

Carrasco, Indians fall to Twins 5-3

Written by Nancy Spencer
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Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Carlos Carrasco wasn't as sharp as he was in his last outing and it cost the Cleveland Indians.

Carrasco didn't get through the fifth inning of Indians' 5-3 loss to the Minnesota Twins on Sunday, snapping a 4-game winning streak.

Carrasco (0-3), who pitched into the eighth against Kansas City on June 17, allowed three runs in 4 2/3 innings.

"Today, he was missing off the plate a little bit," Indians manager Terry Francona said. "They squared up a lot of balls. To his credit, he pitched, never gave in, he limited damage. They made him work really hard."

In his last start, Carrasco gave up only one run in 7 1/3 innings. He labored through Sunday's outing, throwing 104 pitches, walking four and striking out three.

"I threw more inside today than the last time," Carrasco said. "I just got in trouble a few times and it cost me three runs."

Carrasco is 0-8 in 10 starts since his last win, which came on June 29, 2011, when he defeated Arizona. He missed all of last season because of elbow surgery. Carrasco also served a 7-game suspension for throwing at the New York Yankees' Kevin Youkilis earlier this season.

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Carrasco appeared to sustain an injury while throwing a pitch to Trevor Plouffe in the third. Francona and head trainer Lonnie Soloff visited Carrasco on the mound. The right-hander remained in the game and retired Plouffe on a fly ball to end the inning.

Matt Albers warmed up in the bullpen in the bottom of the inning but Carrasco returned for the fourth.

It appeared the Indians got a break before the game when Twins scheduled starter Mike Pelfrey was placed on the 15-day DL with a back strain. Pedro Hernandez, who was informed Saturday night that he might be needed, drove from Louisville, Ky., where Triple-A Rochester was playing, and arrived in Cleveland at 4 a.m. Sunday. The left-hander (3-1) pitched around six walks and got the win despite throwing 45 of his 85 pitches for balls.

"This is crazy for me," Hernandez said. "I slept three hours. But, you know, that's part of my job. I love my job."

Three Minnesota relievers allowed one run over the final four innings. Glen Perkins pitched the ninth for his 19th save.

The Indians loaded the bases in the second inning with no outs and could only score one run, a sacrifice fly from Yan Gomes. Jason Kipnis added an RBI double in the third while Drew Stubbs hit a solo homer in the seventh.

Michael Bourn opened the ninth with an infield hit but Mike Aviles bounced into a double play. Jason Kipnis doubled for his third hit of the game before Nick Swisher grounded out.

Kipnis went 3-for-4 with a walk — a single and two doubles — raising his average to .283. He has now reached base safely in 25 straight games.

Minnesota scored in the first on Josh Willingham's RBI single. Trailing 2-1, the Twins took the

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lead in the fifth thanks to their clutch hitting.

Clete Thomas' single and a walk to Joe Mauer started the inning. Carrasco retired the next two hitters but Oswaldo Arcia singled up the middle on a 3-2 pitch to tie the game. Plouffe bounced a single through the left side that put the Twins ahead and ended Carrasco's day.

Indians pitchers threw four wild pitches on Sunday with Gomes behind the plate.

Swisher returned to the lineup after missing six games with a sore left shoulder. He was hitless in five at-bats and is in a 6-for-60 slump.

Despite the loss, the Indians have won four series in a row and eight of their last 11 games.

NOTES: Indians RHP Chris Perez is expected to make another minor-league rehab appearance on either Tuesday or Wednesday. Perez threw a simulated game at Double-Akron on Sunday. His return to the Indians was delayed after he allowed three homers in one inning for Akron last week. ... RHPs Brett Myers (shoulder) and Blake Wood (elbow) will each pitch an inning on a rehab assignment for Class A Mahoning Valley on Monday. Myers began the season in the rotation and was 0-3 with an 8.02 ERA, allowing 10 homers in 21 1/3 innings. Francona added Myers will pitch in the bullpen when he returns. ... The Indians, who are 14-21 away from home, open a 10-game road trip today in Baltimore. RHP Ubaldo Jimenez (5-4) faces RHP Zach Britton (1-1).

BLUE JAYS 13, ORIOLES 5

TORONTO — Edwin Encarnacion homered and drove in four runs, Josh Johnson earned his first win of the season and the Toronto Blue Jays matched a team record by winning their 11th straight game Sunday, finishing a 3-game sweep of Baltimore with a 13-5 win.

Toronto also won 11 straight in 1987 and 1998.

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Ryan Flaherty hit two homers but Baltimore lost for the fifth time in eight games and allowed a season-high in runs.

Johnson (1-2) allowed four runs and seven hits in 6-plus innings, walked one and struck out five.

Freddy Garcia (3-5) lost for the third time in four starts. He allowed a season-worst seven runs and seven hits in 2 1-/innings.

MARINERS 6, ATHLETICS 3, 10 INNINGS

SEATTLE — Pinch-hitter Kendrys Morales had a game-ending 3-run homer in the 10th inning and Raul Ibanez connected twice for the Mariners in a victory over the Athletics.

Ibanez gave the Mariners the lead with a 2-run homer in the first inning and added a solo shot in the third, his team-leading 17th.

Mike Zunio struck out leading off the 10th but reached first on a wild pitch. He advanced to third on Michael Saunders' single before Morales hit the first pitch he saw from reliever Grant Balfour (0-1) deep to right-center.

Oliver Perez (2-1) pitched two innings to earn the win. Perez has not allowed a run in his last 11 innings.

Brandon Moss' solo home run off reliever Danny Farquhar in the eighth inning tied the game at 3.

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ROYALS 7, WHITE SOX 6

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Kansas City Royals took advantage of a pair of errors by the Chicago White Sox to score three times in the eighth inning and rally for a win that avoided a 3-game sweep.

The Royals trailed by two when they got consecutive singles by Mike Moustakas and David Lough off ace White Sox reliever Jesse Crain (2-2) to start the eighth. An error by Crain while trying to field a bunt by Elliot Johnson loaded the bases with nobody out.

Crain struck out George Kottaras and Jarrod Dyson to breathe a bit easier but walked Alex Gordon to get Kansas City within a run. Alcides Escobar then slapped a grounder to shortstop that Alexei Ramirez let through to left field, bringing in the go-ahead runs.

While unearned, they were the first runs Crain had allowed in 30 appearances.

Luke Hochevar (1-1) struck out two in a scoreless innings of relief for Kansas City.

TIGERS 7, RED SOX 5

DETROIT — Torii Hunter hit a tie-breaking sacrifice fly in the eighth inning after two Boston errors helped load the bases and Prince Fielder added a 2-run single to help the Tigers to a sloppy victory over the Red Sox.

Justin Verlander struggled and Detroit trailed 4-3 in the seventh before Andrew Miller (0-2) hit Jhonny Peralta with a pitch with the bases loaded to tie it.

Joaquin Benoit (2-0) got the final four outs for the Tigers, although he allowed a run in the ninth.

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RAYS 3, YANKEES 1

NEW YORK — James Loney hit a tie-breaking 2-run single with two outs in the seventh inning and Rays beat the New York Yankees for a 4-game series split.

Chris Archer (2-3) pitched six innings of 1-run ball. Fernando Rodney struck out the side in the ninth for his 15th save in 20 chances this season.

Ivan Nova (2-2) left with two outs in the seventh after he hit Desmond Jennings and Ben Zobrist with pitches. Shawn Kelley walked Evan Longoria to load the bases and Boone Logan got to two strikes on Loney before the Rays first baseman lined a sharp shot up the middle.

INTERLEAGUE

PIRATES 10, ANGELS 9, 10 INNINGS

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Pedro Alvarez homered for the fourth straight game, Starling Marte capped a 3-run ninth inning with a tying single and the Pirates added four more in the 10th to beat the Angels and complete their first interleague sweep on the road.

Trailing 6-3 entering the ninth, the Pirates pulled even against closer Ernesto Frieri — his second blown save in 19 attempts. Kevin Jepsen (0-2) was the loser.

Russell Martin had RBIs in the ninth and 10th for Pittsburgh. Mark Melancon (2-1) pitched a

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perfect inning for the win.