

## Salazar roughed up early in loss to A's

By Jordan Bastian and Jane Lee / MLB.com | 2:29 AM ET

OAKLAND -- Sometimes in baseball, a team can't hit what it has never seen. The Indians got their first look at A's rookie left-hander [Sean Manaea](#) on Tuesday night, and went down quietly in a 9-1 loss at the Coliseum.

The larger issue for the American League Central-leading Indians, however, was another abbreviated effort from righty [Danny Salazar](#). The starter lasted only four innings, in which he allowed six runs on eight hits, including a three-run homer from slugger [Khris Davis](#) in the opening frame. The blast was Davis' 33rd of the season.

"I'm not sure during the game you want to give credit," said Indians manager Terry Francona, when asked about Manaea. "But, when it's over, the kid did a good job."

With the loss, the Tribe's lead over Detroit was trimmed to 6 1/2 games in the division.

Manaea earned the win after one of the best performances of his first Major League season. The lefty did not allow a hit until the fourth inning, scattered three on the evening overall, and ended with eight strikeouts in his seven innings. The Tribe's only breakthrough against Manaea came in the sixth, when catcher [Chris Gimenez](#) belted a leadoff homer.

"Everything about today was free and easy," Manaea said. "Having that confidence and having that free and easy motion, it all came together today. It was kind of like last year. I felt like last year I was pretty good with my fastball command and it just all came together today. I was happy with how everything turned out."

### MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

**Rookies leave their mark:** The A's youth movement was on full display Tuesday. Behind rookie Manaea, fellow rookies [Ryon Healy](#), [Chad Pinder](#) and [Bruce Maxwell](#) accounted for four RBIs. For Pinder, who collected an RBI single in the third, and Maxwell, who padded the A's lead with a two-run double in the eighth, it marked the first career RBI for both. Healy, meanwhile, has been one of the club's hottest hitters, his most recent performance bringing about three hits, two of them doubles, to extend his hitting streak to 10 games.

"I played with a lot of these guys last year in [Double-A] Midland," Manaea said. "Ever since then I knew this group that was coming up was **Salazar's early exit:** The Indians insist Salazar is healthy, but the hard-throwing righty has certainly looked rusty two starts into his return from the disabled list. Following his bout with right elbow inflammation, Salazar has allowed nine runs on nine hits with more walks (six) than strikeouts (three) in five innings combined since being activated by Cleveland. Salazar stayed around 94-96 mph with his fastball in his 80-pitch outing against the A's.

"I thought he was up with too many fastballs," Francona said. "Because of that, it didn't seem like they really had to respect his offspeed pitches. So, they got pretty good swings at his fastball. The hope is he gets some repetition, including side days and stuff, and gets back to the Danny that we saw in the first half. It'd certainly be helpful." [More >>](#)

**Khrushed:** Davis' first-inning blast -- launched an estimated 416 feet, per [Statcast™](#) -- not only provided the A's with a hurried three-run lead, but set the mark for most home runs by an Athletic over the last eight years, surpassing [Josh Reddick's](#) total of 32 in 2012. Davis, whose RBI count is up to 82 in his first season in green and gold, is just the second A's right-handed hitter to compile 30 home runs over the last 14 years, joining Frank Thomas (39 in 2006).

**Smolinski's web gem:** The A's [Jake Smolinski](#) wowed with an absolutely extraordinary leaping catch in the eighth inning, robbing [Lonnie Chisenhall](#) of extra bases with a diving snare in right-center field. Oakland's center fielder covered approximately 63 feet on the highlight-reel play, according to Statcast™, tracking down a screaming line drive that left Chisenhall's bat at 106 mph, and doing so fully outstretched.

"I just felt like I got a good jump, and I felt like I had it the whole way," Smolinski said. "It was fun."

"I didn't think he had a chance at it," A's manager Bob Melvin said. "He got such a great jump on it and made a complete head-long dive to get it. That's a big play."

### QUOTABLE

"I think I'm still leaving the ball up. That's what happened tonight. That's not going to stop me. I've just got to keep working to get it down. I don't want to make any excuses. I'm watching the videos. I'm doing things the way I always do it. It might be my arm is a little bit too lazy. What I need to do is be aggressive. I know I'll get it." -- *Salazar*

### WHAT'S NEXT

**Indians:** Right-hander [Trevor Bauer](#) (9-5, 3.88 ERA) is scheduled to take the ball for the Tribe at 3:35 p.m. ET on Wednesday in the finale of this three-game set at the Coliseum. In his last outing, Bauer set a career high with 13 strikeouts, while limiting Toronto to two runs over eight innings on Friday. He is 2-0 with a 2.66 ERA in his past three starts for Cleveland.

**A's:** The A's will close out this three-game series against the Indians with right-hander [Kendall Graveman](#) on the mound in Wednesday's 12:35 p.m. PT finale at the Coliseum. Graveman twirled his first career shutout in his last start, a two-hitter in the A's 9-0 win at Chicago on Saturday. He's 0-2 with a 3.38 ERA in three career starts against Cleveland.

### Combating Miller's slider not an easy task

By Jordan Bastian / MLB.com | [@MLBastian](#) | August 23rd, 2016

OAKLAND -- [Rajai Davis](#) called left-hander [Andrew Miller's](#) slider an untouchable pitch for a right-handed batter. Sitting at his locker inside the visitors' clubhouse at the Coliseum on Tuesday afternoon, the veteran Cleveland outfielder broke down what he feels is the best way to approach the ace reliever.

"I just think you prepare for the fastball," Davis said. "And then, if the slider is there, and it's in the path of your bat, you hit it. If not ..."

Davis stopped, shook his head and let out a slight laugh.

*If not*, batters might experience what Oakland's [Khris Davis](#) went through to end Monday's 1-0 Indians win. Catcher [Roberto Perez](#) headed out to the mound and told Miller that he felt the A's outfielder was sitting on the fastball, so they decided to go with a slider low, inside and in the dirt. The 2-2 offering sliced below the zone, towards Davis' back foot and **caused him to fall down**, as he unsuccessfully tried to check his swing.

The awkward swing put Miller's dominance on full display, and was still a topic of conversation a day later.

"You kind of laugh, but not at him," Indians second baseman **Jason Kipnis** said of Khris Davis' strikeout swing. "You laugh almost because I've faced him. I've done it, too. I've swung at like a pitch-out basically from him. So, it's literally not laughing at him. It's just such a tough at-bat." Through nine appearances for the Indians, who acquired Miller from the Yankees before the Aug. 1 non-waiver Trade Deadline, the lanky lefty has a 1.69 ERA with 16 strikeouts and one walk in 10 2/3 innings. Overall this year, Miller has fashioned a 1.45 ERA in 53 games, during which he has piled up 93 strikeouts against eight walks over 56 innings.

The book is out on Miller, and it just does not seem to matter. Hitters have a .169 average against his slider and a .172 mark against his fastball this season. Whether right-handed or left-handed, batters have a hard time balancing Miller's high-velocity heater with a slider that can come in more than 10 mph slower, and with sharp bite.

"His fastball comes in at 95 or 96," said Kipnis, who hits from the left side. "So, it's cutting down the time that you have to decide if it's a fastball or it's a slider. That makes it that much tougher. Not only is he doing it from closer by [for lefty hitters], but you're having trouble picking up where he's coming from, because he kind of tucks it in for a second. Sometimes he comes from out there, and sometimes he whips it right at you."

For right-handed batters like Rajai Davis, trying to sit on the fastball is one way to go.

"It's just tough, because he slings 96 in there," Davis said. "That's tough enough to hit by itself. So, you've got 96 with movement, if he needs it. So, in the back of your mind, you know that. You try to gear up for that, and then he throws that slider, which is just as nasty as the fastball."

Miller said a key for him over the past few seasons has been attacking with strikes, which in turn has opened up the door for batters to chase offerings outside the zone. As **August Fagerstrom of Fangraphs.com noted**, Miller's minus-10 percent difference between swings at pitches inside the zone (51.5 percent) and those outside the zone (41.5) -- the largest gap in the Majors -- shows how he has confounded batters this year.

"I've got two pitches," Miller said. "So, I spend every pitch trying to figure out what he's looking for. Maybe some guys stay in-between and hit both. Some guys seem like they're guessing one way or the other. So, I try to be as educated as I can. I think we guessed right [against Khris Davis]."

Asked about Davis crumpling to the dirt on his swing attempt, Perez smiled.

"I was back there like, 'Wow, that's incredible,'" said the catcher. "When you see a guy like that falling down on his knees, that was a nasty pitch. What can you do as a hitter? It was awesome."

### Indians trying to get Salazar right again

By Jordan Bastian / MLB.com | [@MLBastian](#) | 2:23 AM ET

OAKLAND -- It was not that long ago that **Danny Salazar** had a legitimate case for starting the All-Star Game for the American League. Right now, the Indians would probably have second thoughts about handing him the ball if the season were on the line.

Fortunately for Cleveland, the club has a bit of a cushion atop the American League Central and there is still ample time to get Salazar back on track before the Tribe potentially punches its ticket to October. In the wake of a **9-1** drubbing at the hands of the A's on Tuesday night, though, there was no getting around the reality of Salazar's situation.

"We need Danny to be better," Indians manager Terry Francona said.

The way Salazar has pitched in his past two starts, the righty sure looks like a Minor League rehab stint could have helped ease his electric arm back into the swing of things. There is no turning back now, though, and Cleveland is doing all it can to get Salazar back to where he was in the first half.

Francona and pitching coach Mickey Callaway have attempted to balance increasing Salazar's workload with winning, and the early results have been subpar. In his return from the 15-day disabled list on Thursday, the righty lasted only one inning against the White Sox before retreating to the bullpen to up his pitch count. The A's tagged Salazar for six runs on eight hits in four-plus innings. He walked three and struck out two.

In a span of seven starts, Salazar's season ERA has jumped from 2.22 to 3.90.

"It's tough," Callaway said. "Obviously, it's a tough assignment for Danny not to be able to go on a [Minor League] rehab start, getting comfortable throwing the ball over the plate again. So, we're trying to do the best we can with the time we had and the time we have in-between starts to get him ready. Four days isn't a lot of time to make things totally change, but hopefully, slowly, he'll get there."

The feedback from Francona, Callaway and Salazar is that health is not the issue now.

"My arm feels good. My body feels good," Salazar said.

Back in early June, the Indians skipped Salazar once in the rotation due to shoulder fatigue and he responded well, going 5-0 with a 1.91 ERA that month. Before the All-Star Game, Salazar was scratched from the AL's active roster due to concerns about his elbow. That problem flared in a two-inning outing on Aug. 1, prompting Cleveland to place him on the 15-day DL.

Over his past four starts, which includes two outings before the DL stint and the two following his time on the shelf, Salazar has a 15.55 ERA in 11 innings combined. In that small, bloated sample, the right-hander has nearly as many walks (10) as strikeouts (11) and he has piled up 254 pitches. Salazar has thrown 114 pitches (65 strikes) in five innings since being activated.

Against the A's, Francona waited until after Salazar allowed a leadoff double in the fifth to turn to the bullpen.

"You don't want to just kill the bullpen," Francona said. "So, I do think letting him pitch a little bit is good for him."

Callaway cited that as the only true positive to come from Tuesday's outing.

"He did get stretched out," Callaway said. "So, he can throw more pitches his next outing. He was up in the zone. He wasn't able to get ahead when he needed to. He wasn't able to execute a pitch when he wanted to. It was a rough night for him."

The pitching coach added Salazar needs to take advantage of his side days and improve his routines to take the next step forward.

"He's got to shore those things up," Callaway said.

Salazar said that is the plan.

"I've just got to keep working," said the pitcher. "I don't want to make any excuses. I'm watching the videos. I'm doing things the way I always do it. It might be my arm is a little bit too lazy. What I need to do is be aggressive. I know I'll get it."

## **Bauer looks to keep Indians rolling in finale**

By Mark Chiarelli / MLB.com | 12:51 AM ET

Oakland's Kendall Graveman returns to the mound for the first time since twirling a "Maddux," opposing Cleveland's Trevor Bauer in the finale of a three-game series Wednesday afternoon at the Coliseum.

Graveman (9-8, 4.09 ERA) threw a two-hit shutout Friday against the White Sox in 98 pitches in a 9-0 win, delivering his strongest start of the season and punctuating what continues to be a strong stretch. The righty is 8-2 with a 3.47 ERA in his last 15 starts, and his home ERA (3.03) is eighth lowest among American League starters.

The sinker-baller's never beaten the Indians in three starts, going 0-2 with a 3.38 ERA in 18 2/3 innings. One of those losses was this year's 5-3 loss on July 29, when Graveman allowed four runs (three earned) in 6 1/3 innings.

Cleveland counters with Bauer (9-5, 3.38 ERA) in his 21st start of the season. The 25-year-old is coming off a 13-strikeout no-decision against the Blue Jays on Friday, going eight innings and allowing two runs. Bauer faced Graveman July 29, giving up three runs (two earned) in 5 1/3 innings.

It's been an up-and-down second half for Bauer. He posted a 5.19 ERA in July and gave up eight runs (seven earned) in 2 2/3 innings to begin August, losing to the Twins Aug. 3. He's rebounded since, going at least six innings in each of his last three starts.

### **Things to know**

- Bauer's pitched well on the road this year, going 6-2 with a 3.03 ERA in 13 outings (nine starts) on the road.
- Both Khris Davis and Yonder Alonso have hit homers against Bauer. Alonso's 2-for-7 against the righty in eight career plate appearances, including two strikeouts.
- The A's are expected to place Marcus Semien on paternity leave prior to Wednesday's game. He's missed all of their series with Cleveland after the birth of his son Monday afternoon.

## **Cleveland Indians rookie Mike Clevinger makes the most of a new, challenging situation**

[Zack Meisel, cleveland.com](http://Zack.Meisel.cleveland.com)

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- The Blue Jays had loaded the bases. Toronto sent an imposing figure with 35 home runs to his name to the batter's box. So, Terry Francona strolled to the mound, retrieved the baseball from starting pitcher Corey Kluber and summoned ... a rookie with two career big-league relief appearances?

It wasn't the manager's Plan A or B or C. Francona assumed Kluber would complete the seventh inning on Sunday and keep the Indians within one run in the process. The right-hander retired the first two batters before he walked No. 9 hitter Ryan Goins, allowed a single to Devon Travis and walked Josh Donaldson, the reigning American League Most Valuable Player.

Kluber's pitch count had reached 113 and Clevinger owned the only warm body in the bullpen.

"That probably wouldn't be the first situation I'd pick for him coming in in relief," Francona said. "I just thought Kluber had gone far enough. He had two quick outs and then he couldn't get that last out. I didn't feel good about him facing another hitter."

Said Clevinger: "It definitely brought intensity to a new level."

Clevinger started Edwin Encarnacion with an pitch on the outside corner for a called first strike.

Clevinger got ahead with strike one on the outside corner.

He missed with a fastball before he tossed a slider in for strike two.

Then, chaos ensued.

After home-plate umpire Ramon De Jesus granted Encarnacion time, third-base umpire Greg Gibson called a balk. Clevinger, who taps his front foot before he motions toward the plate, had started and stopped and started again. Since time was called, however, the balk was dismissed.

The home-plate umpire had called time before the third-base umpire ruled a balk.

Both managers met with the umpires. Pitching coach Mickey Callaway met with Clevinger. Encarnacion and Tribe catcher Roberto Perez exchanged words.

After a delay of several minutes, Clevinger returned to the rubber and painted the outside corner with a 94-mph fastball for strike three.

Encarnacion never lifted the bat off of his shoulder during his encounter with Clevinger.

"He kept his composure," Francona said. "There was a lot going on."

The rookie passed the most challenging test of his career.

"That was a big spot in the game," Kluber said. "Obviously, he didn't have anywhere to put him. He executed some awesome pitches right there."

Said Clevinger: "I just tried to stay as locked in as I could."

For months, the Indians hinted that Clevinger would play a role in the bullpen down the stretch. Now, he's receiving that opportunity. He logged four frames in relief following Danny Salazar's truncated outing on Thursday.

At first, Clevinger was concerned with the transition to a relief role.

"I was worried about if I was getting enough throwing in," he said, "if I needed to stretch out, how it was going to be with just short-tossing out of the bullpen before getting out on the bump. But I think I found how to get my arm prepared before the game starts."

Francona surmised that Clevinger's outing on Sunday should provide the rookie with a bit of a confidence boost.

"That was huge," said reliever Cody Allen. "That guy is going to get some really big outs for us down the stretch and in October. He's a vital part of what we're doing here."

## **Carlos Carrasco's 'fresh' right arm gives Cleveland Indians' rotation big lift**

**Paul Hoynes, cleveland.com** By Paul Hoynes, cleveland.com

OAKLAND – The Indians didn't go anywhere but home last year, but the pitching of Josh Tomlin and Cody Anderson certainly helped keep them in the wild card picture until the season's final games.

This year the Indians are leading the AL Central by 7½ games with 39 to play and the boost their rotation needs could come from Carlos Carrasco. He certainly looked like that kind of pitcher Monday night in a 1-0 victory over the A's.

Carrasco (9-6, 3.12) struck out nine and threw eight scoreless innings. Andrew Miller relieved and struck out the side in order to complete the combined four-hitter, featuring 12 strikeouts and no walks.

"He was awesome," said Miller of Carrasco. "That's about as good as you can throw the ball. I know you need a couple of things to go your way, but that was no-hit stuff. That was a lot of fun to watch."

What exactly qualifies Carrasco to be the adrenaline rush this rotation needs? Well, he's pitched 124 innings, which is 45 2/3 innings fewer than Corey Kluber, 17 1/3 fewer than Tomlin and 15 1/3 fewer than Trevor Bauer, who opened the year in the bullpen.

In other words, his arm should be livelier than most. That's lively as in fresh as a vine-ripened tomato.

"That's exactly what I meant," said manager Terry Francona. "Everybody (the average big league starter who has been in the rotation all year) has probably 40 more innings than him – somewhere around there – but you can tell his tank is not anywhere close to empty."

Carrasco earned his freshness the hard way – on the disabled list. He tore his left hamstring covering first base at Comerica Park on April 24 and spent six weeks on the disabled list. While other starters might still be waiting for their second wind, Carrasco is still working on his first.

"The way I pitched tonight is the way I feel," said Carrasco. "I feel like it's the middle of the season right now for me."

Carlos Carrasco in midseason form

Carrasco has struck out 20 batters in 14 2/3 innings in his last two starts. On Wednesday against the White Sox at Progressive Field, Carrasco couldn't protect several leads in a 10-7 loss, while striking out 11. Monday night he only had to worry about one lead, and that came in the eighth inning when Carlos Santana homered.

"It felt great," said Carrasco of Santana's homer. "I know I have great teammates behind me so we can score some runs. It was a big run right there. Then it's important for the pitchers to go out and put some zeroes on the board.

"These last five or six weeks are going to be really important for us right now."

The Indians have not won a division title since 2007. They're in a good position to end that drought and Carrasco knows it.

"Everything you do good in your last start, you're trying to carry over into your next start," said Carrasco. "Sometimes I try to think too much about getting a lot of strikeouts. What's more important now is put a zero on the board."

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## **Danny Salazar turns in another false start as Cleveland Indians lose to Oakland A's, 9-1**

By Paul Hoynes, cleveland.com

OAKLAND -- Pop quiz time.

What three-inning performance by Danny Salazar do you prefer the most?

The three innings he threw in the bullpen after getting rocked in the first inning of his return from the disabled list Thursday against the White Sox at Progressive Field? Or the three innings he turned in Tuesday night after getting rocked in the first inning by Oakland at O.co Coliseum?

Well, the three innings Salazar threw in the bullpen at Progressive Field hurt a lot less than the three innings he threw Tuesday night in Oakland's 9-1 win over the Indians.

The Indians chose not to send Salazar on a rehab assignment after he spent 15 days on the disabled list with a sore right elbow. They're fortunate it's only cost them one game thanks to Tyler Naquin's walk-off magic against Chicago.

Salazar, as he did against the White Sox, struggled to get through the first inning Tuesday night. On the way to throwing 27 pitches, he allowed four hits and a walk. One of the hits was a three-run homer by Khris Davis to put the A's ahead to stay.

Davis, who struck out four times Monday, has 33 homers this season.

Salazar, against the White Sox, threw 34 pitches in the first inning before retiring to the bullpen to throw three more innings. There was no retiring to the pen Tuesday. Salazar took the mound in the second, third, fourth and fifth innings.

He threw nine pitches in the second with the inning ending on a stike-em-out-throw-em-out double play. Jake Smolinski went down swinging and Coco Crisp was thrown out attempting to steal second base.

Salazar, however, couldn't maintain that momentum. He lost the strike zone again in the third, throwing 29 pitches against seven Oakland batters.

The A's stretched the lead to 5-0 with two runs in the third. Danny Valencia doubled, took third on a wild pitch and scored on Yonder Alonzo's sacrifice fly. Rookie Chris Pinder, who started the game hitting .091, singled home the second run.

"I thought he was up with too many fastballs," said manager Terry Francona. "Because of that, it didn't seem like they really had to respect his offspeed pitches. So, they got pretty good swings at his fastball."

Terry Francona on Danny Salazar

Salazar came out for the fifth and allowed a leadoff double to Davis. He was done for the night, but he was charged with a sixth run when Ryon Healy doubled past third to score Davis for a 6-0 lead.

In two starts since coming off the disabled list Salazar (11-5, 3.90) has allowed six earned runs on nine hits and six walks in five innings. The Indians could have sent him on a rehab, but decided to let him work his way back in the big leagues. It has not been pretty.

"I think I'm still leaving the ball up," said Salazar. "That's what happened tonight. That's not going to stop me. I've just got to keep working to get it down."

Sean Manaea (5-8, 4.53), Oakland's rookie left-hander, baffled the Indians. He allowed one run on three hits in seven innings. Manaea, who came into the game tied for third in the AL with three losses in August, struck out eight and walked two.

It was Manaea's first start against the Indians, who fell to 25-13 against left-handed starters this year.

The Indians only run came on a leadoff homer by catcher Chris Gimenez in the sixth. It was his fourth homer and second this month.

The A's added three more runs in the eighth in an inning featuring a botched double play by shortstop Francisco Lindor and an error by second baseman Jason Kipnis.

What it means

Detroit trimmed the Indians' lead in the AL Central to 6 1/2 with a win over the Twins on Tuesday night.

The Indians are 20-16 since the All-Star break and 4-1 against the A's.

The pitches

Salazar threw 80 pitches, 49 or 61 percent for strikes. Manaea threw 104 pitches, 71 or 68 percent for strikes.

Bridge too far

The Indians were held hitless for the first 3 2/3 innings until Mike Napoli singled into the right field corner. Valencia, however, cut Napoli down with a strong throw as he tried for second base to end the inning.

Robbed in plain sight

Lonnie Chisenhall, pinch-hitting for Brandon Guyer, started the eighth with a line drive to right center field off former teammate John Axford.

Smolinski denied Chisenhall extra bases with a diving, back-to-the-plate catch near the warning track. It was the play of the night.

Thanks for coming

The Indians and A's drew a crowd of 13,141 to O.co Coliseum on Tuesday night. First pitch was at 10:07 p.m. with a temperature of 60 degrees.

The A's have drawn 1,244,846 this season.

What's next?

Trevor Bauer (9-5, 3.88) will face Oakland right-hander Kendall Graveman (9-8, 4.09) in the season series finale between the Indians and A's on Wednesday at 3:35 p.m. SportsTime Ohi8o and WTAM 1100 will carry the game.

Bauer is coming off three solid starts. On Friday he struck out a career-high 13 and pitched eight innings in a no decision against Toronto. He has a 2.25 career ERA against Oakland in two career starts.

Graveman will be facing Bauer for the second time this season. On July 29, the Indians ended his six-game winning streak. He's 0-2 lifetime against the Tribe.

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### **Cleveland Indians unlikely to go outside organization for help before Aug. 31 deadline**

By Paul Hoynes, cleveland.com

OAKLAND, Calif. – There are no perfect teams in the big leagues. Regardless of what their won-loss records might be, they all have soft spots.

The Indians are no different. Their fans can wring their hands over non-hitting catchers, closer Cody Allen's tightrope walking and the bumpy road that starters Josh Tomlin and Danny Salazar are traveling.

But the one thing they do have is a 7½-game lead in the AL Central with 39 games to play. Logistically and organizationally, that puts them in a tough spot to try and add a player by the Aug. 31 waiver deadline.

The Indians entered Tuesday night's game against Oakland with the best record in the American League at 72-51 (.585). It's a great place to be, but there are drawbacks if they want to make a deal.

For a player to become available, the 14 other AL teams would have to pass once they'd been put on waivers. A team could easily put in a claim to block a player from getting to the Indians.

"For a team in our position, it about where you select," said Derek Falvey, Indians assistant general manager. "It's hard for guys to get through all the way to us. So I think the likelihood for those kind of trades is a little bit harder when you're in the position we're in, which we're happy about, no question."

Falvey, who is making this trip with the team, says the Indians might be able to solve their problems internally.

He pointed to catcher Yan Gomes and right-hander Tommy Hunter as players who could help down the stretch. Gomes (right shoulder) and Hunter (back) are on the disabled list, but Gomes could start a rehab assignment at the end of this seven-game trip and Hunter is already rehabbing at Class AAA Columbus.

Gomes getting closer to rehab assignment

"There are some pieces that are still here, that aren't currently playing, that we think can still help us," said Falvey.

Danny Salazar and Josh Tomlin are the soft spots in the starting rotation. Salazar started Tuesday night against the A's.

"What's unique about our staff is that they were so dominant for such a long period of time that when you have a few starts in a row that might go poorly," said Falvey, "it feels like things might be falling apart. But in reality if you spread that out over the course of a season, the number of starts that haven't gone the way these guys wanted, you wouldn't even notice it."

How worried should Tribe be about Salazar, Tomlin?

Corey Kluber is 7-1 in his last 11 starts. Carlos Carrasco, who threw eight scoreless innings in Monday's 1-0 win over the A's, has 20 strikeouts in his last two starts. Trevor Bauer, 2-0 in his last three starts, struck out a career-high 13 Blue Jays in eight innings on Friday.

Salazar and Tomlin have been struggling.

"With the way the rotation is set up right now, it looks like Carlos is just hitting his stride," said Falvey. "Kluber, with the way he's pitched since the break, has been really solid. Trevor has bounced back after a couple of tough starts to where two of his last three have been good."

Manager Terry Francona said if Tomlin's problems continue, they might skip him for a start in September. Mike Clevinger, who has been working out of the bullpen lately, could fill in.

"There might be a time in September, who knows, where we skip him once," said Francona, "so he doesn't have to muscle up to get his velocity and lose his command because command is what makes him so good."

Francona added that hopefully it doesn't come to that.

Salazar's start against the A's was his second since coming off the disabled list on Thursday. He went one inning in his first start, and allowed three runs in the first inning Tuesday night.

"Danny, coming off the injury, has a full round (of work) where he can get back into his routine," said Falvey. "I mean we feel pretty good about that whole group."

Testing, testing: Gomes caught Kluber's bullpen on Tuesday afternoon. He caught a few pitches from Andrew Miller.

Miller struck out the side in order in the ninth to save Monday's 1-0 victory. On Sunday, Cody Allen earned the save in the Tribe's 3-2 win over Toronto.

It would seem Francona has kept his word about using whatever reliever he deems necessary among Miller, Allen and Bryan Shaw based on the situation he's facing.

Miller's role with Tribe? 'I'll be a bullpen pitcher'

"It seems like we're all going to be flexible, and I think that's good for us," said Miller. "I think we've got a good group of guys and, as a unit, I think we've pitched really well top to bottom since I've been here. If we can give Tito as many options as possible, I think we'll be better for it."

Miller is 7-1 with a 1.45 ERA and 11 saves. He's struck out 93, walked eight and allowed nine earned runs in 56 innings. What he's done with the Indians in nine appearances since being acquired from the Yankees – 16 strikeouts in 10 2/3 innings and a .111 batting average -- has not surprised Francona.

"That's why we traded so many good young players because we thought so highly of him," said Francona. "You don't trade that many good young players if you don't feel he's that good."

The Indians traded Clint Frazier, Justus Sheffield, Ben Heller and J.P. Feyereisen to the Yankees for Miller on July 31.

Cleveland Plain Dealer LOADED: 08.24.2016

### **Cleveland Indians: Danny Salazar, Tribe struggle at Oakland**

*By Michael Wagaman, The Associated Press*

OAKLAND >> The Athletics used a steady stream of big hits from three rookies and one big blast from a veteran slugger to end their latest losing skid.

It's not enough to take the sting out of Oakland's worst season in nearly 20 years, not by any stretch.

Given all that's gone on over the week with his ballclub, manager Bob Melvin gladly welcomed it.

Khris Davis hit a three-run homer and scored three times while rookies Chad Pinder and Bruce Maxwell recorded their first career RBI, and the A's beat the Indians, 9-1, on Tuesday night to snap a three-game losing streak.

photos >>

box score >>

"It's fun to watch," Melvin said. "Guys getting their first RBIs, playing full games, not subbing guys out, not hitting for guys. You think back and remember what your first RBI and so forth was like so it adds a little bit more to it."

Davis had struck out in six consecutive at-bats before hitting his 33rd home run of the season off starter Danny Salazar, an opposite field shot that gave the A's an early lead. That's the most by an Oakland player since Jack Cust hit 33 in 2008.

Danny Valencia added two hits in his first game back in the A's lineup after being fined following a clubhouse fight with teammate Billy Butler while rookie Ryon Healy had three hits including two doubles.

"We've been focused on a lot of negatives lately, and we don't have a lot of wins," Valencia said. "But actually we've had a lot of positive things, especially with the younger guys."

One of those younger guys is left-hander Sean Manaea.

Manaea (5-8) allowed three hits and one run over seven innings for his second win since June 29. Manaea walked two and fanned eight to become the first A's rookie pitcher to reach 100 strikeouts since Dan Straily in 2013.

Chris Gimenez homered for the Indians, who went into the day with the best record in the AL.

One day after being shut out for the eighth time this season, Oakland bounced back with one of its best offensive games in weeks to end a four-game losing streak to Cleveland.

Eight A's had at least one hit while six had one RBI or more.

Yonder Alonso had a sacrifice fly in the second inning and Pinder added a run-scoring single to push the A's lead to 5-0.

Salazar (11-5) left after giving up a leadoff double in the fifth. The right-hander allowed six runs to match a career high and walked three with two strikeouts in his second start since coming off the disabled list.

"I thought he was up with too many fastballs and because of that it didn't really seem like they had to respect his off speed pitches," Indians manager Terry Francona said. "The hope is that he gets some repetition including side days and stuff and gets back to the Danny we saw in the first half."

Manaea didn't allow a hit until Mike Napoli's two-out single in the fourth. Napoli was thrown out at second base trying to extend the hit into a double.

Gimenez homered leading off the sixth.

#### **DEFENSIVE GEMS**

Valencia made the first of two big defensive plays when he hustled to chase down Napoli's single to right then threw him out at second base. In the eighth, A's center fielder Jake Smolinski made a spectacular diving catch to rob pinch-hitter Lonnie Chisenhall of extra bases.

"I didn't think he had a chance at it," Melvin said of Smolinski's catch. "When I turned and looked up he was basically full speed then made a complete headlong dive to get it. First out of the inning, that's a big play."

#### **TRAINER'S ROOM**

Athletics: Former closer Sean Doolittle (strained left shoulder) will make one more rehab appearance for Triple-A Tacoma on Thursday and could rejoin Oakland shortly thereafter. ... SS Marcus Semien will miss the next two days to be with his wife and newborn child. Melvin expects the team to make a roster move to replace Semien, who could wind up on the paternity list.

#### **UP NEXT**

Indians: RHP Trevor Bauer (9-5) faces Oakland for the second time this season on Wednesday. Bauer left with no decision after allowing two home runs over 5 1-3 innings against the A's on July 29.

Athletics: Kendall Graveman (9-8) pitches for Oakland and has eight wins in his last 10 decisions but the right-hander is winless in three career starts against the Indians.

#### **Lake County Captains split doubleheader with Bowling Green**

By **David Glasier**, *The News-Herald*

It was a double disaster for the Captains on Aug. 23 as they were swept by the Bowling Green (Ky.) Hot Rods in a doubleheader of seven-inning games at Classic Park.

After losing the opener, 3-1, the Captains were looking good in the nightcap. They had a 4-1 lead after five innings.

Then the bullpen collapsed in the top of the sixth as three relievers surrendered five runs on four walks, a hit batter and bloop single. There was a glimmer of hope when Jodd Carter's two-out, two-run home run in the bottom of the sixth inning forged a 6-6 tie.

The hope was short-lived as the Hot Rods moved back ahead, 7-6, on an RBI double by Brett Sullivan. Bowling Green slammed the door in the bottom of the seventh to preserve the 7-6 victory.

On the heels of a 4-1 loss to the Hot Rods in the series opener on Aug. 22, the Captains saw their second-half record slip to 26-32.

In the race for the second of two second-half playoff berths up for grabs in the Midwest League's Eastern Division, they trail Great Lakes (28-29) by 2 1/2 games and Lansing (26-30) by two games. South Bend (37-21) and West Michigan (26-30) also are ahead of the Captains, but those two teams are postseason-bound after finishing first and second, respectively, in the first half.

First-place Bowling Green improved to 38-20 and now has a magic number of four to clinch a playoff spot.

The first game was a nice pitching duel between starters Eduar Lopez of the Hot Rods and Shao-Ching Chiang of the Captains. Both went the distance.

Lopez (4-2, 3.24 ERA) got the victory, yielding only a single run on four hits.

Chiang (8-11, 3.77 ERA) took the loss but deserved a better fate. The Hot Rods notched their first run in the top of the fourth on a leadoff single by Kevin Padlo and an RBI single by Michael Russell.

Their other runs came courtesy of two defensive lapses by the Captains in the top of the sixth inning. With one out and Padlo aboard at first base after being hit by a Chang pitch, Russell banged a grounder to Lake County second baseman Sam Haggerty. The throw from Haggerty to shortstop Willi Castro to start an attempted double play was a bit wide of the mark and forced Castro to miss the bag.

Base umpire Sean Shafer-Markle immediately gave the safe signal at second base as Castro elected not to make the throw to first base.

Chang got the next batter, Sullivan, to hit another routine grounder, this time to first baseman Anthony Miller. The underhand toss by Miller to Chang covering at first base was behind Chang. As the ball rolled toward the Captains dugout, Padlo and Russell raced around the bases to score.

The Captains got their lone run in the bottom of the seventh when David Armendariz singled and later scored on a wild pitch by Lopez.

### **HONORED**

The Midwest League announced its Postseason All-Star team Aug. 23, and former Captains outfielder Connor Marabell was on it.

Marabell, a 24-year-old Florida native, was the Indians' 25th-round selection in the 2015 June draft out of Jacksonville (Fla.) University. He batted .313 with six home runs and 50 RBI in 95 games for the Captains before he was promoted to the advanced Single-A Lynchburg (Va.) Hillcats on July 27.

Eloy Jimenez, an outfielder for the South Bend (Ind.) Cubs, was named the Most Valuable Player and Prospect of the Year. The 19-year-old native of the Dominican Republic is the No. 2 prospect in the Cubs organization, according to MLB.com. He was signed by the Cubs in August 2013 as a non-drafted free agent, receiving a \$2.8 million signing bonus.

In 107 games this season for South Bend, the 6-foot-4, 205-pound Jimenez is batting .337 with 13 home runs and 78 RBI. He was named the Most Valuable Player in the 2016 All-Star Futures Game in San Diego. He went 2-for-3 with a home run and four RBI as the World team posted an 11-3 victory over the U.S.,.

### **BIRTHDAY WISHES**

This is a busy month for birthdays in the Captains clubhouse. Right-handed pitcher Casey Shane, who'll get the start in Game 4 of the Bowling Green series, turned 21 on Aug. 23. Armendariz was 25 on Aug. 22. Here are the other players with August birthdays: pitcher Triston McKenzie, 19 on Aug. 2; catcher Martin Cervenka, 24 on Aug. 3; catcher Juan De La Cruz, 23 on Aug. 5.

### **RubberDucks right-hander D.J. Brown putting together a dominant August**

D.J. Brown keeps spinning the pitches and opponents keep drilling themselves into the ground.

While his 8-6 record and 4.32 earned run average might not look great, what the 6-foot-6 right-hander has done for the RubberDucks in August is nothing short of fantastic.

The Ducks came into Tuesday riding an eight-game winning streak, and Brown has been a gigantic part of that.

Brown is 3-0 this month with a 2.70 ERA. He has eight strikeouts, and hitters are batting .216 off him.

Only Rob Kaminsky (3-0, 1.50, 14 strikeouts) is having a better month among RubberDucks starters.

"It's fun to watch," Ducks manager Dave Wallace said. "You've heard me say it a lot, but I've seen him put in a lot of hard work. Whether it's out here, in the bullpen, in the video room or in conversations with [pitching coach] Tony [Arnold], he's working to get consistent.

"He's throwing the ball well now. He's throwing it down in the zone. He's working both sides of the plate. With his stuff, it's no surprise to see that he has been as successful as he's been the last couple outings."

While Brown has wins over the Hartford Yard Goats and Trenton Thunder this month, what he did against the Reading Fightin' Phils on Monday /was pretty impressive.

Reading has more home runs (166) than any other team in Minor League Baseball, and the Fightin' Phils' 677 RBI and 718 runs are currently third behind Las Vegas (699, 739, Triple-A Pacific Coast League) and El Paso (691, 730, PCL).

They lead the Eastern League in batting average (.270), total bases (1,970) and doubles (247).

A minor league version of murderer's row, Reading managed a home run off Brown, but not much else as the 39th round pick in the 2012 MLB Draft went 7½ innings, allowing two runs and five hits. He struck out four and didn't walk anyone.

"That was huge for him," RubberDucks catcher Daniel Salters said. "It was huge for us. We needed that. You look at that team and look at their lineup and they have a ton of guys with a bunch of pop, a bunch of home runs, but he did a great job.

"He didn't have any walks and commanded the ball really well. He kept the ball down in the zone when he needed to. That team is good, but they'll hit mistakes. He was keeping the ball down and mixing well. He dominated them. It was fun."

With 14 games remaining, Brown will likely get two more regular-season starts and could possibly be the Game 1 starter if the Ducks make the playoffs.

As of Tuesday, they were 2½ games up on Harrisburg for the final playoff spot in the Western Division.

Right now, Brown is just riding the wave and isn't thinking past his next start, which will come Saturday against the Richmond Flying Squirrels at Canal Park.



"Everyone is focused on winning," Brown said. "It's a lot more fun when everyone has bought into that.

"It's kind of a self-goal for everybody. You always want to be better than your last start. You always want to finish the season the best you can. Hopefully, we can continue to keep doing that."

### **/RubberDucks 4, Fightin' Phils 1**

RubberDucks 4, Fightin' Phils 1

**Storylines:** The Ducks (67-60) extended their winning streak to nine games with a win over Reading (82-46). Michael Peoples (10-6) went six innings of one-run ball. He gave up eight hits, struck out five and walked two.

**Duckbills:** RubberDucks right-fielder Jordan Smith stayed hot this month. He went 3-for-4 with two doubles, two RBI and a run. Todd Hankins was 2-for-3 with a triple and RBI.

**Next:** The finale of the three-game series starts Wednesday at 7:05 p.m. at Canal Park. Ducks right-hander Rob Kaminsky (8-7, 3.37 ERA) is scheduled to face Phils right-hander Ricardo Pinto (5-5, 4.09).

— **Brad Bournival**

### **Baseball | Clippers offer \$5 tickets to close regular season**

The Clippers announced Tuesday that tickets to their five remaining regular-season games at Huntington Park will cost \$5 apiece in an effort to reach their attendance goal for the season and offer fans free tickets to any postseason home games.

Team president and general manager Ken Schnacke has been trying to get the Clippers to their season goal of 600,000 in paid attendance and was using free playoff tickets as one incentive. Last year, the Clippers tried a similar tactic when, after drawing 2,468 to one playoff game, they stopped charging admission and 10,734 showed up for the next game. The Clippers went on to win the Governors' Cup as International League champions.

This season, the Clippers were 76-54 and in first place in the IL West heading into a game Tuesday night at the second-place Indianapolis Indians. Any combination of three Clippers wins and Indians losses in their nine remaining games would clinch a playoff spot.

The Clippers return home this weekend for a series against the Louisville Bats, with games at 7:15 p.m. Saturday and 4:05 p.m. Sunday. The final three home games are Sept. 1-3 against the Toledo Mud Hens.

In a post on the Clippers website, Schnacke wrote that the Clippers need 52,000 fans over the final five home games to reach 600,000 for the season. Huntington Park seats 10,100.

Previous purchases are excluded from the promotion. Tickets may be ordered by calling 614-462-2757 and are not available for sale online.

### **Rally in ninth inning puts Clippers one win away from title**

Guillermo Quiroz hit a three-run homer in the ninth inning as the Clippers rallied to beat host Indianapolis 5-2 on Tuesday night before 7,380 at Victory Field. It was the Clippers' eight consecutive win.

Columbus can clinch the International League West Division with a win over the Indians tonight.

Columbus trailed 2-0 until the eighth inning, when Yhoxian Medina hit a one-out single to score Michael Choice, and Erik Gonzalez followed with an RBI single to score Quiroz.

In the ninth, Giovanni Urshela hit a leadoff single and moved to second on Michael Choice's single. Quiroz then hit a 2-and-0 pitch over the

### **Henderson Alvarez still possible option for A's this season**

**By Susan Slusser Published 6:46 pm, Tuesday, August 23, 2016**

Henderson Alvarez, 37 throws during the Oakland Athletics spring training workouts on Monday February 29, 2016, in Mesa, Arizona.

Starter Henderson Alvarez, yet to pitch for Oakland since signing with the team before the season, threw a 30-pitch bullpen session Tuesday and he still plans to be on the mound with the A's sometime before the end of the season.

"Pitching in a game is most important, whether in relief or as a starter, to come off the DL and finish the season right," Alvarez said, with Alex Arpiza interpreting.

Alvarez, an All-Star with Miami in 2014, had shoulder surgery more than a year ago and he was projected to be ready to join the A's rotation in mid- to late-May, but several setbacks have delayed his Oakland debut. He was shut down for more than a month after the last issue and Alvarez said that extra time off seems to have done the trick.

"That six week break really strengthened my arm and I do feel much stronger than I did before," Alvarez said.

Manager Bob Melvin said that Alvarez will throw a more extensive bullpen session his next time out, two sets of 20 pitches, probably be on Saturday.

Alvarez still has time to get out on a brief rehab assignment and pitch some innings out of Oakland's bullpen, likely after Sept. 1, which would necessitate a 40-man roster move with Alvarez currently on the 60-day DL.

Alvarez said he plans to pitch in winter ball in Venezuela for a month to make sure he comes into spring training with a good rhythm after missing more than a year.

Melvin said that catcher Josh Phegley (knee) is nearing a rehab assignment. Phegley, too, is on the 60-day DL so would require a 40-man roster move. It's likely neither would come off the DL until Sept 1, when 25-man rosters expand.

One player unlikely to come off the DL in the final month: Sonny Gray, who is out with right elbow inflammation. Melvin said it would be difficult to get Gray stretched back out to start, and relief isn't a role they would like to have him working in. More important for Gray, a 2015 All-Star, would be to just get to the point where he is throwing off a mound pain-free before the end of the season.

"He does want to pitch," Melvin said. "But I'm not sure that we'll get to that point."

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Khris Davis, lots of rookies power A's win over Indians

By Susan Slusser

For the past few months, as their season slipped away, the A's have talked about looking ahead and seeing what the team has for the future.

On Tuesday at the Coliseum, many of those pieces who will be in place for the next several years contributed in a 9-1 thumping of the AL Central-leading Indians. Khris Davis clubbed his 33rd homer of the season, a three-run shot in the first off Danny Salazar, and a big batch of A's rookies also chipped in.

"It's a great group of guys here and a great group of guys coming up, so I'm very excited to see what the future holds," said Chad Pinder, who came up last week and played shortstop the past two nights with Marcus Semien away for the birth of his first child.

Many of the team's first-year players put on a nice show, starting with left-hander Sean Manaea, who turned in one of his slickest outings of the season, going seven innings and allowing one run on a homer by Chris Gimenez. Manaea gave up three hits, walked one and struck out eight, one shy of his career high. Since returning from a left forearm strain on June 29, he has a 3.44 ERA.

Oakland Athletics' Khris Davis celebrates his 1st inning 3-run home run off of Cleveland Indians' Danny Salazar during MLB game at Oakland Coliseum in Oakland, Calif., on Tuesday, August 23, 2016.

Another rookie, Ryon Healy, extended his hitting streak to 10 games with a single and two doubles, and two recent arrivals recorded their first big-league RBIs: Pinder drove in Danny Valencia with a base hit in the third, and catcher Bruce Maxwell banged a two-run double in the eighth.

"I played with a lot of these guys last year in Midland, and ever since then, I knew this group that is coming up is going to be special," Manaea said. "I really believe that, and today is just a little taste of what can happen in the future."

Center fielder Jake Smolinski provided the defensive highlight of the game and maybe the season for Oakland with a phenomenal catch in right-center, racing back for a drive in the gap by Lonnie Chisenhall and, fully outstretched, making the grab at the last second. He landed with a thud on the painted dirt right in front of the track, hung onto the ball and stayed there for a moment, smiling.

"I kind of felt like I had it the whole way, so when I got to the end, I kind of felt like I had to get it," Smolinski said, adding, "It was a little mashed down out there, so I kind of stuck pretty good when I hit the ground."

Valencia, who wasn't in the lineup the previous two games after punching teammate Billy Butler following a clubhouse squabble Friday in Chicago, singled and doubled in his first at-bats Tuesday and scored two runs. Valencia also threw out Mike Napoli trying to stretch a single to right in the fourth. Entering this season, Valencia had not recorded an outfield assist; since moving to right after the All-Star break, he has three.

Butler, who is on the seven-day concussion DL, took part in some pregame activities, including the team photo. He again did not speak to the media.

The Chronicle reported Tuesday that the fight with Valencia began after Butler told an equipment representative from the shoe company Valencia endorses that, contrary to Valencia's claims, Valencia had been wearing unapproved spikes. The two later had words and Valencia hit Butler, striking him in the temple, according to witnesses.

Davis' home-run total is the team's highest since Jack Cust hit 33 in 2008, and is the most by an A's right-handed hitter since Frank Thomas belted 39 in 2006. Davis, who scored three runs Tuesday, also has a career-high 82 RBIs.

Semien might be placed on the paternity list Wednesday in order to bring in an extra player.

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