

Tribe makes out well in Moss-Kaminsky swap

By Jim Callis / MLB.com | @JimCallisMLB | July 30th, 2015 + 23 COMMENTS

With two regulars (Matt Adams and Jon Jay) already on the disabled list and a third (Matt Holliday) reinjuring his right quadriceps Wednesday night, the Cardinals decided to bolster their offense by acquiring Brandon Moss from the Indians on Thursday morning. But the price that St. Louis paid, lefty pitching prospect Rob Kaminsky, is a steep one for a club in its position.

The Cardinals have the best record in baseball, and they're almost certainly going to make the playoffs, even if Holliday is sidelined for a while. In the 31-year-old Moss, St. Louis is getting a one-tool player who can hit for power, but provides negative value in terms of on-base percentage and defensive ability as a first baseman and corner outfielder. Moss' 15 homers are more than anyone on the Cards' roster, but he's hit .217/.288/.407 in 94 games -- among the lowest numbers of his Major League career. Moss is not just a half-season rental, however, as he is eligible for arbitration one more time this offseason.

Getting Moss at the cost of Kaminsky seems like an overpay. The Cardinals shouldn't have had to surrender the No. 88 player on MLB Pipeline.com's Top 100 Prospects list for Moss. If they were willing to part with Kaminsky, they should have been able to get a better bat. Kaminsky, 20, was the 28th overall pick in the 2013 Draft out of St. Joseph Regional (Montvale, N.J.) High School, and he signed for \$1,785,300. He has had success at all three of his stops in the Cards' system, and he has gone 6-5 with a 2.09 ERA in 17 starts this year as one of the youngest pitchers in the Class A Advanced Florida State League. Kaminsky leads the FSL in ERA, has limited opponents to a .228 average and sports a 79/28 K/BB ratio in 94 2/3 innings.

Kaminsky has an outstanding curveball, a sharp downer in the upper 70s. He also has two other pitches that project to become at least solid big league offerings, a fastball that tops out at 95 mph and a changeup with some fade. Kaminsky throws lots of strikes and has earned kudos for his competitiveness.

The biggest knock on Kaminsky is his lack of size (5-foot-11, 191 pounds), but he has been durable so far. He projects as a potential No. 3 starter, and his curve alone would make him a dynamic lefty specialist at worst. Kaminsky slots in as the No. 3 prospect in the Tribe's system. Pitching prospects aren't sure things, but Kaminsky is likely to have a greater impact in Cleveland than Moss will in St. Louis.

Carrasco shakes off trade rumors in stellar start

Indians righty pitches rotation's 3rd straight complete game

By Jordan Bastian / MLB.com | @MLBastian | 1:44 AM ET + 4 COMMENTS

OAKLAND -- It looked to Indians manager Terry Francona as though recent trade rumors were beginning to trouble starter Carlos Carrasco. Worried that it could become a distraction, Francona had a brief chat with the pitcher about the reports claiming that teams were calling Cleveland about the big right-hander.

Carrasco's nerves were calmed by their conversation.

"He told me, 'We're not going to trade you,'" Carrasco said after the Indians' 3-1 win over the A's on Thursday night. "That's what he told me. I said, 'OK, that's fine.' I told him, 'You know what? I don't care what I hear about whether they're going to trade me. I'm still here and I'm still working. That's what I need to do.'"

Then, Carrasco went to work on Oakland's lineup.

Carrasco spun a complete-game gem against the A's in the opener of the four-game series, finishing with seven strikeouts, two hits and one walk in a 103-pitch victory. He induced 14 outs via ground balls and, following an RBI double by Josh Reddick in the first inning, the righty held Oakland's bats to an 0-for-26 showing.

"It was just unlucky how good he was tonight," A's starter Chris Bassitt said.

It marked the third consecutive complete game by Cleveland's rotation, which saw Trevor Bauer (Tuesday) and Corey Kluber (Wednesday) go the distance in the previous two games. The Indians had not accomplished that feat since 1994, when Mark Clark, Jack Morris and Charles Nagy delivered three straight complete games. No Major League rotation had done that since the A's had three in a row in 2010.

Danny Salazar is up next for the Tribe.

No pressure.

"I already told him he has to throw one now," Carrasco said.

While the Indians (47-54) reside in last place in the American League Central, and the recent trades that shipped off outfielders Brandon Moss and David Murphy show that Cleveland now has an eye on next year, the Tribe's rotation continues to provide hope. The quartet of Kluber, Carrasco, Bauer and Salazar are relatively young and under control, leading rival teams to understandably inquire about their availability.

In Carrasco's case, he is now 11-8 with a 4.03 ERA, 140 strikeouts and 27 walks in 127 1/3 innings (21 starts) this season. The hard-throwing righty is also under contract for \$22 million through the 2018 season, and his deal has a pair of affordable team options that could keep him in the fold through 2020.

Prior to landing David Price, the Blue Jays were rumored to have interest in Carrasco.

Other teams surely called about the pitcher, too.

"It looked like it was bothering him a little bit," Francona said of the rumors. "So I just said, 'Hey, man, teams call, because you're coveted. That's a good thing.' But, we're not dying to let our pitching go away, and they know that."

Carrasco is not expecting any of the rotation arms to be dealt prior to Friday's 4 p.m. ET non-waiver Trade Deadline.

"We're going to be here," Carrasco said. "I think that's most important -- staying here."

Kluber after Indians' trades: 'It's not over yet'

By Jordan Bastian / MLB.com | @MLBastian | 12:42 AM ET + 2 COMMENTS

OAKLAND -- Corey Kluber was not ready to concede this season for the Indians. Sitting at his locker inside the visitors' clubhouse at the Coliseum before Thursday's 3-1 win, the leader of Cleveland's rotation shrugged off the trades made by the team's front office over the past few days.

The way Kluber saw it, there was no correlation between the transactions and the way the team should approach the final two months of the current campaign.

"I don't think that it means that we've given up on this year," said Kluber, who won the American League Cy Young Award last year. "I think it means that [general manager Chris Antonetti] saw an opportunity that he thought would make the team better in the future, and he took it. "Yeah, things haven't gone the way we've wanted them to so far, but I don't think just because we traded a couple guys away that it means we've given up on this year."

Early Thursday morning, the Indians dealt slugger Brandon Moss to the Cardinals for 20-year-old pitching prospect Rob Kaminsky. Two days earlier, Cleveland sent outfielder David Murphy to the Angels in exchange for Double-A shortstop Eric Stamets. Both moves showed that Antonetti and the Tribe's decision-makers already have an eye on 2016 and beyond.

• Callis: Tribe makes out well in Moss-Kaminsky swap

The remainder of the second half will now be used as an evaluation period for some of Cleveland's younger players.

"We want to make sure that we learn something about ourselves in the second half," Antonetti said on Thursday. "We have to look at it as an opportunity for us to go into the offseason and next year in a better position."

Kluber is not concerning himself with next year quite yet.

"It's not over yet. We're not eliminated from anything," Kluber said. "So, I think while the front office does their job, we can't really worry about anything but the 25 guys in here trying to come each day and win that [day's] game. Hopefully, we can win enough of them that we get to play in the postseason."

Kluber was quick to point to last July, when the Indians traded starter Justin Masterson to the Cardinals and shortstop Asdrubal Cabrera to the Nationals, and still found a way to contend until the final weekend of the regular season.

"If you look at last year, we traded our Opening Day starter and our starting shortstop, and it wasn't like the ship crashed after that," Kluber said.

"It depends on how you want to look at it. There's always going to be something that's an uphill climb in a season -- whether it's injuries or this or that. I don't think any team goes through a season with 100-percent smooth sailing. I think it's what you make of it."

Indians manager Terry Francona said, while the goal from here on out remained to try to win as many games as possible, the organization needed to proceed with an eye toward the future, too.

"We have to be realistic. We played ourselves into this situation," Francona said. "Again, when the game starts, nothing changes. You don't ever sacrifice trying to win a game. I don't think anybody here doesn't want to get hot. But, Chris and his guys have a responsibility to look out for the organization. They're kind of the caretaker. Our responsibility is on the field and, to this point, we haven't done a very good job.

"We have work to do, but we have young pitching and we have a core of young players that we really like. And, we need to do better on the field. I know Chris is trying to do his part. I think the idea is not to get too caught up in what is happening and just play the game, because when we play the game right, and we play the game well, things usually work out pretty well."

Carrasco cruises, Santana homers to top A's

By Jordan Bastian and Jane Lee / MLB.com | 2:49 AM ET + 55 COMMENTS

OAKLAND -- Carlos Santana hit a two-run homer in support of right-hander Carlos Carrasco, who fired a one-run complete game to guide the Indians to a series-opening, 3-1 victory over the A's at the Coliseum on Thursday night.

"He kind of took the sting out," Indians manager Terry Francona said of Carrasco. "I'm thrilled the way he pitched. I know he's mentioned being a little tougher, trying to dig deeper. I thought tonight he did everything you're supposed to do. Now, you've just got to follow it up again. That was a really good outing."

Santana's 12th home run of the season highlighted a three-run first inning against A's starter Chris Bassitt, who settled down nicely thereafter to complete a season-high seven frames.

The A's recorded two hits in the first but, after Josh Reddick's one-out double, went 0-for-26 with a walk against Carrasco, who allowed just two balls out of the infield in that span. It was the right-hander's second complete game of the season and fifth of his career.

"It was his mix of pitches, all his pitches today," A's manager Bob Melvin said of Carrasco. "His change was a little harder than we've seen it with more movement, but he also mixed in his slider and his curveball, was unpredictable. That's as well pitched a game as we've seen this year."

MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

Slamtana: Cleveland opened the game with four straight hits -- capped off by a laser of a two-run homer from Santana. With Michael Brantley on third base, Santana sent a no-doubter at 106 mph off the bat and 406 feet to dead center for a Coliseum-quieting shot that gave the Tribe a swift, 3-0 lead.

"It seems like every ball [he's hit lately], he's really squared up and with authority," Francona said. "It's kind of been to center and left-center, which the hope is he kind of understands that and stays with it. Because, he can be so dangerous and he's strong enough to hit the ball out of the ballpark that way."

Bassitt settles down: After surrendering hits to each of his first four batters faced, the last a two-run shot to Santana, Bassitt limited the Indians to two hits over his next six frames, facing just one over the minimum in that span to keep his team in the game. The right-handed Bassitt, who is expected to remain in the rotation following the losses of Scott Kazmir to a trade and Jesse Hahn (right forearm strain) to injury, has a 3.00 ERA in five starts. More >

"We're just not getting him any run support," Melvin said. "He's been good, and he knows he's here for a while and can settle into his routine without pitching one game and going back down. He's done a nice job."

Gio grand: With one out and Brett Lawrie on first base in the fourth, Stephen Vogt flared a pitch from Carrasco down the left-field line. Rookie third baseman Giovanni Urshela made a running catch, spun and relayed the ball across the diamond to second baseman Jason Kipnis.

Lawrie, thinking it would drop for a hit, was caught too far off the base, and was doubled up when Kipnis tossed the ball to Santana at first for the out.

"Gio's made plays, it seems like, every game," Francona said. "He's not the fleetest of foot, but you put a glove on him and he seems to become more athletic. And I mean that really as a compliment. He looks like he loves having the ball hit his way and, if it's not hit his way, he'll go get it."

QUOTABLE

"There was something with my glove. I moved my glove too much and today I just kind of held it [still]. ... My glove was a little bit down and they were picking up everything. That's the work that I did between starts. I looked at my video and said, 'OK, there's something wrong right here.' That's what I figured out. I made sure everything was together with my mechanics and my pitching." -- Carrasco, who thought he tipped his pitches in his previous start

SOUND SMART WITH YOUR FRIENDS

Carrasco's complete game marked the third time in a row that an Indians starter went the distance. Trevor Bauer (Tuesday) and Corey Kluber (Wednesday) logged a complete game in each of the Tribe's previous two games. That represents the first time since June 30-July 2, 1994 (Mark Clark, Jack Morris and Charles Nagy) that Cleveland had three straight complete games from its rotation. The last team to achieve the feat was Oakland from July 31-Aug. 2, 2010, when Dallas Braden, Gio Gonzalez and Trevor Cahill each turned in a full effort.

WHAT'S NEXT

Indians: Hard-throwing right-hander Danny Salazar (8-6, 3.72 ERA) is slated to start for the Tribe in the second tilt of this four-game set at 9:35 p.m. ET Friday in Oakland. Over his past three starts, Salazar has spun to a 2.11 ERA with 24 strikeouts in 21 1/3 innings, but he only has a 1-2 record to show for it.

Athletics: Right-hander Kendall Graveman, who is 0-3 with a 10.22 ERA over his last three starts after posting a 1.26 ERA in his previous six, will look to get back on track in a home start against the Indians. First pitch at the Coliseum is scheduled for 6:35 p.m. PT.

Looking to future, Tribe acquires young pitcher for Moss

By Jordan Bastian / MLB.com | @MLBastian | July 30th, 2015 + 73 COMMENTS

OAKLAND -- Brandon Moss stood in front of his locker at Progressive Field earlier this week, sounding lost while discussing the Indians' offensive struggles this season. The outfielder was brought to Cleveland to provide power in the heart of the lineup, but inconsistency has plagued his bat.

If Moss is going to find what has been missing over the season's final two months, he will do so wearing a Cardinals uniform. With an eye clearly on the future, the Indians traded Moss to St. Louis on Thursday morning in exchange for highly regarded left-handed pitching prospect Rob Kaminsky.

"It's just been one of those years, man, where you just can't get anything rolling," Moss said on Tuesday. "You're always one step forward, two steps back. It's been a tough one. It's very tough to sit here and be in here and go through it, because I know what we go through and I know how much we all care."

The one-for-one swap with St. Louis is the second trade in the past three days for Cleveland, which dealt outfielder David Murphy to the Angels on Tuesday in exchange for Double-A shortstop Eric Stamets. Both deals illustrate that Indians general manager Chris Antonetti has started planning for 2016 and beyond as Friday's 4 p.m. ET non-waiver Trade Deadline approaches.

Antonetti said the deal with the Cards came to fruition "really, really early" Thursday morning, and the GM made sure to talk things over with Moss before word of the trade went public.

"It was interesting talking to Brandon last night when I told him about the trade," Antonetti said. "He expressed a lot of that -- his frustration -- because I think the thing we've seen with Brandon, we've all seen it firsthand, is just how much he cares and how passionate he was, almost maybe at times too much. He wanted so desperately to be that force in the middle of the lineup."

In the 20-year-old Kaminsky, the Indians are receiving a lefty starter rated by MLB Pipeline.com as St. Louis' No. 3 overall prospect and the 10th-best left-handed pitching prospect in baseball. Kaminsky was selected with the 28th overall pick in the 2013 Draft and has posted a 2.15 ERA through his first 43 appearances in three professional seasons.

Through 17 starts this year, Kaminsky had a 2.09 ERA with 79 strikeouts and 28 walks in 94 2/3 innings for High Class A Palm Beach.

According to MLB Pipeline.com, Kaminsky had "the best curveball in the Cardinals' system," features a changeup and a fastball that sits around 88-92 mph. The young lefty has allowed no home runs this year and only three in his 217 1/3 pro innings.

"Rob's a guy that we've liked actually for quite a while out of the Draft," Antonetti said. "He generates a lot of ground balls, keeps the ball in the ballpark and has a really good complement of secondary pitches. He'll show a plus curveball and a good changeup. In total, we think he has a chance to develop into a solid Major League starting pitcher."

Kaminsky is scheduled to report to Class A Advanced Lynchburg.

To take Moss' spot on the active roster, Lonnie Chisenhall was promoted from Triple-A Columbus. Antonetti noted that Chisenhall -- a third baseman by trade -- could see playing time in the corner outfield spots, along with first base, considering Giovanni Urshela has found a home at the hot corner for the Tribe. He was in the lineup as the designated hitter against the A's on Thursday night.

On the surface, that looks like a solid return for the 31-year-old Moss, who hit .217 with 15 home runs, 17 doubles, 48 RBIs and a .699 OPS in 93 games for Cleveland this season. At the time of his departure, Moss was the Indians' leader in homers and ranked second in RBIs, but his average and on-base percentage (.289) were sources of frustration for the slugger.

Moss was acquired from the A's in December for Minor League infielder Joe Wendle, avoided arbitration by signing a \$6.5 million contract for this year and is eligible for arbitration again this offseason. By all accounts, Moss has been healthy, though he did undergo surgery on his right hip in October, correcting an issue that hindered him offensively through most of the '14 campaign.

Dating back to last year's All-Star break, Moss has turned in a .202/.297/.362 slash line in 511 at-bats (151 games). That is a drastic drop-off from the .254/.340/.504 line he turned in overall for Oakland across the 2012-14 seasons, which convinced Cleveland to take a shot on him as a middle-of-the-order bat.

With the Tribe sitting in last place in the American League Central, the club decided it made more sense to continue to look for ways to strengthen its future.

"No one expected to be in the position that we are right now," Antonetti said. "But we've played our way to this point. So we now have to do what we can to make the most of the second half of the season, and that's what we have every intention of doing."

"I don't think it's the front office's fault," Moss said on Tuesday. "They're playing the hand that they've been dealt this year. We've definitely underperformed."

Salazar, Graveman to face off in Oakland

By Trevor Hass / MLB.com | 3:02 AM ET + 1 COMMENT

Kendall Graveman will try to return to form when the A's host the Indians in the second game of a four-game set at the Coliseum on Friday night.

After going 3-2 with a 1.26 ERA in six starts from June 7 to July 4, Graveman (6-7, 4.13) is 0-3 with a 10.22 ERA in his last three starts. The three-game losing streak is the first of his young career, but he's still tied for the lead in wins among American League rookies.

Right-hander Danny Salazar (8-6, 3.72) will pitch for the Indians, fresh off a loss to the White Sox on Sunday in which he yielded two runs in 6 2/3 innings. Salazar is 4-2 with a 3.42 ERA and .223 opponents' batting average on the road. He'll look to continue a strong run for the Indians' rotation, which has pitched to three straight complete games.

Things to know about this game

- Salazar has struck out seven or more batters in 12 of his 18 starts this season, including the last four.
- The Indians beat the A's, 5-1, in Salazar's only start against the club earlier this month. He came within an out of a complete game, allowing an unearned run in 8 2/3 innings.
- Graveman is scheduled to start on four days' rest. He's 4-3 with a 3.35 ERA in nine starts on four days' rest compared to 2-4 with a 5.17 ERA in seven starts on five days' rest or more.

Chisenhall set for utility role in return to Indians

By Jordan Bastian / MLB.com | @MLBastian | 12:44 AM ET + 3 COMMENTS

OAKLAND -- Given the emergence of rookie Giovanny Urshela, Lonnie Chisenhall's days as the Indians' starting third baseman appear to be behind him. Chisenhall has taken the developments of the past few months in stride, and is now trying to show Cleveland that he can be counted on as a versatile utility man.

"You want to make yourself an asset to a team," Chisenhall said.

In the wake of the trade that sent outfielder Brandon Moss to St. Louis on Thursday, Cleveland recalled Chisenhall from Triple-A Columbus and plan on using him at a variety of positions. Chisenhall might still see some action at third base, but manager Terry Francona also plans on giving him a shot in right field and potentially at first base.

Francona appreciates Chisenhall's willingness to embrace such a role.

"I think he's understanding that you can make yourself valuable to a ballclub," Francona said. "That's a way to have a career, because that's really what it comes down to. He had a tough start to the year. He went back to Triple-A. He's not the only guy that's ever happened to, but that doesn't mean he can't be successful."

For his first game back with the Tribe, Chisenhall went 0-for-3 with a strikeout as the designated hitter in the 3-1 win over the A's on Thursday. Francona wanted to give him a chance to get his legs under him after a long day of travel.

The 26-year-old Chisenhall hit .280 with 13 homers, 59 RBIs and a .770 OPS in 142 games as Cleveland's starting third baseman last season, but he struggled to get going offensively in the first two months this year. After hitting .209 with a .585 OPS in his first 52 games, the Indians optioned Chisenhall back to Triple-A, where he hit .280 with a .750 OPS in 40 games, while trying a handful of positions.

Chisenhall said he asked Triple-A manager Chris Tremie if he could try his hand in the outfield and at first base, and the Indians approved the experiment.

"Learning a new position can be challenging," said Chisenhall, who was originally drafted by the Indians as a shortstop. "It gives you something to look forward to every day coming in and working. It's a little bit different mentality. Things like that, you try to do your best to run scenarios and ask other outfielders things. ... It's new to me, but it's fun."

Naquin on DL after colliding with outfield wall

By Jordan Bastian / MLB.com | @MLBastian | July 30th, 2015 + 0 COMMENTS

OAKLAND -- Indians outfield prospect Tyler Naquin crashed into a wall during Triple-A Columbus' game against Indianapolis on Wednesday, creating enough concern to warrant a trip to the Minor League disabled list one day later due to concussion-like symptoms.

Tribe general manager Chris Antonetti indicated that Naquin -- rated by MLB.com as Cleveland's fifth-best prospect -- was being re-evaluated on Thursday and there was no established timetable for his return to game action. Given the nature of the injury, the Indians do not want to risk allowing the young center fielder to return before he is back at full strength.

"[We're] trying to get our arms around how he's doing," Antonetti said on Thursday. "He did collide into the wall and we were obviously very careful with it and wanted to make sure we were prudent. We removed him from the game, because obviously any time you have a head or neck involvement, you're fearful of a concussion. The good news is Tyler is up, he's mobile, but it may be a little while before he's back into game activity."

The 24-year-old Naquin was playing center field on Wednesday when he slammed his back into the wall on a catch attempt in the second inning against Indy. Naquin immediately fell to the ground, where he stayed until shifting to his feet during a chat with a team trainer. The outfielder left the game and was placed on the seven-day DL on Thursday.

Naquin, who was taken with the 15th overall pick in the first round of the 2012 Draft, has hit .297/.379/.436 with six homers, 29 extra-base hits, 25 RBIs, 36 walks, 13 stolen bases and 45 runs in 77 games this season between Double-A and Triple-A. He has a .751 OPS in 43 Triple-A games and an .887 OPS in 34 Double-A games this year.

In four professional seasons, Naquin has hit .286 with a .773 OPS in 315 games in Cleveland's system.

"He's on a really good path developmentally," Antonetti said. "He did a very good job in Double-A on his developmental goals and has continued to make progress in Triple-A. He's been challenged at the Triple-A level by facing better pitching than he's faced to this point in his career. He's doing a really good job acclimating himself offensively and continuing to learn the speed of the game defensively. He's in a good spot."

Carlos Carrasco throws two-hitter as Indians shut down A's(AP)

OAKLAND, Calif. — Carlos Carrasco made a few adjustments between starts and it made all the difference.

Carrasco threw a two-hitter, Carlos Santana hit a two-run homer and the Cleveland Indians beat the Oakland Athletics 3-1 on Thursday night.

Carrasco said he moved his arm slot a little higher to avoid tipping his pitches.

"I was getting my arm on top a little bit more and holding my glove right there," said Carrasco, who thought he was tipping pitches with the way he was holding his glove. "They pick up everything. I had to make sure everything was together."

Francisco Lindor had two hits for the Indians, who won their second straight following a six-game losing streak.

Josh Reddick doubled in a first-inning run for the A's, who have lost six of their last seven.

Carrasco (11-8) did not allow a hit after Reddick's double, facing one over the minimum from that point. He walked one and struck out seven.

He was coming off his worst start of the season in which he allowed six runs in four innings.

"Oh boy, he was good," Indians manager Terry Francona said. "The first inning he gives up an infield hit and then a double and then after that, that was it. He pounded the strike zone, just kept them at bay the whole night."

Indians pitchers have thrown three consecutive complete games for the first time since 1994, and became the first major league team to do so since the A's in 2010.

"He was unpredictable," A's manager Bob Melvin said of Carrasco. "It's as well-pitched game as we've seen this year."

Chris Bassitt (0-4) gave up three runs, his season high, on six hits. He walked one and struck out a season-best six.

The first four Indians hitters reached base against Bassitt and three scored. Jason Kipnis singled on the game's second pitch but slipped trying to get back to first on a pick-off throw and was caught.

Lindor followed with a single and scored on Michael Brantley's double and fielding error on Sam Fuld. Santana then hit his 12th home run of the year.

"I tried to throw a two-seam in. It ran right down the middle and he hit it a long way," Bassitt said. "I feel like my stuff wasn't sharp the first inning and after that I kind of got going."

The A's got a run back in their half of the first when Reddick doubled home Billy Burns, who had singled.

Bassitt allowed two hits after Santana's home run, retiring 18 of the final 21 batters he faced.

Trainer's room

Indians: Lonnie Chisenhall was recalled from Triple-A Columbus when the Indians traded Brandon Moss to the St. Louis Cardinals for minor league pitcher Rob Kaminsky. Chisenhall opened the season with Cleveland and was sent down on June 7. He'll get a chance to play in the outfield and at first base. Chisenhall appeared in 50 games at third base. "That's a way to have a career," Francona said. "He's understanding how to make himself valuable to a club."

Athletics: Left-hander Sean Doolittle was encouraged by his bullpen session before the game. "After today I'm more eager to move this along, just because of how well it went," Doolittle said. "I know I have another bullpen on Saturday. Beyond that I'm not sure what the timetable is or what the progression will be."

Up next

Indians: Right-hander Danny Salazar (8-6, 3.72) makes the start tonight looking to continue a solid season. He lost his last outing but recorded a quality start, allowing two runs on six hits over 6 2/3 innings. He has struck out at least seven hitters in 15 of his last 21 starts.

Athletics: Right-hander Kendall Graveman (6-7, 4.13) is 0-3 with a 10.22 ERA over his last three starts. He was 3-2 with a 1.26 ERA in his previous six starts.

Indians trade outfielder Moss to Cardinals for pitcher

By TOM WITHERS (AP Sports Writer)

CLEVELAND (AP) -- Brandon Moss was sorry to see close friend David Murphy traded earlier this week by the Indians.

Now he's gone, too.

Moss was dealt Thursday to the St. Louis Cardinals, who were in the market for an outfielder after seven-time All-Star Matt Holliday re-injured his right quadriceps on Wednesday.

"He's a production guy in a time in baseball when production's low," Cardinals manager Mike Matheny said. "I know he's excited to be here and we're excited to have him."

In exchange for Moss, who was in his first season with the Indians, the Indians received minor league pitcher Rob Kaminsky, a first-round pick in 2013.

The Cardinals led the NL Central by 4 1/2 games over Pittsburgh. However, St. Louis is in an offensive funk and hasn't scored a run in 22 consecutive innings after being blanked 1-0 on Wednesday by the Cincinnati Reds.

And Holliday is out again with the same injury that sidelined him for 31 games earlier this season. The Cardinals will hope to get some pop from Moss, who signed a one-year, \$6.5 million contract as a free agent with Cleveland during the offseason. While he did produce - 15 homers, 50 RBIs in 94 games - the Indians have fallen back in the AL wild-card race and figure they would try to get something for the 31-year-old.

Moss didn't perform as the middle-of-the-order power hitter the Indians had hoped, and when he was informed of the trade, the slugger told general manager Chris Antonetti he wished he could have done more.

"We all know how much Brandon cares, how passionate he was, almost maybe at times too much and he wanted so desperately to be that force in the middle of the lineup that maybe it was difficult for him to do that," Antonetti said. "Now maybe with the change of opportunity and starting fresh with the Cardinals that he will get back to that hitter that we all know he is capable of being."

View galleryIndians trade outfielder Moss to Cardinals for pit …

Cleveland Indians' Brandon Moss, right, looks back as Chicago White Sox catcher Tyler Flowers ch ...

Matheny wouldn't commit to Moss in the middle of the Cardinals order, either, saying for starters it would probably be more based on matchups. Moss was not in the lineup Thursday and had not arrived in St. Louis about three hours before a game against the Rockies.

"We want to get our eyes on him, too," Matheny said. "Just kind of watch how he fits, but not necessarily having to put him in one particular spot."

Certainly, he saw the deal as a morale boost for a team in need.

"I've been on teams where it was obvious nothing was going to happen," Matheny said. "We were on the other end and watching some of our leaders and players walk out the door without anything really coming back, and that's a different feeling than when you see reinforcements coming in."

Following Cleveland's sixth straight loss on Monday night to Kansas City, Moss, who played four seasons in the NL with Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, expressed disappointment at seeing Murphy traded to the Los Angeles Angels and a season that hasn't gone well for the Indians.

"Nobody's happy. Nobody's enjoyed this season," Moss said. "It's just one of those things where, the more you try, the more adjustments you try to make, we're just not making them. Whether we try to make them, whether we go up there with a different approach, everything seems to fall apart."

Kaminsky is another strong arm for Cleveland's future.

The 20-year-old was selected with the No. 28 overall pick two years ago and was considered one of the top prospects in the Cardinals system.

Kaminsky has spent the entire season at Single-A Palm Beach, going 6-5 with a 2.09 ERA in 17 starts. He is currently leading the Florida State League in ERA and has 79 strikeouts in 94 2/3 innings.

In parts of three minor league seasons, Kaminsky is 14-10 with a 2.15 ERA.

"Rob is a guy who we have liked for quite a while out of the draft," Antonetti said. "He's a left-handed pitcher who has got a good fastball with good life to it, generates a lot of groundballs and has a really good compliment of secondary pitches. We think he has a good chance to develop into a solid major league pitcher."

Antonetti said the Indians continue explore other deals before Friday's deadline.

As part of the Murphy trade, the Indians will pay the Angels \$100,000 on Aug. 15.

Indians trade Brandon Moss to St. Louis Cardinals for LHP Rob Kaminsky

By Ryan Lewis

The Indians Thursday morning completed a deal with the St. Louis Cardinals, sending outfielder Brandon Moss in exchange for left-handed pitching prospect Rob Kaminsky.

Moss for much of the year had been the power bat the Indians were looking for when they acquired him this offseason, displaying plenty of power (mixed in with some strikeouts) in bunches, but has struggled as of late.

He's hitting .217 with 15 home runs and 50 RBI this season but since July 4, a span of 21 games, he's hit .161 with only one home run and had grown frustrated with his performance as the team struggled along with him.

"When I told him [Moss] about the trade, he expressed a lot of that," Indians General Manager Chris Antonetti said in a conference call with reporters. "One thing we've all seen with Brandon first hand is how much he cares, how passionate he was, almost maybe at times too much. And so he wanted desperately to be that force in the middle of the lineup."

The recent six-game losing streak and offensive struggles pushed the team into a position of looking at their situation with an eye more focused on the future.

"No one expected to be in the position that we are in right now," Antonetti said. "We've played our way to this point and so we now have to do what we can to make the most of the second half of the season. That's what we have every intention of doing."

Antonetti also said Thursday that the "likely" corresponding move will be to promote Lonnie Chisenhall back to Cleveland, though that has yet to be determined. Chisenhall has played some games in the outfield in Triple-A and could see some time there in addition to third base and potentially first base.

This is the second Indians outfielder dealt this week, after David Murphy was traded to the Los Angeles Angels for Double-A shortstop Eric Stamets. The outfield now stands with Michael Brantley, Michael Bourn, Ryan Raburn, recently promoted Tyler Holt and when or if he can return to form, Nick Swisher.

This marks the third straight year in which the Indians and Cardinals consummated a trade around the non-waiver deadline. In 2013, the Indians traded infield prospect Juan Herrera to the Cardinals in exchange for relief pitcher Marc Rzepczynski. Last year, the Indians dealt starting pitcher Justin Masterson for outfield prospect James Ramsey.

This trade also means that the Indians essentially took a mid-level second base prospect in Joey Wendle, who was traded to Oakland straight up for Moss in December, and flipped him for Kaminsky, a highly-rated pitching prospect, in the span of about eight months.

Kaminsky, 20, was the Cardinals' first-round selection (28th overall) in the 2013 draft out of St. Joseph Regional High School in New Jersey. He entered the 2015 season as the No. 5 prospect in the Cardinals' system, according to Baseball America. Per MLB.com, he was the No. 3 prospect in the Cardinals' system and the No. 88 overall prospect in baseball.

Kaminsky has spent this season in High-A Palm Beach, going 6-5 with a 2.09 ERA and 79 strikeouts in 94 2/3 innings pitched. He was leading the Florida State League in ERA and was eighth in strikeouts.

He has been inserted as the No. 3 prospect in the Indians' system according to MLB.com, after outfielders Bradley Zimmer and Clint Frazier and before recent first-round selection and left-handed pitcher Brady Aiken.

Kaminsky, profiled as largely a ground-ball pitcher, isn't the biggest guy, standing 5-11 and 191 pounds, but the Indians project him to remain a starter. Per Baseball America, he possesses an above-average curveball that he throws often, a fastball (which Antonetti called more of a sinker) sitting in the low 90s with downward movement and a "potential" above-average changeup.

"Rob's a guy we've liked for quite a while out of the draft, Antonetti said. "Left-handed pitcher that's got a good fastball with good life to it, generates a lot of ground balls, keeps the ball in the ballpark."Akron Beacon Journal LOADED: 07.31.2015

Cleveland Indians trade Brandon Moss to Cardinals for lefty Rob Kaminsky

Paul Hoynes,

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. Cleveland Plain Dealer LOADED: 07.31.2015

Cleveland Indians expected to recall Lonnie Chisenhall after trading Brandon Moss, David Murphy

Paul Hoynes,

SAN FRANCISCO – Look for Lonnie Chisenhall to be recalled from Class AAA Columbus following the trades of outfielders Brandon Moss and David Murphy.

Chisenhall opened the season as the starting third baseman, but was optioned to Columbus along with shortstop Jose Ramirez on June 7. The Indians have a new left side of the infield with third baseman Giovanny Urshela and shortstop Francisco Lindor, but they have an opening for a left-handed hitter who can play some outfield, first base and third base.

It seems like Chisenhall might be that guy.

Chisenhall, 26, is hitting .280 (44-for-157) with three homers and 21 RBI at Columbus. His slash line is .280/.329/.420. He's played 32 games at third and four in the outfield. He started in right Wednesday as the Clippers lost to Indianapolis, 3-1.

In 52 games with the Indians this year, Chisenhall hit .209 (37-for-177) with 10 doubles, four homers and 19 RBI. He slashed .209/.241/.354 with 32 strikeouts and seven walks.

He was charged with five errors at third.

Chisenhall was the Indians' No.1 pick in 2008. He has spent parts of five years in the big leagues, but 2014 was his only full season with the Tribe. Cleveland Plain Dealer LOADED: 07.31.2015

Carlos Carrasco, Carlos Santana carry Cleveland Indians to victory over Oakland Athletics: DMan's Report, Game 101

By Dennis Manoloff

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Carlos Carrasco threw a two-hitter and Carlos Santana hit a two-run homer as the Cleveland Indians defeated the Oakland Athletics, 3-1, Thursday night at O.co Coliseum in Oakland, Calif. Tribe shortstop Francisco Lindor went 2-for-4 -- the only player in the game with multiple hits.

The Indians (47-54) have won two in a row. They are 27-22 on the road.

The Athletics (45-58) have lost six of seven.

Here are the main reasons the Indians won:

Cookie Express: Carrasco gave the franchise three straight complete games for the first time since 1994. Trevor Bauer lost to the Royals on Tuesday and Corey Kluber defeated the Royals on Wednesday; both of those games were at Progressive Field.

Carrasco (11-8, 4.03 ERA) rebounded from a rough start against the White Sox in Cleveland. He is 4-0 in his past five road starts, all Tribe victories.

Against the Athletics, Carrasco allowed an infield single to Billy Burns and RBI double to Josh Reddick in the first inning. He walked one and struck out seven. He retired the final 16 batters (17 outs).

Carrasco threw 72 of 103 pitches for strikes. In a one-error third, Carrasco threw 8-of-8 strikes. In a perfect seventh, he went 6-of-7. In a perfect ninth, he was 7-of-8.

Carrasco dominated with a mid-90s fastball, breaking pitch and split-changeup. He stayed on top of all of his pitches as well as he has all season, enabling him to consistently work down in the zone or below. He recorded 14 outs via grounders.

Fast start: The Indians jumped Oakland righty and former Akron Zip Chris Bassitt for three runs in the first. Their first four batters notched hits, two of which occurred in pitcher's counts.

Jason Kipnis led off by slapping a 1-0 fastball to left for a single. As Francisco Lindor missed a first-pitch bunt attempt, Athletics catcher Stephen Vogt spotted a too-eager Kipnis far off first. Kipnis was erased in a rundown.

Lindor re-ignited by slapping a 1-2 fastball up the middle for a single. He displayed excellent bat control against a pitch running off the outside corner at the knees.

Fox SportsTime Ohio analyst Rick Manning said: "What Lindor is doing so well now is, when he gets to two strikes, he's finding a way to put the ball in play. If you put the ball in play, good things can happen."

Michael Brantley, down in the count, 0-2, shot a fastball near the left-field line. The ball caromed off the side wall and through the legs of Sam Fuld, enabling Lindor to score and Brantley to reach third. Brantley was credited with a double but no RBI because of the Fuld error.

Carlos Santana smashed a 1-1 fastball over the center-field wall for a two-run homer to give the Indians a 3-0 lead. Santana, who appreciated the swinging room Bassitt provided, stayed on a pitch that was down.

The key to the uprising was the Tribe's Nos. 1-4 having allowed Bassitt's fastball to work for them. They were rewarded for not trying to do too much (read: pull).

At that point, the Indians had scored 13 in their past four innings. On Wednesday afternoon in Cleveland, they scored six in the sixth and four in the eighth en route to a 12-1 victory over the Royals.

Quality defense: Tribe third baseman Giovanny Urshela and shortstop Lindor once again impacted a game with their gloves.

Urshela made a fantastic play in the fourth to spare Carrasco potential trouble and perhaps alter the course of the game.

With one out, Brett Lawrie walked. All-Star Vogt, a left-handed batter, popped an 0-1 pitch down the left-field line. Urshela sprinted back, reached high with the backhand and caught the ball. He turned to discover Lawrie -- convinced Vogt had a well-placed duck-snort -- past second. Urshela threw to second baseman Kipnis, who flipped to first baseman Santana for the double play.

With two outs in the Oakland fifth, Marcus Semien hit a chopper toward third. Urshela charged, fielded and fired to erase him. Urshela made a difficult play seem routine.

Notable: With Brandon Moss having been traded to St. Louis, Santana leads the Tribe with 12 homers. He is the only Indian in double digits. ... The Indians have hit five homers in two games. ... Kipnis went 1-for-4 and is 10-for-17 in his past four games. ... Lindor has hit safely in 11 of 13 games since the All-Star break (19 total hits). ... Brantley, despite dealing with a balky back the entire season, is batting .300 with an .832 OPS, 30 doubles and more walks (46) than strikeouts (30). ... Bassitt (7 IP, 6 H, 3 R) was 2-for-2 in quality starts against Cleveland in 2015. ... Oakland left two on base; Cleveland, one. Cleveland Plain Dealer LOADED: 07.31.2015

Cleveland Indians strike early, Carlos Carrasco throws two-hitter in 3-1 win over A's

Paul Hoynes

OAKLAND, Calif. – The Indians raised the white flag Tuesday when they traded David Murphy to the Angels.

They raised it again Thursday when they sent Brandon Moss to St. Louis and said they are now looking at the second half as a chance to assess their roster and look at as many young players as possible.

So why didn't they do this a long time ago? Since the Indians have turned their back on contention, they've won two straight games and looked good doing it.

They thumped the AL Central-leading Royals, 12-1, Wednesday to end a six-game losing streak. On Thursday night, after a cross-country flight, they struck early and then let Carlos Carrasco do the rest in a 3-1 victory over Oakland at O.co Coliseum.

The A's and Indians are in the same weight class. Before the Indians traded Murphy and Moss, the A's shipped left-hander Scott Kazmir to Houston. The Indians reside in last place in the AL Central and the A's are the cellar-dwellers of the AL West.

So this is about as even a series as you're going to get.

The Indians took a 3-0 lead in the first against Chris Bassitt (0-4, 3.10), who pitched well against them on July 11 in a six-inning no decision. Jason Kipnis started the game with a single, but was caught stealing when Francisco Lindor didn't get a sacrifice bunt done.

Lindor redeemed himself when he reached on a single and scored on Michael Brantley's double down the left field line. Brantley wasn't credited with an RBI because the ball bounced by left fielder Sam Fuld as it came off the grandstand, allowing Lindor to score and Brantley to reach third.

Carlos Santana followed with a long homer to center to make it 3-0. Santana hit a 1-1 pitch for his 12th homer. He has hit all of them from the left side of the plate.

Carlos Carrasco on his two-hitter vs. Oakland Right-hander Carlos Carrasco threw a two-hitter Thursday night in the Indians' 3-1 victory over Oakland at O.co Coliseum.

Oakland came back with a run of its own in the first on Josh Reddick's double. After that it was all Carrasco, who threw the Indians third straight complete game following Corey Kluber on Wednesday and Trevor Bauer on Tuesday.

It's the first time the Indians have had three straight complete games since Mark Clark, Jack Morris and Charles Nagy did it against the Twins from July 1 through July 2, 1994.

Carrasco (11-8, 4.03) threw a two-hitter, striking out seven and walking one. Oakland's last baserunner was Brett Lawrie, who walked with one out in the fourth before being erased on a great double play started by third baseman Giovanny Urshela.

The last 16 A's went down in order. They did not have a hit after the first inning.

Carrasco threw 103 pitches, 72 for strikes.

What it means

The Indians (47-54) continue to play the role of road warrior. Thursday's win made them 27-22 away from Progressive Field. As good as they are on the road, they're that bad at home, going 20-32.

Did you see that?

Urshela started one of the top double plays of the season in the third inning.

He sprinted down the left field line to catch Marcus Semien's flare. By the time Urshela caught the ball and righted himself, Lawrie, running from first, had already made the turn at second. He was an easy double play victim.

Double down

Brantley's double in the first inning gave him 30 for the season. He went into the game second in the AL behind Kipnis.

In three of the last four years, Brantley has hit 30 or more doubles in a season. Last year he hit a career-high 45 doubles.

What's next?

RHP Danny Salazar (8-6, 3.72) vs. RHP Kendall Graveman (6-7, 4.13) on Friday night at 9:05 p.m. SportsTime Ohio, WTAM, WMMS will carry the game.

Salazar will be making his 19th start. He's coming off a tough 2-1 loss to the White Sox on July 26. Salazar is 1-0 against the A's this year.

Graveman is 0-3 with a 10.22 ERA in his last three starts. The opposition is hitting .357 against him in those games. He lost to the Salazar and the Indians on July 10 at Progressive Field. Cleveland Plain Dealer LOADED: 07.31.201959774 Cleveland Indians

Cleveland Indians have new goals in wake of Brandon Moss, David Murphy trades

Paul Hoynes

OAKLAND, Calif. – Do the Indians have another trade to make after sending outfielders David Murphy to the Angels and Brandon Moss to the Cardinals in the last three days?

The deadline for making a trade without waivers is 4 p.m. Friday. So the clock is running.

"We will definitely be active," said GM Chris Antonetti. "Whether that results in additional deals I'm not sure. But we'll be active."

The Indians acquired left-hander Rob Kaminsky, the Cardinals' No. 1 pick in 2013, in the Moss deal. Antonetti said Kaminsky, 20, would be sent to Class A Lynchburg.

"Rob is a guy we've liked for quite a while," said Antonetti. "He's a left-handed pitcher who has a good fastball with good life to it. He generates a lot of ground balls, keeps the ball in the ballpark and has a really good complement of secondary pitches."

Kaminsky went 6-5 with a 2.09 ERA in 17 starts for Palm Beach, St. Louis' advanced Class A team. He struck out 79 and walked 27 in 94 2/3 innings.

"He'll show a plus curveball and a good change up," said Antonetti. "We think he has a chance to develop into a solid major league starting pitcher."

Kaminsky was the Cardinals' No. 5 prospect according to Baseball America.

The change in direction for the Indians this season has been sudden. They're no longer talking about the wild card. The focus now is on assessing the current 25-man roster and getting a look at as many young players as possible in the second half.

Outfielder Tyler Holt replaced Murphy. Lonnie Chisenhall, the Tribe's opening day third baseman, was recalled Thursday to take Moss' spot on the roster. Chisenhall is expected to see playing time in right field, first base and third.

Manager Terry Francona indicated that first baseman Jesus Aguilar, sent down earlier this week, will get another look as well.

"We have to make sure we learn something about ourselves in the second half of the season," said Antonetti.

Moss led the Indians with 15 homers and ranked second in RBI with 50. His inability to string together consistently productive at-bats, however, was a big part for the failure of the Tribe's offense.

"In talking to Brandon last night when I told him about the trade, he expressed a lot of frustration," said Antonetti. "The thing we've all seen from Brandon is how much he cares, how passionate he is ... almost, at times, maybe too much."

"He wanted so desperately to be that person in the middle of the lineup that maybe that was difficult for him to do."

Moss hit .217 (73-for-337) with a team-high 106 strikeouts. He slashed .217/.288/.408.

St. Louis assumed what was left on Moss' \$6.5 million contract. The Indians sent cash with Murphy to the Angels to cover what was left on his \$6 million contract. That amount has yet to be determined.

If the Angels don't exercise Murphy's club option for 2016, the Indians will pay his \$500,000 buyout.

Francona, in his first two years managing the Indians, produced winning seasons. The Indians won 92 games in 2013 and won a wild card spot. He has produced 10 straight winning seasons going back to his days in Boston. That streak is in danger.

The Indians went into Thursday's series against the A's at 46-54, 15 games out of first place in the AL Central. They were six games out of the second wild card spot.

"I think the worst thing we could do is get through the season, regardless of our record, and not find out about some of our younger players," said Francona. "So the trade with Moss is obviously about helping the future when you get a pitcher, but also open some at-bats for guys like Holt."

Antonetti and Francona have talked to different players to explain their situation and course of action.

"I talk to the guys a lot," said Francona. "We played ourselves into this situation. When the game starts, nothing changes. You don't ever sacrifice trying to win a game."

"But Chris and his guys have a responsibility to take care of the organization. Our responsibility is on the field. To this point we haven't done a very good job of it."

He's back: Chisenhall hit .280 (44-for-157) with 13 doubles, three homers and 21 RBI in 40 games at Columbus. He was demoted on June 7 along with shortstop Jose Ramirez.

He's been playing right field and third for the Clippers. Last year he played some first base for the Indians.

"These last two months we're going to go see where we are for next year," said Chisenhall, 26. "We'll try to win some games, spoil a few people and have a good time."

Francona liked the idea that Chisenhall volunteered to play different positions so he could be a better asset to the team.

"That's how you have a career," said Francona.

When Chisenhall was demoted, he was hitting .209 (37-for-177) with four homers and 19 RBI in 52 games.

"I just kept swinging," said Chisenhall, when asked how he found his swing at Columbus. "You're never as far away as you think and you're never as good as you think."

"I know I'm not a .200 hitter. You just go up there and keep swinging and running the bases hard. There was no overhaul. It's going to look the same, hopefully, with different results."

Finally: Center field prospect Tyler Naquin was placed on the disabled list at Class AAA Columbus with a concussion after hitting the outfield fence Wednesday.

"We're re-evaluating him today," said Antonetti. "He collided with the wall. We're obviously very careful with it. We wanted to make sure we were prudent. We removed him from the game because anytime you have a head or neck involvement you're fearful of a concussion."

Antonetti said Naquin showed signs of improvement Thursday, but is still under observation.

Cleveland Plain Dealer LOADED: 07.31.2015

Cleveland Indians' Carlos Carrasco couldn't ask for more: no tipping, no trading

Print Email Paul Hoynes, Northeast Ohio Media Group By Paul Hoynes, Northeast Ohio Media Group

OAKLAND, Calif. – To do what Carlos Carrasco did on Thursday night, a pitcher has to have his mind right. Consider Carrasco's mind as right as rain.

First, he worked with pitching coach Mickey Callaway on his delivery to make sure he was no longer tipping his pitches. Then he met with manager Terry Francona on the trade rumors that were buzzing around his ears.

After that the Oakland A's didn't stand a chance.

Carrasco threw a two-hitter Thursday night in the Indians 3-1 win over the A's. He ended the game with 16 straight outs and allowed just two hitters to reach base after the first inning.

How good did Carrasco feel?

Better than when he came within one strike or a LeBron James-sized second baseman of throwing a no-hitter against Tampa Bay on July 1 at Tropicana Field.

"I felt stronger tonight," said Carrasco, when asked for a comparison. "I felt more consistent with my pitches down and way and inside. I faced these guys at home just before the All-Star break and I had something in mind about how to pitch them."

"I just reversed everything I did when I faced them at home."

On July 1 Carrasco had a 0-2 count on Joey Butler with two out in the ninth inning. He needed one more strike to become the first Indian since Lenny Barker in 1981 to throw a no-hitter. Butler lined that 0-2 pitch just over Jason Kipnis' head at second base for Tampa Bay's only hit of the game.

Kipnis is 5-11. King James is 6-8. Who knows if a few more inches in height would have made Carrasco a baseball immortal?

The White Sox knocked Carrasco around in his last start to the tune of six runs on seven hits in four innings. He felt he was tipping his pitches so he studied video and worked on his delivery with Callaway.

"It was something with my glove," said Carrasco. "I moved my glove too much. "Tonight I made sure to hold my glove in the middle of my body. Before I was holding it different and hitters see everything."

If Carrasco was tipping anything Thursday night, the A's didn't see it.

"There was nothing the hitters could do tonight," said Oakland starter and loser Chris Bassitt. "He was throwing four plus pitches for strikes. That's just not fair."

Tito told me we're not going to trade you. I said fine. I don't care what I hear.
Oakland's All-Star catcher Stephen Vogt took a 0-for-3 against Carrasco.

"He was some kind of good," said Vogt. "That's one of the best rotations in the game. We've got our work cut out for us in this series."

Carrasco's name started surfacing in trade rumors late last week. One rumor had Toronto making a big push for him. Before Carrasco took the mound against the A's, it was announced Toronto acquired left-hander David Price from the Tigers.

Francona thought the rumors were bothering Carrasco.

"I told him, 'Teams call. You're coveted. That's a good thing,'" said Francona. "But we're not dying to let our pitching go away. And they (the pitchers) know that."

Carrasco said the talk helped.

"Tito told me, 'We're not going to trade you,'" said Carrasco. "I said fine. I don't care what I hear. I'm still here and I'm still working. That's what we need to do."

The deadline for trades without waivers is 4 p.m. ET Friday.

Carrasco's complete game was the third straight by an Indians pitcher. It's the first time they've done that since 1994.

"It's good," said Carrasco. "It creates a little competition with your teammates. They already told Danny Salazar that he was to throw one on Friday."

Salazar faces to A's on Friday night.

Indians 2, Clippers 1 | Despite series split, Clippers content with position

By Jim MassieThe Columbus Dispatch • Friday July 31, 2015 8:04 AM

Since treading water beats the alternative, the Clippers took solace in splitting a four-game series with their International League West rivals, the Indianapolis Indians.

The Clippers captured the first two games at Huntington Park to move into first place, but the Indians grabbed the next two, including a 2-1 victory on Thursday, to regain the top spot by one game.

"We gained a lot of ground in the past two weeks," Clippers manager Chris Tremie said. "We lost a couple of close games. We played hard. The effort was there; we just came up short."

Indianapolis' Alen Hanson cranked a Josh Tomlin change-up off the railing in front of the second level in right field for a two-run homer in the third inning.

What looked like a possible molehill turned into a mountain as the Clippers mustered five hits against four Indians pitchers. A two-out double by Zach Walters in the sixth inning scored Jerry Sands for their only run.

The day began with two more subtractions from the active roster. Tyler Naquin, who left Wednesday's game after running into the center-field wall, was placed on the seven-day disabled list because of a concussion.

Third baseman/outfielder Lonnie Chisenhall left the team to rejoin the Cleveland Indians in Oakland after the Tribe traded outfielder Brandon Moss to the St. Louis Cardinals. The Indians also called up outfielder Tyler Holt on Wednesday after trading outfielder David Murphy.

Tremie didn't sense that the moves caused any distractions.

"It's all part of triple-A," he said. "You're going to have players up and down, whether it's call-ups, injuries or send-downs. It's all part of this level.

"I couldn't ask for more from their effort level to their work pregame and in-game. They're into it."

Tomlin (1-1) remains on an injury rehabilitation assignment with the Clippers from Cleveland. He made the eight-hour bus ride to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre for a three-game series that begins on Friday night.

He pitched into the seventh inning for the first time since undergoing shoulder surgery in March, allowing six hits.

Catcher Adam Moore liked what he saw.

"That guy is solid," he said. "It says a lot for a guy that is coming off (shoulder) surgery. Him just going out there and competing and throwing all of his pitches for strikes is big. That one pitch (to Hanson) just got away from him."

The Clippers trailed Indianapolis by seven games on July 7 and have made up considerable ground with 5½ weeks left in the season.

"Nothing surprises us," Moore said. "A lot of these guys have been around for a while. This time of the year, moves are going to happen."

"We're in a position to win the division. We compete every day and have fun. We have a good vibe in the clubhouse."

jmassie@dispatch.com

Nick Swisher 1-for-3 in Lake County Captains' 5-4 victory over Lansing Lugnuts

By David Glasier, The News-Herald

The Captains had an ultra-supportive teammate leading the cheers July 30 after they scored a run in the bottom of the ninth inning to pull out a 5-4 victory over the Lansing (Mich.) Lugnuts at Classic Park.

That teammate was Indians outfielder-designated hitter Nick Swisher.

As the Captains made their way into the clubhouse, Swisher was there at the door offering each player an enthusiastic greeting.

Back for a second rehab stint with the Captains as he continues his recovery from surgeries on both knees, Swisher was 1-for-3 with a single.

He also played nine innings in right field before being lifted for pinch hitter David Armendariz in the bottom of the ninth inning.

"This clubhouse already has plenty of energy and great chemistry. Having Nick here just makes it better," Captains hitting coach and interim manager Larry Day said.

Day is filling in for manager Shaun Larkin, who is at his home in Arizona on authorized leave. He will return on July 31.

Swisher will be back at Classic Park on July 31 as the Captains open a three-game series against the Great Lakes (Mich.) Loons.

After an off day Aug. 1, Swisher will rejoin the Captains Aug. 2 when they close the series against Great Lakes.

Late heroics, early power

Taylor Murphy's three-run home run in the bottom of the first inning, his eighth round-tripper of the season, staked Captains starter Sean Brady to a 3-0 lead.

The Lugnuts made it 3-1 in the top of the fifth, but the Captains answered in the bottom half of the frame on Anthony Santander's RBI single.

Santander was 4-for-5 and upped his batting average to .304.

In the top of the eighth, Brady yielded back-to-back solo home runs to Dawel Lugo and Boomer Collins.

The 21-year-old left-hander gutted his way through eight innings, yielding three runs on seven hits. Reliever Luke Eubank gave up a game-tying solo home run to David Harris in the top of the ninth.

With one out in the bottom of the ninth inning, Lansing center fielder DJ Davis misplayed a straightaway fly ball off the bat of Yonathan Mendoza for a two-base error.

Mendoza took third base on a single by Armendariz and scored the winning run on Santander's walkoff single to center field.

The Captains improved to 15-18 in the second half and 51-50 overall.

Indians trade Brandon Moss to Cards for LHP Rob Kaminsky

Filed on July 30, 2015 by [Chris Assenheimer](#)

CLEVELAND — As Major League Baseball's trade deadline approaches — today at 4 p.m. — the Indians are in full sell mode.

Outfielder David Murphy, one of Cleveland's top offensive weapons, was traded to the Los Angeles Angels on Tuesday, and Thursday, the Indians dealt outfielder and team home run leader Brandon Moss to the St. Louis Cardinals for minor league left-hander Rob Kaminsky.

The Indians entered Thursday trailing the first-place Royals by 15 games in the Central Division, but they were only six games back in the race for the American League's second wild-card entrant. Still, it is clear the Indians have already begun to plan for 2016, with more trades before the deadline a possibility.

"We'll definitely be active," Cleveland general manager Chris Antonetti said, "whether that results in additional deals, I don't know. But, we will be active."

Antonetti said he had been in discussions with the Cardinals for weeks, with the intensity picking up over the last two days, as first-place St. Louis searched for offensive assistance.

The Indians had higher expectations for Moss, an All-Star last year with Oakland, who was acquired this offseason in a trade for Double-A Akron infielder Joey Wendle before signing a one-year contract worth \$6.5 million. The Cardinals are responsible for the remainder of Moss' \$2.344 million salary.

Cleveland acquired him to be a powerful presence in the middle of its order, and while he did hit 15 home runs (50 RBIs), the consistency wasn't there for Moss, who batted .217 and struck out 106 times in 94 games.

"One thing we all saw with Brandon was how much he cared, sometimes too much, and how passionate he was," Antonetti said. "He wanted so desperately to be that force in the middle of our lineup, that maybe he just couldn't be.

"In talking with Brandon, he had higher expectations for himself. Hopefully, with a fresh start, he's able to get back to being the hitter we all know he can be."

Antonetti confirmed that Lonnie Chisenhall would be recalled from Triple-A Columbus to replace Moss on the 25-man roster. Chisenhall, who opened the year as Cleveland's starting third baseman, has been playing some outfield with Columbus, where he is batting .280 with three homers and 21 RBIs in 40 games. He hit .209 with four homers and 19 RBIs in 52 games for the Indians before losing his job to prospect Giovanni Urshela.

Unlike Double-A shortstop Eric Stamets, whom the Indians acquired in the Murphy trade, Kaminsky, a first-round draft choice (28th overall) in 2013, is considered one of the Cardinals' top prospects — ranked No. 3 by MLB.com and fifth by Baseball America.

He has spent the entire season at the Advanced Class A level, going 6-5 with a Florida State League-leading 2.09 ERA over 17 starts — 79 strikeouts in 94 2/3 innings.

Kaminsky, 20, will be assigned to Advanced Single-A Lynchburg.

"He's a left-handed pitcher that has a great fastball and a really good complement of secondary pitches," Antonetti said. "In total, we think he has a chance to progress into a quality major league starting pitcher."

Naquin note

Columbus outfielder Tyler Naquin, the Indians' first-round draft pick (15th overall) in 2012, sustained a concussion and was placed on the seven-day disabled list after colliding with a wall Wednesday.

"With a head and neck, it's always a concern because of concussions," Antonetti said. "We're obviously being very careful with it. The good news is Tyler's up and mobile, but it will probably be a while before he's back to performing baseball activities."

Naquin, 24, is hitting .253 with five homers and 15 RBIs in 43 games since being promoted from Double-A Akron. He batted .348 with a homer and 10 RBIs in 34 games for Akron.

Strongsville native Anthony Gallas was promoted from Akron to take Naquin's roster spot. Gallas, 27, hit .268 with 12 homers and 43 RBIs in 87 games for the RubberDucks.

Melvin keeps juggling lineup in wake of Zobrist trade

By Ron Kroichick

As the A's move forward without Ben Zobrist, shipped to Kansas City on Monday, their lineup remains in flux.

One example: Ike Davis batted cleanup Thursday night against the Indians, a night after hitting No. 2 against the Dodgers. Davis has now made 199 career starts in the No. 4 spot in the order — and exactly three starts in the No. 2 spot.

"I'm used to the 4-hole — that's where I've hit the majority of my career," Davis said. "I just play where they tell me to play. I'm sure there will be a lot of different lineup changes for the remainder of the season."

Manager Bob Melvin doesn't have a ton of attractive options for the No. 2 spot, especially with Stephen Vogt struggling. Coco Crisp would seem like a logical choice, if and when he regains health and returns from his rehabilitation assignment.

Sam Fuld, who has speed but is hitting only .210 this season, batted second Thursday night.

"We are trying to figure it out," Melvin said of his post-Zobrist batting order. "We're experimenting a little bit."

Fuld has speed, but he brought a .210 batting average into Thursday night's game. He's an old-school No. 2 hitter, small and fast; more often these days, a team's best hitter fills the spot, even if he's a power guy.

"Batting second is the new third in a lot of places," Melvin said. "You get a guy up there a little more. A lot of times, you have a runner on first and you might see more fastballs in that spot."

Other pregame nuggets from the Coliseum

**Sean Doolittle threw 26 pitches in his first bullpen session since he returned to the disabled list on May 28. Doolittle, sidelined with a strained left shoulder, emerged in great spirits.

"After today, I'm more eager to move it along because of how well it went," Doolittle said. "I felt a lot more free and easy today. My velocity is there more than it was before. All things considered, I think we're pretty close.

"My goal all along has been to pitch this year, and I think that's a very realistic goal if things continue like this."

Melvin acknowledged the value of Doolittle getting back on the mound in 2015.

"It is important for next year, for him to get out there and pitch some innings and feel good about what he's doing," Melvin said. "It's one thing to throw a bullpen and for your arm to feel good, but it's another thing to get out there in games."

**Outfielder Jake Smolinski took grounders at first base Thursday, in an attempt to give Melvin another infield option. Smolinski has not played the position in his 70 major-league games.

**Reminder to A's fans: There will be no BART service between Oakland and San Francisco on Saturday and Sunday. Fans are encouraged to use other public transbay transportation options, such as ferries and AC Transit service. The A's and Indians play at 6:05 p.m. on Saturday and 1:05 on Sunday.

**Thursday night's A's lineup: Burns, CF; Fuld, LF; Reddick, RF; Davis, 1B; Lawrie, 3B; Vogt, C; Butler, DH; Sogard, 2B; Semien, SS

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