Brantley has 4 RBIs as Indians beat Orioles 5-2

Written by Nancy Spencer Monday, June 24, 2013 10:43 PM -

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Michael Brantley homered and had four RBIs and the Cleveland Indians beat the Baltimore Orioles 5-2 Monday night for their ninth win in 12 games.

Brantley put the Indians ahead with a 2-run single in the sixth inning and made it 5-2 with a 2-run shot in the eighth off Darren O'Day. His four RBIs tied a career high, reached twice previously.

Nick Swisher had two hits and scored a run for the Indians and former Oriole Mark Reynolds went 1-for-2 with two walks. The victory improved Cleveland's record against the AL East to 7-17 and provided an uplifting start to an 11-game road trip.

Ubaldo Jimenez (6-4) allowed two runs in 5 1/3 innings and Vinnie Pestano, the fourth Indians reliever, worked the ninth for his fourth save.

Nick Markakis and Matt Wieters homered for the Orioles, who have lost four straight.

Zach Britton (1-2) allowed only two hits through five innings and took a 2-0 lead into the sixth before faltering. Jason Kipnis led off with a double and scored on a single by Swisher. Carlos Santana followed with a double to put runners at second and third and after Reynolds received an intentional walk, Brantley grounded a single up the middle to chase Britton.

Brantley iced it in the eighth with his fifth homer after a leadoff single by Reynolds.

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After being swept in a 3-game series in Toronto, the Orioles hoped a return to Camden Yards would reverse their slide. But their only offense came on two swings of the bat.

After Markakis put Baltimore up 1-0 in the first inning with his eighth home run, the Orioles left the bases loaded in the second and stranded two runners in the third.

Wieters led off the fourth with his 10th home run to end an 0-for-13 skid and make it 2-0.

NOTES: The Orioles optioned RHP Freddy Garcia to Triple-A Norfolk to make room for rookie Kevin Gausman, who was added to the bullpen. Garcia can refuse the assignment and become a free agent. Gausman is a candidate to start Friday against the Yankees. ... Cleveland recalled LHP T.J. House from Triple-A Columbus and optioned RHP Carlos Carrasco to the same minor-league club. ... Indians manager Terry Francona announced SS Asdrubal Cabrera (right quad strain) has been taking grounders and running the bases and could soon be activated from the DL. ... Cleveland closer Chris Perez (rotator cuff) is expected to make another rehab appearance in the minors before the Indians consider activating him. ... Baltimore's Ryan Flaherty had two hits and is 10-for-22 in his last six games. ... Baltimore's Chris Tillman (8-2) and Cleveland's Justin Masterson (9-5), the winningest pitchers on their respective teams, square off tonight. ... Kipnis has reached base in 26 straight games.

RAYS 4, BLUE JAYS 1

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Jeremy Hellickson allowed one hit in seven shutout innings and rookie Wil Myers homered in his home debut, helping the Tampa Bay Rays beat the Blue Jays 4-1 on Monday night to end Toronto's 11-game winning streak.

Myers hit the second of three straight Tampa Bay homers in the second, connecting in his first at-bat at Tropicana Field. He received a standing ovation from a crowd of 11,407 getting its initial close-up view of the key acquisition in the offseason trade that sent pitchers James Shields and Wade Davis to Kansas City for the power-hitting right fielder and other prospects.

Myers' drive to center off Esmil Rogers (3-3) was sandwiched between home runs by James

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Loney and Sam Fuld as Tampa Bay went deep three times within a span of eight pitches. Luke Scott added a bloop RBI double to make it 4-0 in the third and that was all the support Hellickson needed.

The Blue Jays came up short in their bid to extend the longest winning streak in the majors since Detroit won 12 straight in 2011.

Hellickson (6-3) gave up J.P. Arencibia's single, walked four and struck out four. He allowed only one runner past first base — in the second inning, when Colby Rasmus walked and moved to third when Arencibia followed with his hit to center field.

Toronto finally broke through in the eighth when it loaded the bases with one out against Alex Torres with a pair of singles and a walk. Jose Bautista grounded into a force play to drive in a run before Edwin Encarnacion flied out to end the threat.

Fernando Rodney worked the ninth for the Rays, earning his 16th save in 21 opportunities.

The Rays began the day last in the AL East, one percentage point behind the surging Blue Jays, who gained seven games on Tampa Bay during their winning streak.

NOTES: Blue Jays LHP J.A. Happ, who suffered a skull fracture and a sprained right knee when he fell to the ground at Tropicana Field after being struck behind the left ear by a line drive on May 7, is expected back at the ballpark today. Toronto manager John Gibbons reported Happ, slowed by the knee injury, is throwing off a mound at the team's spring training complex in Dunedin, Fla., but still has a ways to go before he pitches again.