runs in a 12-1 win on Wednesday afternoon at Progressive Field.

The outburst could also be viewed as a release stemming from an inability to score with Corey Kluber on the mound this season. Kluber entered the contest receiving a Major League-low 2.41 runs per game. Wednesday was just the fourth time in 22 starts that Kluber received more than four runs of support. He more than did his part, too, holding the Royals to a ninth-inning run in his second complete game of the season and the fifth of his career. He struck out six and walked one, allowing just five hits.

"Some of their guys wanted to have early contact, some guys were a little more patient, and it didn't really seem like it mattered," Indians manager Terry Francona said. "He had something for everything. He kept the ball on the ground. He was really in control."

Jeremy Guthrie's season-long struggles on the mound continued, as he allowed eight runs (seven earned) on 10 hits, a walk and three home runs in 5 1/3 innings. Following the recent acquisition of Johnny Cueto, one of the Royals' current starters will lose their spot in the rotation, with the roles of Guthrie and Chris Young in question.

Royals manager Ned Yost said he won't make a decision on his fifth starter until Tuesday.

"[Guthrie] was kind of classic Guthrie for the first five innings," Yost said. "He had a lot of traffic the first two innings, but limited the damage. He settled in the third, fourth and fifth. It just kind of fell apart there in the sixth."

With the win, the Indians snapped an eight-game home losing skid, avoiding what would have been their longest such streak since 1931.

MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

First step forward: The Indians quickly got ahead of Guthrie, sending seven hitters to the plate in a 31-pitch first inning. Jason Kipnis led things off with a single, and Francisco Lindor matched him in the next at-bat. A walk by Carlos Santana loaded the bases, and Guthrie made matters worse by hitting Yan Gomes to bring home the first run. The Indians had scored first in just 38 of their first 99 games, but they are 30-8 when doing so.

"That's how you answer," center fielder Michael Bourn said. "You make them pay for it, so we did that and we had a good game offensively today, especially with Kluber on the mound." More >

Small window of opportunity: The Royals were pretty much helpless against Kluber all day. But they did stir it up offensively in the fifth. Eric Hosmer ended Kluber's perfect-game bid by leading off with a slashing double down the left-field line. With one out, Omar Infante, who had two hits off Kluber, bunted for a single as Hosmer took third. But Kluber got rookie Paulo Orlando to chase a slider in the dirt for strike three and Drew Butera hit a harmless groundout to second base. The Royals did break through in the ninth on an RBI groundout by Alex Rios.

"He really threw the ball well," third baseman Mike Moustakas said about Kluber. "Good slider, cutter, changeup. Had command of them all. Just a tough day for us offensively." More >

Home run derby: The Indians' offense broke out in a six-run sixth inning against Guthrie, sending 10 batters to the plate and hitting three home runs. Giovanni Urshela started things off with a solo blast as the second batter of the inning, and Lindor followed him up with a three-run homer, four batters later. Michael Brantley, the next batter, worked an eight-pitch at-bat that was topped off by a solo shot of his own to right field, giving the Tribe an 8-0 lead and ending Guthrie's afternoon.

"It was nice to get that cushion there," Kluber said. "Up to that point, it was a close game. I'm trying to keep the lead, and then when you get that cushion, you can go out there and attack."

Nobody left out: The Indians strung together six consecutive hits for a second time in the game with a four-run eighth inning. Brantley singled, Santana doubled, Brandon Moss singled and Gomes hit a home run off Luke Hochevar to begin the inning. Urshela and Bourn kept things going with singles of their own after Gomes' blast. All nine starting batters had at least one hit and scored for the Tribe.

"Part of it is just when guys start getting on, you've got a pitcher in the stretch, a hole open at first, things start to happen," Francona said. "But there's probably a reason guys are getting hit anyway. Maybe the guy who's throwing is leaving balls up or whatever, but we took advantage of it."

MANAGER EJECTION

Francona received his third ejection of the season in the fifth inning after arguing with home-plate umpire Tom Woodring after Brantley was hit by a pitch. Guthrie had already hit two batters in the game, and both sides were warned when Guthrie struck Kipnis in the second inning.

"I just thought that the umpire, when he puts that out there, then for him to tell me, 'No, [it wasn't intentional],'" Francona said. "I didn't think that was appropriate. I think they protect the younger umpires. If he's older enough to throw me out, he's old enough to listen to what I have to say."

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REPLAY REVIEW

Upon Kipnis' hit-by-pitch in the second inning, he was promptly picked off first base by Guthrie. Kipnis immediately waved into the dugout, signaling he wanted the ruling to be reviewed, but the call was confirmed after a one-minute, 50-second review.

WHAT'S NEXT

Royals: Left-hander Danny Duffy (4-4, 4.03 ERA) takes the mound for Kansas City as it opens a four-game set with Toronto. Newcomer Ben Zobrist is expected to join the team Thursday and start in left field..

Indians: Cleveland travels to Oakland to begin a four-game series against the Athletics and a seven-game West Coast trip. Carlos Carrasco (10-8, 4.26 ERA) will start the series opener, coming off a rough outing against the White Sox in which he allowed six earned runs in four innings and felt he may have been tipping his pitches.

Moss goes to Indians for pitching prospect

By Spencer Fordin / MLB.com | 20 minutes ago + 0 COMMENTS

The Cardinals have acquired outfielder Brandon Moss from the Indians for left-handed pitching prospect Rob Kaminsky, a source tells MLB.com's Jordan Bastian. The clubs have not confirmed the deal.

Moss, an All-Star in 2014, is batting .217 with a .288 on-base percentage and 15 home runs in 94 games for the Indians this season. Last year, he batted .234 with a .334 on-base percentage and 25 home runs.

Moss has played for the Pirates and Phillies in addition to the A's, Indians and Red Sox, and he's played first base, designated hitter and in both outfield corners over the life of his career. This season, Moss has played 79 games in right field, 10 games at first base and five games as Cleveland's DH.

Kaminsky, the Cardinals' No. 3 prospect according to MLB Pipeline.com, was the 28th overall pick in the 2013 MLB Draft. He has a 14-10 record and a 2.15 ERA in 43 games in the Minor Leagues. He was 8-2 with a 1.88 ERA for Class A Peoria in the Midwest League last year, and now he's 6-5 with a 2.09 ERA for Class A Palm Beach in the Florida State League.

Indians' offense breaks out in big way

By Jordan Bastian / MLB.com | @MLBastian | July 29th, 2015 + 6 COMMENTS

CLEVELAND -- Michael Brantley took a moment to admire his shot. The Indians left fielder held his bat firmly in his right hand, watched the baseball disappear into the right-field stands and slowly walked out of the batter's box. This blast served as a bit of payback.

Cleveland had already been punched in the gut plenty over the past several days. In Wednesday's 12-1 win over the Royals, the Tribe's hitters were also hit in the back a few times by Kansas City starter Jeremy Guthrie. Indians manager Terry Francona responded with an on-field argument that led to an ejection. The lineup answered with a season-high four homers in a much-needed skid-stopping victory.

"We feel like we answered in a big way," Indians outfielder Michael Bourn said. "That's how you answer. You make them pay for it."

Brantley's blast provided the punctuation for a six-run outburst in the sixth inning against Guthrie, who also gave up a solo home run to rookie third baseman Giovanni Urshela and a three-run shot to rookie shortstop Francisco Lindor in the same frame. For good measure, Yan Gomes -- one of Guthrie's three hit batsmen on the afternoon -- launched a towering solo blast to left field in the Tribe's four-run eighth.

The 12-run outpouring came after Cleveland (46-54) scored 10 runs total in its previous six games, which were all defeats. Each member of the Indians' starting lineup registered at least one hit and one run, helping the team snap its eight-game losing streak at home (longest in Progressive Field history). Bourn tied a career best with four hits, Jason Kipnis had three hits and Lindor drove in four runs.

Meanwhile, ace Corey Kluber used the wealth of support to cruise to a complete-game win.

This kind of victory went a long way for the struggling Tribe.

"I think we needed it on a number of fronts," Francona said. "We needed that. That'll help us."

Not that the Indians needed motivation to pull themselves out of the recent funk, but Guthrie fueled an already frustrated team by hitting three batters.

Gomes was hit in the first inning with the bases loaded to force in a run and Kipnis wore a pitch in the second inning, too. After Kipnis was hit in the backside, the second baseman had some words for the pitcher and angrily flipped his gear away before taking his base. At that point, home-plate umpire Tom Woodring issued warnings to both teams, but Guthrie's control wavered again in the fifth, when he hit Brantley.

When Guthrie was not ejected, Francona took the field and was promptly tossed by Woodring.

"Tito going out there and sticking up for us," Lindor said, "that shows he has our back, so we want to have his back, and we worked hard to try to make things happen."

Scoring 10 runs in the final three innings worked.

"We needed a day like today," Francona said. "We've got a long flight [to the West Coast] today. It'll be a heck of a lot better flight coming off a game like this. Now, we need to carry it over into tomorrow."

Carrasco, Indians hit road to take on A's

By August Fagerstrom / MLB.com | July 29th, 2015 + 1 COMMENT

The Athletics return home to Oakland after a brief five-game road trip, when they take on the Indians to begin a four-game series and an 11-game homestand. Right-hander Carlos Carrasco (10-8, 4.26 ERA) will start the opener for Cleveland, facing off against A's righty Chris Bassitt (0-3, 2.94 ERA).

Bassitt has made four starts this season after beginning the year in the bullpen, and has thrown more than five innings in all four, while allowing two earned runs or fewer in each outing. He worked a season-high 6 1/3 innings against the Indians on July 11, allowing two earned runs while striking out three and walking one.

Carrasco struggled his last time out, allowing six earned runs on seven hits in just four innings. The 28-year-old said after the game he believed he was tipping his pitches, that he would review video and adjust his delivery accordingly.

Three things to know about this game

- The Indians have fared far better on the road this season, posting a 26-22 when playing away from Progressive Field. They are just 2-15 in series openers, though.
- Most Athletics batters haven't seen much of Carrasco, but former division rival Billy Butler has, and he's gotten the best of him. Butler is 8-for-22 lifetime against Carrasco, with two home runs.
- The A's have the fifth-worst bullpen ERA in the Majors this season, at 4.13. The Indians have the seventh best, at 3.21.

Francona ejected after Brantley hit-by-pitch

By Jordan Bastian / MLB.com | July 29th, 2015 + 10 COMMENTS

CLEVELAND -- After watching Royals starter Jeremy Guthrie hit his third batter of the afternoon on Wednesday, Indians manager Terry Francona had seen enough.

In the fifth inning of Cleveland's 12-1 win over Kansas City, Francona emerged from the home dugout and got into a heated exchange with home-plate umpire Tom Woodring, resulting in the manager's third ejection of the season. The argument came immediately after Indians outfielder Michael Brantley was hit by a pitch from Guthrie, who received a warning from Woodring earlier in the game.

According to Francona, Woodring said Guthrie did not hit Brantley intentionally.

"I'm not sure how you can do that," Francona said.

Guthrie hit Cleveland catcher Yan Gomes with a pitch with the bases loaded in the first inning and later hit Indians second baseman Jason Kipnis with a pitch in the second. Kipnis exchanged words with Guthrie briefly before flipping his gear away and taking his base. Woodring's warning to both clubs came after that hit-by-pitch of Kipnis.

Francona said he felt Guthrie should have been ejected after hitting Brantley.

"That's pretty obvious, isn't it?" Francona said. "I just thought that the umpire, when he puts [the warning] out there, then for him to tell me, 'No, [it wasn't intentional].' He stated it as fact. I didn't think that was appropriate. And then, I think they protect the younger umpires. If he's old enough to throw me out, he's old enough to listen to what I have to say."

The three hit batsmen came after the Indians hit one batter in each of the previous two games against the Royals. Tribe righty Cody Anderson received a warning on Monday night after hitting Jarrod Dyson, following a home run to Omar Infante. On Tuesday night, Indians right-hander Trevor Bauer hit Kendrys Morales with a pitch as well.

Indians call up Holt from Triple-A Columbus

By August Fagerstrom / MLB.com | July 29th, 2015 + 5 COMMENTS

CLEVELAND -- The Indians recalled outfielder Tyler Holt from Triple-A Columbus prior to Wednesday's 12-1 win against the Royals.

Holt, who batted ninth and went 1-for-5 with a single and a run scored in his season debut, replaced David Murphy on the 25-man roster, after the veteran left fielder was traded to the Los Angeles Angels prior to Tuesday's 2-1 loss to the Royals.

The 26-year-old right-hander made his Major League debut with the club last season and appeared in 36 games, batting .268/.307/.296 with two home runs in 76 plate appearances. He logged time at all three outfield positions. Holt owns a .286/.369/.348 line through 320 plate appearances in Triple-A this year.

"He brings a ton of energy, and he's done a real good job at Triple-A," Indians manager Terry Francona said.

Francona noted that the roster could still change with Friday's Trade Deadline looming.

"Once we get through that, whether something happens or doesn't, then we can kind of know exactly who's here," Francona said. "Nothing may happen, but something could, and today was just a fact where we wanted to let Michael Brantley DH because it's a noon game and Holt will play a good left field with some energy. We'll see where it fits in."

With Holt, a natural center fielder, on the roster and Murphy, a natural left fielder, off of it, the move could indicate a Holt/Michael Bourn platoon in center field with Brantley spending more time in his typical home in left. Bourn has been sitting against most lefties this season with Brantley sliding over to center.

"That's a possibility," Francona said. "That's one of the things. I know Brantley likes going over [to center], which was probably my concern early, was disrupting him, but I think he enjoys it. But one of the things you really want to do when things aren't going your way as much as you want them to as an organization, we really need to find out things. It's not at the expense of winning, but it's answering questions about players, and if you're going to have a tough time, you want to get something out of it."

Worth noting

- Nick Swisher was with the club in Cleveland on Wednesday as he works his way back from left knee inflammation. He'll join Class A Lake County on Thursday and progress to Triple-A over the weekend. The end of his rehab assignment will coincide with the team returning to Cleveland to face the Twins on Aug. 7.
- Outfielder Ryan Raburn has been dealing with gastritis over the last couple weeks. He was pulled from Sunday's game after not feeling well and was unavailable Monday. The right-hander received an endoscopy and is reportedly feeling much better.
- The Indians announced following the conclusion of Wednesday's win that they had acquired left-handed pitcher Jayson Aquino from the Pirates for cash considerations.

Bauer's curveball betrays him against Hosmer

By August Fagerstrom / MLB.com | July 29th, 2015 + 2 COMMENTS

CLEVELAND -- Three times.

Three times Trevor Bauer had gone to his curveball in a 3-2 count this season. The hook had been working for the righty in Tuesday's 2-1 loss to Kansas City. He'd thrown it a season-high 28 times. It had gotten him five of his six strikeouts. It had only been put in play twice, both going for outs.

The idea made sense. A red-hot Eric Hosmer was at the plate. The bases were empty with two outs. Bauer wanted to put a curveball in the dirt. If he executes the pitch and Hosmer swings, Bauer's got his seventh strikeout of the night and the Indians head into the bottom of the inning with the score still tied. Even if he executes and Hosmer lays off, Bauer wouldn't have minded the walk.

Bauer made a good pitch, but it wasn't in the dirt. It caught the very bottom of the strike zone, and Hosmer swung, but he didn't miss.

The 78-mph offering left the bat at 108 and exited the playing field in a hurry. A shell-shocked Bauer stood on the mound, staring toward the right-field seats where the ball landed in disbelief.

"I think the last time I gave up a home run on a curveball was last year," Bauer said.

Bauer remembers correctly. He's given up just two home runs on a curveball in his career, both coming in 2014. The pitch that had carried him into the ninth inning betrayed him at the worst possible moment.

"I had thrown quite a few good ones," Bauer said. "I think I hung one early in the game, but I threw it for a strike when I wanted to and bounced them when I wanted to. So it was a pitch I had confidence in at that point."

The homer spoiled an otherwise excellent outing from Bauer, coming off the heels of a pair of starts in which he struggled. Bauer threw the first complete game of his career, allowing two earned runs on five hits and a walk, striking out six.

"That was one of the better games we've seen from him," Indians manager Terry Francona said. "Talk about a change of emotion in one pitch."

The pitch prior to Hosmer's blast, Indians catcher Roberto Perez had gunned down speedster Lorenzo Cain at second base for the second out of the inning. Bauer was one out, one pitch away from handing it over to his offense with a tie score in the bottom of the ninth. But Hosmer hit the curve.

"That's freaking baseball, man," Bauer said.

Indians avoid winless homestand, beat Royals 12-1

CLEVELAND (AP) -- The Cleveland Indians found the perfect way to avoid a winless homestand.

Corey Kluber took a shutout into the ninth, and rookie Francisco Lindor hit a three-run homer and had a career-high four RBIs in a 12-1 win over the Kansas City Royals on Wednesday.

"We needed a day like today," said manager Terry Francona, who was ejected in the fifth inning. "That'll help us. Now we need to carry it over."

Michael Brantley, Yan Gomes and rookie Giovanny Urshela hit solo homers for the Indians, who had been outscored 37-10 in losing the first six games of the homestand. Michael Bourn was 4 for 5 as Cleveland had a season-high 18 hits.

Four losses to the Chicago White Sox and two more to the Royals dropped the Indians to last place in the AL Central.

"It was very important for us to get our confidence back," Lindor said. "We'll take the things we did the right way and try to do it again tomorrow."

Kluber (6-11) held Kansas City to five hits in his second career complete game. The reigning Cy Young Award winner retired the first 12 batters before Eric Hosmer's leadoff double in the fifth. Alex Rios' RBI groundout in the ninth scored the Royals' only run.

Kluber, who struck out six and walked one, had been 0-3 against Kansas City this season.

"I guess they've had success against me earlier in the year being really aggressive," Kluber said. "They have the best record in the league. They've been hot for a while."

Kansas City starter Jeremy Guthrie allowed three home runs - all in the sixth inning - and hit three batters, including Brantley in the fifth. Brantley got even with his home run, which he admired from the batter's box before slowly trotting around the bases.

Francona was ejected by plate umpire Tom Woodring after Brantley was hit in the leg. Francona was upset that Guthrie wasn't ejected because Woodring had warned both benches after the Royals pitcher hit Jason Kipnis in the back in the second inning.

Kipnis exchanged words with catcher Drew Butera as he walked to first base. Guthrie also hit Gomes with the bases loaded in the first.

The issues between the teams began Monday when Indians pitcher Cody Anderson hit Jarrod Dyson, prompting a warning to both dugouts.

The Royals, who had won 16 of 21, still had a good stay in Cleveland, acquiring ace pitcher Johnny Cueto and Ben Zobrist.

"You're going to have some highs and lows along the way, but the reality is we've got the second-best record in baseball (behind St. Louis) at this point," manager Ned Yost said.

The Indians' first-inning run gave them their first lead of the homestand. Cleveland hadn't led since July 22 against Milwaukee, a stretch of 54 innings.

GETTING THE BOOT

Francona's discussion with Woodring didn't last very long before the manager was ejected for the third time this season.

"I didn't think that was appropriate. I think they protect the younger umpires. If he's old enough to throw me out, he's old enough to listen to what I say," Francona said.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Indians: OF Nick Swisher (sore left knee) will continue his minor league rehab assignment during the team's six-game road trip. He's been on the 15-day disabled list since June 14.

UP NEXT

Royals: LHP Danny Duffy, who is 2-1 with a 2.15 ERA in six starts since returning from a biceps injury, takes the mound Thursday to open a four-game series in Toronto.

Indians: RHP Carlos Carrasco pitches the first game of a four-game set Thursday at Oakland. He allowed a season-high six runs in a 10-3 loss to the White Sox on July 25.

Indians 12, Royals 1: Indians snap six-game losing streak with rout of Royals

By Ryan Lewis

CLEVELAND: The Indians could have benefited from spreading their production around a bit over the past week, but nonetheless enjoyed a 12-1 rout of the Kansas City Royals Wednesday afternoon that snapped a six-game losing streak.

The Indians (46-54) took an early lead and then poured it on late, hitting a season-high four home runs, as Corey Kluber cruised with a five-hitter.

It was one of the more complete games the Indians have played this season, and it came after six straight home losses within the division and a lengthy team meeting on Sunday.

"I think we needed it on a number of fronts," Indians manager Terry Francona said. "We needed that. That'll help us."

With the bases loaded in the first inning, Yan Gomes was hit by a pitch, giving the Indians a 1-0 lead against Royals starting pitcher Jeremy Guthrie (7-7). They loaded the bases again in the second inning and took a 2-0 lead with a Francisco Lindor sacrifice fly.

In the fifth, Guthrie hit Michael Brantley, the third time he had hit an Indians batter. Both benches had been warned after his second hit-batsman (Jason Kipnis, second inning), but home plate umpire Tom Woodring allowed Guthrie to stay in the game. Francona argued that Guthrie should have been thrown out and was ejected from the game.

But that didn't slow down the Indians' attack.

In the sixth, Giovanni Urshela ripped a solo home run to left field. After two singles, Kipnis drove in a run with a single to left field and Lindor followed with a three-run home run down the right-field line, making it 7-0.

A few pitches later, Brantley blasted a home run of his own, also to the seats in right field, to end Guthrie's day.

"Tito going out there and sticking up for us, that shows he has our back, so we want to have his back, and we worked hard to try to make things happen," Lindor said.

In the eighth, facing Royals relief pitcher Luke Hochevar, a single by Brantley and double by Carlos Santana set up a two-run single by Brandon Moss, as the Indians reached double digits with a 10-0 lead. Gomes then golfed a home run to the bleacher seats in left field to cap the Indians' scoring.

Kluber (6-11) was about as strong as he's been this year, allowing one run on five hits while striking out six. The Royals (61-39) couldn't get a run across until the ninth, when they were down 12-0.

"I thought he set the tone early, where he didn't give them anything," Francona said of Kluber. "He had something for everything. There were a lot of the groundouts to first, the rollovers to second. He kept the ball on the ground. He was just really in control."

Akron Beacon Journal LOADED: 07.30.2015

Indians notebook: Recent losing streak shifts Indians' focus at trade deadline

By Ryan Lewis

CLEVELAND: A six-game losing streak over the course of a 162-game season isn't likely to completely alter a team's plans at the trade deadline. But in the Indians' case, it might have erased a few options as Friday's nonwaiver trade deadline approaches.

Indians General Manager Chris Antonetti said last week that the team was targeting players who would be more than just a two-month rental. Still, the team was taking and making phone calls.

The recent six-game skid at home might have closed some doors for the Indians in terms of players they might have been looking to acquire who, perhaps, weren't under control past 2015 or 2016.

"A week ago at this point, we were looking at all options and actively pursuing ways to add players to our major-league team that were short-term fits," Antonetti said Tuesday night. "I think our focus is a little bit more longer-term, though we're still discussing players coming back to our major-league team, but only players whose control extends beyond this year. So, it's shifted our focus a little bit."

The Indians traded outfielder David Murphy to the Los Angeles Angels Tuesday for Double-A shortstop Eric Stamets. Murphy had played well this season in a platoon role, hitting .296 with five home runs and 27 RBI. But he had a \$7 club option for next season and the current roster construction wasn't ideal for a sixth outfielder, especially one who is left-handed.

"I don't think we anticipated being in this spot, where we would be trading a veteran like Murphy, who is not only a contributing player on the field, but a great guy in the clubhouse and has been a big part of our team the last few years," Antonetti said. "This is the situation we're in now and there was an opportunity for us to get back a player we liked and also, as important, may provide an opportunity for a younger player to come up and get some at-bats."

Murphy likely would have become a free agent after this season, and the recent losing streak made the Indians' situation in the American League Central and wild-card races clearer.

Stamets, originally from Dublin, Ohio, is hitting .248 this season at Double-A. He's mostly known for his defense, which is above average, to go along with some speed. He was ranked as the No. 22 prospect in the Angels' system, per MLB.com.

"[Stamets is] a guy we've liked for a while, dating back to his days in the draft from the University of Evansville," Antonetti said. "He's a defensive-oriented shortstop. He's a really good defender at short and is developing with the bat. He's a guy that will add depth to our upper-level infielders in our system and a guy we're excited to have."

Transaction

The Indians on Wednesday acquired left-handed pitcher Jayson Aquino from the Pittsburgh Pirates for cash considerations, filling the 40-man roster.

Aquino, 22, has been well-traveled this season, as he's pitched for the Toronto Blue Jays and the Pirates, who acquired him from the Blue Jays in May. The Blue Jays obtained Aquino from the Colorado Rockies in February. He's made 18 starts in Single-A, going 4-8 with a 3.54 ERA and 66 strikeouts in 104 $\frac{1}{3}$ innings pitched.

Aquino has been optioned to Class-A Lynchburg.

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Corey Kluber, four homers power Cleveland Indians to rout of Kansas City Royals: DMan's Report, Game 100

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Right-hander Corey Kluber pitched a complete game and the Cleveland Indians amassed a season-high 18 hits in a 12-1 victory over the Kansas City Royals on Wednesday afternoon at Progressive Field. Giovanni Urshela, Francisco Lindor, Michael Brantley and Yan Gomes homered to account for seven runs.

Tribe second baseman Jason Kipnis went 3-for-5 -- his third straight three-hit performance and 15th this season. He owns 38 multi-hit games.

Here is a capsule look at Game 100 after a DVR review of the Fox SportsTime Ohio telecast:

Off the deck: The Indians (46-54) accomplished much, including:

*Snapped six-game losing streak, all at home.

*Avoided a winless homestand (1-6 vs. White Sox and Royals).

*Snapped eight-game home losing streak, which dated to July 11 against Oakland.

*Defeated the team with American League's best record (Royals now 61-39).

*Snapped Kansas City's winning streak at four.

*Scored two more runs than in previous six games combined.

*Won a game in which Kluber started (now 7-15).

Offensive fireworks: The Tribe nine went 18-for-41 with seven extra-base hits, two walks and three hit-by-pitches. Each starter notched at least one hit and scored at least one run. There were no substitutions.

The Indians pounded right-hander Jeremy Guthrie (5 $\frac{1}{3}$ IP, 10 H, 8 R, 7 ER). After lefty reliever Franklin Morales was effective (1 $\frac{2}{3}$ IP, 2 H), the Indians pounded righty Luke Hochevar (IP, 6 H, 4 R, 4 ER).

The Tribe amassed six straight hits twice:

*Sixth inning -- Urshela homer, Michael Bourn single, Tyler Holt single, Kipnis RBI single, Lindor three-run homer, Brantley homer.

*Eighth inning -- Brantley single, Carlos Santana double, Brandon Moss two-run single, Gomes two-run homer, Urshela single, Bourn single.

Bourn finished 4-for-5 with two runs. In the Tribe's 2-1 loss Tuesday night, he was 2-for-3 with a walk, run and three steals.

Kluber delivers: Kluber allowed five hits, walked one and struck out six. He threw 77 of 112 pitches for strikes.

Kansas City's walk and run came in the ninth.

Kluber (6-11, 3.44 ERA) defeated an AL Central opponent for the first time this season (1-6).

Here is a pitch-by-pitch breakdown of Kluber's start:

First inning

(R) Alcides Escobar -- 87 cutter inside; 92 fastball foul; 88 cutter foul; 94 fastball, grounder to pitcher.

Skinny: Kluber declined to give Escobar what he likes -- a first-pitch fastball. Decisive pitch was letter-high.

(L) Mike Moustakas -- 86 changeup outside (barely); 90 cutter, grounder to second.

Skinny: Jason Kipnis, as part of shift, fielded in short right.

(L) Kendrys Morales -- 93 fastball outside; 87 changeup down and away; 94 fastball called strike; 90 cutter, grounder to first.

Skinny: Carlos Santana fielded behind bag at line.

(10 pitches)

Second inning

(L) Eric Hosmer -- 91 fastball high; 85 changeup called strike (outside corner); 88 cutter supposedly high; 88 cutter, grounder to first.

Skinny: Third pitch was a strike -- inside corner at belt -- but umpire xxxx Woodring missed it.

(R) Alex Rios -- 88 cutter outside; 92 fastball swinging strike; 92 fastball called strike; 84 curve supposedly low; 88 cutter foul; 93 fastball foul; 84 curve, called strikeout.

Skinny: Rios could have been erased with 1-2 curve but Woodring squeezed Kluber.

(R) Omar Infante -- 93 fastball called strike; 91 fastball foul; 88 cutter, swinging strikeout.

Skinny: Nasty cutter on outside corner.

(14 pitches)

Third inning

(R) Paulo Orlando -- 91 fastball called strike; 92 fastball, grounder to short.

Skinny: Francisco ranged over the middle to make a quality play.

(R) Drew Butera -- 88 cutter swinging strike; 91 fastball, fly to right.

(R) Jarrod Dyson -- 89 cutter, grounder to first.

(5 pitches)

Fourth inning

(R) Alcides Escobar -- 81 curve inside; 92 fastball called strike; 87 cutter foul; 83 curve low; 89 cutter foul (emergency hack); 95 fastball foul; 94 fastball, grounder to short.

Skinny: Lindor made a backhanded pick of the short hop of a line drive.

(L) Mike Moustakas -- 81 curve high and away; 86 changeup outside; 92 fastball foul; 88 cutter called strike; 84 curve, swinging strikeout.

Skinny: Nasty curve in dirt.

(L) Kendrys Morales -- 82 curve outside; 88 cutter called strike; 82 curve, grounder to second.

Skinny: Kipnis, as part of the shift, fielded in short right.

(15 pitches)

Fifth inning

(L) Eric Hosmer -- 85 changeup called strike; 93 fastball, double to left.

Skinny: No matter where the Indians pitch Hosmer, he finds a way to do damage. Hosmer stayed on a pitch away and zipped it into the corner.

(R) Alex Rios -- 93 fastball supposedly high; 86 breaking pitch, fly to center.

Skinny: Good pitch on outside corner.

(R) Omar Infante -- 88 cutter swinging strike (outside); 88 cutter, bunt single to pitcher.

Skinny: Infante surprised Indians with bunt to third-base side of mound, where Kluber gloved in front of charging third baseman Giovanny Urshela. Hosmer to third.

(R) Paulo Orlando -- 92 fastball called strike (showed bunt); 89 cutter foul; 94 fastball foul; 83 curve low; 89 cutter foul; 85 curve, swinging strikeout (in dirt).

(L) Drew Butera -- 88 cutter low; 93 fastball foul; 93 fastball swinging strike; 95 fastball, grounder to second.

Skinny: Credit Kluber and catcher Yan Gomes for not trying to get cute against the backup catcher: They challenged Butera to hit the fastball.

(16 pitches)

Sixth inning

(L) Jarrod Dyson -- 88 cutter called strike; 85 changeup outside; 93 fastball, grounder to pitcher.

(R) Alcides Escobar -- 87 cutter, fly to center.

Skinny: Escobar missed a pitch over the plate.

(L) Mike Moustakas -- 84 changeup outside; 88 cutter outside; 92 fastball called strike; 89 cutter foul; 83 curve, single to left.

Skinny: Moose stayed on backdoor pitch and slapped it to left.

(L) Kendrys Morales -- 87 cutter outside; 92 fastball called strike; 85 changeup foul (down and away); 93 fastball high; 85 curve, swinging strikeout.

Skinny: Kluber targeted the back foot -- excellent choice after the previous two pitches.

(14 pitches)

Seventh inning

(L) Eric Hosmer -- 91 fastball, grounder to third.

Skinny: Urshela made slick backhanded pick.

(R) Alex Rios -- 91 fastball outside; 88 cutter outside; 92 fastball foul; 88 cutter outside; 93 fastball foul; 93 fastball, fly to right.

(R) Omar Infante -- 92 fastball, single to center.

(R) Paulo Orlando -- 87 high and inside; 93 fastball, foul pop to first.

(10 pitches)

Eighth inning

(R) Drew Butera -- 91 fastball foul; 91 fastball, grounder to second.

Cleveland Indians erupt at the plate, Corey Kluber cruises, as Tribe finally wins one at home, 12-1

Zack Meisel,

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Francisco Lindor lifted his right arm in the air, watched the baseball sneak past the foul pole and pumped his fist.

Finally, the Indians showed a pulse. Finally, they enjoyed the experience of crossing home plate a few times. Finally, they won a game in front of their home crowd.

The Indians grabbed their first lead in a week, held a home run derby competition and cruised to their first -- and only -- win on their seven-game homestand, with a 12-1 triumph against the Royals. Cleveland snapped an eight-game Progressive Field skid.

The Indians totaled 10 runs in the first six games of their week-long stay near Lake Erie. They matched that mark with their output in just the sixth and the eighth innings on Wednesday.

Lindor's three-run shot was one of three Tribe home runs served up by Guthrie (7-7) in a six-run sixth. In all, the Indians slugged a season-high four home runs.

Brantley followed Lindor's blast with a solo homer to right that measured 389 feet. It marked the second time the Indians have socked back-to-back long balls this season. Nick Swisher and Mike Aviles clubbed consecutive homers in Chicago on May 21.

Corey Kluber didn't require much run support, anyway. Typically, he doesn't receive it. The Indians have provided him with three runs or fewer in 18 of his 22 starts. Ten runs were plenty on Wednesday.

Kluber (6-11) retired the first 12 batters he encountered. He allowed only an RBI groundout in the ninth, as he recorded his fifth career complete game and second of the season. He struck out six and limited Kansas City to six hits and one walk.

What it means

The Indians (46-54) remain in the American League Central cellar. They are 31-8 when they score first, but they have done so in only 39 percent of their games.

The Indians amassed a double-digit run total for the first time since May 27. They established a new season high with 18 hits.

No bullpen needed

Kluber's complete game came less than 24 hours after Trevor Bauer logged all nine frames for the Tribe in a 2-1 loss. The last time Indians pitchers notched back-to-back complete games was April 15-16, 2010, when David Huff and Mitch Talbot turned the trick.

Sizzling sixth

Yan Gomes started and ended the sixth with a strikeout. In between, Giovanni Urshela homered, Michael Bourn, Tyler Holt and Jason Kipnis singled and then Lindor and Brantley homered. Brantley's blast finally chased Guthrie, who surrendered eight runs (seven earned) on 10 hits over 5 1/3 innings.

Scorching eighth

The conga line returned in the eighth, as the Indians rattled off six straight hits for the second time. Gomes provided the muscle with a two-run blast to left, which followed Brandon Moss' two-run bloop single to center.

Game of threes

Kipnis logged his third consecutive game with three hits. He went 9-for-13 in the series with the Royals.

Bourn again

Bourn tallied four hits, which matched a career high. He last registered four base knocks in one game on Sept. 9, 2011, when he was a member of the Atlanta Braves.

Thanks for coming

Home-plate umpire Tom Woodring ejected Tribe manager Terry Francona in the bottom of the fifth inning after Guthrie plunked Brantley in the back of the leg. Woodring warned both sides in the second inning after Guthrie struck Jason Kipnis in the backside with a fastball. Despite the warning, Guthrie was not tossed for hitting Brantley with a pitch. He plunked three Tribe batters in all, as he also struck Gomes in the first inning.

It marked Francona's third ejection of the season and the 39th of his managerial career.

Locked and loaded

Gomes drove in a run when he was plunked with a pitch with the bases loaded in the first inning. Lindor tacked on a sacrifice fly with the bags packed in the second. The Indians, though, failed to notch a hit in two at-bats with the bases loaded, which dropped their team slash line in such situations to .130/.232/.156. That includes a .040 batting average (3-for-43) with the bases loaded and two outs.

They came, they saw

An announced crowd of 19,767 watched the affair in the 88-degree heat.

What's next

The Indians will venture to the West Coast for four games against the Athletics and three against the Angels. Carlos Carrasco (10-8, 4.26 ERA) will take the hill for the Tribe in Thursday's series opener in Oakland. He'll oppose right-hander Chris Bassitt (0-3, 2.94 ERA). The Indians lost two of three to Oakland at Progressive Field immediately prior to the All-Star break. They have yet to face the Angels, though they completed a trade with Los Angeles this week that returned outfielder David Murphy to the AL West.

Cleveland Plain Dealer LOADED: 07.30.2015

Cleveland Indians reportedly close to sending Brandon Moss to St. Louis for pitching prospect

Paul Hoynes,

SAN FRANCISCO -- Last year the Indians and Cardinals made a deadline trade with Justin Masterson going to St. Louis and center fielder James Ramsey coming to Cleveland.

Could the two teams be trying to make a deal for the second straight year?

Chris Cotillo of SB Nation reported late Wednesday night that the Indians and Cardinals are talking about another trade. The Cardinals are looking for offense in the wake of outfielder Matt Holliday reinjuring his right quadriceps muscle Wednesday. Earlier in the year they lost first baseman Matt Adams for the season to another quad injury.

Cotillo reported that right fielder/first baseman Brandon Moss, first baseman Carlos Santana and right-hander Carlos Carrasco have been the subject of trade rumors. He said a source said the Indians are interested in left-hander Rob Kaminsky, the Cardinals No.1 pick in 2013.

The Indians could not be reached for comment.

Unknown what Cardinals are interested in, though Moss is an option. Controllable SPs will interest everyone, as well.

— Chris Cotillo (@ChrisCotillo) July 30, 2015

Kaminsky, drafted out of St. Joseph Regional High School in New Jersey, is 6-5 with a 2.09 ERA in 17 starts at Palm Beach, the Cardinals' high Class A team. He has 79 strikeouts and 27 walks in 94 2/3 innings.

Ramsey, by the way, was the Cardinals' No.1 pick in 2012. He's currently playing at Class AAA Columbus, but could be in for a promotion of Moss is indeed traded to the Cardinals.

On Tuesday night, the Indians traded outfielder David Murphy to the Angels for a Class AA shortstop Eric Stamets.

Moss and Santana have had terrible offensive seasons. Carrasco leads the Indians with 10 wins.

Cleveland Plain Dealer LOADED: 07.30.2015

Terry Francona exits stage right and the Cleveland Indians' offense enters stage left

By Zack Meisel,

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Manager Terry Francona didn't get to stick around to see it all, but the Indians' offense exploded for 12 runs on Wednesday.

Francona was tossed after arguing that Royals starter Jeremy Guthrie should have been ejected for hitting Michael Brantley with a pitch. Both sides had already been warned.

Here is what Francona, outfielder Michael Bourn, shortstop Francisco Lindor and pitcher Corey Kluber had to say after the game.

Francona, on home-plate umpire Tom Woodring ejecting him and opting not to do the same to Guthrie, despite warning both sides a few innings earlier:

"I just thought that the umpire, when he puts that out there, then for him to tell me, 'No.' He stated it as fact. I didn't think that was appropriate. And then, I think they protect the younger umpires. If he's old enough to throw me out, he's old enough to listen to what I have to say."

Bourn, on responding offensively once Francona was ejected, after Guthrie was permitted to stay in the game:

"That's the umpires [discretion]; that's not for us to do. We feel like we answered in a big way. That's how you answer. You make them pay for it, so we did that and we had a good game offensively today, especially with Kluber on the mound."

Francona, on Tyler Holt, who joined the club on Wednesday:

"He kind of plays with his pants on fire, and I mean that in a good way. And as he understands that you can't just run blind -- because his first couple times up, there were a few times he did that. That energy will be very welcome."

Kluber, who tossed a complete game, on having some rare run support:

"It was nice to get that cushion there. Up to that point, it was a close game. I'm trying to keep the lead and then when you get that cushion, you can go out there and attack."

Kluber, on the game plan against the Royals, against whom the right-hander was 0-3 with a 5.85 ERA prior to Wednesday's affair:

"They have the best record in the league, so obviously they've been playing well for a while. It's not just now that they're hot. They're a good team. They had a little bit of success early on in the year, being really aggressive, so Yan and I talked about it before the game, trying to mix speeds early and keep them off-balance a little more."

Lindor, on his three-run homer:

"I was trying to hit a pop up, got a hold of all of it and it went out."

Lindor, on having five home runs in 155 big league at-bats (he had two homers in 228 at-bats at Triple-A this season):

"I'm not going to be a power hitter. I don't want anyone to think I'm going to be a power hitter, because I'm not. I'm going to hit balls down in the gap and eventually I'm going to run into a couple. But I'm not a power hitter."

Cleveland Plain Dealer LOADED: 07.30.2015

Vintage Michael Bourn has finally surfaced in Cleveland, but will he vanish again? Cleveland Indians notes

Print Email Zack Meisel, Northeast Ohio Media Group By Zack Meisel, Northeast Ohio Media Group

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Vintage Michael Bourn, the version that could fly around the bases -- and reach base often enough to make that speed count -- resurfaced at Progressive Field this week.

Bourn tallied two hits and three stolen bases in Tuesday's loss to Kansas City, as the Indians capitalized on the lengthy delivery of Royals starter Chris Young. Cleveland swiped six bags in all. On Wednesday, Bourn notched four more hits. Since the All-Star break, he is batting .400 (12-for-30).

"This game is about adjustments," Bourn said. "You have to believe in yourself. That's about all it is."

The stretch has boosted his overall slash line to .242/.310/.290. He has stolen 10 bases in 14 attempts. Last year, he stole 10 bases all season.

"I still feel the same," he said. "It's just about the opportunity presenting itself. I think I have a better idea of how to steal bases now than when I was 27. I just think when the opportunity presents itself, I'm ready to go. [On Tuesday], the opportunity presented itself and I was able to take advantage of it."

In the fifth inning on Tuesday, Bourn singled, stole second, stole third and forced an errant throw from catcher Salvador Perez, which allowed Bourn to score.

"Creating a run with his legs," said manager Terry Francona. "I was fired up when we saw that."

The Indians haven't seen much of that since the organization signed him to a four-year, \$48 million deal prior to the 2013 campaign. Bourn averaged 51 steals per season from 2008-12 and he logged a .338 on-base percentage. In about two and a half seasons with the Tribe, he has totaled 43 steals and has a .313 OBP.

"I still have my confidence, even when I'm down," Bourn said. "I just want to succeed, simple as that. I have to continue to grind my way back up and take one at-bat at a time. Don't let my confidence waver, never try to take my offense to my defense. I try not to do that but that's an easy thing to do in baseball."

Bourn has plummeted to new depths this season. He has lost playing time against left-handed hurlers.

"I felt like my first year over here I was OK, but I got nicked up and banged up," Bourn said. "Last year, I was hurt as well. This year it just hasn't been working. Until they tell us to stop I'm just going to keep going."

Familiar face: Outfielder Tyler Holt replaced David Murphy on the active roster. Holt started in left field on Wednesday, with Michael Bourn manning center.

"He brings a ton of energy," said manager Terry Francona. "He's done a really good job at Triple-A."

Holt played all three outfield spots with Columbus, where he batted .286 (79-for-276) with 11 doubles, 42 runs scored and 20 stolen bases in 76 games. On Wednesday, his first game with the Tribe since May 2, he tallied one hit in five at-bats.

Gut check: Ryan Raburn underwent an endoscopy earlier this week, which examined his digestive track. The procedure revealed that the outfielder has been battling gastritis over the last few weeks. Raburn has twice exited a game early in recent weeks because he wasn't feeling well. Francona said Raburn is feeling better and available to play.

Testing, testing: Nick Swisher (left knee inflammation) will join Class A Lake County on Thursday. After a weekend with the Captains, he'll transition to Triple-A Columbus. Swisher collected one hit in 15 at-bats with Double-A Akron this week.

"He was kind of joking that he hadn't been on base that much, but he's been moving around pretty well," Francona said. "I think if we expect him to turn into a speed demon, that's not going to happen. That wasn't a part of his game to begin with, but you want him to be able to make all the plays and things like that."

New face: The Indians acquired 22-year-old southpaw Jayson Aquino from the Pittsburgh Pirates in exchange for cash considerations. Aquino, who will report to Class A Lynchburg, has posted a 3.54 ERA in 18 starts split between the Class A affiliates of the Pirates and Blue Jays. He owns a 2.97 ERA in 93 minor-league outings.

All aboard: Jeff Manship has quietly compiled a 1.17 ERA in 15 1/3 innings. In that span, he has limited the opposition to six hits and he has struck out 12. He entered this season with a 6.46 ERA in 72 career big-league appearances.

"If we use him right, he's kind of like [Scott] Atchison," Francona said. "Atch filled a huge role for us last year. Just trying not to overuse those guys can be difficult."

Cleveland Indians trade Brandon Moss to Cardinals for lefty Rob Kaminsky

SAN FRANCISCO – The short and disappointing union between the Indians and Brandon Moss is over.

The Indians traded Moss to St. Louis on Thursday morning for left-hander Rob Kaminsky, the Cardinals' No.1 draft pick in 2013. In the last two years, just before the July 31st trade deadline, the Indians have acquired the Cardinals No.1 picks in 2012 and 2013.

Last year the Indians received center fielder James Ramsey for Justin Masterson. This year it's Kaminsky for Moss.

The Indians acquired Moss from Oakland at the winter meetings in December. He made a quick recovery from offseason surgery on his right hip and broke camp with the Tribe as one of its regulars. But his inconsistency at the plate proved to be one of the biggest factors in the Indians surrendering what remains of this season to retool for next year.

Moss led the Indians with 15 homers and was second with 48 RBI. But he had a slash line of .217/.288/.407 and led the team in strikeouts by a wide margin with 106. Michael Bourn is second with 70.

Here's what Moss did month-by-month: .238 (15-for-63) four homers, 14 RBI in April; .240 (24-for-100) four homers, 14 RBI in May, .211 (20-for-95) four homers, nine RBI in June and .177 (14-for-79) with three homers and 13 RBI July.

Moss is hitting .190 (8-for-42) since the All-Star break. He had the most at-bats of any Indians player with runners in scoring position, but was hitting only .185 (20-for-108).

On Tuesday night, the Indians sent outfielder David Murphy to the Angels for minor league shortstop Eric Stamets. Murphy and Moss are best friends, but unlike Moss, Murphy was one of the Indians most productive hitters.

Moss is making \$6.5 million and will be eligible for arbitration after the season. He has one year left before free agency.

The Indians recalled Tyler Holt on Wednesday to take Murphy's spot in the lineup. There's no word on who will replace Moss.

When the Indians acquired Moss for minor league second baseman Joey Wendle, they knew he was a streaky hitter, but they were not counting on a Mark Reynolds revisit. In fact, Reynolds and Moss are now teammates on the Cardinals.

The Cardinals, with the best record in the big leagues, need offense with left fielder Matt Holladay re-injuring his right quadriceps muscle and first baseman Matt Adams potentially done for the season with the same kind of injury.

Kaminsky is 6-5 with a 2.09 ERA in 17 starts at Palm Beach, the Cardinals' advanced Class A team. He's struck out 79 and walked 28 in 94 2/3 innings.

The Cardinals drafted Kaminsky, 20, out of St. Joseph Regional High School in New Jersey with the 28th pick in the first round. They paid him a signing bonus of \$1,785,300.

Baseball America, in January, rated him as the five best pick in the Cardinals seemingly endless farm system.

Indians 3, Clippers 1: Clippers drop back into tie for first place in IL West

By **Jim Massie** *The Columbus Dispatch* • Thursday July 30, 2015 12:11 AM

A heavy storm rolled through Huntington Park on Wednesday night that delayed the scheduled start of the Clippers game against the Indianapolis Indians for 1 hour, 25 minutes.

When play finally began, the Indians and starting pitcher Radhames Liz set about raining on the rest of the Columbus parade.

Liz shut down the Clippers on three hits over six shutout innings to help the Indians to a 3-1 victory and a share of first place in the International League West with Columbus.

"He was really good tonight," Clippers manager Chris Tremie said. "His (fastball) sat anywhere between 94 and 99. When you've got that kind of velocity and can locate the ball, too, it's going to be tough on hitters."

Tremie had watched from the dugout. James Ramsey struck out and grounded back to Liz in two at-bats.

"That was about as good as we've seen a guy all year," Ramsey said. "He was around the zone, making competitive pitches and working different planes. It was electric. He was pulling it and cutting it, too, at that velocity. That's unheard of."

The game included a scary start. Clippers center fielder Tyler Naquin crashed into the wall in the bottom of the second inning chasing a Keon Broxton triple. Naquin got his glove on the ball before the collision.

He lay motionless on the warning track, which brought Tremie and trainer Chad Wolfe running from the dugout. Naquin slowly rose after about 30 seconds. Naquin walked to the dugout with them without aid. Zach Walters entered in his place as the left fielder. Ramsey moved from left to

center.

"When we got out there, he was coherent," Tremie said. "He made a great effort going after it. Obviously, he took a hard hit. But he seemed OK."

Even so, Tremie took him out of the game.

"It was just a precautionary thing just because of how hard the hit was," he said.

Ramsey was the first Clippers player to reach Naquin.

"By the time I got there he was alert," Ramsey said. "You get jarred and it's like when you get hit hard in football. You want to take inventory before anything else starts happening."

When play resumed, Willy Garcia drove in Broxton with a grounder to give Liz (3-3) a 1-0 lead. Indy staged a two-out, two-run rally against Will Roberts (2-2) in the third. Gustavo Nunez walked and went to second on Jose Tabata's infield single.

Steve Lombardozzi followed with an RBI single to score Nunez. Broxton then lined a single to right to score Tabata and push the lead to 3-0.

The Clippers had one major chance when they loaded the bases with two outs in the sixth. Lonnie Chisenhall grounded out to end the threat. Overall, Columbus hitters were 1 for 9 with runners in scoring position and they stranded 10 base runners.

The Clippers still spoiled the shutout with two outs in the bottom of the ninth. Michael Martinez drew a walk from Blake Wood and took second on defensive indifference. Wood's wild pitch moved him to third and Jose Ramirez singled to make it 3-1.

The series concludes today. The Clippers will send Josh Tomlin (1-0) against Wilfredo Boscan (6-3).

Jeff Schudel: Cleveland Indians' July 29 awakening is welcomed long-term

*By **Jeff Schudel**, The News-Herald & The Morning Journal*

Poke the tiger one too many times and he's going to awaken from his snooze and devour the guy with the poker.

The Indians, humiliated by the Chicago White Sox and Kansas City Royals in the first six games of a bubble-bursting homestand, took out a week of frustration by slamming the Royals, 12-1, on a balmy afternoon on July 29 at Progressive Field.

"We need that on a number of fronts," Indians manager Terry Francona said.

Royals starting pitcher Jeremy Guthrie plunked three Indians batters. He forced in a run when he hit Yan Gomes with the bases loaded in the first inning — the 1-0 lead was the first time during the homestand the Indians led — and an inning later he hit Jason Kipnis with runners on first and third. That led to home plate umpire Tom Woodring warning both benches.

Guthrie hit Michael Brantley high in the right thigh with a pitch in the bottom of the fifth with the Indians leading 2-0 on the RBI by Gomes and a sacrifice fly by Francisco Lindor. A 2-0 lead against the team with the best record in the American League is not safe, even with Corey Kluber pitching for the Tribe.

Indians manager Terry Francona stormed out of the dugout, but instead of Woodring ejecting Guthrie, he ejected Francona for protesting about Guthrie not being ejected. Francona said Woodring told him Guthrie did not hit Brantley intentionally.

"He stated it as fact," Francona said. "I didn't think that was appropriate. I think they protect the younger umpires. If he's old enough to throw me out, he's old enough to listen to what I have to say."

The Indians took their cue from their manager and exploded for six runs in the sixth inning. They scored only five runs in four games against the White Sox while being swept.

Lindor hit a three-run homer in the sixth inning and Brantley, in his next at-bat after being hit, followed Lindor with a solo home run off Guthrie. Brantley admired it, showing up Guthrie, and then began a slow — very slow — trot while watching it sail over the wall in right.

Gomes, whose butt in the first inning stopped one of Guthrie's errant pitches, got his revenge with a solo home run in the eighth inning off Luke Hochevar.

The four home runs are a season high for the Indians. It was the first time they scored double digits in runs in more than two months — since beating the Texas Rangers, 12-3, on May 27. The 18 hits is a season high.

"We needed a day like today," Francona said. "We have a long flight today (to Oakland). It will be a heck of a lot better flight after a game like this. Now we have to carry it over to tomorrow — not past tomorrow; just tomorrow."

Sixty-two games remain in the regular season. The Indians, 46-54, are 6.5 games behind in the wild-card race. More importantly, they would have to plow through seven teams to get to the second wild-card spot.

What the Indians did doesn't erase the six-game losing streak they snapped or mean they are all of a sudden invincible at Progressive Field, where this season they are 20-32 — the second-worst home record in the American League. It doesn't mean they transformed into the 2015 version of Murderer's Row in one day. But after scoring three or fewer runs in five of six games, the Indians showed they have a pulse. It was hard to detect one before they hammered the Royals.

Cleveland Indians notes: Francisco Lindor notches best day in majors

By [Jeff Schudel](#), *The News-Herald & The Morning Journal*

Former Lake County Captains star shortstop Francisco Lindor had his biggest day as a major-league rookie on July 29 to help the Indians squash the Kansas City Royals, 12-1.

Lindor drove in four runs with a sacrifice fly and a three-run home run. His big rainbow stroke inside the right field foul pole on a 2-1 count in the sixth inning turned a 4-0 Tribe lead into a 7-0 advantage.

PHOTO GALLERY: Indians 12-1 win over the Royals

"The second at-bat I was trying to do whatever I could to get a run on the board," he said. "We had one already, but I hit a pop-up sac fly.

"The other time I was trying to do the same thing. We had a man on third base. I tried to hit a pop-up and got ahold of it and it went out."

Lindor spent more than two months in Columbus before being promoted to the Indians on June 14. He has five home runs.

"I don't want anyone thinking I'm going to be a power hitter because I'm not," Lindor said. "I'm going to hit balls in the gap and eventually I'm going to run into a couple. I'm not a power hitter."

Lindor has 19 RBI.

Bon voyage

With their disastrous homestand behind them, the Indians headed to California after wrapping up their series with Kansas City to begin a seven-day, seven-game trek through California.

A four-game series in Oakland begins at 10 p.m. July 30 with Carlos Carrasco (10-8, 4.26 ERA) facing the A's' Chris Bassett (0-3, 2.94).

After facing the A's, the Tribe begins a three-game series with the Los Angeles Angels on Aug. 3. They return to Progressive Field on Aug. 7 to start a three-game series with the Minnesota Twins.

Holt promoted

The Indians filled the roster vacancy created when David Murphy was traded to the Angels by promoting outfielder Tyler Holt from AAA Columbus.

Holt was 79-for-276 (.286) for the Clippers with 11 doubles, three triples, 24 RBI, 42 runs scored and 20 stolen bases in 76 games. He is hitting .304 (14-46) with eight runs and five RBI since July 10. Holt was on the disabled list at Columbus from June 2 to June 13 with a strained left hamstring.

Bummer for Bauer

Trevor Bauer pitched a complete game on July 28 in the 2-1 loss to the Royals. It was the first complete game loss at home for an Indians starter since Justin Masterson was the hard-luck loser in a 1-0 loss to the Chicago White Sox on Sept. 30, 2009.

The back-to-back complete games by Bauer and Corey Kluber were the first for a pair of Indians pitchers since David Huff (April 15 vs. the Texas Rangers) and Mitch Talbot (April 16 Chicago White Sox) in 2010.

Kipnis stays hot

Jason Kipnis began July 29 as the American League hits leader with 128 knocks, three better than Prince Fielder of the Texas Rangers. Kipnis added to that total with a leadoff single to left in the bottom of the first inning against the Royals. Kipnis finished with three hits in five at-bats.

Indians notes: Tribe acquires LHP Jayson Aquino in minor-league trade

Filed on July 29, 2015 by [Chris Assenheimer](#)

CLEVELAND — The Indians made a minor-league trade Wednesday, acquiring left-hander Jayson Aquino from the Pittsburgh Pirates for cash considerations.

Aquino, 22, has split the season between the Blue Jays and Pirates organizations, with Pittsburgh acquiring him in a trade May 9. He has spent the entire season at the Single-A level — going a combined 4-8 with a 3.54 ERA in 18 starts for Dunedin (Toronto) and Bradenton (Pittsburgh). Aquino, a native of the Dominican Republic, began his professional career with Colorado (2010-14), owning a career minor-league ERA of 2.97 in 93 games (92 starts) over six seasons.

He will begin his Indians career at Advanced Class A Lynchburg.

Come on up

With a roster spot to fill after the trade of outfielder David Murphy on Tuesday, the Indians recalled outfielder Tyler Holt from Triple-A Columbus. Holt started in left field and batted ninth in the series finale against Kansas City on Wednesday.

Holt, 26, has spent nearly the entire season with the Clippers, batting .286 with 24 RBIs and 20 stolen bases over 76 games. He had appeared in two games for Cleveland prior to Wednesday, going 0-for-3 with a walk and two strikeouts.

"He kind of plays with his pants on fire, and I mean that in a good way," manager Terry Francona said of Holt, who batted .268 with two RBIs in 36 games for the Indians last year. "As he understands that you can't just run blind ... that energy will be very welcome."

Heat check

It's taken nearly the entire season, but center fielder Michael Bourn is showing signs of life at the plate.

In nine games since the All-Star break, Bourn has batting .400 (12-for-30), with three doubles. He has six hits in his last two games.

"He's obviously swinging the bat a lot better, which is very welcome, because it had been a struggle for him. He seems like he's trying to get on a nice little roll. That would be great for us. We'll take everybody that can get hot."

Next up

The Indians are on the west coast for the next seven games — Oakland, Los Angeles — kicking off a four-game series against the A's tonight at 10:05.

Carlos Carrasco (10-8, 4.26 ERA) opens the set for Cleveland, opposing RHP Chris Bassitt (0-3, 2.94), while Danny Salazar (8-6, 3.72) starts for the Indians on Friday (9:35 p.m.) against RHP Kendall Graveman (6-7, 4.13).

Cody Anderson goes for Cleveland on Saturday (9:05 p.m.) against RHP Aaron Brooks (0-0, 6.23), while Trevor Bauer (8-8, 4.13) starts for the Indians in the series finale Sunday (4:05 p.m.) against RHP Sonny Gray (11-4, 2.16).

Roundin' third

Trevor Bauer and Corey Kluber are the first Indians pitchers to work back-to-back complete games since David Huff and Mitch Talbot in 2010. ... Francisco Lindor is batting .333 (17-for-51) with three homers and 10 RBIs since the All-Star break. He leads Cleveland in hits over the span. ... The Indians have allowed only 104 runs in their 46 wins. ... Tonight, 10:05, STO/WEOL 930-AM/WTAM 1100-AM/WMMS 100.7-FM.

Indians 12, Royals 1: Corey Kluber, Tribe bats spark series finale win

Filed on July 29, 2015 by [Chris Assenheimer](#)

CLEVELAND — For one glorious afternoon, it all came together for the Indians. Unfortunately for the team and its fans, these days have been few and far between.

Getting their usual quality effort from the starting pitcher, the last-place Indians surprisingly added a large dose of offense to slug their way to a 12-1 victory over the first-place Royals on Wednesday afternoon at Progressive Field.

The win avoided the three-game sweep and halted a six-game losing streak for Cleveland, which won for the first time in nine games at home.

"I think we needed it on a number of fronts," said manager Terry Francona, whose club entered the day nine games under .500 and trailing Kansas City by 16 games in the Central Division standings. "We needed that. That'll help us. We had a lot of energy. We needed a day like today. Now, we need to carry it over to (today), not past (today), just until (today)."

Corey Kluber was the man on the mound, dominating Royals hitters for the entirety of his second complete game of the season and the fifth of his career, allowing just a run on five hits, while striking out six.

The reigning Cy Young Award winner retired the first 12 batters he faced before Eric Hosmer ended the bid at perfection with a leadoff double in the fifth inning.

"I thought he set the tone early where he didn't give them anything," Francona said of Kluber. "And then Hosmer hits the double, they had first and third, and he pitches out of that.

"He was so good, the two-seamer, four-seamer. Some of their guys wanted to have early contact, some guys were a little more patient, and it didn't really seem like it mattered. He had something for everything. He kept the ball on the ground. He was really in control."

For one of the few occasions this season, Indians hitters backed Kluber, who entered the day ranked at the bottom of the majors in run support. Producing a season-high 18 hits, every member of Cleveland's lineup had at least one, with six players driving in at least a run. The Indians also hit a season-high four home runs.

Francisco Lindor had one of the homers, reaching a career-high with four RBIs, while Michael Bourn matched a career-high with four hits — the first time he has accomplished as much since 2011.

The Indians broke the game open with a six-run sixth inning that featured back-to-back homers from Lindor and Michael Brantley, and another long ball from Giovanni Urshela. It was the second time all season that Cleveland scored more than five runs in an inning.

"It was nice to get that cushion there in the sixth inning," Kluber said. "Up to that point, it was a close game and you're trying to keep that lead. You get that cushion, and you can go out there and just attack."

Yan Gomes hit his fifth homer in a four-run eighth inning for Cleveland.

Francona wasn't around to celebrate the victory at the end after drawing his third ejection of the season in the fifth inning.

Royals starter Jeremy Guthrie hit Gomes with a pitch in the opening inning, then plunked Jason Kipnis in the second, with home plate umpire Tom Woodring warning both benches.

Guthrie hit Brantley in the fifth inning, but Woodring ruled that it wasn't intentional and allowed KC's starter to continue. That's what drew the ire of Francona.

"I just thought that the umpire, when he puts (the warning) out there, for him to tell me, 'no.' He stated it as fact," Francona said. "I didn't think that was appropriate. I think they protect the younger umpires. If he's old enough to throw me out, he's old enough to listen to what I say."

The Indians hit the road for seven games, but they do it in a better frame of mind after a big win.

"Hopefully we can carry some momentum from it," Kluber said. "That's the aggressive style that we need to play."

A's lose to Dodgers; Beane talks about change in approach

By John Hickey

LOS ANGELES -- In the space of four months, the A's have gone from the team that won the most games in spring training to the team that has lost the most games in the American League West.

In the process, Oakland has undergone an organizational retooling, adding the word "rebuilding" to its lexicon in a season that has seen the A's lose much more often than win, including Wednesday. The Dodgers won 10-7 as the A's blew a 6-3 lead in the seventh, resulting in a split of the two-game series.

General manager Billy Beane explained his flurry of trades last winter in part by saying "I'm too old to be on a five-year rebuild." Then in the middle of trading away starter Scott Kazmir, closer Tyler Clippard and versatile Ben Zobrist over the course of the last week, Beane said "we're focusing on some guys who are a little further away (from the big leagues)."

Beane took some time Wednesday afternoon explaining to this newspaper his journey from one position to the other.

"Rebuilding could mean different things to different people," he said. "We need more young players coming through our system."

In the last 13 months the A's have traded three of their top prospects: shortstop Addison Russell, outfielder Billy McKinney and shortstop Daniel Robertson. In the last week the A's have added two 20-year-olds, catcher Jacob Nottingham and right-handed pitcher Casey Meisner, 22-year-old right-handed pitcher Daniel Mengden, 23-year-old left-handed pitcher Sean Manaea, and 25-year-old Aaron Brooks, who will get his first start for the A's on Saturday against Cleveland.

In the space of a little more than a year, Beane has gone from trading youth away to trading for youth. Part of the reason is being 12 games under .500 (45-57), but it's also because of the competition.

A.L. West co-leader Houston is young and is going to be good for a long time. The Mariners are young, too, although they aren't having much more success right now than Oakland. The Angels and Rangers are older, but both have income streams unavailable to Oakland. The A's are looking ahead and have decided they have to fight youth with youth.

"Houston has done a great job," Beane said. "They have created a farm system that is going to be challenging to compete against for a long time. We just have to look around and see the best approach. We've chosen this route."

Beane admits that going younger is a departure from his past form. The A's made it into the postseason the last three years in part by trading first for young players on the cusp of being good (Josh Donaldson, Jarrod Parker, Fernando Abad, Ryan Cook, Derek Norris) with some veterans who were already good (Jon Lester, Jeff Samardzija, Jed Lowrie, Stephen Drew).

"What is definite is that we need to shift the focus onto the farm system," Beane said in looking at a team that is 12 games out of first place. "That's critical for us. It's important for players to be brought through the system. If we do compete, we can use them for trade. But you can't do that if you don't have a lot of depth."

"As for rebuilding, you don't put a timetable on it. People usually put years on it; that I would never do."

Beane said it was anything but easy to trade away players like Kazmir, Clippard and Zobrist, because four months ago he fully believed they would be central to the A's competing for a fourth consecutive postseason appearance. Then closer Sean Doolittle and Coco Crisp started the season on the disabled list. Zobrist and Ike Davis also landed there, giving fuel to a 2-14 skid in May. Parker was one start away from coming back to the rotation when he fractured his elbow.

The A's won two-thirds of their games this spring, owning the best winning percentage and most wins. So there were major expectations.

"The team of the spring never really played together," Beane said. "Beginning with the closer (Doolittle) going down, you have to go back and re-evaluate."

"When we were good, we used the farm system to trade for players. You've got to have one or the other. It's been tough. But what is tougher is not doing anything about the inevitable."

• The A's bullpen had been on a nice run with a 2.80 ERA since the All-Star break, but Oakland relievers gave up seven runs combined in the seventh and eighth after starter Jesse Chavez had allowed just three in the first five innings. Particularly troublesome were two walks from