PubDate: 08-06-09 Page: 5 C Edition: 2 Replate: User: dhugh Color:K

INDIANS 8 | TWINS 1

Laffey at his best as Tribe rebounds

By Dennis Manoloff
THE PLAIN DEALER

Who knows how the Indians' latest attempt to rebuild will translate today, let alone next week, next month or next year.

Last night, though, this much was certain: The Tribe showed how to pick itself up after having mud kicked in its face.

Left-hander Aaron Laffey gave up one unearned run in a career-high eight innings as the Indians rolled over the Twins and Francisco Liriano, 8-1, in Progressive Field.

The previous night, Minnesota won in a walk, 10-1.

"I think we're showing that, although we may be some guys down, we can still go out and compete," left fielder Trevor Crowe said.

The Tribe (45-62) has won nine of 14. The Twins (53-54) have dropped four of five.

Crowe, Grady Sizemore and Asdrubal Cabrera, the 9-1-2 hitters in the Cleveland order, combined to go 8-for-11 with five RBI and five runs.

Jess Todd, recalled from the Clippers earlier in the day, pitched a scoreless ninth in his Tribe debut, giving up one hit. He was the player to be named in the June 27 trade of Mark DeRosa to the Cardinals.

Laffey allowed six hits, walked one and struck out five. He threw 71 of a career-high 112 pitches for strikes. His sinker and change-up were superb as he repeatedly worked ahead in the count and kept the Twins guessing.

Laffey is 5-3 with a 3.58 ERA in 65⅓ innings. He has made nine starts and six relief appearances.

"He's done a really good job for us. He just needs to keep pushing, keep getting better," manager Eric Wedge said. "As he continues to mature as a pitcher, I think that's going to happen."

Laffey opened the season in Columbus. He spent time on the disabled list because of an oblique strain. Now he is arguably the Tribe's most effective pitcher.

"It's definitely been a crazy year," he said. "Whatever I have to do to be here, I'm going to do it. If it's closing, left-on-left matchup or starter, I don't care as long as I'm in the majors."

Through five innings, Laffey had given up four hits on 57 pitches.

Minnesota scored in the sixth when first baseman Chris Gimenez failed to backhand a grounder by Joe Mauer.

What turned out to be a great performance for Laffey could have gone haywire in the fourth with the Indians leading, 2-0.

Orlando Cabrera led off with a single and Mauer singled up the middle. Justin Morneau, 2006 AL MVP, stepped into the box batting .329 against lefties.

Down in the count, 1-2, Morneau fouled off a pitch. Then Laffey outfoxed him by throwing a fastball down the middle. Morneau's bat never left the shoulder as umpire Larry Vanover rang him up.

Laffey relied heavily on the change-up to lock up Minnesota's lethal lefty trio of Mauer, Morneau and Kubel (2-for-11).

The Indians took a 4-0 lead in the fourth. After the Twins scored in the sixth, the Tribe answered with four more.

dmanoloff@plaind.com

Indians on deck

NEXT GAME
VS. MINNESOTA TWINS
Where: Progressive Field
When: 12:05 p.m. today
TV: SportsTime Ohio
Radio: WBNS-AM (1460)

Pitching matchup
Twins RHP Nick Blackburn (8-5, 3.83 ERA) vs. Indians RHP Fausto Carmona (2-6, 7.13 ERA)

Notable
Blackburn controlled a red-hot Anaheim lineup for most of seven innings before giving up two runs in a loss. He won his only start this year against the Indians, holding Cleveland to one run over seven innings ... Carmona, sent down to Arizona earlier this season to work on his erratic pitching, did well Friday against the Tigers despite control trouble. In five innings, he allowed two runs on four hits, but had four walks.

Indians 8, Twins 1

MINNESOTA	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG.
Span rf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.287
O.Cabrera ss	4	1	3	0	0	0	.288
Mauer c	3	0	1	0	1	0	.359
Morneau 1b	4	0	0	1	0	1	.306
Kubel lf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.303
Cuddyer dh	4	0	1	0	0	0	.269
Crede 3b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.231
Gomez cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.236
Punto 2b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.207
Totals	**34**	**1**	**7**	**1**	**1**	**6**	

CLEVELAND	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG.
Sizemore cf	5	2	3	2	0	1	.233
A.Cabrera ss	3	1	3	2	0	0	.305
Choo rf	5	1	2	2	0	1	.293
Jh.Peralta 3b	5	0	0	0	0	3	.273
Gimenez 1b	3	0	0	0	2	2	.192
J.Carroll 2b	1	1	0	1	2	0	.287
Shoppach c	4	1	1	0	0	1	.209
A.Marte dh	3	0	0	0	1	1	.235
Crowe lf	3	2	2	1	1	1	.221
Totals	**32**	**8**	**11**	**8**	**6**	**10**	

Minnesota	000 001 000	– 1	7 1
Cleveland	020 204 00x	– 8	11 1

E: Gomez (1), Gimenez (1). **LOB**: Minnesota 7, Cleveland 9. **2B**: O.Cabrera (27), Sizemore (16), A.Cabrera (26), Choo (25). **RBI**: Morneau (89), Sizemore 2 (56), A.Cabrera 2 (45), Choo 2 (61), J.Carroll (17), Crowe (7). **CS**: Span (7), Gimenez (1). **SF**: A.Cabrera, J.Carroll.

MINNESOTA	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Liriano L,4-11	5	8	4	4	4	4	5.63
Dickey	0	2	3	3	1	0	4.62
Keppel	1	1	1	1	1	0	5.18
Mijares	1	0	0	0	0	3	2.65
Guerrier	1	0	0	0	0	3	2.05

CLEVELAND	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Laffey W,5-3	8	6	1	0	1	5	3.58
Todd	1	1	0	0	0	1	0.00

Dickey faced 3 batters in the 6th.

Inherited runners-scored: Keppel 1-1. **HBP**: by Guerrier (A.Cabrera). **PB**: Mauer 2.
T: 2:54. **A**: 17,683

INDIANS SCHEDULE

Today: Minnesota, 12:05 p.m.; **Aug. 7**: at Chicago White Sox, 8:11 p.m.; **8**: at Chicago White Sox, 7:05 p.m.; **9**: at Chicago White Sox, 2:05 p.m.; **11**: Texas, 7:05 p.m.; **12**: Texas, 7:05 p.m.; **13**: Texas, 12:05 p.m.; **14**: at Minnesota, 8:10 p.m.; **15**: at Minnesota, 4:10 p.m

AL BEHRMAN | ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS
Cincinnati's Scott Rolen circles the bases after hitting a two-run homer in the second off the Cubs' Rich Harden.

REDS 4 | CUBS 0

Rookie pitcher helps Reds halt eight-game skid

By Hal McCoy
DAYTON DAILY NEWS

CINCINNATI — In baseball, you expect the unexpected, and the unexpected arrives with a neat bow knotted around it.

Such was the scenario last night in Great American Ball Park when the Cincinnati Reds ended their eight-game losing streak by beating the Chicago Cubs, 4-0.

Even owner Bob Castellini was chirping afterward as he walked out the the clubhouse and said to the media, "C'mon, everybody. Cheer up. That was almost like winning the World Series."

Cubs starter Rich Harden was 4-0 in his career against the Reds. And Harden was 5-1 this year in night games. In addition, Harden's pitching opponent was Justin Lehr, making his second major-league start.

Expect the unexpected.

Lehr, his head shaved and wearing uniform No. 62, pitched as if he were fresh from the All-Star Game, shutting out the Cubs on four hits, his first professional shutout.

Lehr, never reaching above 87 mph on the gun, threw 117 pitches after never throwing more than 105, but manager Dusty Baker stood mesmerized as much as the Cubs hitters and said, "Things were going so well, you don't want to mess with karma."

The Reds scored three runs off Harden in the second inning. And Lehr made them stand up.

Scott Rolen returned to the lineup after missing two games — a result of being beaned by a pitch on his batting helmet Sunday. The first time Rolen came to the plate, in the second inning after Brandon Phillips beat out an infield single, Rolen collected his first hit — a home run.

Justin Lehr threw a complete-game four-hitter in his second big-league start.

That made it 2-0 and the Reds scored again in that inning when Harden threw away Lehr's sacrifice bunt.

Castellini: Baker is safe

Reds CEO Bob Castellini said that Baker's job is safe.

"Absolutely," Castellini said.

He said Baker will be back for 2010 — the final year of his contract — as well.

The Reds were tied for last place in the National League Central with Pittsburgh going into last night's game.

"The team has not quit," Castellini said. "They are still playing hard."

John Fay of The Cincinnati Enquirer *contributed to this story.*

hmccoy@daytondailynews.com

Reds 4, Cubs 0

CHICAGO	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG.
Fukudome cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.269
Miles ss	3	0	0	0	0	0	.198
Theriot ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.291
D.Lee 1b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.291
Ar.Ramirez 3b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.331
Bradley rf	2	0	1	0	1	0	.250
A.Soriano lf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.250
Fontenot 2b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.232
K.Hill c	2	0	0	0	0	1	.209
Fuld ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.292
Gregg p	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Harden p	2	0	1	0	0	0	.258
Samardzija p	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
J.Fox ph-c	1	0	0	0	0	0	.297
Totals	**30**	**0**	**4**	**0**	**1**	**4**	

CINCINNATI	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG.
Taveras cf	4	1	2	0	0	1	.242
Ale.Gonzalez ss	1	0	0	1	1	1	.194
Votto 1b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.328
B.Phillips 2b	3	1	1	0	0	1	.267
Rolen 3b	3	1	1	2	1	1	.111
Balentien rf	4	1	1	0	0	0	.182
L.Nix lf	3	0	0	0	1	2	.232
Hanigan c	2	0	0	0	1	0	.306
Lehr p	2	0	0	0	0	1	.000
Totals	**26**	**4**	**5**	**3**	**4**	**10**	

Chicago	000 000 000	– 0	4 1
Cincinnati	030 000 10x	– 4	5 0

E: Harden (1). **LOB**: Chicago 4, Cincinnati 6. **2B**: Harden (1). **HR**: Rolen (1), off Harden. **RBI**: Ale.Gonzalez (24), Rolen 2 (2). **SB**: Taveras 2 (23), B.Phillips (18). **CS**: B.Phillips (8). **S**: Ale.Gonzalez, Lehr. **SF**: Ale.Gonzalez.

CHICAGO	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Harden L,7-7	6	4	3	2	4	9	4.41
Samardzija	1	1	1	1	0	0	6.64
Gregg	1	0	0	0	0	1	4.09

CINCINNATI	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Lehr W,1-0	9	4	0	0	1	4	1.93

HBP: by Harden (B.Phillips).
T: 2:27. **A**: 22,098.

REDS SCHEDULE

Aug. 7: at San Francisco, 10:15 p.m.; **8**: at San Francisco, TBA; **9**: at San Francisco, 4:05 p.m.; **10**: at St. Louis, 8:15 p.m.; **11**: at St. Louis, 8:15 p.m.; **12**: at St. Louis, 8:15 p.m.; **13**: Washington, 7:10 p.m.; **14**: Washington, 7:10 p.m.; **15**: Washington, 7:10 p.m.; **16**: Washington, 1:10 p.m.; **18**: San Francisco, 7:10 p.m.

CLIPPERS

Plethora of catchers in pipeline for Indians

By Zach Swartz
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

For weeks before Friday's nonwaiver trade deadline, the rumors concerning Cleveland Indians catcher Victor Martinez moved around like a bobblehead doll. When pitcher Cliff Lee was traded to Philadelphia for a package of players that included catcher Lou Marson, it all but sealed Martinez's fate.

The mantra in baseball is that a team can never have too much pitching. But with the Indians, it's the catchers who come in abundance.

Martinez was sent to Boston right before the deadline, and Cleveland has a long line of replacements in the organization — including with the Clippers.

The list starts with Carlos Santana, who has yet to play in Huntington Park. He was picked up last July when Casey Blake was traded to the Los Angeles Dodgers.

This season, he is batting .282 with 19 home runs and 78 RBI at double-A Akron and has developed into the Indians' top prospect.

But Santana is the option of the future, not the present.

After Martinez was traded, the Indians called up Wyatt Toregas from the Clippers, even though they still had backup Kelly Shoppach and emergency replacement Chris Gimenez. That left Damaso Espino and Marson with the Clippers.

Santana, Toregas and Espino "are all future big-leaguers," Clippers manager Torey Lovullo said. "The timing is going to be a little different for each guy, but we feel very fortunate to have all three guys sitting in our system lined up to make an impression at the big leagues."

He thinks that Toregas has the talent to start one day in the majors, and Espino and Marson could be decent backups.

Aside from Santana, none of the catchers has been outstanding at the plate. Toregas, who got his first major-league hit with the Indians on Saturday, batted .284 with seven home runs in 60 games with the Clippers. Espino has hit .247, and Marson has three hits in 13 at bats since joining the Clippers.

But hitting, Lovullo said, is just a bonus for a catcher. The ability to control a pitching staff is the essence of the position.

"You can't possibly run a pitching staff with a catcher that has no idea what's going on," Lovullo said. "The catchers that are catching for us every day are challenging our pitchers and making our pitchers better."

Lovullo has praised Marson since his arrival for doing that.

But can a team have too many options at one position?

"I think so," Lovullo said. "It's a great luxury that we have … but competition brings out the best in a lot of guys."

Having players split time at catcher is not the answer. Lovullo said the best player should play every day at each position; it's a way to develop both team and talent.

"The better that everybody gets, the better shot everybody has," Toregas said before his call-up. "Just because we're all here now doesn't mean we can't all be somewhere else next year, being the head guy somewhere.

"That's the driving point right there. Everybody is trying to keep a competitive edge, to outdo the other team but also to put yourself in a position to have as long a career as possible."

zswartz@dispatch.com

International League

STANDINGS

North Division

TEAM	W	L	PCT.	GB
Scranton	61	47	.565	–
Syracuse	57	51	.528	4
Lehigh Valley	54	56	.491	8
Rochester	51	57	.472	10
Pawtucket	49	60	.450	12½
Buffalo	40	66	.377	20

South Division

TEAM	W	L	PCT.	GB
Durham	63	48	.568	–
Gwinnett	63	48	.568	–
Norfolk	60	51	.541	3
Charlotte	51	59	.464	11½

West Division

TEAM	W	L	PCT.	GB
Louisville	63	47	.573	–
Toledo	54	57	.486	9½
Indianapolis	53	57	.482	10
Columbus	47	62	.431	15½

Yesterday's result
Norfolk 8, Pawtucket 7

Today's games
Buffalo (TBA) at **Columbus** (RHP Carrasco, 7-9, 5.25) 7:05 p.m.
Charlotte at Indianapolis ..... 7 p.m.
Gwinnett at Toledo ..... 7 p.m.
Syracuse at Durham ..... 7:05 p.m.
Norfolk at Pawtucket ..... 7:05 p.m.
Louisville at Rochester ..... 7:05 p.m.
Lehigh Valley at Scranton ..... 7:05 p.m.

Tuesday's results
Gwinnett 5, **Columbus** 1
Pawtucket 6, Scranton 4
Norfolk 8, Syracuse 7
Toledo 10, Buffalo 6
Durham 7, Indianapolis 6
Louisville 2, Charlotte 0
Lehigh Valley 7, Rochester 4

Friday's games
Buffalo (TBA) at **Columbus** (LHP Jackson, 4-8, 6.28) .. 7:05 p.m.
Louisville at Rochester
Lehigh Valley at Scranton
Norfolk at Pawtucket
Gwinnett at Toledo
Charlotte at Indianapolis
Syracuse at Durham

Saturday, Aug. 8
Norfolk vs. Pawtucket (at Fenway Park, Boston) ..... 4:05 p.m.
Buffalo at **Columbus** ..... 7:05 p.m.

Indian Springs GOLF CLUB
4 PLAY for $100 or 3 PLAY for $90
Anytime with this Ad!
Expires Sept. 15, 2009 No other Discounts Apply
$25 Weekday Special M-TH Before Noon
11111 St. Rt. 161 • Mechanicsburg, Ohio 43044
www.GolfIndianSprings.com
(800) 752-7846