

Twins Beat Cleveland To Get Out Of Last Place Bush

CLEVELAND (AP) — Josh Willingham had four hits and four RBIs, Liam Hendriks finally got his first career win and the Minnesota Twins beat Cleveland 6-4 Wednesday night, dropping the Indians into last place in the AL Central.

Willingham belted a tiebreaking two-run homer off Zach McAllister (5-8) in the fifth inning, giving Minnesota a 4-2 lead. He also had three singles.

Hendriks (1-7) pitched six effective innings to get the win in his 18th career start. Glen Perkins worked the ninth for his 14th save.

Minnesota's Joe Mauer went 1 for 4 with a walk and had an RBI single taken away when the umpires reversed a call.

Cleveland shortstop Asdrubal Cabrera homered, but left in the seventh with a sore right wrist.

Mauer hit a sinking liner to left with Jamey Carroll on second base in the eighth. Vinny Rottino made a diving catch, but third base umpire Mike Muchlinski gave a safe sign as Carroll

scored.

Indians manager Manny Acta argued with Muchlinski, a fill-in ump from the minors. The entire crew huddled for a moment and Muchlinski reversed his call, ending the inning and keeping the score at 6-2.

Jason Kipnis and Michael Brantley each singled in runs in the bottom half, but that was it for the Tribe.

Cleveland fell to 11-39 since July 26 and has dropped 11 of its last 13 at home. The Indians led the AL Central for 40 days and held a four-game advantage on May 17, but are 39-72 since.

Hendriks allowed two runs and two hits. The right-hander, who made four starts in 2011, was the fifth pitcher since 1920 to go winless in his first 17 starts, three shy of the record shared by Bill Caudill of the Chicago Cubs (1979-81) and Mike Mohler of Oakland (1993-97).

Cabrera put Cleveland ahead 1-0 with his 15th homer in the first. He later aggravated a wrist injury that caused

him to miss four starts last week.

Mauer and Willingham had consecutive run-scoring singles in the third to give Minnesota a 2-1 lead.

Rottino hustled for the tying run in the bottom half. He walked, stole second and advanced to third on a ground-out. He waited until shortstop Pedro Florimon fielded the ball hit by Shin-Soo Choo and threw to first, then took off and beat Justin Morneau's throw back across the diamond. Kipnis then singled Rottino home.

Chris Herrmann made it 5-2 with a run-scoring groundout in the fifth off Chris Seddon. Willingham added an RBI single in the sixth.

McAllister gave up four runs and eight hits over 4 1-3 innings and dropped to 0-4 in seven starts since beating Boston on Aug. 11. In 12 starts since defeating Tampa Bay on July 16, the right-hander is 1-7.

NOTES: Minnesota manager Ron Gardenhire's son, Toby, who once played in

the Twins organization, is playing for Germany in a qualifying round for the World Baseball Classic that starts Friday. ... Twins OF Darin Mastroianni likely will be limited to pinch-running the rest of the season. He hurt a tendon in a finger on his left hand while sliding head first to score in the 12th inning Tuesday. His finger struck the bat that was left at home plate by Alexi Casilla, whose infield hit scored Mastroianni. ... Herrmann made his first career start at catcher. He caught two innings Sunday in his debut. ... Cleveland activated DH Travis Hafner, out since Aug. 6 with back inflammation. Acta said Hafner will play three times a week, as advised by the medical staff. ... Indians RHP Roberto Hernandez is throwing well, but moving slowly on his sprained right ankle. "He didn't look good," Acta said of a bullpen session on Tuesday. ... Twins OF Chris Parmelee will fly to Los Angeles on Thursday to be his wife, who is expecting.

From Page 9

to exploit those skills. He had a career-high 26 carries for 172 yards in Sunday's victory over Oakland, and on Wednesday he was chosen AFC offensive player of the week.

The New York Jets are braced to face Bush on Sunday.

"He's doing a tremendous job," Jets coach Rex Ryan said. "Obviously we've got to do a great job of getting a lot of guys to him and get him on the ground — put some hot sauce on him, if you will."

Bush won the 2005 Heisman Trophy at Southern Cal, then later relinquished the award because of a scandal involving the program. He was the second pick in the 2006 draft by the Saints and helped them win a Super Bowl, but was considered an underachiever in New Orleans and was traded to Miami last year.

"Everyone thought he was a bust," Dolphins teammate Brian Hartline said. "Yet he was on a Super Bowl team, and he comes here and he has done a phenomenal job."

Last year the 6-foot, 203-pound Bush disproved doubts about his durability, rushing 216 times for 1,086 yards, both career highs. This spring he said he wanted to lead the NFL in rushing, and after two games it appears he might do just that.

With 241 yards, he ranks behind only Buffalo's C.J. Spiller, and he's averaging 6.0 yards per carry.

"He's a fun back to block for," Pro Bowl tackle Jake Long said, "because you never know where's going to pop out or what he's going to do."

Bush said he can become more consistent advancing beyond the line of scrimmage. He strives to gain at least 4 yards on every carry, a tough standard to meet.

"There's still a lot of room for improvement for us in the running game," he said, "which I think is pretty scary because we're running the ball pretty well right now."

Against the Raiders, Bush swept around Long into the clear for a 65-yard touchdown. Even more impressive were the four tackles he broke on a 23-yard scoring run.

"I like being able to show I can be a power runner instead of just a scatback," Bush said.

He bounced outside on the shorter touchdown run, which wasn't the way the play was designed. Philbin and his staff laughed later about Bush's successful ad-lib.

"If he did it exactly the way I wanted him to do it, it would have been a 2-yard gain probably," offensive coordinator Mike Sherman said. "The coaching part is that I get him to the line of scrimmage, and then he uses his God-given talent from that point, which he did a great job of."

Fans enjoyed the show — even as they left the stadium, there were chants of "Reg-gie! Reg-gie!" And his teammates enjoyed the show during this week's video sessions.

"Watching a guy like that, it's fun," quarterback Ryan Tannehill said. "A lot of times I don't get to see the whole thing. To go back on film and see what he does is fun to watch. He's an explosive player who takes a simple play to the outside and goes 65 yards."

Still, since joining the Dolphins, Bush does much of his best work between the tackles.

"I remember Reg when he came out of college, and they didn't ask of him a whole lot in that regard," Sherman said. "He was so much faster than everybody else that it was easier to run around them than through them. But when I study the tapes from last year, certainly he did that numerous times, and he has done that for us too."

Bush had 29 touches on a sweltering afternoon against the Raiders, yet during a team walk-through the next day he bounced around with the zeal of peewee player.

"Like he didn't even play a game," Sherman said. "The durability is what amazes me."

Bush is willing to grind and scrap and carry 300-pound defensive linemen for an extra yard or two, and he's hoping to do that for 16 games.

But his breakaway ability — that knack for the quick strike that turned around the game against the Raiders — is what worries opponents the most.

"He's a threat to score every time he touches the ball," Jets linebacker Aaron Maybin said. "There aren't too many players that fit that description walking around in the NFL."

Tom Bruno Goes From Confines Of Daseball Diamond To Wide-Open Spaces Of Wildlife

Former Major Leaguer Now A Guide In S.D.

BY BRENT FRAZEE
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PIERRE, S.D. (MCT) — Tom Bruno has no regrets about the way his life has worked out.

In the 1970s, he was considered a prime major-league prospect, a pitcher who showed flashes of brilliance in the minors. And he fulfilled some of that promise in the big show, pitching for three teams, including the Royals, before his career came to an end after four years.

Now, he makes his living in a fishing boat chasing walleyes and in rolling crop fields pursuing pheasants in a sportsman's paradise, South Dakota.

The two worlds are a long way apart. But Bruno, 59, is satisfied with the way his life's journey took him from Point A to Point B.

"How many people can say they were able to be a major-league baseball player and a fishing and hunting guide?" said Bruno, who lives outside Pierre. "I've been blessed."

"I've been able to do things that most people only dream about."

For a while, he was able to combine the two. Even when he was in baseball, he would fish and hunt whenever he had the chance.

That included his minor-league days with the Royals organization, when he would fish with fellow pitcher Dennis Leonard.

"We got invited to a lot of golf outings," he said. "We would put our fishing rods in our golf bags and fish the water hazards whenever we got a chance."

"We would hold up play and people would be yelling at us, but we caught some fish."

And Bruno is still catching fish. Sitting in his boat on Lake Sharpe on a recent weekend, he studied his fish finder for signs of walleyes. He had caught them on this flat the day before, and he knew they would still be here.

There was only one problem: There were considerably more lines in the water.

"Look at this," Bruno said as he looked out a stretch of water crowded with boats. "This looks like a parking lot. There must be 30 boats out here. There were only five or six yesterday."

"But word gets around out here. This place is walleye crazy."

Bruno lowered his bottom-bouncing rig baited with a piece of a night crawler to the bottom and began trolling at the edge of the crowd. When he felt a steady pull, he immediately knew what he had.

Seconds later, that golden fish was in the landing net and on its way to the livewell.

"That's a good eating-sized fish," said Bruno, whose guide service is appropriately named Major League Adventures. "Sharpe is a factory for fish this size. It's not known for its trophy fish. But it has great numbers."

Bruno proved it on a recent weekend. Trolling in the crowd, he and I caught our limits of four walleyes apiece in several hours.

Then Bruno raced up to the dam, where current was flowing out of the gates, and dropped his bait as whitecaps slapped against the side of his boat. The target this time? Big channel catfish.

Bruno and I hadn't drifted far before Bruno felt a strong tug. He set the hook and felt the powerful pull of a big fish.

In the current, the fish stayed down and gave Bruno a good fight. But the 8-pound catfish finally floated to the surface and



A Timeline Of Baseball And The Outdoors

Signed by the Royals in 1971 as an amateur free agent.

Spent five years in the minors and pitched two no-hitters. In fact, he and Dennis Leonard had the distinction of pitching back-to-back no-hitters while at Waterloo, Iowa.

Had his first major-league season in 1976 with the Royals.

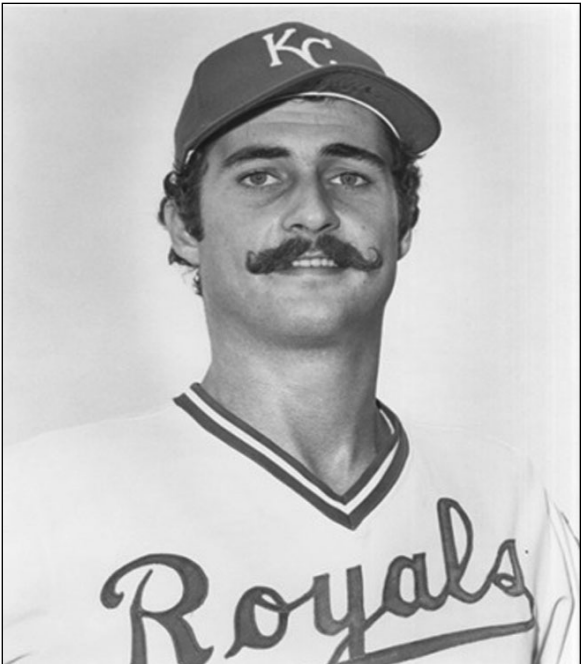
The following year, he was picked up by the Toronto Blue Jays for their inaugural season.

Traded to the St. Louis Cardinals in 1978 and played there for two years. He had his best season in 1978, when had a 4-3 record with a 1.99 ERA.

After being released by the Cardinals, he trained bird dogs and helped run quail hunts for a Mexican lodge.

Ended up in South Dakota in 1992 and fished the professional walleye circuit for 12 years.

Started guiding for both walleyes and pheasants in 2001 and has been at it since.



ABOVE: Tom Bruno, a former major-league pitcher, now spends his time as a fishing and hunting guide in South Dakota. (Brent Frazee/Kansas City Star/MCT)

LEFT: A shot of Bruno from his playing days with the Kansas City Royals. (Kansas City Star/MCT)

Manning

From Page 9

A bit was made of the fact that rookie backup quarterback Brock Osweiler was warming up at the end of Monday's game, ready to be called upon if the Broncos had gotten the ball back with under 30 seconds left and a long, desperation pass to heave. Not such a big deal, said Fox, who thought Manning's "arm looked way better in the second half than it did in the first half."

"Had we had to throw a 60-yard Hail Mary, we might go with a 20-year old arm versus a 36-year old arm," Fox said.

All of this — the arm strength, the chemistry, the general rusti-

ness from not playing at full speed for more than a season — helps explain why Manning is getting somewhat of a break in the court of public opinion after a game in which he matched his worst quarter, interception-wise, in his 15-year career. After all, it was only one bad game. The bigger question, however, is how he'll bounce back.

The quarterback isn't asking for miracles. And while not giving away anything about Sunday's game plan, he stated one obvious area for improvement.

"We've got to get off to a better start," he said. "It doesn't have to be a great start, get out and go, you know, touchdown, touchdown, touchdown. But

against a team like Houston, you've got to get off to a better start on both sides of the ball and kind of feed off one another. Once we got into the building today, it was on to Houston, and I think they're easy to grab your attention because of the way they play on both sides of the ball."

Notes: LB Von Miller was limited in practice with a hip injury. ... CB Chris Harris, who hasn't practiced since spraining his right ankle in the opener against Pittsburgh, was held out of practice again and did conditioning work on the side. ... S Quinton Carter was limited with a knee injury.

Volleyball

From Page 10

Kelia Barta had eight kills, and Nikki Guy and Addison Bertrand had six kills each to lead Gayville-Volin. Vanessa Ryken posted 17 assists, 12 digs and four ace serves. Guy and Rachel Haas had three blocks each in the victory.

Natasha Letcher led Canistota with eight kills and 10 digs. Chloe Nielsen had 26 assists. Kelsie Rotert had 17 digs, and Lexy Sandman and Sydney Randall had 11 digs each for the Hawks.

Gayville-Volin, 2-6, is off until the start of the Tri-Valley Conference Volleyball Tournament on Sept. 27. Canistota, 2-9, hosts Hanson on Thursday.

Canistota won the JV match 25-21, 14-25, 15-2.

GAYVILLE-VOLIN (2-6)	24	25	25
CANISTOTA (2-9)	26	14	17

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